

UINTA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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Using Sheep's Wool for Healthy Soil?

We all know that wool is used to make clothes and other useful items. But have you ever thought about using it to enhance the soil in your garden? Wool is rich in nutrients, biodegradable, and it holds and regulates water making it an important medium for gardening.



Wool Pellets

Wool Pellets are made from 100% raw wool. While the main fleece of the wool is sold to make clothes, the unsaleable wool that comes from the belly and back end of the sheep can be compressed and formed into pellets. Raw wool contains both macro and micronutrients that will improve and enhance the health of the soil and create an environment for healthy plants and delicious produce.

Macronutrients: Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, Calcium, Magnesium, and Sulfur
Micronutrients: Iron, Manganese, Boron, Copper, Zinc, Molybdenum and Sodium

- Wool pellets are NPK 9-0-2 slow-release fertilizer so they help your plants grow all season long.
- Wool pellets are able to hold 20% of their weight in water, helping to reduce the number of times you water.
- By holding water, they can wick away extra water, protecting your plants from overwatering.
- Wool has both antibacterial and antimicrobial properties that can protect your plants by reducing harmful bacteria growth.
- Wool pellets expand with water helping to increase porosity in the soil for optimal root growth, reducing the need for additives such as Perlite.



Plants need soil nutrition, water, and aeration to grow. Wool pellets are a great way to improve your soil structure and provide the nutrients, adequate water, and porosity your plants need! It's not too late to add wool pellets to your garden or potted plants. Check out this website WILD VALLEY FARMS - Wild Valley Farms Utah | Natural Soils and Fertilizers for Healthy Gardens where you can find tips on how to use wool pellets and incorporate them into your already planted gardens and plants. You can also find information about how to have your wool processed into pellets.

Wool pellets are also being tested for use in rangeland applications to improve and rejuvenate disturbed landscapes. Check out this website, [Restoring Soil and Saving Water with Wool - On Land \(westernlandowners.org\)](http://Restoring Soil and Saving Water with Wool - On Land (westernlandowners.org)), for more information! You can also contact the conservation district for possible resources in our area that may have some unsaleable wool that could be used to make pellets.

Natural Science Educator Workshop
August 7th & 8th, Lyman, WY

What: A **fun, hands-on** workshop featuring the award-winning curricula of Project Learning Tree (PLT), Project WILD, & Project WET. This is a great opportunity to obtain **training and manuals** for all three of these outstanding educational programs in a single workshop. Each curriculum focuses on a specific resource area: forests (PLT), wildlife (WILD), and water (WET). The inquiry-based curricula meet NGSS for science, social studies, and language arts; are cross-curricular, and adaptable for **grades K-12**. Teachers, substitute teachers, non-formal educators, home-schoolers, youth group leaders, and anyone wanting to bring the environment into their classroom is welcome and encouraged to attend.



When & Where: **Wednesday August 7th & Thursday August 8th: 8am-5pm**
Uinta County Conservation District Office
204 E. Sage St., Lyman, WY

Cost: Due to a generous contribution from the Uinta County Conservation District, the workshop fee is **just \$50**: half the normal cost! Fee includes **five curriculum guides**, activity materials, coffee & snacks. Workshop limited to 24 participants. **PTSB credit** (1 hr) is free; UW continuing education **graduate credit** (1 hr) is \$60.



"This was the best workshop I have ever attended!"
"I can't wait to use these materials!"

Register by mail before July 19th. For complete details and registration form call Katie at the Conservation District 307-288-0214, or visit www.uintacountycd.com

Upper Colorado River Basin Public Meeting Notice

There will be an Upper Colorado River Basin meeting held in Lyman on **Thursday, July 11th from 8am-12 pm** to discuss Colorado River updates and funding opportunities that may be administered by the state. Location is to be determined. Please call the Conservation District or check our website for more information and details as they become available.



Diversion Confirmation Project...Information from the Wyoming State Engineers Office

There are an estimated 2500 ditches in Wyoming's portion of the Colorado River Basin. Among these ditches, only about 500 have historically been administered with any frequency and therefore are known to have headgates with measuring devices. This leaves approximately 2,000 ditches that have unknown details on the headgate and measuring device. In the current times of uncertain water availability due to drought, ensuring the presence of proper measuring devices is crucial for management of water in the Green River and Little Snake River Basins and can be required to be installed by the Division Superintendent under Wyoming Statute 41-3-613. The Wyoming State Engineer's Office (WSEO) field staff has been trying to identify unmeasured ditches for some time and have recently increased these efforts. Now, the WSEO will have a staff member designated to field locate and inventory the headgate and measuring devices for each ditch. This effort will be supported by the GIS and support services team within the WSEO. This team will identify headgate locations and create maps for the field operation. Any ditch found without a measuring device will be measured for slope and dimensions to calculate ditch capacity and risk of submergence. Once the ditch capacity is calculated, the WSEO can identify the appropriate size and types of measuring devices that can be used for that specific ditch. These devices are typically simple measuring devices (flumes or weirs), which allow observation and measurement of water height and discharge.

