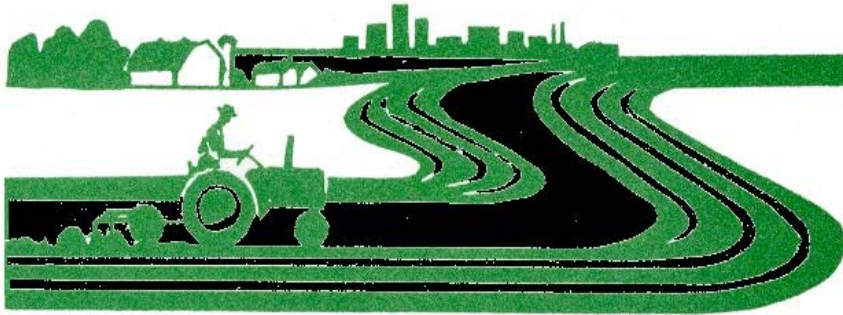


Sheridan County Conservation Notes



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Sheridan County Conservation District

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Plentywood, Mt 59254
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<http://sheridan.mt.nacdnet.org/>

VOLUME 52, ISSUE III

NRCS

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

July—September, 2008

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Newsletter is Now Available on the Internet

“Sheridan County Conservation Notes” is now available on the Internet. Go to the Sheridan County Conservation District Web Site at <http://sheridan.mt.nacdnet.org> and click on “Newsletters”. Then select the edition of “Sheridan County Conservation Notes” you want to see. Or, if you would like your full color, pdf newsletter emailed to you; just send your email address to:

judy.benson@mt.nacdnet.net

You can also find the Agendas and Minutes from the Sheridan County Conservation District’s Board of supervisor meetings on <http://sheridan.mt.nacdnet.org>. Just click on “Minutes/Agendas” and view the agenda for the upcoming meeting of the board and the minutes from last month’s meeting. Or, you can select the meeting you are interested in and peruse the minutes. So log on today.



Aerway Range & Hayland Renovator

The Sheridan County Conservation District has the AERWAY aerator now available for producers to rent. This renovator is 15’ wide with a C-flex frame, 17’ harrows, and 2-130 gallon tanks that can be filled with water for weight.

It takes a 90-100 HP tractor to pull it. The cost to rent this implement is \$5.00 / acre with a \$250 deposit. There is also a charge of \$20.00 for each broken tip or spike. So you should avoid the extremely rocky areas if it can be helped. This implement has several uses, as it is designed to be used in reducing compaction by shattering or fracturing the top 6-8” of soil. This allows increased moisture absorption and improves fertilizer incorporation. Most alfalfa stands deteriorate in about 4 years. The primary cause is compaction from mowing, raking, and baling the alfalfa. By using the Aerway, you will be creating a better

(Continued on page 2)

The Froid Research Farm Tour will Thursday, June 26th this year. We'll have a report on all the activities in the next issue of Sheridan County Conservation Notes.

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, or go to sheridan.mt.nacdnet.org

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

(Continued from page 1)

Youth Range Camp Applications Available

Hysham, **Mont.** – The Governor's Rangeland Resources Executive Committee has announced that applications are now available for the 2008 Montana Youth Range Camp.

This year's camp will be held the week of August 4 - 8 at the Hysham School, in the town of Hysham, Mont., and is open to all students ages 12 -18.

"Range camp is a great experience for students with 4-H or FFA backgrounds, and for young people interested in native plants, geology and other natural resource topics," said Heidi Olbert, Rangeland Program Coordinator with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC).

Students will attend outdoor classes covering four major subjects: water and riparian areas; soils and geology; rangeland monitoring; and wildlife and livestock grazing management. Students this year will have the chance to meet former NASA astronaut Frank Borman, visit Little Bighorn National Monument, and spend an afternoon at Big Splash Water Park in Billings. A dance takes place on the last night.

Scholarships are available by contacting your local conservation district for more information. Additional assistance and help is being provided by Montana DNRC, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Montana State University Extension.

The 2008 Montana Youth Range Camp is hosted by the Treasure County Conservation District. For more information, contact Heidi Olbert, DNRC Rangeland Program Coordinator at (406) 444-6619, or Tina Bonnell with the Treasure County Conservation District at (406) 342-5466, ext. 102. For more information, including an application form, visit the [DNRC Web site](#).

soil environment & producing a healthier plant.

Another use of the aerator is for the renovation of rangeland that is infested with clubmoss. The Aerway will really open up the surface, while keeping the land smoother than conventional chiseling. By disturbing the clubmoss, & opening up the ground, you initiate new plant growth of the native desirable grasses that are already lying under the clubmoss. This results in a more desirable plant community in your rangeland. Of course this is only true if the renovated rangeland has some significant rest afterwards. This practice will not alleviate the negative effects of poor grazing management unless prescribed grazing is initiated at the time the practice is installed. The treated area should be deferred from grazing from the date of application until October 1st the first year and from May 1st through October 1st the second year. Grazing after October 1st is allowed.

