

Morgan Conservation District

Est. 1955

200 West Railroad Avenue, Fort Morgan, CO, 80701

970-427-3362 • morganconservationdistrict@gmail.com • www.morganconservationdistrict.com

Fall 2019 Newsletter



Conservation Tree Seedling Sales

It's that time of year again! Conservation Tree Seedling Sales are open until March 1st, 2020. Order forms can be picked up at our office or completed online at www.morganconservationdistrict.com. Trees will be delivered in April 2020.

This year we will be selling the more traditional windbreak trees in addition to a few exotic varieties. If you have any questions, please let us know at 970-427-3362 or morganconservationdistrict@gmail.com

VIDEO CONTEST

The District is currently accepting applications for a video contest on the importance and future of agriculture. Videos must be 5 minutes or less and address the following:

What does agriculture mean to you? What do you think the future of agriculture is?

Deadline for videos is December 1st, 2019. Videos may be sent to morganconservationdistrict@gmail.com.

Winner will be announced on December 12th, 2019
A \$250 Walmart gift card will be awarded to the winner

Follow our Facebook for updates on the contest: www.facebook.com/MCDFortMorgan



Photo credit: Colorado Department of Local Affairs

All About Bats!

Boy Scouts Troop #22 and Morgan Conservation District partnered together to host a Bat House Workshop on September 14th at Riverside Park. The workshop was sponsored by a matching grant awarded to Morgan Conservation District from the State Conservation Board. Wendy Figueroa from Colorado Parks and Wildlife spoke on the benefits of bat populations. Scouts assembled 30 bat houses with the help of parents and volunteers.

Bats help greatly with addressing pest populations, most notably mosquitos. They also consume large amounts of gnats and other small insects. In areas like Morgan County, their natural inclination to consume such pests aides agricultural producers by decreasing crop damage and pesticide usages. However in other areas of the world that are closer to the Equator, bats are pollinators, seed disbursers, and fertilize with their guano. Bats are also habitual creatures that tend to interact in similar/close by locations. Riparian ecosystems in particular are very essential to bat populations, as they tend to attract most of their prey. However, they face many habitat concerns due to increased human development, deforestation, climate changes, poaching, tourism, white nose disease, and wind turbines.



Here are a few simple ways that you can help the bats:

- Reduce pesticide use
- Avoid disturbing bats
- Put up a bat house
- Protect water quality and riparian habitats

To pick up your free bat house, visit Morgan Conservation District's Office at 200 West Railroad Avenue in Fort Morgan. Hang your bat house at least 6 feet off ground towards the South so that the bats can absorb heat from the sun.

Drip Irrigation Workshop

On Wednesday, September 25th, a Drip Irrigation Workshop was held at Lauck Farms in Fort Morgan. A Matching Grant was awarded to Morgan Conservation District from the State Conservation Board to host a variety of workshops in 2019, one of them being a drip irrigation workshop. The District partnered together with Charlie Lauck of Lauck Farms, Rivulis, Fresno Valves & Castings, Inc., Western Irrigation, and the Fort Morgan NRCS office for the workshop. Speakers from each vendor discussed the various advantages and disadvantages of a drip irrigation system.

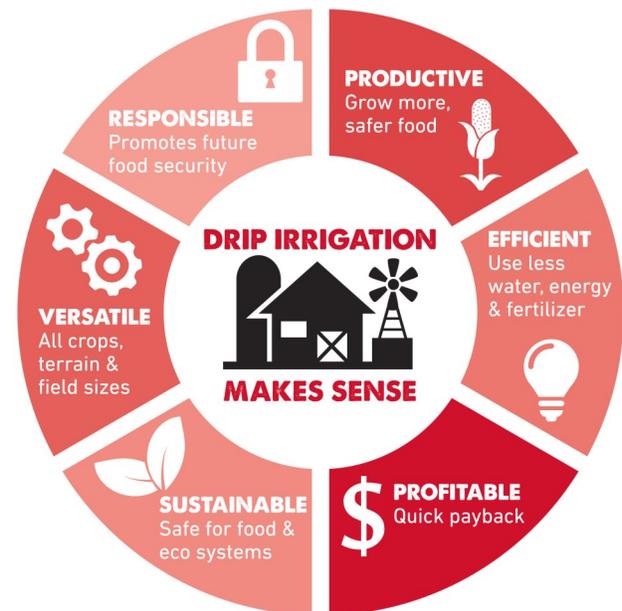
For more information regarding a Drip System, please contact the following people:

