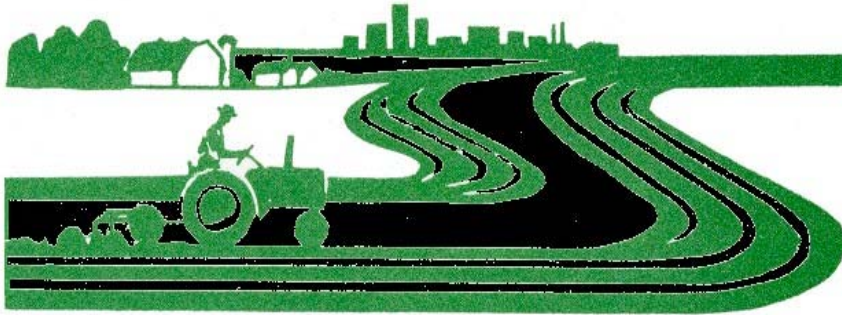


Sheridan County Conservation Notes



Conservation District

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Rom Hedges - Vice Chairman
Jon Bolstad - Supervisor
Tim Holte - Supervisor
Kent Nathe - Supervisor
Todd Marsh—Supervisor
Manuel Vazquez- Supervisor
Steve Hove—Associate Supervisor
Judy Benson - Administrator
Mickey McCall – Technician

NRCS

Monica Friedrich - District Conservationist
Tim Solberg - Soil Con.
Ryan W. Young - Soil Con Tech

Sheridan County Conservation District

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Plentywood, Mt 59254
406-765-1801
<http://sheridan.mt.nacdnet.org/>

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November—December, 2006

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Free Montana tourism information

Daylight Savings starts Sunday March 11
Set your clocks ahead one hour.

Still Time to Order Trees ! Stop by the SCCD office or call us at 765-1801 ext 101

Sheridan County Conservation District meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month in the Conference Room of the USDA Building. The public is welcome to attend. For time and date verification, please call our office at 765-1801 ext. 101.

Your comments are always welcome and appreciated. Please let us know what you think. Just Drop us a note at: 119 N. Jackson Plentywood, MT 59254 or email us at judy.benson@mt.nacdnet.net

3 District Supervisors Re-elected

Jon Bolstad, Rom Hedges, and Tim Holte were re-elected by acclamation to serve as Sheridan County Conservation District Supervisors for another 4 year term. All three re-elected Supervisors are carrying on a family tradition, each are the sons of former Sheridan County Conservation District Supervisors. Jon is the son of James Bolstad who served as Supervisor from 1970 to 1986. Rom is the son of Don Hedges who served as Supervisor from 1979 to 1980. Tim is the son of Gordon Holte who served from 1959 to 1986. The Sheridan County Conservation District 50th Anniversary publication was dedicated to Gordon Holte, a true conservationist and public servant. As stated in the publication, Gordon's name first appeared in the minutes of the Conservation District Board meetings in 1949.

Tim Holte Receives Award for 15 Years



District Board Chairman Jeff Wivholm presents Tim Holte a certificate of recognition for 15 years as Supervisor on the Sheridan County Conservation District Board. Tim also serves as Treasurer of the Board.

National Ag Day – March 21, 2007

National Ag Day occurs every year on the first day of Spring: it celebrates the abundance provided by agriculture, building the appreciation of the role of agriculture in our everyday lives! Ag Day is celebrated during National Ag Week, March 18-26, 2007.

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Conservation Practices that Save: Windbreaks/Shelterbelts

Election by acclamation applies if the number of candidates file for the same number of positions available. The Conservation District Board of Supervisors has the option of choosing to hold an election by opting to put the candidate's names on the general election ballot, or declare the nominated candidates elected by acclamation. The individual takes office beginning January 1 following the general election. All candidates must submit a nominating petition in March of the election year. The nomination petitions must be signed by 10 registered voters of the District prior to being submitted.

For homeowners in rural areas, well-designed windbreaks can cut home heating costs by 10 to 25 percent. Up to one-third of the heat loss from a building is caused by air leakage through cracks and other openings. High winds can force cold air through cracks around poorly fitting windows or frequently opened doors, aggravating the heat loss from unprotected buildings. Windbreaks reduce the force of the wind on the exterior surfaces of buildings and thus the amount of cold air that enters the home.

About 11 percent of the America's energy use goes to heating and cooling of residential homes. Nearly two-thirds of residential energy use is for heating (53 percent) and cooling (12 percent). Individual savings depend on local site and climatic conditions, the building's construction quality, an individual's living habits, and the design and condition of the windbreak.

KATQ Farm Expo- March 16 & 17

The 2007 KATQ Farm Expo will be held March 16 & 17 at the Sheridan County Civic Center in Plentywood. Cassie Syme of KATQ has told us that they have two full days planned. Two seminars are planned for each day. The Friday morning session will feature Jeanna Adkins, Bio Products Innovation Counselor, speaking on "Adding Value to Montana Ag Products" and Brian Sorenson, Technical Director with Northern Crop Institute of Fargo will be the featured speaker for the afternoon session. Our favorite weatherman, John Pulasky of the Northern Ag Network, will do the Saturday morning seminar and Montana Farmers Union will be doing the Saturday afternoon session. The Friday evening banquet will be held at the Blue Moon with guest speaker, Taylor Brown of the Northern Ag Network. The Sheridan County Conservation District will be presenting the Conservation Farmer of the Year award at the banquet.

