

January, 2023



The Mountain Meadow

A quarterly publication from the
Sublette County Conservation District



Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

Highlights In This Issue

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- SCCD - Buggy Winter Strategies
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SCCD is hiring 1 position! Head over to our website for job descriptions and application details.

"By working with local people who understand local problems, the best conservation measures can be accomplished."

What We've Been Up To

From the District Manager's Chair

Mike Henn, District Manager



Sublette County was well represented at the 2022 Natural Resources Rendezvous in Casper. This is referred to as the mega convention that happens every five years, when the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD), Wyoming Stock Growers Association, and the Wyoming Wool Growers Association all meet under one roof to talk about issues addressing Wyoming.

This year was full of sessions addressing issues, speakers talking about congressional updates and natural resources issues that are in the headlines. We heard from Governor Gordon about what he is planning for the upcoming budget. We also heard from our two Congressional Senators updating us on what is occurring in Washington and what to expect in the future. We also had a breakfast that included updates from several State Senators and Representatives explain their key issues for the upcoming session. Water seemed to be the leading topic from all elected officials at the meeting.

As for SCCD we had several accomplishments and awards that came back to Pinedale with us. Melanie Purcell became certified through WACD in Water Quality sampling, while Shari Meeks and I got recertified. Traci Berg got certified through WACD's employee training program. The District also brought home the 2022 Outstanding Annual Report Award and the 2023 Outstanding Plan Of Work. That was a first that SCCD brought both of those home in the same year.

Finally, Coke Landers brought back to Sublette County the Darrell Walker Outstanding Supervisor Award. He was surprised by his wife Molly and his parents showing up to congratulate him on his accomplishment. Overall we had a great time attending the convention and seeing fellow District Supervisors and employees from around the State, as well as seeing our stock and wool growers friends in Casper.



NRCS Update

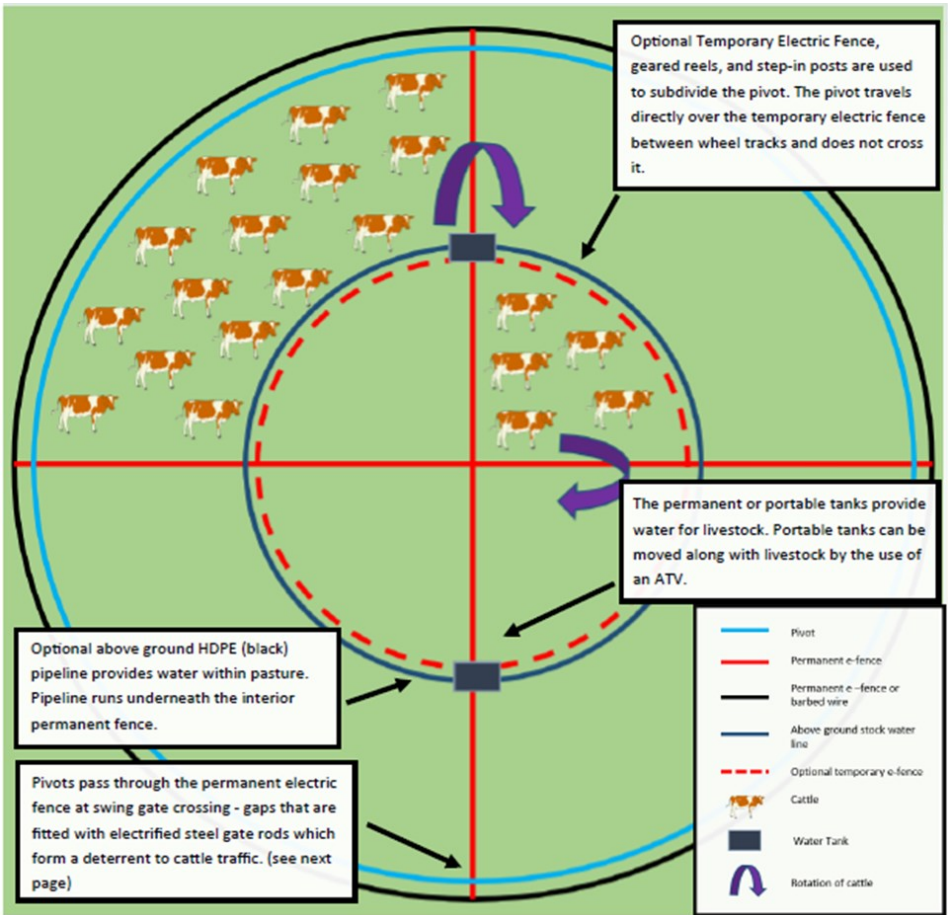
High Intensity Grazing Under a Center Pivot Irrigation System

