

# UINTA COUNTY Connection

JULY 2019

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Logo design by Grant Redden

Soil health is becoming an important topic of conversation among anyone involved in the stewardship of our natural resources. Every morning, as you wake up and prepare for the day, how often do you think about the role soil plays in making the clothes you wear, the breakfast you eat or the water you drink? I doubt many of us realize or stop to think about the important role soil plays in providing the basic necessities of life.

The Uinta County Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) invite you to join us for the 2nd annual **Uinta County Soil Health Day** on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the Beck Ranch in Lonetree, Wyoming. This years keynote speaker will be Dr. Richard Teague, an ecologist for the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center. Dr. Teague knows that for an adequately functioning ecosystem, you have to have good soil function. He has assisted many ranchers and farmers to increase productivity by improving soil health, manage for decreased inputs, improve the health of their cattle and increase profits. Dr. Teague is excited to travel to Wyoming and share his wealth of knowledge and experiences improving soil health.

The day will also include presentations from more experts in soil health including Marlon Winger, NRCS Regional Specialist with the National Health Soil Division, Ricki Krimmers, a Wyoming Rancher and Earl Creech with USU Extension.

The workshop is free and open to anyone interested in soil health. Lunch, break snacks, workshop materials and Soil Health Day portfolios will be provided to each participant thanks to our generous *workshop sponsors*: **Bridger Valley Electric, Benedicts and Western Ag Credit**. We just ask that you RSVP by August 26<sup>th</sup> to make sure we have enough food and materials for everyone! You can email [ksabey@bvea.net](mailto:ksabey@bvea.net) or call 307-787-3070.

For more information, contact UCCD or visit our website at [www.uintacountycd.com](http://www.uintacountycd.com). We look forward to seeing you on September 4<sup>th</sup>!

**Date: September 4, 2019**  
**Time: 9am-3pm**  
**Place: Beck Ranch, 1744 County Road 290, Lonetree, WY**  
**RSVP by August 26**  
**Lunch will be provided!**  
**FREE to the public**

## Workshop Sponsors:



# How To Identify Kentucky Bluegrass

By Grant Redden, Natural Resource Specialist



## Why should I monitor my land?

Whether it's on private land or public land, rangeland monitoring is key to maximizing your lands potential and achieving the highest levels of health and productivity!

Range monitoring does not have to be complicated, it can be as simple as taking a few photo points. Contact UCCD for help in starting your own, easy to follow monitoring program today!



### Agency Partners:

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Staff

Jeff Lewis; District Conservationist  
Kevin Fackrell; Soil Conservation Technician  
NRCS phone: (307) 787-3211

### Farm Service Agency

Jennifer Dutton, County Director  
307-362-3062 x2



Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), is a very prominent species found throughout Uinta County, Wyoming, and the majority of North America. It is an introduced grass, native to Europe and parts of Asia, and likely transported in the seed mixes of European settlers.

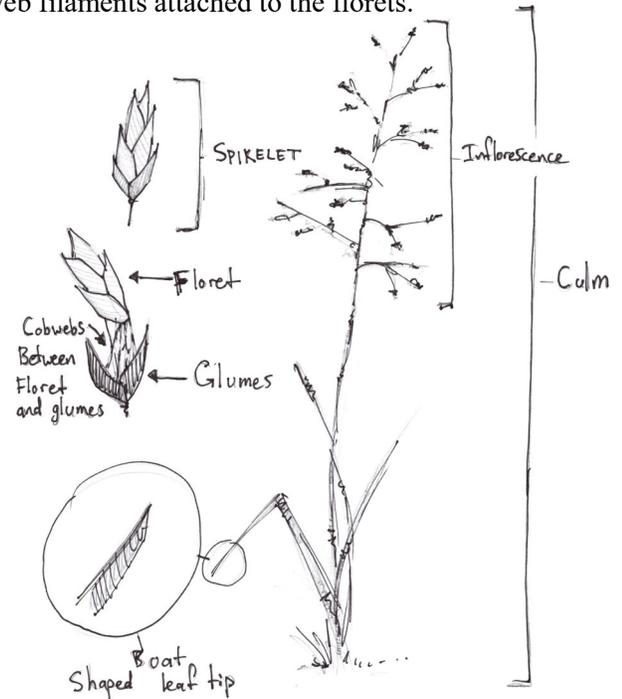
Having established itself across the continent, Kentucky bluegrass has proven valuable as a feed source for livestock and wildlife. Due to its dense sod growth by means of rhizomes and tillers, it is

also popular both for lawns and erosion control.

Kentucky bluegrass is a cool season grass, beginning growth in the late winter, early spring, and maturing in late spring into summer. Fall precipitation can bring further new growth.

### Kentucky bluegrass can be identified through a few characteristics (see diagram below):

- ◇ Growth height 18-24 inches tall.
- ◇ As other bluegrasses, it has a boat-shaped leaf tip.
- ◇ Inflorescence is a spreading panicle atop an upright culm.
- ◇ Kentucky bluegrass can be identified by the cobwebby material between the florets and the glumes. This can be observed by carefully plucking the florets from the glumes, stopping soon after separation to observe the cobweb filaments attached to the florets.



# 2019 WyRED—Wheatland, Wyoming

By Briar Harris, Education Coordinator

As a non-native to Wyoming I must admit that I love WyRED, in part, because I get to travel across the state each year and learn about its natural resources; especially as they relate to range management. What a beautiful state we live in with so many opportunities and such beautiful landscapes!

