

Uinta County Conservation District

Uinta County Connection

Boy Scouts, Community Pack 52 brighten the curbs!



COMMUNITY PACK 52, along with Danette Edelmayer with the Uinta County Conservation District, spent Friday afternoon, June 20, 2008, marking storm drains near the library in Evanston. The Scouts set out to mark 25 plus drains, in hopes of encouraging the public to be mindful of the many pollutants that can enter storm drains such as litter, excess fertilizer, pet waste, oil and sediment. These pollutants can have harmful effects on fish and other aquatic life.

As part of the Upper Bear River watershed plan to improve water quality, Uinta County Conservation District, in partnership with the City of Evanston plan to mark 80 or more drains within the City of Evanston. Our concern is that many people mistakenly believe storm drain inlets empty to water treatment facilities. In fact, they drain directly into the Bear River and other surface water sources, which can present a substantial decline in water quality. *What is a Storm Drain?* A storm drain is a network of underground pipes designed to control flooding by transporting storm water from urban areas to a waterbody. A storm drain may also be known as a curb, gutter, channel, ditch, pipe, or culvert.

There are steps that individual residents can take to improve water quality. Some of those steps include: buy and use the least amount of pesticides and fertilizer needed; dispose of RV wastewater at designated sites; pick-up litter whenever and wherever you see it; clean up chemical spills immediately; use water based products when possible; don't sweep leaves, dirt and debris from your driveway and walks into the gutters.

All of us will benefit by taking steps to prevent storm water pollution of streams, rivers and lakes. We encourage you to take steps to improve water quality in our communities. The internet offers a host of information on methods to keep our waterways healthy.

To view the EPA National Menu for Best Management Practices, you may go visit <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps/index.cfm>.



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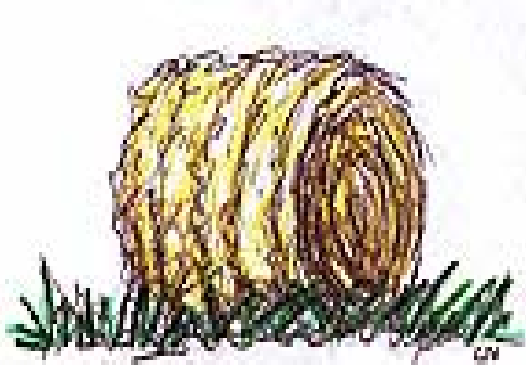
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Keep a look out, as more drains will be marked soon!

Make Better Hay While the Sun Sets

By: Plant Materials Today; A Quarterly Newsletter of the Montana/Wyoming Plant Materials Program



It has been known for a long time that plants accumulate sugars in leaves during the day because the rate of photosynthetic production of sugar is faster than its export to other parts of the plant and faster than its conversion to structural cellulose and lignin carbohydrates. Hay producers can use this knowledge to increase the nutritive value of hay simply by mowing hay in the afternoon hours rather than the morning hours. Recent studies show the total nonstructural carbohydrates (sugars and starch) are significantly greater in alfalfa mowed after noon than when mowed in the morning, with peak content at 4:00 p.m. In addition, the concentration of structural carbohydrates in alfalfa hay measured by neutral detergent fiber decreases over the course of the daylight hours. These carbohydrates are not easily digested by livestock and do not add to the nutritive value of hay. Feeding trials show livestock can detect these differences. Steers, sheep, and goats fed alfalfa hay cut at different times during the day consumed more from the 4:00 p.m. hay than the 7:00 a.m. hay.

Manure samples from these animals showed they were able to assimilate more of the hay as measured by dry matter disappearance when the hay was cut at 4:00 p.m. or later than when cut earlier in the day. This means animals can gain more weight per pound of hay consumed when the hay is cut later in the day compared to hay cut in the morning.

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and fertilizer
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The results were the same regardless of whether the hay was the first, second, or third cutting. Total nonstructural carbohydrate content of alfalfa hay was greater in the afternoon cutting than the morning cutting when it was harvested in July, August, and September. Likewise, structural carbohydrate content was greater in the morning hay than the afternoon hay when it was cut in July, August, and September. Identical results were found in studies with tall fescue and switchgrass hay, and most likely apply to all hay species. Similarly, sheep intake of ryegrass and white clover increased when grazed over the course of the day. Intake rates of ryegrass were 2.5 and 2.3 grams dry matter per minute (g dm/m) at 7:30 and 11:30 am, respectively, and 3.2 g dm/m at 3:30 and 7:30 pm. Intake rates of clover were 3.5 and 4.2 g dm/m at 7:30 and 11:30 am, respectively, compared to 4.7 and 5.5 g dm/m at 3:30 and 7:30 pm, respectively. This has implications for forage harvest management. With the cost of fuel and fertilizer increasing, producers can get more for their money by cutting hay in the afternoon. The old adage of “make hay while the sun shines” still applies. However, an appropriate corollary might be “make better hay while the sun sets.”



