

# Cache Conservation News



Every Day is Earth Day for Ranchers and Farmers

Spring 2008

## RMS Planning

By Jon Hardman, NRCS

To meet the challenges of an ever changing future in agriculture, NRCS is helping to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners in conservation planning.

The basis for developing a successful conservation plan centers around identifying your primary goals and objectives, evaluating the condition of your current resources, and developing a specific combination of conservation practices and management strategies that will ensure healthy land today and well into the future.

With encouragement from our local Conservation Districts, NRCS is embarking on a renewed effort to encourage local landowners to complete comprehensive conservation plans for their operations.

NRCS refers to these comprehensive plans as "Resource Management Systems" (RMS). An RMS represents the highest level of conservation planning. It is achieved when all resource concerns (i.e. soil, water, air, plants, animals) have been properly evaluated and viable solutions have been identified that when implemented will restore or maintain the resources at a sustainable level.

Future prioritization of conservation program financial assistance will place strong emphasis on having an RMS level conservation plan completed prior to signing up for conservation programs. NRCS encourages local

See "RMS on page 6

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

By Jon White, Chairman  
Blacksmith Fork Conservation District

As a boy I remember listening to my grandfather tell stories of hauling grain from the west side with a team of horses and how it took all day. He said if he could have just got \$2.80 for the wheat he could have made money. Over the years that same story has played out in my life with different people and products in agriculture.

Wheat finally made \$12.00 this year and hay was over \$120.00 a ton. I always thought if calves could just be over \$1.00 a pound, and fat cattle over \$.85, the cattle industry would be doing great. My friend used to say if he could just make \$20.00 a hundred for milk, he would be on easy street. Well, all of these things have happened in the last year but it still seems tough for those of us producing these crops. Fuel prices are extremely high, fertilizer is going to make \$1,000.00 a ton, and equipment and repair costs are crazy.

Yet, as this new season begins, we'll be optimistic. We'll plant, we'll plan and we'll produce the finest food in the world. We will curse the weather, complain about the government, yell at our equipment, but at night we will thank God for the opportunity to live in America, to be stewards of the ground, and to be able

See "Chairman" on page 6

*There are additional bareroot trees and shrubs available for sale. See page 4 for more details.*

## Inside This Issue

- Extension Corner 2
- Program Notes 4
- Board Actions 5
- District Election Results 5
- Gleanings 6
- Coming Events 7
- Ag in the Classroom 8

## EXTENSION CORNER

### Planting Successfully

*Bare-root trees and shrubs should be planted when dormant; chances of success diminish significantly if they are already in leaf.*

The success or failure of newly purchased plant material depends on the method of planting. Incorrect planting guarantees failure. When planting containerized perennials, shrubs, and trees, dig the hole just as deep as the soil in the pot (not the pot itself). It is better to have the hole too shallow than too deep. Do not fluff or loosen the soil in the bottom of the hole but dig it wide enough that soil can be easily worked in around the sides of the root ball. Generally, the hole should be twice as wide as the pot the plant was purchased in.

When ready, gently remove the plant from the container. Woody plants in smaller containers can generally be removed by pulling the plant out of the pot by the trunk or from the plants base. It is better to carefully cut the pot away from the root ball than to injure the plant by being too forceful. If the root ball has many spiraling roots or is root-bound in the pot, cut into the root ball with a sharp knife from top to bottom on three or four sides penetrating between one-fourth to one-third of an inch. Mix the excavated soil with compost at a rate of one part compost to three parts soil and set it aside. Place the plant in the hole and refill with the compost laden soil. Tamp the soil down occasionally. Soil should neither be fluffy nor too hard after being tamped.

