



**Pondera County
Conservation
District**

Local Common Sense Conservation

406 North Main, Conrad MT 59425

406/278-7611 ext 101

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www.pondera.mt.nacdnet.org

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MARCH 2008

Pondera County Conservation District Annual Dinner

Saturday March 15, 2008

6:30pm

Pondera Golf Course, Conrad

Tickets: \$15/Person

**Special Presentation By
Dr. Grant Jackson, Western Triangle
Ag Research Center
“My Russian Experience”**

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Events Include:

- ✓ NRCS Year End Report, Stacy Eneboe
- ✓ Range Days Report, Paul Jones
- ✓ Conservationist Of The Year Award
- ✓ Door Prizes

Dinner:

Roast Pork & All The Trimmings
by *The Home Café*

Tickets may be purchased from the Pondera County Conservation District at 406 North Main, Conrad; By calling 278.7611 ext 101; or from any Conservation District Supervisor.



NRCS NEWS - BY STACY DENNY ENEBOE

GETTING CONSERVATION ON THE GROUND

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) completed 2008 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) contracts with over \$1.2 million to Pondera County producers through 20 contracts. The funds will be used to assist producers in taking care of the land and their agricultural operation.

Cost shared practices included cross fencing, livestock water developments, irrigation system improvements, organic production, precision agriculture nutrient management, noxious weed control, no-till farming, salinity management and confined animal feeding operation improvements. Through EQIP producers can implement new management practices or practices that may have been cost prohibitive without financial assistance.

Eligible agriculture producers can apply for EQIP by completing an application form at their local NRCS office. Applications are accepted continuously; although there are cut-off deadlines for annual funding consideration. Typically producers have until June 1 to sign up for the next funding cycle. This is a farm bill year and cost share programs may change.

If you are an agriculture producer interested in the installation of new conservation practices, please contact your NRCS by calling (406) 278-7611 ext. 3. Please remember to sign-up before June 1, 2008 to be considered for 2009 cost share programs.

NOTICE: CSP CONTACTS SCHEDULED FOR REVIEW

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be conducting Conservation Security Program (CSP) spot checks over the next several years. Existing contract holders will be checked to verify that contracted practices are being conducted according to program requirements. Contract holders are expected to maintain the integrity of CSP through the management of their operation and adhering to contractual requirements. Contract holders may be asked to produce current records or to show the type of equipment being used to meet contract requirements.

The CSP program was designed to reward agriculture producers that have adopted the highest levels of management. Unfortunately, the program has not been adequately funded by Congress and has not been available to all agriculture producers. Contracts should not be taken lightly given the rare privilege to participate.

The CSP program is under review and is anticipated to change under the new farm bill. At the time of printing, the Senate and House agriculture subcommittees are in negotiations. The future of the CSP program has yet to be unveiled.

NRCS ANNUAL REPORT

Don't miss the NRCS Annual Report and viewing of the DVD "Path to Eden" at the annual Pondera County Conservation District Dinner on March 15, 2008. The "Path to Eden" is a DVD created by the Rural Landscape Institute (RLI) for landowners. Additional information about the DVD can be found at <http://www.pathtoeden.org/>.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME ON THE RANGE BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY TO MONTANA RANGE DAYS

Written by Lisa Schmidt, Conrad MT

Activities abound for those from four to 94 at the next Montana Range Days.

Plan now to enjoy fun, hands-on workshops for every age and learn all about Montana's vast rangelands.



The Rocky Mountain Front hosts stunning views, wildlife unseen by most of the world and diverse flowers and grasses. Fortunate people who join the fun during the 32nd annual Montana Range Days will spend three full days exploring the Front while they learn the best land management practices, how soils influence plants and water, how to identify plants and what makes them different and how to follow changes in range conditions.

After a day of hands-on workshops, Super Starters (ages 9-11), Wranglers (ages 12-13), Youth (ages 14-19) and Open Class (adult) will compete in plant anatomy, plant identification, range sites, monitoring, range planning and stocking rate competitions. Buckaroos (ages 4-8) will enjoy plenty of learning activities, too. Adults also have the opportunity to attend three range management tours.

One tour will highlight Boone and Crockett's Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch. The ranch manager will discuss ranch goals and management practices, tying together livestock production and wildlife management. On Tuesday, adults can visit Glacier National Park from the Two Medicine Lake, where participants will learn about the geology, wildlife, vegetation, habitat management, climate, weeds, history, and research in and around the Park. A third tour will take participants through Nature Conservancy's Pine Butte Swamp Preserve. Hosts will discuss fire ecology, wildlife and habitat management as it relates to local agricultural issues and the real hot topics: wolves and grizzlies.



Montana Range Days will be held June 16 - 18 at Conrad's Utterback Middle School. Participants will travel to various range sites each day.



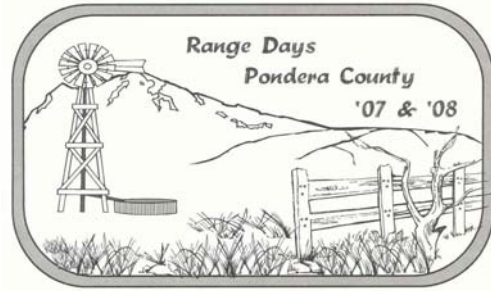
Registration costs \$30 for individuals or \$80 per family prior to June 1. After June 1, fees will increase by \$5. Registration includes workshop materials and meals, except dinner on Monday.

