

## Happy New Year!!!

Tree Sales



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### Tree Sales

[Large Tree Order Form](#)

[Colorado State Forest Service Nursery Tree Sale Form](#)

Please fill out these forms and mail to: 247 N Clay St., Suite #1 Wray, CO 80758  
or email to: [yccd77@gmail.com](mailto:yccd77@gmail.com)

Tree Sales are going on now so be sure to print off your order form off our website: [yconconservation.com](http://yconconservation.com) or come into the office to pick one up. All forms can be returned to 247 N Clay St, Suite #1 Wray, CO 80758 or emailed to [yccd77@gmail.com](mailto:yccd77@gmail.com). Be sure to check out our website for information on the trees for sale to see if they are suited for your conservation needs.

## “I’m Dreaming of a... Weed Free Garden”

Now is the time to start ordering seed for your spring gardens and here are some gardening tips for 2017:

1. Consider composting  
**Composting:** a mixture of decaying organic substances (dead leaves, fruit scraps) used for fertilizing soil  
Check out this link for tips on how to compost:  
[eartheasy.com/grow\\_compost.html](http://eartheasy.com/grow_compost.html)
2. Explore different options for your garden layout
  - a. raised beds
  - b. fencing to keep out bunnies and other animals
  - c. mulch or weed barrier to prevent weed infestations
    - i. mulching & weed barrier hold more water
  - d. dripline layouts
3. Strategic planting
  - a. vegetable harmony
    - i. tomatoes help keep asparagus beetles from asparagus when planted next to each other
    - i. check out *Carrots Love Tomatoes* by Louise Riotte
4. Soil Preparation
  - a. incorporating organic or chemical fertilizers before planting

### Pesticide Workshop

Do not forget to register for the pesticide workshop which will be held on February 8, 2017 at the Wray Community Center. If your applicators license is due to expire you will receive a notification in the mail from Mountain West Pest. The deadline to register and receive a lunch is February 1, 2017.

### **Trivia:**

How many Conservation Districts have we had in Yuma County? Can you name them all and the years they dissolved?

“And now let us welcome the new year,  
full of things that have never been.”  
~ *Rainer Maria Rilke*

# Thinking About Drought workshop January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017 in Kirk, CO

By Don Schoderbek and Julie Elliot

As the days get shorter and winter settles in, many ranchers and stockmen in Eastern Colorado are sitting down with pen, paper, and thoughts of the coming year. Winter is a good time for planning. The current agricultural financial outlook is a concern to many producers. There is also the threat of a looming drought.

This presents a two-fold challenge to ranchers. Low forage growth on the range can compound existing economic problems. Stockmen want to plan how to best utilize the range to support their operation through dry, tough times. At the same time, they don't want to extend the drought by hurting their range plants. This is a challenge to say the least.

There will be a free "Thinking About Drought" workshop on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, at the Kirk Lions Hall in Kirk, Colorado. The workshop is being supported by Ron Richards and the Yuma County Conservation District. In the morning, we will discuss a variety of topics related to drought on rangelands. Following a beef lunch, we will

travel to a local ranch, weather permitting.

The ultimate source of income on a ranching operation are the plants. Range plants convert sunlight, CO<sub>2</sub>, and water into food for livestock. Understanding this relationship is critical to livestock operations. Drought has a major impact on rangeland plant growth. The largest effect is that there are fewer plants and the plants that remain grow less. Don Schoderbek, CSU Extension Range Specialist, will speak about how plants work. He'll explain why timing of leaf removal is important to and the key element of drought and rangeland survival – plant roots.

Dr. Roy Roath, CSU Extension Range Specialist (retired), has several decades of understanding and experience on Colorado's rangelands. He will speak about the importance of water management during drought. Water impacts every aspect of livestock production on rangelands – from the soil, through the plant, and into the animal. Good water management can make or break your ranch in drought

times. Dr. Roath is very familiar with this complex issue. He'll explain how moves through the range system and the critical role grazing plays in it.