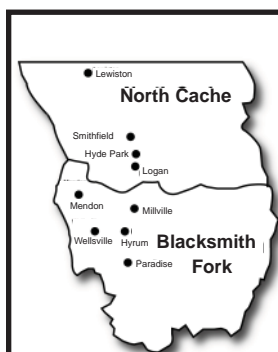
Bare-root trees and shrubs should be planted when dormant; chances of success diminish significantly if they are already in leaf. Most trees will have a knot or bend in the trunk towards the roots. This bend or knot

should be just above ground when the tree is planted and will act as a guide on how deep to dig the hole. Again, the hole should be wide enough that soil can easily be worked back in around the roots. After digging the hole, place a mound of soil in the middle of the hole and gently spread the roots over the top of the mound. Mix the soil with compost using the same ratio given above and gently tamp it back into the hole being careful not to damage the roots. Bare-root trees should always be staked from two or three sides for one year after planting. Use the same method to plant bare-root shrubs, but dig the hole just deep enough to cover all roots.

It is acceptable to place a ring of soil around the root ball to make it easier to deep-water plants, allowing the water to penetrate the bottom of the root ball. Check the soil periodically and, when it starts to dry, deep soak the plant again. All soils are different so there is no exact science dictating how often to irrigate. Over-watering is one of the most common causes of plant fatality.

— Taun Beddes,  
Cache County Extension agent

Support our sponsors.  
They make  
this newsletter  
possible!



#### Blacksmith Fork Conservation District

##### Board of Supervisors

Jon White, Chairman

##### Members:

Tom Bailey

Jay Tuddenham

Paul Leishman

Richard Nielsen

##### Associate Members:

Clark Israelsen

Editor: Cherie Quincieu

Printed on Recycled Paper

#### North Cache Conservation District

##### Board of Supervisors

S. Bruce Karren, Chairman

##### Members:

Shane Munk

Joseph G. Larsen

Steven Chambers

D Wesley Roundy

##### Associate Members:

Clark Israelsen

Ken Cardon

## Utah Legislative Report

SB 89 [Stowell], Mitigation of Invasive Species, This bill appropriates \$2,000,000 from the General Fund for fiscal year 2008-09 to the Invasive Species Mitigation Fund. The governor signed the bill on 3/17/08.

SB 47 [Stowell], Limited Purpose Local Government Entities Revisions, had not been prioritized. Thanks to the Utah Association of Special Districts and support from Rep. Fred Hunsaker and Rep. Ben Ferry, the House Rules Committee placed it at the top of the calendar. The UACD's recommendations were included on 10 pages, now State Code 17D-3-101, Chapter 3 - Conservation District Act, of the 250-page bill. The governor signed the bill on 3/18/08.

HB 246 [Draxler], State Tree Redesignated, to change the state tree to the Utah Juniper. Although unanimously passing the House standing committee, it was not expected to and did not come out of the Senate Rules Committee.

HB 221 [Mathis], Agriculture and Industrial Protection Area Amendments, requires planning authorities to show agriculture protection areas and consider alternatives when planning for future transportation. The governor signed the bill on 3/17/08.

The LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Fund received \$2 million onetime for conservation projects. Pre-Applications are due by Monday, May 12, 2008 by 5:00 p.m. Eligibility information and application forms are available online at: [www.quality-growth.utah.gov](http://www.quality-growth.utah.gov)

New ongoing appropriations allowed for a 3% cost-of-living and wage adjustments for state employees. Also, the same amount was included for the pass-through funds to the UACD for increases in personnel costs. To obtain more information go to [www.utah.gov](http://www.utah.gov) and select Legislative Branch under the first pop-down menu from the left.

If there are initiatives and needs that should be considered by UACD in preparation for the next [2009] Utah Legislature please bring them for-

ward, either as a resolution for the November annual meeting or to the UACD board of directors.

- Gordon L. Younker,  
UACD Executive Vice President

## Cache County couple place in top ten at National Farm Bureau competition

Garrick and Holly Hall, both USU graduates, began their dairy farm with fifty cows back in 1997. Today they run their successful operation with two hundred cows. In January 2008 at the National Farm Bureau Competition in New Orleans, the couple was honored with a top ten finish in the Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) Achievement Award competition. The Halls competed with thirty-eight other couples from around the country. The Achievement Award assesses the management skills of young farmers and ranchers and their leadership endeavors both in and outside of Farm Bureau.

