

LIBERTY COUNTY NEWS

jointventure

M.S.U. Extension
Office—Chester, MT

Liberty County
Conservation District

December 2023

Montana State University Extension, Liberty County and the Liberty County Conservation District are collaborating this newsletter. We will keep you informed on news and events in both offices. As agriculture is a major focus for both offices, we have events that often coincide. Please let us know if you have information on upcoming events and happenings.

Upcoming Events

- MSU Cropping Seminar January 12, 2023, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Chester MT
- Montana Weed Control Association Convention, January 31–February 1, 2024, Billings MT
- Montana Soil Health Symposium, Feb 7-8, 2024, Billings MT

THE LIBERTY COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Supervisors: Lanny Jones, Rodney Oraw, Tyler Streit, Michael Nelson, Megan Hedges, Tyler Jones, Kurt Matkin

Associate Supervisors: Robert Pugsley, Rodney Svenson, Ray Morkrid, Geoff Osterman

Administrator: Diane Roberts

THE NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE

Supervisor District Conversationist: Misty Vermulm

District Conversationist: Vacant

Technician: Dan Kultgen

Resource Soil Scientist: Matti Osterman

Soil Conversationist: Dan Hodges

Pheasants Forever: Maverick Cady

Liberty County Conservation District

18 Main Street
USDA Building

406-759-5778 ext. 102

Email:
libertycountycd@gmail.com

Website:
libertycountycd.macdnet.org

LCCD holds monthly board meetings on the third Thursday of each month. The meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. in the USDA conference room. Any member of the public is welcome to join.

MSU Extension

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Liberty County
Courthouse

406-759-5625

Liberty County Extension Agent:

-Jesse Fulbright

Extension Administrative Assistant:

-Julie Gagnon

liberty@montana.edu

MSU GOLDEN TRIANGLE CROPPING SEMINARS

CHESTER MT, January 12, 2024

Montana State University Extension will host its annual cropping seminar series Jan. 8-12, 2024, in the Golden Triangle area. Speakers will cover topics such as weed resistance, crop rotations, marketing tips, and vertebrate pests.

Interested individuals can attend in Chester, Choteau, Conrad, Cut Bank, Fort Benton, Great Falls, Havre, Shelby and Stanford. There is no charge for the seminars, and all producers are encouraged to attend. The Great Falls seminar will begin at 9:30 a.m. with registration. The Choteau, Conrad, Cut Bank, Shelby, Chester, Havre, Fort Benton, and Stanford seminars will begin at **8:30 a.m.** with registration. Both commercial and private pesticide licensing recertification credits will be available.

Dr. Tim Seipel will be covering weed resistance issues in Montana, including how these issues developed, how to best manage and prevent them, and what to be aware of in the future regarding weeds in Montana croplands. Dr. Seipel is the MSU Extension cropland weed extension specialist, Integrated Pest Management program coordinator, and an assistant research professor at Montana State University.

Dr. Pat Carr, Central Ag Research Center superintendent and associate professor, will give a crop rotation update from MSU. Dr. Carr's research interests include dryland cropping systems and strategies to improve economic and environmental sustainability; organic farming and regenerative agriculture philosophy and practice, alternative cropping practices including intercropping and dual use cover-forage crop systems; and integrated crop-livestock systems. Teaching interests include general crop production; forage management and production; conservation tillage systems; organic farming and regenerative agriculture, and emerging field crop systems

Dr. Eric Belasco, MSU ag economist, will present, 'Ten marketing tips for wheat, barley, and pulse crop producers.' Eric's main research focuses on the areas of agricultural marketing and applied econometrics. His research centers around characterizing variability in profits, production, and marketing.

Dr. Stephen Vantassel, Montana Department of Agriculture, vertebrate pest specialist will cover vertebrate pests related to crop and rangeland situations. Pests to be covered include ground squirrels, pocket gophers, and other vertebrate pests of interest to the audience. Dr. Vantassel develops pest control training for pesticide applicators, creates publications and training materials, and serves as an extensive resource for vertebrate pest control methods for producers and landowners in Montana.

Dates, locations and contact numbers for local cropping seminars are listed below:

January 8 – Great Falls at the Cascade County Extension Office, 3300 3rd Street N.E. #9. RSVP to Rose Malisani at 406-454-6980 or rose.malisani@montana.edu.

January 9 – Conrad at the Conrad Moose Lodge, 617 S. Main Street. RSVP to Dan Severson at 406-271-4054 or dan.jel.severson@montana.edu. Choteau at the Stage Stop Inn, 1005 Main Avenue North. RSVP to Jenn Swanson at 406-868-4570 or jenn.swanson@montana.edu.

January 10 – Cut Bank at the Glacier County Library basement, 21 First Ave. SE. RSVP to Kari Lewis at 406-873-2239 or kari.lewis@montana.edu. Shelby at the Comfort Inn, 455 McKinley Ave. RSVP to Kim Woodring at 406-424-8350 or kimberly.woodring1@montana.edu.

