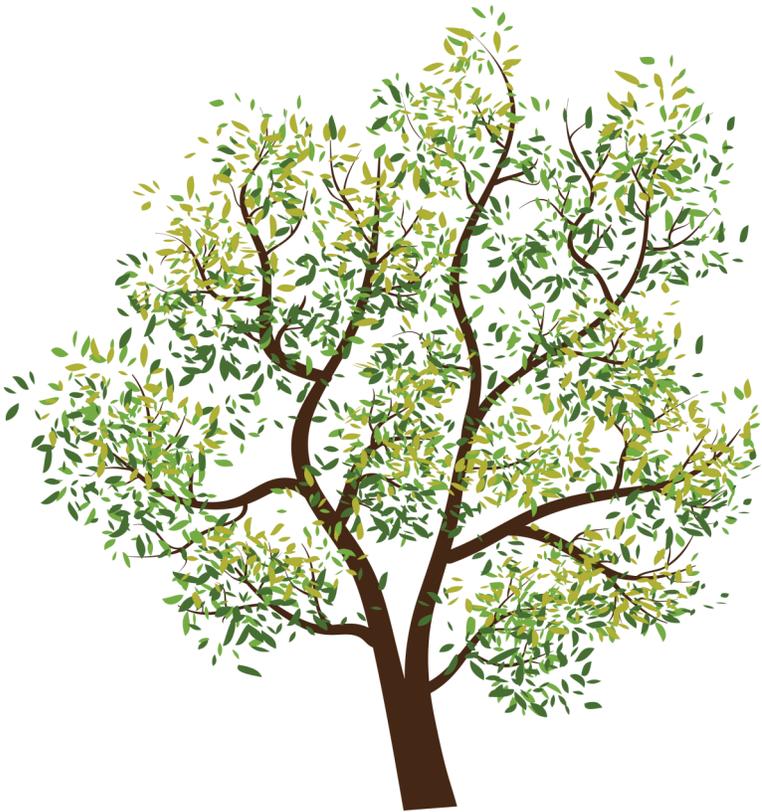


## Winter 2023 Newsletter

### Conservation Tree Seedling Sales



We are excited to announce our 2024 Conservation Tree Seedling Season! Orders are now open, reserve your trees online or with an order form available in our office.

Be sure to order your stock as soon as possible—inventories are limited! Delivery in May 2024

We are also announcing a cost-share program this year! Applications are available on our website and in the office. Landowners are eligible for up to 50% cost-share or \$500 on tree seedlings.

Applications are due by March 1st

Be sure to follow us on Facebook @MCDFortMorgan for updates, or join our email list at [www.morganconservationdistrict.com](http://www.morganconservationdistrict.com)

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE OUR

# 2024 CONSERVATION SEEDLING COST- SHARE PROGRAM

A program designed to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners interested in utilizing conservation tree seedlings.

## Program Requirements:

- Practices must be installed in Morgan Conservation District boundaries
- Landowners must follow NRCS specifications
- Attend a tree care & planting workshop
- Maximum reimbursement of \$500 or 50% of costs

To apply, visit  
[morganconservationdistrict.com](http://morganconservationdistrict.com) or  
contact Madeline at 970-427-3358 or  
[morganconservationdistrict@gmail.com](mailto:morganconservationdistrict@gmail.com)

APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 1ST  
COST-SHARE ALLOCATION WILL BE  
ANNOUNCED MARCH 18TH

## Upcoming Events

### **1/18: Estate Planning Workshop**

Prepare for your future with the help of CSU Agricultural & Business Specialist Jeffrey Tranel during our dinner meeting.

\$25/person or \$50/couple, RSVP by 1/15

### **1/23: Lower South Platte Water Symposium**

Hear from 8 different speakers on updates along the South Platte River Basin. Topics include Slough Restorations, Grant Funding, TAPs, Salinity, and the State of the South Platte.

Free and open to the public, RSVP by 1/19

### **2/1: 2024 Annual Meeting**

Learn about updates from the District, and hear from 3 different speakers: Dusty Johnson, Candidate for House District 63, Peter Goble, Climatologist with Colorado Climate Center, and Bailey Rapp, Assistant State Conservationist with NRCS.

