



Shavano District

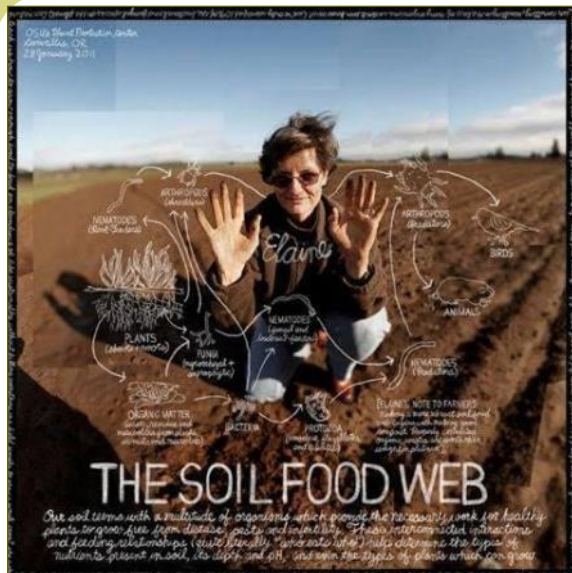
Fall
NEWS

SERVING MONTROSE, GUNNISON, AND OURAY COUNTIES

FALL 2020
VOLUME 23
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WCSHC Keynote Speaker: Dr. Elaine Ingham

The Western Colorado Soil Health Conference is pleased to announce the keynote speaker for the 2021 Conference will be Dr. Elaine Ingham!

Dr. Ingham has pioneered research in the field of Soil Biology over the last 4 decades and is widely recognized as the world's foremost soil biologist.

Behind Dr. Ingham's user-friendly approach to soil biology lies a wealth of knowledge and research on the different groups of microorganisms that make up the Soil Food Web.

Her goal is to empower people to bring the soils in their communities back to life using the science of the Soil Food Web. Dr. Ingham's revolutionary approach has been used to restore the ecological functions of living-soils all over the world, ensuring healthy, strong plants and super-nutritious food, whilst eliminating soil erosion and the need for chemical inputs.

The 2021 Western Colorado Soil Health Conference will be held on February 11, 2021 as a virtual event that will allow for broad participation and ensure the health and safety of attendees. Tickets will be made available starting in December. Visit the conference website for a conference schedule, the full line-up of speakers, and conference registration: www.westerncoloradosoilhealth.org or call Mendy Stewart at 970-964-3582 for more information.

Be a Western Colorado Soil Health Conference Sponsor!

Sponsorships are critical to the Soil Health Conference and off-set conference expenses to keep registration fees affordable and accessible for all attendees. Sponsors of this event will have an opportunity to build and expand upon new and existing relationships with Colorado producers from all over the state. Sponsorship information can also be found on the conference website.

Western Colorado Soil Health Conference
Virtual Conference, ...Real Farming!

Registration Fee \$25

Feb. 11, 2021
7:45 am - 5:00 pm

www.westerncoloradosoilhealth.org



Richard St. Jean

With Deepest Sympathy

Richard St. Jean passed away recently after a long fight with cancer. Richard was a career high school math and science teacher who farmed over 200 acres of grass hay, corn, small grains and raised cattle near Pea Green. Richard was a master teacher and a master conservationist who used his farm for experiments with grass varieties, cover crops, soil amendments and took pride in improving the soil with his grit and determination. He was also a long time board member of the Shavano Conservation District as well as the Olathe Fire Department and many other community and school organizations. Richard will be sorely missed! Shavano Conservation District expresses our deepest sympathy to the St. Jean Family.

CACD ANNUAL MEETING-2020

<https://www.coloradoacd.org/annual-meeting.html>

Nov 10

WATER

5:45pm—8:30pm

Nov 12

SOIL & ENERGY

5:45pm—8:30pm

Nov 16

DISTRICT EMPLOYEE DAY SESSION

1:00pm-3:00pm

Nov 17

EDUCATION

5:45pm—8:30pm

Nov 18

EMPLOYEE ASSOC. MTG.

