



Shavano District

News

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SERVING MONTROSE, GUNNISON, OURAY, AND
SAN MIGUEL COUNTIES

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SCD Annual Meeting and Awardees

The 80th Annual Meeting and BBQ Dinner was held Friday, May 20 at the Ouray Event Center in Ridgway. Events of the evening included a special presentation by Erin Stadelman, re-instatement of board members Edward Atencio and Roxi Stewart, special recognition to Dave Dearstyne and Steve Woodis for service to the Conservation District, and awards to Weimer Ranches LLLP as Producer of the Year, Mex and Sons LLLP as Rancher of the Year, and Jo Schroeder as Teacher of the Year.



SCD Vice President, Lanny Denham (left), gives special recognition to Steve Woodis (center) and Dave Dearstyne (right)



Producer of the Year: Zene Weimer and his family accepted the award on behalf of Weimer Ranches LLLP



Rancher of the Year: Raymond & Phyllis Snyder and Scott & Robin Snyder accepted the award on behalf of Mex and Sons LLLP



Teacher of the Year: Jo Schroeder (right) accepted the Teacher of the Year award from Mendy Stewart, Shavano Conservation District (left).



Local Work Group Prioritizes NRCS Resource Concerns

Shavano Conservation District would like your input in helping our local NRCS office prioritize local conservation priorities; In the past, information from our Local Work Group has enabled NRCS to adjust priority resource concerns, change allocation distributions, create new fund pools for priority/specialized projects, request changes in payment schedules & much more.

Even if you missed our Local Work Group Meeting in May, you still have time to let NRCS know about your natural resource concerns through a short online survey: <https://forms.gle/1tDf9U7mAepPSTzf9>

The purpose of the survey is to get producer input at the local level to help improve upon NRCS delivery of programs and technical support. Examples include training needs, resource concerns, new technology/practices to consider, implementation barriers, ect. Your survey answers will remain anonymous. Estimated time to complete this survey is 5-10 minutes.

We encourage you to take part in this short survey so that you will have a voice in the opportunities to make agriculture an important priority for our valley!

Advertise with the Shavano District News

If you have a business that you would like to advertise in the SCD News, contact Mendy Stewart at 970-964-3582 for more information and rates.

Ranching for Profit Workshop with Dallas Mount

June 21, 2022 | 9:00 am -3:30 pm
\$20 | Pre-Registration Required



This one day workshop will explore how good grazing management is key to improving profit in the ranching business. Learn how to improve land and create a profitable business that can stay in the family for generations.

Schedule

- 8:30 am** Check-in, coffee, and refreshments
- 9:00 am** Classroom lesson & discussion
- 12:00 pm** Catered lunch
- 1:30 pm** Ranch visit - applying best practices in the field (soft ending at 3:30 pm)

Workshop Topics

- ◇ **Economics of grazing management**
- ◇ **Grazing principles and how to apply them**
- ◇ **Soil health for grass**

Details

Location: Fred Field Western Heritage Center (Van Tuyl Room), 275 S Spruce Street, Gunnison, CO 81230

RSVP by June 19 to: Marcella Tarantino, at the Gunnison USDA-NRCS Office

Phone: 970-707-3049 **Email:** Marcella.Tarantino@usda.gov

Register online at: <https://campscui.active.com/orgs/BirdConservancyoftheRockies> or pay with cash (exact change only) or check (made out to Bird Conservancy of the Rockies). Pay in advance highly encouraged.



Connecting People, Birds and Land

www.birdconservancy.org



Adam Zimmerman Joins the Montrose NRCS Team

In May Adam Zimmerman joined the Montrose NRCS team as a Soil Conservationist. He was raised in rural Middle Tennessee and was a farmhand in numerous different Ag production operations from 1994 to 2002. Adam did a short stint in the Navy after 9/11 before being injured during training in 2004. After returning to Tennessee, he steelted near Knoxville and met his would-be wife, Natalie. From 2007-2014, Adam was a Firefighter/Paramedic/Hazmat-Tech for the City of Kingston Fire Department. Adam and Natalie married in 2010. Natalie works as an OB/GYN Sonographer at Alpine Women’s Center in Montrose. They have 2 children; daughter, Ellah is 11 years old and son, River is 5 years old.

