

VALLEY VIEWS

Valley County Conservation District Newsletter

Fall Issue



VALLEY COUNTY
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

LOCAL COMMON SENSE CONSERVATION

JODY MASON, AREA 1

JEFF PATTISON, AREA 2

RON STONEBERG, AREA 3

TYLER THIEVIN, AREA 4

GENE GRANADA, AREA 5

JOHN BACH, FORT PECK URBAN SUPERVISOR

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR, HAYLEY YOUNG

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT AREA 1 MEETING

Members of the Valley County Conservation District attended the MACD Area 1 meeting hosted by the Roosevelt County Conservation District. The meeting was held at the Culbertson Saddle Club.

Attendees heard from area partners including NRCS, DNRC, Central & Eastern Montana Invasive Species Team, Montana Salinity Control. --- gave a presentation on wells. Dean Rogge, Garfield County Supervisor and MACD Chairman, was reelected as an area 1 representative.

Ron Stoneberg, Valley County Area 3 Supervisor received a longevity pin in recognition of 10-years of service to the Valley County Conservation District. John Bach serves as the Fort Peck Urban Supervisor and he received a longevity pin for five-years of service to the VCCD. Supervisor Bach also serves as the VCCD Treasurer. Congratulations & Thank You!



TREE ORDERS NOW OPEN

It is time be thinking about spring planting. Orders can be placed from now until spring but it's never to earlier to place your order to ensure that the trees you want are in stock it.

Availability is updated weekly and can be emailed to you by contacting the office. If you have questions about the process or the trees that are available contact the office at any time. 406.228-4321 ext. 101 or email us at uccdmt20@gmail.com

LOCAL WORKING GROUP

What is the Local Working Group?

It is a locally led process that provides the USDA and Local Conservation District with relevant conservation needs, resource concerns, priorities and recommendations regarding programs that can be used as tools to address these needs.

The local working group survey can be found on our webpage, www.valleycountycd.org and can be filled out and sent in to our office.

OR USE THIS
QR CODE



VALLEY COUNTY LOCAL WORKING GROUP

The Valley County Conservation District invites agricultural producers, landowners, conservation partners, and other members of the community to discuss natural resource needs in the county.

October 21st 1pm at the Valley County Courthouse meeting room

Light Refreshments will be served

Based on information gathered, the NRCS will update their Long Range Plan and develop new Targeted Implementation Plans to address resource concerns.



FORT PECK POLLINATOR PLOT

The Valley County Conservation District received funding from the DNRC through the pollinator grant program to start a pollinator plot. While trying to decide on location of the plot the Town of Fort Peck offered to allow the plot to be placed on town property adjacent to the Veteran's Memorial. Currently, the plot is two 4'x20' side by side plots, it's our hope to combine the two in the spring of 2025 to make one large plot. This expansion will allow for more habitat to be planted. The habitat that was planted includes sainfoin, sunflower, clover, blanket flower, coneflowers, yarrow, bee balm, along with a few others. First Creek Seeds chose the plants based on native pollinator plants.

The plot was planted the first week in June, as weather allowed. We had a very cool, wet spring that quickly turned warm making for a strange growing year. We saw some growth in many of the plants; most did not grow enough to bloom, and several didn't germinate. Of course, the hope was to see more activity this first year.

We will reseed in the spring and will hopefully have a more stable growing year which will allow us to monitor and observe more plant growth and ultimately a healthy population of pollinator use.

It's also our hope to use the plot for educational opportunities. Students from around Valley County will be invited to the plot to view and observe the work being done. We plan to increase the educational portion to visitors of all ages so signage will be added. The signs will include information about native pollinators.

Our first year may not have gone as well as we had expected, our expectations exceed reality. But that leaves room for improvement and we were excited to see how the plot does over the coming years.

