

HIGH COUNTRY CONSERVATION

SPRING 2024 EDITION

2024

ALBANY COUNTY

FEATURING
35
EXHIBITORS

Oh Yes!
IT'S FREE

CONSERVATION

EXPO



Saturday, May 4th
2024



9am – 2pm



Laramie Ice & Event Center

DOORPRIZES,
DEMOS, RAFFLES
& GAMES!



www.lrcd.net

This event is proudly
co-sponsored by:



Hosted by:



The High Altitude Skating Club
will be selling CONCESSIONS!

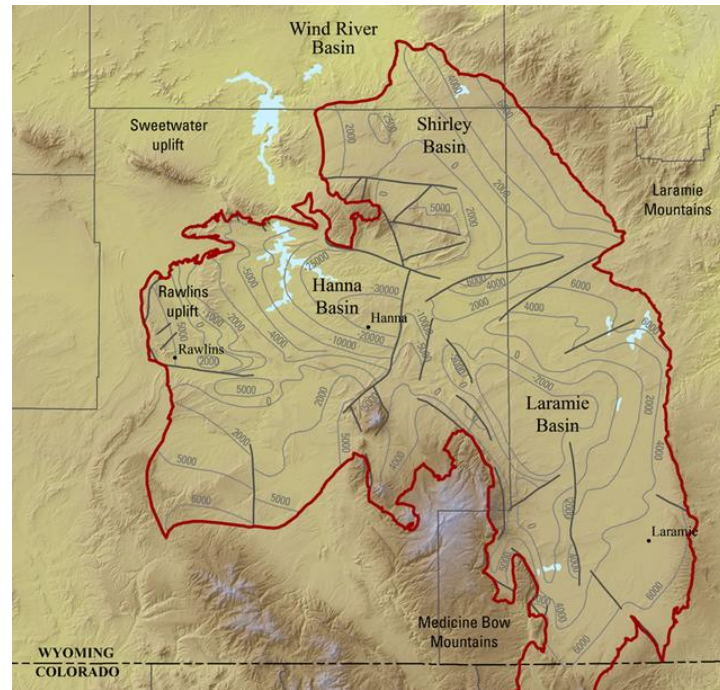


Join us for a full day of conservation education!

SMALL ACRES IN ALBANY COUNTY

The past fifteen years or so has seen an increase of development of a new type of landownership. The small acreage landowner has been categorized in many different terms. Ranchette, Exurban, hobby farmer, and the list continues with the names, or terms, associated with owning a few acres in the country. The sizes of these acres vary from just a few acres to around a hundred and vary from productive bottomlands to a rocky hillside.

The types of landowners also differ from someone new to country life to an old ranch kid that wants out of town. Oftentimes though, people who purchased these small tracts of land have never lived in the country, really don't know what to expect, and don't know how to manage their piece of land properly.



Map showing the Hanna, Laramie, and Shirley Basins, WY provided by the USGS

Albany County consists of 2 big basins, Laramie basin and Shirley basin, that are flanked by the Snowy Range to the west and Laramie Range to the east and north with an average elevation of 9,040 feet. The climate of Albany County has been referred to as a high cold desert. The annual precipitation in the basins are 10" to 14" with the foothills and mountains getting between 15" to 19". Typically, the last freeze in spring is around June 7th and the first freeze of fall is near September 11th, giving a growing season of approximately 96 days. These conditions make land and resource management in Albany County challenging at best.

Management of small tracts of land does not usually differ much from managing a large ranch or farm. Proper land management will ensure that your acreage will remain productive and healthy for the future. Improper land management will lead to acres of bare ground, or land that is not as productive as it could be. There are numerous actions that can be taken by landowners to help defray negative environmental effects of small acreage land development. If you are unaware or find it challenging to manage your land, schedule a time with LRCD or one of the other agencies that will give you insight into proper land management.

LRCD has conducted numerous site visits on a variety of acreages and has developed Small Acreage Resource Management Plans for them. If you are interested in having a management plan developed for your property, please contact the district to schedule a time for a site visit. This service is free of charge and gives valuable information on how to manage your small acreage.

