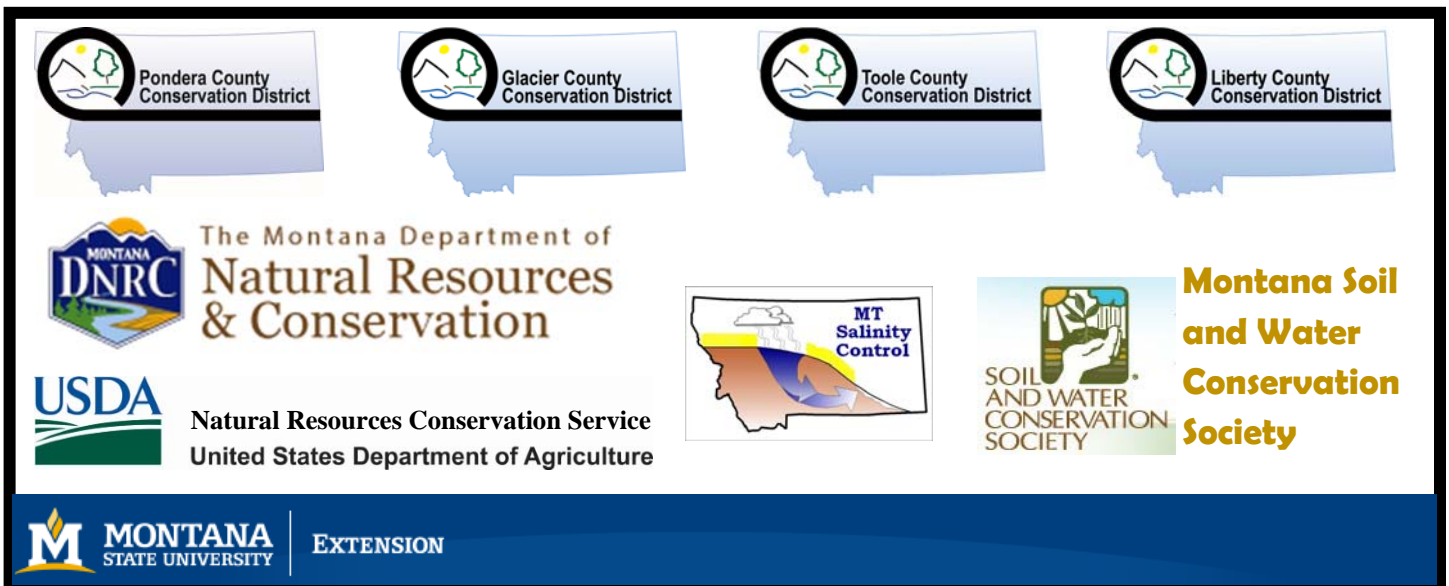


YOUR BELOW GROUND LIVESTOCK

AN AGRONOMY AND RANGE SOIL HEALTH TOUR

JUNE 13-14, 2017

Join us for a Field Tour showcasing a five-year field trial on cover crops and soil health. The tour will include four farms in Pondera County that have incorporated cover crops into dryland cropping systems, experimenting with a variety of plant species in cocktails. Each farm has soil analyses to track trends in soil health and soil biology. The tour includes a farm that has integrated all five principles of soil health in their operation. Two experts in soil health and biology, **Dr. Ray Ward**/Ward Labs and **Marlon Winger**, NRCS Regional Soil Health Specialist will be present both days to discuss soil health management in cropping systems and how to measure soil quality. Rick Caquelin/NRCS Area Range Scientist will discuss range management to improve soil health on June 14th



For more information, contact **Pondera County Conservation District (PCCD)** at **(406) 278-7611 x 101** or Email: Lorrie.grosfield@mt.nacdnet.net

Visit mtswcs.org for a registration form & more information on this event

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides reasonable accommodations for all persons to participate in NRCS programs and activities. If you require special accommodations, please contact Stacy Eneboe at 406-278-7611 X 112 by June 2, 2017

