

March 2013

Powder River News

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A Message from FSA

Attention Sheridan-Johnson County Producers

Due to budget constraints our county FSA office will no longer be mailing newsletters to producers. In order to keep you timely informed of upcoming events, producers are being asked to provide their email address to receive newsletters and other reminders by mail. The emails that you provide will be added to our electronic news system, GovDelivery.

Copies of Newsletters will also be available at our county FSA office, the Johnson County NRCS building in Buffalo, and at the Powder River Conservation District office at Kaycee



March 2013

Rain Barrel & Composter Sales

Using a rain barrel is a great way to store water from rain and snow events. The water can then be used to water plants and gardens. It also benefits water quality by reducing the amount of run-off, which picks up pollutants on the ground and carries them to streams.



Our Composters are 60 gallon black plastic. Why use black barrels? Black absorbs heat from the sun better than any other color, and as experienced composters know, the hotter the temperature of the contents, the faster the barrels will produce finished compost. Put in your "greens and browns", give the barrels a



spin and you will be well on your way to making your own compost, far better than money can buy.

The PRCD will be selling rain barrels and composters at the significantly reduced price of \$50 for rain barrels and \$75 for composters. Order forms are available at the PRCD office. If you have an interest in purchasing rain barrels or composters please contact the District at 738-2321 or by email at anita.bartlett@wy.nacdnet.net

PRCD Offering Cost Share Programs

The PRCD is offering two Cost Share Programs: the first is for large rural projects that make a positive difference on the land. This is a cost share program where the PRCD matches 50% up to \$5000, on a reimbursement basis. Projects will be reviewed by staff, then must be approved by the PRCD board before they are initiated. Some examples of projects that qualify under this program are: Solar pumping units, fencing for implementing rotational grazing systems on pastures, or fencing riparian areas to reduce impacts of livestock grazing.

The second cost share program provides incentive for residents and businesses to conserve soil, water and energy. The program also encourages beautification of the landscape. This program matches 50% up to \$1000, on a reimbursement basis. Some examples of projects that qualify under this program are: planting trees and shrubs, xeriscaping to replace traditional lawns, and installation of efficient drip systems for trees and shrubs.

For more information on these cost share programs or for an application please contact the PRCD office at (307) 738-2321 or stop by the office at 350 Nolan Avenue, Kaycee, WY.

Spring Planting Tips

As winter loosens its grip after a long, cold season, many gardeners are anxious to start working outside. We have compiled a handy list of garden to-dos to get your lawn and garden ready for the coming warmer weather.

Shrubs and Trees

- Shrubs and trees can be pruned, shaped and thinned of older growth to allow new young growth to appear.
- Remove debris from around plants.
- Use a fertilizer with a good dose of iron between spring ground thaw and the first week of June and should be watered in well to get healthy growth and good color. In areas where rock or wood mulch and fabric has been used, fertilize as usual over the surface and around the drip line of the plant and water in well.
- Most trees in lawn areas will receive enough nutrients from your lawn fertilizer application and will require no additional fertilization.

Perennial Gardening and Flowerbeds

- Remove all the old leaves and dead plant material
- Sprinkle a balanced flower garden fertilizer, in granular form, over the soil or mulch around the plants. Take care in not placing granules on the crown of the new growth, as it will harm the plant.
- Use a garden cultivator or hoe to lightly scratch the granules into the surface regardless of mulch.
- Loosen the mulch in perennial areas to aerate the soil.
- Use wood chips or cedar mulch to help retain moisture. Try to keep a good two to three inch layer over all.

Remember

There are certain things that you want to remember when it comes to your spring gardening, such as that you never want to be in a rush to remove winter mulch or to cut back your evergreen plants, such as lavender, until the temperatures are warm enough, because otherwise they could be destroyed.

Zone three experiences severe winters with temperatures as low as minus 40. The ground freezes and frost occurs as late as April and may begin again in September. Choose vegetables that are hardy in cold weather and can withstand a light frost. Some vegetables such as peas, lettuce and spinach like cooler weather and will produce more if you plant them early in the growing season. Tomatoes and cucumbers like warm weather and may not produce until late in the season. Vegetables have many varieties with some specific to colder climates. Consult a seed catalog or local nursery for the best types to grow locally. High elevations also impacts the type of vegetable that can be grown.



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PRCD Continues to Collect E-Waste

E-waste (electronic waste) is the fastest growing form of toxic waste in the world. It is probably no surprise that considering our current age of technology and computers, e-waste makes up a significant portion of waste on the Earth. However, what is surprising to most people is that e-waste is toxic. Some of the toxic substances of e-waste include the heavy metals, Mercury, Cadmium and Lead



The Powder River Conservation District wants to thank everyone who has brought in their E-Waste and encourage anyone who has E-Waste to please bring it in to us. So far we have collected approximately 600 pounds of E-waste (this does not include the 8 computer monitors and 6 TVs collected as well). The E-waste we collect is donated to Cutting Edge Industries a division of NOWCAP Services in Casper. NOWCAP & Cutting Edge Industries exist to create employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities or people who have experienced a brain injury.

Please feel free to drop of your e-waste at the District Office located at 350 Nolan Avenue in Kaycee, WY. Below you will find a list of items that we can e-recycle:

Answering Machines	Batteries (Not Car Batteries)
Cable Boxes (analog & Digital)	Cables & Wire
Calculators	Cameras
CD-rom Drivers	Cell Phones
Circuit Boards	Computers
Computer Towers	Connectors
Consumer Electronics	Electronic Components
Floppy Drives	Hard Drives
Insulated Cable (copper & aluminum)	Keyboards, Mice, etc.
Laptop & Notebook Computers	Stereo Components
Surveillance Equipment	Telecommunications Equipment
Security Systems	Servers
Video Equipment	Video Game Equipment
TVs	Computer Monitors

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.

*Powder River Conservation District
P.O. Box 48
Kaycee, WY 82639*

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kaycee, WY
Permit #1



Reclamation Workshop-March 23rd from 10-3pm at the HJP meeting room

PRCD Board Meeting-March 14th at 7pm at the District Office

National Ag Day-March 19th



March 19th or National Ag Day is about recognizing - and celebrating - the contribution of agriculture in our everyday lives. The PRCD wants to recognize and thank all of our local Ag Producers for their contribution to our community, state, and nation.

THANK YOU

The PRCD is an equal opportunity employer.

Find us on the web: www.powderrivercd.org