A lifetime of curious wonder and a deep love of nature finally led Adam to chase his dream of being a scientist when he returned to college in 2014. Adam completed a B.S. in Environmental & Soil Sciences (major concentration in Soils, minor in Watershed) in 2018 and a M.S. in Environmental & Soil Sciences in 2021, both at the University of Tennessee—Knoxville. “I honored to have the opportunity to serve the producers and stakeholders of this area and could not be more excited for my new career.” Adam shared. He and his family look forward to meeting many more friendly people as they



Rangeland Resilience Workshop



Drought and aridification have had major impacts on ranch operations for the last two decades, and forecasts show that this trend is likely to continue. However, various short and long term strategies may help ameliorate the impacts of drought.

In addition to learning about building resilience in your rangelands, workshops will feature a field trip to see strategies in action. We will also host a session to share what programs and funding sources are available from various agencies.

Topics will include:

- Grazing and drought management
- Restoration and resilience
- Wet meadow restoration
- Conifer removal
- Cheatgrass management
- Funding programs



Workshop details:

- **Hotchkiss:** Rogers Mesa CSU-Extension Building
July 19, 2022, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Gunnison:** Fred Field Heritage Center, Van Tuyl Room
July 27, 2022, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Glade Park:** Glade Park Community Center
July 29, 2022, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information or to RSVP:

Marcella Tarantino (970) 707-3049; marcella.tarantino@usda.gov

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Call

Mendy Stewart

at 249-8407 x113

or email to mendy.stewart@co.nacdnet.net



USDA to Provide \$6 billion to Commodity and Specialty Crop Producers Impacted by 2020 and 2021 Natural Disasters

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced that commodity and specialty crop producers impacted by natural disaster events in 2020 and 2021 will soon begin receiving emergency relief payments totaling approximately \$6 billion through the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) new Emergency Relief Program (ERP) to offset crop yield and value losses.

Background

On September 30, 2021, President Biden signed into law the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 117-43), which includes \$10 billion in assistance to agricultural producers impacted by wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, winter storms, and other eligible disasters experienced during calendar years 2020 and 2021. FSA recently made payments to ranchers impacted by drought and wildfire through the first phase of the Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP). ERP is another relief component of the Act.

For impacted producers, existing Federal Crop Insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) data is the basis for calculating initial payments. USDA estimates that phase one ERP benefits will reach more than 220,000 producers who received indemnities for losses covered by federal crop insurance and more than 4,000 producers who obtained NAP coverage for 2020 and 2021 crop losses.

ERP Eligibility – Phase One

ERP covers losses to crops, trees, bushes, and vines due to a qualifying natural disaster event in calendar years 2020 and 2021. Eligible crops include all crops for which crop insurance or NAP coverage was available, except for crops intended for grazing. Qualifying natural disaster events include wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, winter storms, freeze (including a polar vortex), smoke exposure, excessive moisture, qualifying drought, and related conditions.

For drought, ERP assistance is available if any area within the county in which the loss occurred was rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a:

- D2 (severe drought) for eight consecutive weeks; or
- D3 (extreme drought) or higher level of drought intensity.

Lists of 2020 and 2021 drought counties eligible for ERP is available on the emergency relief website.

To streamline and simplify the delivery of ERP phase one benefits, FSA will send pre-filled application forms to producers where crop insurance and NAP data are already on file. This form includes eligibility requirements, outlines the application process and provides ERP payment calculations. Producers will receive a separate application form for each program year in which an eligible loss occurred. Receipt of a pre-filled application is not confirmation that a producer is eligible to receive an ERP phase one payment.

