

Cache Conservation News



Every Day is Earth Day for Ranchers and Farmers

Winter 2008

Tree Sale order forms available now

If you need a living snow fence, stream bank erosion control, a wind-break or something to spruce up the yard, your conservation districts can help. The Blacksmith Fork/North Cache annual tree sale offers landscape trees and shrubs in addition to hardy, drought-tolerant species.

See the enclosed order form for details. Orders must be placed by March 5, 2008. Additional information on the trees offered can be found at www.uacd.org > conservation districts > directory of districts > Blacksmith Fork Conservation District > tree sale.

District elections start soon

Both the North Cache and the Blacksmith Fork conservation districts have three board positions up for election. Members of both five-member boards provide local direction for state and federal conservation programs. These programs affect soil and water quality on private lands.

Landowners who make the principal decisions on farms and ranches should receive ballots in the mail this month. In addition, registered voters may request a ballot from the Farm Service Administration or the Utah Association of Conservation Districts at 1860 N. 100 East, North Logan, or at the USU Extension Office, 179 N. Main, Logan. Ballots may also be requested online. For more information visit: <http://ag.utah.gov>.

See page 5 for profiles of the candidates.

FROM THE ZONE

NACD services outlined

*By Paul Leishman
Zone 1 representative, UACD*

I have been asked to write in this edition for the Cache Conservation News Letter regarding the National Association of Conservation Districts and what it is doing for you in Washington DC.

The next farm bill will affect America's entire agricultural community, and NACD is working to ensure that conservation is fairly represented in the re-authorization. America's conservation districts must make sure their voices are heard throughout the 2007 Farm Bill process.

NACD provides the local districts the tools to aid in informing your state representatives in the form of letters supporting a strong conservation title, issue paper, action alerts, and talking points that will aid you in getting the support from your elected officials. All this information can be found at www.nacdnet.org.

NACD leaders have also launched the 509 Capitol Court Campaign to raise funds needed to repair, improve and maintain the National Headquarters building in Washington D.C. These changes are necessary to make better use of the

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EXTENSION CORNER

Census of Agriculture

The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures, and many other important areas.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is gearing up to conduct the 2007 Census of Agriculture. Taken every five years, the Census of Agriculture is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches with a description of the people who operate them. It is the most comprehensive agricultural resource available. Every county in the nation is examined to provide uniform and comprehensive rural data.

The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures, and many other important areas. Hopefully, farmers and ranchers will understand how critical it is for them to participate by providing accurate information for the Census. The information published in the Census is only as accurate as the responses received from producers. NASS is anxious to make the Census as complete and accurate as possible. It will only happen with our cooperation.

By participating in the Census, farmers and ranchers can demonstrate the value of U. S. agriculture, which many feel is underappreciated. Census data is used to make decisions about many things that directly affect farmers such as location of stores/companies; location and staffing of USDA service centers; farm programs and policies; availability of agricultural lending sources; and many more.

Accuracy and completeness of the Census is the responsibility of every agricultural producer, large or small. Participation in the Census is required by law. That same law protects the confidentiality of respondents. Please respond when the Census is mailed near January 1.

– Clark Israelson
Cache County Extension agent

Cache sixth in state in ag cash receipts

The 2007 Utah Annual Statistics Bulletin shows that Cache County's cash receipts from farming totaled \$118.3 million in 2006, down from \$131 million in 2005.


Cache's farming receipts ranked sixth in the state in 2006, behind Utah, Beaver, Millard, Box Elder and Sanpete counties. The county's ranking has slipped over the last five years; in 2002 Cache ranked second.

Statewide, farming cash receipts rose from \$11.3 billion in 2003 to \$12.4 billion in 2006.

Cache still ranked first in barley production and second in wheat production statewide, and it was in the top five in oats, silage, hay and cattle.

For more information, visit: <http://ag.utah.gov> and click on "USDA Agricultural Statistics Report."

– JoLynne Lyon

	Blacksmith Fork Conservation District	North Cache Conservation District
	Board of Supervisors Jon White, Chairman Members: Tom Bailey Jay Tuddenham Paul Leishman Richard Nielsen Associate Members: Clark Israelson Printed on Recycled Paper Editor: JoLynne Lyon	Board of Supervisors S. Bruce Karren, Chairman Members: Shane Munk Joseph G. Larsen Steven Chambers D Wesley Roundy Associate Members: Clark Israelson Ken Cardon

PROGRAM NOTES

Incentive payments to replace cost shares

The Natural Resource Conservation Service is eliminating the term "cost share" from its payments. While NRCS will continue offering payments to private landowners to encourage the conservation of natural resources on their property, these will be termed incentive payments will not necessarily be linked to a specific cost share.

