



# Shavano District

SERVING MONTROSE, GUNNISON, AND OURAY COUNTIES

SUMMER  
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## Shavano CD and San Miguel Basin CD Apply for Merger

Shavano CD and San Miguel Basin CD have submitted a joint request to the Colorado State Conservation Board to merge. "Both Districts feel merging will better cover our constituents needs," says Shavano CD Board President Ken Lipton. "Our Districts have worked together for years as members of the Dolores

-Gunnison Watershed."

Shavano CD and San Miguel Basin CD are 2 of Colorado's 76 conservation districts formed to coordinate technical and financial assistance to meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources. Since the Dust Bowl of the 1930's, Colorado Conservation Districts have provided leadership, encouraged wise resource decisions, set standards, encouraged stewardship and education to cooperators, agencies, land users, and youth on conserving, improving, and sustaining our natural resources and the environment.

Currently Shavano CD includes most of eastern Montrose County, all of Ouray County, southwest Gunnison County, and a very small portion of Delta County. San Miguel Basin CD includes the west end of Montrose County and all of San Miguel County. The new combined district would be more consistent with county lines, including all of Ouray and San Miguel Counties, and nearly all of Montrose County, The boundaries that include portions of Gunnison and Delta Counties will remain unchanged.

If CSCB grants the two Districts the authority to consolidate, each district will host a public hearing regarding the consolidation request. Following the public hearing, each District Board will request CSCB prepare a notice of election. After a county-wide election approving consolidation, the remaining Supervisors of the Board would serve on the new consolidated Board. Within 6 months, the new District would determine Supervisor terms and the number to serve on the Board.

## SCD Taking Bids for JD Scraper

92 John Deere 862B Land Scraper via sealed bid to highest bidder for cash. We reserve the right to reject any and all bids. To inspect prior to submitting bid, call 970-964-3584. Property being sold as-is no warranties.



Mail written bid to: Shavano Conservation District, Attn: " Sealed Bid", 102 Par Place, Ste 4, Montrose, CO 81401 by 5PM 7/28/20 .



# 2021 Western Colorado Soil Health Conference

The Western Colorado Soil Health Conference (WCSHC) would like your input on the 2021 Conference. In consideration of the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis, the WCSHC is considering modifications to the conference. The Conference planning committee would like to know your thoughts on a virtual conference verses an in-person conference, or a hybrid allowing for both in-person and virtual attendance to the conference. Please take a few

minutes to complete a survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SJZ3XD9>. The survey link is also available on the WCSHC website at <http://www.westerncoloradohealth.org/> and on the SCD website at <https://www.shavanocd.org/>.

Please join us for a Virtual Lunch and Learn

Colorado's agriculture experts are gathering for a Colorado Proud Roundtable

**Western Slope Ag-Recovery: Discoveries and Growth, from Peach Freeze to Pandemic**

Create your own Colorado Proud lunch from one of our favorite recipes and join agriculture industry peers as they share firsthand experiences, reactions and key learnings from the Western Slope region's double disruption.

**Tuesday, July 28 | Noon-1:00 p.m.**

\*Check-in\* to begin at 11:45 a.m., with discussion starting promptly at Noon.

**RSVP NOW**

Find a local recipe idea at [ColoradoProud.com/Recipes](https://ColoradoProud.com/Recipes)



Dr. Kris Nichols giving the keynote message at the 2020 Western Colorado Soil Health Conference.

The informative virtual roundtable will feature a mix of Colorado-based ag panelists who will share their stories and unexpected discoveries from the region's April peach freeze, as well as the global pandemic, to help guide other ag communities in responding to loss and growing (literally!) new opportunities.

**Wendy White, marketing specialist, Colorado Proud**  
Moderator for the panel discussion

**Colorado Commissioner of Agriculture Kate Greenberg**  
Resources for businesses, supply chain, resilience, goals for Colorado agriculture

**Bruce Talbott, farm manager, Talbott Farms, Palisade**  
Impact, alternative growth/varieties, marketing channels, looking ahead

**Josh Niernberg, executive chef and owner Bin 707 Foodbar, Tocoparty and Bin Burger, Grand Junction**  
Adaptability, modifications, restaurant culture, future

**Kelli Hepler, president, Colorado Agritourism Association**  
Marketing farms, new guidelines, events, The Palisade Peach Festival

If you have questions, please email [coproud@philosophycommunication.com](mailto:coproud@philosophycommunication.com).



