

Spring

Beartooth RC&D NEWS

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Quickbooks
Training

Hardin

Small Business Enhancement Class

April 27, 29 & May 4

- 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Hardin High School, Room 25
- Pre-Registration required by April 20th
- For more information, please contact Joel at Beartooth RC&D (406) 962-3914

**Michael Morrison,
Instructor
Certified QuickBooks
Trainer
and CPA**

Poo for Profit

The Goddard Manure and Compost project is an effort to expand a Reed Point family ranch-based business that specializes in custom manure spreading. LTL Inc. has provided custom feedlot cleaning and spreading services in Stillwater and Yellowstone Counties for eight years. This project will allow them to partner with MSU Extension to provide many additional benefits including: more efficient use of manure and fertilizer, value-added marketing and use of manure by mixing with various forms of municipal and other

wastes to create other marketable products, and a system for educating feeders of CAFO/AFO regulations and documenting nutrient management.

Beartooth RC&D staff assisted the business in applying for and receiving \$48,000 in GTA funding matched with \$51,500 of business resources to purchase a new windrower/turner for cleaning pens and composting manure, as well as a new truck, spreader



box, and haul trailer. The business is also working on creating a nutrient management and monitoring system for its clientele. Partners to date are MSU-Extension Service, National Center for Appropriate Technology, Montana Dept. of Agriculture, and Beartooth RC&D.

Montana Cattle Company

This project proposal is for a Marketing and Feasibility Study to assist Laurel business owner, Ron Oberlander, in funding an overall strategic marketing and operations plan for his mid-sized slaughter and meat processing business. This feasibility study would provide the business with overall regional market identification and suggestions on distribution and plans for market penetration, providing the business owner with a road-map for short term sustain-

ability. This unique opportunity would return high quality Montana produced meats to our regional food retailers. This business is currently redeveloping the structure located off of I-90 east of Laurel. The business provides the economic diversity needed to revitalize the local economy which is beginning to show signs of economic growth. The town will benefit from a business that pays living wages and adds several jobs and will



support the local tax base as well as providing an outlet for the quality meats that are raised in the region. There is also an opportunity to develop a retail portion to the business out of the location should the feasibility study support such a model.

Funding for New Carbon County Maintenance Shop in Red Lodge



During mid-March, the Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc., staff, Paige Weber, office administrator and Carla Lawrence, RC&D coordinator, assisted the Carbon County Commissioners (John Prinkki) with an application for an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), through the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for energy efficiency improvements to a new shop building.

The Carbon County Road District maintenance shop located in Red Lodge was destroyed in a fire on December 15th, 2009. The 6000 square feet shop is scheduled to be rebuilt at the same location with an upgraded level of insulation and a

Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP) with floor radiant heat.

These energy conservation measures will provide the building an additional level of insulation with anticipated annual energy savings of \$371.00. A GSHP system with floor radiant heat that is estimated to be 350% efficient would be installed, rather than a standard 80% efficient natural gas forced air system. The annual savings from installation of this GSHP system is estimated to be \$4386.00. The total energy saving would be

\$4757.00, or about 476dKT of natural gas, per year.

Carbon County was successful with the grant application and will be receiving approximately \$63,648.00 of EECBG funds.



Photo courtesy of Don Williams & Carbon County News

NRCS— A Legacy of Conservation 75 Years of Helping People Help the Land

2010 marks the 75th anniversary of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the beginning of the federal commitment to conserving natural resources on private lands. Originally established by Congress in 1935 as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), NRCS has expanded to become a conservation leader for all natural

“75th Anniversary”

resources, ensuring private lands are conserved, restored, and more resilient to environmental challenges, like climate change. Join us as we celebrate 75 years of conservation contributions to the nation and carry on the legacy of our first chief Hugh Hammond Bennett. See more at the NRCS website at <https://web-review.sc.egov.usda.gov/mt/about/legacy.html>.



Under the new direction of Diana Spint, Housing Coordinator with Beartooth RC&D, our Homeownership Center has expanded the services we offer. In addition to the successful established Homebuyer Education classes now offered in Laurel, twice monthly, it is planned to provide additional classes to smaller communities in Big Horn, Carbon, Stillwater and Sweet Grass counties in the very near future.

Beartooth has added free individual counseling by appointment for credit, budgeting, pre-purchase, foreclosure prevention and loss mitigation. All services are confidential and provided by a certified professional free of charge. If you or someone you know needs assistance, please contact Diana to schedule an appointment at (406) 591-5088.



Do you know of a business or organization who would be interested in learning more about our Revolving Loan Fund?

- Up to \$250,000 per business
- Funds available for Big Horn, Carbon, Stillwater, Sweetgrass and Yellowstone Counties
- Special funds for businesses in the Town of Fromberg
- Give Jillann at Beartooth RC&D a call and help us get the word out. (406)962-3914

A Note from the Chairman

The Beartooth Area RC&D is moving ahead with programs that benefit the citizens of the 5-county area. As funding allows, we are increasing our capacity to serve as many as possible in ways that help them work through their situations and ideas. We commend our staff for their efforts to seek opportunity and innovations that will provide leadership and guidance for the future.