

October 2020



CLEARCREEK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

THE DISPATCH

A Note from the District Manager

Hello!

It's hard to believe that fall is already here! It has been a fast and busy spring and summer at Clear Creek Conservation District with several large projects being finalized and several others just starting. Our three Emergency Water Protection (EWP) projects in Clear Creek are complete and we are moving forward on another location. CCCD's Twin Creek Forest Health project is underway. This project is being done to increase disease resistance and decrease the chance of catastrophic wildfires in the project area. New this spring is our Soil Health and Cover Crop program where we are focusing on building producers overall health by following 5 principles of soil health which include minimizing soil disturbance and planting cover crops. This has been a great opportunity to work with innovators in our District that are focused on long-term operational success based on healthy soils. Our education program continues to expand as we now are spending time with 5th graders, high schoolers, and an after school program focused on conservation of natural resources in the local Boys and Girls Club! As always if there is something that CCCD can help you with please contact us! Thanks and have a great fall!

Zach Byram



The Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation is holding their annual fundraiser in order to help implement on the ground conservation projects and grow conservation districts capacity to do so. Please help your local district by purchasing a ticket to win the awesome prizes below! We have them available at the office!

ENTER TO WIN!

1ST PRIZE
2020 JOHN DEERE XUV 560E GATOR
Donated by Grossenburg Implement Inc.

2ND PRIZE
STIHL CHAIN SAW
Donated by Shively Hardware Co.

Actual items may not be exactly as pictured.

Donate \$25 to WNRF for Your Chance to Win!

Your \$25 tax-deductible donation to the WNRF enters you in a drawing to win a 2020 John Deere XUV 560E Gator, or Stihl MS 362 Chainsaw. The drawing will be held on November 17, in Torrington at the WACD/WNRF state convention.

Only 650 Tickets Will Be Distributed

The Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation (WNRF) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to conserving Wyoming's natural resources, heritage and culture. The WNRF is a sister organization to the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts. The WNRF is working with conservation districts to:

- Implement the Living Legacy Program at the Wyoming State Fairgrounds
- Protect and promote wise and multiple use of Wyoming's natural resources
- Implement the Pathway to Water Quality Project on the Wyoming State Fairgrounds
- Support locally led water quality and watershed planning efforts
- Enhance the capacity of local districts to better serve their constituents
- Provide a scholarship to a Wyoming student through the Gary Beach Memorial Scholarship
- Administer the Olin Sims Endowment Fund
- Provide youth and adult natural resource education, and more...

To make a donation, please contact your local Conservation District or the

WYOMING NATURAL RESOURCE FOUNDATION
517 E. 19th Street, Cheyenne, WY 82001 - 307-632-5716
kelly.brown@conservewy.com - wynaturalresourcefoundation.com

SPECIAL THANKS TO
Grossenburg Implement Inc.
And Shively Hardware

WWW.CLEARCREEKCD.ORG



Notice to Buffalo NRCS Field Office Visitors

Due to recent public health concerns, all Wyoming NRCS offices are open for in-office visits by appointment only.

Things You Should Know About Your Appointment:

- When you call for an appointment you will be screened for recent health concerns and recent travel.
- Our Office doors will remain locked and you will be allowed entry at your scheduled appointment time.
- You will be asked to wear a face covering during your appointment and adhere to social distancing guidelines.

Let's enjoy the fall and meet outside!!

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is one of several agencies within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners as dictated in the 2018 Farm Bill. Technical and financial assistance are both provided to producers by a Conservation Plan that the landowner and NRCS Conservation Planner work together to create for each property. These Conservation Plans help agricultural producers improve their management skills and to develop practices/infrastructure to become more efficient and make better use of the natural resources at each site.

The NRCS administers several programs that provide financial incentives for landowners to complete conservation practices on their farm or ranch. For example, one of the most popular programs is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). EQIP can provide financial incentives for completing practices within their Conservation Plan that help address natural resource concerns identified by the landowner and/or NRCS planner. Some examples of these practices include Livestock Fencing for implementing rotational grazing, Irrigation Water Management to more efficiently use applied water, High Tunnels to extend the growing season of crops, and Forest Stand Improvements to reduce fire risk or improve forest health. Please give us a call 307-620-3020.

Allison McKenzie

The Sheridan~Johnson County FSA office is currently taking appointments for the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) due to drought conditions in our two counties. This program provides payments to eligible livestock owners and contract growers who have covered livestock and who are also producers of eligible grazing forage acreage (native and improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or certain crops planted specifically for grazing.)

Eligible livestock for LFP are grazing animals that include, but are not limited to, beef cattle, dairy cattle, equine, goats, and sheep that are or would have been grazing the eligible grazing land. Unweaned livestock are not eligible for LFP.

In addition to LFP, USDA is providing critical support to our nation's farmers and ranchers through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP 2). CFAP 2 provides vital financial assistance to agricultural producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19. FSA is accepting applications for CFAP 2 from September 21, 2020, to December 11, 2020.

For a list of all eligible commodities, visit farmers.gov/cfap.



Wyoming Food Bank of the Rockies would like your help! As the only Feeding America Affiliate in Wyoming, they receive produce that is past the window for human consumption. To minimize waste, they are looking for local contacts that would be interested in these items for composting. Wyoming Food Bank would like to reduce their carbon footprint, and hopefully help local producers at the same time.