FORT PECK POLLINATOR PLOT

Conservation Cooks

Nothing says fall like a warm bowl of soup

Cheeseburger Soup

from Taste Of Home

PREP TIME
30 minutes

Cook Time
25 minutes

Serves
8



1/2 pound ground beef
4 TBS butter, divided
3/4 c. chopped onion
3/4 c. shredded carrots
3 c. chicken broth
8 to 16 oz. velveeta, cubed
Salt and Pepper

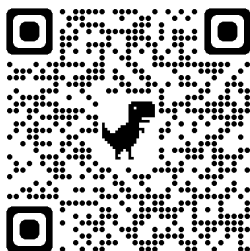
3/4 c. diced celery
1 tsp. dried basil
1 tsp. dried parsley flakes
1-3/4 lb. (about 4 cups) cubed peeled potatoes
1/4 c. all-purpose flour
1-1/2 c. whole milk
1/4 sour cream

INSTRUCTIONS

1. In a large saucepan over medium heat, cook and crumble beef until no longer pink, 6-8 minutes; drain and remove from pan. In same saucepan, melt 1 tablespoon butter over medium heat. Saute onion, carrots, celery, basil and parsley until vegetables are tender, about 10 minutes. Add potatoes, broth and ground beef; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, covered, until potatoes are tender, 10-12 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, in a small skillet, melt remaining 3 tablespoons butter. Add flour; cook and stir until bubbly, 3-5 minutes. Add to soup; bring to a boil. Cook and stir 2 minutes. Reduce heat to low. Stir in cheese, milk, salt and pepper; cook until cheese melts. Remove from heat; blend in sour cream. If desired, serve with onion rings and green onions

Have a recipes you'd like us to feature? Email it to us at vccdmt20@gmail.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.VALLEYCOUNTYCD.ORG
SIGN UP FOR OUR
NEWSLETTER, FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK



MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS
SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE
MONTH. NEXT MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2024
1:00 PM
USDA OFFICE CONFERENCE
ROOM
MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE
PUBLIC

EASTERN HEATH SNAILS IN OUR "BACKYARD"

The Eastern Heath Snail (EHS) is a non-native/invasive terrestrial snail in the Geomitridae family with the scientific name *Xerolenta obvia* (Menke). It is a little smaller than a dime (16mm-19mm) in diameter and is white, often with spiral brown bands. Unlike native snails, EHS are known for their massing behavior when snails climb vegetation, fence posts, or other upright objects to escape high ground temperatures and gather in large numbers. The EHS was known in only a few locations in North America including Ontario Canada, Detroit MI, and Belt MT. The Montana EHS population has now spread from its initial detection location in Belt, MT to other areas in Chouteau, Cascade, Judith Basin, and Fergus Counties.

Though the EHS's natural spread is slow, the snail has expanded its affected area more quickly due to artificial movement (e.g. contaminated equipment and/or material). In Europe, EHS is a known pest of alfalfa, clover, lupine, sainfoin, serradella (a legume), wheat, and barley; lowering crop quality. Related snails have contaminated grains, which can cause products to be downgraded (e.g. malting barley to feed barley) or become unacceptable to grain handling authorities. The EHS can also transmit plant disease spores of *Alternaria* sp., *Fusarium* sp., and *Phytophthora* sp. and be a vector for various animal diseases such as Sheep Lungworm.

Recommended best management practices for the Eastern Heath Snail can be broken down into 4 categories.

1. **Site Sanitation:** The removal of trash, litter, debris, or other forms of waste that provide snails with daytime hiding places or harborage. Removed materials, if free of snails, should be placed in regular waste bags and sealed prior to normal proper disposal. Materials with snails should not be transported.
2. **Artificial Movement Prevention and Inspection:** Thoroughly inspect materials and equipment that will leave an infested site. Materials and equipment should not be staged in know infestation areas or where vegetation is present. If snails are observed they should be removed and crushed.
3. **Site Management and Modification:** Examples of site modification include raking, rough grading with a bulldozer or resurfacing with crushed stone or gravel, asphalt millings, pavement, or concrete to retard vegetation regrowth. Vegetation should be mowed to a maximum height of 5 inches. Green waste such as small trees, brush and other vegetation should be inspected on site prior to removal. Inspect all equipment before it leaves an infested site to prevent artificial movement.
4. **Treatment:** To reduce and manage snail numbers, apply molluscicides that are approved in Montana to the infested areas. Use granular molluscicide baits having metaldehyde as the active ingredient. There are a variety of brand name molluscicides with this ingredient which have appropriate labeling for the sites to be treated.

The Eastern Heath Snails impacts in Montana are still evolving. The Montana Department of Agriculture, Montana State University, and USDA APHIS PPQ are currently studying the impacts and what management tools are available and effective on this invasive terrestrial snail.

