



# Yuma County Conservation District 2021 Annual Report

247 N. Clay Street, Wray, CO 80758 • 970-332-3107 ext. 101 • [www.ycconservation.com](http://www.ycconservation.com)

## WHO IS YCCD?

### Land Ownership

Federal Land - 3,763 ac  
State Land - 36,640 ac  
County & City - 680 ac  
Private Land - 1,018,373 ac

### Land Use

Irrigated Crop - 175,500 ac  
Non-Irrigated - 236,154 ac  
Rangeland - 575,095 ac  
Other Lands - 65,360 ac

### Mission Statement

*To provide a legal organization to assist the effort to accomplish maximum economical and beneficial use and conservation of all land, water, and plant resources by providing technical assistance, facilities and equipment as is available. Our goal is to create as many good stewards of natural resources as possible without use of mandates and regulations.*

### Board of Supervisors

Margaret Lenz, President  
Ron Richards, Vice President  
Dustin Wise, Sec./Treas.  
Jeff Wingfield  
Chester Zwirn  
Travis Taylor, Ex Officio  
Tanya Fell- District Manager

### Monthly Meetings

2nd Tuesday each Month

## The History Behind the Yuma County Conservation District

Formation of soil conservation districts in Yuma County began in 1949. On May 9 of that year the Hale Soil Conservation District was formed. The district covered approximately 727,000 acres in southern Yuma County. The Northeast Yuma Soil Conservation District was formed on January 6, 1950 and contained approximately 320,000 acres in northeast Yuma County. The Yuma Soil Conservation District was formed in 1958 covering the northwest portion of the county.

The first board members for the Northeast Yuma District were: Ivan Leech, Harvey Nickel, E.H. Kinnie, Raymond Anderson, Lawrence Wisdom, T.E. Brophy, Ray Merritt, and Henry Bledsoe.

The first available list of board members for the Hale District is from 1955 and includes: Clarence Stults, Gerald Zion, Clifford Like, Herman Reitmeyer, Harold Renzelman, Robert O'Brien, O.G. Gurss and Clifford Akey.

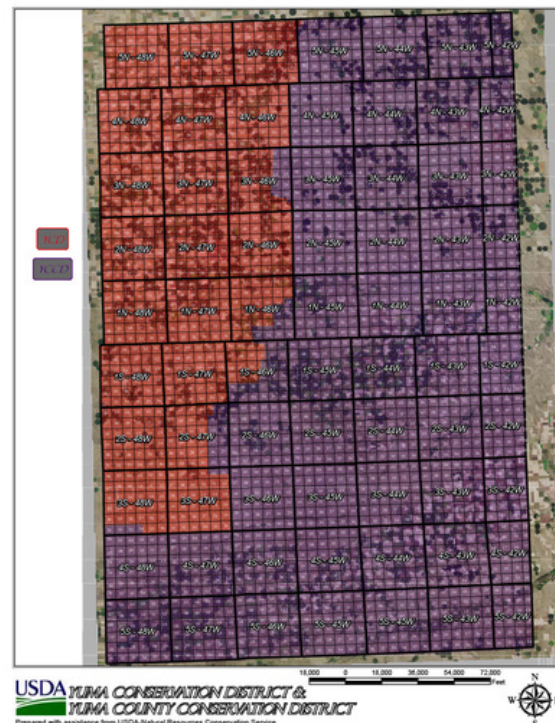
Hale SCD and Northeast Yuma SCD consolidated in 1970 forming Yuma County Soil Conservation District with an area of 1,044,087 acres of land and 2,367 acres of surface water. Land uses include native rangeland, irrigated cropland, nonirrigated cropland, nonirrigated pastureland, urban lands, recreation and wildlife. The landownership consists of private, state and federal.

The first board members for the newly formed Yuma County SCD were: Richard Wisdom, Dean Witte, Chester Wingfield, Warren Noffsinger, Harold Kamla, Harry Fonte, Joe Connally, Dallas Oestman, Oscar Stults, and Bill Reitmeyer.

In 2002 the name was changed statewide to drop the word soil. The district is a member of the Republican River Watershed Association, the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts and the National Association of Conservation Districts.