Identifying ditches that need headgates and measuring devices will help water users take advantage of potential funding that may be used for infrastructure improvements in Wyoming's portion of the Colorado River Basin. With this potential funding, the WSEO hopes to facilitate the purchase of hundreds of measuring devices. We hope that these devices can be provided to ditch users at no cost or reduced cost. **Continued on bottom of next page...**

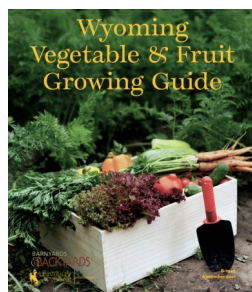
Check It Out!

A University of Wyoming Entomologist has developed a cool **app for identification of vegetable & fruit insect pests** in your gardens!

Search for
"Wyoming Crop Pests"
in the app store

*For Android & Apple devices

Wyoming Crop Pests



This app is a companion tool to aid in the identification of the vegetable pests featured in **"Wyoming Vegetable & Fruit Growing Guide" B-1340**

November 2021, which provides information on plant husbandry.

Congratulations to our poster contest participants!!

Ten participants placed in their categories and won cash prizes. The first place posters will advance to the state contest in October. UCCD congratulates each participant for a job well done. We will host the poster contest again next spring. To view all posters please visit our website at

www.uintacountycd.com/poster-contest



FRESH EGGS To Wash, or Not to Wash?



"Before an egg is laid, the chicken coats the egg with a protective coating called the 'bloom'. The bloom helps to keep bacteria, moisture, and gases out of the egg. It also keeps the egg fresher longer."

Unwashed Eggs:

- Unwashed eggs with the bloom still intact can sit on the counter for 2 weeks without going bad.
- Eggs with soil or debris can be cleaned with fine sandpaper, a brush, or emery cloth.
- The bloom can easily be washed off with water, but once it has been, the egg is no longer protected from bacteria, moisture, and gases because the pores are now exposed.

Washing Eggs with Water:

- Wash and rinse eggs in warm to hot water: water temperature between 90°-120°F is preferred (hot tap water is usually 120°F).
 - > The water should be at least 20 degrees warmer than the egg. If freshly laid, use a temperature on the higher end of the range. Eggs are generally 105°F when laid.
 - > Warm water helps the egg contents expand and prevents bacteria from being pulled through the pores.
 - > Do not cool eggs rapidly before cleaning; when cooled, the shell will contract and pull dirt/bacteria into the pores.
- Wash the eggs individually, and do not soak them in the water. Rinse with slightly warmer, clean water than what the eggs were washed in.
- Dry eggs off with a clean towel; do not let them air dry.
- If eggs are washed, they **MUST** be refrigerated. Storing eggs at or below 45°F, will preserve the internal quality and reduce bacterial growth. Refrigerated eggs should hold their optimal quality for at least 4 weeks.

DID YOU KNOW?

Storing eggs with the small end down will keep the air sac separated from the yolk, slowing moisture loss and protecting freshness!

Regardless of whether or not you choose to wash your eggs before storing them, you should *always* wash and dry eggs as directed above before using them!

Information for this article was taken directly from: The University of Wyoming and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperate. (2024, Apr). *Fresh Egg Safety*. University of Wyoming Extension. uwyoextension.org/uwnutrition

Refer to the full article for more information on sanitizing, cooking, and selling eggs.

Diversions continued...

The ditch owners would be responsible for installing the measuring devices to the satisfaction of the Division Superintendent. Trainings would be provided to those receiving these devices to ensure proper installation. This project will help create a system of well-monitored ditches across Wyoming's portion of the Colorado River Basin and help the WSEO to manage the available water in the best way possible. We understand this inventory project may be concerning to water users, especially in areas that are typically not regulated. For this reason, we have included contact information for people in the basin who may be able to offer additional information and help to ease any concerns. Please reach out to either of these contacts with questions or concerns.

**Joe Duncan-WSEO Interstate Streams
Division River Basin Coordinator
Phone: 307-777-6891, Cell: 307-287-0265**

**Kevin Payne – WSEO Division IV
Superintendent
Phone: 307-360-6489**

For email updates regarding the Colorado River Basin, please subscribe to the Public Colorado River Advisory Committee Email List found on the WSEO website at Wyoming State Engineer's Office - Wyoming Colorado River Advisory Committee.