Over all this implement will:

- Perform best in wet conditions producing the best results.
- Fracture compacted soil layers & improve soil permeability.
- Reduce water runoff & increase infiltration.
- Break up sod bound conditions & thatch to increase plant vigor.
- Renovate & stimulate plant community for greater yield and productivity.

If you are interested in renting the Aerway, please contact the SCCD at 765-1801,ext 101 or 118, or stop by the office at in the USDA building in Plentywood.

New Sheridan County Ownership Maps Available

New, updated ownership maps of Sheridan County will be available at the Sheridan County Conservation District office in Mid July.

The maps come in booklet and wall versions and are produced by Cicon & Associates. The maps will be updated annually and will also be available at select area businesses.

If you are interested in obtaining a map, stop in the office at 119 N. Jackson in Plentywood.

Sheridan County Fair July 24th - 26th

This year's Sheridan County Fair should one of the best ever. The fair has three days of fun scheduled including the Old Tractor Club breakfast and free stage entertainment all 3 days, the Fun Time Carnival, a demolition derby and mud run on Thursday, the Steve Holy concert on Friday, and the PRCA Rodeo on Saturday.

4-H concessions will be available all 3 days, along with all the exhibits and displays. All the showmanship and judging activities take place on Friday and the annual livestock sale is on Saturday.





Sign-up Deadline for EQIP and WHIP Extended

For many years June 1st has been the traditional cut-off date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) administered by NRCS. However, in light of the uncertainties of the Farm Bill, the **Montana NRCS has extended the application cut-off period for EQIP and WHIP to July 1st for 2008 only.**

If you are interested in more information, or would like to sign-up for either program, contact the Plentywood office of NRCS at 765-1801, or stop in the office at 119 N. Jackson in Plentywood.

Equipment for Rent

The Sheridan County Conservation District has equipment you can rent or buy.

You can purchase:

- Location flags for \$10.00 per 100.
- Paul Brown Moisture probes for \$40.00 each.

You can renovate your rangeland with the 15' Aerway Range Renovator. Or rent the 12' John Deere Grass Drill.

The renovator rents for \$5/acre with a \$250 deposit; and the drill for \$4.00/acre, and \$25 per day with a \$250 deposit.

Contact our office for information at 765-1801, or stop in at 119 N. Jackson in Plentywood



Recognize These Two?

We recently came across this photo from our 1962 archives. That was the year that Dale Bummer (left), Sheridan County's Conservation Farmer of the Year, and Jack Rasmussen, Sheridan County Conservation District Supervisor, won an all-expense paid trip to Litchfield Park, Arizona.

The two made the trip as representatives of the Sheridan County Conservation District, the first place winner of the Good-year Award. This award was bestowed upon the District for accomplishing the goals that were set for the year.

The District also won the award in 1952 and five Supervisors; Hans Larsen, Sam Aasheim, Vincent Bergh, Arlo Sampsen, and Alfred Overgard; along with three



Attending the trip to Litchfield, AZ, in 1952 were: (left to right, back row) Joe Eggen, Conservation farmer; Hans Larsen, Sam Aasheim, supervisors, Kinley Bolstad, Conservation farmer; (left to right, front row) Chris Christensen, Conservation farmer; Vincent Bergh, Arlo, Sampsen, Alfred Overgard, supervisors.

area Conservation farmers; Joe Eggen, Kinley Bolstad, and Chris Christensen all made the train trip to Arizona.

All About Conservation Districts

Here's a little more information about Conservation Districts and how they operate. In this issue we'll look at who Conservation Districts work closely with.

Conservation District Partners

The **Conservation and Resource Development Division (CARDD)** of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has duties specifically established in state statute to: assist CD supervisors in carrying out their authorities and programs, facilitate an interchange of information, activities, and cooperation between districts; coordinate programs between districts through advice and consultation; secure the cooperation and assistance of federal and other state agencies in the work for districts; disseminate information concerning the activities and programs of districts; and administer financial assistance programs for districts.

This division provides a link to state government to the continued successful operations of conservation districts.

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)--formerly the Soil Conservation Service--of the U.S. Department of Agriculture provides technical assistance to the nation's private land managers.

Conservation districts were established as a link between the NRCS and these land managers. Generally located in the same local field offices as NRCS employees, conservation districts set local priorities for federal conservation programs.

As a source of technical conservation expertise and financial assistance, the agency's value to land managers has increased immensely in recent years--especially in light of the general public's increased awareness of environmental concerns.

CONSERVATION DATES

Jul.	4	Independence Day
	5	Mission Mountain Wood Band Concert
	6-11	Montana 4-H Youth Congress—Bozeman
	8	SCCD Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM
	26-29	Sheridan County Fair
Aug.	4-8	Montana Youth Range Camp—Hysham
	12	SCCD Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM
Sept.	1	Labor Day
	9	SCCD Board Meeting ~ 7:00 PM
	22	First Day of Fall
	24	Conservation District Area 1 Meeting—McCone Co.

Visit Sheridan County Conservation

District's Web Site at:

<http://sheridan.mt.nacdn.net>

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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