

Cache Conservation News



Every Day is Earth Day for Ranchers and Farmers

Winter 2011

New Rules for Animal Feeding Operations Will Soon Be Implemented

New rules and regulations that affect animal feeding operations (AFOs) and concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) will soon be in effect. Spring 2011 is the target date for implementation. New regulations remove the protection against fines and penalties for discharges occurring during large storm events unless one has a permit. Utah is currently working on three permit options for producers: CAFO Permit, CAFO Permit-by-Rule, and an AFO Permit-by-Rule. A key component of any of the permits is the implementation and maintenance of a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP).

Utah State University Extension and the Utah AFO/CAFO team* will be conducting workshops on the new regulations. The workshops will help producers assess their risk and need for a permit, and explain what is involved with implementing and maintaining a NMP. A workshop will be held in Box Elder County on Feb. 23, 2011 and in Cache County on Feb. 24, 2011. There is no fee for the workshop. Topics to be covered at the workshop:

- Overview of the Regulations
- Types of Permits
- Risk Assessment-- Should I Get a Permit?
- Why have a Nutrient Management Plan?
- Key Components of a Nutrient Management Plan
- Keeping the Permit Valid
- Record Keeping

continued on pg. 3

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

*By Jon White, Chairman
Blacksmith Fork Conservation District*

Over the past several months, the districts along with the NRCS, have been working on a resource assessment for Cache County. This encompasses everything from farmland to human resources to air quality and how they affect quality of life for all of us in Cache Valley. Our main concern, or effort, really deals with agriculture and how it interacts with the natural resources of this beautiful valley. We look at what producers can do to improve or enhance these values and resources.

As we asked for input from others, I was amazed at how little people really care until they are directly affected. There are so many free opportunities to learn about and improve our personal operations: extension service offers, spray clinics, crop schools, water conferences, and more. Yet do we take advantage of these opportunities? At county council and city council meetings, no one shows up to help guide the way we progress until it directly affects them.

We need to become more proactive in our own lives to protect those resources we all love and take for granted. We need to teach our own children and our grandchildren how important they are for our own way of life. I have been in agriculture my entire life, and I am amazed at

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Included in this issue: Bare-Root Tree & Shrub Sale order form and the South Cache WPA Medusahead newsletter.

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EXTENSION CORNER

Stress on the Farm

Dr. Robert J. Fetsch, Extension Specialist, Colorado State University, is a national leader in referencing the difficult economic condition of agriculture. Fetsch often speaks of stress, anger, depression and suicidal thinking. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has identified farming as one of the top twelve high-stress occupations.

The first step to helping each other during an economic downturn is to recognize the signs of farm and ranch stress in a friend, neighbor, spouse, family member, or oneself.

Fetsch said the first step to helping each other during economic downturns is to recognize signs of farm and ranch stress in a friend, neighbor, spouse, family member, or oneself. Examples may be the farmer quits attending church, no longer stops at the local feed mill or coffee shop, appearance of the farmstead declines, livestock are not properly cared for, fails to wave. Other indicators may be a sad face, slow movements, unkempt appearance, feelings of hopelessness, discouragement, and often alcoholism. Depressed people typically feel guilt and low self-esteem. Their inability to keep the farm or ranch together, especially if it has been in the family for multiple generations, is sometimes more than they can bear.

The second step is to take action. Find out what resources are available in your area to assist folks with high levels of stress, anger, depression, and suicidal thinking. That may include clergy, therapists, psychologists, social workers, mental health counselors or crisis intervention centers.

The third step, according to Dr. Fetsch, is to connect. Make an excuse to stop by and visit with the


person you are concerned about. Sit down with them face to face and talk. Fetsch said the conversation may go something like this. "Joe, how long have we known each other? We've been friends and neighbors for a long time, and I have to say I am worried about you. I see your sad face. I hear how hopeless you sound. When you say some of the things you say I become concerned. I am afraid you may be thinking about hurting yourself. Are you? Tell me about it. I've got all the time in the world. Tell me what's going on." Then listen.

Do not moralize. Don't say, "Cowboy up, Joe!" Don't say, "You've got to look at the bright side." Those comments may set up roadblocks so that Joe will stop talking with you. Instead, paraphrase what you are hearing. Many times, having someone to talk to can reduce much of the stress a person is feeling. At other times, it may be necessary to refer a friend, family member or yourself to professional help. Fortunately, we have many skilled professionals within our area that can be very helpful.

I once heard a speaker say; "Never correlate your self-worth with your net-worth." You are always more valuable than your financial resources, especially to those who know you and love you.

I always enjoy a good visit. If someone needs to talk, I am willing to be a patient listener.

