



Shavano District

Winter
News

SERVING MONTROSE, GUNNISON, AND OURAY COUNTIES

WINTER 2020
VOLUME 23
ISSUE 1

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Ag Conference Focus is Soil Health and Growing Healthy Food

Is soil the key to human health? The links between healthy soil, plants, animals, and us are well known, yet remain complex. This year's 8th Annual Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum January 24 -25, 2020 at the Montrose Pavilion, takes a deep dive into these relationships through its theme, "Synergy of the Soil: Growing Healthy Food." The conference theme provides focus to 18 workshops on crops, livestock, soil health, irrigation, nutrient dense food, labor issues, orchards, seed sources, agrihoods, small grain production, and financial management. Farmers, ranchers, ag-students, gardeners, and those interested in food issues will find sessions of interest.



Nicole Masters

Nicole Masters, the keynote speaker, is an internationally recognized agro-ecologist. She anchors this year's conference with a half-day workshop

and is endorsed by many leaders in agriculture. Soil health guru and rancher, Gabe Brown says of her, "For years, many of us involved in regenerative agriculture have been touting the soil health – plant health – animal health – human health connection



but no one has tied them all together as Nicole does." Getting to the root of creating productive, healthy, and profitable farming systems that create nutrient dense food is the focus of her workshop, "Turning Your Soil On for Optimal Plant Health."

Livestock producers can explore how to increase stocking rates, profitability, soil health and biodiversity even in drought conditions, in the half-day session, "Greening the Desert and Your Bottom Line." Presenting this workshop is Alejandro Carillos, internationally known for innovative practices that grew his business from a 300-head to a 1,000-head operation using only livestock and six inches of annual rainfall.

Producers interested in further developing their agri-business will explore how to attract, develop, and retain their customers and their team through the session, "Growing Your Farm Family Business." This session goes to the heart of how to create, grow, and sustain a successful business by learning key leadership skills that increase collaboration and trust. Jan Salisbury, one of last year's most popular presenters returns with this powerful half-day workshop.



Synergy of the Soil

Continued from Pg. 1...

Topics presented by locally and nationally known speakers include: Practical Field Skills for Assessing Soil Health, Understanding the Microbiome, Improving Weed Management, Drip Irrigation Methods, Positioning Your Operation for Financial Success, Fencing Techniques, Agri-hoods, Unpacking Your Seed Source, Small Grain Production, Orchard Soil Health, H2A Labor Solutions for Small Farms, Be First to Market with Strategic Crop Planning, and Planned Grazing for Profit and Planet.

“The conference is designed to provide a rich menu of workshop options and to encourage networking among participants during a sponsored chili dinner Friday, round table discussions, a farmer-to-farmer invention convention, and a post conference bowling night,” says organizer Carol Parker.

The conference offers discounts to those registering by January 10th. Scholarships are available by application to FFA, 4H, and beginning farmers or ranchers. Locally sourced food is provided throughout the conference. Interpretation and registration materials in Spanish are also available.

The Valley Food Partnership, CSU Extension, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, ENGAGE, and Shavano Conservation District organize the conference collaboratively. For a complete list of topics or to register please visit: foodfarmforum.org or call (781) 264-1882.



It Begins With Soil Health!

Soil Health is critical to the future of agricultural production on the Western Slope of Colorado. As pressure on agricultural production increases, soil health practices can insure that agricultural needs are met with sustainable production, quality and economic viability.

