

High County Conservation



2015

LARAMIE RIVERS CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Fall Edition



Riparian area fencing keeps livestock out of streams



Tire stock tanks provide water for livestock and wildlife



Stock water tank with solar array

UPLAND WATER DEVELOPMENT by Martin Curry

Laramie Rivers Conservation District (LRCD) recently contracted for the development of a Level I Watershed Study that includes the Laramie River and Little Laramie River basins. An area of focus for the study is potential upland water development. The study looks at areas within the watershed that could benefit from the development of upland water as a means of best management practices for rangeland. Developing upland water has proven beneficial outcomes for wildlife, livestock, and rangeland health.

One positive effect is better grazing utilization of the rangeland by both livestock and wildlife. By providing more watering locations within the uplands, livestock and wildlife have shorter distances to travel for water and the grazing patterns will improve through relocating animals to lightly grazed areas of the pastures. Another benefit of adding watering locations in the uplands is, through decreased grazing pressure, there is an improvement in water quality and streambank habitat within stream systems.

When determining a suitable source of upland water for development, it is best to consider all possible sources. These include natural flowing springs developed and piped into tanks, earthen ponds capturing snowmelt & rain runoff, and wells powered by solar/wind, and storage tanks with pipelines connected to watering tanks. Other important considerations are the distance between watering sources and terrain. If the terrain is rougher, mountainous country the recommendation is to locate watering sources every $\frac{1}{2}$ mile apart. As the terrain levels out from foothills to the plains the distance between locations get further apart, but should not exceed 2 miles.

Another benefit of this watershed study is upon completion in the fall of 2016 there will be a potential to apply for funding using the data collected through the Wyoming Water Development Commission. Now is an excellent time to take inventory of your possible upland water projects (new or retrofitting) and contact Laramie Rivers Conservation District to get your projects included in the watershed study.

For more information call LRCD 721-0072

Laramie Rivers Conservation District

Proudly serving Albany County for 70 years!

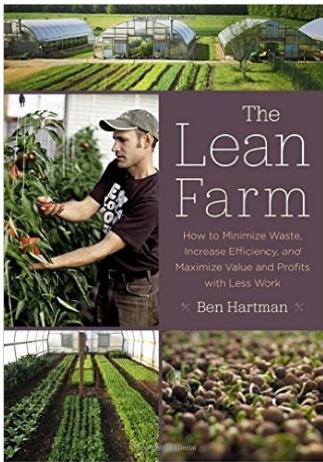
Find us on the web at www.lrcd.net or LIKE us on Facebook.



“Johnson Ranch, Carbon County” courtesy of William S. Sutton

NEW Books for 2015. - by Laura McGinley

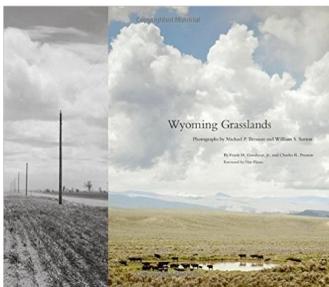
With the holiday season just around the corner I thought it a good time to share some of my favorite books about the land or land management that came out this year. The first, *The Lean Farm*, is a helpful guide for folks interested in profitable small-scale foods production. The second - *Wyoming Grasslands* - is an amazing photographic journey that shows-off the vistas that we all know well. Last is a collection of paintings, drawings, and photographs of Grand Teton National Park over the past 200 years that show how much the Wyoming landscape fills us with awe and inspiration.



THE LEAN FARM: How to Minimize Waste, Increase Efficiency, and Maximize Value and Profits with Less Work