*Clark Israelsen,
Cache County Extension Agent*

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	<i>Editor: Cherie Quincieu</i>	<i>Printed on Recycled Paper</i>

PROGRAM NOTES

NRCS Announces New Conservation Opportunities

The NRCS continues to administer conservation programs intended to assist agricultural producer in conserving natural resources on their private lands. Most programs offered provide a continuous application period for producers to submit their application request. Periodic batching periods are designated and all previously submitted applications are ranked and prioritized for funding. Program funding levels determine how many batching periods are held in a given year.

NRCS has announced initiatives to address new EPA Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) intended to contain on-farm oil and fuel spills. The Organic farming initiative to assist producers with resource issues related to organic farming or transitioning to organic farming. Utah has been selected as a pilot state for air quality funding to assist agriculture in reducing emissions. Additional information is forthcoming.

Important dates:

- Oil Spill and Air Quality application deadline – January 28, 2011
- Organic application deadline – March 4, 2011

For more information on these or any other natural resource conservation related opportunities, please contact the local NRCS office at 1860 N. 100 East, North Logan, UT.

cont. from pg. 1 "New Rules . . ."

For more information please contact Nathan Daugs at the Zone 1 UACD Office, 435-753-5616 x124 or Rhonda Miller, Ph.D., rhonda.miller@usu.edu, 435-797-3772.

*AFO/CAFO Team includes members from Farm Bureau, UACD, NRCS, USU Extension, UDAF, Division of Water Quality, and numerous producer groups.

Logan Northern Canal DRAFT EIS Expected Early February

*Bob Fotheringham,
Cache County Water Manager*

The NRCS recently distributed an administrative draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for comment to Cache County, the U.S. Forest Service and the Army Corp of Engineers, cooperating agencies for this project. The draft EIS evaluates in detail alternatives to restore water to the Logan Northern Canal using the current alignment and proposed connections, at 1500 N. and 3100 N., with the Logan Hyde Park Smithfield Canal.

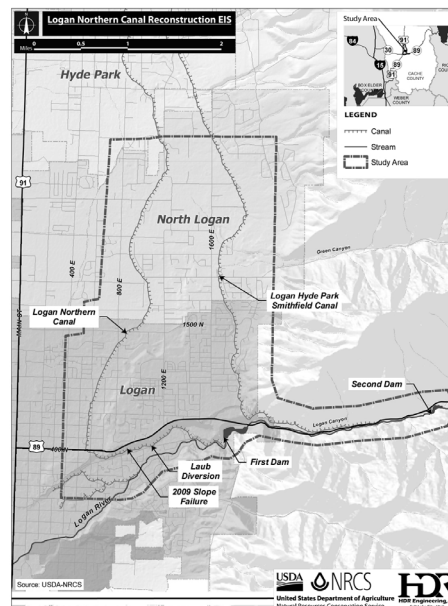
NRCS State Conservationist, Sylvia Gillen said she is "pleased with the quality of the analysis and is looking forward to a decision so construction can begin." The agency is expected to release their decision by fall, with construction anticipated in early 2012.

When released for public review, the draft EIS will discuss the history and all alternatives brought forward from the scoping process. Public scoping* yielded significant and varied responses and helped define the alternatives that have been studied for a defensible selection.

The draft EIS includes a discussion of the selection process used to eliminate alternatives that were not carried forward and the three alternatives studied in detail that include costs based on conceptual engineering designs.

The cooperating agencies are expected to have comments to the NRCS on the administrative draft early in January of 2011. NRCS and their contracted engineering firm, HDR, Inc., will then incorporate the comments and select a preferred alternative for the draft EIS to be made available for public review and comment in early February 2011.

*The October 2010 *Scoping Summary Report* is available at the Utah NRCS website: <http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EWP/LNCRP/index.html>



Logan Northern Canal Reconstruction Study Area. See the full-size map in the Scoping Summary Report at www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov

WATERSHED REPORT

Final Article

*By Jim Bowcutt
Bear River Watershed Coordinator,
USU Cache County Extension*

I recently accepted a job offer as the state non-point source coordinator for the Utah Division of Water Quality in Salt Lake City. As I have been tying up loose ends and cleaning up my work area, I've had the opportunity to reflect on the experiences I've had over the last few years as the Bear River Watershed Coordinator. As a student coming straight out of school, I didn't realize how lucky I was when I was selected for this position. For my last article in this news letter, I figured I would highlight some of the reasons why I liked this job so much.

One of the main reasons I liked my job so much had to do with the caliber of people that I worked with. Since my office was in the Farm Service Agency building, I had the opportunity to work with several different agencies throughout the planning process. I can tell you that everyone in that building is genuinely concerned about the well being of the producers throughout the valley. They have also taken a vested interest in the natural resources we have, and have been very well trained in how to protect those resources.