\$25/person or \$50/couple, RSVP by 1/24

### **Spring 2024: Tree Care & Planting Workshop**

Join Jerry Miller from American Windbreaks to learn about proper tree care, planting techniques, and more! Date TBD

### **May 2024: Tree Delivery Day**

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## LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY: FARM & RANCH ESTATE PLANNING

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The Smith family comes from a long line of ranchers. Ted Smith took over the family ranch from his father a few years ago and is now curious what his two sons will do when the time comes. Ted would like to keep the ranch in the family but understands how difficult farming and ranching has become in recent years.

Ted has observed his family and friends as they navigate the path of estate and succession planning. One of the families has not been very profitable on their operation due to rising input costs. Their children are not involved in the operation, and they are unable to keep up with it.

*Are you like one of these families? Do you know someone in a similar position?*

*Have you finalized your succession, retirement, and estate plans?*

Leaving a legacy behind that your family and future generations can treasure is a powerful tool. It's difficult to talk about the future and what may happen, but having peace of mind that your wishes will be honored is worth it. It's important to be able to discuss and plan for the following:

- ✓ Sharing your values and life lessons with future generations
  - ✓ Gifting your personal possessions
  - ✓ Planning for important end-of-life issues
- ✓ Transferring your finances, real estate, property, and assets

Join Jeffrey Tranel, Agricultural & Business Management Specialist with Colorado State University Extension Office to find clarity and guidance on planning for your future.

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm, Drover's, 28601 Hwy 34, Brush

Dinner included in workshop. \$25/person or \$50/couple

RSVP by 1/15 to Madeline @ 970-427-3358 or [morganconservationdistrict@gmail.com](mailto:morganconservationdistrict@gmail.com)



## South Platte Water Symposium

**WHEN: Tuesday, January 23, 2024**

**WHERE: The BLOCK Commissary Kitchen and Events, Larkspur Room, 19592 East 8th Avenue, Fort Morgan, Colorado.**

**RSVP by 1/19:** Madeline Hagan (970) 427-3358 [morganconservationdistrict@gmail.com](mailto:morganconservationdistrict@gmail.com) or Amber Beeson, (970) 571-5296

[centennialcd1@gmail.com](mailto:centennialcd1@gmail.com), or Phil Brink, [phil@brinkinc.biz](mailto:phil@brinkinc.biz)



**8:30 – Coffee**

**9:00 - 12: 15 - Presentations**

**Topics:**

- **Salt and Salinity**
- **Testing Ag Performance Program (TAPs)**
- **Slough Restoration in the Lower South Platte**
- **South Platte Water & Farming Perspective**
- **Grant Funding for Projects**
- **State of the South Platte River**

**Lunch included. RSVP now!**

# YOU'RE INVITED!

Join us for our Annual Meeting! Learn more about District updates and programming and enter to win door prizes and giveaways!

Featuring keynote speakers:

Dusty Johnson, Candidate for House District 63

Peter Goble, Climatologist with Colorado Climate Center

Bailey Rapp, Assistance State Conservationist with NRCS

When: 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Where: The Block, 19592 East 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Fort Morgan

Dinner starts at 6 p.m. \$25/person or \$50/couple

RSVP by January 24<sup>th</sup> to Madeline at 970-427-3358 or  
[morganconservationdistrict@gmail.com](mailto:morganconservationdistrict@gmail.com)

**Morgan Conservation District**  
Providing Locally Led Support  
since 1955

970-427-3358  
[morganconservationdistrict@gmail.com](mailto:morganconservationdistrict@gmail.com)  
200 West Railroad Avenue, Fort Morgan

Events that might interest you:

Pesticide Applicator Continuing Education Courses with Mountain West Pest

1/11: Sterling, CO

1/24: Greeley, CO

1/31: Online Class

2/2: Fort Lupton, CO

3/16: Online Class

5/1: Online Class

5/16: Fort Lupton, CO

6/12: Online Class

To learn more, visit <https://mountain-west-pest.square.site/> or contact Sandra McDonald at 970-266-9573 or [Sandra@MountainWestPEST.com](mailto:Sandra@MountainWestPEST.com)



*36th Annual*  
**High Plains**  
**No-Till Conference**  
Feb. 6-7, 2024 • Burlington, CO

**Register early & save \$60!**

**Jerry Hatfield** | **Nicole Masters** | **Don Day Jr.**

The poster features the CCTA logo in the top right corner. The central graphic consists of two diamond-shaped images: the left one shows a close-up of yellow wildflowers, and the right one shows a field of green corn plants. Below the diamonds are three circular headshots of the speakers: Jerry Hatfield, Nicole Masters, and Don Day Jr.