Contact Victoria Ziton, vziton@foodbankrockies.org, 307-232-4011

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE NON DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will use funds being made available from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act and CARES Act to support row crops, livestock, specialty crops, dairy, aquaculture and many additional commodities. USDA has incorporated improvements in CFAP 2 based from stakeholder engagement and public feedback to better meet the needs of impacted farmers and ranchers. Producers can apply for CFAP 2 at USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices. This program provides financial assistance that gives producers the ability to absorb increased marketing costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Producers will be compensated for ongoing market disruptions and assisted with the associated marketing costs.. Visit Farmers.gov/CFAP for more information. **PRODUCERS WILL BE ABLE TO APPLY FOR CFAP 2 FUNDS SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 11, 2020.**

- * Farmers.gov/CFAP - For general information, eligible crops, eligibility requirements, CFAP 2 payment limitations

- structure, links to forms that need to be filled out for eligibility, information on how to apply once signup begins,

- how to prepare, resources and more.

- * Eligible and Ineligible Commodities

- * Wyoming Farm Service Agency Office

- * Links to contact information for your county FSA office - Click your county for contact information.

- * FSA Outreach and more information - CFAP Specialty Crop Producer webinar (June 9, 1:00 pm), CFAP Dairy and

- Non-Specialty Crop Producers (June 11, 1:00 pm), and CFAP Non-specialty crop & livestock producers webinar

- (June 16, 1:00 pm), FSA Programs in the Time of Coronavirus Producer Education (June 18, 1:00 pm)

Program specifics are now available at Farmers.gov/CFAP which includes a list of eligible commodities and eligibility requirements. Prior to the program sign-up time, producers interested in participating in the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program should start collecting information and filling out eligibility forms with the Farm Service Agency through the links above. **CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FARM SERVICE AGENCY OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE PROGRAM AND TO APPLY.**



A NOTE ABOUT HARMFUL CYANOBACTERIAL BLOOMS

Warm weather is on the rise, and many people are taking advantage of it to spend some time recreating in Wyoming's lakes and reservoirs. Many Wyoming agencies, such as the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH), the Wyoming Livestock Board (WLB) as well as other local, state and federal agencies are trying to prepare in the event that harmful cyanobacterial blooms begin occurring in our waters.

Cyanobacteria are a group algae that can form harmful cyanobacterial blooms (HCB). The algae is most frequently a blue-green color, but can come in a wide range from brown to orange to red. The algae will form scummy looking mats of plant matter, foam, or even paint-like liquid floating on the water. The blooms can pose a serious risk to human, pet and livestock health. The HCB produce a toxin that is harmful to organisms that come in contact with the water. It's also important to report any areas you may find with HCB because they can strongly impact the local ecosystem. The toxins can be poisonous to wildlife and as the algae grows, it will remove oxygen from the water, starving the fish and plants. Additionally dense growth will block sunlight from plants in the water. The season is around the corner, as these blooms usually start in the late summer or the early fall, most frequently in stagnant or slow moving water.

If you see these blooms you should report them to the DEQ by calling 307-777-7501, or going online and filling out a report at WyoSpills.org



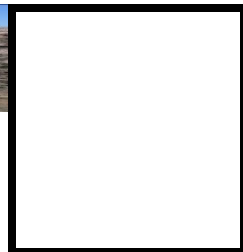
Algae Blooms from the Eden Reservoir in Sweetwater County Wyoming Photo Credit: WY Dept of Health

In the scenario that you encounter harmful cyanobacteria WDH and WLB recommend the following actions.

- Avoid contact with the water that is in the same area as the blooms, especially if they are forming a thick scum on the water
- Do not under any circumstances ingest the water. Boiling and filtration will NOT remove the toxins.
- Rinse any fish with clean water, and only eat the fillet.
- Do not allow pets or livestock to drink the water, eat the algae, or lick their fur after contact with the blooms.
- If contact is made with the blooms, rinse with clean water as soon as possible.

The WyoHCBs.org webpage is the main source for updates on current HCB outbreaks. It has a link to a interactive map that shows current and past advisories. Its also contains a link to the report a spill website.

Credit to the DEQ and CDC websites, and the Wyoming Department of Health for information.



**Clear Creek
Conservation District**

**500 W Lott St, Suite B
Buffalo, WY 82834**

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Hours: M—F 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Board of Supervisors

Ryan Fieldgrove, Chairman

Luke Todd, Vice Chairman

Travis Rule, Secretary/Treasurer

Virgie Watt, Member Jay Foss, Member

District Staff

Zach Byram, District Manager

Amanda Hulet, District Clerk

NRCS Staff

Allison McKenzie, District Conservationist

Clear Creek Conservation District

500 W Lott St, Suite B

Buffalo, WY 82834

ATTEND A CCCD BOARD MEETING

The Clear Creek Conservation District holds Board Meetings the third Tuesday of each month starting at 6:00 p.m. We welcome your input, ideas, questions, and concerns regarding our projects and programs! Meetings are open to the public pursuant to Wyoming Statute 16-4-403.

Though it may not seem like the time of year, please know we carry rain barrels, composters and weed barrier all the time!

We also have many publications you may be interested in. Just stop into the office and browse away!



**WYOMING
GRAPE GUIDE**

Are you interested in growing grapes? Copies of the guide are available in our office now. Stop by to pick one up.



Tree Orders will be ready soon!

We will start with orders in Mid-November.