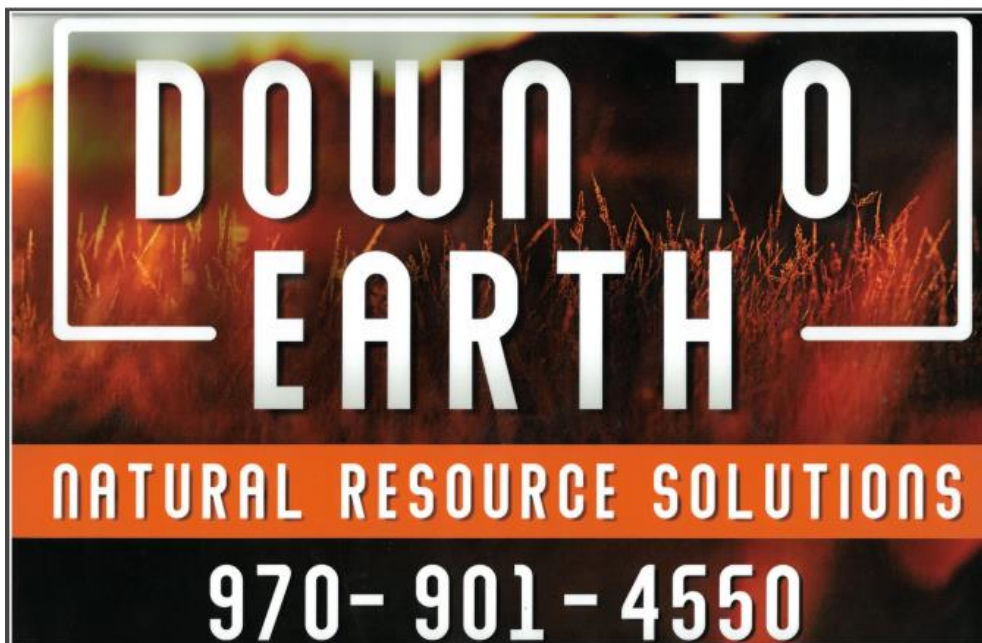

Dr. Kris Nichols, internationally recognized soil microbiologist and the keynote speaker for the 10th Annual Soil Health Conference, will present on soil using biological tools for building soil resilience to respond to weather, pest and disease issues, and address water availability and quality. Dr. Nichols presentations, “Optimizing Soil Biology to Regenerate Soils” on Feb. 20 and “Regenerating Soil for Agroecosystem and Human Health” on Feb. 21, set soil as the foundation for any system to work while the management practices are the tools. She uses a regenerative systems approach focused on soil biology utilizing integrated, dynamic principles to synergize biologically-based practices to address fertility, pest and disease issues. These regenerative systems have the potential to leverage increasing soil organic matter to feed soil biology. Dr. Nichols presentation will discuss crop diversity including perennials and annuals as well as cover companion crops, reduced soil disturbance, and managed grazing to increase profitability by maximizing nutrient and water efficiencies.

Cont. on back page... “10th Annual Western Colorado Soil Health Conference”


Shavano Conservation District
"A Partnership in Conservation"


No Till Drill Available in the Uncompahgre Valley

Steve Woodis with "Down to Earth Natural Resource Solutions", is offering for rent, the use of a no till drill. It is a Esch 5512. Seeding width is 12 feet and seed spacing is 5.5 inches. This drill has end road transport, meaning the tongue will rotate to 2 positions, one for the road and one for the field when you are ready to plant. No trailer needed for transport. For more information go to eschdrills.com. If you are thinking about planting cover crops, small grains, or for pasture and hayland seedings and renovations you should consider using this drill. Call Steve for more information. He can also help develop seed mixes to suit your needs, along with providing other natural resource management services.

**Shavano Conservation District
Annual Meeting and Banquet**

March 14, 2020, 6:30pm
Ute Indian Museum
17253 Chipeta Rd, Montrose



Office Space Available

140 square feet office space for rent. All utilities included except phone and internet. \$190.00/month with \$190.00 security deposit. Available immediately. Contact Penny Bishop, District Manager at 970-209-1851 for more information.

Changes in the Office

Ashley Jackson-Baillie, NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist in the Montrose NRCS office recently took another position with Western Area Power. She started with the agency in 2008 in a small, rugged office in Norwood, CO. Ashley started as a Soil Conservation Technician and worked her way up to a Rangeland Management Specialist. Ashley expressed her gratitude to co-workers and landowners she worked with, saying, "They have all taught me so much. I have met some incredible people while working with the agency and many of them will be friends for life, and for that, I am grateful."





Colorado State Forest Service
West Region Wildfire Council



"A Partnership in Conservation"



CSFS Adds New Forester in Montrose

A new field forester with extensive knowledge of the Montrose area is now available to help guide private landowners through the forest management process. The Colorado State Forest Service recently hired longtime Montrose resident Tanya Banulis to assist with field operations. Jodi Rist, supervisory forester for the CSFS Montrose Field Office, says she brings a wealth of skills in natural resources and working with the public to this position.

