



Winter 2024

Newsletter

North Platte Valley and South Goshen Conservation Districts

District Manager Roundup

by Jamie Phipps District Manager

There is something magical about the start of a new year, it is also a time to reflect on the past year's progress and ways to improve. We had a challenging tree season with the unusually wet spring, but with that came moisture we never knew we could experience in Wyoming. Even with the challenges our tree program was able to complete 20 plantings, a successful Pre-Sale and an Overstock Sale. We are looking forward to this Spring planting season.

Community enhancement and education is a big part of our mission, this past year we offered a seminar about our Small Water Project Program and hosted a Strawbale Gardening Workshop. We hope to continue to provide these events for our community this coming Winter and Spring. For a schedule of our upcoming events visit our website www.conservegoshen.com or page 2 of this newsletter. K-12 education is still a work in progress, I have been purging, organizing and reinventing our existing resources and hope to have classroom resource kits available for teachers to rent by Spring.

I would also like to do a quick reminder that our Conservation Grade Tree and Shrub Pre-Sale provides our constituents with the opportunity to purchase seedlings by pre-order. By getting our orders in early it ensures that we are able to reserve those trees from the nurseries that we purchase from. Ordering begins October 1st and ends March 31st. We have many species available for your planting needs and will be able to assist you in finding the perfect selection. Pre-Sale order forms can be found at our office or online at www.conservegoshen.com.

As always if you have any questions about our programs please call or visit our office, or visit our Facebook pages and our website www.conservegoshen.com.

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 **GOSHEN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**
Helping you protect soil, water, air, wildlife and our way of life

Program Spotlight



The flyer features a background image of a water faucet with water flowing. On the left, a blue banner contains the text 'DOMESTIC WATER WELL TESTING'. Below this, it says 'Sign up by January 29, 2024', 'Kits available for pick up February 5-8, 2024', and 'Kits due February 9, 2024 at 9:00am'. A small logo for 'CONSERVE GOSHEN' is in the top left. A white hexagon on the right lists the tests: 'Bacteria', 'PH', 'Nitrates/Nitrite', 'Arsenic', and 'Uranium'. At the bottom, it says 'SPONSORED BY NPVCD AND SGCD', 'www.conservegoshen.com', and 'MORE INFO 307-532-4880 Ext 101' with a phone icon.

DOMESTIC WATER WELL TESTING

Sign up by January 29, 2024

Kits available for pick up February 5-8, 2024

Kits due February 9, 2024 at 9:00am

SPONSORED BY NPVCD AND SGCD

www.conservegoshen.com

Bacteria
PH
Nitrates/Nitrite
Arsenic
Uranium

MORE INFO
307-532-4880 Ext 101

"To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold."

- ARISTOTLE

Upcoming Events

- **South Goshen District Meeting**
 - First Thursday of each month
 - Emporium at Hawk Springs, 1:00pm
- **North Platte Valley District Meeting**
 - Second Thursday of each month
 - USDA Service Center, 11:00am
- **Tree and Shrub Public Pre-Sale**
 - October 1, 2023-March 31, 2024
- **Department of Audit Public Officer Training- Hosted by South Goshen CD**
 - January 13, 2024, 9:00am-12:00pm
 - Yoder Community Building
- **Domestic Water Well Testing**
 - Sign up by January 29, 2024, 8:00am
 - Kits available for pick up February 5-8, 2024
 - Kits due February 9, 2024 at 9:00am
- **Haney Soil Testing**
 - Kit pick up - March 25, 2024
 - Kits due - April 1, 2024

NRCS Update

Goshen County is situated at the transition point between the farmland of Nebraska, and the high plains grazing area of Wyoming. While our soils are generally low in organic matter and tend to blow, we have the potential to raise upwards of 7 tons of alfalfa/ac and 200+ bu of corn. With some fine-tuned management, many producers are hitting close to the 300 bu/ac mark. Pretty impressive. Numbers of cattle on-pasture and cattle on-feed continues to increase as well. Consequently, assistance from NRCS is routinely requested for irrigation and stock water systems. Most of our irrigation water comes from the North Platte River and Horse Creek, with various deep wells for supplemental irrigation. The irrigating producers are typically on allocation (limited or less than what their water right guarantees) due to lower-than-normal reservoir storage. The allocation years tend to coincide with hotter temperatures, making it almost impossible to "wake up" an alfalfa field after a cutting has occurred. In most cases, large portions of flood

NRCS Cont.

irrigated fields remain dormant due to the irrigation systems' inability to supply water quickly enough for growth stimulation. Most of our EQIP allocation is currently spent on converting these flood irrigation fields into center pivot systems. The water savings is typically 30-35% while at the same time, yields increase significantly. More carbon captured!

Since our LWG places top priority on irrigation water savings, and livestock water is a distant 2nd, we've relied on the FSA Grassland CRP program and Wyoming Small Water Development to provide funds for livestock water improvements. With Grasslands CRP producers have benefited from the certainty of a 15 year revenue stream and are investing that money back into their operations through water development and fencing. If you would like to discuss ways to improve your operations through investments in conservation practices, reach out to your local Goshen County NRCS Office.

Provided by
Ryan Clayton
NRCS District Conservationist

FARMING EVOLUTIONS 2024

FEATURING DR. JAMES WHITE, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY



Event Center, Phillips County Fairgrounds, Holyoke, CO
Wednesday, February 21st – 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 22nd – 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Check-in, coffee & rolls: 7:30 a.m. both days
Registration By 2/9, \$40 single day, \$50 both days
Registration After 2/9, \$50 single day, \$60 both days
Includes lunch, breaks and materials

Dr. White will give an intriguing presentation about the plant/microbe relationships. It's much a more complex and active system than most people realize. Be prepared to be amazed at how interactive plants are with their underground friends.

Also presenting: Mary Drewnoski (UNL): "Cover Crops and Grazing Management"
Danelle Peck (NPCH) "Weather & Climate Resilience: Putting Dollars & Cents to Regenerative Practices"
Clinton Wilson (RMFU) – "Digging Deeper: Learning from the Wisdom of the Soil"
Meagan Schipanski (CSU) – "What We Have Learned Through the FARMS Project"
Adam Osterholzer (CSU): Wheat Stem Sawfly Management & Soil Health Practices"
Producer Speakers: Rick Bieber (SD), Curt Sayles (CO), Joel Grosbach & Logan Pribbeno (NE)

For complete workshop, lodging, registration & sponsorship information:
farmingevolutions.com
Or email haxtuncd@gmail.com or call 970-854-2812 ext. 3.

Supported and Sponsored by: Haxton, Morgan, Sedgwick, West Greeley & Yuma County Conservation Districts;
Upper Republican Natural Resource District; High Plains Land Conservancy; Arrow Seeds; Colo. State
Conservation Board; Colo. Association of Conservation Districts; Natural Resources Conservation Service



Farming Above 7 pH: Alkaline Soils & Fertility Seminar

February 14-15, 2024

ATTENDANCE OPTIONS

In Person - \$120 @ Holiday Inn Cody	Virtual/online - \$50 From your home
Watch Party - \$25 @ SAREC, Lingle	

For registration visit: bit.ly/Farming7pH

- Alkaline & calcareous soils
- Soil sampling
- Cation effect on soil structure
- Q&A with speakers
- And more . . .

14 CEUs available for
Certified Crop Advisers

Questions? Contact **Jeremiah Vardiman**
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