In the afternoon, the group will travel to a nearby ranch to learn how to evaluate the impact of drought. The key to surviving a drought is balancing forage availability with forage demand by livestock. In a drought, there are fewer plants on the land and the remaining plants are less hearty. Julie Elliott, USDA-NRCS Range Management Specialist, will help us see how this process looks on the land – from the individual plant and roots up to the whole pasture.

If the weather is bad, we will have an indoor work session on writing a drought plan for your ranch. Some of the best conversations and learning happens in these relaxed settings. Coffee and rolls begin at 8:30 a.m. The workshop will run from 9 to 3 local time.

To register, contact the Yuma County Conservation District at 970-332-3173 ext. 3. Or, email Sheila at [yccd77@gmail.com](mailto:yccd77@gmail.com) by Thursday, January 19. See you in Kirk on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

*"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land"- Aldo Leopold*

## Farming Evolution 2017

### By Julie Elliott

Are you a crop or livestock producer or property owner interested in the changing landscape of no-till and grazing management? If so, pull out your 2017 calendar and mark February 15 & 16 for the Farming Evolution. The event will be at the Phillips County Fair Grounds Event Center in Holyoke, CO.

All of the presenters will speak to those considering or new to no-till as well as the long-term No-Tiller. No-Till is more than the lack of tillage. To reap the full benefits of no-till, one must see it as system. Varied cropping rotations and livestock are key parts to no-till success.

There will be a variety of presenters at the event. Odette Menard is a world recognized expert advisor in soil and water conservation for the Ministry of Agriculture in Quebec, Canada. Menard will explore the complex soil life and why no-till brings out the best in the soil, regardless of moisture. In her second talk, she will explain the soil food chain and the role of earthworms. Odette will close with '10 ways to get into no-till'. She'll emphasize the importance of building your own observation set and learning what they mean.

Rudy Garcia and Clark Harshbarger both work for the Natural Resources Conservation

Service, (NRCS). Harshbarger will give a visual demonstration of how tillage affects soil properties. Garcia will explain how to use the various soil health tests.

Culbertson, NE, producer Jacob Miller will share how his dryland and irrigated no-till systems have evolved over the years. He is 100% no-till and recently became both chemical and fertilizer free. Livestock graze all of his cropland acres. He will share economics and other details of the cover crop and cash crop rotation on his farm.

Menoken Farms of Burleigh County North Dakota is well known in no-till circles. They are on the leading edge of the innovators when it comes to cover crops, cropland grazing and soil health.

Jerry Doan runs his own livestock and custom grazes a couple thousand head of cattle on range and cropland. His cropland is 100% no-till. He integrated cover crops into his cropping system to reduce winter-feed costs and bring back organic matter.

Ken Miller will share their insights and experiences integrating livestock into the cropping system. He too has converted to 100% no-till with a diverse cropping system. He has an intensive grazing strategy using both cropland, planted pasture, and native range.

Don Day is a familiar voice on the radio. A well-known meteorologist from Cheyenne, Wyoming, he will be on hand to talk about current and projected weather on the plains. Day will also explore the many myths, wives' tales, and facts about influences on the weather east of the Rocky Mountains.

Kyle Kautz has just started integrating cover crops on his Merino, CO, farm. He will share what sparked his interest in changing his operation and his experiences thus far.

There will be a live microscopic view of soil life projected onto the screens for all to see. Tim Becker, Holyoke producer & NRCS employee, and Steve Tucker, crop producer near Venango, NE, will discuss what we see.

Todd Gaines will wrap up the program exploring chemical weed resistance. Gaines is a world-renowned specialist in herbicide resistance and a Flagler, CO, wheat farm kid.

The registration website, [www.farmingevolution2017.eventbrite.com](http://www.farmingevolution2017.eventbrite.com) is up and running. Registration is \$25 for one day or \$35 for both days and includes lunch, breaks and a non-alcohol social on Wednesday evening. **Registration rates increase after February 3, 2017.**

If your business would like to have a booth at the event, please contact Sheila Rogers with the Yuma County Conservation District. Call 970-332-3107 ext. 3 or email her at [ycd77@gmail.com](mailto:ycd77@gmail.com).

Booths are \$150 and include 8 ft. of table space and two lunch tickets for each day. Spaces are limited due to room capacity.