Banulis will be working on diverse forestry programs, including Good Neighbor Authority timber sales on federal lands, wildfire risk reduction in communities, urban and community forestry, Forest Ag, forest health issues and wildlife habitat improvement projects.

Banulis graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in wildlife biology. She has worked for a variety of entities, including the Farm Service Agency, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Black Canyon Land Trust and Bureau of

Land Management. She dedicated 14 years to the Natural Resources Conservation Service as a soil conservationist in Montrose, and later served as a wildlife biologist in Delta. While at NRCS, Banulis collaborated with private landowners and local partners, including the CSFS, to promote good land stewardship and implement conservation practices for healthy rangelands, forests, croplands, pastures and haylands; improved wildlife habitat; invasive species control; and irrigation system improvements.

"I look forward to continuing to work with the public on managing their forest resources and working with the partners that the CSFS engages," she said.

Banulis moved to Montrose in 2003 with her husband, who is a terrestrial biologist for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. They have two children, Tyler (11) and Addison (8). She says the kids and a couple of dogs, rabbits, a cat and a horse keep life busy but fun. In her spare time, she says she enjoys camping, hunting and fishing, gardening, photography, family time and watching the kids play sports and do 4-H.

Landowners can reach Banulis at the CSFS Montrose Field Office, which serves Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel counties, at 970-249-9051.



2020 Seedling Plant Program



Seedling plant sales has been going strong since November, but there are still some varieties available! Check the online inventory at

<http://csfs.colostate.edu/seedling-tree-nursery/seedling-nursery-inventory/> for current availability. Quantities are limited! These are seedling trees, shrubs, perennials, and grasses that can be used to screen, attract wildlife, provide a windbreak or pollinator garden. Seedlings will arrive in May 2020 for pick up.

The Colorado State Forest Service tree program enables

landowners to obtain trees at nominal cost. The program's aim is to encourage landowners to plant new forests; establish effective windbreaks to reduce erosion, protect homes, cropland, livestock and highways; and to enhance wildlife habitat. The trees and shrubs are grown for their conservation benefits. For more information call Andrew at CSU Extension (970-249-3935) for orders in eastern Montrose and Ouray Counties. Tanya Banulis, Forster at Colorado State Forest Service is available to answer questions regarding tree species selection and/or planting assistance. Tanya can be reached at 970-249-9051 x129.





Welcome to New FSA County Executive Director

Hello, my name is Lori Meier. I have recently moved to Montrose, and I am the new County Executive Director for the Montrose-Gunnison-Ouray County and Delta County FSA Offices. The position is a shared management position so I will be spending time in both offices and have

not finalized my schedule for when I will be in which office. I worked for Farm Service Agency from 1984 to 2009 in Sheridan County, KS which is in the northwest corner of the state. I look forward to meeting the farmers and ranchers of this area. Please feel free to stop in and introduce yourself.

FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Make-Up Election

The 2019 Farm Service Agency County Committee Make-Up Election began on Jan. 6, when ballots were mailed to eligible voters. The deadline to return the ballots to local FSA offices, or to be postmarked, is Feb. 3, 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 (#4), who do not receive a ballot can obtain one from their local USDA Service Center.

Newly elected committee members will take office Mar. 1, 2020.

The candidate in this year's election are:

Tyler J. Hanson is nominated in LAA #4, Montrose-Gunnison-Ouray County, to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. Hanson resides in Powderhorn and has produced hay and cows for 3 years.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2019 fact sheet, can be found on the FSA website at fsa.usda.gov/elections or at a local USDA Service Center.

Maintaining Good Credit History

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Loan programs require that applicants have a satisfactory credit history. A credit report is requested for all FSA direct farm loan applicants. These reports are reviewed to verify outstanding debts, if bills are paid timely and to determine the impact on cash flow.

Information found on a customer's credit report is strictly confidential and is used only as an aid in conducting FSA business.

Our farm loan staff will discuss options with you if you have an unfavorable credit report and will provide a copy of your report. If you dispute the accuracy of the information on the credit report, it is up to you to contact the issuing credit report company to resolve any errors or inaccuracies.