Please contact the district if these programs or assistance sound interesting to you.

Martin

How to plant new trees in Albany County

STEP 1: SELECT YOUR SITE

- Plan ahead for the tree's mature size. It would be a big bummer (not to mention also a waste of resources) if you end up cutting your tree down in 10 years because it's too close to underground/overhead utility lines, sidewalks, home foundations, driveways, etc. Choose a spot that will allow the tree to get its appropriate sun and water. And keep in mind where any snow drifts will form behind the tree due to our lovely WY winds!

STEP 2: PREP THE SITE

- Dig a hole only as deep as the top of the root crown (area on a tree where the roots start to grow). Planting a tree deeper than this can kill the tree! Err on planting it too shallow than too deep.
- The hole should match the root depth and spread – make sure all roots are facing downwards.

STEP 3: BACKFILL THE HOLE

- Fill 1/3 of the hole with the original soil, then add water to eliminate any air pockets. Avoid tamping the soil down manually. Instead repeat the fill-and-water process until the hole is filled. Leave some space for mulch on the surface too!
- Overall, use the native soil and avoid adding amendments. Hopefully you did your homework and selected a tree that is compatible with your soil type! The goal is to have the tree survive on its own in the natural environment and soil amendments cause barriers for trees to do this.

STEP 4: AVOID FERTILIZING

- New trees need to adapt to their site which can take years to do. Fertilizing does not help these youngsters accomplish this. In fact, the chemicals can be too "hot" for young trees. If you want to fertilize, wait 3-5 years or so, place away from the base of the tree, and do it in late May or early June.

STEP 5: MULCH, MULCH, AND MORE MULCH!

- Mulch is one of the most important steps to help the survival of trees and shrubs.
- Wood mulch is preferred, but given our high winds, pea gravel up to fist-sized rock can be a good option too.
- Mulch helps retain soil moisture, helps keep grass and weeds from taking the tree's water, and helps promote good root development.
- Put mulch around tree area (avoid direct contact with base of tree) up to 3" deep.

STEP 6: TREE TUBE SHELTERS

- Although optional, tree tube shelters are highly advised. Add a shelter to your sapling to help promote growth via its greenhouse effect. These shelters can help protect the trees from wildlife nibbles and wind damage also.
- Recycle any lumber (or other material) laying around to create stakes to zip tie the tube shelters to. We recommend placing the stakes on the windward side of the tree to offer the most protection and stability.

DON'T FORGET!

If you placed a tree order with LRCO, please stop by OUR OFFICE (*not the fairgrounds*) on