It's Time For Fair!

While you are out enjoying the excitement of the Uinta County Fair, be sure to stop by and visit the Uinta County Conservation Districts booth. We will have lots of information and giveaways for everyone! The Uinta County Fair will run July 24th through August 2nd. We hope to see you there!

Uinta County Fair—Your Brand of Fun!

“Water is Life”



Bridger Valley students celebrated National Stewardship week by participating in the “Water is Life” poster contest. They expressed their creativity and what “Water is Life” means to them. Our first place winner is Brandon Jaggi of Lyman. Brandon won \$100, and his poster will now compete in the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts state level competition.

Congratulations Brandon!

UCCD in the classroom:

- Earth Day was celebrated with North Elementary first graders. Dannette shared information with the students about being good stewards of the Earth by making Circle of Earth bracelets.
- In May, Dannette joined 34 third graders at Clark Elementary. They became water wise as they learned about the water cycle by making water cycle bracelets and playing the Incredible Journey, a water molecule game. Dannette demonstrated the Enviroscope with the students, where they learned about the environmental impacts of pollution on local watersheds, and lastly we made rain sticks and had a rainstorm in the classroom.
- Shortly after school was out, Dannette joined summer school students at Mountain View Elementary. The students discovered the Enviroscope, learned about the water cycle and about being good caretakers of the environment.



Teachers, Scout Leaders, Home Schoolers and Anyone Else.....

Mark your calendars for *September 18, 2008!* World Water Monitoring Day will be celebrated for a full month beginning in mid-September.

If you would like to teach your students to develop awareness and involvement in protecting water resources by conducting basic water monitoring practices, give us a call. We can join your students at the river to test for pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity and flow. Your students will take a hands-on approach to understanding the benefits of cleaner water.

Give us a call early to schedule a date!



Students at Ft. Bridger Elementary participate in World Water Monitoring Day activities every year.

IT RAINED AND IT SNOWED, BUT WE LEARNED, ATE WELL AND MADE NEW FRIENDS!

On June 10th, 11th and 12th, 38 Educators from Uinta County and across the state, rolled up their sleeping bags and headed to the Uinta County Youth Camp to relive history and explore our natural resources at the 2008 Wyoming Ag in the Classroom, Natural Resource Discovery Rendezvous. Participants gained knowledge and confidence in using the outdoors as a classroom in areas of agriculture, plant and soil ecology, forestry, water monitoring, alternative energy, rangeland management and local history—all at the foot of the captivating Uinta Mountains.

The first day was sunny and warm and the group was excited for the adventures that awaited them. After learning the history of the old Experiment Farm, the group traveled to Ft. Bridger to learn more about the history of the area. Following the tour of the Fort, the group loaded the bus and headed for the Youth Camp. Some packed heavy, some packed light, but when they got to the Youth Camp, and saw that hill they had to climb to get to the cabins, those who packed heavy were wishing they would have packed less. However, that night, when it started to snow, those who packed light were wishing they would have packed more!!

The snow put a bit of a damper on Dana Stones compass activity, and it wasn't much fun looking at frozen soil, and frosty plants, but when it was their turn to talk Tread Lightly with Rick Schuler or Ag in the Classroom with Bonnie Spackman and Carol Hamilton (inside activities), the groups were thrilled! And, they knew there was plenty of hot chocolate waiting for them in the lodge.

On the third day, they woke up to sunshine, a good thing since the first activity of the day was water monitoring activities with UCCD down on the river. The participants got to test the water using the same methods that UCCD uses with the kids and many were looking forward to having the district work with their students in the fall. Then it was time for clean-up, and everyone pitched in. The men even cleaned their own restroom *and* it passed inspection!

They loaded the bus for the final time to head to the Micheli's Ranch to learn about their ranching operation and bull sale. Everyone wished we could have spent more time with Ron and Patti Micheli learning and talking to them about their operation.