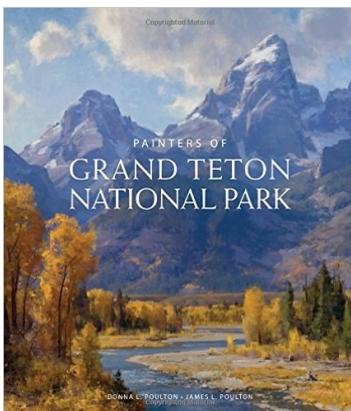
To many people today, using the words “factory” and “farm” in the same sentence is nothing short of sacrilege. In many cases, though, the same sound business practices apply whether you are producing cars or carrots. Author Ben Hartman and other young farmers are increasingly finding that incorporating the best new ideas from business into their farming can drastically cut their wastes and increase their profits, making their farms more environmentally and economically sustainable. By explaining the lean system for identifying and eliminating waste and introducing efficiency in every aspect of the farm operation, *The Lean Farm* makes the case that small-scale farming can be an attractive career option for young people who are interested in growing food for their community. Working smarter, not harder, also prevents the kind of burnout that start-up farmers often encounter in the face of long, hard, backbreaking labor.

Lean principles grew out of the Japanese automotive industry, but they are now being followed on progressive farms around the world. While the intended audience for this book is small-scale farmers who are part of the growing local food movement, Hartman’s prescriptions for high-value, low-cost production apply to farms and businesses of almost any size or scale that hope to harness the power of lean in their production processes.



WYOMING GRASSLANDS: The Photographs of Michael P. Berman and William S. Sutton

In 2012 Berman and Sutton launched their massive Wyoming Grasslands Photographic Project, a partnership between The Nature Conservancy, Wyoming Chapter, and the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. Working in the tradition of late-nineteenth-century explorers and photographers of the American West, Berman and Sutton shot more than 50,000 digital photographs of Wyoming prairie, from the Red Desert of southwestern Wyoming to the Thunder Basin National Grassland of the state’s northeastern corner. The best of their extraordinarily sensitive, revealing, and powerful images appear in these pages, documenting the sweep and the seasons of the Wyoming landscape.



PAINTERS OF GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

A survey of the long history of artistic interpretation of the Teton Range and Jackson Hole area, this book is timed to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the formation of the National Park Service in 2016 and its early efforts to establish Grand Teton National Park. The book includes nearly four hundred paintings, drawings, and photographs, including classic as well as more unique, contemporary interpretations of the magnificent Tetons landscape and wildlife. It provides examples gleaned from across a span of more than two hundred years and representing a wide variety of styles, including such well-known artists as Edward Hopper and Thomas Moran, and emphasizing artists who have lived and worked year-round in the Teton area.

LRCO Regular Cost Share Program Update

At the August meeting of the LRCO Board of Supervisors the board voted to make the building of raised bed vegetable gardens eligible for 50% cost share under our Regular Cost Share program. LRCO believes that growing your own food is in itself a conservation practice because it completely removes transportation from the food equation. Gardening is also an important opportunity to understand how food is grown, learn about soil structure and nutrients, and to try new foods not easily obtained in supermarkets. In addition, gardening can be relaxing and improve mental and physical health.

To learn more about our regular cost share program go to www.lrcd.net and click on **Programs**. Staff input is required for putting together the application form, which includes detailed design and budget. Applications are reviewed by the board every month at the regular board meeting. It is never too early to start planning for the 2016 growing season, so contact us any time at 721-0072.



UPCOMING LRCO CO-SPONSORED EVENT

Emerging Issues Forum

Sustaining Big Game Migrations in the West: Science, Policy, and People

The forum will open with a half-day to explore the science of long-distance big game migrations, from a global to local perspective. Day two will be about the intersection of people, policy, and wildlife migration.

Nov. 9 (1-5pm) and Nov. 10 (8am-5pm), 2015
University of Wyoming Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center

\$90 for general registration * \$25 for students

**Hosted by the Ruckelshaus Institute and
the Wyoming Migration Initiative**

For questions, contact Nyla Hurley @ 307-766-5080.

NRCS Offers Assistance to Landowners for Wildlife Friendly Fence Projects

By Ruben Vasquez

The Natural Resources Conservation Service through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is offering assistance to retrofit existing fences to improve big game animal movements during migrations. Agricultural landowners with existing woven wire, 5-6 wire barbed fences or fences located in problem areas impacting pronghorn, deer or elk during migration periods can apply for financial and technical assistance through the EQIP program. NRCS will provide technical and financial assistance to help remove and replace portions of landowner's fence with a new fence that is wildlife friendly to improve big game



movements. Under EQIP financial assistance guidelines a maximum length of fence allowed to be retrofitted is ¼ per mile of existing fence. Shorter lengths of fence are prorated, on the 1/4 mile per mile maximum.