Charlie Lauck
970-768-3144
lauckfarms@gmail.com

Rivulis
Fermin Perez
858-621-6440
Fermin.perez@rivulis.com

Fresno Valves & Castings, Inc.
John Fenter
806-831-5726
johnwf@fresnovalves.com

Western Irrigation
Randy Wildeman
620-272-6575
rwildeman@westernirrigation.com



DRIP IMPROVES YOUR BOTTOM LINE



Weed Management / Pesticide Applicator Workshop

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Morgan County Extension Office

914 East Railroad Avenue

Fort Morgan, CO

—∞—

This workshop will provide ALL seven required core credits for pesticide applicator license recertification and one credit in either Rangeland (107) OR Industrial & Right-of-Way Weed Control (109).

The program is recommended for those needing pesticide recertification credits or those wanting information about controlling noxious weeds. You can attend just for the information if you do not need credits.

—∞—

Please join us at 7:30 am for coffee.

For more information or to register, please contact:



Madeline Hagan, Morgan Conservation District
970-427-3362

morganconservationdistrict@gmail.com

Sandra McDonald, Mountain West PEST 970-266-9573
sandra@mountainwestpest.com

The cost of the workshop is \$50.00

WHEAT GROWERS FORUM

An opportunity to share experiences & challenges, ask questions, and learn from other wheat producers

- How do I address sawflies in my crop?
- Nitrogen management for yield and protein
- How to control wheat streak mosaic virus?
- Marketing your crops
- Price & demand – market trends, monitoring prices, and negotiating
- New varieties with higher yields vs. higher protein
- Controlling kochia and perennial grasses
- Cover crops and crop rotations

November 8, 2019 8:00 a.m.

914 East Railroad Avenue
Fort Morgan, CO 80701

Coffee & rolls will be served

RSVP by November 4th to morganconservationdistrict@gmail.com or
970-427-3362



MORGAN COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

MORGAN COUNTY BALING TWINE RECYCLING PROGRAM

Do you have piles of twine on your land that you don't know what to do with?

Ever wondered what to do with your used twine?

Now you can recycle it!

Through partnership with Waste-Not Recycling, Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE), and Morgan Conservation District, recycling sites have been set up in Morgan County. Local youth groups assist with sorting and cleaning twine prior to its transportation to Waste-Not in Johnston for processing. Youth groups are paid by Waste-Not at \$0.10/lb of twine transported. Twine is then processed into plastic products like storage containers & buckets.

*Drop it off behind the Livestock Exchange
28601 Hwy 34, Brush, CO, 80723*

Questions? Contact Morgan Conservation District at
970-427-3362 OR
morganconservationdistrict@gmail.com



Rental Equipment

If you need help planting trees or laying down fabric, the District offers both a tree planter and fabric layer for such activities. Our fabric layer works best with 6' x 300' rolls. Please use at your own risk.

\$100 Deposit

\$25/day for members

\$75/day for non members



Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Natural Resources Conservation Service



USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service offers voluntary Farm Bill programs that benefit both agricultural producers and the environment.

Overview

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides technical and financial assistance to producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion, and improved or created wildlife habitat.

Benefits

Through EQIP, NRCS provides agricultural producers with one-on-one help and financial assistance to plan and implement improvements, or what NRCS calls conservation practices. Together, NRCS and producers invest in solutions that conserve natural resources for the future while improving agricultural operations.