Despite the snow, everyone had a great time and learned new ways to teach their students about agriculture and the important role it plays in our state and around the world. From soil to water, things we use everyday can be tied back to agriculture and our natural resources. We hope everyone who attended will be able to use what they learned in their own classroom, whether it's inside or out!



Nephi Cole, NRCS, shows how to texture the "cold" soil.



Bulls at the Micheli Ranch



Julie Hickey takes the Temperature of the Blacks Fork.

Thanks to all who helped out and participated in the 2008 Wyoming Ag in the Classroom Natural Resource Discovery Rendezvous!!



\$1200 Scholarship Available

The Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation will once again be granting a \$1200 scholarship for the 2008/2009 school year in honor of the late Gary Beach and his work for Wyoming's natural resources.

Beach worked for the Department of Environmental Quality and as Administrator of the water quality division was instrumental in working with local conservation districts to establish the local watershed planning approach to address Wyoming's impaired water-bodies.

University of Wyoming students focusing on natural resource management are encouraged to apply. In order to be eligible for the scholarship, the following criteria must be met: The applicant must have completed at least 59 credit hours (be enrolled at the Junior level or higher) and have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5. The applicant must be enrolled at the University of Wyoming in one of the following academic majors: environment and natural resources, water resources, rangeland ecology and watershed management, or a related field.

Applications and scholarship criteria can be obtained by contacting the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation at 307-632-5716 or www.conservewy.com.

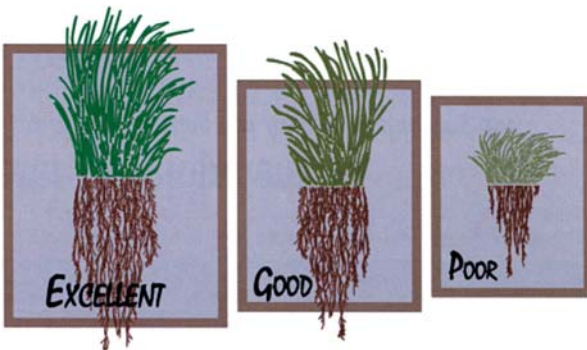
Individuals applying for the Gary Beach Memorial Scholarship will need to send the application form, copy of transcripts from all colleges or universities attended and one letter of recommendation no later July 31, 2008 to the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation; Bobbie Frank, Executive Director; 2304 East 13th St.; Cheyenne, WY 82001.

*Applications for the
Gary Beach Memorial
Scholarship are due by
July 31, 2008.*

Managing Your Small Pasture

As more people select rural settings for their homes, traditional farms are being divided into small acreage home lots. Many small acreage owners would like to have lush green pastures where they can raise horses, cattle, or sheep. Utah State University and Cooperative Extension have put together a great publication called the "Small Pasture Management Guide" to provide the educational guidance these small acreage owners need to successfully establish and maintain a healthy grazing system. The following is just a small portion of the information found in the booklet:

How Grazing Affects Root Growth



Plants get the energy needed for growth from the sun through photosynthesis in their green leaves. The root system is in the dark and totally reliant on the leaves to supply the carbohydrates required for maintenance and growth. When grass plants are continuously grazed short, the root mass decreases to what the leaf area can support.

The general rule of thumb is to begin grazing when the pasture is 7 to 8 inches tall and stop grazing when the average height of the pasture is 3 inches. Over grazing not only reduces the health and vigor of the plants, causing a decrease in the regrowth rate, but it predisposes the pasture to weed invasion.

Non-irrigated pastures are less resilient to grazing than irrigated pastures. They are slower to recover and often must wait for precipitation to be revitalized. Begin grazing when the forage is 8 to 12 inches tall, and stop grazing when the average height is 4 to 6 inches.

You can pick up a Small Pasture Management Guide at the Uinta County Conservation District office in the Lyman Town Hall, or at the UW Cooperative Extension Office in Evanston. For more information visit USU Extension: <http://extension.usu.edu/agriculture> or Small Acreage Website at: extension.usu.edu/smac.

Over-grazing stops root growth and reduces grass production. It occurs when more than 50% of the leaf mass is removed. Grazing an additional 10%, removing 60% of the leaf area, reduces root growth by 50%.

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Your Conservation Tax Dollars at Work!

Watch for these upcoming events:

World Water Monitoring Day September-October

Fertilizer Workshop September

Seedling Tree Sales begin October



Hey Kids....

Remember to Tread Lightly! when you are outdoor recreating this summer!

Graphic taken from www.treadlightly.org

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