Wildlife friendly

fence specifications for a barbed wire fence, have a maximum top wire height of 40-42 inches above ground, with a 12" spacing between the top and 2nd wire. The bottom wire is barbless, minimum 18" above ground to reduce risk of injury to pronghorn and other big game.

Working with the landowner, NRCS will help identify and map problem fence areas, develop a conservation plan, EQIP contract schedule, and provide wildlife friendly fence specifications and job-sheets for the landowner to follow. The landowner will have an opportunity to plan and schedule what areas of the fence project will be completed first, and can

either install the fence themselves, or work with a fence contractor to install the fence, making sure the fence is installed to specifications and design. Once the fence project is completed and certified meeting NRCS specifications, financial assistance is provided based on the EQIP contract schedule.

The EQIP program is voluntary and provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers through contracts up to a maximum length of 10 years. These contracts provide the financial assistance to help landowners plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns and opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related resources on agricultural land. In addition, a purpose of EQIP is to help producers meet Federal, State, Tribal and local environmental regulations.

For more information about NRCS EQIP and other Farm Bill programs, you can go to the website www.wy.nrcs.usda.gov, or stop by the Laramie field office located at 5015 Stone Road. Phone 307-745-3698.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs 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 a 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, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



**LARAMIE RIVERS
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
5015 STONE ROAD
LARAMIE, WY 82070
PHONE: (307) 721-0072



NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #9
LARAMIE, WY
82070

Laramie River Watershed Study

Open House

November 17 • 3PM to 8 PM • Hansen Arena Classroom

This is a chance for residents in the Laramie River Watershed to come in and talk one-on-one with hydrology professionals, who can pull up aerial maps, and talk about projects such as spring developments, pipeline projects, stock tanks, stock reservoirs, etc., as well as how to pay for it.

For more information call Tony or Martin at 721-0072.

Laramie Regional Airport - Preliminary Data

Source: <http://www.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=cys>

Month	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
January	0.06	0.04	0.13	0.30	0.03	0.13	0.05	0.31	0.14	0.38	0.16	0.15	0.68	0.12
February	0.07	0.25	0.10	0.20	0.05	0.09	0.16	0.04	0.30	0.49	0.95	0.42	0.51	0.67
March	0.95	0.95	0.00	0.49	0.21	0.85	0.26	0.06	0.50	0.40	trace	0.34	0.54	0.17
April	0.23	1.28	1.32	0.81	0.58	0.95	0.38	1.30	2.14	1.96	0.54	0.71	0.80	1.73
May	0.82	1.73	0.69	1.06	0.86	1.42	3.59	1.36	1.24	1.21	0.21	0.99	2.55	2.71
June	0.38	0.82	2.86	3.29	0.46	0.33	1.81	2.36	2.29	1.36	0.24	0.44	0.76	0.77
July	0.50	1.11	1.07	0.97	1.57	2.20	0.58	2.30	0.78	1.17	1.48	1.89	3.32	2.39
August	1.47	0.78	1.77	0.70	1.40	1.74	1.56	1.03	1.16	0.65	0.34	2.34	1.63	1.30
September	0.58	0.76	3.03	0.43	1.25	1.51	1.19	0.90	0.06	0.89	0.47	3.05	2.07	0.34
October	0.75	0.46	0.62	1.05	0.61	1.42	0.18	0.96	1.49	1.31	1.01	2.08	0.30	
November	0.06	0.59	0.22	0.71	0.06	0.07	0.24	0.38	1.46	0.41	0.16	0.46	0.54	
December	0.07	0.42	0.04	0.06	0.09	0.35	0.20	0.72	0.76	0.06	0.42	0.1	0.14	
Total:	5.94	9.19	11.85	10.07	7.17	11.06	10.20	11.72	12.32	10.29	5.98	12.97	13.84	10.20