1:00pm-3:00pm

Nov 19

BUSINESS MEETING

5:45pm—8:30pm

Each session of the Virtual Meeting features partner speakers and guest speakers related to the themes listed.

Corresponding resolution committee meetings and awards will also be conducted during theme related sessions.

Visit <https://www.coloradoacd.org/annual-meeting.html> for session agendas and meeting registration.

District Merger Update

Both Shavano CD’s Board of Directors and San Miguel Basin CD’s Board of Directors have agreed to the merger of the two districts. And the Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB) has formally approved the merger, also. A public meeting and vote to approve the merger will be held in the next few months.

The purpose of the merger is to strengthen the capabilities of both district’s in improving conservation services and agricultural practices in San Miguel County and the West End of Montrose County.

Save the Date!
Jan 22-23, 2021

The 9th annual Western Colorado Food & Farm is going virtual!

Registration to open in November!

WWW.FOODFARMFORUM.ORG



CACD Teacher of the Year: Jan Congour

Jan Congour (Left—middle, holding plaque), SCD Teacher of the Year, has also been selected as the Colorado Association of Conservation District Teacher of the Year! Jan’s award will be presented during the CACD Annual Meeting on Nov. 17, 2020!



USDA Announces *Oct. 30* Deadline to Submit Wildfire, Hurricane Disaster Assistance Applications

Final Opportunity for 2018 and 2019 Disaster Recovery Assistance

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced Friday, Oct. 30, 2020, as the deadline to submit applications for the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program – Plus (WHIP+) for 2018 and 2019 losses. USDA did not originally specify a deadline when the program was announced.

WHIP+ compensates producers for losses due to hurricanes, floods, snowstorms, tornadoes, typhoons, volcanic activity, drought, excessive moisture, and wildfires occurring in calendar years 2018 and 2019. Drought and excessive moisture were added as eligible losses for the program in March 2020. To date, FSA has received more than 133,000 applications for WHIP+ disaster assistance and paid out nearly \$1.4 billion in WHIP+ benefits.

FSA has launched a new tool on the farmers.gov WHIP+ webpage to help producers understand eligibility for the program and whether they had possible losses in 2018 and 2019. The tool will also allow producers an opportunity to provide information for FSA staff to reach out to them.

FSA will announce soon the details for producers who experienced quality loss from 2018 and 2019 natural

disaster events authorized in appropriations legislation. There will be a separate signup period for producers reporting quality loss.

For more information or application assistance, visit farmers.gov WHIP+ webpage, or contact your local USDA Service Center. To locate your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov/service-center-locator.

All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including some that are open to visitors to conduct business in person by appointment only. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment. Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel, and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors are required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. Our program delivery staff will be in the office, and they will be working with our producers in office, by phone, and using online tools. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2

Signup for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) began on Sept. 21, 2020 and will continue through Dec. 11, 2020. CFAP 2 provides eligible producers with direct financial assistance due to market disruptions and associated costs because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Check out our brief video about the program.

CFAP 2 is a separate program from the first round of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, now referred to as CFAP 1. Farmers and ranchers who participated in CFAP 1 will not be automatically enrolled and must complete a new application for CFAP 2. Details on how to apply can be found on farmers.gov/cfap/apply.

CFAP 2 Eligible Commodities Finder

Many more commodities are eligible for CFAP 2 than CFAP 1. Interested in finding the Coronavirus Food

Assistance Program 2 payment rates for the eligible commodities you grow or raise? Our new, easy-to-use "CFAP 2 Eligible Commodities Finder" makes finding payment rates specific to your operation simple. From yam to alpaca farmers – and everyone in between – the payment rate information you need is just a few clicks away. Try it today on your desktop, tablet, or mobile device.

Call Center

A call center is available for producers who would like additional one-on-one support with the CFAP 2 application process. Please call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. The call center can provide service to non-English speaking customers. Customers will select 1 for English and 2 to speak with a Spanish speaking employee. For other languages, customers select 1 and indicate their language to the call center staff.



FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections

The 2020 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections will begin on Nov. 2, 2020, when ballots are mailed to eligible voters. The deadline to return ballots to local FSA offices, or to be postmarked, is Dec. 7, 2020.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs, conservation programs, incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities, emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming

operations of an entire farm, may also be eligible to vote. Eligible voters in local administrative area 5, who do not receive a ballot can obtain one from their local USDA Service Center.

Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2021.

The candidate in this year's election is:

Sarah McConnell, nominated in LAA 5, Ouray County, to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. McConnell resides in Ouray and has produced native grass hay and cattle for over 15 years.

She is an active member of Ouray County Rodeo Association and serves as President.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2020 fact sheet, can be found on the FSA website at fsa.usda.gov/elections or at a local USDA Service Center.

Preauthorized Debit Available for Farm Loan Borrowers

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has implemented pre-authorized debit (PAD) for Farm Loan Program (FLP) borrowers. PAD is a voluntary and alternative method for making weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual payments on loans.

PAD payments are pre-authorized transactions that allow the National Financial and Accounting Operations Center (NFAOC) to electronically collect loan payments from a customer's account at a financial institution.

PAD may be useful if you use nonfarm income from regular wages or salary to make payments on loans or adjustment offers or for payments from seasonal produce stands. PAD can only be established for future payments.

To request PAD, customers, along with their financial institution, must fill out form RD 3550-28. This form has no expiration date, but a separate form RD 3550-28 must be completed for each loan to which payments are to be applied. A fillable form can be accessed on the USDA Rural Development (RD) website at rd.usda.gov/publications/

regulations-guidelines. Click forms and search for "Form 3550-28."

If you have a "filter" on the account at your financial institution, you will need to provide the financial institution with the following information: Origination ID: I220040804, Agency Name: USDA RD DCFO.

PAD is offered by FSA at no cost. Check with your financial institution to discuss any potential cost. Preauthorized debit has no expiration date, but you can cancel at any time by submitting a written request to your local FSA office. If a preauthorized debit agreement receives three payment rejections within a three-month period, the preauthorized debit agreement will be cancelled by FSA. The payment amount and due date of your loan is not affected by a cancellation of preauthorized debit. You are responsible to ensure your full payment is made by the due date.

For more information about PAD, contact your Mesa County USDA Service Center at 970-242-4511 ext. 2 or visit fsa.usda.gov.



Cover Crop Corner - Uncompahgre Watershed Chosen to Pilot STAR Program for Colorado

The Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB) is looking for 20 producers within four watersheds—St. Vrain, Lower Arkansas, Upper Yampa, and the Uncompahgre watershed—to participate in a pilot program for Saving Tomorrow’s Agricultural Resources (STAR). To start, 5 producers in each watershed will identify a field where they would like to try new soil health practices over the next three years. The producer enrolls this field into the STAR program by completing a STAR field form. In return, they will receive \$2500 each year for three years to use towards implementing agricultural Best Management Practices identified in their local watershed plan. This funding is to be matched by an equal value invested by the producer themselves through cash, labor, equipment, or materials. 4 of the participants in each watershed will receive basic soil testing for

their field at the beginning and end of the three year period. The fifth participant in each watershed will be selected for more intensive soil testing as well as a water quality evaluation at the beginning and end of the three year period. Finally, CSU researchers will quantify ecological outcomes using modelling tools such as the Nutrient Tracking Tool, WQI-ag, and eRAMS.

The watersheds chosen in the pilot include a diverse range of soil, geography, and production types needed to ensure that the adapted STAR program works for the Colorado landscape. Producers in the pilot will be asked to give feedback on the STAR program to improve the process. Likewise, this project would help launch a new Colorado Soil Health Program by contributing to a statewide soil health inventory, serving as a trial for soil health tests and furthering research to validate the connection between soil health and water quality.



Jackie Kragel and her 4-footed pal, Sasha

Changes in the Montrose USDA Field Office

Jackie Kragel has been the Resource Team Lead in the Montrose and Gunnison NRCS Field Offices for the last two years. In September she expanded her career by relocating to an NRCS position in Palmer, AK. Jackie will be in the Alaska State NRCS Office working on easements, tribal liaison for RCPP, and other additional programs and tasks. While Jackie enjoyed her time working with producers on the West Slope, she is excited to take on this amazing new opportunity! We wish you luck as you take on a new adventure in Alaska!