## Where We Are Located

This map shows the boundaries of the two Yuma County Conservation Districts. The area colored in purple is the Yuma County Conservation District located in Wray with NRCS at the Yuma County Service Center at 247 N. Clay Street. The red is the boundary area for the Yuma Conservation District which is located in Yuma at 508 East 8th Ave.





# Matching Grant Grazing Land Improvement Projects Completed

The Colorado State Conservation Board and the Yuma County Conservation District (YCCD) completed their partnership of a \$25,000 Grazing Land Improvement Matching Grant the end of December. Nine producers within the boundaries of the YCCD participated in the matching grant program. To be eligible for the grant funding, producers had to apply for funding for rangeland water distribution systems including livestock wells, tanks, solar pumping systems, pipelines, heavy use land protection and repair and living or manmade windbreaks.

By participating in the matching grant program, the Yuma County Conservation District was able to help individual producers improve the overall infrastructure of their operations. "We are excited to be able to help landowners install such practices on their land as we all work to preserve the resources of Yuma County" said Margaret Lenz, President of the YCCD.



## YCCD Matching Grant Facts

- 9 Landowners Participated
- 3 Wells Dug
- 7 Tanks Installed
- 3 Solar Units Installed
- 505 Head of Cattle Benefited
- 4102 Acres Impacted
- 14,705 Feet of Pipe Installed
- \$25,000 distributed



# Pesticide Applicator Workshop

The YCCD coordinated with Sandra McDonald from Mountain West PEST to offer a virtual pesticide applicator workshop. This workshop provided producers with ALL seven required core credits including: laws and regulations, applicator safety, public safety, environmental protection, use of pesticides and pesticides and their families meeting the requirements for Colorado pesticide applicator license recertification.

The Colorado Pesticide Applicators' Act requires that a person may not use restricted-use or state-restricted-use pesticides unless licensed (certified) by the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA). The Colorado Private Pesticide Applicator License is required of individuals who use or supervise the use of restricted-use pesticides on land in agricultural production that is owned, leased, or rented by them or their employer. CDA has a two-part system for private pesticide license renewal:

1. Applicators accumulate the seven (7) required Continuing Education Credits (CECs)
2. Applicators pay a renewal fee (\$75.00) to the Colorado Department of Ag



## Pesticide Applicator Facts

- 46 producers participated online
- Event held online due to Covid limitations

# Riley Brown & Macy Richards Receive 2021 Raymond Peters Memorial Scholarships

Riley Brown is a winner of the 2021 Raymond Peters Memorial Conservation Scholarship. She is the daughter of Ron and Joyce Brown and a graduate of Wray High School. Riley will be attending the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture.



Macy Richards of Idalia was awarded the 2021 Raymond Peters Memorial Scholarship. She is a graduate of Idalia High School and is the daughter of Duane and Lisa Richards. Macy is currently attending Kansas State University majoring in Animal Science/Pre-Veterinary Medicine.

This scholarship is awarded annually to a high school senior who will be majoring in agriculture and/or natural resources and resides within the boundaries of the Yuma County Conservation District. The scholarship, totaling \$4,000, is disbursed in increments of \$500 per semester, not to exceed 8 semesters or 4 years. The recipient must maintain a 2.0 grade point average to remain eligible to receive the scholarship.



## Scholarships

- 2 - \$1,000 Scholarships Awarded



## Cover Crop Workshop and Test Plot Offers Insight to Producers

A cover crop workshop was held in Joes, CO on June 16, 2021 with 22 people in attendance. Two different fields were planted with cover crops with the intended purpose of grazing. Caleb Schultz's field had been planted as a drought contingency plan, under irrigation to be utilized to remove cow/calf pairs off native range during a drought year. The second location was Troy Schneider's and was a crop that had been planted on an irrigated circle with decreased water supplies. The cover crop was grazed the past several years to due to increase the cattle numbers while making use the limited water.

