



Shavano District

Fall News

SERVING MONTROSE, GUNNISON, AND OURAY COUNTIES

FALL 2019
VOLUME
22

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 4th Graders Escape Classroom to do Ranch Chores 2
- Soil Health Tour in Palisade a Great Success! 2
- USDA Open Signup for Market Facilitation Program 3
- Reminder to Update Your FSA Records 3
- Montrose-Gunnison-Ouray County Producers Urged to Consider NAP Risk Protection Coverage 4
- Submit FSA Loan Requests for Financing Early 4
- Environmental Appreciation Day 5
- NRCS 2020 Program Updates 5
- SNOTEL Report 6
- Dates to Remember 8
- Notice of SCD 2020 Budget 8



Dr. Kris Nichols is a leader in the movement to regenerate soils for healthy soil, crops, food, people and a planet.

Dr. Kris Nichols to Speak at Soil Health Conference

The Western Colorado Soil Health Conference is pleased to announce the keynote speaker for the 2020 Conference: Dr. Kris Nichols! Dr. Nichols, Soil Microbiologist, is a leader in the movement to regenerate soils for healthy crops, food, people and a planet. She is the founder and principal scientist of KRIS (Knowledge for Regeneration and Innovation in Soils) Systems Education & Consultation and a sub-contractor with Soil Health Consulting, Inc.

Her current focus is to address current and future agricultural needs by building upon a soil health foundation to identify biological methods for agricultural production and tools and practices to reduce pest issues, soil erosion, fossil fuel use, and greenhouse gas emissions. These systems are resilient and adapt to climatic uncertainty by increasing nutrient and water use efficiencies; improving pollinator activity and food security; and providing long-term solutions to agricultural economic viability, food insecurity, and the loss of ecosystem services.

Kris continues to develop and evolve methodology and tools farmers, home-owners, and students may use to examine and appreciate their soil. Her work on carbon movement from plant to microbes and nutrient and water cycling have led her to also expand her research into exploring the similarities between the soil and gut microbiomes to improve soil, animal, and human health.

Throughout her career, Kris has given over 250 invited presentations to a wide variety of audiences, authored or co-authored more than 25 peer-reviewed publications, been cited or interviewed for more than 50 magazine or newspaper articles, highlighted in five books, and has numerous videos on-line.

The 2020 Western Colorado Soil Health Conference will be held on February 20-21, 2020 at the Delta Center for the Performing Arts and Education, 822 Grand Ave, Delta, CO. Tickets will be made available starting in December. Early registration will be \$45. After February 13, 2019, tickets go up to \$60. Watch for more information on the Conference website: www.westerncoloradosoilhealth.org or call Mendy Stewart at 970-964-3582.

2020 Western Colorado Soil Health Conference

Feb. 20-21, 2020

Delta Center for Performing Arts
822 Grand Ave, Delta, CO

www.westerncoloradosoilhealth.org



4th Graders Escape Classroom to do Ranch Chores

Local 4th graders enjoyed a brisk fall morning doing cowboy stuff in Ridgway! On Thursday, October 31, 2019, 35 Ridgway and Ouray 4th graders visited the Cimarron Ridge Ranch in Ridgway to experience ranch operations first hand. Ken and Carol Lipton of the Cimarron Ridge Ranch love having the students visit each year. Ken feels, "it's important for students to have a glimpse into the local ranching industry, caring for livestock and our natural resources ". Mr. Mike Cassidy, 4th grade teacher at Ridgway Elementary School, said "It is a highlight of the year for the kids". Ms. Jenny Hart, 4th grade teacher at Ouray School, agreed saying, "The students have been studying the history of Colorado ranching and visited the Ouray County Ranch History Museum. This field trip to a working ranch really brings it all together for them."

During their visit to the ranch students learned about different types and breeds of cattle, equipment used in cattle management, horse grooming, saddling and riding, and conservation practices on reducing soil erosion, grazing management, and wild-life

friendly fencing.

Ranch tours are part of an educational and outreach program sponsored by the Shavano Conservation District. The Shavano Conservation District is a citizens advisory group to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and is governed by locally elected Directors who are engaged in agricultural production. The District's primary work is to assist agricultural producers in improving irrigation practices to conserve water and reduce salt/selenium loading in the Uncompahgre River system. The District oversees grant funds administered by federal and state agencies. Conservation Districts are established by federal statute. The Shavano Conservation District includes all of Ouray County, the east half of Montrose County, along with small parts of Gunnison, San Miguel, and Delta Counties. The District has also assisted with federally funded wildfire mitigation and wildlife habitat improvement programs within the District and provides water conservation educational programs for school children.