Conservation Innovation Grants available

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is requesting proposals for Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) for fiscal year 2008. The CIG program is designed to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies.

The application deadline is February 20.

For fiscal year (FY) 2008, up to \$20 million is available for the National CIG competition. Funds for single- or multi-year projects, not to exceed three years, will be awarded through a nationwide competitive grants process. Eligible non-government organizations or individuals may apply.

There are two CIG categories that apply to Utah and are available in FY 2008:

- **Natural Resource Concerns Category:** Up to \$10 million is available for proposals addressing one or more of the CIG natural resource concerns.
- **Technology Category:** Up to \$5 million is available for proposals addressing one or more of the CIG technology categories.

To apply electronically visit: <http://www.grants.gov/>. For more information contact NRCS District

Conservationist Jon Hardman at the USDA-NRCS office at 1860 N. 100 East, North Logan, UT 84341, or call 435-753-5616.

Specialty crop grants available

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) is encouraging other agencies, universities, institutions, and industry or community based organizations to apply for grants to assist specialty crop production. The grants are available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service, and will be awarded to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.

Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, and nursery crops (including floriculture). To be eligible for a specialty crop grant from the State, projects must enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops.

The deadline for submitting an application form to receive a portion of the allocated \$103,000 is January 31, 2008. An application packet and full program overview is available at <http://ag.utah.gov> or by calling Jed Christenson at (801) 538-7108.

Thirteen EQIP projects selected in Cache

The Natural Resources Conservation Service received 94 applications in Cache County this year for projects under the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Of those, 66 applications were ranked, using an NRCS screening tool that assigned them a priority rating.

In the end, 13 conservation plans were selected for funding in Cache County by the NRCS State Office. They will bring an estimated \$588,726 in Farm Bill incentive payments to Cache County.

Five of those plans would improve

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



Melvin Zollinger served on the Blacksmith Fork Conservation District for 11 years.

pasture lands, two would enhance stream banks, two would make improvements to animal feeding operations, one would improve irrigation, one involves an orchard, one would improve rangeland and one would improve wildlife habitat.

In November, the North Cache Conservation District Board approved the eight projects that had been selected for funding in its district.

Three conservation plans were approved in the Blacksmith Fork district by that district's board. The board will discuss a fourth project further before taking action on it. A fifth project was rejected because board members felt it was not the most effective use of Federal funds. That conservation plan meets NRCS state requirements and will be funded under the federal EQIP program.

EQIP is a Farm Bill program that offers financial and technical help to participants who wish to add structures or management practices that enhance the environmental quality of their land.

As this newsletter was in production, the next farm bill was still under discussion by the US Congress. Conservation plans for the 2008 fiscal year were funded at 2007 levels under a continuing resolution, as the former Farm Bill has expired and the new one has not yet been approved.

GLEANINGS

- Though higher feed prices may tempt cattle operators to feed their cattle low-cost pet food, State Veterinarian Dr. Earl Rogers warns against it. Since most pet food contains products from ruminants (cud-chewing animals like cows and goats) and since feeding ruminant to ruminant heightens the risk of BSE, the practice of feeding ruminant products to ruminant animals is illegal in Utah.
- The Cache County Council appointed Robert Fotheringham as the Cache County Water Manager in November. This is a new position created after months of studying water issues in Cache County.

- During the UACD convention in November, a new auxiliary leadership was voted in. Karen Smart of Pleasant Grove is the new president, Lora Hardman of Lehi is the vice president, and Bonnie Brotherson of the Roosevelt area is the secretary/treasurer. Smart's goal is to help the women of the auxiliary to feel that they have their own place in UACD. "I would just get it so that the women that come to the meetings feel welcome and invited," she said. The group is still looking for a historian.

- Tony Grove Lake has received the equivalent of about 10 inches of water since October. The average is 15 inches. The precipitation in the Bear River basin is 21 percent below average. Still, storms at the end of December brought good news; at Tony Grove, the snow depth increased by 40 inches in the last two weeks of 2007. For a look at current snow pack and water year data, visit: www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/data.

- Here is a look at Farm Bill conservation plans executed in Cache over the past decade: 123 Environmental Quality Incentive Program and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program contracts have been completed. In addition, 39 Conservation Security Program contracts have been executed. One hundred twenty-eight contracts are in process.

- A study by North American Weather Consultants, Inc. in Sandy, Utah suggests that pollution reduces the precipitation that is associated with mountains. Downwind of the Salt Lake/Provo complex, precipitation declined, though the decline was not observed at mountain stations farther removed from the metropolitan area. The study is posted online at: www.nawcinc.com/Air_Pollution.pdf

TRIBUTE TO MELVIN ZOLLINGER

The Blacksmith Fork Conservation District Board salutes Melvin Zollinger, who passed away this November. The College Ward man served on the district's board for 11 years, from 1977 to 1988. He was their treasurer from 1977 to 1985.