A presentation was given by Ron Meyer, CSU Extension Agronomist on the cover crop test plots he had planted during two seasons in 2016 and 2017. A second presentation by Travis Taylor, CSU Livestock Agent regarding livestock considerations while grazing cover crops, including information on triticale grazing and



### Pesticide Applicator Facts

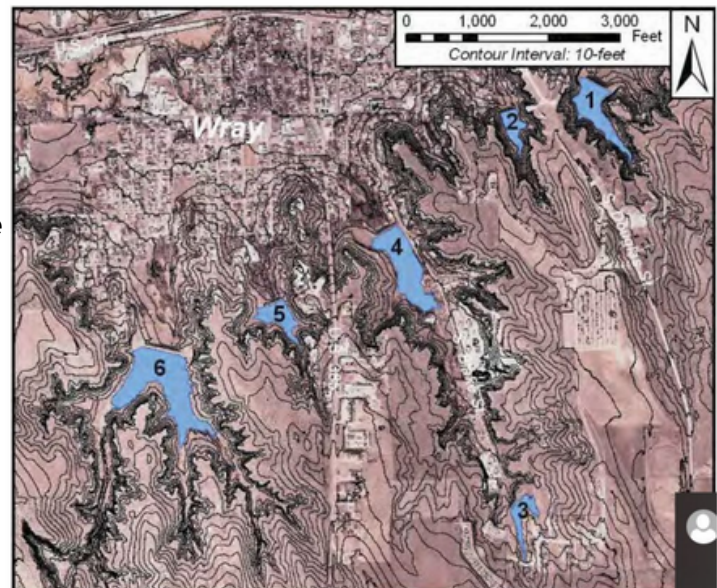
- 22 producers attended
- 2 test plots
- 6 producers implemented programs

production during drought years. This program offered insight and has seen implementation on six different producers in Yuma County with additional operations in the planning phase.

## Wray Flood Control Dam Tour

An annual inspection of the flood control structures that protect the City of Wray from being inundated during extreme precipitation events, was completed. Each of the six structures were visited and superficial inspection of the dams, diversions, spill ways, inlet and outlet structures and associated fencing were completed. There are a number of trees that need to be removed from the waterways.

These six earthen dams were installed by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in the early 1960's as a means of protecting the areas below these watershed dams from significant flooding. These inconspicuous earthen structures are situated in drainageways above the City of Wray. They serve as silent guardians of the city. They safeguard homes, county roads, bridges and buildings from damage by flash floods after large rainfall events.



# YCCD Seedling Tree Sales 2021

The Yuma County Conservation District had a successful tree sales season in 2021. We sold 3,318 trees with total sales of \$27,084.34. We also sold a total of 10,850 feet of irrigation drip line and 8,186 feet of landscape fabric!

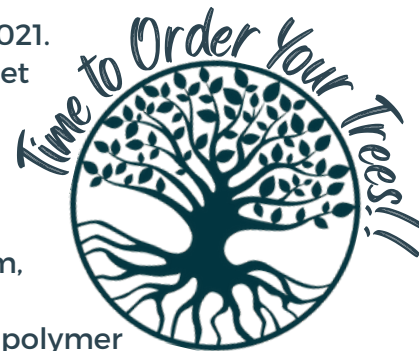
These low-cost trees can be used for wind breaks, erosion control, snow breaks, wildlife habitat or any other use that can be beneficial to the landowner.

In addition, the YCCD offers larger potted fruit trees and bushes including elderberry, apple, apricot, Chokecherry, cherry, Nanking Cherry, peach, pear, plum, Sandhill Plum, grapes and even rhubarb!

YCCD also offers native grass seeds, landscape fabric, staples, fertilizer tablets, polymer and a full line of drip irrigation materials as well. AND if you need help planting your trees,

we have a contractor that can assist you with that as well.

The YCCD also rolled out a new website the end of 2021 for tree ordering for the 2022 season. The website is [www.ycconservation.com](http://www.ycconservation.com). Orders can also be placed over the phone, by email or in person at the YCCD office.



