

Lake DeSmet Conservation District

Summer Newsletter

July - August 2017

MISSION STATEMENT

The Lake DeSmet Conservation District is dedicated to the development and implementation of programs to provide leadership and technical assistance for the conservation of Johnson County's natural resources, agricultural heritage and resource base, to promote the control of soil erosion, to promote and protect the quality and quantity of Wyoming's water and all other natural resources, to preserve and enhance wildlife habitat, to protect the tax base and to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of this County through responsible conservation planning.

LONG RANGE PLANNING: WE NEED YOUR COMMENTS!!

Conservation Districts are a local political subdivision responsible for providing leadership in developing and implementing natural resource conservation programs and projects within the district boundaries. In 1998, the Lake DeSmet Conservation District (LDCD) conducted a resource inventory and public survey for resource concerns and issues by watersheds in Northern Johnson County. This document provides a directional tool for the District to utilize in prioritizing their programs and services for northern Johnson County.

The District is now in the process of accepting public comment on the Long Range Natural Resource Land Use Plan for 2018-2023. We need your input to help prioritize our conservation efforts in northern Johnson County. LDCD programs and services address diverse natural resource concerns on private lands, through voluntary participation.

Please take this opportunity to voice your opinion on natural resource concerns and help LDCD prioritize our efforts for the next five years by going online or coming by the office to read the plan. The comment period will end Sunday, July 30. The website is www.ldcd.org. Thank you for your continued efforts to help guide in the direction you would like to see.

A public meeting will be held to present survey results.

BEWARE: New Invasive Grasses in Wyoming!!

Two new invasive annual grasses have been discovered in Wyoming!! Please read the informational insert inside this newsletter to educate yourself. ***Your help in reporting these species is critical!!***

Also in this issue:

- *Farm Exemption Rule on Dumping
- *Giving your kids something to do
- *NRCS: EQIP Program Info
- *Calendar of Events

Recently, our office was contacted by the Department of Environmental Quality for a dumping issue. During this conversation, it was suggested that we help educate our constituents on proper dumping practices on their farms or ranches. Please see the information below!

Wyoming Statute: [W.S. 35-11-103(d)(ii)(E)];

Lands and facilities owned by a person engaged in farming or ranching and used to dispose of solid waste generated incidental to his farming and ranching operations; or

Wyoming Solid Waste Rules and Regulations (SWRR): [SWRR Chapter 1, Section 1(g)(xvii)].

An exemption or solid waste management permit are not required for facilities which are not solid waste facilities as defined by W.S. 35-11-103(d)(ii).

From the “Proper Management of Farm and Ranch Wastes” brochure by the Office of Outreach & Environmental Assistance of DEQ:

1. State Law – Landfills

Small landfills, *alias* “ranch dumps”, are not subject to the state’s rules and regulations for landfills as long as they are used only to dispose of wastes which are generated in association with an individual’s farming or ranching operation.

Ranch dumps which accept wastes from other households, ranch or farms are subject to the state’s rules and regulations for landfills, including the requirement to have a permit and post a bond.

2. Locating a “Ranch Dump”

Locate ranch dumps:

in “dry” areas – stay away from wetlands, ponds, creeks or irrigation ditches; in areas with clayey or silty soils – stay away from areas with sandy or gravelly soils; in areas where there is no shallow groundwater – stay away from drinking water wells; on your property away from your neighbor’s property; and in areas where access can be controlled – away from areas used by livestock or wildlife

3. Constructing a “Ranch Dump”

Scrape and stockpile the top six (6) inches of topsoil

Dig a shallow trench perpendicular to the predominant wind direction and stockpile the excavated soil on the upwind side of the trench (trench walls should be sloped to minimize the threat of cave-ins)

Divert surface water around the site with ditches and berms

4. Operating a “Ranch Dump”

Never dispose of liquids in a ranch dump. The liquids can initiate chemical reactions or generate leachate that can affect the quality of your water source.

Never burn a ranch dump. Burning wastes can create toxic gases and fumes and leave very hazardous residues.

Compact and cover the wastes with six (6) inches of topsoil at least once a month to minimize the amount of rain and snow that infiltrates the wastes and to discourage skunks, rats, flies, etc.

When the trench is full: 1) compact the wastes; 2) cover the trench with a mound of compacted soil which is at least two feet thick; 3) replace the topsoil; 4) reseed the area

5. Options for Used Oil

Store your used oil in tanks or drums which are labeled with the “USED OIL”. Secondary containment is also recommended so that if the tank or drum leaks, the leak is contained and easy to clean up.

Take your used oil to a drop-off center, landfill or service station which collects used oil for recycling

Burn your used oil in a space heater that is made for that purpose and vented to the outside air

6. Options for Used Antifreeze

Store your used antifreeze in tanks or drum which are labeled with the words “USED ANTIFREEZE”. Secondary containment is also recommended so that if the tank or drum leaks, the leak is contained and easy to clean up.

