

# Rocky Mountain Conservation Times

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(719) 275-4465 • Fax (719) 275-3019



## FREMONT CONSERVATION DISTRICT

(719) 275-4465 x 101

### Meeting Time:

7:00 p.m. - 1st Wednesday of each month, USDA Service Center, Canon City

JOAN ADAIR, President  
LINDA STONE, Vice Pres.  
JOHN SANDEFUR, Sec/Treas.  
RICH GREEN, Member  
GARY RATKOVICH, Member  
TONY TELCK, Alternate Member  
JANET BARNHART, Dist. Mgr.  
DAVID HALLOCK, Farm Bill Tech  
MELANIE SCAVARDA, Outreach Tech

[www.fremontcd.org](http://www.fremontcd.org)

## LAKE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

(719) 539-7331

### Meeting Time:

7:00 p.m.—3rd Thursday of each month, 10544 Hwy 24 South, Leadville

RAY DAWSON, President  
KEVIN CANNELLI, Vice Pres.  
EDWARD SHOBER, Sec/Treas.  
ROBERT HOCKETT, Member  
MARY SCHROEDER, Member  
JOAN DAWSON, Dist. Office Mgr.

## CUSTER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

(719) 783-2481

### Meeting Time:

8:30am 1st Thursday of each month, USDA Service Center, Silver Cliff, CO

HAL JULSEN, President  
BUDDY DRAPER, Vice Pres.  
BOB LEE, Treasurer  
GEORGE "BUTCH" RANKIN, Secretary  
CHUCK POEHLEIN, Member  
CAROL KUISLE-FRANTA, District Mgr.  
DONALD SANCHEZ, Farm Bill Tech  
BEN LENTH & ROBIN YOUNG  
Members at Large

[www.custercountyconservationdistrict.org](http://www.custercountyconservationdistrict.org)

## UPPER ARKANSAS CONSERVATION DISTRICT

(719) 539-7331

### Meeting Time:

7:30 p.m. 1st Monday of each month, U.S. Forest Service Building, Salida

BRADY EVERETT, President  
SANDY CRUZ, Vice President  
BRETT MCMURRY, Sec/Treas.  
NANCY ROBERTS, Member  
VACANT, Member  
DAVID LYNCH, Member  
VACANT, Member  
MARCELLA HELTON, Dist. Mgr.

## October 2012

### USDA EMPLOYEES

#### NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

##### Canon City Service Center:

Rick Romano, District Conservationist  
Nick Trainor, Rangeland Mgt. Specialist  
Rob Fontaine, Civil Engineering Tech.  
Patty Knupp, Soil Conservationist  
Melanie Scavarda, Ultima Farm Bill Clerk

##### Silver Cliff Service Center:

Jim Sperry, District Conservationist  
Carol Kuisle-Franta, Soil Conservation Technician

##### Salida Service Center:

William Gardiner, District Conservationist  
Matthew Coen, Soil Conservation Technician

#### FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Brent Fillmore,  
County Executive Director  
Kathy Gaylord,  
Lead Program Technician

# Upcoming Events

**October 25, 2012**—USDA Informational Meeting. Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments, 3224 A Independence Rd, Canon City, CO. For more information see page 4 of this newsletter.

**November 2, 2012**—Custer County Conservation District 72nd Annual Dinner / Meeting. 6pm, Rancher's Roost, Westcliffe, CO. Join us in recognizing the Conservationist of the Year "The Draper Ranch". Keynote speakers will be Brian Bledsoe, KKTV and Jeff Tranel, CSU. Cost is \$20.00 per person if registered by October 29th, \$25.00 at the door. Contact Carol at 719-783-2481 to make your reservation.

**November 8, 2012** - Upper Arkansas Cooperative Weed Management Area yearly informational meeting. Holy Cross Abbey, Canon City. Cost \$25.00 per person includes lunch and materials. RSVP due October 25th. Continuing Education Credits (CEC) are available. Contact Carol Kuisle-Franta at 719-783-2481

**November 10, 2012** - "Planning for Drought" Small Acreage Workshop. West Custer County Library. 9am - noon. For more information contact Carol at 719-783-2481.