## Tree Sales Facts

- 3,318 trees sold
- \$27,084.34 in sales
- 10,850 feet of drip line
- 8,186 feet of landscape fabric

## YCCD 2021 Financial Standing

### Income:

Sales	\$ 35,174.90
Mill Levy	\$ 46,509.91
Grants	\$ 21,770.78
Other	\$ 241.84
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$103,697.43</b>

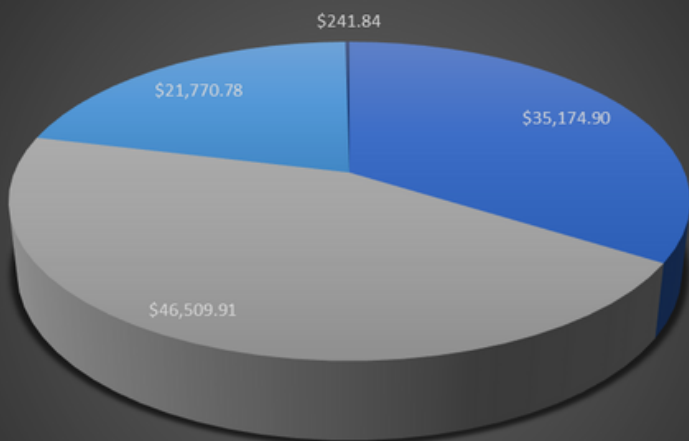
### Expenses:

Employee	\$ 29,174.93
Tree & Grass	\$ 27,202.91
Grants	\$ 19,717.73
Accounting	\$ 5,462.83
Meetings	\$ 3,697.67
Scholarship	\$ 1,500.00
Office Exp	\$ 1,461.56
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 88,217.63</b>

### Summary:

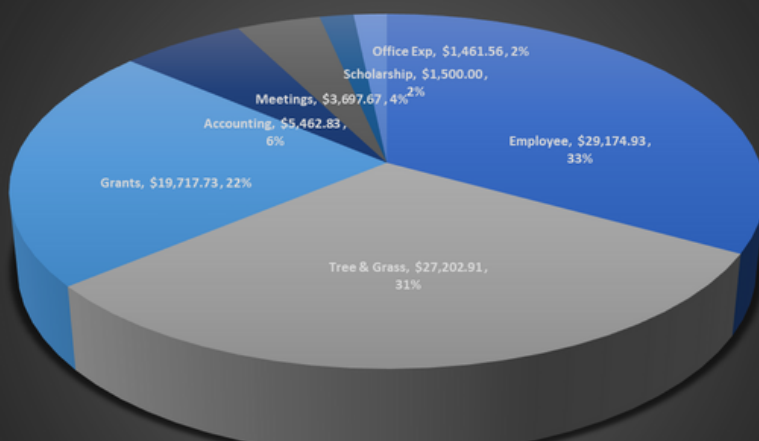
Total Income	\$ 103,697.43
Total COGS	\$ 2,874.13
Gross Profit	\$ 100,823.30
Total Expenses	\$ 88,217.63
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 12,605.67</b>

2021 Yuma County Conservation District Income



■ Sales ■ Mill Levy ■ Grants ■ Other

2021 Yuma County Conservation District Expenses



■ Employee ■ Tree & Grass ■ Grants ■ Accounting ■ Meetings ■ Scholarship ■ Office Exp



# Camp Rocky Focuses Teaches Natural Resource Preservation and Conservation

Camp Rocky is a week-long residential camp for youth ages 14-19 who enjoy the outdoors and are interested in natural resources. The Professional staff helps participants learn about the environment through hands-on experiences. Students work in teams, making new friends from across Colorado. Each year, students choose a resource field for their area of focus: Recreation Management, Forest Management, Rangeland Science, Soil and Water Conservation and Fish and Wildlife Management.

Last year Rex Fell (bottom row, second from the left) attended camp as the camp junior director. He has attended camp for the past four years, first as a camper and continuing as a junior staff member.