In the meantime, Jackie’s position will be filled temporarily by Kelsey Price, NRCS Resource Conservationist in Huerfano and Las Animas Counties. Kelsey has been working for NRCS 11 years. Two of those years were spent as a Pathways Student and the last nine years she has been working in Walsenburg, first as the Soil Conservationist and more recently the Resource Conservationist. Currently Kelsey is serving a 60 day detail as the Resource Team Lead in the Montrose Field Office. Kelsey is a Colorado girl - born and raised in the Arkansas Valley. She is proud to be the sixth generation on her family’s farm and ranch. Her passion for agriculture and the outdoors began at a young age and she knew before graduating from high school that she wanted a career with the NRCS. After high school Kelsey attended Oklahoma Panhandle State University, earning a degree in Agronomy and Animal Science. Kelsey enjoys working for the agency simply because she loves to help people. When Kelsey and her husband aren’t working they stay very busy working with family on the ranch and running several small businesses. When time allows Kelsey’s hobbies include photography, playing sports, painting and repurposing furniture.



Kelsey Price, NRCS Resource Conservationist for Huerfano and Las Animas County



Colorado SNOTEL Snow/Precipitation Update Report

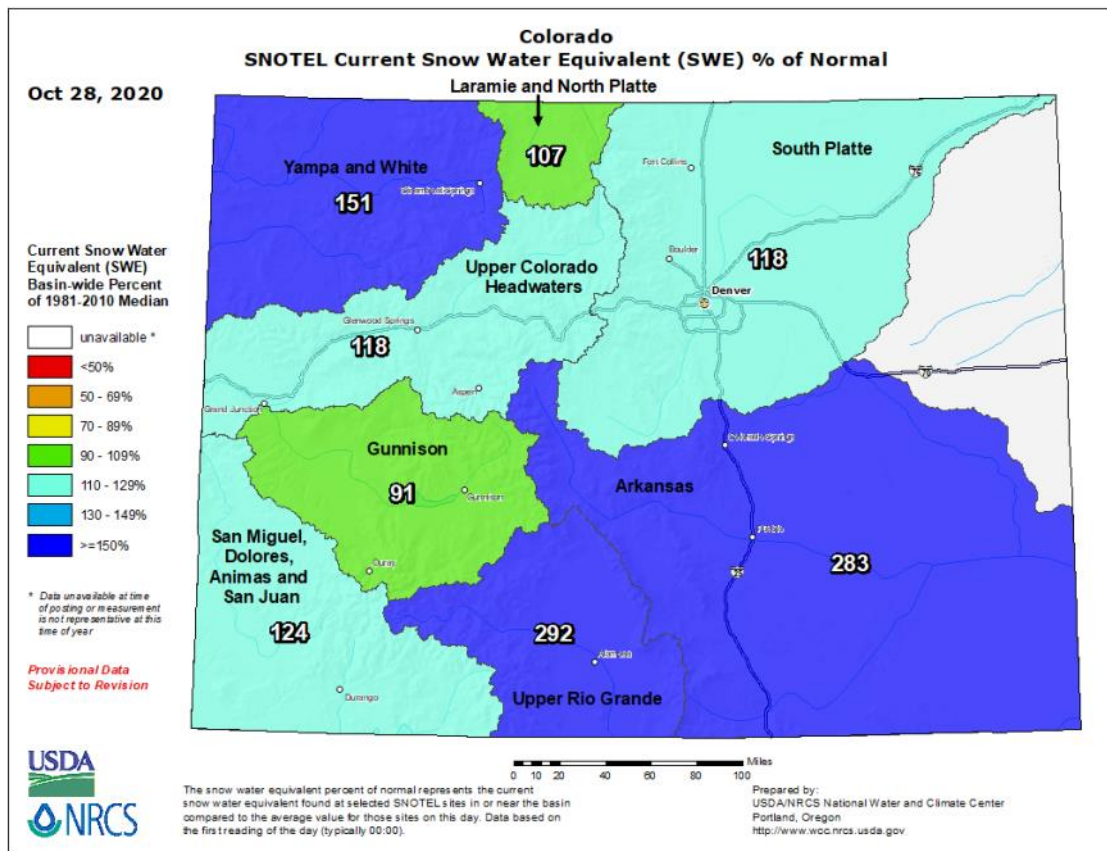
As of TUESDAY: October 28, 2020

BASIN Data Site Name	ELEV. (Ft)	SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT			TOTAL PRECIPITATION		
		Current	Median	% Median	Current	Average	% Avg
GUNNISON RIVER BASIN							
Butte	10160	0.6	0.4	150*	0.6	1.7	35
Cochetopa Pass	10020	0.2	0.0R	*	0.6	1.2R	50
Columbine Pass	9400	0.4	0.0	*	0.3	2.1	14
Idarado	9800	0.5	0.0	*	0.4	2.5	16
Mc Clure Pass	9500	0.8	0.2	400*	0.7	2.8	25
Mesa Lakes	10000	0.6	0.7	86*	0.3	2.6	12
Overland Res.	9840	0.6	0.1	600*	0.6	2.3	26
Park Cone	9600	0.4	0.2	200*	0.7	1.4	50
Park Reservoir	9960	0.1	1.5	7*	0.6	3.5	17
Porphyry Creek	10760	0.5	0.5	100*	0.6	1.7	35
Red Mountain Pass	11200	0.5	1.0	50*	-M	3.2	*