Learn more about soil health, no-till, profitability, and more at the annual CCTA High Plains No-Till Conference!

Learn more at <https://highplainsnotill.com/>

# **FARMING EVOLUTIONS 2024 COMING TO HOLYOKE CO THIS FEBRUARY**

## **By: Julie Elliott**

Make plans now to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Farming Evolution event February 21 & 22, 2024, in Holyoke, CO. There will be a close look at fascinating information about the world of soil microbes and plants. Also on the topic list are wheat stem sawfly, grazing cover crops plus much more. As always, there will be several producers sharing their insights and experiences.

Dr. James White will give an intriguing presentation about the plant/microbe relationships. Microbes don't just make nutrients available; they are physically consumed by plant roots! Then they are transported through the plant to specific cells which pull the needed nutrients. Plants even 'farm' needed microorganisms. Be prepared to set aside long held beliefs about how plants and soils interact! Dr. White is Professor of Plant Biology at Rutgers University. In 2023, he was ranked among the top Plant Science researchers in the nation.

What is the difference between climate and weather? Dannele Peck will explain this and why it matters. She'll then address how one uses economic realities to make decisions about regenerative practices. How can soil health practices be evaluated from an economic perspective when planning to be resilient to climate and weather events? Dannele is an Economist and Director of the Northern Plains Climate Hub (NPCH).

What cover crop species are best for grazing beef cattle and how often should cattle be rotated? Mary Drewnoski from Nebraska Extension will cover these questions and more. She is a part of a team evaluating Economical Systems for Integrated Crop and Livestock Production in Nebraska. Her focus is on the use of crop residues and cover crop forage for backgrounding calves and feeding beef cows.

Anyone growing wheat on the plains has heard of the wheat stem sawfly. CSU's Adam Osterholzer is one of the principle investigators of this pest. He will give an overview of the wheat stem sawfly biology and current management techniques. An emphasis will be placed upon how this pest and its associated management impacts on soil health.

When he wants to find out what will work on a given field, South Dakota farmer Rick Bieber tries to take his cues from the natural world. In 33 years of no-tilling and 25 years of cover cropping, the soil organic matter has gone from 1.2% to 3.5%. Hailed as one of the world's best soil farmers, Rick will give a dynamic and engaging talk. He'll encourage attendees to be better soil stewards and more profitable.

## WEDNESDAY- February 21, 2024

• Registration with Rolls, Danishes and Coffee	7:30 AM - 8:30 AM
• Welcome, Introductions & Exhibitor Introductions	8:30 AM - 9:15 AM
• A Path of Hope Michael "Storm" Casper, Understanding Ag, LLC	9:20 AM - 9:50 AM
• Break - Visit with Sponsors and Vendors	9:50 AM - 10:05 AM
• Roots Eat Microbes, Oh, My! Dr. James White, Professor, Rutgers University of New Jersey	10:10 AM - 11:45 AM
• Lunch (Provided with Registration)	11:45 AM - 12:45 PM
• Climate or Weather? Managing Risk in an Uncertain Environment Dannele Peck - Director, USDA Northern Plains Climate Hub	12:50 PM - 1:35 PM
• Digging Deeper: Learning from the Wisdom of the Soil Clinton Wilson - Director, AgWell, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union	1:40 PM - 2:10 PM
• Break - Visit with Sponsors and Vendors	2:10 PM - 2:25 PM
• Wheatstem Sawfly Management & Soil Health Practices Adam Osterholzer - Research Associate, Colorado State University	2:30 PM - 3:10 PM
• Allowing the Balances of our Soils to Work Rick Bieber - South Dakota Farmer	3:15 PM - 4:45 PM
• Recap & Door Prizes	4:45 PM - 5:00 PM

