

high country conservation



2015 Winter Issue

Photo by Tony Hoch

Laramie Conservation Expo

Excitement is building for the upcoming Laramie Conservation Expo taking place on Saturday, March 7th from 9am to 3pm at the Albany County Fairgrounds. The Expo began in 2006 and has grown into a popular event for community members of all ages. The emphasis of the Conservation Expo is both educational and inspirational. The event provides a gathering place for residents interested in conservation issue where they can find information, mingle with others and find inspiration for their own projects. The Expo hosts exhibitors covering a wide range of topics. Through interactive displays and educational handouts, Expo visitors can expect an engaging experience and a fun way to enjoy a few hours with family or friends. Some booth exhibits include info on:



- ⇒ Conservation of natural resources
- ⇒ Waste Recycling, Reduction, and Reuse
- ⇒ Water quality and quantity
- ⇒ Urban gardening and backyard ag production
- ⇒ Small Acreage management
- ⇒ Wildlife conservation and management
- ⇒ Sustainable building practices/Green Build technology
- ⇒ Invasive species control
- ⇒ Renewable energy : solar panels, wind turbines, thermal heat pumps
- ⇒ Composting
- ⇒ Rangeland and pasture management
- ⇒ Alternative fuel vehicles

The Expo kicks-off on Friday, March 6th with a film presentation at the Berry Biodiversity Center hosted in collaboration with the UW Haub School of Environment & Natural Resources. Although this year's film has not yet been determined, we have many great films in consideration and promise a fun and thought-provoking time for all who attend. The Expo begins the next morning at 9am at the Albany County Fairgrounds event building. In addition to booth exhibits, we have scheduled informative presentations throughout the day, allowing Expo visitors to sit-in on talks given by experts in the fields of Wyoming water law, renewable energy resources for the home, small agriculture business start-up and more.

Another exciting event that the Expo is bringing back this year is the incredibly popular High Tunnel Greenhouse RAFFLE! This high tunnel is built onsite at the Expo by UW Extension instructor, Jeff Edwards, and student volunteers from the Wyoming Conservation Corps. Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the door. This high-tunnel is perfect for the home gardener who wants to extend their growing season.

Mark your calendars now for this March 6th & 7th event and we look forward to seeing you there.





LRCD's Annual Tree Sale

by Martin Curry

This year we will be holding our 28th annual tree sale on May 8 & 9 in the Red Barn at the Albany County Fairgrounds. The doors will open at 8:00 a.m. both days and we typically close at 4:30 p.m. on Friday and once the trees are sold out on Saturday (around noon). If you are unable to make it out to the fairgrounds during this time, do not worry, you can preorder your trees and shrubs. The staff of LRCD are more than happy to arrange a pick up time of your trees and shrubs for your convenience. Please use the enclosed form to select the trees and shrubs you would like to order. We also encourage purchasing tree survival aids while you are completing the form; they can really help your seedlings get off to a good start. Please mail or drop-off order form at our office, along with payment. Please remember to calculate the tax with the total. All orders will be filled on a first come, first service basis, so please do not wait until the last moment to order, there may be some species that are of limited supply. For more information contact Martin Curry at 721-0072 Ext 109

Centennial Valley Greenhouse

By Trish Penny



The Greenhouse—Fall '14



Raised beds with trellis

This past fall, the Centennial Valley Elementary School Community Garden and Greenhouse was completed.

This project was primarily funded by a grant from the Laura Jane Musser Foundation and spearheaded by LRCD and the Centennial Valley School teachers, parents and community members. Additional funding came from Wyoming Youth for Natural Resources and LRCD.

Nyquist Building Science constructed the insulated greenhouse with solar powered ventilation.

The project was also made possible by hundreds of volunteer hours from the Centennial community, UW-Wyoming Conservation Corps and the College of Engineering. Along with the greenhouse, the facility includes outdoor raised bed gardens, and a pollinator garden. A majority of the facility is ADA - wheelchair accessible.



Raised beds with hoop covers



Recycle LF ReBuild

Along with our LRCD Facebook page , we have added a Facebook "Group" open to anyone who would like to join. The page, called Laramie ReBuild, is aimed at encouraging reuse or repurposing of construction and building materials.