Soil Health Tour in Palisade was a Great Success!

October 18, 2019 producers from the West Slope met in Palisade to exchange ideas for establishing healthy soils. Stops on the tour included Brand 2s Meats LLC in Fruita where Mark Creemens showed tour visitors his no-till, rotational grazing program for his cattle. Mark shared that he has more retention of soil moisture and less compaction on his fields since starting his grazing program.

Next the group traveled to Palisade to see

how Green Junction Farmstead is growing cover crops in-and-around the rows of their market garden to produce fruits and vegetables for farmer's markets, CSA, restaurants, and nonprofit organizations.

The Tour concluded at Bella Bolettino Orchard in Palisade where Chris Young took the group into his peach orchard to see the irrigation system, cover crops, and livestock (chickens) integration among the peach trees.



Students learn equine care while visiting Cimarron Ridge Ranch.



Jerry Allen, SCD IWM, shows students how to stabilize ditch banks to reduce soil erosion.



Chris Young tells Tour visitors how cover crops have benefited his orchard.



Mark Creemens pulls up some soil to show how his soil structure has improved.



USDA Opens Signup for Market Facilitation Program

Signup is ongoing for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP), a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program to assist farmers who continue to suffer from damages because of unjustified trade retaliation from foreign nations. Through MFP, USDA will provide up to \$14.5 billion in direct payments to impacted producers, part of a broader trade relief package announced in late July. The sign-up period runs through Dec. 6, 2019.

MFP payments will be made to producers of certain non-specialty and specialty crops as well as dairy and hog producers.

Non-Specialty Crops

MFP payments will be made to producers of alfalfa hay, barley, canola, corn, crambe, dried beans, dry peas, extra-long staple cotton, flaxseed, lentils, long grain and medium grain rice, millet, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, rapeseed, rye, safflower, sesame seed, small and large chickpeas, sorghum, soybeans, sunflower seed, temperate japonica rice, triticale, upland cotton, and wheat.

MFP assistance for 2019 crops is based on a single county payment rate multiplied by a farm’s total plantings to the MFP-eligible crops in aggregate in 2019. Those per acre payments are not dependent on which of those crops are planted in 2019. A producer’s total payment-eligible plantings cannot exceed total 2018 plantings.

Dairy and Hogs

Dairy producers who were in business as of June 1, 2019 will receive a per hundredweight payment on production history, and hog producers will receive a payment based on the number of live hogs owned on a day selected by the

producer between April 1 and May 2019.

Non-Enrollment 15,
Now Open
through Dec. 6

Specialty Crops

MFP payments will also be made to producers of almonds, cranberries, cultivated ginseng, fresh grapes, fresh sweet cherries, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pistachios, and walnuts. Each specialty crop will receive a payment based on 2019 acres of fruit or nut bearing plants, or in the case of ginseng, based on harvested acres in 2019.

More Information

Payments will be made in up to three tranches, with the second and third tranches evaluated as market conditions and trade opportunities dictate. If conditions warrant, the second and third tranches will be made in November and early January.

MFP payments are limited to a combined \$250,000 for non-specialty crops per person or legal entity. MFP payments are also limited to a combined \$250,000 for dairy and hog producers and a combined \$250,000 for specialty crop producers. However, no applicant can receive more than \$500,000. Eligible applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income (AGI) for tax years 2015, 2016, and 2017 of less than \$900,000, or 75 percent of the person’s or legal entity’s average AGI for those tax years must have been derived from farming and ranching. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation regulations.

More information can be found on farmers.gov/mfp, including payment information and a program application.

Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early

The Farm Loan team in Mesa County is already working on operating loans for spring 2020 so it is important that potential borrowers submit their requests early so they can be timely processed. The farm loan team can help determine which loan programs are best for applicants

FSA offers a wide range of low-interest loans that can meet the financial needs of any farm operation for just about any purpose. The traditional farm operation and farm owner-

ship loans can help large and small farm operations take advantage of early purchasing discounts for spring inputs as well as expenses throughout the year.

Microloans are a simplified loan program that will provide up to \$50,000 for Farm Ownership and Operating Microloans to eligible applicants. These loans, targeted for smaller operations and non-traditional operations, can be used for operation expenses, starting a new agricultural enterprise, purchasing equipment, and other needs associated

Continued on Pg. 4...



Montrose-Gunnison-Ouray County Producers Urged to Consider NAP Risk Protection Coverage Before Crop Sales Deadlines

**NAP Crop Coverage
Deadline: Dec. 1**

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers to review available USDA crop risk protection options, including federal crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) coverage, before the crop deadline of December 1.

