



# NEWSLETTER

EAGLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

[Eaglecountycd@gmail.com](mailto:Eaglecountycd@gmail.com) | (970)440.0307 | PO Box 360, Eagle

## MEET YOUR NEW DISTRICT MANAGER

Laura Bohannon has lived in Eagle County for over 8 years and just recently bought her first home here in Eagle. She is a passionate volunteer amongst her community and has recently graduated with a Sustainability Leadership Certificate at CMC. She loves all aspects of the outdoors and is an avid traveler of near and far, always ready for the next adventure.

As the new District Manager, Laura is thrilled to represent Eagle County to restore and enhance healthy soil, air, water, plants and animals and to carry out natural resource management programs.



## New Office Hours

*Located at the CSU Extension Office*  
**Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9am-Noon**

## Virtual Fencing

*Managing Rangelands for Grazing Lands Conservation*



The Eagle County Conservation District (ECCD) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have teamed up with Vence, a livestock management system, to implement virtual fencing here in Eagle County.

Virtual fencing (VF) for cattle ranchers is a relatively new and innovative technology. Using a wireless network of GPS communication data, it places invisible fencing around livestock allowing ranchers to draw infinite boundaries from a computer or smartphone and the ability to monitor their cattle 24 hours a day. It gives livestock producers tremendous flexibility in how they manage and control the movement of their herds across

rangelands to help promote rotational grazing. The cattle are trained to wear GPS-equipped collars that emit sensory sounds alerting the cattle when approaching boundary lines to help avoid an electric stimulus.

Originating in Australia and New Zealand, VF technology has demonstrated to be quite successful, further raising the question for feasibility in wide scale rangelands and mountainous regions across the US. Future research will help Vence identify the benefits of virtual fencing and introduce new ways of ranching, saving time and money on labor and fencing.

The Eagle County Conservation District is excited for the many ecological benefits behind the technology. Rotational grazing, a system dividing grazing lands where livestock can be moved to different portions of the pasture, provides various natural resource benefits that include the improvement of soil health and erosion, protection of sensitive wildlife habitats, healthier forage productivity, minimal fencing and wildlife movement.

Eagle County and the Climate Action Collaborative are also seeking unique ways to reduce carbon emissions in our valley and are excited for ECCD to pursue this project, providing large opportunities for carbon sequestration.

## STAR Program

### *Saving Tomorrow's Agricultural Resources*

Through the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Soil Health Initiative, the STAR Program (Saving Tomorrow's Agricultural Resources), is a new program that aims to improve soil health and provide soil health initiatives. It is a 3-year commitment with a practice-based rating system. Eligible producers will receive a free soil test, funding assistance and will be expected to participate in various practices upholding the Department of Agriculture's 5 principles of soil health:

- Soil Armor
- Minimize Soil Disturbance
- Plant Diversity
- Continual Live Plant/Root
- Livestock Integration

## ANNUAL MEETING

Join us at the  
**Colorado River Ranch!**

As your Eagle County representative, we are excited to celebrate you, your land, your conservation practices and the many opportunities to come. So join us this fall to find out what your Conservation District has been up to...



**September 3rd**  
**5-8pm**  
**Colorado River Ranch**

Please RSVP @  
[Eaglecountycd@gmail.com](mailto:Eaglecountycd@gmail.com)

If ECCD is awarded the grant, up to 5 eligible producers may participate, upon which the district will select. Each awarded producer will receive \$75/working acre. The payments have a \$1,000 minimum and \$5,000 maximum and require a 50% match, either in-kind or cash. They will be expected to monitor and track field observations on a minimum of 1 acre.

This is a wonderful opportunity for producers who are interested in soil health practice and management, unlocking new opportunities and revenue streams. If you are interested in the program, please reach out to your District Manager, there is no application necessary. For more details regarding the program and individual participation, please visit the [Colorado Dept. of Agriculture - Soil Health](#) webpage.

## Board Meetings

*Held at the Road and Bridge Facility in Gypsum*  
**5:30 pm, every second Wednesday of the month**

## Upcoming Events:

**THE DIRT ON HEALTHY SOILS**

SUSTAINABLE SOIL CONSERVATION IN  
EAGLE COUNTY

Join us in Haymeadow for our second annual Eagle County Healthy Landscape Initiative event! Healthy soils support healthy landscapes. Come learn what makes a soil healthy from experts in the field.

**GUEST SPEAKER:**  
Dayton Nutson,  
USDA NRCS Soil Conservationist

**September 16th from 5-7pm**  
3224 Brush Creek Road, Eagle 81631

Food and Beverage Provided!  
*Please RSVP to [eaglecountycd@gmail.com](mailto:eaglecountycd@gmail.com)*

Colorado State University  
EXTENSION

conserving natural resources for our future

NRCS

EAGLE COUNTY