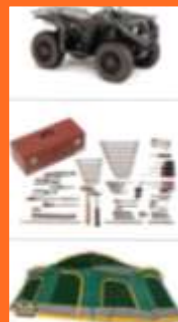


WYOMING NATURAL RESOURCE FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

WNRF is a sister organization to the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts. This organization provides Wyoming representation in Washington, D.C. They also administer the Olin Sims Endowment, the Gary Beach Memorial Scholarship, and partner with many different organization such as the Stock Growers, State Forestry and NRCS to promote our common goal of the wise use of our natural resources.

In exchange for a \$25 donation, the WNRF will enter donors in a drawing for a chance at a 2010 Yamaha Grizzly 450 ATV, a 121 piece NAPA Tool Set or a Cabela's Backwoods 3-room cabin tent.

Tickets are available at our office. The drawing will be held November 18, 2010 during the annual meeting of the Wyoming Association of Conservation District and the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation in Worland.



FRMONT COUNTY GRASSHOPPER REVIEW

For about a fourth of the county grasshopper numbers exceeded 15 per square yard, an economic threshold on rangeland. What amazed us this summer was that the numbers of grasshoppers on rangeland, the usual focus for grasshopper control programs, were much lower than on irrigated cropland. Since the USDA grasshopper control programs are restricted to rangeland, and rangeland numbers were for the most part less than the economic threshold a large treatment block like was seen in eastern counties could not be pulled together. Landowners were faced with treating their cropland at a cost of \$12 to \$18 per acre after the 40% county cost share on the chemical. The challenge on cropland this year was we were dealing with between 5 and 7 different species, each with a different emergence date, and an extended hatch for each species. A chemical treatment often delivered 90% kill on the grasshopper present at the time of treatment. **But, control was short lived as new hoppers continued to emerge and in a week's time counts were as high as before** treatment. To effectively maintain control, weekly treatment would have been needed. Most insecticides limit the number of applications per year and the total amount applied in a season. Thus, growers would have needed to use several different products throughout the summer. In most cases the cost of the control would not be justified through increased yields. Add to the lack of control, the waiting periods to harvest required by the chemical label and it soon becomes apparent that in spite of all a person could do, the grasshoppers were going to take part of the crop. Many people lost the second cutting of alfalfa and many pastures and grass hay fields were devastated. The 2010 grasshopper outbreak in Fremont County was the equivalent of a wide spread hail storm.

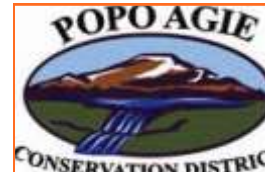
What is the outlook for 2011? Grasshopper numbers were very high and lots of eggs have been laid. But, even in years when grasshopper numbers are low, research shows that enough eggs are laid to fuel epidemic populations the next year. What makes the difference is disease and weather. When grasshopper populations are high, diseases spread through the population rapidly. They are very cannibalistic, feeding on dead hoppers for the fat they contain. Eggs laid by infected grasshoppers are also infected. Many die without emerging and those that do hatch are weak. A week of cold weather after the hatch is fatal. The general conditions that lead to a population collapse are well known, but being able to predict those conditions is impossible. The grasshopper population on the Lander foothills was certainly economic this summer and if they are as high as in 2010 it is likely that some treatment blocks will be put together to treat the rangeland. In that event, we will try to expand that treatment area to cover irrigated grass hay and pasture where possible, however the rangeland treatments using Reduced Agent and Application Technology (RAATs) is as effective on heavy vegetation as it is on rangeland. For high value crops it may necessary to treat several times with a variety of products.

Statistically, Fremont County has a major grasshopper outbreak every 25 to 30 years. The last one was in 1986. That year about 100,000 acres was treated from table Mountain to west of Ft. Washakie. Most private landowners participated, but many people opposed the treatment. Pesticide transfer equipment at the airport was vandalized and 300 gallons of Malathion was dumped on

the ground. People from Riverton called, terrified that their children were going to be poisoned from 30 miles away. **Grasshopper outbreaks cause emotions to run high. There is no quick fix. Let's hope we** seen few hoppers next year, but we can still prepare and plan.



Submitted by: Lars Baker



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October 2010

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19 Free Rural Well Water Testing

29 Deadline for Farm Bill Applications

NOVEMBER

18 Drawing - Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation raffle

LANDER FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT DRAFT PLAN-EA



The Draft Plan-EA was presented to the public in January 2010, and the comment period expired in February. Shortly after the comment period ended the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued a new Draft Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM). This DFIRM was based on revised flood hydrologic and hydraulic analysis. The revised analysis indicates a higher flood-flow rate and therefore a greater flooded area than the previous FEMA study.

With these changes, the Draft Plan-EA no longer meets the FEMA requirement of a minimum three-foot freeboard on all riverine levees (dikes and floodwalls). In addition to the changes in the FEMA regulations the June 2010 flood event made significant changes to the floodway.

Discussions with FEMA and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have concluded that in order to comply with the FEMA regulations and thereby their Flood Insurance Program, the Draft Plan-EA will need to be reevaluated and revised. Since the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service no longer has funding authority to complete this reevaluation, the project sponsors (Fremont County Commission, Popo Agie Conservation District, and the city of Lander) have requested planning assistance from USACE.