Jennifer Hayward, District Conservationist

Pivots are a great way to maximize your irrigation efficiency and improve the quality and diversity of your forage. While we tend to think of pivots mainly for the production of hay, pivots can also be an excellent way to graze your animals. While this won't provide hay for the winter, it will save on diesel fuel and time spent haying. You might be concerned about your summer grazing program certainty or maybe there is an interest in changing to a different class of livestock. Whatever your reason for thinking outside the circle, there are innovative ways that a pivot can be grazed. The circle can be broken into four quadrants with an outside electric fence and further divided again with an interior circle fence of electric fence (see graphic below). Pivot crossings using a swing gate are installed and the pivot travels through the gate without crossing over a fence. Above-ground HDPE pipeline can supply portable livestock tanks which can be moved with an ATV. Cattle can then graze between 8 cells. They will efficiently use all the pasture in that cell before they are moved to the next. A concentration of animals can also contribute nutrients to the system and is a way of improving soil health. While we don't know the future of water in our basin, we do know that water is precious and looking at other ways to use what we have is never a bad idea.

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Graphic from the NRCS Ronan MT Field Office Case Study Publication
(contact Jennifer Hayward if you would like the full article provided)

Jennifer Hayward, District Conservationist, Pinedale NRCS Field Office

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

House Bill 60

Justin Caudill, Wyoming Department of Agriculture

If you are a board member or a supervisors on a special district in Wyoming this may be of interest to you.

Hello, my name is Justin Caudill and I am employed with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture as a Program Coordinator, and I work out of the Sublette County Conservation District Office in Pinedale. One of my roles for the Department of Ag. is to work with all thirty-four conservation district in Wyoming to implement their programs and assist in providing required training for supervisors and staff. One of the larger issues happening right now involves the new Special Districts Public Officer Training Requirements.

House Bill 60 was passed in the 2022 Legislative session, the Bill had at least two goals. The first was to provide for the enforcement of financial reporting requirements for counties, cities and town. The second was to define the minimum fiscal procedures training for public officers, this task has been assigned to the Wyoming Department of Audit. The Department of Audit is currently working to schedule a meeting in January of 2023 for all special districts (supervisors, and directors of special districts are public officers) to discuss their next steps in getting districts in compliance with the new training requirements by July 1, 2024.

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List of new training items will include:

Fiscal responsibilities:	Understanding public officer role
Depositories:	Authorized depositories & organizational responsibilities, selection, managing
Meeting minutes:	What they are, and what should be maintained in minutes
Records management::	What records should be maintained, retention, and what is public
Reporting requirements:	All reporting requirements for both federal and state
Internal Controls:	Controls established by the board/ council, policies, procedures, segregation of duties
Investments:	Authorized investments, investment policies
Payroll:	What payroll documents are needed, maintaining them. How to determine contract labor versus and employee
Suggested Self-Audit procedures:	Self-assessment – Risk assessment
Grants:	State & Federal Grants, how to track, what would require a CPA audit
Public Meeting Req's:	How to run a public meeting, what should the board/ council expect in financial reports and how to evaluate them
Public Records Req's:	A subset of records management
Specific bid Req's:	Understanding bidding process, advertising, closed bid, open bid, public openings, selection
Ethics:	W.S. 9-13-101

If you would like to look over this bill it can be found at; <https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2022/HB0060>

Buggy Winter Strategies

Melanie Purcell, Wildlife & Habitat Program Manager



I can remember collecting certain insects as a kid and keeping them in jars, watching them metamorphose or work through their tunnels in the soil. These creatures are fascinating, especially as children when we are full of wonderment, yet all in all we often think of insects as pesky! Some bite, carry disease and cause damage to crops, but we also know that insects are crucial for

pollination and supporting the ecosystem's food web, and most certainly valuable to fisherman! In the fall, we tend to look forward to the freeze that kills those irritating mosquitos and flies (and don't get me started on ticks... ugh!). However, insects still reemerge in the spring and begin the cycle over so what mechanisms do they employ to survive extreme winter weather? If your curiosity is piqued, then check out this old Barnyard and Backyards article: <http://www.uwyo.edu/barnbackyard/files/documents/magazine/2013/winter/010113bbinsectswinter.pdf>

WY-UT Ag Days

Dagan Montgomery, UW Extension, Sublette County

Season's greetings from Sublette County Extension! We hope everyone's winter is off to a great start. Please feel free to reach out to our office with any questions or concerns regarding agriculture and natural resources. We can help with answers to issues dealing with everything from livestock to lawn maintenance.