There are multiple ways to remedy an unfavorable credit score.

Make sure to pay bills on time. Setting up automatic payments or automated reminders can be an effective way to remember payment due dates.

Pay down existing debt.

Keep your credit card balances low.

Avoid suddenly opening or closing existing credit accounts.

FSA's farm loan staff will guide you through the process, which may require you to reapply for a loan after improving or correcting your credit report.

For more information on FSA farm loan programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov.



Colorado SNOTEL Snow/Precipitation Update Report

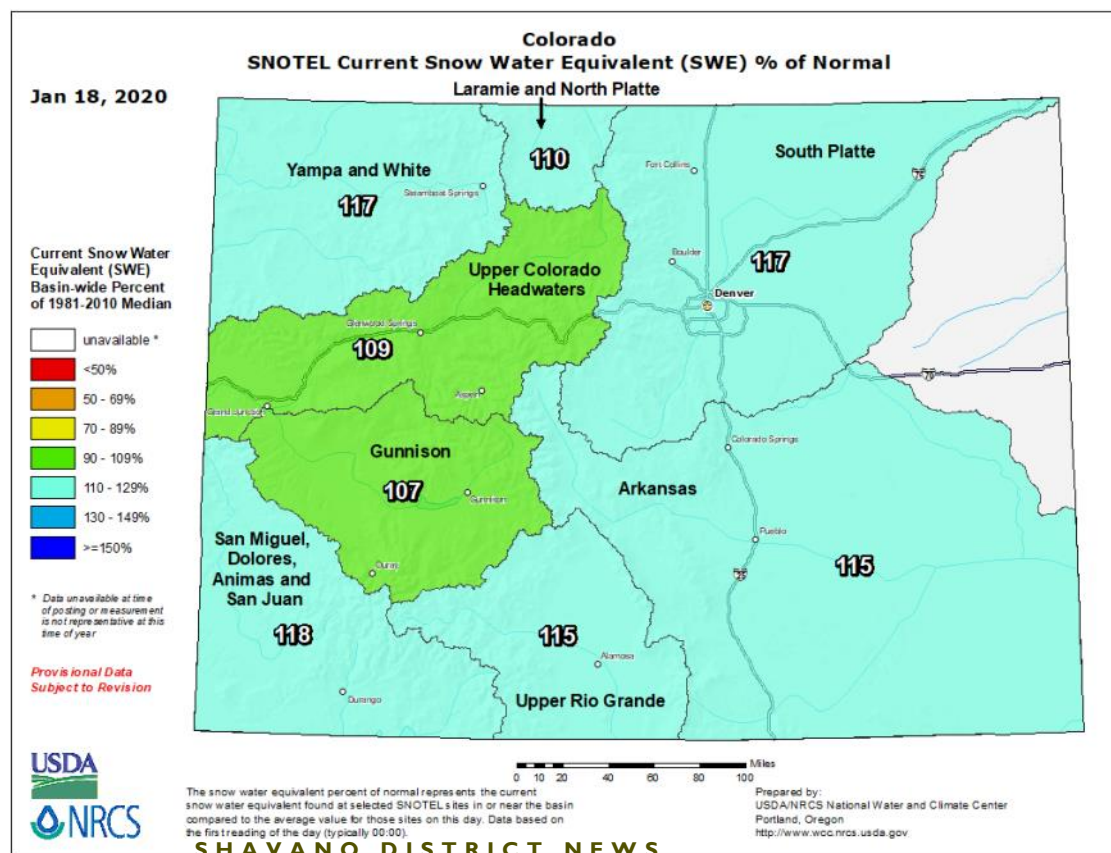
As of THURSDAY: January 18, 2020

BASIN	ELEV.	SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT			TOTAL PRECIPITATION		
Data Site Name	(Ft)			%		%	
		Current	Median	Median	Current	Average	Avg
GUNNISON RIVER BASIN							
Butte	10160	7.0	7.1	99	6.7	9.0	74
Cochetopa Pass	10020	4.8	2.5	192	4.7	4.2	112
Columbine Pass	9400	8.6	9.1	95	-M	12.2	*
Idarado	9800	7.7	6.8	113	9.1	10.6	86
Mc Clure Pass	9500	8.1	8.7	93	9.4	11.7	80
Mesa Lakes	10000	7.0	8.8	80	8.8	11.3	78
Overland Res.	9840	6.2	6.0	103	7.4	9.3	80
Park Cone	9600	6.5	5.0	130	-M	6.7	*
Park Reservoir	9960	12.0	13.2	91	11.7	15.8	74
Porphyry Creek	10760	11.7	7.4	158	10.5	8.0	131
Red Mountain Pass	11200	12.8	11.5	111	13.1	14.5	90
Sargents Mesa	11530	7.2	-M	*	7.8	-M	*
Schofield Pass	10700	15.6	15.9	98	12.1	17.2	70
Slumgullion	11560	8.8	7.5	117	8.0	7.7	104
Upper Taylor	10640	6.9	-M	*	8.6	-M	*
Wager Gulch	11100	6.7	-M	*	8.0	-M	*
				-----	-----		
Basin Index (%)				107	85		

-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



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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
LORI MEIER, County Executive Director 964-3589
JO TRICE, Program Technician 964-3572
DEBBIE STEWART, Program Technician 964-3571

MONTROSE-GUNNISON-OURAY COUNTY COMMITTEE

DALE IRBY, Vice Chairperson
ERNIE ETCHART, Regular Member
CHERRI COOPER, Regular Member
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

BILL HEAD, Civil Engineering Technician 964-3585
DAVID OLIVERO, Shavano Engineering Technician 964-3581
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
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
TANYA BANULIS, Forester 129

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
KYLE KLEVE, 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
ROXI STEWART 249-0706
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
MAGGIE MCCAFFREY, Assist. Director Maggie.mccaffrey@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