Construction and demolition materials accounts for nearly 1/3 of the debris sent to our landfills. As with most waste, approximately 60-70% can be recycled into new materials or reclaimed and reused in their original form for remodeling and renovation projects. Some items that are very useful for repurposing are: wood, lumber, doors, windows, cabinets, paint, light fixtures, plumbing materials and hardware. The Laramie ReBuild page creates a place where individuals, businesses, contractors, organizations and property owners can post their leftover and second-hand building supplies for free or at a reasonable price for others. If you have items you would like to get rid of, or are looking for supplies, please join Laramie ReBuild and encourage others to do the same. The more members we have, the more reusable materials we can divert from the landfill and put into the hands of people who can use them.

For questions, information or assistance listing items if not on Facebook call Laura McGinley at 721-0072 Ext. 100

Rethinking our waste creates Resources for others!

WILDLIFE FRIENDLY FENCING

By Ruben Vasquez, District Conservationist, NRCS Wyoming

Long-time rancher John Nunn's land is near a pronghorn migration route. "The woven fence has been there forever. We would always find a tunnel along some place in the fence. The antelope would get under the wire. We found they would go a certain path and we didn't want to jeopardize that."

Recognizing that the existing woven wire and 5-6 wire barbed fences prevented pronghorn, deer and elk from freely moving and migrating through his land, Nunn got in touch with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Using the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Nunn replaced 29,000 feet of woven and five-strand barbed wire fence with wildlife-friendly fence, vastly improving big game movement on or through ranches.

EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers through contracts up to 10 years in length. These contracts provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. In addition, EQIP helps producers meet Federal, State, Tribal and local environmental regulations. For 2015, NRCS offers a variety of state funding initiatives through the EQIP program that address forestry issues, livestock related water quality issues, waste facilities, soil health, and streambank and riparian area habitat.

- ◊ The forestry account assists producers with improving forest health.
- ◊ The water quality/livestock waste account assists with Animal Feeding Operations/Confined Animal Feeding Operations (AFO/CAFO) who want to make changes in their livestock waste management systems to comply with regulations.
- ◊ The soil health account allows participants to adopt a reduced tillage system or plant cover crops as an alternative feed source.
- ◊ The streambank/riparian area account provides participants the opportunity to treat resource concerns along riparian areas and enhance habitat for aquatic species.

For more information about NRCS programs, you can go to the website www.wy.nrcs.usda.gov, or stop by the Laramie NRCS field office located at 5015 Stone Road, phone 307-745-3898 Ext. 102

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



**LARAMIE RIVERS
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
5015 STONE ROAD
LARAMIE, WY 82070
PHONE: (307) 721-0072



NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #9
LARAMIE, WY
82070

PHONE DIRECTORY

LRCD 721-0072
NRCS 745-3698

To quickly reach the person you are calling for, please enter their phone extension after the auto-attendant picks up.

LRCD

Tony Hoch, Director - Ext. 101
Trish Penny, Education Coordinator - Ext. 108
Martin Curry, Resource Specialist - Ext. 109
Laura McGinley, District Clerk - Ext 100

NRCS

Ruben Vasquez, Dist. Conservationist - Ext. 102
Clay Thompson, Civil Engineering Tech - Ext. 107

UW Extension

Jenny Thompson, Sm. Acreage Coordinator - Ext. 106

Fish & Wildlife Service

Mindy Meade - Ext. 111

Board of Supervisors

2015 begins with LRCD saying goodbye to our board chairperson, Nancy Bath and Rural Supervisor, Kelly Kennedy. We are tremendously thankful for their years of service. Additionally, we welcome Bob Shine, as the newly elected At-large Supervisor and welcome the return of members: Larry Munn, Jim Rogers and Ruth Shepherd.

VISIT US ON THE WEB!

WWW.LRCD.NET

Equipment Rentals

Dew Drop Seeder * Poly Pipe
Welder * Backpack Sprayer
721-0072
Call for availability and pricing

Soil, Water, and Plant Analysis Cost Share Program

- ⇒ Potable Water
- ⇒ Trace Minerals in water
- ⇒ Irrigation and Livestock water
- ⇒ Forage testing for nutritional value
- ⇒ Soil testing for gardens for crops

The SW&P Analysis Cost Share is a matching program in which up to 50% of project costs may be reimbursed by the District up to \$500 total. If interested or want to know more, please contact us @ 721-0072.

Our knowledgeable staff can assist with understanding the different tests that are available, where testing labs are located ,and how to read results.