Windbreaks or shelterbelts are barriers used to reduce wind speed and usually consist of trees, shrubs, or a combination. For the greatest protection, the windbreak needs to be oriented perpendicular to the troublesome winds. The reduction in wind speed behind a windbreak modifies the environmental conditions in this sheltered zone. The sheltered zone extends as far as ten to fifteen times the height of the windbreak downwind from the windbreak. The greatest wind reduction occurs between two to five times the height of the windbreak downwind. For maximum wind protection, the windbreak needs to be dense and tall.

Home heating savings are not the only energy benefit from windbreaks. Windbreaks are very effective in controlling drifting snow. By strategically locating windbreaks upwind of roads and highways, blowing snow can be reduced, resulting in less snow accumulation and ice development on roads. This results in less fuel being used to remove snow from

A resident of Ft. Collins, Colorado, built a home on rural acreage in 1970 and planted a windbreak for protection at the same time. For the next 20 years, he recorded the amount of natural gas used to heat the home. As the windbreak matured he observed a decrease in gas use with an estimated 40% savings overall in the 20-year period.



A windbreak saves energy and adds comfort and livability to homes in open country.

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Legislative Watch

Here are a few of the bills before the 2007 Montana Legislature that are worth watching:

HB 473

An act repealing the water adjudication fee.

HB 39

An act revising the water right ownership update process.

HB 37

An act defining the term "noxious weeds" and providing a notification process for non-compliant weed control on state lands.

SB 370

An act providing that an appropriation right is not abandoned if an appropriator ceases to use all or part of an appropriation right to comply with a candidate conservation agreement and providing an immediate effective date.

SB 241

An act requiring reclamation plans for oil and gas operations and establishing specific requirements for reclamation plans on lands affected by oil and gas operations.

SB 105

An act providing a property tax exemption for equipment required to capture, reuse, or sequester carbon dioxide.

SB 19

An act revising laws governing oil and gas operations.

We'll be watching the outcome of these bills and let you know.

Montana Tourist Information

The 2007-2008 Montana Vacation Planner, the Summer Calendar of Events and the new, easy-to-read Montana Highway Map are now available around the state.



The Planner incorporates current consumer advertising elements into a glossy, 164-page format, highlighting adventure and wildlife, history and culture, fun facts, and of course, vacation information.

The calendar features fairs, rodeos, powwows and a plethora of events that can be found across Montana from April to October.

In addition, Montana now has a larger, re-designed highway map. The map, being 30% larger, has a larger text size and includes helpful add-ons such as Interstate exit numbers and rest areas that are labeled seasonal, year-round or as parking areas.

The tourism side of the map has more photos and tourism attraction information and also highlights a new reference map that features the historic trails of Lewis and Clark and the Nez Perce, National Historic Landmarks and roadside geological markers.

More information and free vacation planners are available at <http://visitmt.com>.

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highways. This windbreak application is also known as a living snow fence. In a State like Minnesota, where the State spends an average of \$100 million per year in snow removal, this can be a significant savings. Minnesota performed a cost-benefit analysis of living snow fences and found that for every dollar spent on a living snow fence, there was a \$17 return. This included not only the savings in fuel but also less economic disruption resulting from closed roads. The living snow fences also can save lives by improving driving conditions during the winter.

Windbreaks also:

- Protect livestock – increase feed efficiency, increase weight gains, increase survival of newborns, improve animal health, and ultimately increase profits;
- Reduce wind erosion;
- Increase crop yields by 5 to 20 percent, and increase crop quality;
- Reduce pesticide drift;
- Improve irrigation efficiency;
- Filter dust and other air pollutants;
- Provide wildlife travel corridors and habitat;
- Store carbon; and
- Reduce noise.

NRCS supports conservation practices that save producers money and improve the environmental health of the Nation. For more information on energy-saving conservation practices, visit the NRCS "Save ENERGY, Save MONEY" Web site at www.nrcs.usda.gov.

CONSERVATION DATES

- January
 1 New Year's Day—Office Closed
 9 SCCD Board Meeting—12:00 Noon
 15 Martin Luther King Day—Office Closed
- February
 2 Ground Hog Day
 13 SCCD Board Meeting—12:00 Noon
 14 Valentine's Day
 19 President's Day—Office Closed
 21 Ash Wednesday
- March
 11 Daylight Savings—Set Clocks Ahead 1 Hour
 17 St. Patrick's Day
 21 First Day of Spring & National Ag Day

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Visit Sheridan County Conservation

District's Web Site at:

<http://sheridan.mt.nacdnet.org>

Our services and programs are provided without regard to race, national origin, sex, age, handicap, or religious affiliation.

NOTICE

NO PERSON MAY COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION ON ANY PROJECT FACILITIES OR APPROPRIATE WATER PRIOR TO APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT BY THE DISTRICT AND RECEIPT OF A RESERVED WATER USE AUTHORIZATION. THIS IS TO PROTECT THE POTENTIAL IRRIGATOR FROM INVESTING MONEY IN A SYSTEM FOR WHICH LEGAL USE OF THE WATER CAN NOT BE APPROVED AND THUS CAN NOT BE USED

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