STOP THE SNAIL

Eastern Heath Snail



What to look for

Eastern Heath Snails are an invasive terrestrial snail. They are white with brown spiral bands and are smaller than a dime. They climb vegetation, fence posts, propane tanks, beehives, and other upright objects in large numbers to escape ground heat. Native snails don't exhibit this behavior.



Impacts

Degrades grain, canola, and other pulse crops. Vector for plant and animal diseases. Contaminates haybales. Shells plug swather decks and foul machinery.



Prevention

Check and remove snails from vehicles. Remove garbage, trash, and debris that provide hiding places. Don't move dirt or gravel infested with snails or their eggs. Mow vegetation to 5 inches or less. Use approved molluscicides.



Reporting

Report suspected Eastern Heath Snails to your local Montana State University Extension Office or Montana Department of Agriculture at (406)444-9066



Palmer Amaranth and Waterhemp

Identification

Identification can be difficult as Palmer Amaranth and Waterhemp have close relatives in Montana. They can look very similar to pigweed but are typically taller and have longer, skinnier inflorescences (as pictured below). Leaves are diamond or oval shaped. Plants are either female or male (dioecious)



Photos: Inga Hawbacker, MSU Extension



What To Know

- If established they will have a large economic impact
- Will become herbicide resistance
- Palmer Amaranth is a restricted seed species in Montana

For More Information go to <https://agr.mt.gov/Topics/N-P/Noxious-Weeds-Pages/Task-Force-Pages/Palmer-Amaranth>

SAVE THE DATE

NEW TRENDS IN AG SEMINAR

Applicator
Points
Awarded!!

TUESDAY

05 NOVEMBER 2024

COTTONWOOD INN
AND SUITES
GLASGOW, MT



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE
CALL THE GLASGOW CHAMBER
OFFICE AT 406-228-2222 OR
EMAIL US AT
CHAMBER@NEMONT.NET

Meet Melissa Kalicin

JOB TITLE: SUPERVISORY DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

I OVERSEE THE NRCS FIELD STATIONS IN VALLEY COUNTY (GLASGOW) AND PHILIPS COUNTY (MALTA) AS WELL AS PROMOTE COLLABORATION AND ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PARTNERS, CONSERVATION GROUPS, AND THE COMMUNITY. OUR GOAL IS TO WORK WITH THE PEOPLE OF THESE COUNTIES AND COMMUNITIES TO HELP THEM CONSERVE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES WHICH ARE A VITAL TO PRESERVING AND MAINTAINING HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS ON OUR MONTANAN LANDS.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

ORIGINALLY, I GREW UP IN NORTHERN NEW YORK STATE AND HAVE SPENT THE LAST TWO DECADES LIVING ALONG THE NEW ENGLAND COAST.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF EASTERN MONTANA SO FAR?

IT'S DIFFERENT AND QUITE THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE... I APPRECIATE AND AM GRATEFUL FOR BEING SURROUNDED BY BIG QUINTESSENTIAL AND UNIQUELY MONTANAN TOPOGRAPHY AND HAVING THIS WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMERGE MYSELF IN MIDWESTERN CULTURE AND THIS AGRICULTURALLY RICH PART OF THE WORLD.

HOBBIES?

SAILING, FOIL SAILING, BIKING, HIKING, SKIING, ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN YOUR NEW POSITION? 4 MONTHS

TELL US A FUN FACT ABOUT YOURSELF? I LIVED ON MY BOAT ALONG THE NEW ENGLAND COAST FOR OVER 18 YEARS. I LOVE AN ADVENTURE!



A poster with a black background and yellow accents. At the top, there are two polaroid-style photos: one of a group of people on a grassy field and another of a field of purple flowers. Below the photos, the word 'Photography' is in a small white font, followed by 'WANTED' in large, bold, yellow, distressed capital letters. Underneath 'WANTED' is a logo for the Valley County Conservation District, which includes a stylized mountain and water. To the right of the logo, the text reads 'VCCD Wants your best autumn photos for our newsletter'. At the bottom, a yellow brushstroke contains the text 'Submit Your Photo Here or email us vccdm20@gmail.com'.

SHOW US YOUR BEST
VALLEY COUNTY
PHOTOS. THEY
MAYBE USED IN OUR
NEWSLETTER OR ON
OUR WEBSITE.
EMAIL THEM TO US
OR POST TO OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE