HAY DAY A GREAT SUCCESS IN STEAMBOAT SPRINGS!

Approximately 100 people attended Hay Day in Steamboat Springs at the Sydney Peak Ranch. The District helped sponsor the event and had a booth which our board members staffed. Pictured on the left is John Kossler from Blue Valley Ranch in our booth. Speakers presented information on topics ranging from alternative fertilizers to when to cut hay. A great time was had by all.

PRESCRIBED GRAZING AND HERDING WORKSHOP

A weekend workshop on prescribed grazing and herding will be offered on Friday and Saturday, August 28 and 29 at Blue Valley Ranch on Highway 9. This workshop enlists the knowledge and skills of Guy Glosson, who will teach participants about low-stress livestock handling, which in turn makes applying prescribed grazing easier and more efficient. Prescribed grazing has been demonstrated to increase grass production and keep rangelands healthy. Guy manages the award-winning Mesquite Grove Ranch in Snyder, Texas, and learned his skills from stockmanship guru Bud Williams. The workshop is most suited to those who work with cattle on a regular basis. Those who administer grazing permits on public lands would also benefit from this workshop. The fee for the workshop is $50 per person for the weekend, and space is limited. There will be an indoor seminar introducing prescribed grazing and herding, and then most of the weekend practicing low-stress livestock handling techniques on foot with cattle in the handling facilities. On Friday evening, we are hosting a special event slide show on herding in the West Elks with guest speakers Dave Bradford (Paonia Ranger District) and John Kossler, at the CSU Extension Hall on the fairgrounds. Lunches will be provided and reservations are required. Call the Conservation District to sign up.
Middle Park Conservation District Hay Contest

Notice to all hay producers! The District will be sponsoring its annual Hay Contest again this year. It will be in September. Watch the newspapers and your email for the exact date and other activities surrounding the event. As you begin to cut hay, watch for that perfect bale to enter in the contest. Call for information at 724-3456.

GRASS SEED SALES GOING STRONG

So far grass seed sales have been very strong. The Conservation District has sold 1300 pounds of forest mix, a mix designed for areas where beetle kill trees have been removed. 200 pounds of our short mix, designed for around buildings and in drier areas, have been sold. Grand County purchased 1500 pounds of the short mix. We have also sold 550 pounds of the smooth brome/pubescent wheatgrass mix, which is a great soil stabilizer. Customers have purchased 26 pounds of wildflower mix total. This mix comes in 1/2-pound bags and has eight different wildflower species in it. Most are natives and most are perennials. Other mixes that have been purchased are the irrigated meadow mix and the dura-turf lawn mix.

We are coming up on the next good time for planting seed and that is the monsoon season. This is a time when rains can occur almost daily to moisten the soil which is necessary for seeds to germinate. If seeds can’t be planted during the monsoons, then it is best to wait until October right before the snow pack is on the ground. Seeds need soil contact and enough moisture to germinate and become established plants. The soil crust should be broken before seeds are scattered. They should be covered with only 1/4 inch of soil on top and a light mulch should follow to preserve moisture.

Anyone with seeding questions is encouraged to call the District office at 724-3456. Summer hours are irregular so call before stopping in.

To access agriculture statistics and reports, go to http://www.nass.usda.gov.