



Shavano District

Winter
News

SERVING MONTROSE, GUNNISON, AND OURAY COUNTIES

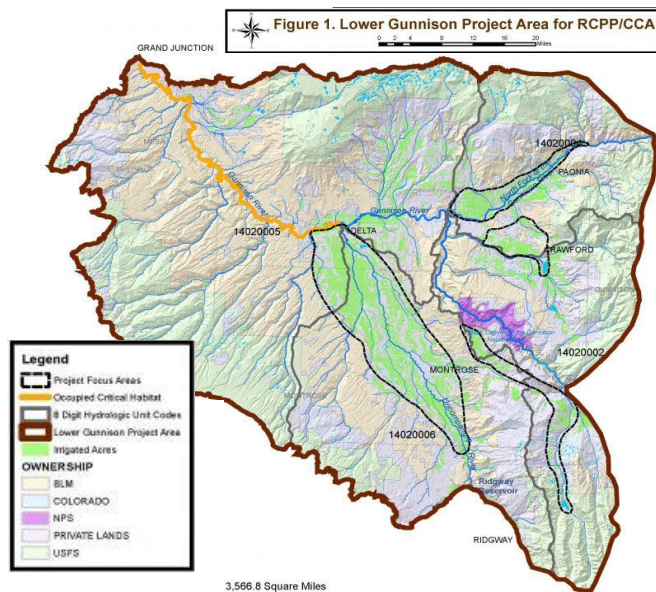
WINTER 2017
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Funding Available for Irrigation Improvements

Funding available for agricultural producers to implement irrigation efficiency projects in the Lower Gunnison Basin.



more productive and competitive while furthering important water resource stewardship goals,” explained Dave Kanzer, Deputy Chief Engineer of the River District.

Through this funding opportunity, producers will receive full or partial financial assistance to plan, design and install advanced irrigation systems that address natural resource concerns including improvements to: 1) water availability (i.e., water use efficiency), 2) water quality (e.g. salinity and selenium), 3) soil health, and 4) fish and wildlife habitat. This new funding opportunity uses a streamlined application, contract process and increased cost-share ratio.

The Colorado River District has announced that it is making \$1.8 million available to qualifying agricultural producers for planning and implementation of irrigation efficiency improvement projects that address identified resource concerns in the Lower Gunnison Basin. Landowners within the Bostwick Park, Paonia, Smith Fork, and Uncompahgre project areas will be considered for grant funding.

Applications from eligible producers will be accepted, evaluated and ranked in two distinct batches according to the following closing dates or until all funding is expended: February 17th (Batch 1), and March 17th (Batch 2).

”This is a unique funding opportunity that will enable our agricultural constituents to become

Interested landowners can obtain an application or more information by visiting the Shavano Conservation District (102 Par Place, Suite #4, Montrose, CO 81401 / Phone (970) 249-8407 Ext. 115), Delta Conservation District (690 Industrial Blvd, Delta, CO 81416 / Phone (970) 399- 8194) or by going to the funding website at: <http://gunnisonriverbasin.org/projects/lower-gunnison-project/> or by contacting the Colorado River District at (970) 945-8522.

This funding opportunity complies with the rules and regulation of the Natural Resources Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and is open to all eligible agricultural producers without discrimination or bias.



Poster Contest Champions!



Jedidiah Williams (top) and Angelica Claice (bottom) were awarded Grand Champion for the 6th Grade Conservation Poster Contest. They will each receive a prize of \$30 from the Shavano Conservation District at the Annual Meeting on March 10, 2017.

Conference Creates Healthy Land, Food, People

Montrose, CO – Dec. 2, 2016 – Passionate about raising the most nutritious food possible, in the best soil possible, for the healthiest people possible? Head to the state’s premier sustainable agricultural gathering, the Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum, in Montrose January 20-21, 2017. Registration is open for half-day pre-conference workshops Friday and the Forum all day Saturday.

The Forum celebrates its 5th anniversary with nationally known speakers, such as Ray Archuleta, Greg Judy, and Andrew Smith of the Rodale Institute. Twenty-two workshops designed for advanced to beginning producers include sessions on maximizing vegetable production in saline soils, innovative livestock management, soil and livestock health, organic and hemp research, food safety, organic standards, water law, orchard management, marketing strategies, grants and more. Limited tours of South River Aquaponics are also on the agenda.

Saturday, keynote speaker Ray Archuleta addresses Understanding the Social, Cultural, and Ecological Context of Soil Health. “Ray the soil guy” promotes local and global movement toward regenerative agriculture based on internalizing how wholes relate and how humans think. “The human mind is one of the biggest obstacles to improving soil health and regenerative agriculture. To make small changes, change how you do things. To make major changes, change how you see things!”

Greg Judy, author of No Risk Ranching and Comeback Farms, hosts a half-day pre-conference workshop on profitable ranching and mob grazing techniques. At the conference he leads a session on how production increases when more solar energy

is harvested using multi-species grazing.

Rodale Institute, the oldest organic research organization in the US, presents a half-day workshop, Maximizing Nutrient Density to Improve Production and Health Outcomes, led by Andrew Smith, PhD. The interactive session at the Montrose County Fairgrounds covers the effect of nutrient decline on health, balancing soil minerals to increase nutrient density, crop selection, foliar feeding and interpreting soil tests.

The National Young Farmers Coalition hosts a half-day Water Boot Camp. Topics include the history of Colorado water law, ins and outs of local irrigation administration, policy and funding that impact your irrigation decisions, and what you need to know about water when looking for land.

“The conference is designed to provide a rich menu of options and to encourage networking among participants during a chili dinner Friday, a farmer-to-farmer

invention convention, roundtable sessions and a post conference bowling night,” says organizer Carol Parker. Valley Food Partnership producers provide local food throughout the day.

Attendees receive discounts when they attend both the pre-conference workshop and the Forum. Scholarships are available by application to FFA, 4H, and beginning farmers or ranchers.

The Valley Food Partnership, CSU Extension, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, National Young Farmers Coalition and Shavano Conservation District organize the conference collaboratively. For a complete list of topics or to register please visit: foodfarmforum.org or call 970-249-3935.





Shavano Conservation District

"A Partnership in Conservation"



Ridgway 4th Graders Learn Ranching and Stewardship

The Ridgway Elementary School 4th Grade classes participated in a ranch tour hosted by Ken and Carol Lipton, Cimarron Ridge Ranch in Ridgway. The classes of Ms. Krista Javoronok and Ms. Megan Pampe learned about different types and breeds of cattle, equipment used in cattle management, irrigation practices, horse grooming, saddling and riding. Additionally, the students received a course in individual responsibility in protecting watersheds and natural resources presented by Mendy Stewart, Jerry Allen, and Debbie Stewart of the Shavano Conservation District staff. Horseback riding and grooming were supervised by Ridgway residents Kim Poulin and Pam De Pena. Also attending the tour were Principal Trish Greenwood and several parents.

WESTERN SLOPE SOIL HEALTH CONFERENCE

WHEN
February 23, 2017 / 8:00—5:00
February 24, 2017 / 8:00—1:30

WHERE
The Delta Center for the Performing Arts and Education
822 Grand Avenue, Delta, CO 81416

FEATURING • Jon Lundgren • Keith Berns •

Local Speakers . Katie Alexander . Steve Woodis . Jerry Allen . John Miller . Dave Dearstyne . Reed Irwin . David Harold . Paul Maudlin . Jeff Schwartz . Patrick O'Neil . Frank Stonaker . Thomas Cameron . Jim Parker . Lance Swigart . Jenny Beiermann . Ray Ward . Harrison Topp . Gary Maskus . Arlin Geigley . Randy Hines. and more speakers and breakouts are being added for this years conference.



FOR MORE INFORMATION
WWW.WESTERNCOLORADOSOILHEALTH.COM

ADVANCE TICKETS

\$20 College Students w/ valid ID

\$40 General
(Early registration until Feb 8, 2017)

LATE REG / AT THE DOOR

\$20 College Students w/ valid ID

\$55 General Admission
(after Feb 9, 2017)

BENEFITING

Designed to educate producers, government officials, and the broad community about ways to increase organic matter in and the health of our soils through cover crops, green manure, grazing, compost, entomology, and other sustainable practices. These practices are showing long term benefits in improved quality and cost of production.

Shavano Conservation District 75th Annual Meeting Banquet

March 10, 2017
6:30pm

Holiday Inn Express
1391 S. Townsend Ave, Montrose

BBQ Dinner, Guest Speaker, Door Prizes!

Plan to attend!

RSVP by 3/6/2017

249-8407 x113 or mendy.stewart@co.nacdnet.net





Montrose-Gunnison-Ouray FSA Committee Election Results

The Montrose-Gunnison-Ouray FSA County Committee held elections on December 20, 2016 at 9 am for the Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2, the area south of Ida Road in Montrose County. The candidate on the ballot was John R. Field with the option to write in any additional candidate. Ballots were accepted through December 13th at the county office.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who voted in this election and congratulate John R. Field on his election to the Montrose-Gunnison-Ouray County Committee.

The Montrose-Gunnison-Ouray FSA County Committee held elections on December 20, 2016 at 9 am for the Local Administrative Area (LAA) 4, Gunnison County. The candidate on the ballot was Dale A. Irby with the option to write in any additional candidate. Ballots were accepted through December 13th at the county office.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who voted in this election and congratulate Dale A. Irby on his election to the Montrose-Gunnison-Ouray County Committee.

Update Your FSA Records

FSA is cleaning up our producer record database. If you have any unreported changes of address or zip code or an incorrect name or business name on file they need to be reported to the FSA office. Changes in your farm operation, like the addition of a farm by lease or purchase, need to be reported to our office as well.

Producers participating in FSA and NRCS programs are required to timely report changes in their farming operation to the County Committee in writing and update their CCC-902 Farm Operating Plan

If you have any updates or corrections, please call your local FSA office to update your records.

2017 Ag Outlook & Strategy Forum

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

11:00 am—2:30 pm

Friendship Hall, 1001 N. 2nd St.
Montrose, Colorado

TOPICS INCLUDE:

Market Outlook / Commodity Breakeven Analysis
FSA Loan Program / Management Strategies

SPEAKERS:

Dr. Steve Koontz, CSU
Dr. Brent Young, CSU Extension

Program cost \$30 online -OR- \$35 by phone (includes lunch)

Pre-registration is REQUIRED!!!

To register online <https://2017agoutlook.eventbrite.com>

To register by phone call Rebecca at 970-522-7207

USDA Announces Enrollment Period for Safety Net Coverage in 2017

Producers on farms with base acres under the safety net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, can begin visiting FSA county offices starting Nov. 1, 2016, to sign contracts and enroll for the 2017 crop year. The enrollment period will continue until Aug. 1, 2017.

Since shares and ownership of a farm can change year-to-year, producers on the farm must enroll by signing a contract each program year.

If a farm is not enrolled during the 2017 enrollment period, the producers on that farm will not be eligible for financial assistance from the ARC or PLC programs for the 2017 crop should crop prices or farm revenues fall below the historical price or revenue benchmarks established by the program. Producers who made their elections in 2015 must still enroll during the 2017 enrollment period.

The ARC and PLC programs were authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and offer a safety net to agricultural producers when there is a substantial drop in prices or revenues for covered commodities. Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain and sweet rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity. For more details regarding these programs, go to www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

For more information, producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office. To find a local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.



Participant Responsibilities For EQIP Contracts

All landowners who have, or who are signed with NRCS for an EQIP contract should fully understand the contract requirements. One of these is the operation and maintenance, or O&M. Once the conservation practices are installed, certified and paid on by NRCS, the landowner has the responsibility to perform the operation and maintenance for the service life of the contract (usually 15-25 years for most irrigation practices). Each contract has an O&M agreement that details the service life of each practice in the conservation plan. This is agreed to and signed by the landowner as part of the contract require-

ments.

The contract is subject to being spot checked at any time during this time period.

This is something that is becoming more important in our area as more and more agricultural land is being subdivided into new homes, etc.

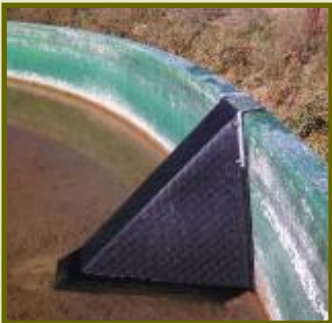
Also, all program participants need to understand what to do in the event that they lose control or sell their farm or agricultural ground which is under an EQIP contract.

A Transfer agreement form needs to be signed by both parties involved. This will transfer the contract O&M

responsibilities to the new owner. If this is not done, the original landowner remains liable for these responsibilities. It is very important that the new owner assumes the contract when he/she buys the land.

By working with your NRCS Planners and Technicians as soon as you can in the process of selling or developing your land, you could avoid some contract violations that may require you to pay back the government cost-shares you have received, etc.

If you have any questions on this topic, please contact your local NRCS office at 249-8107, ext. 104 or 100.



Free Stock Tank Ladders!

Avoid polluted drinking water in livestock water tanks and an unnecessary death toll on small animals! We have a limited supply of stock tank ladders available at the Montrose NRCS office and free to anyone interested. (However, if you have had a water tank installed with federal funding since 2014, the stock tank ladder has already been included in the standards and specifications for installing the water tank.)

There are a couple of sizes and attachment methods, so just come in and take a look if you are interested or call Marcella Fremgen at 970-249-8407 x129.

2017 EQIP Sign Up Deadline: January 15th

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is accepting applications for the EQIP program. The deadline is January 15, 2017 to be considered for 2017 funding.

Landowners are encouraged to meet with their local NRCS office to discuss their land use and natural resource goals. The process includes meeting with a planner and technician to determine if the land meets the eligibility requirements for the program. If the landowner is still interested in applying, they can complete an application at the Montrose Service Center. NRCS offers several conservation programs under EQIP, such as the Sage Grouse Initiative, or SGI, wildlife habitat improvement, grazing lands, soil health, and

irrigation system improvements.

These programs provide financial and technical assistance to help landowners meet conservation objectives, on many different practices such as underground pipelines, gated pipe, sprinkler systems, concrete ditches, and shallow water ponds for wildlife, stock water developments, fencing for wildlife habitat improvements, tree and shrub planting, upland and wetland wildlife habitat improvements, and irrigation water management.

For more information please contact your local NRCS office at 102 Par Place or call 970 -249-8407, ext. 100.



