



# NEWSLETTER

## EAGLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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PO Box 360, Eagle

*“Providing the preservation and restoration of natural resources through education, cooperation and initiation of conservation practices”*

### Drought Funding Available

#### *Headgates, Flumes & Pipes*

ECCD has been awarded more funding to participate in the CDA’s Agricultural Drought Resiliency Program to help Colorado anticipate, prepare for, mitigate and adapt to drought or climate related issues.

ECCD is extending the application deadline to Eagle County residents, awarding up to \$10,000 for agriculture irrigation upgrades on headgates, flumes and/or pipe.

**Application Deadline Extended to: March 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Application Approval: April 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Contract & Invoice Deadline: August 26<sup>th</sup>**

Find our application here: <https://eaglecountycd.com/projects>

### Office Hours

*Located at the CSU Extension Office in Eagle  
Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 9am-Noon*

### Cattle Ranches go Virtual in Eagle County

*Conservation Innovation Grant in Action*



Awarded the Conservation Innovation Grant through the NRCS, the Eagle County Conservation District (ECCD) will begin to introduce virtual fencing to local cattle ranches. Founded to improve the availability of sustainable animal protein, the ECCD has teamed up with Vence Corp to administer a relatively new and innovative technology in the ranching world.

Using a wireless network of GPS communication data, ranchers can place an invisible fence around livestock with versatile boundaries from a computer or smartphone with

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 avoid an electric stimulus.

During the 3-year study, ECCD will be examining the effectiveness of the technology and will be monitoring for rotational grazing, cattle exclusion and containment, forage productivity, and vegetative and riparian health assessments. ECCD will also be examining the cost comparison of virtual fencing vs. physical to identify the return of investment and potential opportunities to eliminate fences in the future.

The USFS and BLM have been working diligently with VENCE and future cattle ranchers within the Eagle County boundary in kickstarting this technology and ECCD is excited to continue building on those collaborative efforts with more funding. At this time, ECCD is looking for interested ranchers to participate in the program. Funding will be provided for towers to cover each participants allotment and all collars for cattle. Training will be provided each year and participants will be expected to work with ECCD and CSU Extension’s with research, design and findings.

ECCD will also be hiring two summer technicians to provide field work to collect baseline data, vegetation trends and overall evaluations of the technology for use in our region. If you are interested in the position, or would like to know more, please reach out to your District Manager. A description of the position along with applications will be announced shortly.

## Board Meetings

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

## Partnerships for Climate Smart-Commodities

*Biden-Harris Administration Funding Opportunity*

The USDA announced a new program that will finance partnerships to support the production and marketing of climate-smart commodities via a set of pilot projects lasting one to five years. The USDA is committed to supporting a diverse set of farmers, ranchers and forest landowners through climate solutions that increase resilience, expand market opportunities, and strengthen rural America.

## ECCD Brings on a New Look



**EAGLE COUNTY  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT**

The Eagle County Conservation District has been working harder than ever to further build its relationship with its landowners, water rights holders, and the community.

As it expands local resource conservation opportunities to its constituents, the ECCD is also working to enhance its outreach program, along with a new look.

ECCD’s rebranding efforts aim to strengthen a greater engagement with the community and as a collaborative partner in resource conservation management.

**Make sure to follow us on  
Facebook, Instagram and  
LinkedIn for the latest  
updates!**



This opportunity will provide up to \$1 billion for pilot projects for commodities produced using climate-smart practices. Projects will provide technical and financial assistance to producers; pilot innovative and cost-effective methods for quantification; monitoring reporting and verification of greenhouse gas benefits; and market the resulting climate-smart commodities. Highly competitive projects will include agriculture and forestry practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon.

The primary applicant/recipient must be an entity, not an individual. Please note that agricultural producers and forest landowners will not apply for this program directly but may receive incentives through awarded projects via partner groups. Please refer to the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) for full details on requirements. The USDA will also be hosting a webinar on March 3 at 3pm Eastern Time for the second funding pool. Make sure not to miss out on the details and register here for the webinar: [Climate-Smart Commodities](#).

## Rent a No-Till Drill

*Save money, time and soil!*  
For more information, [Email your DM](#)

## CSU Custom Rates Survey

*Show Your Love for Colorado Agriculture*

Colorado State University Extension conducts an annual survey of custom rates charged for various crop and livestock operations and lease arrangements in Colorado in the preceding year. Data is collected from



agricultural producers, landowners and managers, lenders, agricultural consultants, machine operators, and Extension agents. Results of the survey are used by producers, ag lenders, county assessors, the Colorado Department of Agriculture, land appraisers, and more. [Custom Rates in Colorado](#) is one of the most widely used publications available from the CSU Agriculture and Business Management Team.

Why should you complete the survey?

- The Custom Rates Report will allow you to advertise custom services or locate and hire custom service operators in your area.
- More responses ensure more accurate data and a more complete list of rates for today's practices. These determined rates influence land appraisal values, your property taxes, and more.
- Information about Custom Rates is used by elected officials to inform federal, state, and local policy, including crop insurance.
- Your responses are safe and anonymous.

The Custom Rates Survey will be **available from February 14-March 11, 2022** through Colorado State University. Take 10 minutes to complete the custom rates survey at: [https://colostate.edu/colostate/qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6s3FcPaxmuZmFkW](https://colostate.edu/colostate/qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6s3FcPaxmuZmFkW)

Your CSU Extension Agriculture and Business Management Team is here to answer your questions. Learn more at <https://abm.extension.colostate.edu/meet-the-team/>