**November 16, 2012** - Upper Arkansas Conservation District annual dinner and desert social, will be held at the Chaffee County Fairgrounds, from 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm. The District will furnish two meat main dishes. Landowners are asked to bring a side dish and their own place setting. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm. The desert social with live music will commence after the awards and grazing panel around 7:30 pm. For more information call the District office at 719-539-7331.

**2012 & 2013 FSA deadlines.** See page 5 & 6 of this newsletter.

# DISTRICT NEWS

## Conservation Education Has Its Rewards...

As we wind down 2012, the Fremont Conservation District is proud to say that we had a fantastic turnout for our "Prizes for Puzzles" conservation education campaign!

When we first gathered around the table to discuss how we were going to reach kids with the positive message of conservation (especially related to agriculture), one idea quickly came to mind; fun, educational activities mixed with really awesome prizes. What could be better than rewarding students for completing activities that tied directly into our agency's core values?

So with the idea on paper, we partnered with local businesses who offered daily prizes for students that completed our puzzles. Talk about a lot of free ice cream cones! Then we met with schools, youth organizations, and media outlets to spread the word. Within days of the announcement on school websites we had participants turning in entries for the monthly grand prizes. For 2012 we had 16 winners, but more importantly we had hundreds of students participate and many of them were excited to tell us what they had learned about the topics of water and soil conservation.

Thank you to all of our 2012 sponsors (check out our website at [www.fremontcd.org](http://www.fremontcd.org) for a list of these very generous businesses). Thank you to the schools for participating in our pilot program. AND thank you to all of the parents in Fremont County who brought their kids to our office month after month. It wouldn't have been such a success if it weren't for the community involvement.

Tune in to our website at [fremontcd.org](http://fremontcd.org) for new events, classes, and other kid-friendly activities!

## Are you interested in a .....

..workshop? The Fremont Conservation District is **considering** hosting a Colorado Cattlemen's Association, Colorado Resource Monitoring Initiative workshop. But due to the cost of hosting this workshop, the Fremont Conservation District needs your input on if you would be interested in attending. The workshop will be held in Canon City, CO in either May or June 2013, and is open to all interested landowners.

The Colorado Resource Monitoring Initiative was developed by a group of stakeholders in order to develop a standardized approach to rangeland monitoring across private, state and federal lands. The initiative brought stakeholders to the table to delineate common protocols and methods that currently exist between agencies and the range science community. Because the Colorado Resource Monitoring Initiative was developed through a stakeholder process, this program has broad ownership and acceptance by private landowners, state and federal agencies, and rangeland conservationist's throughout the state.

In order to ensure the health of Colorado's natural resources for wildlife and domestic livestock, monitoring needs to be implemented across Colorado's landscape. The Colorado Resource Monitoring Initiative is a tool that will provide measurable and standardized monitoring information that is needed to address natural resource and rangeland health decisions.

The workshop would include:

- ◆ Colorado Resource Monitoring Initiative (CRMI) introduction and overview
- ◆ Monitoring: Your Return on Investment
- ◆ Lunch
- ◆ CRMI and the Colorado Rangeland Monitoring Guide
- ◆ CRMI and Cooperative Monitoring
- ◆ CRMI Database
- ◆ Get Ready to Monitor

Cost to landowners will be \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 per ranch, which includes the manual and meal.

Please contact the Fremont Conservation District at 719-275-4465 ext. 101 or email us at [janet.barnhart@co.nacdnet.net](mailto:janet.barnhart@co.nacdnet.net) to let us know your thoughts, we will need at least 20 participants to go further with the planning of this workshop. PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT AND CONTACT US! Don't let this opportunity slip by.

# **NRCS and Other News**

## ***Colorado Named as a USDA 2012 StrikeForce State***

**Denver** - The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced Colorado as one of its 2012 StrikeForce Initiative States. The StrikeForce initiative is designed to better serve persistent poverty communities and socially disadvantaged farmers through the coordination of activities among USDA agencies and the use of Community Based Organizations (CBO). The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Colorado has identified 35 Counties as high priority areas for which it will focus its efforts.