The Halls currently chair the Utah Farm Bureau's YF&R Committee, designed to help young individuals and couples prosper in agricultural careers. The Halls have also traveled to Washington D.C. to speak with Utah's State Senators and Representatives about issues important to farmers and ranchers. Garrick says that elected officials do not get enough input from citizens on issues regarding agriculture and conservation. The Halls say that joining the Farm Bureau, for example, is a great way to get involved in Utah agriculture and help make laws more favorable for farmers.

Holly and Garrick also hold leadership positions outside of Farm Bureau. Garrick serves on the board of directors for their milk Coop and Holly is president of the College of Agriculture Alumni Association at Utah State. The couple is also actively involved in the scouting program.

"Dairy farming is a great way to live and raise a family," Holly says. "We wouldn't want to do anything else. It's a lot of work, but it's worth it to us."



*Garrick and Holly Hall finished in the top ten at the National Farm Bureau competition.*

## PROGRAM NOTES

### Additional bare-root trees and shrubs still for sale

The North Cache and Blacksmith Fork Conservation Districts thank everyone who purchased trees in our annual tree sale. Bare-root plants must be picked up on Saturday, April 19 from 8 to 11 a.m. at the 4-H building on the Cache County Fairgrounds.

A variety of bare-root trees and shrubs will still be available to purchase on April 19. Sugar maple is the only variety that is no longer available. See photos and descriptions of all available varieties online at: <http://uacd.org/news/treeWebsite/index.html>

Trees can be purchased in bundles or individually. Please be prepared to pay with cash or check. Credit/debit cards cannot be accepted. For more information, call Christy at 750-0337.



*The new Watershed Coordinator, James Bowcutt.*

### Crop Disaster Program (CDP)

Farmers who suffered crop losses from natural disasters that occurred in 2005, 2006 and 2007 may be eligible to receive benefits through the new Crop Disaster Program (CDP). The CDP has been amended to include all crops planted for the 2007 crop year, including all spring-planted crops. Losses must exceed 35 percent of expected production to qualify.

Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year for which to receive benefits. They may receive benefits for multiple crop losses if all were in the same crop year. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Non Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of the loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. To apply for benefits contact your local FSA or visit: [www.fsa.usda.gov/utah/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/utah/)

### Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

Livestock producers in Cache County who suffered forage losses due to

drought in 2007 may be eligible for benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program. Eligible livestock include beef cattle, dairy cattle, equine, elk, sheep, and goats. To qualify, livestock must have been located in an eligible county on January 1 of the applicable year and must have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation.

To apply for benefits contact your local FSA or visit: [www.fsa.usda.gov/utah/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/utah/)

### Welcome new watershed coordinator

James Bowcutt is the new Bear River Watershed Coordinator. James works with the Division of Water quality and NRCS to help monitor and improve water quality throughout the watershed. James is also in charge of educating the public about opportunities to reduce pollution and improve local waterways.

James grew up in Beaver Dam and now resides in Garland with his wife Karen and two-year-old son Payton. He graduated from Utah State in the fall of 2007 with a degree in Watershed Sciences. James enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, and anything that takes him outdoors.

### Free mousers available to farmers and ranchers

Aggie Cat Allies has worked to trap abandoned feral cats on USU campus and, with the help of the Cache Humane Society (CHS), the group has been able to raise money to spay and neuter these animals to humanely control the population.

Some of these "fixed" animals need to be moved to new locations to free up room at the USU cat feeding stations. Aggie Cat Allies and CHS would like to relocate ten "fixed" mousers to farms and ranches throughout the valley at no cost to the recipients. These animals will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis. The cats can be of service by keeping your rodent population down.