CANDIDATE PROFILES FOR BOARD ELECTIONS

Blacksmith Fork District

Sidney Zollinger, Logan

Zollinger raises alfalfa and wheat. He is a former president of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association and also served on the Nibley Blacksmith Fork irrigation board.

His statement: "Conservation needs to be done by all."

Larry J. Olsen, Petersboro

Olsen runs a dry farm with a cow/calf operation. He raises alfalfa, wheat and safflower. His family has been on the same land since the 1860s.

He was an educator and administrator in the Cache School District for 32 years.

His statement: "The better we take care of our natural resources, the better they will take care of us in our lifetime and in future generations."

Richard L. Nielsen, Nibley

Nielsen grows alfalfa and barley on both irrigated and dry land. He has a dairy herd and raises replacement heifers. He does intensive grazing with his dairy cows.

He serves on the Cache County Agriculture Advisory Board, the Blacksmith Fork Conservation Board, the Hyrum Blacksmith Fork Irrigation Board and the Nibley Blacksmith Fork Irrigation Board.

His statement: "I feel it's very important to be good stewards of the land and do our part in conserving the soil and the water."

Thomas Bailey, Wellsville

Bailey raises cows and calves. He has served on the Blacksmith Fork Conservation District Board for four years, and on the water irrigation board of Wellsville for 16 years.

His statement: "Conservation is very important to farmers, ranchers and all in the community. It helps take care of the land for future generations."

Jon White, Paradise

White raises beef cattle, hay and grain. He manages pasture land. He has served on the Blacksmith Fork Conservation District board for a few terms, and currently serves as president. He also serves on the local Farm Service Agency board.

His statement: "I feel that farmers and ranchers are the true environmentalists of the country. The decisions they make will influence their entire livelihood, and we should do what we can to help them."

North Cache Board

Wyndon Ward, Richmond

Ward has a cow and calf Angus beef operation. He is currently the president of the Skyline Irrigation Company in Richmond.

His statement: "It's important that we preserve the lands and the quality of life that we have."

David Griffin, Newton

No information was available as of press time.

Joe Larsen, Newton

Larsen runs an alfalfa and small grain operation. He currently serves on the West Cache Irrigation Board and the Newton Water Users Board, and is an alternate on the Bear River Commission. He is a current board member on the North Cache Conservation District Board.

His statement: "If we don't conserve our soil and our water now, we won't have any for the future."

Wes Roundy, Cache Junction

Roundy runs cattle, dry land and irrigated farmland.

He currently serves on the Cache County Agriculture Advisory Board and the North Cache Conservation District Board.

His statement: "Conservation is

important to preserve farming, open space and our way of life."

Shane Munk, Amalga

Munk runs a dairy farm and cropland. He has served on the North Cache Conservation District Board for more than 15 years and is its current treasurer. He is president of Kendelit Munk Farms, Inc. He is vice president for the West Cache Irrigation Company and a board member of the Dairy Producers of Utah (formerly the Utah Dairy Association).

His statement: "I enjoy seeing other cooperators improve their conservation practices, which improves the quality of life for everyone. The beauties of this valley should be preserved for everyone to enjoy."



The Selmans, Michelle, Bret, Laura, Fred

Leopold conservation award presented to Selman family

The Aldo Leopold Conservation award was presented to the Harold Selman ranch located in Cache and Box Elder Counties. The Selman family was recognized with a \$10,000 cash award, presented at the Utah Association of Conservation Districts conference in St. George.

The accompanying photo shows (left to right) Michelle and Bret Selman, and Laura and Harold Selman at their home ranch in Tremonton.

Through four generations, the Selman family has promoted sustainable ranching and farming operations while conserving habitat and implementing model stewardship practices. The fourth generation ranching legacy clearly demonstrates how a deeply ingrained family stewardship ethic has lead to enhanced efficiency, increased production, and greater profitability.

The Leopold Conservation Award is a competitive award that recognizes landowner achievement in voluntary conservation. This is the first year the award was presented in Utah, where it is made possible in part by underwriting from The Nature Conservancy and Rocky Mountain Power. It is sponsored by the Sand County Foundation in partnership with the Utah Farm Bureau and the Utah Cattlemen's Association.

COMING EVENTS

- North Cache Conservation District Board meetings: third Wednesday of each month, 10 a.m., USDA Service Center, 1860 N. 100 East, North Logan (subject to change)
- Blacksmith Fork Conservation District Board meetings: fourth Thursday of each month, 1 p.m., USDA Service Center, 1860 N. 100 East, North Logan (subject to change)
- Cache County Agriculture Advisory Board: first Tuesday of each month, 3 p.m., County Administration Building, 179 N. Main, Logan
- February 10-13: NACD Convention, Reno, Nevada
- March 11-12: Northern Utah Water User's Meeting, USU Innovation Campus (More information will be sent in the mail).

BOARD ACTIONS

Joint Actions

- Represented conservation districts' concerns on the Agriculture Advisory Board.

Blacksmith Fork Actions

- Approved 319 funding requests for Tony Ward, Morris Mair and Jay Tuddenham;
- Approved EQIP conservation plans for Sue Zollinger, Noel Bess, and Ivan Sharp.

North Cache Actions

- Approved ARDL loans requests from Michael Stephenson, Regan Wheeler and Chris Karren;
- Approved 319 requests for Mike Benson, Scott Tripp and Darrell Kunzler;
- Approved EQIP conservation plans for David Erickson, Lance Kingston, 3D Paint Ranch, Michael Staheli, Jeff Gittins, Lee Reese; LaRue Cronquist and Kim Wilson.

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continued from page 1

office for NACD operations in the 21st century.

The 2008 annual meeting themed "Conservation Beyond Boundaries" will be held in Reno, Nevada February 10-13, 2008. The conference will feature high-level speakers, specialized training workshops, policy setting board meetings and much more.

There are many resources available at NACD. They include web hosting services, district guides, computers for districts, reports, presentations, conservation logos, and sample press releases. We as conservation districts need to utilize these services.

2007 UACD Convention

The Utah Association of Conservation Districts met in St George for the 2007 State Convention. Conservation District Supervisors from every corner of the state gathered to discuss important topics concerning our natural resources.

Guest speakers included Bob Cordova from Colorado, NACD 2nd Vice President; Senator Dennis Stowell, representing District 28; Ron Davidson,


NRCS acting State conservationist; Leonard Blackham, Commissioner of Agriculture; and Reed Coleman, Chairman of the Sand County Foundation.

A resolution was passed to increase communication efforts within the state to better serve constituents and support the actions of the directors of the association.

The 2008 UACD Convention will be held in Layton. Come join the fun.

--Thayne Mickelson,
Zone 1 coordinator

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



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Working with Nature Publication Now Available

By Denise Stewardson
AITC Outreach Coordinator

The 2007 Newspapers in Education student magazine, *Food, Land & People-Working with Nature*, is now available through Utah Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC). Produced in cooperation with the Deseret Morning News, this special edition, pull-out newspaper explores the geography, science and history of Utah's natural resources. Copies of this student magazine can be downloaded or ordered at [>>Newsletters>>NIE Student Magazines](http://www.agclassroom.org/ut).

The connection between our quality of life and natural resources is an integral message in this issue. Consider your daily activities from waking in the morning to going to bed at night.

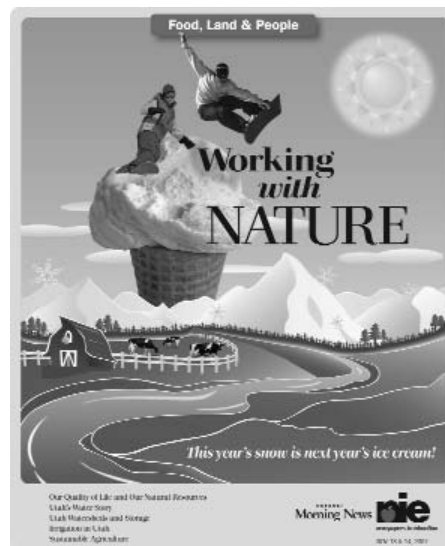
We are nearly always using some kind of resource. Whether it's our bedding, our cell phones, our food, or our sporting equipment, it is easy to see why mined and grown resources are so important to us.

Utah's water story is told through investigations of Utah's watersheds, water storage, and irrigation. Did you know that this year's snow is next year's ice cream? Trace the relationship between the winter snowfall and future ice cream production.

EPA, NRCS, ARS, BLM-is this just alphabet soup? Of course not! These federal agencies are critical to the conservation and protection of our natural resources. Read about these programs and their importance in natural resources conservation, stewardship, and sustainability.

AITC appreciates the support of UACD through their involvement in the Foundation for Utah Agriculture in the Classroom and their commitment of financial and educational resources. For more information on Utah AITC's teacher and student resources, teacher training through an

online course, and agricultural literacy, visit www.agclassroom.org/ut.



Important phone numbers

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