Federal crop insurance covers crop losses from natural adversities such as drought, hail and excessive moisture. NAP covers losses from natural disasters on crops for which no permanent federal crop insurance program is available, including perennial grass forage and grazing crops, fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, floriculture, ornamental nursery, aquaculture, turf grass, ginseng, honey, syrup, bio-energy, and industrial crops.

The following crops in the Montrose-Gunnison-Ouray Counties have a NAP application deadline of December 1, 2019: Perennial crops (these crops include alfalfa, grass, mixed forages, etc.) intended for forage and grazing.

Producers can determine if crops are eligible for federal crop insurance or NAP by visiting <https://webapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/ActuarialInformationBrowser2018/CropCriteria.aspx>.

The 2018 Farm Bill reinstates higher levels of coverage,

from 50 to 65 percent of expected production in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. Producers of organics and crops marketed directly to consumers also may exercise the "buy-up" option to obtain NAP coverage of 100 percent of the average market price at the coverage levels of between 50 and 65 percent of expected production. NAP basic coverage is available at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production.

For all coverage levels, the NAP service fee is the lesser of \$325 per crop or \$825 per producers per county, not to exceed a total of \$1,950 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.

Federal crop insurance coverage is sold and delivered solely through private insurance agents. Agent lists are available at all USDA Service Centers or at USDA's online Agent Locator: <https://prodwebnlb.rma.usda.gov/apps/AgentLocator/#>. Producers can use the USDA Cost Estimator, <https://ewebapp.rma.usda.gov/apps/costestimator/Default.aspx>, to predict insurance premium costs.

For more information on NAP, service fees, sales deadlines, contact the Montrose-Gunnison-Ouray County FSA office at (970) 249-8407 ext. 2 visit the web at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap

Submit Loan Requests for Financing Early

Continued from Pg. 3...

with a farming operation. The staff at the Mesa County FSA office can provide more details on farm operation and micro-loans and provide loan applications. Loans to beginning farmers and members of underserved groups are a priority.

Please call the Mesa County office, 970-242-4511 ext. 2, if you have questions about any of the loans available through FSA. Other types of loans available include:

Marketing Assistance Loans allow producers to use eligible commodities as loan collateral and obtain a 9-month loan while the crop is in storage. These loans provide cash flow to the producer and allow them to market the crop when prices may be more advantageous.

Farm Storage Facility Loans can be used to build permanent structures used to store eligible commodities, or for storage and handling trucks, or portable or permanent handling equipment. A variety of Structures are eligible under this loan, including bunkers silos, grain gins, hay storage structures and refrigerated structures for vegetables and fruit. A producers may borrow up to \$500,000 per loan.



Environmental Appreciation Day

By Ashley Jackson-Bailey, NRCS Rangeland Conservationist

On October 8th, 5th grade students from Norwood, Naturita/Nucla, Dove Creek and Paradox spent the day in the Uncompahgre National Forest exploring their environment. This year marked the 32nd year of this educational event coordinated by Colorado State University Extension. Government personnel from Extension, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), San Miguel County (SMC) Vegetation Control, United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helped students understand the habitat and the natural resources in the forest.

Students participated in 5 stations that featured hands-on activities and adventures that helped them appreciate their environment. Extension started the day with explaining the structures and functions of the forest canopy layers and the different plants. They learned the principles of "Leave No Trace" from the USFS and how to apply these principles to their own outdoor adventures. USFS also taught them about Albert's squirrels and their relationship to the ponderosa pine forest. CPW talked to them about big game migration patterns along with finding, observing and locating signs of wildlife. They



learned about invasive weeds and how seeds can be spread throughout the forest by animals, as well as people, through SMC Vegetation Control. From the NRCS, they learned about the importance of soil in our environment, what you can find in the soil and that soils are not all the same. At this station, the students also participated in the game, "Soil: It's Alive!" giving them a better understanding of all the microorganisms found in the soil and how these microorganisms as well as plant roots all rely on each other for survival through an exchange of energy and nutrients.

NRCS 2020 Program Updates:

EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) - NRCS is currently accepting applications for 2020. The deadline for 2020 applications has not yet been set.

ACEP (Agricultural Land Easement Program) - NRCS is not currently accepting applications for this program. However, stay tuned as the program will be open for applications once the 2018 Farm Bill Program Policy is released.

For more information on either of these programs, please contact the Montrose NRCS Field Office at 102 Par Place, Montrose, CO 4014 or by phone at 970-249-8407.