For more information on obtaining a mouser, please contact CHS Animal

Placement Director, Paul Mueller, at 752-3171, or paul.mueller@cachehumane.org.

## 2008 Conservation Fair and Field Days

The Northern Utah and West Box Elder Conservation Districts are hosting the Utah Conservation Field Days on June 18-19, 2008 at the Box Elder County Fairgrounds. An Agricultural Marketing Tour will be held in the afternoon of the 18th. Rough Stock Band will entertain us that same evening in conjunction with a conservation fair open to the public.

On the 19th, there will be an all day Conservation Tour. Charter buses will tour Box Elder County focusing on conservation and historical sites. The day will conclude with a visit to the Historical Golden Spike National Monument and the Bear River Bird Refuge.

Call Thayne Mickelson, 435-753-6029 ext. 38, early to reserve a seat and a lunch on the tour.

*- Thayne Mickelson,  
Zone One Resource Coordinator*

## From the editor— Cherie Quincieu

As the new editor of this publication, I thought I should introduce myself. I am a Utah native—grew up in Sanpete County. Back in my college days I spent a summer in Switzerland where I met my French-speaking husband, Joël (which explains the difficult surname). We now live in Hyde Park with our two children.

I am excited about the opportunity to work with Cache Conservation News and everyone who contributes to it. I first picked up a copy of the newsletter last spring and was impressed with the abundance of information it provides about local conservation efforts and opportunities. I only wish I had heard about it sooner.

I thank JoLynne Lyon for her suggestions and advice on preparing the newsletter. I hope to maintain the high standard she set. I also would

like to thank Thayne Mickelson and Amber Beck for their help and advice regarding this issue, my first as editor.

## BOARD ACTIONS

### Joint Actions

- Represented conservation districts' concerns on the Agriculture Advisory Board;
- Co-sponsored the Mini-Water Users Conference on March 25, 2008;
- Participated in Cache County Local Workgroup.

### Blacksmith Fork

- Donated \$150.00 to sponsor two Envirothon teams: Blacksmith Fork 4-H and South Cache Middle School;
- Donated \$100.00 to sponsor the Conservation Easement Workshop;
- Approved Wildlife Plan for Mel Torrie;
- Approved ARDL loan request for Gene Hibner.

### North Cache Actions

- Approved ARDL loan requests for Chris Karren and Jan and Alice Hall;
- Donated \$100.00 to the National Association of Conservation Districts building fund, in memory of Olin Simms.



*The new Cache Conservation News editor, Cherie Quincieu.*

## DISTRICT ELECTION RESULTS

### Blacksmith Fork Board

Thomas Bailey, Jon White, and Richard L. Nielsen were re-elected.

### North Cache Board

Shane Munk, D. Wesley Roundy, and Joseph G. Larsen were re-elected.

## GLEANINGS



*The Logan River in Logan Canyon.*

- Fresh snowfall on March 31 boosted the Bear River snowpack to 102% of average. At the Northern Utah Mini-Water Conference on March 25, NRCS Hydrologist Randy Julander said that while the snowpack is good news, soil moisture levels are down in comparison to the past two years. According to Julander, most rivers and streams should flow at close to 100% of normal. He also projects that Hyrum and Porcupine reservoirs would easily fill to capacity but says that most of Bear Lake's recharge would be used through summer, leaving the lake near its current 20-25% capacity. Overall, 2008 should be a good water year, he said. For current water supply information visit: [www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/](http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/)

- March 22 marked the beginning of the Great Utah Agriculture Survey. This is your chance to speak up and have your comments posted on the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) website. The UDAF is looking for your story about agriculture and wants to know what farming and ranching mean to you. If you farm or ranch, describe what you grow or raise and what you think about feeding the rest of the state. If you live in the city, tell us what you appreciate about Utah's farmers and ranchers. We'd even like to hear your opinion on what needs to be fixed in agriculture. Send your message today to: [agriculture@utah.gov](mailto:agriculture@utah.gov)