## CRD “Water With Your Lunch” Webinars

If you missed the “Water With Your Lunch” webinar by the Colorado River District on Tuesday July 14, you can still view an online recording of it. This is the third in the River District’s “Water With Your Lunch” series of lunchtime webinars. This and the previous webinars in the series can be viewed at [www.coloradoriverdistrict.org/webinars](http://www.coloradoriverdistrict.org/webinars).

In the session held on July 14, viewers can learn more about weather, water and climate. State Climatologist Russ Schumacher joined River District Deputy Engineer Dave Kanzer in a discussion about the interrelationships between climate and hydrology — and the cycles of snow, rains and monsoons. In sum total, this is our water supply in the West.



# FSA Taking Applications for Direct Assistance to Farmers through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program Until August 28

**U**SDA Announces Details of Direct Assistance to Farmers through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced details of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which will provide up to \$16 billion in direct payments to deliver relief to America's farmers and ranchers impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. In addition to this direct support to farmers and ranchers, USDA's Farmers to Families Food Box program is partnering with regional and local distributors, whose workforces have been significantly impacted by the closure of many restaurants, hotels, and other food service entities, to purchase \$3 billion in fresh produce, dairy, and meat and deliver boxes to Americans in need.

Beginning May 26, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through the Farm Service Agency (FSA), will be accepting applications from agricultural producers who have suffered losses.

Background:

CFAP provides vital financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities who have suffered a five-percent-or-greater price decline due to COVID-19 and face additional significant marketing costs as a result of lower demand, surplus production, and disruptions to shipping patterns and the orderly marketing of commodities.

Farmers and ranchers will receive direct support, drawn from two possible funding sources. The first source of funding is \$9.5 billion in appropriated funding provided in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability (CARES) Act to compensate farmers for losses due to price declines that occurred between mid-January 2020, and mid-April 2020 and provides support for specialty crops for product that had been shipped from the farm between the same time period but subsequently spoiled due to loss of marketing channels. The second funding source uses the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act to compensate producers for \$6.5 billion in losses due to on-going market disruptions.

## Non-Specialty Crops and Wool

Non-specialty crops eligible for CFAP payments include malting barley, canola, corn, upland cotton, millet, oats, soybeans, sorghum, sunflowers, durum wheat, and hard red spring wheat. Wool is also eligible. Producers will be paid based on inventory subject to price risk held as of January 15, 2020. A payment will be made based 50 percent of a producer's 2019 total production or the 2019 inventory as of January 15, 2020, whichever is smaller, multiplied by the commodity's applicable payment rates.

## Livestock

Livestock eligible for CFAP include cattle, lambs, yearlings and hogs. The total payment will be calculated using the sum of the producer's number of livestock sold between January 15 and April 15, 2020, multiplied by the payment rates per head, and the highest inventory number of livestock between April 16 and May 14, 2020, multiplied by the payment rate per head.

## Dairy

For dairy, the total payment will be calculated based on a producer's certification of milk production for the first quarter of calendar year 2020 multiplied by a national price decline during the same quarter. The second part of the payment is based a national adjustment to each producer's production in the first quarter.

## Specialty Crops

For eligible specialty crops, the total payment will be based on the volume of production sold between January 15 and April 15, 2020; the volume of production shipped, but unpaid; and the number of acres for which harvested production did not leave the farm or mature product destroyed or not harvested during that same time period, and which have not and will not be sold. Specialty crops include, but are not limited to, almonds, beans, broccoli, sweet corn, lemons, iceberg lettuce, spinach, squash, strawberries and tomatoes. A full list of eligible crops can be found on [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap). Additional crops may be deemed eligible at a later date.

*Cont'd on pg. 4....*



Cont'd from pg. 4.....

## FSA Taking Applications for Direct Assistance to Farmers through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program Until August 28

### Eligibility

There is a payment limitation of \$250,000 per person or entity for all commodities combined. Applicants who are corporations, limited liability companies or limited partnerships may qualify for additional payment limits where members actively provide personal labor or personal management for the farming operation. Producers will also have to certify they meet the Adjusted Gross Income limitation of \$900,000 unless at least 75 percent or more of their income is derived from farming, ranching or forestry-related activities. Producers must also be in compliance with Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions.