Additionally, producers must have the following forms on file with FSA within 60 days of the ERP phase one deadline, which will later be announced by FSA's Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs:

- Form AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet.
- Form CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan for an individual or legal entity.
- Form CCC-901, Member Information for Legal Entities (if applicable).
- Form FSA-510, Request for an Exception to the \$125,000 Payment Limitation for Certain Programs (if applicable).
- Form CCC-860, Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification, if applicable, for the 2021 program year.
- A highly erodible land conservation (sometimes referred to as HELC) and wetland conservation certification (Form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification) for the ERP producer and applicable affiliates.

Most producers, especially those who have previously participated in FSA programs, will likely have these required forms on file. However, those who are uncertain or want to confirm the status of their forms can contact

...See "Phase One of ERP..." on page 5



USDA Reminds Producers to File Crop Acreage Reports

Agricultural producers who have not yet completed their crop acreage reports after spring planting should make an appointment with their local county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office before the applicable deadline.

An acreage report documents a crop grown on a farm or ranch and its intended uses. Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits.

How to File a Report

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Montrose-Gunnison-Ouray County:

June 15, 2022 Onions

July 15, 2022 All perennial and spring seeded crops

Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. Because of the pandemic, some USDA Service Centers are open to limited visitors. Contact your local county FSA office

to set up an in-person or phone appointment and find out the deadlines in your county.

To file a crop acreage report, you will need to provide:

- Crop and crop type or variety.
- Intended use of the crop.
- Number of acres of the crop.
- Map with approximate boundaries for the crop.
- Planting date(s).
- Planting pattern, when applicable.
- Producer shares.
- Irrigation practice(s).
- Acreage prevented from planting, when applicable.
- Other information as required.

Acreage Reporting Details

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the acreage reporting

date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

Producers should also report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were unable to plant. Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and USDA's Risk Management Agency.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP-covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

More Information

For questions, please contact your local county FSA office.

Phase One of ERP Payment Calculations

...Continued from page 4

their local FSA county office.

ERP Payment Calculations – Phase One

For crops covered by crop insurance, the ERP phase one payment calculation for a crop and unit will depend on the type and level of coverage obtained by the producer. Each calculation will use an ERP factor based on the producer's level of crop insurance or NAP coverage.

- **Crop Insurance** – the ERP factor is 75% to 95% depending on the level of coverage ranging from catastrophic to at least 80% coverage.

- **NAP** – the ERP factor is 75% to 95% depending on the level of coverage ranging from catastrophic to 65% coverage.

Full ERP payment calculation factor tables are available on the emergency relief website and in the program fact sheet.

Applying ERP factors ensures that payments to producers do not exceed available funding and that cumulative payments do not exceed 90% of losses for all producers as required by the Act.

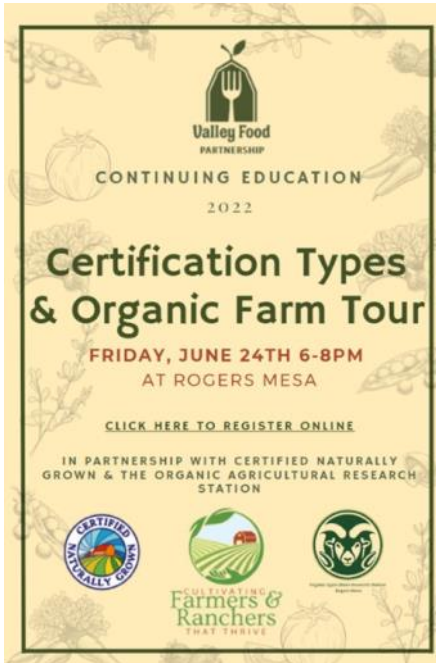
Also, there will be certain payment cal-

culcation considerations for area plans under crop insurance policies.