It was a pleasure to associate with the local producers. As a kid growing up in northern Utah, I was always bucking hay bales and moving sprinkler pipe. I also worked for ten years at a local grain elevator. I have realized how great it is to be an integrated part of the agricultural community. During my time in the NRCS office, I had the opportunity to work with several producers on a one-on-one basis. When a conservation planner takes on a contract for a given operation, he cannot help but feel like he has taken a little ownership in that operation. He is suddenly concerned about the finances of the operation, the quality of the operation, and the well-being of the people that run the

operation. I have developed a great respect for the agricultural producers in our valley, and the challenges and obstacles they face on a daily basis.

I have always considered myself lucky for growing up where I have, but until I got this job I did not realize how wonderful the Bear River Watershed was. The Bear River Watershed has such a diversity of landscapes and wildlife. It has been a good experience to coordinate with various agencies with the common goal of protecting these resources. I hope we can continue to focus on protecting our watershed so that it can continue to be enjoyed for generations to come.

I thank you all so much for making this job such an enjoyable experience for me. I will be sure to take the knowledge and experience that I gained here to my next job position. While I will have to be unbiased in the new career path I have chosen to take, I must admit that the Bear River Watershed will always have a special place in my heart.

cont. from pg. 1 'Chairman Message'

some of the questions asked by my own children, who have been raised on a ranch.

As the new year starts, I hope we all will work harder to help protect and educate those around us concerning the natural resources and beauties of the valley in which we live. Get involved. Take advantage of the opportunities for improvement and enhancement of your own operation. Take a look at the coming events in this newsletter to see what's available. Many of these opportunities are free and your only expense is your time.

First Canal Safety Management Plan

Kerry Van Dyke, P.E., UACD

House Bill 60, Water Conveyance Facilities Safety Act, sponsored by Rep. Fred Hunsaker of Logan, passed in the final hours of the 2010 Utah Legislative Session. The first Canal Safety Management Plan, created in response to the new law, will be presented on February 12, 2011 at the Strawberry High Line Canal shareholder meeting.

In early 2010, UACD partnered with the Utah Division of Water Resources, Utah Water Users Association, and the Timp/Nebo Conservation District to assist the Strawberry High Line Canal Company, located along the eastern foothills in Utah County, in developing the first Water Conveyance Facility Safety Management Plan. The ultimate goal of the project, which was partially funded through a grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and coordinated with the Franson Civil Engineers, was to create a management plan template that could be used by any canal company throughout the state.

During the development of the management plan, project team members participated in a Reclamation canal inspection, performed GIS analysis of the canal profile, reviewed historical incidents, analyzed existing data, and developed checklists and form letters. The first draft of the plan was completed in December 2010 and is being reviewed by various individuals and agencies. Completion of the final draft is anticipated for early 2011.

Conservation districts and UACD are mentioned in H.B. 60, conservation districts as points of contact with canal companies and UACD assisting the Utah Division of Water Resources with information and education.

In Utah there are hundreds of open canals that convey water for multiple uses, but primarily agriculture. As urban areas expand, residential and commercial development encroaches upon the canals, which increases the risk to both residents and infrastructure.

The purpose of H.B. 60 is to help canal companies and municipalities better manage the risks associated with open water conveyance in close proximity to urban areas. It requires that any canal company that has one or more risky sections of canal, develop and implement a safety management plan no later than May 1, 2013.

Cache County: Land Use Authority Notification of Canal Development

House Bill 298, Land Use Authority Notification of Canal Development, sponsored by Rep. Ben Ferry in the 2010 Utah Legislature requires canal companies to inform cities and counties of the general location of each canal they are responsible for and who to contact when development is proposed. The law requires that this be accomplished by July 1, 2010. At this date, few irrigation companies in Cache County have responded to the new state law: ten of the approximate thirty largest companies have provided their information.

The North Cache and Blacksmith Fork Conservation Districts have partnered with the county to assist canal companies in fulfilling the H.B. 298 requirements. The process is simple and any canal company that has not yet taken advantage of this assistance is encouraged to contact Debbie Roper, GIS specialist employed by UACD and housed at the Cache County Development Services Office.

The information your irrigation company will need to furnish when meeting with Debbie:

- 1) Contact information including your representative's name, mailing address, phone number and e-mail address.
- 2) A drawing showing the alignment of the canal(s) or be able to show location on a current aerial photo (available at the county).

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Local residents use the Strawberry High Line Canal right-of-way for recreational activities.

