

# The Quarterly Beet



November 2022  
Vol I. No. 1

<https://www.washakiecd.com>

208 Shiloh Road  
Worland, WY 82401  
307.347.2456



## Annual Seedling Tree Sale

While this is only our second continuous year selling bareroot seedlings, we are well on our way to restoring this as an annual event!

Our goal is to provide affordable trees for conservation, wildlife, and restoration plantings.

We source our trees from Lincoln-Oakes Nursery in Bismarck, North Dakota. The climate in Bismarck is similar to Wyoming, so the seedlings that grow there should be able to tolerate the harsh winters here. (Seedlings, pg. 4)



## Backyard Composting Program

WCCD is excited to announce that we will be hosting a Backyard Composting Program beginning December 2022! In addition to compost bin sales (see picture above) we will offer educational workshops on composting in the Spring.

Sign up NOW for the Remind Me App to get updates and text @6k9cfb to 81010.

## New Cost-Share Opportunity for Water Quality Improvement Projects

WCCD was awarded funding through the Clean Water Act Section 319 FY2022 funds by WDEQ in August. This grant funding will allow for WCCD to offer cost-share assistance to landowners and producers for projects that will improve water quality within the Upper Big Horn Watershed.

Cost-Share through this program ranges from 50-60%, and is applicable to projects on irrigated cropland and rangelands. Projects must provide a public benefit and be a proven practice that will improve the overall water quality of the Big Horn River and its tributaries that are designated in the grant proposal.

For more assistance, or to see if you project qualifies, contact Amanda at Ext. 101.





# What's Happening....

a note from the District Manager

Community engagement is a top priority for Washakie County Conservation District. It is our way to keep Washakie County residents informed on a variety of natural resource issues that effect our landscapes, our economy, and our way of life.

Several factors contributed to the rapid deterioration of western agricultural lands during the early 1930's. The application of poor farming procedures, misuse of range, and extreme lack of moisture were foremost in creating these adverse conditions. Recognizing a need to stop further degradation on these valuable lands, Senator Earl Bower of Washakie County, introduced a bill establishing the Wyoming Soil Conservation Act in February 1941. This act authorized the establishment of Soil Conservation Districts, which were given the responsibility of natural resource conservation within their respective districts.

On December 31, 1941, the Nowood Soil Conservation District in Ten Sleep became one of the first four Districts in Wyoming. In 1943, Washakie Conservation District was established in Worland. These two districts consolidated in 1990 to form Washakie County Conservation District.

The long standing, historic mission of conservation districts to conserve our nation's soil and water resources is still the guiding force for us! To learn more about what our conservation district does, visit our website at [www.washakiecd.com](http://www.washakiecd.com), and check out our Facebook page. -Amanda O'Keefe, District Manager



## FSA Disaster Assistance for 2022 Livestock Forage Losses

Producers in Washakie County and Hot Springs County are eligible to apply for 2022 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on native pasture. LFP provides compensation if you suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land.

County committees can only accept LFP applications after notification is received by the National Office of qualifying drought or if a federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normal permitted livestock on federally managed lands due to qualifying fire. You must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than January 30, 2023, for 2022 losses.

For additional information about LFP, including eligible livestock and fire criteria, contact the Washakie-Hot Springs County USDA Service Center at 307-347-2456 or visit [fsa.usda.gov](http://fsa.usda.gov).

## WCCD & NRCS Team

### Board of Supervisors

- Daniel Greet, Chairman
- Susan Pennington, Vice Chairwoman
- Jaci Harkink, Secretary/Treasurer
- Charley Orchard, Board Member
- Keith Bower, Board Member

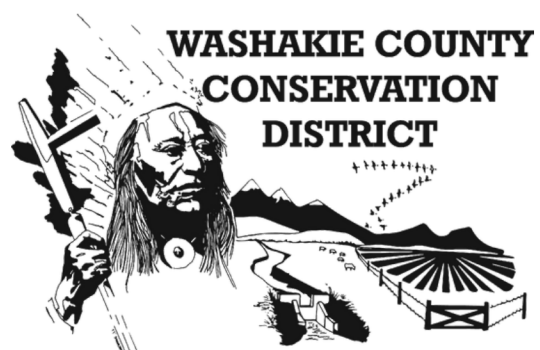
### WCCD Employees

- Amanda O'Keefe, District Manager EXT. 101
- Janet Hofmann Education Coordinator EXT. 121
- Ben Vega, Seasonal Outdoor Maintenance

### NRCS Technical Support Staff

- Emma Allen, District Conservationist EXT. 108
- Allen Croft, Civil Engineer EXT. 122
- Blaise Allen, Range Management Specialist EXT. 109
- Kaile Brant, Soil Conservationist EXT. 119
- Erickk Hayes, Soil Conservationist EXT. 107

Call us at 307-347-2456 and enter the extension above.