YOUR BELOW GROUND LIVESTOCK

AN AGRONOMY AND RANGE SOIL HEALTH TOUR

JUNE 13-14, 2017

AGENDA - June 13th

- 8:00 AM **Registration** - Norley Hall, 400 North Virginia, Conrad, MT
- 8:30 AM Introductory Presentations:
- Marlon Winger, NRCS Soil Health Specialist MT, WY, and ID**, Introduction to The Five Principles of Soil Health
- Dr. Ray Ward, WARD Laboratories**, Soil Sampling: PLFA and Haney Tests - What Do These Tests Mean to a Producer For Soil Health Criteria?
- 9:30 AM Load Buses and Travel to Field
- 10:30 AM Bjelland Farm - Background of operation and tour of the cover crop demonstration sites
- Randy Pierce, NRCS State Office Engineer**, Moisture monitoring using tensiometers in a dryland crop rotation
- Dr. Ray Ward and Marlon Winger**, Observation and discussion of data and trends from 5-year field trial
- 11:30 AM **Oehlke Farms Inc.** - Learn how cover crop cocktails have been used to improve soil health in dryland production
- Luis Alvarez, NRCS Area Soil Scientist**, Observing soil profile, rooting systems and relationship to soil health
- Eric Watson, NRCS District Conservationist**, Rainfall Simulator & Infiltration Rings— methods producers can use themselves to measure infiltration rates
- 12:30 PM Sack Lunch, provided in the Field
- 1:30 PM Western Triangle Agricultural Research Center (WTARC) - tour of the cover crop demonstration sites
- Jane Holzer, Montana Salinity Control Association**, Cover crop termination dates and the effect on microbial activity and soil moisture.
- Aaron Clausen, PF Wildlife Biologist**, Benefits of Pollinators in a Cropping System—how to enhance pollinator populations
- 2:30 PM D Kronebush & Son Farm - Background of operation and tour of the cover crop demonstration sites
- MSU Extension Speaker Invited**, Weeds/ Pest Management/Chemical Residual
- Dr. Ray Ward and Marlon Winger**, Observation and discussion of data and trends from 5-year field trial
- 3:00 PM Load Buses and Travel Back to Conrad
- 3:30 PM Formal Presentations and Q&A Session:
- Dr. Ray Ward, WARD Laboratories**, PLFA and Haney Test Results - Continued discussion on what these tests mean to a producer for soil health criteria
- Marlon Winger, NRCS Soil Health Specialist MT, WY, and ID**, How Can Cropping Systems Improve Soil Health?
- 5:00 PM SWCS Scholarship Fund Silent Auction and Dinner, prepared by Big Ox Barbeque
- 7:00 PM Conrad Community Garden Presentation and Tour

YOUR BELOW GROUND LIVESTOCK

AN AGRONOMY AND RANGE SOIL HEALTH TOUR

JUNE 13-14, 2017

AGENDA - June 14th

- 8:00 AM Introductory Presentations at Norley Hall:
- Dr. Ray Ward, WARD Laboratories** - Continue discussions on how to measure soil trends in the field
- Marlon Winger, NRCS Soil Health Specialist MT, WY, and ID**, Integrating Livestock To Benefit Soil Health
- 9:00 AM Load Buses and Travel to Field
- 9:30 AM **Eric Gunderson** – Overview of the operation
- Methods to improve soil health by incorporating livestock into a cropping system with the use of cover crops
- Incorporating diversity into your cropping system with pulse and alternative crops
- Rick Caquelin, NRCS Area Range Specialist** - Choosing a Grazing System that works for your operation
- Bale Grazing as a winter feeding option and a field trial on using bale grazing to simulate marginal stands
- Nutritional Balance Analyzer (NUTBAL): Introduction and Methods
- Dr. Ray Ward, WARD Laboratories**, Soil Sampling: PLFA and Haney Test Results - pasture and rangeland systems
- Marlon Winger, NRCS Soil Health Specialist MT, WY, and ID**, Soil Health on pasture and rangeland
- All** -Incorporating expired CRP perennial forage into a grazing rotation
- Eric Watson, NRCS District Conservationist**, Rainfall Simulator—see how cropping strategies/land use influence infiltration
- Dr. Fabian Menalled, Professor Montana State University**, Weed Ecology and Integrated Management of Agricultural Weeds
- 12:00 PM Sack Lunch – provided in the field with Question and Answer Session
- 1:30 PM Load Buses and Travel Back to Conrad

YOUR BELOW GROUND LIVESTOCK

AN AGRONOMY AND RANGE SOIL HEALTH TOUR

JUNE 13-14, 2017

Meeting Location:

Norley Hall
400 North Virginia
Conrad, MT 59425

*A block of rooms has
been reserved under
Pondera County
Conservation District
until May 29, 2017*

Accommodations:

Super 8 of Conrad
215 N Main ST
Conrad, MT 59425
(406)278-7676

A limited number of scholarships are available. For more information or questions about this event, please call: **Pondera County Conservation District (PCCD)** or NRCS at (406) 278-7611 x 3 or Email: Lorrie.Grosfield@mt.nacdnet.net

Registration Due Before June 2, 2017

Name or Farm/Ranch Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Registration Fee:

\$35.00/one day

\$50.00/both days

\$150/Farm/Ranch Family (Up to 4 People)

Special Dietary Restrictions: _____

Please make check payable to **Pondera County Conservation District**

Mail payment and form to:

Pondera County Conservation District
406 North Main ST
Conrad, MT 59425

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