January 1, 2020
January 14, 2020
January 20, 2020
January 23-24, 2020
February 3, 2020
February 5, 2020
February 11, 2020
February 17, 2020
February 20-21, 2020
March 1, 2020
March 14, 2020
March 15, 2020

FSA Newly Elected FSA County Committee Members Take Office
Shavano CD Board Meeting 6:30pm
Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday - USDA Service Center Closed
Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum, Montrose, CO
FSA Make Up Election Ballots for LAA #4 Due
FSA County Committee Meeting, 9:00am
Shavano CD Board Meeting 6:30pm
President's Day—USDA Service Center Closed
Western Colorado Soil Health Conference, Delta, CO
Newly Elected Committee Members for LAA #4 Take Office
Shavano Conservation District Annual Dinner Banquet
ARC and PLC Sign-up Closes for 2019 Crop Year

10th Annual Western Colorado Soil Health Conference Continued from Pg. 2...

In addition to Dr. Nichols, other speakers at the 10th Annual Western Colorado Soil Health Conference include Kelly and Bill Parker on using livestock for soil health in holistic range management, Dave Dearstyne, Reed Irwin, and Dennis Hill on Soil Health in your garden, Bart Eller on Hemp and Healthy Soils, and a producer panel on conservation tillage. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to view 2 types of no-till drills, a broadcaster, roller crimper, row cleaner and tall shank marker, implements utilized by local producers practicing conservation tillage or no-till farming.

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 are available now. Early registration is \$45. After February 13, 2020 tickets go up to \$60. To register or for more information, go to the conference website at www.westerncoloradosoilhealth.org or call Mendy Stewart at 970-964-3582.

10th Annual Western Colorado Soil Health Conference

February 20 & 21, 2020
at the Delta Center for Performing Arts
822 Grand Ave., Delta, CO

This year's conference will feature
Dr. Kris Nichols, Soil Microbiologist,
and will include a host of topics including:

- Conservation Tillage Implements
- Composting
- Forest Fires & Soil Health
- Hemp & Healthy Soils
- Garden Soil Health
- Carbon & Nutrient Cycling

REGISTER NOW!	Early Registration (until Feb. 13)	\$45
	Registration (after Feb. 13)	\$60
	Student Rate (with Valid ID)	\$20

For more information please contact Shavano Conservation District at 970-964-3582

www.westerncoloradosoilhealth.org

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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.