Sargents Mesa	11530	0.5	N/A	*	1.0	N/A	*
Schofield Pass	10700	0.8	1.6	50*	0.7	3.2	22
Slumgullion	11560	0.9	1.4	64*	0.4	2.1	19
Upper Taylor	10640	0.6	N/A	*	0.9	N/A	*
Wager Gulch	11100	0.7	N/A	*	0.7	N/A	*
Basin Index (%)				91*	24		

-M = Missing data

* = Data may not provide a valid measure of conditions.

Units = inches for the Current and Normal Snow Water Equivalent and Total Precip. values



Would you like the SCD News delivered to your in-box?

Call
Mendy Stewart
at 970-964-3582
or email to
mendy.stewart@co.nacdn.net

USDA SERVICE CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

970-249-8407

Direct Phone

MIKE STEFFEN, District Director 964-3590
LORI MEIER, County Executive Director 964-3589
JO TRICE, Program Technician 964-3572
DEBBIE STEWART, Program Technician 964-3571
LANELLE MILLER, Program Technician 964-3587



MONTROSE-GUNNISON-OURAY COUNTY COMMITTEE

BRYAN DISTEL, Chairperson
CHERRI COOPER, Vice Chairperson
ERNIE ETCHART, Regular Member
SARAH MCCONNELL, Regular Member
TYLER HANSON, Regular Member
BRYAN DISTEL, Regular Member



NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

970-249-8407



Direct Phone

AMANDA JAMES, Soil Conservationist 964-3580
BILL HEAD, Civil Engineering Technician 964-3585
JEFF LONG, Ag Engineer Project Leader 249-8407
JEREMY OMVIG, Cultural Resource Specialist 964-3593
JERRY ALLEN, Shavano IWM Specialist 964-3575
JOHN MILLER, Civil Engineering Technician 964-3576
NANCY DEANS, Program Support Assistant 964-3570
SARAH ERICKSON, Soil Conservationist 964-3578



SHAVANO CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Website: www.shavano.cd.org

Direct Phone

KEN LIPTON, President 626-3951
LANNY DENHAM, Vice President 323-5461
ROXI STEWART, Secretary/Treasurer 249-0706
EDWARD ATENCIO 303-898-5855
JACK BRUNGARDT 249-5081
SHELLY MCLAUGHLIN-MALISH 424-4451
SETH URBANOWITZ, CSU Extension, ex-officio 874-2197
PENNY BISHOP, Manager 964-3584
MENDY STEWART, Education Coordinator 964-3582

HOW TO CONTACT US

Montrose USDA Service Center
 102 Par Place, Montrose, CO 81401
PHONE (970) 249-8407