## THURSDAY- February 22, 2024

• Registration with Rolls, Danishes and Coffee	7:30 AM - 8:30 AM
• Welcome	8:30 AM - 8:40 AM
• Cover Crops and Grazing Management Mary Drewnoski - Associate Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln	8:45 AM - 9:45 AM
• Break - Visit with Sponsors and Vendors	9:45 AM - 10:00 AM
• TBA Logan Pribbeno - Nebraska Farmer	10:05 AM - 11:05 AM
Group Discussion - What We Have Learned Through the FARMS Project Megan Shipanski - Associate Professor, Colorado State University Curt Sayles - Colorado Farmer Joel Grosbach - Nebraska Farmer	11:10 AM - 12:15 PM
• Lunch (Provided with Registration)	12:15 PM - 1:15 PM
• Fireside Discussion Dr. James White, Professor, Rutgers University of New Jersey	1:20 PM - 2:15 PM
• Break - Visit with Sponsors and Vendors	2:15 PM - 2:30 PM
• Open Q&A and Speaker Take Aways Conference Speakers Share their Knowledge	2:30 PM - 3:15 PM
• Recap & Door Prizes	3:20 PM - 3:30 PM
• Meeting Teardown and Clean-up	3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Many farmers in the area have heard of the FARMS project. The Farmers Advancing Regenerative Management Systems is led by the Colorado Conservation Tillage Association. Meagan Schipanski will present an overview of the data gathered across working farms in the project. Meagan is the lead FARMS researcher at Colorado State University. Co-operating FARMS producers Curt Sayles (dryland) and Joel Grosbach (irrigated) will share their experiences with regenerative farming. More information about the FARMS project can be found at <https://farmsproject.org>.

Back by popular demand is Clinton Wilson, Director of Rocky Mountain Farmers Union's Ag Well. Clint asks thought provoking questions. Why does healthy soil matter? Can't you just pump some synthetic fertilizer on it, till it a bit more, work it a bit harder, give it a little coffee, pull it up by the bootstraps and.....? What if we see ourselves as one of

4, 5, 6, or maybe 7 principles of soil health? If we want our soil to be healthy and well, what if it starts with healthy farmers? What if we take what the soil has taught us and apply it to ourselves? And what if there is one more principle that the soil is trying to teach us, that might just make all the difference?!

Logan and Brianna Pribbeno moved back to Logan's family's ranch in 2012. Moving from California's Silicon Valley to the High Plains of western Nebraska came with its own set of adjustments. Since they've moved back, they've focused on getting the most out of every acre. To achieve the goal, they use Management-Intensive Grazing and graze annual forage crops. Logan will share his journey to integrate livestock on the farm ground.

Registration by Feb. 9, 2024, is \$50 for both days, \$40 for one day. Fees increase by \$10 after Feb. 9. Lunch, refreshments, and handouts are included. Learn more and register for Farming Evolution 2024 at [www.farmingevolutions.com](http://www.farmingevolutions.com).

# FARMING EVOLUTIONS 2024

**FEATURING DR. JAMES WHITE, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY**



Event Center, Phillips County Fairgrounds, Holyoke, CO  
Wednesday, February 21<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Thursday, February 22<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Check-in, coffee & rolls: 7:30 a.m. both days  
Registration By 2/9, \$40 single day, \$50 both days  
Registration After 2/9, \$50 single day, \$60 both days  
Includes lunch, breaks and materials

**Dr. White will give an intriguing presentation about the plant/microbe relationships. It's much a more complex and active system than most people realize. Be prepared to be amazed at how interactive plants are with their underground friends.**

**Also presenting: Mary Drewnoski (UNL): "Cover Crops and Grazing Management"  
Danelle Peck (NPCH) "Weather & Climate Resilience: Putting Dollars & Cents to Regenerative Practices"**

**Clinton Wilson (RMFU) – "Digging Deeper: Learning from the Wisdom of the Soil"  
Meagan Schipanski (CSU) – "What We Have Learned Through the FARMS Project"  
Adam Osterholzer (CSU): Wheat Stem Sawfly Management & Soil Health Practices"  
Producer Speakers: Rick Bieber (SD), Curt Sayles (CO), Joel Grosbach & Logan Pribbeno (NE)**

**For complete workshop, lodging, registration & sponsorship information:**

[farmingevolutions.com](http://farmingevolutions.com)

Or email [haxtuncd@gmail.com](mailto:haxtuncd@gmail.com) or call 970-854-2812 ext. 3.

Supported and Sponsored by: Haxtun, Morgan, Sedgwick, West Greeley & Yuma County Conservation Districts; Upper Republican Natural Resource District; High Plains Land Conservancy; Arrow Seeds; Colo. State Conservation Board; Colo. Association of Conservation Districts; Natural Resources Conservation Service



Interested in treating noxious weeds holistically? We are excited to announce that we will be partnering with the Palisade Insectary to offer holistic biocontrol agents for common noxious weeds in the area. The Insectary grows and distributes biological controls to suppress noxious weeds and pests. Biocontrol's are an effective alternative treatment, especially for stubborn noxious weeds and pests.