The Haxtun, West Greeley and Yuma County Conservation Districts, the Upper Republican Natural Resource District, NRCS and Phillips County Pheasants Forever sponsor the Farming Evolution.

There will also be a Great Plains Herbicide Resistance Listening

Session on Friday, February 17. The meeting will start promptly at 9:00 a.m. and end by 3:00 p.m. Complimentary coffee and lunch will be provided.

The goals/outcomes from these sessions include:

- Identification of effective strategies (including those that are community-based) for management of herbicide resistance to avoid additional state and federal (EPA and other agency) regulations on herbicide use and other weed management practices.
- An understanding, from those making weed management decisions in the field, of the barriers and long term rewards to

practicing herbicide resistance management (HRM).

- Establishment of additional incentives needed for HRM so they can be recommended to agencies and industry as well as state and federal policy makers.
- Identification of new innovative approaches for HRM that can be incorporated into best management practice plans.
- Creation of networks among stakeholders to foster better understanding of the differences in perspectives, barriers and possible solutions for managing herbicide resistance. Ultimately, we hope to stimulate your interest in being part of the solution.

“Show me a healthy community with a healthy economy and I will show you a community that has its green infrastructure in order and understands the relationship between the built and the unbuilt environment.” ~Will Rogers, *Trust for Public Land*

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### **IMPORTANT DEADLINES FROM THE FSA**

**February 1, 2017**-Final Availability Date for Loans and LDP's on Wool and Unshorn Pelts (LDP Only)

**February 20, 2017**-County Office closed in observance of President's Day Holiday

**March 15, 2017-2017** NAP Application closing date for Spring Seeded crops

**Now thru August 1, 2017**-Enrollment in the 2017 Farm Program (Producers must enroll each year)

### **NRCS DEADLINES**

**February 3, 2017** – Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications are due

**February 17, 2017** – Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications are due

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### **Fun Facts**

1. "Paper can only be recycled (successfully) six times" -EPA

2. "An aluminum can may be recycled an endless amount of times" - The Aluminum Association

3. " More than 60,000,000 Hershey's Kisses are made each day." - Wikipedia

4. "Bubble wrap was created to be used as wallpaper" -The UPS Store

5. "The largest living organism is a honey fungus (mushroom) measuring 2.4 miles across in the Blue Mountains in Oregon" - bbc.com

6. "A baby spider is called a spiderling" - Answers.com

## News from Rural Development:

### **Energy Saving opportunities for Dairy Operators and Irrigators**

Interested in improving the energy efficiency of your dairy or irrigation operation? USDA, the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) and the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) may be able to help!

**The Colorado Dairy and Irrigation Efficiency Program** offers practical and proven ways for producers to save 10-30 percent on their energy bills. The assistance provided under this program is free. For more information and to submit an application, visit the Colorado Energy Office's website: [www.colorado.gov/energyoffice/agriculture-energy-efficiency](http://www.colorado.gov/energyoffice/agriculture-energy-efficiency) or contact the Programs Manager: [Michael.A.Turner@state.co.us](mailto:Michael.A.Turner@state.co.us).

Another innovative program is the **Rural Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Pressurized Irrigation Small Hydropower Partnership Project**, which provides financial and technical assistance to help farmers upgrade their irrigation systems to save water and energy. The Project provides financial assistance through the EQIP program and CDA's ACRE<sup>3</sup> program, and provides assistance to apply for additional funding from Rural Developments Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). For more information visit: [www.colorado.gov/agconservation/agriculturalhydro](http://www.colorado.gov/agconservation/agriculturalhydro) or contact the ACRE<sup>3</sup> program Energy Specialist: [Sam.Anderson@state.co.us](mailto:Sam.Anderson@state.co.us)

### **Rural Energy for America Program GRANTS (REAP)**

Want to add a variable frequency drive to your center pivot irrigation system or replace your milking and processing equipment with new and more energy efficient equipment? If so, USDA Rural Development's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) has grants, guaranteed loans and grant/loan

combinations available for agricultural producers and rural small businesses that could assist in covering part of the costs associated with these improvements. Grants range from a few thousand dollars up to \$500,000 and applications are due March 31, 2017. It is important to submit your application prior to the deadline in order to compete effectively. For more information, please contact [Donald.nunn@co.usda.gov](mailto:Donald.nunn@co.usda.gov) or visit <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency>

### **Rural Energy for America Guarantee Loan Program**

This program provides guaranteed loan financing for rural small businesses and agricultural producers to purchase or install renewable energy systems or implement energy efficiency improvements. Eligible borrowers include Agricultural Producers and Rural Small Business and you would apply for this loan with a lending institution of your choice, as long as they participate in the program.