If you would like to contribute to Montana Range Days please fill out the enclosed form

This 32nd annual Montana Range Days is sponsored by the Pondera Conservation District, the Natural Resources Conservation District and the Northern Ag Network. For more information, call Kody Farkell at 406-278-7611, extension 101 or email kody.farkell@mt.nacdnet.net.

Thank You To Those Range Days Sponsors We Have Secured So Far:

3 Rivers Communications Apex Angus Bank Of The Rockies - Livingston Big Sky Equipment Co. Box O Breeders Conrad Building Center Farm Credit Services - Conrad	FRCEG Frontline Ag Grazing Lands Conservation Init. Liberty Co. Conservation District Liberty Safes of Conrad Montana Salinity Control Assoc. Randy & Rebecca Wolnetz	Stockman Bank of Montana Sunshine Ranch TCPM Land & Cattle Trader's Dispatch Toole Co. Conservation District
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Hosted by Pondera County

We will be hosting the 32nd Annual Montana Range Days June 16th - 18th, 2008. This event provides range workshops, meals and competition for 300 individuals!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SPONSORS TO HELP US PUT ON THIS UNIQUE AND EXCITING EVENT.

***Your \$500 gold sponsorship will include the following:**

- An opportunity to be announced as sponsor of a meal function during the event
- An opportunity to sponsor awards at the competition
- Display a banner at all range days events promoting your company name
- Four free tickets to the banquet Tuesday evening
- Business name published on materials advertising the event

*** Your \$250 silver sponsorship will include the following:**

- Business name used in advertising about this event
- Business name announced during the Range Days events
- An opportunity to sponsor awards at the competition
- Two free tickets to the banquet Tuesday evening

*** Your under \$250 bronze sponsorship will include the following:**

- Business name published on some materials advertising the event
- Business name announced during the Range Days events
- An opportunity to sponsor awards at the competition

Name _____
 Contact _____
 Date _____

Contribution Amount:
 _____ Gold (\$500 +)
 _____ Silver (\$250-\$499)
 _____ Bronze (under \$250)

Questions? Please call the Pondera County Conservation District, Kody Farkell, at 406-278-7611 x101

WATER IS LIFE - '08 STEWARDSHIP WEEK

The Pondera County Conservation District encourages you to think about your personal responsibility to be a good steward of the natural resources, including water, during its annual Stewardship Week celebration. Stewardship Week is April 27 to May with the theme "Water is Life."

"WATER IS
NOT A
RENEWABLE
RESOURCE..."

The Earth's water is in constant motion in the process known as the hydrologic (water) cycle. There is no beginning or end to the hydrologic cycle. Water available to users can change due to the cycles of weather and changes in water quality. Throughout time, the same water has been transferred into the Earth's atmosphere and dropped on land again where it follows the water cycle through plants, soil,

water bodies, animals and clouds.

What can we do? Become aware of water quality and quantity in your community. Understand how watersheds work. We all live in a watershed. Watersheds are the places we call home, where we work and where we play. Everyone relies on water and other natural resources to exist. What you and others do on the land impacts the quality and quantity of water and our other natural resources. Managing the water and other natural resources is an effective and efficient way to sustain the local economy and environmental health.

The Pondera County Conservation District is a member of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) which oversees the Stewardship Week program. Stewardship Week is one of the largest national annual

programs to promote conservation. NACD represents the nations 3,000 conservation districts, which were established to encourage resource conservation across the country.

"Each of us needs to take steps to invest in understanding the importance of water in our everyday life," said NACD CEO Krysta Harden. "Water is not a renewable resource. Education in your community and schools will benefit all citizens, for years to come as they gain a better appreciation of the importance of water resources.

For information about Stewardship Week and conservation, contact The Pondera County Conservation District at 278-7611 ext 101 or pondera.mt.nacdnet.net. You can visit www.nacdnet.org to learn more about NACD and Stewardship Week.

PCCD Offers Scholarships

The Conservation District will be awarding scholarships to graduates who reside in Pondera County & plan pursue an education in Agriculture, Natural Resources, or a related field.

Contact your school's guidance counselor or the District office to acquire an application. Applications are due May 1, 2008.

310 PERMITS REQUIRED

A 310 Permit is REQUIRED if you are planning ANY project including the construction of new facilities or the modification, operation, and maintenance of an existing facility that may affect the natural existing shape and form of any stream or its banks or tributaries. Any private entity or non-governmental individual that proposes to work in or near a stream on public or private land MUST obtain a 310 Permit PRIOR to any activity in or near a perennially flowing stream. Please contact the PCCD for permit applications.

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PONDERA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

To receive this newsletter electronically please email kody.farkell@mt.nacdnet.net.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

4th - Marias River Watershed @ 1:00pm - Shelby
10th - PCCD Monthly Meeting @ 7:30pm
15th - PCCD Annual Dinner - Pondera Golf Course
17th - St. Patrick's Day
20th - Range Days Planning Meeting @ 7:30pm
23rd - Easter

April

1st - Marias River Watershed @ 1:00pm - Shelby
14th - PCCD Monthly Meeting @ 7:30pm
24th - Range Days Planning Meeting @ 7:30pm
27th-May 4 - Stewardship Week

May

6th - Marias River Watershed @ 1:00pm - Shelby
11th - Mother's Day
12th - PCCD Monthly Meeting @ 7:30pm
15th - Range Days Planning Meeting @ 7:30pm
26th - Memorial Day (Office Closed)

CAR-RT Presort
Bulk Rate
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Conrad, Mt.
Permit No. 52

PONDERA COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
406 NORTH MAIN
CONRAD MONTANA 59425