We will be offering the biocontrol agents for the following weeds:

- Russian Knapweed
  - Bindweed
- Diffuse Knapweed
  - Puncturevine

If you're interested in trying a new practice, contact us today to learn more! You can reach Madeline at 970-427-3358 or [morganconservationdistrict@gmail.com](mailto:morganconservationdistrict@gmail.com)

Learn more about the Insectary and their biocontrol agents at <https://ag.colorado.gov/conservation/biocontrol-at-palisade-insectary>



# BIOLOGICAL CONTROL



A sustainable approach to pest management that utilizes the natural enemies of noxious weeds or pests

## Inundative



## Conservation



## Classical



## CLASSICAL BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

The purposeful introduction of natural enemies of non-native pest species

- Agents used may be herbivores, predators, pathogens, parasitoids or competitors
- Provides suppression not eradication
- Restores ecological balance to allow native species to compete

### International Code of Best Practices for Biological Control

- Ensure target weed's potential impact justifies release of non-endemic agents
- Obtain multi-agency approval for target
- Select agents with the potential to control the target weed
- Release safe and approved agents
- Ensure only the intended agent is released
- Use appropriate protocols for release and documentation
- Monitor impact on the target plant species
- Stop releases of ineffective agents, or when control is achieved
- Monitor impacts on potential non-target species
- Encourage assessment of changes in plant and animal communities
- Monitor interactions among agents
- Communicate the results to the public

### Approval for New Agents to U.S.

- Identify Potential Agents and Submit Plan to Technical Advisory Group (TAG) with USDA
- Host Specificity & Preference Tests Abroad and in the US (In Quarantine)
- Petition Prepared by Scientists and Reviewed by TAG to Make Recommendations
- USFWS consulted on Endangered Species Impacts
- Consultation with Indigenous Groups for Impact
- Petition Open to Public Comments and Environmental Findings Shared
- USDA APHIS PPQ Issues Permit

Approval may take decades!

Successful biological pest control reduces production costs, decreases the amount of chemicals entering the environment, and establishes colonies of beneficial insects offering a natural permanent pest control solution.

# Palisade Insectary

CDA's Palisade Insectary is a scientific facility dedicated to the research, implementation, monitoring, and education for classical biological control

**FOUNDED  
1945**

**ORIGINAL BUILDING**

August 14, 1945, the Palisade Insectary became one of the first government funded programs for biological control in the United States.



**27  
CURRENT  
AGENTS**

**CYPHOCLEONUS ACHATES**

### Current Biological Control Agents

The Insectary studies, rears, collects, distributes and monitors 27 biocontrol agents across 14 noxious weed and 3 insect pest programs



**90  
TOTAL  
AGENTS**

**YST AGENT APPROVED 2019**

### Over 75 Years of Continuous Service

The Palisade Insectary has worked with over 90 species of biological controls since 1945. We are an institution of first choice for new biological controls in the Western US



**REQUEST-  
A-BUG**

**APHTHONA SPP. FOR LEAFY SPURGE CONTROL**

### Over 2,000 Requests for Biocontrol Per Year

The Request-A-Bug program provides biological controls to Colorado residents and serves over 2,000 requests each year providing over 1.5 million agents



**GRANTS &  
PARTNERS**

**INTERAGENCY TRIP IN CA**

### Federal Grants and Regional Partnerships

The Palisade Insectary consistently receives federal grants and has partnerships with BLM, USFS, USDA, EPA, many Western states, and research universities



# Bijou Bees

**By: Kari Bleyle**

My daughter, Meg, is pursuing an M.S. in entomology with a specialization in beekeeping. The McKee family invited us to manage a couple of honey bee colonies on the Bijou property to see how well they would do in that location. We ordered two packages of Italian honey bees which are trucked into Colorado from the California almond fields after the bloom cycle there. Italian honey bees are known for being less aggressive as compared to some of the other subspecies of honey bees. The company that provides the packages of bees is very reputable and well-known throughout the Front Range. Meg and I installed the packages in early May when the risk of frost is considerably lower. Packages consist of about 3 pounds of bees and a mated queen who comes in a cage. The queen is usually reared separately from the rest of the packaged bees, so it takes a few days for the bees to accept the queen. One week after installing the packages, Meg and I released the queens. In one of our colonies, the queen did not survive, and we had to replace her with a new queen and repeat the procedure of keeping her caged for a week. The new queen did not survive, and we ended up merging the colony with another colony that had been given to us as a captured swarm. In the second colony, the workers replaced the queen through supersedure which is when the colony creates a new queen from larvae the original queen had laid. We were excited to see new female brood on our next visit, indicating that the new queen had mated and was successfully laying eggs.