Program at a Glance

NRCS will help you develop a conservation plan that meets your goals and vision. This plan becomes your roadmap for selecting the right conservation practices for your land. NRCS offers about 200 unique practices designed for working farms, ranches, and forests.

NRCS financial assistance can cover part of the costs of implementing conservation practices.

Who is Eligible?

Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who own or rent agricultural land are eligible. EQIP assistance can be used on all types of agricultural operations, including:

- Conventional and organic
- Specialty crops and commodity crops
- Forestry and wildlife
- Historically underserved farmers*
- Livestock operations

*Increased and advance payments available for historically underserved producers (beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and military veterans.)

How to Apply

Apply at your local USDA Service Center, which you can find at farmers.gov/service-locator.

Applications for EQIP financial assistance are accepted throughout the year. Specific state deadlines are set for ranking and funding. If your application is ranked and selected, you will enter into a contract with NRCS to receive financial assistance for the cost of implementing conservation practices. Payment rates for conservation practices are reviewed and set each fiscal year.

More Information

For more information, visit nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill or farmers.gov.

Find your local USDA Service Center at farmers.gov/service-locator.

What's New in the 2018 Farm Bill

Adds potential resource concerns related to beneficial cost-effective operation changes.

Raises cap for organic producers to \$140,000 over four years.

New enrollment option through incentive contracts to address priority resource concerns.

Requires advance payment option be offered to historically underserved producers.

Authorizes direct program assistance to irrigation districts, including acequias and other entities, for purposes of improving water use efficiencies.



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

July 2019

nrcs.usda.gov

**Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service**



Farming in Colorado & Wyoming with Native Ecotypic Seeds



*Adding native plants to your
current agriculture operation
can help to conserve
your farms assets while
maximizing economic returns*



Our Mission:

*"To preserve the genetic integrity of our
native flora through collaborative planning
for plant materials development."*

Contact Us:

Web: southernrockiesseed.org

Email: info@southernrockiesseed.org

Call: 307.349.2377

Visit: 320 E. Vine Dr., Suite 213 Ft. Collins, CO 80522



WHY GROW NATIVE ECOTYPES?

Most of the seeds being used are perennials adapted to this region, requiring minimal to no tillage annually, and much lower water needs than commercial crops.

NATIVES PLANTS NEED LESS

- ▶ Water
- ▶ Fertilizers
- ▶ Pesticides & Herbicides

Less application of the above also = other lowered costs including equipment & fuel cost, as well as less of your time.

NATIVES PLANTS GIVE MORE

- ▶ Native root systems are often deeper than non-natives, stabilizing the soil, which can significantly reduce water runoff and flooding
- ▶ Provides shelter and food for wildlife and supports pollinators
- ▶ Native plants can help combat cheatgrass and other invasive plants
- ▶ Native grasses can serve as a fallow crop, with the culms and stems available for weed free straw

Native ecotypes add value by helping to retain productive lands for both agriculture and wildlife. They are adapted to the environment and generally hardier than non-natives.

KEY POINTS TO CONSIDER BEFORE ADDING NATIVE ECOTYPE PLANTS TO YOUR OPERATION

Am I in control of the process? Who has access to my land?

The farmer maintains control of the entire process, from soil preparation to harvest, as long as the Southern Rockies Seed Network can monitor the crop, planting, and harvesting methods to ensure that quality/purity requirements are met.

What if there are costs beyond standard farming practices?

In most cases you can use existing equipment that you own/use for other crops. However financial assistance is available if you need to adjust current farming practices.

Less water is need for natives vs. commercial crops

Once established, native ecotype plants require less water than other commercial crops. Plus native plants allow snow to collect and hold moisture in the winter.

Is there a market need for native ecotypic plants?

There is a significant unmet need for quality grasses that are native to this region, on both public and private land, and people understand that there is a premium associated with purchasing native plants.

What weed and pest control is allowed?