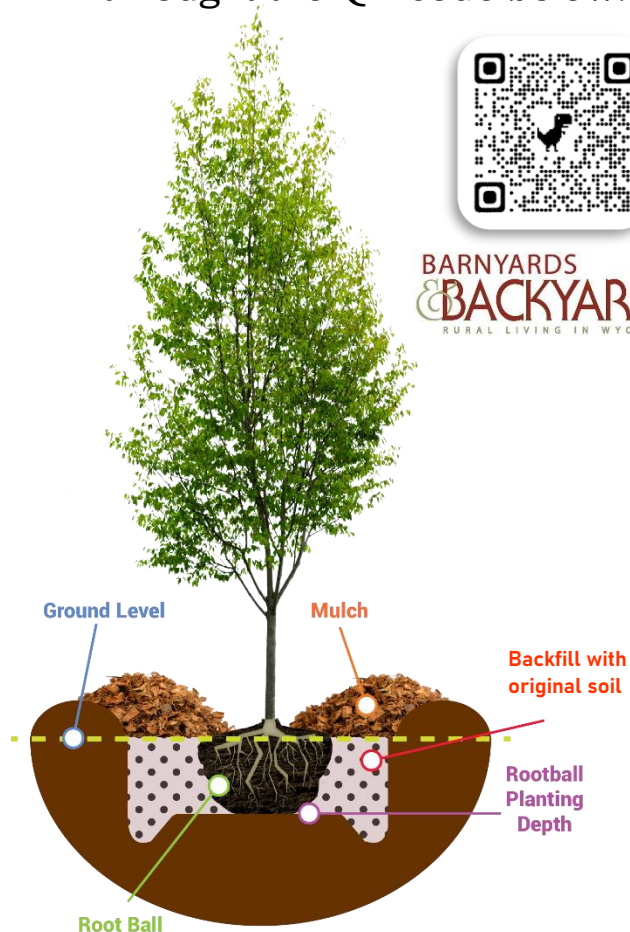
April 26 & 27

to pick them up!

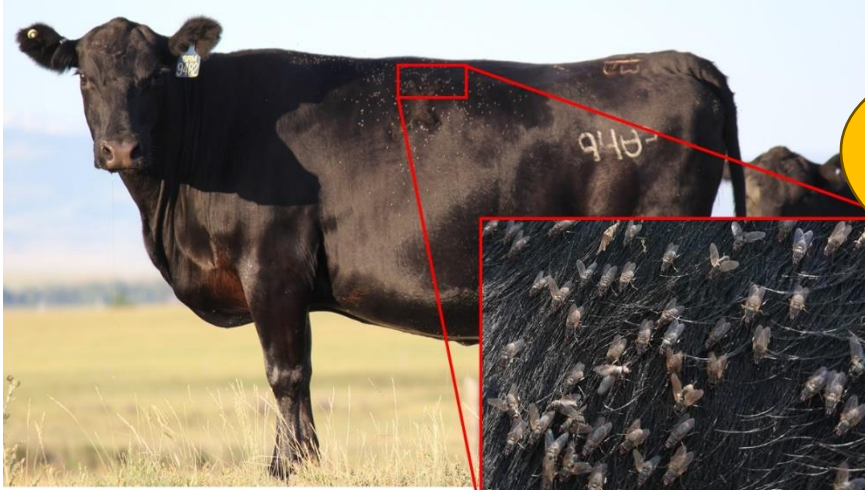
For more information on successful tree planting, explore Barnyards & Backyards resource website through the QR code below:



BARNYARDS & BACKYARDS
RURAL LIVING IN WYOMING



Tree planting information provided by Holly Dyer, LRCO Resource Specialist



Did you know?
 200 hornflies can fit in this 1.5x3" oval.
 Each fly needs more than 30 blood meals
 per day.
Talk about a pain in the butt!



Horn fly infestations can cause weight gain loss in cattle.
 Photo courtesy of the UW College of Agriculture, Life Sciences, and Natural Resources.

If you're feeding mineral with insecticide to help cattle repel flies, NOW is the time to offer it to your herd! The insecticide in mineral supplements should be consumed in early spring regularly for about 30-60 days (before flies begin appearing) to be the most effective. Horn flies start to emerge when average daily temperatures reach 65* F.

Controlling flies can significantly help livestock producers' revenue streams. In fact, horn flies are known to cause weight gain loss in cattle, and calf weaning weights can be negatively impacted anywhere from 4-15%, according to some studies done in the US and Canada. In Nebraska, calf weaning weights were 10-20 pounds higher from mother cows who had horn flies controlled. This is largely from the mere nuisance of flies irritating the animal, elevating the animal's stress levels, and causing the animal to move around more, kick to swat flies off, etc.

It only takes 200 hornflies on 1 cow to cause decreasing economic returns!

Other methods of controlling flies include having backrubbers and dust bags (if cattle are forced to use them), insecticide ear tags, animal sprays or pour-ons, or even oral larvicides. Be sure to rotate through insecticide classes to help prevent flies from developing resistance and read labels about appropriate dosage and application strategies for best results. Some items need to be reapplied throughout the season given they lose their effectiveness anywhere from 7-35 days, depending on the product.