As we enter the new year, the western Wyoming Extension offices will be collaborating with several UW specialists as well as educators and specialists from Utah State to host 2023's Wyoming-Utah Ag Days. This event will be held on January 24th in Evanston from 10:00 to 3:00 and will include a tradeshow and poster-style educational presentations from several extension educators and specialists from both states. Presentations will cover a wide array of agricultural topics including range management, livestock nutrition and management, horticulture and economics. Additionally, two soon-to-be determined featured speakers will give talks throughout the day. This will be a great chance to meet other producers from

western Wyoming and northern Utah, and hopefully gain some free insight on a variety of ag topics. If you are interested, please RSVP with Suzy Holmes in Uinta County at (307) 783-0570. All those who RSVP will have a lunch provided. Please call Dagan Montgomery at (307) 367-4380 with any questions about the event. We look forward to seeing some Sublette County folks there!

WYOMING - UTAH AG DAYS EVANSTON, WY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2023
WORKSHOPS HELD 10:00 - 3:00

Join us for an interactive educational tradeshow style meeting. Meet with presenters and discuss topics one on one. Additionally, we will have two featured speakers throughout the day.

A lunch meal will be provided for all attendees that RSVP. For more information and to RSVP please call 307-783-0570



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On another note, we recently said farewell to our 4H educator, Jen Matosky, who has started work in Fremont County 4-H. Though we will miss Jen and her service to Sublette County, we are in the process of hiring a new 4-H Educator for the county. If you or anyone you know of is interested in the position, or you just have interest in or questions regarding 4-H in general, please reach out Dagan or Amy at the Sublette County UW Extension office.

Happy Holidays!

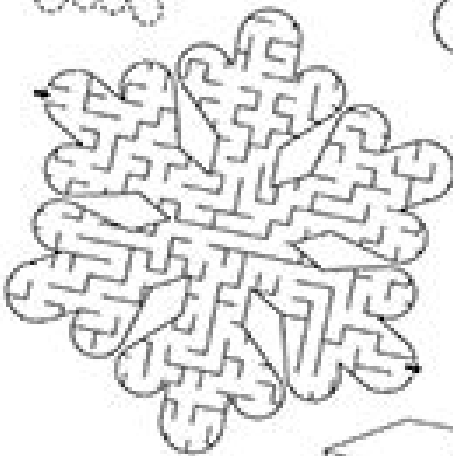
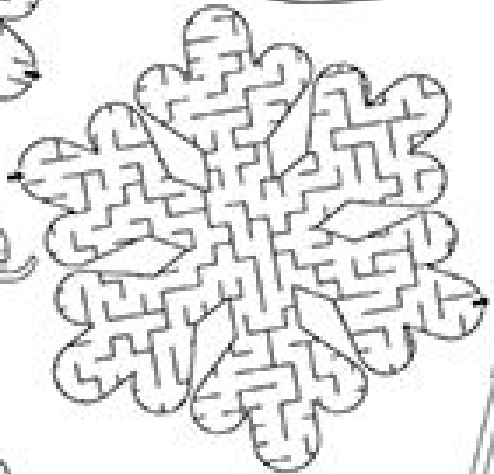
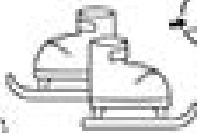
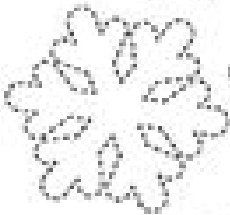
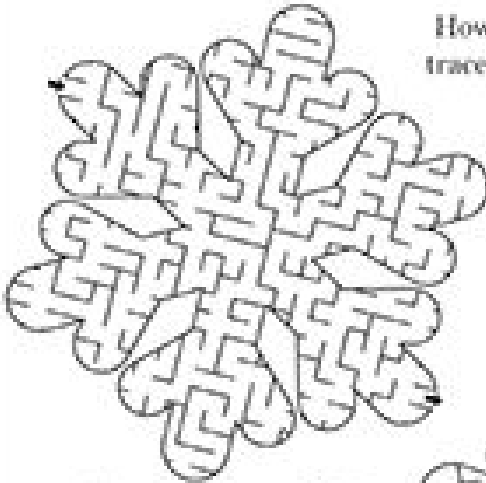


UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

Extension
Sublette County

Snowflake Maze

How fast can you trace and solve the mazes?





Find us on Facebook!

Who Are We?

Sublette County Conservation District Board of Supervisors

Coke Landers-Chairman
Darrell Walker-Vice Chairman
Dave Pape-Sec/Treasurer
Meghann Smith
Milford Lockwood

Sublette County Conservation District Staff

Michael Henn, District Manager
Traci Berg, Administrative Coordinator
Melanie Purcell, Wildlife & Habitat Program Manager
Shari Meeks, Range Program Manager
Keller Hyde, Rangeland Technician

Partners: USDA / NRCS Staff

Jennifer Hayward, District Conservationist
Shirleena King, Administrative Assistant
Karen Clause, Multi-County Range Management Specialist
Bryan Christensen, Ecological Site Specialist
Dillon Gray, Autumn Boxum, Taylor Kepley, Jenna Platt-Soil Survey Team

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. The USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider, Employer and Lender.



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