Phone Extension

Farm Service Agency.....2
 Natural Resources Conservation Service.....3
 Shavano Conservation District.....3



COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE

Web Site: csfs.colostate.edu

MONTROSE FIELD OFFICE—970-249-9051

(Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties)

New Address - 535 S Nevada Ave, Montrose Phone Extension

JODI RIST, Supervisory Forester 132
 jodi.rist@colostate.edu

AUSTIN SHELBY, Forester 133
 austin.shelby@colostate.edu

SCOTT JOHNSON, Forester 127
 scott.johnson2@colostate.edu

TANYA BANULIS, Forester 129
 tanya.banulis@colostate.edu

GUNNISON FIELD OFFICE - 970-641-6852

(Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties)

106 Maintenance Drive, Gunnison, CO 81230
SAM PANKRATZ, Supervisory Forester
MIKE TARRANTINO, Forester
KYLE KLEVE, Forester
ANN WOOD, Administrative Assistant



WEST REGION WILDFIRE COUNCIL

Phone 970-615-7300 www.cowildfire.org

New Address - 510 S Cascade Ave, Montrose

LILIA FALK, Director of Finance & Agreements Lilia.Falk@COwildfire.org
JAMIE GOMEZ, Executive Director Jamie.Gomez@COwildfire.org
MAGGIE MCCAFFREY, Assist. Director Maggie.mccaffrey@cowildfire.org
COURTNEY HAYNES Courtney.Haynes@COwildfire.org
 Wildfire Mitigation Specialist - Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray,
 and San Miguel Counties

Dates to Remember

October 30, 2020	Whip+ Deadline
November 2, 2020	FSA County Committee Election Ballots mailed to eligible voters
November 9, 2020	Shavano CD Board Meeting 6:30 pm
November 11, 2020	Veteran's Day—Office Closed
November 16, 2020	Acreage reporting deadline for fall-Seeded crops (rye, spelt, wheat), and 2020 production reporting
November 10-19, 2020	Colorado Assn. of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting, via Zoom
November 20, 2020	2021 NAP Application Closing Date for Apricots, Cherries, Grapes, Hops, Nectarines, Pears, Plums and Prunes
November 26, 2020	Thanksgiving Day—Office Closed
December 1, 2020	2021 NAP Application Closing Date for Alfalfa, Clover, Grass, Honey, Mixed Forage, Mustard, and Vetch
December 7, 2020	Last Day to Return FSA Ballots to the USDA Service Center
December 8, 2020	Shavano CD Board Meeting 6:30pm
December 10, 2020	West Region Wildfire Council Meeting 1:00 pm
December 11, 2020	CFAP 2 Deadline
December 14, 2020	2020 Seafood Trade Relief Program Applications Due
December 25, 2020	Christmas Day—Office Closed
January 1, 2021	FSA Newly Elected FSA County Committee Members Take Office
January 1, 2021	New Year's Day—Office Closed
January 2, 2021	2021 reporting deadline for honey (colonies).
January 12, 2021	Shavano CD Board Meeting 6:30 pm
January 15, 2021	2021 acreage reporting deadline for apples, peaches, grapes, prunes and other fruit crops.
January 22-23, 2021	Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum, Virtual Forum
February 1, 2021	Livestock Forage Disaster Program Deadline
February 11, 2021	Western Colorado Soil Health Conference, Virtual Conference

Notice of SCD 2021 Budget

Notice is hereby given that a proposed budget has been submitted to the Shavano Conservation District Board of Supervisors for the ensuing year of 2021. A copy of such proposed budget has been filed in the District office at 102 Par Place, Montrose, CO 81401 where same is open for public inspection, Monday through Thursday during normal business hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) by appointment only due to Covid-19 restraints. Such proposed budget will be considered at two regular meetings of the Shavano Conservation District Board of Directors to be held virtually via Zoom on November 10, 2020 and December 8, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Any interested elector residing within the Shavano Conservation District may inspect the proposed budget and file or register any objections thereto at any time prior to the final adoption of the budget.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individuals' income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of Discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our meetings/events/functions, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.