Colorado SNOTEL Snow/Precipitation Update Report

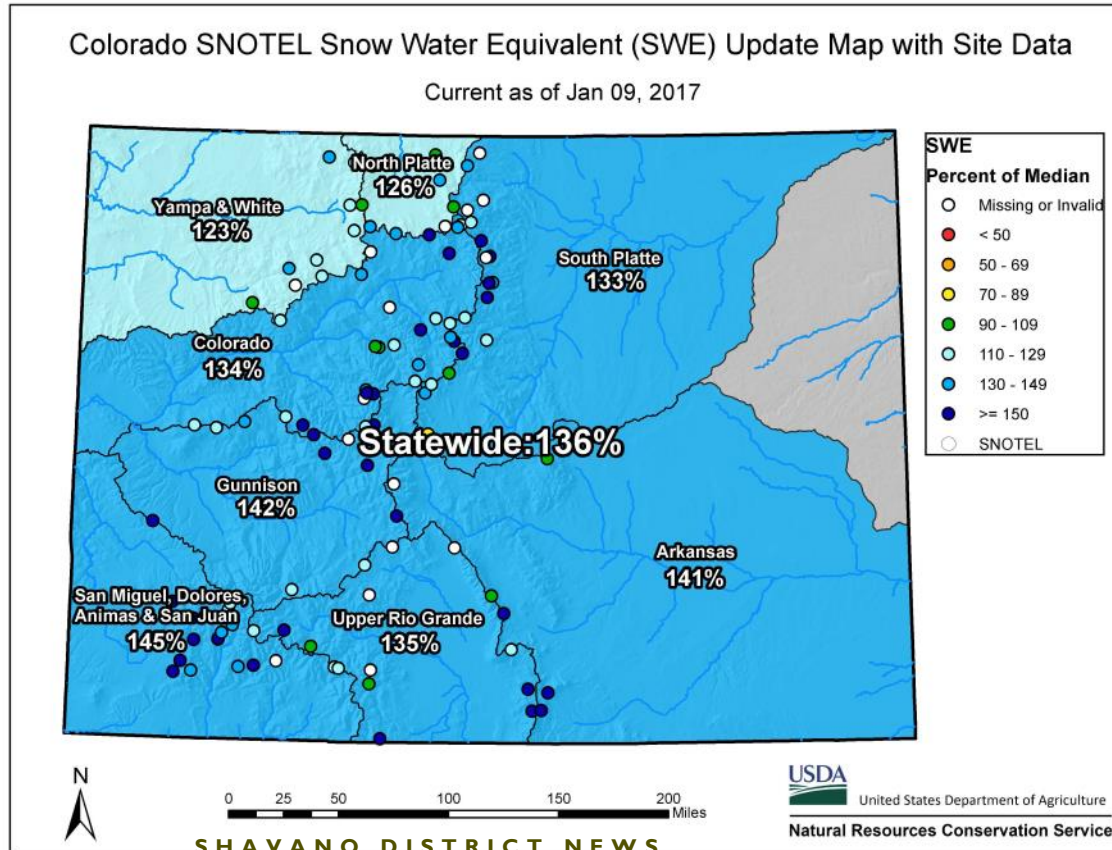
As of MONDAY: January 09, 2017

BASIN Data Site Name	ELEV. (Ft)	SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT			TOTAL PRECIPITATION			
		Current	Median	Median %	Current	Average	Avg %	
GUNNISON RIVER BASIN								
Butte	10160	11.0	6.6	167	11.2	8.4	133	
Cochetopa Pass	10020	2.7	2.2	123	3.5	4.0	88	
Columbine Pass	9400	13.4	8.6	156	13.0	11.0	118	
Idarado	9800	9.2	5.8	159	10.6	9.9	107	
Mc Clure Pass	9500	9.6	7.6	126	11.3	10.9	104	
Mesa Lakes	10000	9.4	7.6	124	9.9	10.2	97	
Overland Res.	9840	7.7	5.7	135	8.6	8.5	101	
Park Cone	9600	8.9	4.6	193	9.2	6.3	146	
Park Reservoir	9960	14.9	11.6	128	16.3	14.6	112	
Porphyry Creek	10760	11.1	7.0	159	9.3	7.4	126	
Red Mountain Pass	11200	12.5	10.6	118	13.6	13.5	101	
Sargents Mesa	11530	5.8	-M	*	6.5	-M	*	
Schofield Pass	10700	21.8	14.5	150	19.0	15.9	119	
Slumgullion	11440	8.5	7.0	121	8.2	7.2	114	
Upper Taylor	10640	11.1	-M	*	12.5	-M	*	
Wager Gulch	11100	5.6	-M	*	7.5	-M	*	
				Basin Index (%)	142			112

-M = Missing data

* = Data may not provide a valid measure of conditions.

Units = inches for the Current and Normal Snow Water Equivalent and Total Precip. values



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Call
Mendy Stewart
at 249-8407 x113
or email to
mendy.stewart@co.nacdnet.net

USDA SERVICE CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

970-249-8407	Phone Extension
MIKE STEFFEN , District Director	123
ALAN BULL , County Executive Director	121
BOB SACCO , Program Technician	124
JO TRICE , Program Technician	101



MONTROSE-GUNNISON-OURAY COUNTY COMMITTEE

JOHN FIELD, Chairperson (Montrose)
PATTY BENNETT, Vice Chairperson (West End)
DALE IRBY, Regular Member (Gunnison)
STEVE COLLIN, Regular Member (Ouray)
BRYAN DISTEL, Regular Member (North Montrose)



NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE



970-249-8407	Phone Extension
ASHLEY JACKSON-BAILLIE , Range Conservationist	124
BILL HEAD , Civil Engineering Technician	116
DALE WOODBURY , District Conservationist	104
DEBBIE STEWART , Planning Technician	105
DENNIS WAGGONER , Soil Conservationist	107
DAVID DREWRY , Ag Engineer Project Leader	117
JEREMY OMVIG , Cultural Resource Specialist	128
JERRY ALLEN , Irrigation Water Management Specialist	106
JESSE MCGILL , Engineering Technician	135
KATHY BOYCE , Soil Conservationist	109
KATIE ALEXANDER , Soil Conservationist	111
KEVIN HARVEY , Engineering Technician	114
MARCELLA FREMGEN , Range/Wildlife Ecologist	129
MARRIANE WATSON , Program Support Assistant	100
STEVE WOODIS , Wildlife Biologist	108