Meg and Kari at the McKee property!

Meg and I drove from South Denver to Bijou Ranch every weekend to perform colony inspections. A colony will not survive for long without a queen, so it is important to inspect the colonies weekly to ensure that they are queen right, either by actually seeing the queen or by seeing worker brood (only a queen can lay female eggs). We also look for evidence of pests and diseases which may be present in the hive. It is exciting to watch the bees bring in pollen and fill their hive with nectar. As you know, we had a very wet spring, and the Platte River breached the bank upstream from the Bijou and flooded parts of the property. Fortunately, our beehives stayed above the water, although Meg and I waded through water above our knees at times to get to the beehives for weekly inspections. The wet spring also brought an abundance of flowering plants to Bijou Ranch, which helped the bees produce delicious honey. It is somewhat unusual for a new colony to produce enough honey for harvesting, as the bees will require honey stores to survive the winter. New colonies spend energy building the comb which will be used for brood and food storage. We were ecstatic to discover that we could pull out 8 frames of honey to harvest in the first year while leaving a sufficient amount of honey for the bees. We entered the honey in the Colorado State Beekeepers Association's honey contest in order to get feedback on how to improve the honey and ending up winning 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the amber category!

Meg and I learned a lot about beekeeping in our first year. The bees do not always follow the text book, so we had to improvise on occasion. We were stung multiple times, even through our personal protection equipment, and had to endure loose bees flying around inside our vehicle while transporting the bees. However, we have found beekeeping to be very rewarding... the smell of the honey and beeswax mixed with the wooden beehive, watching the worker bees collect pollen and bring it back to the hive, the gentle hum of 1000's of bees, and of course tasting the honey. Since we found success in managing beehives in the South Platte drainage area, we plan to expand our operation and manage additional colonies on the Bijou property. We also plan to help plant new pollinator-friendly plants on the property to help sustain our managed honey bees and to help native bees and other pollinator species to survive.

***Do you have a conservation story you'd like to share with us? Contact us today to be featured in our newsletter or website!***



We are now accepting applications for our annual scholarship program. This program is open to local college freshman and high school seniors pursuing an agriculture or natural resources-based degree or certificate program. For more information, visit our website at [www.morganconservationdistrict.com/college-scholarships](http://www.morganconservationdistrict.com/college-scholarships) or contact us via email at [morganconservationdistrict@gmail.com](mailto:morganconservationdistrict@gmail.com)

Applications are also available in the office

## Grass Seed Sales

Did you know that we offer grass seed for sale? Seed can be used for CRP, pollinator plantings, or general erosion control and cover. We work with a local grass seed dealer to ensure timely delivery of all mixes. If you are interested in ordering a custom or pre-made mix, please contact our office!



### Benefits of planting Grass Seed:

- Erosion Control
  - Ground cover, especially with hardy, native grasses, can protect your soil from the elements. Native species often have deeper roots, and help keep topsoil and nutrients in the ground.
- Improve Air Quality
  - Increased oxygen production and air quality is a benefit for any planting
- Wildlife Habitat
  - Growing native plants and grasses creates a welcoming environment for any wildlife in the area. Grass seed mixes can be targeted specifically for pollinator plantings too! Tree windbreaks are also a great tool for improving and providing wildlife habitat
- Absorb carbon emissions
  - Healthy soils and plants help with the natural process of carbon sequestration—which helps in reducing carbon emissions

*Contact us today to learn more about how grass seed might benefit you!*

## About the Conservation Stewardship Program

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is one of the many programs the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) offers. This program assists farmers and ranchers with financial incentives to improve conservation efforts on the land that they operate for five years. CSP is available to both large-scale and small-scale producers. Eligible land receives a baseline payment on top of the incentive payment the producer selects to implement. Producers may select from the many conservation practices, enhancements, or bundles that NRCS offers under CSP.