- The 2008 Nature High Summer Camp will be held July 14-19. The camp offers Utah high school students a week in the Manti-LaSal National Forest learning about natural resources. The program is sponsored by several federal agencies. The camp is open to all current, qualified sophomores, juniors, and seniors in Utah. Applications for the camp must be submitted by April 30, 2008. A \$50 registration fee is due upon acceptance to the camp. For more information and a downloadable application form go to [www.naturehighcamp.com](http://www.naturehighcamp.com).

- The Cache County Weed Department is providing a 50% cost-share program on herbicide application to qualifying landowners and canal companies. This will include a cost

share on all labor, equipment and herbicide. The County Weed Control Supervisor will determine if a request meets the intended requirements of this grant. Requests will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is gone. For more information contact the Cache County Weed Department at 755-1562.

- A popular one-day program for free disposal of pesticides is set for April 22, 2008 in Santaquin. The UDAF can help anyone with unwanted or outdated pesticides during its annual free pick up program. "This is a totally anonymous program," said Robert Hougaard, program manager. "No record of your name is kept after the program, and you are free from any risk of cost or penalty." Citizens are requested to bring the unwanted pesticide to a central location in their regions. Licensed hazardous waste disposal companies, under contract with the state, will pick up the product and destroy them. Contact Robert Hougaard for sign up: (801) 538-7187. Pre-registration forms are available from a UDAF agricultural compliance specialist in your area: Mark Ashcroft (435) 752-6263.

**"Chairman" cont. from page 1**  
to raise our children in the best place in the world—on the farm.

We at the Conservation Districts and NRCS wish you a profitable and bounteous season. If we can be of help to you or your operation, please let us know.

**"RMS" cont. from page 1**  
landowners to contact our office now to begin, or to update, your conservation plan. We are here to "help people, help the land."

For more on the work of Utah's conservation districts, go online at: [www.uacd.org](http://www.uacd.org).

## COMING EVENTS

- April 19 Bare-root Tree and Shrub Sale, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m., 4-H building at the Cache County Fairgrounds.
- North Cache Conservation District board meetings: third Wednesday of each month, 8 p.m., USDA Service Center, 1860 N. 100 E., North Logan.
- Blacksmith Fork Conservation District board meetings: fourth Thursday of each month, 1 p.m., USDA Service Center, 1860 N. 100 E., North Logan.
- Cache County Agriculture Advisory Board, first Tuesday of each month, 3 p.m., County Administration building 179 N. Main, Logan.

- April 18-19 All-Utah Dairy Show at Weber County Fair Grounds.
- April 19 Bare-root Tree and Shrub Sale: 8 to 11 a.m., 4-H building at the Cache County Fairgrounds.
- April 25-26 Utah Envirothon, Moab, registration at Moab Arts & Rec Center.
- May 2-3 Cache County 4-H and FFA Spring Dairy Show.
- June 7 Seventh Annual Bear River Celebration and Fishing Day, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Willow Park, Logan. FREE family-gear event.

- June 18-19 Utah Conservation Fair and Field Days. The fair is on June 18th at the Box Elder County Fairgrounds, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. The fair is free and open to the public.
- The annual Bag O' Woad program is tentatively set for the end of May/ beginning of June. For more info call the Cache County Weed Department at 755-1562.

Scott J. Poulsen, area manager  
Scott Marchant, loan officer  
Ryan Howell, loan officer



2072 N. Main, Ste. 201  
North Logan, UT 84341-1993  
(435) 752-2146  
1-800-748-5071

**ELLIS** Farm Equipment  
& Metal Buildings

701 S. Main • Logan, UT • 84321  
PH: 435-752-4311 • Fax: 435-752-4384  
www.ellisequipment.com

Christensen Construction  
& Gravel, Inc.