Loan guarantees on loans up to 75% of total eligible project costs and REAP Grants (up to 25%) and loan guarantees may be combined to fund up to 75% of total eligible project costs. The loan amounts can range from \$5,000 to \$25 Million. Rates and terms are negotiated between the Lender and the Borrower with USDA approval. Terms can be for up to 30 years on real estate, 15 years on Machinery and equipment and 7 years on working capital loans.

Applications for this program are accepted year round. To get started or to find out more about the program please contact [Donald.nunn@co.usda.gov](mailto:Donald.nunn@co.usda.gov) or visit <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency>

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### **Upcoming Workshops**

Due to budget restraints from mill levy cuts, the Yuma County Conservation District will be charging a fee for future workshops. This will be displayed on fliers for workshops that will have a cost to attend. This fee will help offset the loss of money from the cut in mill levy funds. If you have further questions about the mill levy funds you may call us or stop by the office.

Yuma County CD  
247 N Clay St., Suite 1  
Wray, CO 80758

If you would like the next newsletter to be emailed to you, please call in and give us the address or email us at [yccd77@gmail.com](mailto:yccd77@gmail.com). If you would like to stop receiving the newsletter, please follow the same steps as above.

Upcoming Events:  
Drought Workshop – January 23, 2017 at Kirk Lion’s Hall  
Pesticide Workshop – February 8, 2017  
Farming Evolution – February 15 & 16, 2017

Ron Richards, the Yuma County Conservation District,



&



Invite you to the:

### **“Thinking About Drought” workshop**

Kirk, Colorado  
@ Kirk Lions Hall (3237 Yuma County Rd M)  
**Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017**

**Come and learn how to weather drought with the range management tools that really matter!**

- 8:30 – 9am registration, coffee & goodies
- 9-9:50 Don Schoderbek (CSU Range Specialist)  
“Rooted: Plant defoliation and drought on rangeland”
- 10-11:30 Dr. Roy Roath (CSU Range Specialist 1982-2009, retired)  
“Water management in drought environments”
- 11:30 - 12:30 Beef lunch!
- 12:30 - 3 pm Field activity (weather dependent)  
Participants will travel to a local ranch and learn how to evaluate drought impacts on the range and methods that support improved range management during drought times.

### **FREE OF CHARGE**

To register, contact the Yuma County Conservation District at 970-332-3173 ext. 3, or via email at [yccd77@gmail.com](mailto:yccd77@gmail.com) by Thursday, January 19

**Generational Transition Meeting:**  
*Ensuring a Successful Ranching Future*

A panel discussion between Nebraska ranchers will kick the meeting off followed by a presentation by Pam Olson, attorney at law. Ask questions to ranchers and professionals to help guide your future plans.

**Three Meeting Locations!**  
**Jan 9 – Scottsbluff**  
Panhandle Research & Ext Center  
**Jan 23 – North Platte**  
West Central Research & Extension  
**Jan 30 – Valentine**  
Peppermill Restaurant

**All meetings will be 10:00a – 4:00p local time**

Registration Information	Three ways to register!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$15 fee; lunch included</li><li>• Please register 1 week prior to meeting; walk-ins are welcome</li></ul>	Online at <a href="http://SandhillsTaskForce.org">SandhillsTaskForce.org</a> Email <a href="mailto:Shelly@sandhillstaskforce.org">Shelly@sandhillstaskforce.org</a> Call/Text Shelly Kelly @ 308-214-0065



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

970-332-3107 or email us at [yccd77@gmail.com](mailto:yccd77@gmail.com)  
Website: <http://www.ycconservation.com/>  
Facebook Account: Yuma County Conservation District