The ERP payment percentage for historically underserved producers, including beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers and ranchers will be increased by 15% of the calculated payment for crops having insurance coverage or NAP.

To qualify for the higher payment percentage, eligible producers must have a CCC-860, Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification, form

...See "ERP Offsets Crop..." on page 6



Cultivating Farmers and Ranchers That Thrive

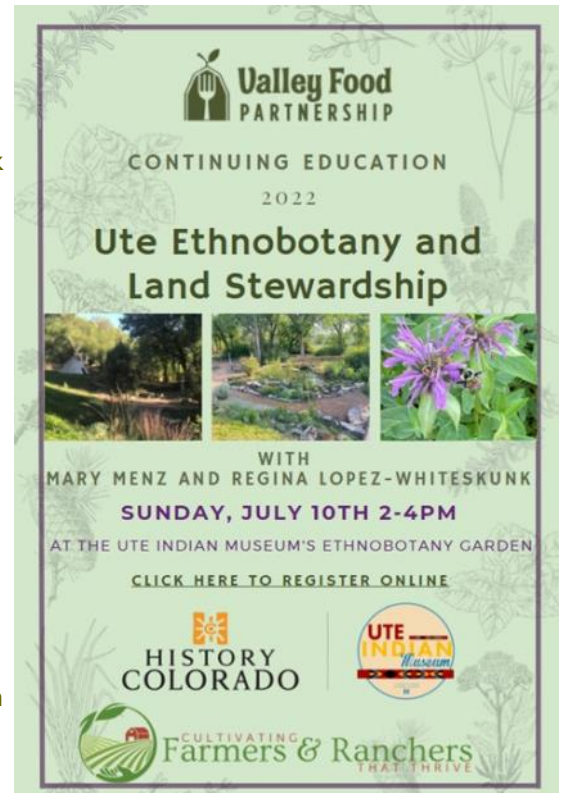
Sharing some upcoming Continuing Education learning opportunities that are offered through Valley Food Partnership’s Cultivating Farmers & Ranchers that Thrive (CFRT) program. **Certifications & Organic Farm Tour:** June 24th 6-8pm at Rogers Mesa in Hotchkiss, Explore various types of farm certifications available and how they can support you in promoting your farm practices. Enjoy a tour of Rogers Mesa, an organic research station, which includes production of fruit trees, vegetables, and wine & table grapes. If you are new to farming and ranching, this is a wonderful chance to learn about options in the field!

Please pre-register online [limited capacity] at <https://valleyfoodpartnership.org/upcoming-events> and contact audrey@valleyfoodpartnership.org with any questions.

Ute Ethnobotany & Land Stewardship: July 10th 2-4pm Learn about native plants through a tour of the Ute Ethnobotany garden led by Mary Menz, followed by a conversation with Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk

on harvesting traditions, land stewardship, and how we can work together as neighbors caring for the land. Special thanks to the Ute Indian Museum for hosting this workshop at the Ute Ethnobotany garden.

Please pre-register online [limited capacity] at <https://valleyfoodpartnership.org/upcoming-events> and contact audrey@valleyfoodpartnership.org with any questions.



ERP Offsets Crop Yield and Value Losses from Natural Disasters

...Continued from page 5

on file with FSA for the 2021 program year.

Because the amount of loss due to a qualifying disaster event in calendar years 202 and 2021 cannot be separated from the amount of loss caused by other eligible causes of loss as defined by the applicable crop insurance or NAP policy, the ERP phase one payment will be calculated based on the producer’s loss due to all eligible causes of loss.

Future Insurance Coverage Requirements

All producers who receive ERP phase one payments, including those receiving a payment based on crop, tree, bush, or vine insurance policies, are statutorily required to purchase crop insurance, or NAP coverage where crop insurance is not available, for the next two available crop years, as determined by the Secretary. Participants must obtain crop insurance or NAP, as may be applicable:

- At a coverage level equal to or greater than 60% for insurable crops; or

- At the catastrophic level or higher for NAP crops.