SHAVANO CONSERVATION DISTRICT

KEN LIPTION , President	626-3951
RICHARD ST. JEAN , Vice President	874-9856
BRUCE LEBEN , Secretary/Treasurer	249-6393
RON GERMANN	250-1201
JASON MERKLEY	626-3515
LANNY DENHAM	323-5461
BERT EARLE , Manager	249-8407x115
MENDY STEWART , Education Coordinator	249-8407x113



Website: www.shavanocd.org



COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE

Web Site: csfs.colostate.edu

MONTROSE DISTRICT—970-249-9051

(Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties)	Phone Extension
JODI RIST , District Forester	132
AUSTIN SHELBY , Assistant District Forester	133
SHARON LASSITER , Administrative Assistant	102

SALIDA DISTRICT - 719-539-2579

(Chaffee and Lake Counties)
 7980 W Hwy 50
 Salida, CO 81201

DAMON LANGE, District Forester
KATHERINE HARDGRAVE, Assistant District Forester

Gunnison Field Office—970-641-6852
 (Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties)
 P.O. Box 1390
 Gunnison, CO 81230-1390

SAM PANKRATZ, Assistant District Forester
ANN WOOD, Administrative Assistant

HOW TO CONTACT US

Montrose USDA Service Center
 102 Par Place – Montrose, CO 81401
PHONE (970) 249-8407

	Phone Extension
Farm Service Agency	2
Natural Resources Conservation Service	3
State Forest Service	150
Shavano Conservation District	115
Website: www.shavanocd.org	

WEST REGION WILDFIRE COUNCIL

Phone 970-615-7300
www.cowildfire.org



LILIA FALK, Director
wrwc.lilia@gmail.com
 Cell 970-729-1418

JAMIE GOMEZ, Mitigation and Education Coordinator for
 Delta, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties
wrwc.coordinator@gmail.com
 Cell 503-867-6759

MIKE TARANTINO, Mitigation and Education Coordinator for
 Montrose, Hinsdale, and Gunnison Counties
wrwc.mike@gmail.com
 Cell 719-439-8493

Dates to Remember

January 10, 2017	Shavano CD Board Meeting 6:30pm
January 15, 2017	Deadline for Acreage Reports for Fruit Crops
January 16, 2017	Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday - USDA Service Center Closed
January 20-21, 2017	Western Colorado Food and Farm Forum, Montrose, CO
January 28-Feb. 1, 2017	National Assn. of Conservation Districts Annual Mtg, Denver, CO
January 30, 2017	Deadline for 2016 Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) Application for Payment
January 30, 2017	Deadline for Tree Assistance Program Application for Payment and Supporting Documentation for Loss for 2016 (or 90 days after disaster event or loss was apparent)
February 1, 2017	NAP Application Closing Date for Onions, Scallions and Shallots
February 1, 2017	Final Availability Date for Loans and LDPs for Mohair, Unshorn Pelts (LDP only) and Wool
February 14, 2017	Shavano CD Board Meeting 6:30pm
February 20, 2017	President's Day—USDA Service Center Closed
February 23-24, 2017	Western Slope Soil Health Conference, Delta, CO
March 10, 2017	Shavano Conservation District Annual Dinner Banquet
March 15, 2017	NAP Closing Date—2017 Spring Planted Crop
March 31, 2017	Final availability date for Loans and LDPs for Barley, Canola, Crambe, Flaxseed, Honey, Oats, Rapeseed, Wheat and Sesame Seed
April 11, 2017	Shavano CD Board Meeting 7:00pm
April 30-May 7, 2017	Stewardship Week

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of Discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

Reasonable accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment to attend or participate in meetings or events sponsored by the Farm Service Agency. If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in one of our meetings/events/functions, please call the FSA county office and we will be happy to make any needed arrangements.

**Advertise with the
Shavano District News**

If you have a business that you would like to advertise in the SCD News, contact Mendy Stewart at 249-8407, ext. 113 for more information and rates.