Take your used antifreeze to a drop-off center, landfill or service station which collects used antifreeze for recycling.

Contact the nearest wastewater treatment plant operator to see if you can discharge your antifreeze to the nearest sanitary sewer system.

7. Options for Dead Animals

Bury dead animals immediately. Cover them with at least six inches of soil or dust them with lime to control odors, flies and scavengers.

Haul dead animals to a local rendering plant.

8. Options for Used Batteries

Return used, lead-acid batteries to the retailer when buying new batteries. Under state law, the retailer has to accept them, one for one.

Store used batteries upright on a wooden pallet which is underlain with a sheet of plastic. The plastic will contain spills or leaks

Don't stack batteries more than 2 high

Take used batteries to a drop-off center, landfill or service station which collects batteries for recycling

DON'T BURY BATTERIES – it is prohibited by state law, and you can be fined \$100 per battery

9. Options for Wood

Burn "clean" wood and slash in separate areas, away from other wastes.

Don't burn wood that has been glued, painted, stained, varnished or treated with preservatives, including used oil. Burning can create toxic gases

Most wood wastes which are not "clean" can be buried in your ranch dump or taken to a local landfill

10. Options for Pesticides

Use all pesticides for the intended application or give them to someone who can.

Contact the local Weed & Pest Office for other options.

Contact the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) for disposal requirements. The pesticide might be regulated as hazardous waste.

11. Options for Pesticide Containers

Triple rinse, crush and bury the containers

Apply all rinseate as product even though it may not be as effective.

12. Options for Paint

Use all paints for their intended purpose or give them to someone who can.

For small amounts of old latex paint in can, take the top off the can and allow the contents to dry to a solid. When dry, dispose of it in your ranch dump.

Take oil based paint to a household hazardous waste collection day.

Pour larger quantities of latex or oil based paint in thin layers on a sheet of plastic or cardboard box, allow paint to dry, then roll it up and place it in your ranch dump.

Mix old paints with kitty litter, allow it to dry, and then place it in your ranch dump.

Note: all handling and drying should be done in a well-ventilated area away from children and animals.

13. Managing Spills

Spills of liquids should be controlled and contained as soon as possible.

Spills of more than 25 gal of petroleum product or 1 lb of pesticide/herbicide must be reported immediately to WDEQ Water Quality Division 307-777-7781

Stockpile contaminated soils on plastic in a bermed area and cover with plastic.

Contact WDEQ Solid & Hazardous Waste Division for guidelines on handling the contaminated soils.

Check us out on the web!

www.ldcd.org



Use this QR Code to go directly to our website!



EQIP- Environmental Quality Incentive Program

- ❖ There are a wide variety of sub-accounts under EQIP. Some State wide funding accounts (compete at the state level for ranking) and some division funding (compete with Sheridan and Johnson Co.)
- ❖ EQIP is a continuous sign up. Meaning people can sign up whenever. We then have Batching Dates where the applications we have are ranked and moved forward if funding allows. Generally the main Batching Date is in the fall.
- ❖ NRCS partners with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to determine participant eligibility.
To be eligible you must:
 - Control or own eligible land
 - Comply with adjusted gross income limitations (\$900,000)
 - Comply with highly erodible land (HEL) and wetland conservation requirements
 - Work with NRCS to develop proper planning and inventory is complete
 - If applying as an entity a DUNS and SAMS number will be required

Priorities as identified by State Technical Committee from LWG recommendations:

1. Grazing Lands Management
 - a. Stock Water Development
 - b. Cross Fencing
 - c. Prescribed Grazing
2. Water Quality
3. Irrigation Water Management
4. Wetlands
5. Prevention of the conversion of agricultural lands to non-ag use
6. Excessive Erosion
7. Streambank/Riparian area protection
8. Fish and Wildlife habitat
9. Forest Health
10. Noxious and Invasive species
11. Energy
12. Soil Health