Coverage requirements will be determined from the date a producer receives an ERP payment and may vary depending on the timing and availability of crop insurance or NAP for a producer’s particular crops. The final crop year to purchase crop insurance

...See “Emergency Relief...” on page 8

USDA SERVICE CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

970-249-8407

Direct Phone

MIKE STEFFEN, District Director **964-3590**
NATALIE PARKER, County Exec. Dir. **964-3589**
JO TRICE, Program Technician **964-3572**
DEBBIE STEWART, Program Technician **964-3571**



MONTROSE-GUNNISON-OURAY COUNTY COMMITTEE

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

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 jodi.rist@colostate.edu	132
AUSTIN SHELBY , Forester austin.shelby@colostate.edu	133
SCOTT JOHNSON , Forester scott.johnson2@colostate.edu	127
TANYA BANULIS , Forester tanya.banulis@colostate.edu	129
AMARA ROSE , Forest Technician amara.rose@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

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

970-249-8407



	Direct Phone
ADAM ZIMMERMAN , Soil Conservationist	964-3570
AMANDA JAMES , Soil Conservationist	964-3580
CARMA EDGELL , Program Support Specialist	964-3576
CASEY HARRISON , Resource Conservationist	964-3577
JAMISON JEWKES , Montrose/Gunnison Resource Team Lead	964-3588
JEFF LONG , Ag Engineer Project Leader	964-3586
JEREMY OMVIG , Cultural Resource Specialist	964-3593
JERRY ALLEN , Shavano IWM Specialist	964-3575
MARISSA MARKUS , Soil Conservationist	964-3581
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
SHELLY MCLAUGHLIN-MALISH	424-4451
STEVE HALE	
CARL MCKINNEY	
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
ROB MCCANN , GIS/IT	Rob..Mccann@cowildfire.org
COURTNEY HAYNES Wildfire Mitigation Specialist - Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties	Courtney.Haynes@COwildfire.org

Dates to Remember

Now	Report any crop or livestock losses/adverse weather conditions to the county office within 15 days of the event.
June 15, 2022	Acreage Reporting Deadline for Onions
June 21, 2022	Shavano CD Board Meeting, 7:00pm
June 20, 2022	Juneteenth—Office Closed
June 25, 2022	Ridgway RiverFest, Rollans Park, Ridgway
June 30, 2022	Deadline to request ELAP assistance for hauling livestock to forage in 2021
July 4, 2022	Independence Day—Office Closed
July 12, 2022	Shavano CD Board Meeting, 7:00pm
July 15, 2022	Acreage Reporting Deadline all perennial and spring crops including hemp
August 9, 2022	Shavano CD Board Meeting, 7:00pm
September 5, 2022	Labor Day—Office Closed

Emergency Relief for Crop and Livestock Producers

...Continued from page 6

or NAP coverage to meet the second year of coverage for this requirement is the 2026 crop year.

Emergency Relief – Phase Two (Crop and Livestock Producers)

Today's announcement is only phase one of relief for commodity and specialty crop producers. Making the initial payments using existing safety net and risk management data will both speed implementation and further encourage participation in these permanent programs, such as Federal crop insurance, as Congress intended.

The second phase of both ERP and

ELRP programs will fill gaps and cover producers who did not participate in or receive payments through the existing programs that are being leveraged for phase one implementation. When phase one payment processing is complete, the remaining funds will be used to cover gaps identified under phase two.

Through proactive communication and outreach, USDA will keep producers and stakeholders informed as program details are made available. More information on ERP can be found in the Notice of Funding Availability.

Additional Commodity Loss Assistance

The Milk Loss Program and On-Farm Stored Commodity Loss Program are also funded through the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act and will be announced in a future rule in the Federal Register.

More Information

Additional USDA disaster assistance information can be found on [farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov), including the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet, and Farm Loan Dis-

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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.