Colorado SNOTEL Snow/Precipitation Update Report

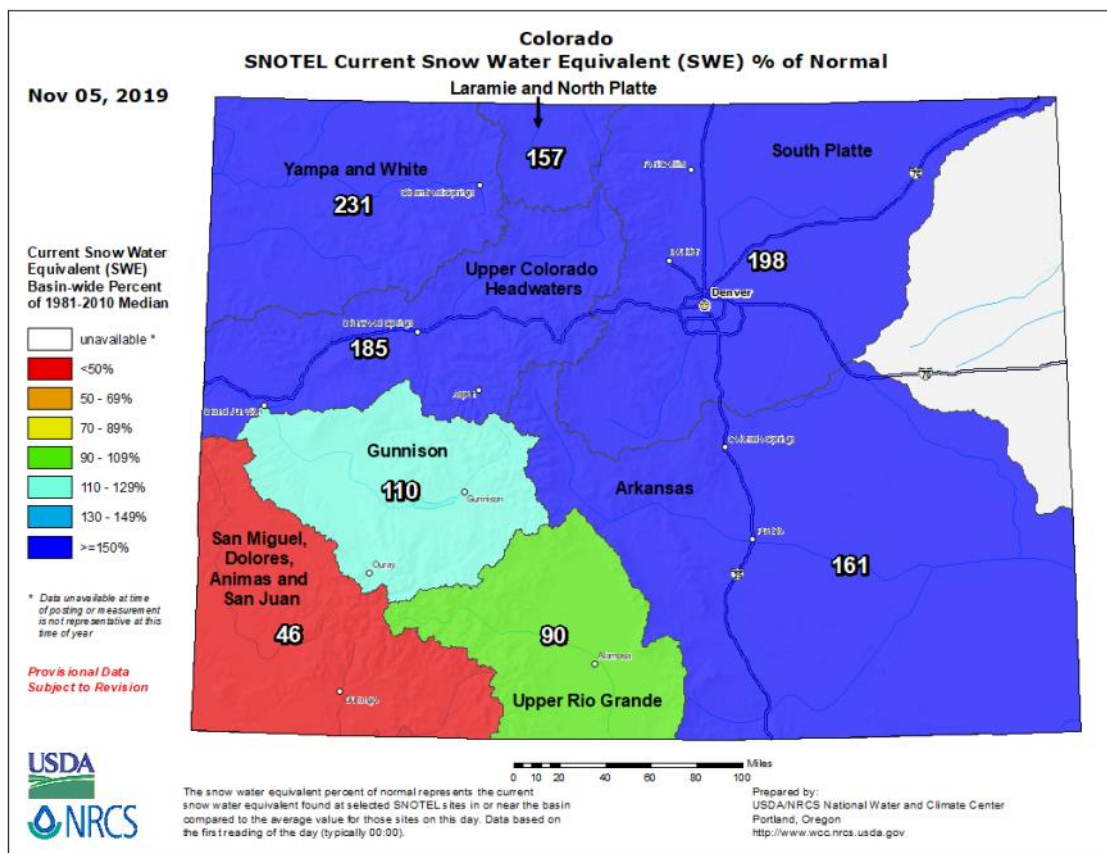
As of TUESDAY: November 5, 2019

BASIN Data Site Name	ELEV. (Ft)	SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT			TOTAL PRECIPITATION		
		Current	Median	% Median	Current	Average	% Avg
GUNNISON RIVER BASIN							
Butte	10160	0.9	0.7	129*	1.3	2.4	54
Cochetopa Pass	10020	1.3	0.1R	1300*	1.5	1.4R	107
Columbine Pass	9400	0.7	0.0	*	0.5	3.0	17
Idarado	9800	0.7	0.5	140*	1.2	3.3	36
Mc Clure Pass	9500	1.2	0.7	171*	2.2	3.6	61
Mesa Lakes	10000	1.1	1.4	79*	1.6	3.4	47
Overland Res.	9840	0.8	0.7	114*	1.4	3.1	45
Park Cone	9600	1.4	0.5	280*	1.4	1.9	74
Park Reservoir	9960	1.0	2.3	43*	1.3	4.6	28
Porphyry Creek	10760	2.3	1.0	230*	2.2	2.2	100
Red Mountain Pass	11200	1.1	2.1	52*	1.5	4.2	36
Sargents Mesa	11530	1.0	N/A	*	1.7	N/A	*
Schofield Pass	10700	3.3	3.3	100*	2.6	4.5	58
Slumgullion	11560	0.9	1.9	47	1.1	2.8	39
Upper Taylor	10640	1.1	N/A	*	2.2	N/A	*
Wager Gulch	11100	0.9	N/A	*	1.4	N/A	*
Basin Index (%)					110*		49