COMING EVENTS

- Jan. 26-28, Utah Hay & Forage Symposium, St. George
- Feb. 2, 10:00 a.m., Safflower School with USU Extension and Mountain States Oilseeds, BATC
- Feb. 3, 10:00 a.m., IFA Dairy Seminar, Coppermill
- Feb. 22, 10:00 a.m., Cache Crops School, BATC
- Feb. 24, AFO/CAFO Workshop, Caine Dairy, Wellsville
- March 9-11, Utah Dairy Convention, Davis Convention Center, Layton
- March 14-16, Utah Water User's Workshop, Dixie Center, St. George
- March 30, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mini-Water User's Conference, Space Dynamics Laboratory, Logan
- North Cache Conservation District board meetings: third Wednesday of each month, 10 a.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

BOARD ACTIONS

Blacksmith Fork

- Approved conservation plans for Nathan Daug, Bryan Palmer, and Jon White.
- Approved thirteen Conservation Reserve Program contracts.

North Cache

- Approved conservation plans for Glen Benson, Mike Benson, Terry Griffin, Steve Bodily, Scott Trip, Mark Cowley, and Jeff Gittins;
- Approved ARDL requests Gordon Barlow, Joe Larsen, and Dave Dorius.
- Approved ninety Conservation Reserve Program contracts.

cont. from pg. 5 'Cache County: Land Use ...'

Debbie will do the rest of the work to assure your canal has fulfilled its obligation, including:

- 1) Digitizing canal(s) alignment into county GIS database, overlay onto a current aerial photo, and prepare a simple map.
- 2) Providing the digitized or hard copy map and irrigation company information to affected municipalities.
- 3) Retaining a record of the map and irrigation company information and updating as new or additional information is provided by the company representative.

Debbie Roper
GIS Specialist UACD
179 North Main 3rd Floor
Logan UT. 84321
(435) 755-1642
debbie.roper@cachecounty.org



GLEANINGS

- According to the USDA's Economic Research Service, despite the declining numbers of small commercial farms, their production is substantial and is expected to remain so for the foreseeable future. In 2007, small commercial farms accounted for 22 percent of all U.S. farm production. The shift of production to larger farms will continue to be gradual, but substantial numbers of small commercial farms will remain in business.
- On December 16, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) made the final EIS for Roundup Ready® Alfalfa (RR alfalfa) available for public viewing at www.aphis.usda.gov.
- The districts would like to thank all those who took time to participate in the Cache County Resource Assessment survey. Survey results have been used to help determine Cache County's natural resource priorities. Thank you for your input.

The Northern Utah Mini-Water Conference is scheduled for March 30, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Space Dynamics Laboratory.

For more on the work of Utah's conservation districts, go online at: www.uacd.org.

Go to www.uacd.org and click the Blacksmith Fork Tree Sale link to see photos and descriptions of trees and shrubs available at our 2011 sale.




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Jay Atkinson – Service Manager

Wes Wright – Ag Parts Manager

Bill Ballif – Irrigation Parts Manager





CONSERVATION CLASSROOM

Looking for a way to help in and out of the classroom?

By Lyndi Larson Perry
AITC Outreach Coordinator

There's an easy way to get involved in education—volunteer to read a book! Give a teacher a break and share your interest with a class just by reading. There are many wonderful books available to educate students on important conservation topics while still meeting their core curriculum requirements, maximizing class time learning.

Not sure where to start? Try some of these Agriculture in the Classroom favorites!

• *Diary of a Worm*—This book is highly engaging to second through fourth grade students, and is a great compliment to discussions about soil conservation, composting, and living and nonliving organisms.

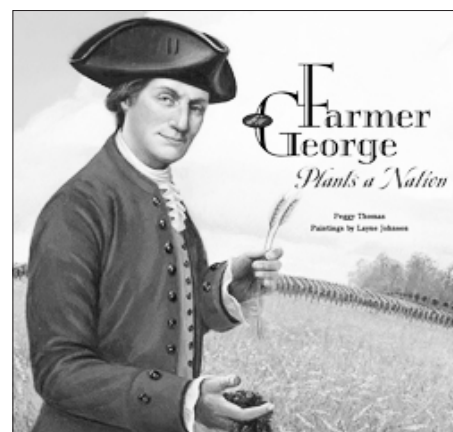
• *Farmer George Plants a Nation*—Featuring stunning artwork, actual quotes from George Washington, a brief tour of early agriculture, and a practical application of the scientific method, this historical book reaches far into many areas of curriculum from fourth through seventh grades.

• *The Wheat Doll*—This book highlights day-to-day living of Utahans in the late 1800s, and tells the story of a young girl whose favorite toy, a wheat doll, is lost in a storm. It's great for all elementary students and helps them visualize a more simple style of living.

• *Cattle Kids*—Take students on a tour of the ranch with the beautiful photographs of children and cattle that help make this informative non-fiction piece relatable to children of all ages. This book is a great way to introduce concepts of public land use and cattle lifecycles, and is a realistic but compassionate view of the business of animal agriculture.

Still want more? Search the National Resources Directory, available through the national AITC website: www.agclassroom.org/directory.

Here you will be able to search by topic, subject, grade level, and key word, or simply view the monthly featured resources for great materials on every subject!



Important phone numbers

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