The Morgan and Centennial Conservation districts will be hosting an informative meeting for local producers to learn more about the program at a later date. The districts are considering having a producer panel of participants currently enrolled in CSP to share their experience with the program. NRCS staff will also be there to provide information and answer questions. Those interested are encouraged to attend.

If you have any further questions regarding the CSP program or signup periods, please contact our office at 970-867-8568 ext. 3 or visit <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/csp-conservation-stewardship-program>



Natural Resources Conservation Service

FORT MORGAN SERVICE CENTER 200 W RAILROAD AVE FORT MORGAN, CO 80701-2324

Phone: (970) 867 - 8568 Fax: (970) 867 - 9410

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



# Cost Share Boundary Fence to Graze Expired CRP

## Grazing to Sustain Grasslands

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife are partnering with landowners to help transition exiting acres from the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) into a managed grazing system. We are offering a voluntary cost share program on the eastern plains of Colorado to help landowners purchase materials for boundary fence and/or water tanks to facilitate a managed grazing system on expired CRP pastures. Managed grazing supports livestock operations, rangeland health, and creates excellent habitat for grassland birds and other wildlife.

### Benefits of Partnering

- Receive **70% cost share, up to \$22,000** per project for boundary fence materials and/or removable water tanks, and wildlife ladders, to implement managed grazing on expired CRP
- Boundary fencing increases eligibility to enroll with Farm Bill programs for further financial and technical assistance
- Improved ranch viability through a long-term grazing plan on expired CRP pastures
- Managed grazing creates excellent habitat for grassland birds and other wildlife.



*Pair on the eastern plains, Photo by Rachel Belouin*



*Lark Bunting, Colorado State Bird, Photo by Ryan Parker*

### Qualifications



*Wildlife-friendly fence for livestock and safe wildlife passage. Photo courtesy of NFWF*

- Must currently own expired CRP field
- Collaboration on a 10 – year grazing plan for the CRP pasture(s)
- Installation of wildlife-friendly fencing for entire boundary area
- Compliance with NEPA & cultural clearances
- Allow wildlife biologist to conduct seasonal nesting survey prior to fence installation and photo monitoring after install, every 3-5 yrs.

This voluntary program requires landowner(s) to purchase materials and undergo cultural and NEPA clearances conducted by USFWS. Reimbursements will be paid after site inspection of completed work and within 30 days of Bird Conservancy receiving the funds from its grantor, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. All boundary fence must be installed by September 30, 2023 to receive reimbursement. This offer is for **supplies and materials only** and does not include the cost of labor.

*Connecting People, Birds and Land*  
[www.birdconservancy.org](http://www.birdconservancy.org)

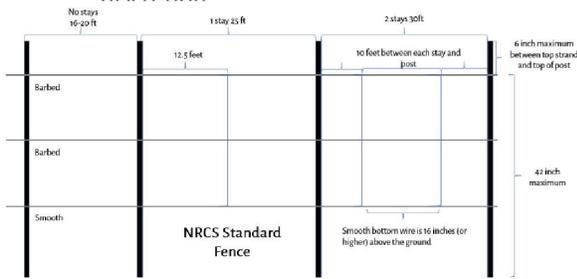


# Cost Share Boundary Fence to Graze Expired CRP

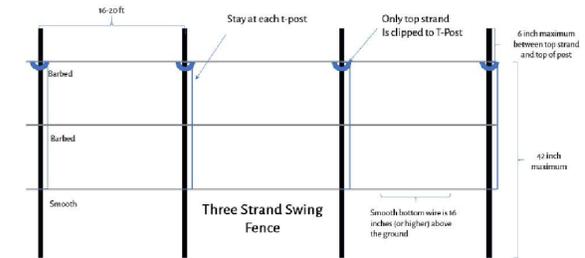
## Fence Options and Specifications

Bird Conservancy and PFW collaborated with ranchers to design and select 6 cattle tested wildlife-friendly fences. Each fence is durable, proven to be low maintenance, visible to wildlife, and flexible for wildlife and debris to move across rangelands while containing cows, calves, and bulls.