-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 249-8407 x113
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**
JO TRICE, Program Technician In-Charge **964-3572**
DEBBIE STEWART, Program Technician **964-3571**

MONTROSE-GUNNISON-OURAY COUNTY COMMITTEE

JOHN FIELD, Chairperson
CHERRI COOPER, Regular Member
DALE IRBY, Vice Chairperson
SARAH MCCONNELL, Regular Member
BRYAN DISTEL, Regular Member



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

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

970-249-8407



Direct Phone

ASHLEY JACKSON-BAILLIE, Range Conservationist **964-3591**
BILL HEAD, Civil Engineering Technician **964-3585**
DAVID OLIVERO, Shavano Engineering Technician **964-3581**
JACKIE KRAGEL, District Conservationist **964-3588**
JEREMY OMOVIG, Cultural Resource Specialist **964-3593**
JERRY ALLEN, Shavano IWM Specialist **964-3575**
CASEY HARRISON, Conservationist Planner **964-3580**
NANCY DEANS, Program Support Assistant **964-3570**
NICK FOSTER, Engineer Technician **964-3591**
SARAH MYERS, Soil Conservationist **964-3578**



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
AUSTIN SHELBY, Forester 133
SCOTT JOHNSON, Forester 127

GUNNISON FIELD OFFICE - 719-539-2579

(Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties/Salida Satellite Office)

P.O. Box 1390, Gunnison, CO 81230-1390

SAM PANKRATZ, Supervisory Forester
MIKE TARRANTINO, Forester
KELSEY LESNIAK, Forester
ANN WOOD, Administrative Assistant

SALIDA FIELD OFFICE - 719-539-2579

(Chaffee and Lake Counties)

7980 W Hwy 50, Salida, CO 81201

DAMON LANGE, Area Manager
JT SHAVER, Forester



SHAVANO CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Website: www.shavanocd.org

Direct Phone

KEN LIPTON, President **626-3951**
LANNY DENHAM, Vice President **323-5461**
BERT EARLE, Secretary/Treasurer **417-8064**
RON GERMANN **250-1201**
EDWARD ATENCIO **303-898-5855**
JACK BRUNGARDT **249-5081**
SETH URBANOWITZ, CSU Extension, ex-officio **874-2197**
PENNY BISHOP, Manager **964-3584**
MENDY STEWART, Education Coordinator **964-3582**



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
COURTNEY HAYNES Courtney.Haynes@COwildfire.org
 Wildfire Mitigation Specialist - Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties
BRIAN MAILLETT Brian.Maillett@COwildfire.org
 Wildfire Mitigation Specialist - Delta, Gunnison, and Hinsdale Counties

Dates to Remember

November 4, 2019	FSA County Committee Election Ballots mailed to eligible voters
November 11, 2019	Veteran's Day—Office Closed
November 12, 2019	Shavano CD Board Meeting 6:30 pm
November 12, 2019	Ag Water Workshop, Gunnison, 4-7pm
November 15, 2019	Acreage reporting deadline for fall-Seeded crops (rye, spelt, wheat), and 2019 production reporting
November 18-20, 2019	Colorado Assn. of Conservation Districts Annual Mtg, Colo. Springs
November 20, 2019	2020 NAP Application Closing Date for Apricots, Cherries, Grapes, Hops, Nectarines, Pears, Plums and Prunes
November 28, 2019	Thanksgiving Day—Office Closed
December 1, 2019	2020 NAP Application Closing Date for Alfalfa, Clover, Grass, Honey, Mixed Forage, Mustard, and Vetch
December 3, 2019	Regional Conservation Partnership Project Application Period Closes
December 2, 2019	Last Day to Return FSA Ballots to the USDA Service Center
December 6, 2019	FSA Deadline to Sign-up for Market Facilitation Program
December 10, 2019	Shavano CD Board Meeting 6:30pm
December 25, 2019	Christmas Day—Office Closed
January 1, 2020	FSA Newly Elected FSA County Committee Members Take Office
January 1, 2020	New Year's Day—Office Closed
January 2, 2020	2020 reporting deadline for honey (colonies).
January 14, 2020	Shavano CD Board Meeting 6:30 pm
January 15, 2020	2020 acreage reporting deadline for apples, peaches, grapes, prunes and other fruit crops.
January 23-24, 2020	Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum, Montrose, CO
February 20-21, 2020	Western Colorado Soil Health Conference, Delta, CO

Notice of SCD 2020 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 2020. 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 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). Such proposed budget will be considered at a regular meeting of the Shavano Conservation District Board of Supervisors to be held at 102 Par Place, Montrose, CO 81401 on November 12, 2019 and December 10, 2019 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 individual's 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.