### Applying for Assistance

Producers can apply for assistance beginning on May 26, 2020. Additional information and application forms can be found at [farmers.gov/cfap](http://farmers.gov/cfap). Producers of all eligible commodities will apply through their local FSA office. Documentation to support the producer's application and certification may be requested. FSA has streamlined the signup process to not require an acreage report at the time of application and a

USDA farm number may not be immediately needed. Applications will be accepted through August 28, 2020.

### Payment Structure

To ensure the availability of funding throughout the application period, producers will receive 80 percent of their maximum total payment upon approval of the application. The remaining portion of the payment, not to exceed the payment limit, will be paid at a later date as funds remain available.

USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only, and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with producers by phone and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or any other Service Center agency are required to call their Service Center to schedule a phone appointment. More information can be found at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](http://farmers.gov/coronavirus).

Questions? Please contact your local FSA Office.

## Higher Limits Now Available on USDA Farm Loans

Higher limits are now available for borrowers interest in USDA's farm loans, which help agricultural producers purchase farms or cover operating expenses. The 2018 Farm Bill increased the amount that producers can borrow through direct and guaranteed loans available through USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and made changes to other loans, such as microloans and emergency loans. Key changes include:

- The Direct Operating Loan limit increased from \$300,000 to \$400,000, and the Guaranteed Operating Loan limit increased from \$1.429 million to \$1.75 million. Operating loans help producers pay for normal operating expenses, including machinery and equipment, seed, livestock feed, and more.
- The Direct Farm Ownership Loan limit increased from \$300,000 to \$600,000, and the Guaranteed Farm Ownership Loan limit increased from \$1.429 million to \$1.75 million. Farm ownership loans help producers become owner-operators of family farms as well as improve and expand current operations.
- Producers can now receive both a \$50,000 Farm Ownership Microloan and a \$50,000 Operating Microloan. Previously, microloans were limited to a combined \$50,000. Microloans provide flexible access to credit for small, beginning, niche, and non-traditional farm operations.
- Producers who previously received debt forgiveness as part of an approved FSA restructuring plan are now eligible to apply for emergency loans. Previously, these producers were ineligible.
- Beginning and socially disadvantaged producers can now receive up to a 95 percent guarantee against the loss of principal and interest on a loan, up from 90 percent.



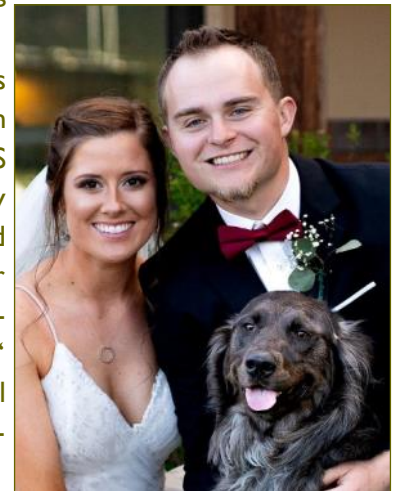
David Olivero

## Changes in the Montrose USDA Field Office

David Olivero resigned from his Engineer Technician position with SCD in order to become an online engineering instructor. This is a tremendous gain for David’s students studying for engineering certification and a great loss for Shavano CD and the Montrose NRCS staff. Since David came to work at SCD in 2018 we have really appreciated his engineering talent and his positive and encouraging personality!

In June Nick Foster also left Shavano CD to advance his career in Engineering. Nick started with Shavano CD in September 2019 as an Engineer Technician to assist NRCS with engineering designs through a Basin States Salinity Program grant by Colorado State Conservation Board (Colorado Dept. of Agriculture) and NRCS. While working for Shavano CD Nick enjoyed being able to contribute his design experience toward completing conservation projects for landowners, from vision, to design, to installation. “Making the landowner’s vision into a reality on their land,” Nick stated. While we will miss having Nick in the Montrose Field Office, we are excited for him and the opportunities his new position will give him the future.

*Cont’d on pg. 6 “Montrose NRCS Hires...”*



Nick and his high school sweetheart, Kelsie, married in June 2019 with their dog, Chase.