StrikeForce allows USDA to illustrate its commitment to improving access to USDA programs while enhancing the visibility and profitability of small farms and ranches, beginning farmers and ranchers, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. It also provides the opportunity to promote and assist in the development and sustainability of rural communities, recognizing that 90% of all persistently impoverished communities are in rural areas.

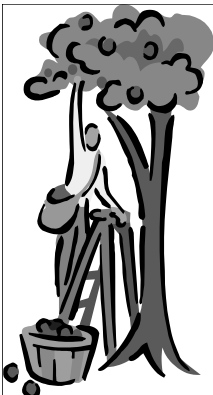
The initiative will work to provide technical expertise about USDA's programs, regulations, and criteria in addition to notify communities of new and updated programs to bring about quality applications for enrollment into technical and financial assistance programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA) both managed and administered by the NRCS.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that supports production agriculture and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, agricultural producers may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land. While the CTA program is also a voluntary that provides technical assistance supported by science-based technology and tools to help people conserve, maintain, and improve their natural resources.

NRCS' StrikeForce priority areas include: Adams, Alamosa, Arapahoe, Archuleta, Baca, Bent, Boulder, Conejos, Costilla, Crowley, Delta, Dolores, Douglas, Elbert, El Paso, Fremont, Garfield, Huerfano, La Plata, Larimer, Las Animas, Logan, Mesa, Montezuma, Montrose, Morgan, Otero, Prowers, Pueblo, Rio Blanco, Rio Grande, Saguache, Washington, Weld, and Yuma

For additional information about the USDA StrikeForce Initiative, please contact Omelia Madison, NRCS Outreach Coordinator at [Omelia.Madison@co.usda.gov](mailto:Omelia.Madison@co.usda.gov) or 720-544-2826.

## **Orchard Workshop Planned for February 28th**



Your Fremont Conservation District, in conjunction with the Fremont County Extension Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service is planning a workshop entitled "Fruit Tree Production from A to Z". Leading the workshop will be Dan Fernandez, retired Colorado State University, Dolores County Extension Director. This program is a daylong event dealing with all aspects of fruit tree production for both homeowner and orchardist. The morning part of the presentation (running from 9:00 am until 11:30 am) will be a classroom session/overview of tree establishment procedures, varieties, equipment, pruning, tree nutrition and other fruit tree issues. After lunch, we will take a short trip to a local orchard for a hands on field presentation/demonstration of fruit tree practices. This portion will run from 1:00 pm until approximately 3:30 pm.

A site has not been chosen yet for this workshop, so circle the date (February 28th) on your calendar and keep tuned in to [www.fremontcd.org](http://www.fremontcd.org) for further details! Hope to see you there!

# OTHER NEWS

## Notice to Hispanic and/or Women Farmers or Ranchers

The United States Government is establishing a Claims Process to make available up to \$1.33 billion or more to farmers who alleged discrimination by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) based on being female, or based on being Hispanic, in making or servicing farm loans during certain periods between 1981 and 2000. If you qualify and submit a timely claim, you could receive an award of up to \$50,000 or up to \$250,000 in cash, depending on the evidence that you submit. USDA will also provide a total of up to \$160 million in debt relief to successful Claimants who currently owe USDA money for eligible farm loans. Successful Claimants may also receive an additional amount, equal to 25% of the combined cash award plus the principal amount of debt relief, to help pay federal taxes that may be owed.

**Initial Claim Package Mailing:** September 24, 2012

**Claims Filing Deadline:** March 25, 2013

Claims must be filed between September 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013 to be considered for cash payment or loan forgiveness. If you think you might be eligible to file a claim, please access the Farmer and Rancher Call Center or website: 1-888-508-4429 or [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov)

**If you are currently represented by a lawyer regarding allegations of discrimination against USDA or in a lawsuit claiming discrimination by USDA, you should contact your lawyer regarding this Claims Process.**

**USDA cannot provide legal advice to Claimants. You are not required to hire a lawyer to file a claim, but you may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider for additional guidance.**

In conjunction with this process the USDA has set up an informational meeting.