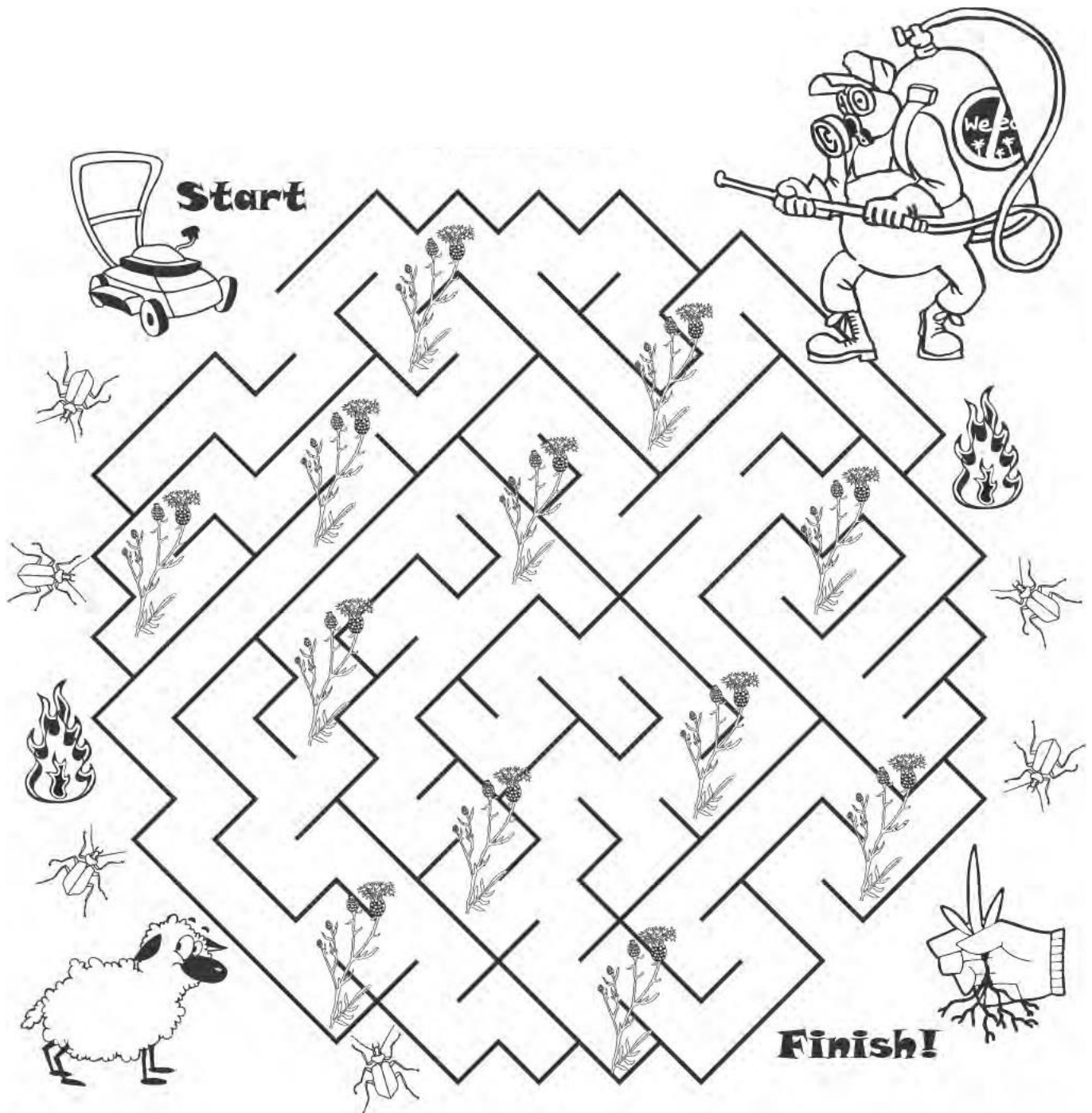
Timeline Example: After the batching date cut off applications will be ranked November-ish, multiple eligibility and peer to peer reviews take place in January & February. By March, hopefully the Field Offices are aware of pre-approvals and can begin writing the contract. Once the contract is wrote, it goes through two reviews at the Division level and State Level. These generally take until June, after the reviews are completed the application will be signed into a contract. Generally the contract participant is not cleared to begin the project until late summer/fall. So generally, one year has lapsed since the original sign up date for project commencement.

Kids! Help stop the weeds from invading!

A fun website for kids - Soils4kids.org

Make Edible Soil for a snack!

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/mt/people/teachers/?cid=nrcs144p2_057811





- **July 18** - Board of Supervisors Meeting, 6 pm, 621 W Fetterman
- **July 21-23** – NABO in Buffalo
- **July 30 – Aug 6** – Johnson County Fair & Rodeo
- **Aug 15** – Board of Supervisors Meeting, 6 pm, 621 W Fetterman
- **Aug 23** – First Day of School in Johnson County
- **Sept 19** – Board of Supervisors Meeting, 6 pm, 621 W Fetterman

For more information on anything in our newsletter including our upcoming events please call, e-mail, visit our website or follow us on Facebook!!

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Meet the Board and Staff

Lake DeSmet Conservation District

Board of Supervisors:

Ryan Fieldgrove- Chairman

Luke Todd- Vice-Chairman

Priscilla Welles- Secretary/Treasurer

Travis Rule- Member

Virgie Watt- Member

District Staff:

Zach Byram – District Manager

*Amanda Hulet – District Clerk/Education
Coordinator*

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Staff:

Allison McKenzie – District Conservationist

Kassie Bales – Range Conservationist