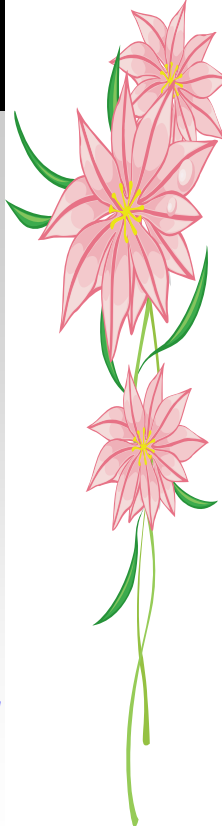


June 2010

Powder River News

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Johnson County NRCS	1
Vesicular Stomatitis	2
Water Quality Update	3
Public Meeting Notice	3
Plant Facts	4
Free Escape Ramps	4
Buffalo BLM-Resource Management Plan Updated-insert	5



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Specialist-Johnna Blankenship

Changes come to Johnson County NRCS



We would like to welcome Johnna Blankenship, a Rangeland Management Specialist to the Kaycee NRCS Field Office. Prior to coming to Kaycee she was working in the Douglas NRCS Field Office. Johnna received her Bachelor's of Science degree in Rangeland Management and Watershed Ecology from the University of Wyoming in May 2009. Please stop by the office and meet her.

For those of you that have heard the rumors that Allison McKenzie has left us after 8 years of being the NRCS District Conservationist for Southern Johnson County don't fear! She is still with us; however, she is now the District Conservationist for all of Johnson County. Allison's main office is now in Buffalo, but she will be making frequent visits to Kaycee, and you can contact her directly at (307) 684-2625.



There will be an open house on Monday, June 14, 2010 at 2pm at the NRCS/PRCD office. Please feel free to come and join all of us for refreshments and chat with Johnna, Allison, and Anita.

June 2010

Wyoming Livestock Board

1934 Wyott Drive

Cheyenne, WY 82002

Contact Information: Wyoming State Veterinarian Dr. Jim Logan, 307-857-4140

June 4, 2010

Vesicular Stomatitis Confirmed in Arizona

Vesicular Stomatitis, which is a reportable and quarantine-able disease in Wyoming, has been confirmed in livestock in Arizona. Arizona is the only state affected by VS so far in 2010. To protect the Wyoming livestock industry from exposure to the disease, precautionary measures on livestock imported from an affected state are being put into effect.

Effective immediately, all livestock entering Wyoming from an affected state must be accompanied by a health certificate stating that: "The animals have not originated from premises or areas under quarantine for Vesicular Stomatitis (VS), and are not known to have been exposed to any VS infected animals." The health certificate must be issued within 72 hours of shipment.

Wyoming State Veterinarian, Dr. Jim Logan, urges horse owners to consider altering their schedules if plans include traveling to areas affected by the disease. Additionally, if you or someone you know is intending to import animals from Arizona to Wyoming, please be aware of the movement restrictions, and share this knowledge with others.

Vesicular Stomatitis is a sporadic disease characterized by blister-like lesions on the tongue, lips, faces, and soft skin areas of ungulate animals. VS has an incubation period of one (1) to eight (8) days. Infected animals develop blisters that swell and burst, leaving painful sores. Horses and cattle are generally the most severely affected.

Transmission of VS is not fully understood. However, it is known that the disease may be spread from animal to animal or by biting insects. Infected animals can also spread the virus when their saliva or fluid from ruptured blisters contaminates feed or water. VS infections usually run their course in two (2) to three (3) weeks, at which time animals begin healing. During the course of the disease, animals may refuse to eat or drink.

VS is not a disease of humans, although there have been occasional reports of mild flu-like signs by individuals working closely with affected animals.

Contact your veterinarian if there is a suspicion of VS in your livestock.

For further information, please contact Dr. Jim Logan, State Veterinarian, at (307) 857-4140, or Dr. Chris Strang, WLSB Field Veterinarian, at (307) 256-4019.

June 2010

Water Quality Update

South Fork of Powder River

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) standard for selenium was exceeded 90% of the time during the monitoring season. No associations between field measurements and selenium were apparent. A comparison to previous monitoring results indicated that selenium concentrations have not changed significantly.

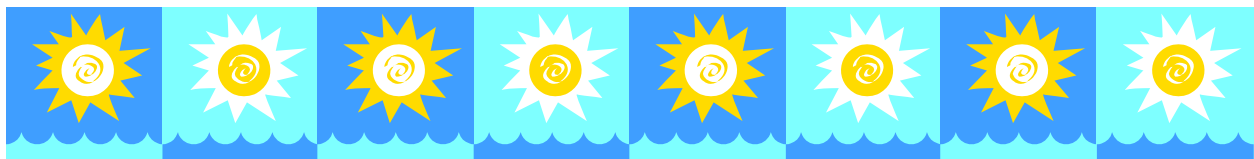
Murphy Creek

The WDEQ standard for selenium was exceeded 30% of the time during the monitoring season. Selenium in Murphy Creek may be influenced by seasonal variability. Elevated concentrations of selenium are prevalent during the spring run-off months.