NRCS will provide all information, data and comments relating to the existing Draft Plan-EA to USACE as they consider the application for further planning assistance.

Past newsletters are available on our website. You can receive our newsletter via email or regular mail by contacting our office.

Landowners interested in making application for 2011 Farm Bill Conservation Programs must make application to the Lander NRCS Office by October 29, 2010.

A few of the newer programs include several initiatives under the Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP). The Sage Grouse Initiative is aimed at addressing threats to sage grouse. The High Tunnel Initiative provides cost share for agricultural producers who are interested in extending their growing seasons. In addition, the Organic Initiative provides cost share to assist landowners who are organic or are transitioning to organic production methods. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is also available. The gist of this program is that it considers the conservation practices you are currently utilizing on your pasture/range/hay land and gives you credit for them. If you're willing to implement additional practices on those lands, you may receive compensation. The contracts are for 5 years with an annual maximum payment of \$40,000 for a maximum of \$200,000 over the span of the contract. Finally, NRCS is now providing cost share to remove Russian Olive and Salt Cedar. These invasive plants have been shown to outcompete native plants along river and stream corridors and are now considered Noxious Weeds in Wyoming. As you look at your place, consider what the future holds for your wetland areas as Russian Olive continues to spread.

The old standby programs are also still available. The Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP), The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). Again, always feel free to stop by or call Kevin Edinger, NRCS District Conservationist at 332-3114 for more information on these programs.

FREE RURAL WELL WATER TESTING DAY



We are offering another free rural well water testing day. Mark your calendars for October 19, 2010. The test identifies by a positive or negative result whether your water contains total coliform bacteria and/or E-Coli bacteria.

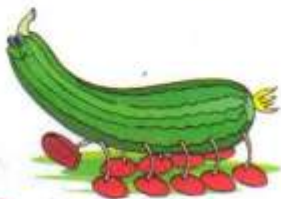
Sample kits can be picked up at our office anytime. You need to sample the morning of the test day. Bring your sample to our office by noon on the 19th and we will transport the samples to Precision Labs in Riverton for analysis. The lab results will be sent directly to the landowner with a fact sheet outlining steps to take depending on the severity of the results.

Total Coliform is a group of bacteria which are present all around us and not thought to be directly dangerous to human health. However, these bacteria are not naturally present in groundwater and are an indication that more harmful organisms might be present. The lab will immediately contact the landowner if *E-coli* is present, which indicates that the water has been exposed to feces and an immediate risk to human health exists.

EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION

Popo Agie Conservation District (PACD) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) worked cooperatively to install emergency watershed protection measures to protect threats to life and property caused by the high flows in the Popo Agie Watershed during the June 2010 flooding. During the flood fight, PACD contracted to protect 30 homes under the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program. The beauty of the EWP program is that it provides immediate technical and financial assistance to save lives and property. NRCS Engineers were on site with the landowners and contractors providing their expertise to save property. Since the initial flood fight, PACD has contracted with an additional 15 landowners to protect homes and irrigation infrastructure that are at risk in the next high water event because of erosion damages incurred during the 2010 flooding.

So, zucchini, oh zucchini,
Though I think you're quite terrific,
Could you, please, just try to be
A little less prolific?
Linda Anderson
Karlstad, MN



"Just Lookin' for a Home!"

YOUTH EDUCATION NEWS



OUTDOOR EDUCATION DAY - We are excited to report that we are involved with what we hope will become an annual event. On September 24, 2010, 13 different agencies along with about 120 4th graders explored the great outdoors. The event location—CWC Sinks Canyon Center; the goal—to educate kids on basic outdoor skills. Small groups of kids rotated through 10 stations and experienced first hand how to wade a river, read a map, identify wildlife, plants, birds, and fish. The kids were educated on how to leave no trace and to **respect the environment, people and critters when they're out hiking.**

We all had a great time and we feel this education is especially relevant since we live in such a great area for lots of outdoor recreation.

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL, STUDENTS AND TEACHERS! This school year, Dave and Diana are available to assist you teach your students Natural Resource Education. We also have curriculum, activities, and equipment you can borrow.

GIVE US A CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR CLASS

Programs this Fall:

Mapping Skills for 2nd Graders in September & October.

Annual Lander Valley Cattlewomen's Ag Expo for 3rd graders on October 8th.

World Water Monitoring Day for 5th graders and others interested in October.

Aquatic Insect Studies for 3rd graders in October.



FUN FACTS AND CONSERVATION TIPS

Fun Facts

- Water makes up 83% of our blood, 70% of our brain, and 90% of our lungs. Overall, our bodies are 70% water.
- A tomato is about 95% water. An apple, a pineapple, and an ear of corn are each 80% water.

Conservation Tips

- Check household faucets for leaks. A faucet with even a slow drip takes 10 to 25 gallons of water.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator. Then you won't have to run tap water to cool it.

http://www.fcwa.org/story_of_water/html/facts.htm

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 Bryan Hamilton – Secretary/Treasurer
 Tim Wilson – Member
 Gerald Caskey – Member

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