*The Company of Choice*


Dispatch Concrete - Gravel - Sand - Excavation  
435-713-0700 Ready to meet all the needs of agriculture

**IFA**

FEED - SEED - TWINE -  
FENCING - IRRIGATION - TIRES -  
FERTILIZER - INSECTICIDES -  
HERBICIDES

SERVING THE NEEDS OF  
AGRICULTURE ON THE FARM

HYDE PARK 563-1604  
LEWISTON 258-2475

 **CACHE VALLEY BANK**

'A TRADITION OF HELPING'

Main Office (435) 753-3020  
101 North Main  
Logan, Utah 84321

Branch Office (435) 755-6736  
1710 North Main  
North Logan, Utah 84341

Serving agriculture since 1962

**Walton Feed West, Inc.**  
Specializing in feed supplements

Cache Junction 5740 N. 7000 West 563-5301

Established 1905

 **Lewiston State Bank**  
Your Hometown Bank

2190 N. Main, North Logan (435) 750-6700  
17 E. Center, Lewiston (435) 258-2456



 **CACHE COUNTY FARM BUREAU**

**Polaris**

**Golden Spike Equipment Co.**  
www.gspike.com

1352 W. Main Tremonton  (435) 257-5346  
1-800-821-4474

Strength to Grow On

Nick Wamsley – General Manager  
Jay Atkinson – Service Manager  
Aaron Walker – Parts Manager

**Valley Implement And Irrigation**

2570 North Main Street • North Logan, Utah 84341  
(435) 787-1586 • (800) 621-6217



## Ag in the Classroom (AITC) Gears Up for Farm Field Days

*By Denise Stewardson  
AITC Outreach Coordinator*

Spring in Utah can bring many things such as snow on daffodils, but at Utah Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC), spring brings Farm Field Days! Field days are opportunities for schoolchildren to experience agriculture first-hand. Many counties throughout the state organize field days through their county extension offices with assistance from agriculture agents, 4-H agents, county specialists, Farm Bureau, conservation districts, and many other staff and volunteers.

As scheduling and travel allow, AITC gets involved in the Farm Field Days by providing a learning station for students. The program also provides free educational resources to those teachers who attend the field day with their students. In addition to our quarterly newsletter and annual

Newspapers in Education publication, teachers receive a Utah Agricultural map, a copy of the Food Pyramid, and grade-level appropriate field day activities that are easily adapted to the classroom.

For organizers of the field days, AITC offers numerous resources to enhance students' learning experiences.

AgQuest cards, the newest resource, are modeled after the popular Brain Quest® cards, which use questions about the 5Fs of agriculture: food, farm, fabric, flowers, and forestry.

Following is a sample to test your agricultural knowledge:

1. What percent of the Earth's water supply is fresh water?
2. What President signed legislation creating the U.S. Department of Agriculture?
3. What crop is grown in all 50 states?
4. Which plant produces fiber for blue jeans?
5. Which agricultural product provides material for shelter?

AgQuest cards (\$1 per set) and other field-day appropriate resources are

available on the AITC Web site at [www.agclassroom.org/ut](http://www.agclassroom.org/ut). The site contains an online e-store where consumable kits can be purchased, and printed lesson plans and instructional units can be downloaded free. The site also has a Farm Field Day calendar (click on "Farm Field Days" at the home page) and other pertinent information related to field days (e.g. easy-to-use field activities, and crop and livestock cards). If you are involved in the planning of a field day, be sure to check out the Web site and the many helpful, educational resources.

So, did you pass the AgQuest test? Here are the answers to the aforementioned questions:

1. 3%; 2. Abraham Lincoln; 3. corn or potatoes; 4. cotton; 5. trees

Order a set of AgQuest cards and learn many more agricultural facts!

## Important phone numbers

Conservation districts	753-6029
USDA-NRCS	753-5616
Cache County Extension	752-6263
USDA-FSA	753-5480