## Adopt A Highway

October 12th, 2022 marked the second time the Washakie County Conservation District has cleaned a stretch of road on highway 16 between Worland and Ten Sleep. That makes us the official sponsor in maintaining the cleanliness and beauty of that stretch of Wyoming road! Big thanks to the Wyoming Boys School who did a fantastic job working beside us.

Our next clean up day will be in the spring. We welcome volunteers from other community organizations. Sign up for Remind 101 notifications for volunteer opportunities by sending @98f2c49 to the number 81010.

## WEED BARRIER SALES

If you were following us on Facebook you saw that we launched our weed barrier sale early this year in order to avoid further price increases! If you don't want to miss out on next years sale please sign up for our Remind 101 notifications by texting @dk9e43 to the number 81010.



The purpose of the weed barrier sale is to assist the public in beautification projects that are low maintenance (and therefore, resource saving!) The bulk shipment allows patrons to share shipping costs and prices are designed with a break even mentality.

## Public Outreach Efforts

Washakie County Conservation District is here to serve you! To keep the public abreast of WCCD programs and services we have adopted the Remind101 platform. Patrons can sign up for targeted notifications by following the directions below. It is not necessary to download the app to participate. Notifications will come via text. Carrier rates apply.



### REMIND 101 NOTIFICATION SIGN UPS

Text to this number: 81010

In the message box send the @ code for the reminders you want to receive.

**All WCCD Events:**

@98f2c49

**Seedling Sales:**

@392ae9

**Weed Barrier Sales:**

@dk9e43

**Compost Bins:**

@6k9cfb

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

@kkh888

**Community Garden:**

@wcgvo



### Welcome Our New WCCD Education Coordinator

Janet Hofmann of Worland has joined our team as the Education Coordinator. Janet has experience working in Education and health promotions. In 2021, Janet started volunteering at the Worland Community Garden, becoming the

board president in recent months. Although still a fledging gardener she has enjoyed learning about regenerative practices, including no-till gardening, soil enrichment techniques, heirloom seed saving, rainwater harvesting, winter gardening and the like. Janet is an avid learner and is always uncovering some new idea or topic to explore. Being the Education Coordinator at the Washakie County Conservation District is a great fit for her because not only does she get to keep learning about conservation and stewardship of natural resources but she gets to share that information with others through community outreach programs.

# Seedling

(Continued, pg. 1) Care should still be taken in choosing the correct planting location. There are many factors to consider such as: soil conditions, water availability and drainage.

We have provided a brief overview ([download with the order form](#)) of the trees offered in order to help you choose the right tree for your needs. We also have many free brochures in the office about using trees for conservation purposes. These include: cutting energy costs with trees, growing wind breaks on drip irrigation, living snow fences, and finally using trees as farmstead, field and livestock windbreaks.

The Tree Seedling Sale will run now through March 1, 2023. **But don't PROCRASTINATE!** Stocks are limited and some species sell out fast. Get your [orders](#) in today! Questions? Call Janet at 307-347-2456 ext. 121.



**COMPOST BASICS: It's Recycling**

Composting turns food and yard materials into a natural amendment for the soil. Compost is a valuable resource that is easy to make in your own backyard.

**1 COLLECT MATERIALS TO COMPOST**  
Composting needs both:  
"Green" nitrogen-rich materials and  
"Brown" carbon-rich materials.

**GOOD TO ADD TO COMPOST**

"Greens"	"Browns"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Vegetables</li><li>✓ Fruits</li><li>✓ Fresh grass clippings</li><li>✓ Green leaves</li><li>✓ Fresh gardenyard debris</li><li>✓ Coffee grounds</li><li>✓ Tea bags</li><li>✓ Manure (plant eaters only)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Brown leaves</li><li>✓ Old grass clippings</li><li>✓ Old gardenyard debris</li><li>✓ Straw</li><li>✓ Paper, cardboard</li><li>✓ Sawdust (untreated, small amount)</li></ul>

**DO NOT ADD TO COMPOST**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>⊗ Meat and bones</li><li>⊗ Fats, oils, grease</li><li>⊗ Dairy products</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>⊗ Pee or human waste</li><li>⊗ Whole branches</li><li>⊗ Charcoal ash</li></ul>
--	--

**2 PILE IT IN A COMPOST BIN**  
A compost bin stores the green and brown materials while they decompose into compost. Alternate layers of browns and greens at a ratio of 3:1. Water each layer. Top layer should always be brown.

Look closely at the variety of compost bins displayed here to see which style best meets your needs and budget.

**3 TURN THE PILE AND ADD WATER**  
Helpful bacteria and fungi break down materials into compost. To survive, they need:  
**Food:** Feed them balanced green and brown materials.  
**Water:** Keep the pile as damp as a wrung out sponge.  
**Oxygen:** Turn the pile to provide more air circulation. (see "Hot or Cool?" box on other side)

**4 HARVEST YOUR COMPOST!**  
Depending on your pile, it can take 3 months to 2 years for compost to be made. Finished compost is dark brown, crumbly and smells like earth.  
Add compost to give your garden, lawn, and potting soil a boost.