### **USDA INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

**WHEN:** 2:00 PM, Thursday, October 25, 2012

**Where:** Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments  
3224 A Independence Road, Canon City, CO

## News from Custer County National Water Quality Initiative

The Silver Cliff Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field office is now accepting 2013 National Water Quality Initiative applications for 2013. This is a special program to assist landowners in installing water quality practices that can have direct benefit to DeWeese Reservoir. DeWeese Reservoir has been deemed as an impaired watershed by the EPA and the State of Colorado due to the low oxygen levels in the reservoir. In order to be eligible for this program you need to own and operate land in the designated area - the headwaters of Grape Creek to the DeWeese Reservoir. You must be an agricultural producer, and install one or more core conservation practice(s) to address water quality issues. If interested or have questions please call James Sperry or Carol Franta at 719-783-2481.

# Farm Service Agency News

## FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

### Hay

Renewable biomass

Corn, grain sorghum, oats, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds.

Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

October interest rates are as follows:

7 year 1.125%

10 year 1.750%

12 year 2.000%

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## 2012 COC Election



The 2012 County Committee election will be held in Local Administrative Area 1 (LAA1). The LAA1 area extends from the western Fremont County line to the west side of Skyline Drive. Running on the ballot is incumbent Steve Oswald. Steve operates a ranch in the Cotopaxi area. Producers in LAA 1 receiving ballots are encouraged to vote their ballot, and return it to the Office. Ballots must be postmarked or returned to the FSA Office by December 3, 2012.

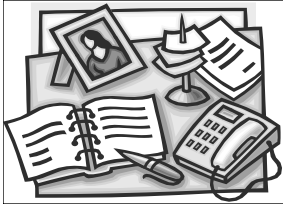
## 2011 SURE SIGNUP

Signup for the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program for 2011 crop losses opens on October 22, 2012, and ends on June 7, 2013. **This program is for those producers that had 2011 NAP Coverage.**

Due to 2012 NAP payment processing and 2013 crop certification deadlines, the FSA Staff anticipates that we will begin entering information into the software to determine if you are eligible for a payment in mid to late December. If you are eligible for a payment, the Office will contact you to set up an appointment so that you can file an application. For our remote counties, we hope to have in-county workdays so that we come to you instead of you making the trip to Canon City.

# Farm Service Agency News

## Upcoming Non-Insured Crop Disaster Program AND Crop Certification Deadlines.



### 2012 NAP

Please review deadline dates as listed below to make sure that you do not miss an important filing date that could put your eligibility at risk.

### CROP YEAR 2012 DEADLINE DATES

#### **11/15/2012:**

Final Date to report 2012 Production for perennial crops, hay & grasses, & fall seeded annual crops & Cane Berries & sign request for payment if a loss had been filed.

#### **1/15/2013:**

Last Date to file 2012 Production for, Fruit such as apples, apricots, cherries, grapes, peaches, & pears & sign request for payment if a loss had been filed.

#### **7/15/2013:**

Last Date to report 2012 Production for, Spring Planted Annual Crops & sign request for payment if a loss had been filed.

### 2013 NAP

FINAL DATES TO PURCHASE 2013 NAP COVERAGE:

<b>November 20, 2012</b>	Fruit Crops
<b>December 1, 2012</b>	Honey, all perennial crops, Hay and Grasses
<b>March 15, 2013</b>	Oats and other Spring Planted Crops

### CROP YEAR 2013 DEADLINE DATES

#### **11/15/2012:**

Last Day to file Acreage Reports for 2013 Crops, except fruit, honey & spring planted crops & sign your 2013 APH's.

#### **1/15/2013:**

Last date to file Acreage Reports for 2013 Fruits & sign 2013 APH's.

#### **7/15/2013:**

Final Date to file Acreage Reports for 2013 Spring Planted Annual Crops & sign 2013 APH's.

**\*\*\*For producers that do not participate in any FSA Programs but still wish to certify acres, you must call the Office for an appointment to get this done.\*\*\***

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[www.cacd.us](http://www.cacd.us)

[www.co.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.co.nrcs.usda.gov)

[www.fsa.usda.gov/co](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/co)

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