Herbicides and pesticides are recommended, and once the plants are established, they often require few applications than other crops. In fact, for perennials, with adequate germination and weed care in year one, a pre-emergent herbicide can replace more intensive weed control in year two and beyond

How many acres per monoculture?

At this time, we are looking for farmers to produce five to 10 acres of a single species.

Contact us to learn more and start a native plant project on your property!

WHAT IS AN ECOTYPE?

"Seeds from a genetically distinct geographic population, adapted to specific environmental conditions."

DID YOU KNOW?

Native plants have been shown to save money in different ways:

One study by Applied Ecological Services estimates that over a 20 year period, the cumulative cost of maintaining a prairie or a wetland totals \$3,000 per acre versus \$20,000 per acre for non-native turf grasses.

The economic benefits of native plants can also be measured against the damage that certain non-native plants do.

We come and go but the land is always here and the people who love and understand it are the people to whom it belongs.

For a little while.—Willa Cather



SOUTHERN ROCKIES
SEED NETWORK



TAKING THE LEAP

GROWING YOUR FOOD BRAND IN RETAIL AND BEYOND



**OCTOBER 22, 2019 | 8AM-4PM
AT THE BUSINESS INCUBATOR CENTER
2591 LEGACY WAY GRAND JUNCTION, CO**

Meet with industry experts, ask questions, and network.

Topics include:

- Packaging, design, and artwork
- Sales analysis and research
- Marketing positioning and strategy
- Logistics and transportation efficiencies
- Buyer meetings and brokerage

Cost:

- Early Bird Discount: \$45 (valid Aug. 29-Sept. 30)
- Regular Fee: \$55 (Oct. 1-22)
- Call (970) 243-5242 if registering 2 or more people to receive discount.

Presented by:



COLORADO
Department of Agriculture



Register: <http://bit.ly/sbdc-growmyfoodbrand> or (970) 243-5242

Apple Carrot Bread

INGREDIENTS

- 1 large egg (or egg substitute)
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar, packed
- 1/3 cup liquid-state coconut oil (canola or vegetable may be substituted)
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- pinch salt, optional and to taste
- 3/4 cup grated carrots (about 1 large carrot)
- 3/4 cup grated apples (I used 1 medium unpeeled Fuji; try Gala, Honeycrisp or similar)

Optional add-ins: Maple syrup (Less than 1/4 cup), ground cloves (1-3 teaspoons), walnuts, candied pecans, chocolate chips

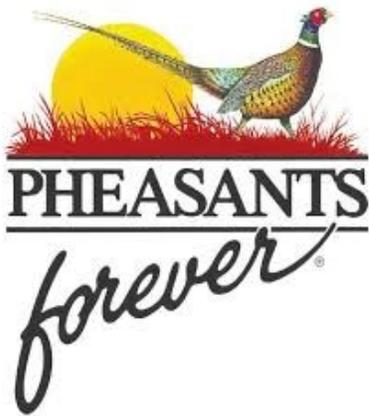
INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350F. Spray one 9×5-inch loaf pan with floured cooking spray, or grease and flour the pan; set aside.
2. In a large bowl, add the first eight ingredients, through nutmeg, and whisk to combine.
3. Add the flour, baking powder, baking soda, optional salt, and fold with spatula or stir gently with a spoon until just combined; don't overmix.
4. Add the carrots, apples, and fold gently to combine.
5. Turn batter (it's very thick, this is what you want) out into the prepared pan, smoothing the top lightly with a spatula.
6. Bake for about 45 to 50 minutes. Insert toothpick in center of bread tin to check for readiness—a clean toothpick indicates that it is ready. Allow bread to cool in pan for about 15 minutes before turning out on a wire rack to cool completely before slicing and serving.

Recipe notes: Sometimes I will use more apple or carrot than the recipe calls for, and use less coconut oil instead. I find it to be a much more moist and dense bread with less oil and more carrots/apples.

This recipe is adapted from Averie Cooks, <https://www.averiecooks.com/carrot-apple-bread/>

Thank you to our Sponsors!



Wickstrom Farms