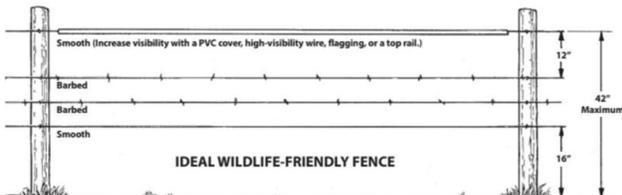
- All fence options have a smooth bottom wire at least 16 inches off the ground with the top wire at 42 inches or lower; wooden posts are trimmed to 48 inches or lower; braces should be placed every ¼ mile
- Select at least 12.5-gauge wire; 14-gauge for barbed; and 16-gauge or higher for ties
- Select new wire for 950 lbs. or 70,000 PSI
- Other fence materials and design decisions, including line posts and H-braces, are up to landowner discretion



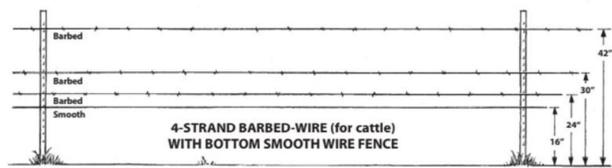
Option 1: NRCS wildlife-friendly fence with smooth bottom strand and top strands barbed



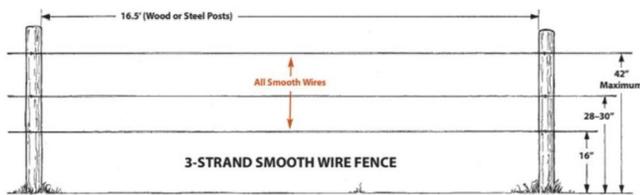
Option 2: Three strand wildlife-friendly swing fence with smooth bottom strand, top strands barbed (developed to allow tumbleweeds and debris to pass)



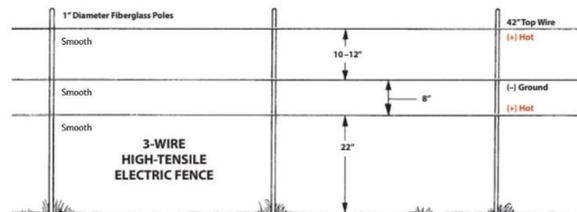
Option 3: Colorado Parks and Wildlife, wildlife-friendly fence with top strands smooth, middle strands barbed, and top strand with high visibility



Option 4: Colorado Parks and Wildlife, wildlife-friendly fence with smooth bottom strand and top strands barbed



Option 5: Colorado Parks and Wildlife, wildlife-friendly fence will all strands smooth



Option 6: Colorado State Parks and Wildlife, wildlife-friendly fence (suitable for bulls)

## Contact Information

For more information or to enroll, contact Trent Delahanty at [trent.delahanty@usda.gov](mailto:trent.delahanty@usda.gov)/ 719-254-7673 ext. 3022 for southeast, CO or Renea Wilson at [renea.wilson@usda.gov](mailto:renea.wilson@usda.gov)/ 970-427-3350 for northeast, CO.

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# Colorado Red Chili

By Colorado Proud & Chef Jason K. Morse, C.E.C., 5280 Culinary, LLC and Ace Hardware Grill Expert

Follow along at <https://youtu.be/95B5QBeWIZg?si=TTfPWjvJ6Y7Md5SC>

Yields: 8-10 Servings

## Ingredients

- 4 slices applewood bacon, diced
- 1 yellow medium onion, medium dice
- 2 cloves fresh garlic, chopped
- 1 large red pepper, medium dice
- 1 large green pepper, medium dice
- 1 jalapeño, diced
- 3 pounds ground beef
- 1 can – 14 oz fire roasted tomato, diced
- 1 can – 28 oz fire roasted tomato, crushed
- 2 can – 14 oz kidney beans, drained / rinsed
- 2 Can – 14 oz pinto beans, drained / rinsed
- 4-6 tbsp 5280 Culinary Bayou Dust adjust as needed
- 3 tbsp 5280 Culinary Rub a Dub adjust as needed



## Directions

1. Heat a large cast iron dutch oven and add the diced bacon
2. Cook bacon for 5-7 minutes or until starting to brown
3. Add the onions, garlic, jalapeño and bell peppers and saute until peppers are soft
4. Add the ground beef and cook until about 3/4 cooked
5. Add the tomatoes and beans and mix well to combine
6. Add seasonings and mix well to combine
7. Adjust seasoning as needed and simmer for 20-30 minutes on low heat
8. Adjust seasoning as needed
9. Remove from the heat and serve with Cheddar cheese, sour cream and green onions

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