You have heard me say that I am not a “range nerd”, but I sure hope to be one someday! I love it more each year I get to participate at WyRED. Although I don’t raise animals for my livelihood, I find that the things I learn at WyRED directly benefit me and my small acreage here in Uinta County, Wyoming. I have attended 7 years so far and I know that if I attended for the rest of my life, I still could never learn all that WyRED has to teach. The point of WyRED isn’t for you to walk away with a complete knowledge of range science, unless of course you’d like to win a buckle, but to introduce you to the discipline and spark a desire to learn more.

Each year we have new attendees and they never fail to surprise me at what they learn throughout the camp. The work is not for the lighthearted; grueling days of intensive instruction in all kinds of weather is the expected norm. I often wonder if students believe we are torturing them with the endless information on plant ID, soils, livestock, wildlife, working with other agencies, water and much more! Not everyone loves it (and that’s fine- it isn’t for everyone), but the majority find it to be a rewarding experience. Those are the ones that love WyRED and return each year to learn more!

UCCD recognizes the need for younger generations to participate in these types of opportunities and gain knowledge that will help support and protect the future of agriculture. The knowledge gained from attending WyRED is invaluable. Every year, UCCD sponsors anyone from Uinta County who attends and successfully completes WyRED by paying their registration fee. For more information, contact UCCD.



## Mark your calendars!

WyRED will be held in Uinta County in 2020! This will be a great opportunity to participate and learn about natural resources in our own back yard! The dates of the camp have not been set, but it will be held in June of 2020. There will be credits available for teachers that may need them. Check with UCCD in early 2020 for more information.

## UCCD Holds Outdoor Forestry Workshop

By Briar Harris, Education Coordinator

Spending two days in the mountains for “work” is almost as grueling as a “bad day fishing”. It was a valuable two days as both citizens and educators learned about forestry from Wyoming State District Forester, Barry Tye the Assistant District Forester, Nate Wilson.

Forestry has become a hot topic over the last several years in the media, mirroring a growing concern for those of us who enjoy the forests where we live and recreate. Is some of the negative publicity correct? Unfortunately, yes. It is important that we educate ourselves and then share that information with those we come in contact with. The information that was given helped everyone to understand that current conditions are due to mismanagement from past policies as well as natural occurrences. We learned that some of those policies have now been replaced with better strategies that fit a natural forest ecosystem. A large hurdle for many agencies is the time it takes to move projects from conception to the ground.

Two days is nearly impossible to do justice to the topic of Forestry, but Barry and Nate accomplished it! They covered tree biology, tree ID, forest measurements, silviculture, forest industry activity, and forest health.

The second day of the workshop included Ben Sanders with the U.S. Forest Service, a specialist in forest fires. He met us at Bridger Lake and helped us understand how fire is studied within the forest. He told us about projects to help in areas that might have a higher likelihood of fire and showed us some example areas.

A Foresters job is not an easy one; the current issues are complex. But neither is the job of a teacher! That is why Uinta County Conservation District tries to hold a workshop each year as a means for teachers to obtain teaching credits for minimal cost while also learning more about Uinta County’s natural resources. In addition, we also hope teachers will relay this valuable information to the youth of Uinta County; keeping our future educators, voters, and citizens well informed of our natural resources and how to properly manage them.



# Uinta County Conservation District

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**ENTER TO WIN!**  
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Your \$25 tax-deductible donation to the WNRF enters you in a drawing to win a 2019 John Deere XUV 560E Gator, or a STIHL MS 362 Chainsaw. The drawing will be held on November 14, in Buffalo at the WACD/WNRF state convention.

**Only 650 Tickets Will Be Distributed**

The Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation (WNRF) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to conserving Wyoming's natural resources, heritage and culture. The WNRF is a sister organization to the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts. The WNRF is working with conservation districts to:

- Implement the Living Legacy Program of the Wyoming State Fairgrounds
- Protect and promote wise and multiple use of Wyoming's natural resources
- Implement the Pathway to Water Quality Project on the Wyoming State Fairgrounds
- Support locally led water quality and watershed planning efforts
- Enhance the capacity of local districts to better serve their constituents
- Provide scholarship to a Wyoming student through the Gray Beach Memorial Scholarship
- Administer the Orr Sims Endowment Fund
- Provide youth and adult natural resource education, and more...

**1st Prize**  
2019 John Deere XUV 560E Gator

**2nd Prize**  
2019 STIHL MS 362 Chainsaw

To make a donation, please contact your local Conservation District or the

**Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation**  
527 E. 15th Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82001 • 307-632-5716  
kelly.jensen@conservation.org  
wynaturalsresourcefoundation.com

Actual Gator and Chainsaw may not be exactly as pictured.

Donated by Shively Hardware

**Special Thanks to** Sundance Equipment Company and Shively Hardware

Contact UCCD for your chance to win this 2019 John Deere Gator!

## Join Us For A Gardening Tour In August!

# Gardening Tour

At

## Good to Grow Farms

Date: August 13<sup>th</sup>

Time: 6:30-8:00 pm

Location: 554 Nacho Rd, Evanston  
Follow the signs!

You asked and here it is! The opportunity to see just how these amazing ladies do it! Barb & Leanne will take us on a tour of their farm to show how they grow so many amazing things right here in southwest Wyoming!