FIND MORE COMPOSTING INFO AND PRINTABLE GUIDES ONLINE AT [RECYCLING CONNECTIONS.ORG](http://RECYCLING CONNECTIONS.ORG)

**al·che·my** : a power or process that changes or transforms something in a mysterious or impressive way  
**/'alkəmē/** (Merriam Webster Dictionary)

## It's Like Magic

It's sometimes hard to imagine the value that exists in the things we throw away. That's why alchemy is a great way to describe the process of composting. A process by which organic materials, such as yard, kitchen wastes and chicken manure are decomposed into a dark-colored, nutrient-dense, soil conditioner called humus. Properly managing a backyard compost pile results in rich, earthy, sweet-smelling humus that can be mixed into garden beds, added to flower pots, or used as mulch for perennials and woody plants. It is an excellent and inexpensive organic soil amendment.

It's estimated that composting household organics (food & other stuffs that can be composted) could reduce landfill contributions by 30%! That figure doesn't even include recycling in a traditional sense. Composting reduces dependency on fertilizers. In this day and age, that can mean big financial savings! Producing your own soil amendment right in your backyard contributes to local self-reliance, enhanced nutritional value in garden produce and leaves a sense of satisfaction. That satisfaction comes from transforming waste in an impressive way!

Sign up for alerts on our new compost program by texting @6k9cfb to the number 81010.



# Edible Flower Gardens

Rosalind Creasy was sold the moment she tasted lavender ice cream for the first time. Since that time, she's probably asked everyone she knows to eat flowers of one kind or another.

While eating flowers was common in medieval Europe it has fallen out of fashion in modern times. Rosalind maintains that flowers should become a permanent part of our cuisine. "They offer another alternative to salt and sugar as seasoning...their aesthetic value as decoration is obvious." In her book, *Edible Flower Garden*, Rosalind provides an encyclopedia of edible flowers, how to grow them and how to prepare them. The recipe section boasts such recipes as "Mardi Gras Salad with Pecans" which contains nasturtiums, calendulas, blue and gold pansies and violas. Or perhaps a little "Rose Petal Sorbet" would hit the spot? Even the famed "Lavender Ice Cream" recipe is included.

The idea of cultivating an edible flower garden has more merit in modern times as we contemplate drought and food shortages. Why not grow something both aesthetically pleasing and edible with the resources we have?

Rosalind Creasy's book, *Edible Flower Garden* can be checked out at the Washakie County Library.



## Make Water Conservation a Priority



1. Be mindful of running water: don't let the water run while you are shaving, brushing teeth or rinsing dishes.
2. Fix leaks as soon as possible: a fast drip can waste 330 gallons per month! Fix leaks and drips quickly.
3. Wash full loads of laundry and dishes only.
4. Use a compost bin: running an in sink garbage disposal takes a lot of water to run efficiently use an attractive counter top composter instead. Contents can be fed to chickens or turned into rich soil.
5. Insulate pipes: it takes time for water to get hot or get cold. Insulating pipes can lessen the amount of time it takes to get the correct temperature.
6. Run the sprinklers in the morning: This strategy prevents rapid evaporation from midday heat, which means less water is required to sufficiently cover the grass. Or better yet, convert a portion of your lawn to edible landscaping so you are growing food while beautifying your yard.



# Education Programs

Seventh Grade Students from Worland Middle School partook of the beautiful fall colors at Medicine Lodge Campground on October 13th, 2022. The group venture was organized by Educator, Trista Jones who is part of the 7th grade team at WMS. She had help rotating the students through different learning stations from a variety of staff and organizations.

Washakie County Conservation District was proud to participate with a stop that taught about predator and prey relationships, adaptations and shelter. After brief learning discussions, students had the opportunity to play a predator/prey tag game in which they used the information they learned to either catch their prey or avoid a predator.

Other stations included learning about pictographs, animal behavior and furs, fire safety, outdoor cooking, meditation, and working on a slack line. In addition to WCCD staff, contributing presenters included staff from Medicine Lodge Campground, Kyle Garnett from Game and Fish, Josh Jacobs from BLM and WCSD1 staff Mrs. Bennet, Mrs. Hansen and Mr. Hofmann.



Above: Hanna Stanek helps her daycare kids play Happy Fish/Sad Fish, a game about clean water.  
Right: Students from WMS play games at Medicine Lodge.

## Pilot Preschool Program

Two area daycares enjoyed a 4 session education experience with WCCD Education Coordinator Janet Hofmann. Topics covered were trees, hibernation, clean water and food production. Due to the success of this pilot program the WCCD will be offering a spring session with such topics as growing plants, healthy soil, pollinators, and composting.

If you would like your preschool or daycare to participate in the spring session please call Janet at 307-347-2456 ext. 121.