**Do you have other cattle concerns?
 Contact us today!**



LRCO Rangeland & Watershed Resource Specialist

Holly Dyer

Email: holly.dyer@lrcd.net
 Direct: 307-223-3270

Do you have food security? Does our community? How many days can you and your family go without a trip to the grocery store? What if the stores were out of food because of a major transportation disruption such a ship destroying a key bridge to perfectly block the entire critical waterway? Of course, this is exactly what happened recently and it could not have been planned better by an enemy military, but things do happen. Are you ready?

It would be wise to have a least a couple weeks of food available to deal with disruptions in supply. This could be dried, frozen or canned food.

Growing healthy food in your own garden and canning or selling the excess at the farmers market can be a very satisfying way to become more food secure, save energy, and help the food security of your community.

You can improve your ability to grow a garden at 7220 feet above sea level by using a High Tunnel and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) may help you pay for it.

A High Tunnel System, commonly called a “hoop house,” is an increasingly popular conservation practice for farmers, and is available with financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).



With high tunnel systems, no summer is too short or winter too cold because high tunnels:

- Extend the growing season.
- Improve plant quality and soil quality.
- Reduce nutrient and pesticide transportation.
- Improve air quality through reduced transportation inputs.
- Reduce energy use by providing consumers with a local source of fresh produce.

High tunnels protect plants from severe weather and allow farmers to extend their growing seasons – growing earlier into the spring, later into the fall. And because high tunnels prevent direct rainfall from reaching plants, farmers can use precise tools like drip irrigation to efficiently deliver water and nutrients to plants. High tunnels also offer farmers a greater ability to control pests and can even protect plants from pesticide drift.

Perhaps the best thing about high tunnels is that they help gardeners provide their communities with healthy local food for much of the year – food that requires less energy and transportation inputs.

Last summer at the Laramie Farmers Market I paid sixteen dollars for two beautiful heirloom tomatoes, and I was almost happy to do it. They were amazing. The only problem was, they were grown in southern Colorado. A great deal of fuel and time were used to get them here. I sure hope the next tomato I purchase at the farmers market is from Laramie.

The NRCS can provide technical and potentially financial assistance if you are producing food in rural, city or suburban environments. We also have special opportunities to assist individuals who identify as a member of a historically underserved group.

To learn more about how the NRCS can serve you, please contact:

Chris Bovè

District Conservationist, Laramie Field Office
307-223-3271 or chris.bove@usda.gov





If you own or manage between 1 to 160 acres of land in Wyoming we want to hear from you!

We are conducting a survey so that we can better provide Wyoming landowners/managers with practical, user-friendly informational resources on subjects such as gardening, growing trees, snow control, pasture management, weed control, raising livestock and a whole lot more.

First 500 people who fill out the survey have the option to receive a free 1-year subscription of *Barnyards & Backyards* magazine.

Scan the QR code below to take the survey
This survey is being conducted by the Small Acreage Issue Team - Barnyards & Backyards.



How did the 2024 Legislative Session impact conservation?

HERE'S HOLLY'S



RECAP

There are several conservation-related items that were funded at various levels in the approved state budget for the next biennium. These include:

- \$1 to \$1 matching funds for wild horse and burro management on Wind River Indian Reservation
- \$150,000 for gray wolf depredation compensation
- \$2.5 million to provide a state match for funds received by UW or donated funds to be used solely for support for excellence in research, education, and extension in ranch and rangeland management, agronomy and soil science. Requires a 1-to-1 match.
- \$9 million for grants to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive plants and grasses – focusing on state and privately-owned lands.

The creation of the Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Trust Fund also came out of this legislative session. This brand new trust will be governed by a 9-person board who will decide how to allocate a budget of \$6 million for improving recreation opportunities across the state over the next two years.