Willow Creek

The WDEQ standard for selenium was exceeded 27% of the time during the monitoring season. Elevated selenium concentrations corresponded with increased discharge rates and lower stream temperatures. The selenium present during the winter months may indicate a change in the redox state of the water. The PRCD's water quality consultant WWC Engineering is currently working on a Use Attainability Analysis to petition the WDEQ for a site specific selenium standard on Murphy Creek. The petition demonstrates that selenium within the watershed is naturally occurring at concentrations exceeding the WDEQ standard for aquatic life.

In general, selenium and general water chemistry results were similar to the monitoring completed on the streams between 2008 and 2009 and previous monitoring completed between 2003 and 2006. Elevated selenium concentrations in Willow Creek (sampling site is upstream of irrigation) and Murphy Creek, which are not effected by irrigation, suggest that the selenium is naturally occurring. Additionally, elevated selenium concentrations in the spring and winter months may indicate that the redox state (oxidizing or reducing) of the water affects selenium concentrations. Based on the selenium concentrations observed in Willow Creek and Murphy Creek, the elevated selenium in South Fork of Powder River may be attributed to natural sources although anthropogenic sources may also contribute.



PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

The Johnson County Local Work Group will meet on Thursday, June 24, 2010 at 11:30am in the meeting room of the Harold Jarrard Park Building in Kaycee, WY. The purpose of this meeting is to identify priority resource concerns for the County. The public is invited (i.e.: Agriculture Producers, Ag Industry, etc.). Contact the Powder River Conservation District (307) 738-2321 or the Lake DeSmet Conservation District (307) 684-2526 ext. 3 for more information.

June 2010

PLANT FACTS

Common Name: Western Yarrow

Species: *Achillea millefolium* L.

Life Span: Perennial

Origin: Native

Season: Cool

Growth Form: forb (0.2-1m tall); erect , arising singly or as a loose cluster; flowers April to July, reproduces from seeds and rhizomes.

Vegetative Characteristics:

Leaves: alternate, simple; blades 2-or-3 times pinnately dissected, fern-like, aromatic.

Stems: erect, simple to sparingly branched above, nearly glabrous to densely pubescent; aromatic.

Floral and Fruit Characteristics:

Inflorescences: heads numerous (5-7 mm tall) in a compound corymb; flat to round-topped.

Flowers: perfect, heads radiate; involucre in a series of 4 bracts, bract margins scarious; ray florets 5-20, white (rarely pink or pinkish-white)

Fruits: achene; oblong, flattened, glabrous; pappus absent.

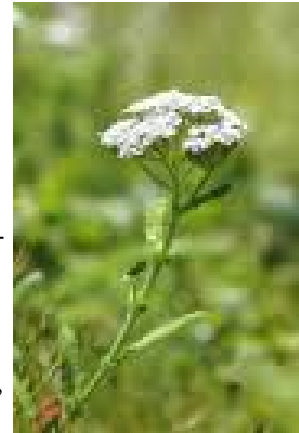
Historic, Food and Medicinal Uses: According to tradition, the plant was first named Achilles, hence it's name; decoction of leaves and flowers was used by Blackfoot Indians as an eye-wash; Winnebago Indians steeped whole plants and poured the liquid into aching ears; green leaves were used to relieve itching, chewed for toothaches, and used as a mild laxative; leaves boiled for tea were used as a cold remedy.

Livestock Losses: not generally considered to be poisonous, but may contain toxic alkaloids and glycosides.

Forage Value: poor to fair for cattle and fair to good for sheep; usually grazed only when green

Habitat: prairies, sagebrush plains, pastures, roadsides and disturbed sites; adapted to a wide range of soils.

sited from *North American Range Plants*, Fifth Edition, Stubbendieck, Hatch, Butterfield.



FREE WILDLIFE ESCAPE RAMPS FOR STOCK WATER TANKS

WE HAVE TWO TYPES OF RAMPS AVAILABLE: EXPANDED METAL AND FIBERGLASS. PLEASE CONTACT US AT 738-2321 IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PLACING THE RAMPS IN YOUR STOCK TANKS.

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Mark Your
Calendars!!!

PRCD Board Meeting– Thursday, July 8 @ 7pm

Local Work Group Meeting-Thursday, June 24 @ 11:30 am



The PRCD is an equal opportunity employer.

Find us on the web: www.powderrivercd.org