## USDA Expands Farmers.gov Features to Help Manage Conservation Activities

New self-service features on farmers.gov will help farmers and ranchers manage their conservation activities online. You’ll now be able to view, download, and e-sign documents, request conservation assistance, view technical references and submit questions, access information on

current and past conservation practices, and view detailed information on all previous and ongoing contracts, including the amount of planned and received cost-share assistance. These conservation features join several others already available through the authenticated farmers.gov portal.

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

Call Mendy Stewart

at 964-3582

or email to [mendy.stewart@co.nacdnet.net](mailto:mendy.stewart@co.nacdnet.net)



Cont'd from pg. 5 “Changes in the Montrose USDA Field Office”

## Montrose NRCS Hires Engineer Tech and Rangeland Conservationist



John Miller next to a research quality advanced soil moisture monitoring system that he installed in 2018

John Miller joined the Montrose NRCS team in May as a Civil Engineering Technician and will be doing engineering design, drafting and surveying. John is a lifelong resident of Delta County. He worked previously for Wilmore and Company Land Surveying and UTE Engineering while in his 20’s. John was with the Delta Conservation District for right at 10 years (all of his 30’s). While at Delta Conservation District, John spent the first year and a half as an engineering technician and the remainder of the time there in the Irrigation Water Management position.

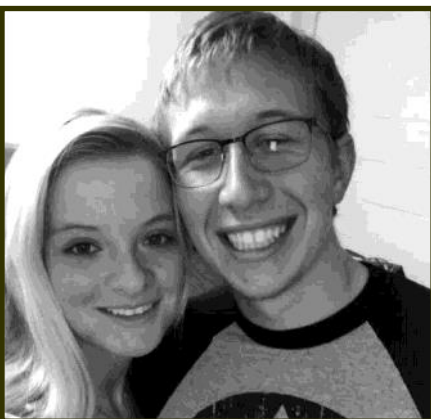
Amanda James also joined Montrose NRCS this spring. She wanted to work for NRCS Colorado because growing up in Fort Collins she found Colorado’s many environments to be wildly diverse. She is enamored with how you can travel 40 miles or less in any direction and be in an utterly unique ecosystem.



Amanda James visiting the Black Canyon of the Gunnison

Amanda was introduced to NRCS through her grandma who had land in CRP and was paid to “keep it grass”. Later Amanda’s father decided for economic reasons to put that land back into farm ground. This sparked Amanda’s interest as a teenager to discover more about NRCS and the reasons they support producers.

Amanda attended Colorado State University receiving a double major: Natural Resources Management, and Rangeland Ecology. She was active in CSU’s Rangeland Ecology Club; Club President during her final semester and attended several Society for Range Management meetings. Amanda was on the logging team, traveling and competing in lumberjack competitions.



Newly-Weds Sarah and Colin Erickson

We would also like to extend congratulations to Sarah Myers (now Sarah Erickson!), Montrose NRCS Conservation Planner, on her recent nuptials to her sweetheart Colin Erickson.

**Advertise with the  
Shavano District News**

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

# 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**

### MONTROSE-GUNNISON-OURAY COUNTY COMMITTEE

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



## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

970-249-8407



Direct Phone

**AMANDA JAMES**, Soil Conservationist      **964-3580**  
**BILL HEAD**, Civil Engineering Technician      **964-3585**  
**JACKIE KRAGEL**, District Conservationist      **964-3588**  
**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.shavanocd.org](http://www.shavanocd.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](http://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](http://www.cowildfire.org)

**New Address - 510 S Cascade Ave, Montrose**

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

## Dates to Remember

July 15, 2020	Acreage Reporting Deadline for Perennial forage and all other crops
August 5, 2020	Planning Committee Meeting for Western Colorado Soil Health Conference, 1pm on Zoom
August 11, 2020	Shavano CD Board Meeting, 7:00pm
August 13, 2020	West Region Wildfire Council Meeting, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
September 7, 2020	Labor Day—Office Closed
September 8, 2020	Shavano CD Board Meeting, 7:00pm
September 30, 2020	Deadline for updating PLC Yields
October 12, 2020	Columbus Day—Office Closed
October 13, 2020	Shavano CD Board Meeting, 7:00pm

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. 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.***