Educational Resources within Albany County

RANGE & WILDLIFE

Albany County Weed & Pest
Lindsay Wheat, Supervisor
Phone: (307) 742-4469
Email: acwpwheat@wyoming.com

Laramie Rivers Conservation District
Holly Dyer, Watershed & Rangeland Specialist
Phone: (307) 223-3270
Email: holly.dyer@lrkd.net

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Christopher Bovè, District Conservationist
Phone: (307) 223-3271
Email: chris.bove@usda.gov

US Fish & Wildlife Service
Christina Stone, USFWS Public Affairs
Phone: 1-800-344-WILD (1-800-344-9453)
Email: christina_stone@fws.gov

Wyoming Game & Fish
Caroline Rosinski, Public Information Specialist
Phone: (307) 745-4046
Email: caroline.rosinski@wyo.gov

TREES & GARDENING

City of Laramie - Parks Division
Kyle Peep, City of Laramie Arborist
Phone: (307) 721-5338
Email: kpeep@cityoflaramie.org

Rooted in Laramie
Email: RootedinLaramie@gmail.com

US Forest Service
Aaron Voos, Public Affairs
Phone: (970) 819-2898 or (307) 745-2300
Email: aaron.voos@usda.gov

UW Extension - Master Gardener Program
Donna Hoffman - WY State M.G. Coordinator
Phone: (307) 235-9400
Email: dhoffman@natronacounty-wy.gov

Wyoming State Forestry
Travis Pardue, Partnership Coordinator
Phone: (307) 286-6945
Email: travis.pardue@wyo.gov

WATER & ENERGY

A.R.E Alliance for Renewable Energy - Laramie
C/O Powder River Basin Resource Council
Phone: (307) 672-5809
Email: cdeuter@powderriverbasin.org

City of Laramie - Utility Division
Lachelle Sims, Administrative Assistant
Phone: (307) 721-5280
Email: lsims@cityoflaramie.org

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Jennifer Zygmunt, Water Quality Division Admin
Phone: (307) 777-7937
Email: jennifer.zygmunt@wyo.gov

Wyoming State Engineers Office - Water Div. 1
Rod Oliver, Lead Hydrographer/Commissioner
Phone: (307) 760-4167
Email: rod.oliver@wyo.gov

EDUCATION

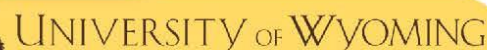
Albany County Emergency Management
Kate Allred, Emergency Mgmt Coordinator
Phone: (307) 721-1896
Email: kallred@co.albany.wy.us

Albany County Extension Office
Phone: (307) 721-2571
Email: albanyco@uwyo.edu or uwext@uwyo.edu

Albany County Historical Society
Email: wyoachs@gmail.com

Barnyards & Backyards | Small Acres - UW Ext
Jenny Thompson, Small Acreage Outreach
Email: barnyardsbackyards@uwyo.edu or wyo004@uwyo.edu

Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom
Michelle McCormack, Education Advocate
Phone: (307) 369-1749
Email: info@wyaitc.org





Check out our Facebook page for the latest district information and updates!

PREFER AN ELECTRONIC VERSION?
EMAIL INFO@LRCD.NET
TO BE ADDED TO OUR EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST!

~ Upcoming Events ~

- ❖ May 4th Albany County Conservation Expo!
9am – 2pm @ the Laramie Ice & Event Center
- ❖ May 21st Plant Walk @ Pilot Hill
Watch social media for time & location!
- ❖ May 22nd LRCD Monthly Board Meeting
12-3pm @ LRCD Board Room
- ❖ May 22nd LaVA Spring Public Meeting 5pm @ TBA
in person in Laramie with an online option
- ❖ May 27th Office Closed in observation of Memorial Day
- ❖ June 19th Office Closed in observation of Juneteenth
- ❖ July 4th Office Closed in observation of Independence Day

High Country Conservation April 2024



Laramie Rivers Conservation District
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(307) 721-0072 | info@lrcd.net
www.lrcd.net

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LRCD Board of Supervisors
Mandy Marney, Board Chair
Ruth Shepherd, Vice-Chair
Carol Price, Secretary/Treasurer
Larry Munn, Supervisor
Zach Iddings, Supervisor

LRCD's Mission: To provide leadership for the conservation of Albany County's soil and water and to promote the sustained use of Wyoming's water and all other natural resources. To preserve and enhance wildlife habitat, protect the tax base and to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Albany County through a responsible conservation ethic.