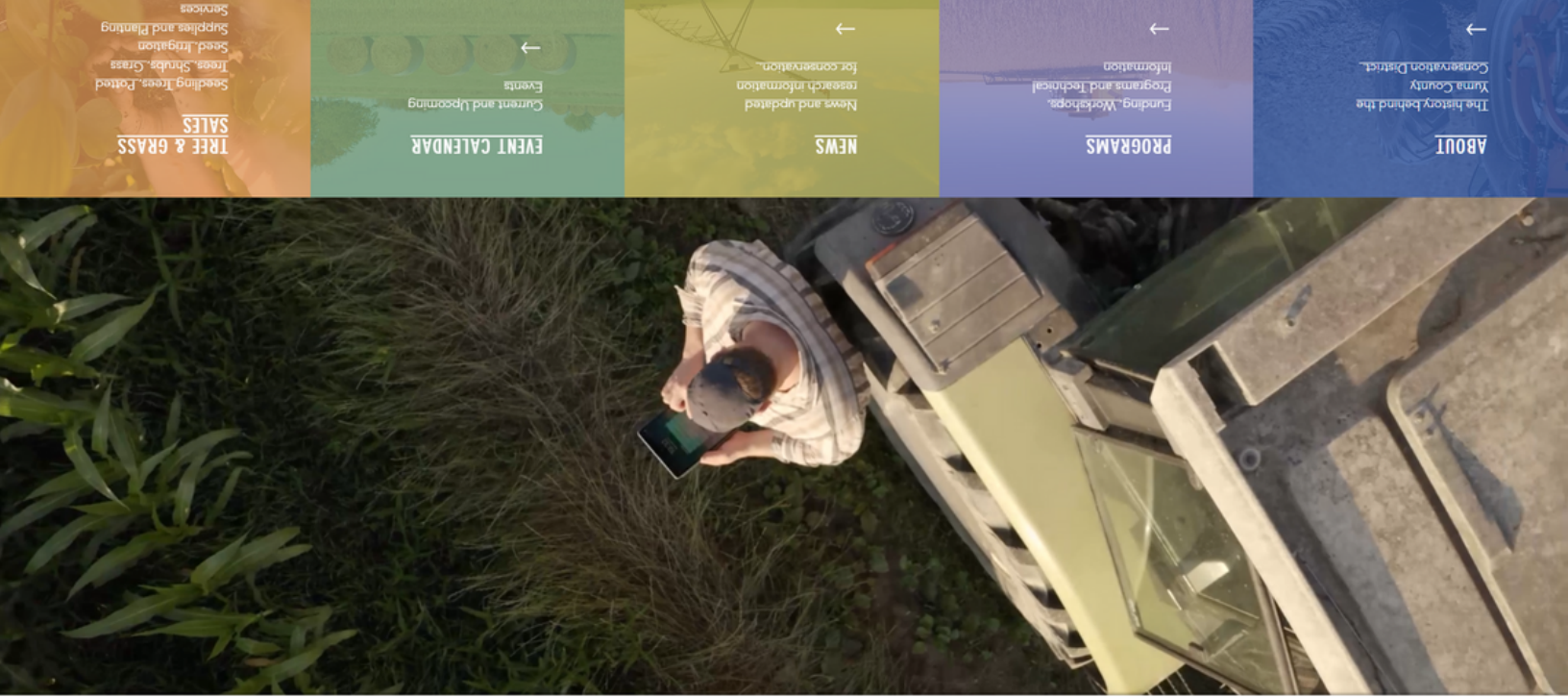
Scholarships for this camp are available from the Yuma County Conservation District. In addition, they YCCD also provides a full scholarship to attend to the top senior natural resources project winner from the Yuma County Fair each year.



## Welcome to Tanya Fell

The Yuma County Conservation District saw many changes with the departure of Dana Barth and challenges of hiring a new manager. The YCCD successfully hired and would like to welcome our new District Manager, Tanya Fell. She began her position the end of October. She brings a vast background in agriculture through working in the onion and potato industries, cooperative extension, cattle feeding operations and most recently a commercial flower farm. Tanya has a bachelor's degree in Agriculture/Natural Resource Journalism and a master's degree in Agriculture/Extension Education both from Colorado State University.





←  
**ABOUT**  
The history behind the  
Yuma County  
Conservation District.

←  
**PROGRAMS**  
Funding, Workshops,  
Programs and Technical  
Information

←  
**NEWS**  
News and updated  
research information  
for conservation.

←  
**EVENT CALENDAR**  
Current and Upcoming  
Events

←  
**TREE & GRASS  
SALES**  
Seedling Trees, Potted  
Trees, Shrubs, Grass  
Supplies and Planting  
Services

Home About Programs News Events Tree, Grass & Supplies Tree Planting & Care Contact

Yuma County  
Conservation District



The Yuma County Conservation District has a newly updated website. You are now able to order trees directly online! Go to [www.ycconservation.com](http://www.ycconservation.com).

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