January 11 – Stanford at Stanford City, 102 Central Ave. RSVP to 406-566-2277 (ext. 105) or judithbasin@montana.edu. Fort Benton at the Ag Center, 1205 20th Street. RSVP to Tyler Lane at 406-622-3751 or tyler.lane@montana.edu.

January 12 – Chester at Our Savior's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 10 E. Madison Ave., Chester. RSVP to Jesse Fulbright at 406-759-5625 or jesse.fulbright@montana.edu.

Havre at the 4-H Chuckwagon 1676 US HWY 2 W, Havre MT 59501 at the Great Northern Fairgrounds. RSVP to Colleen Pegar at 406-400-2333 or colleen.pegar@montana.edu.



MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY

EXTENSION



2024 Montana Soil Health Symposium

February 6-8, 2024

Billings Hotel and Convention Center



**Register and learn more at
MTSoilhealth.org**

Join us in Billings to connect with leaders in regenerative agriculture, hear new insights into soil health and discuss practical solutions for a more sustainable future!

Hosted by:



**MONTANA
ASSOCIATION of
CONSERVATION
DISTRICTS**



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MSU Extension Invasive Plants

Monthly Weed Post

Common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)

By Noelle Orloff, Associate Extension Specialist and Schutter Lab Diagnostician

Introduction Common tansy is an exotic perennial forb in the Asteraceae family that is on Montana's noxious weed list. It inhabits higher moisture, disturbed soils, and can be found in places like meadows and riparian areas as well as along roadsides, ditches, and railroad tracks. Common tansy was introduced to North America from Europe for medicinal use and as an ornamental plant.

Identification When common tansy is flowering it is relatively easy to recognize. Flowering heads resemble yellow buttons, and are arranged in flat-topped, compact clusters. Leaves are alternately arranged and pinnately compound. They appear "feathery," with leaf segments having sharply lobed and toothed edges. Stems tend to be somewhat reddish in color. Common tansy has aromatic foliage, and it also has white sap. This species often grows around three or four feet tall.

Biology, Ecology, and Impacts Common tansy is a perennial species that reproduces mainly by seeds, but it also spreads by creeping rhizomes that allow it to form dense patches. Dense stands decrease forage availability for grazing animals. This species is considered toxic to both livestock and humans if enough is consumed. Common tansy contains thujone, a toxin that can cause miscarriages, convulsions, stomach pain, and skin irritation. In large enough quantities it has been reported to cause abortion in cattle and is also suspected to affect goats and horses. It is relatively unpalatable, and for this reason cases of livestock poisoning are rare.

Management Common tansy management is best undertaken with an integrated approach. For mechanical control, mowing is not generally thought to be effective in controlling established plants, but mowing just before flowering may decrease seed production. Handpulling may be useful in very small, newly established patches, but make sure to wear gloves and long sleeves. The most effective herbicides for controlling common tansy are those containing metsulfuron (e.g., Escort® and Chaparral™). Herbicides containing 2,4-D or glyphosate can be somewhat effective, with the best results occurring with a wiper type application. Make sure to read all label instructions for these herbicides before use. Finally, encouraging a stand of competitive vegetation and limiting disturbance can help slow the spread of this species and limit its encroachment into new areas.

See the MSU Extension publication *Common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)* for more details about common tansy and its management.



Photo: Matt Lavin, MSU



Photo: Matt Lavin, MSU



43rd Annual Young Ag Couples Conference



Ivan & Jennifer Van Dessel

The Liberty County Conservation District is happy to announce **Ivan & Jennifer Van Dessel** and **Matt and Madison Woods** have been nominated to attend the 43rd Annual Young Couples Conference January 17th in Helena, MT.

Ivan Van Dessel graduated with a bachelor of science in electrical and computer engineering and enjoys creating farming and ranching automated suit spreadsheets for tracking profitability. Van Dessel's operate two grain farms, organic and conventional.



Matt & Madison Woods

Matt Woods graduated from MSU with a degree in Ag Business. Matt & Madison have a grain operation near Inverness.

CoCoRaHS November 2023 precipitation report



Wet November for Liberty County

For the second month in a row, precipitation was higher than normal across most of Liberty County. The precipitation average for the 19 reporting CoCoRaHS stations was 0.58 inch, or 29 percent more than the normal November amount of 0.45 inch. Ostermans reported 0.88 inch which was more than twice the normal amount, while Engstroms and Wolerys tallied around 1/3 inch for the least. Reported snowfall ranged from 2.5 inches at Skierka's to 4 inches at the Bo Woods and Michael Wood farms.

The average temperature in Chester for October was 34 degrees, which was 6 degrees above normal. The warmest temperature was 59 degrees on the 5th and 13th, while the coldest was 9 degrees on the 25th. The warmest county-wide on the 13th was 66 degrees 6 miles west of Tiber Dam. At the end of November, the frost depth ranged between 6 and 10 inches.

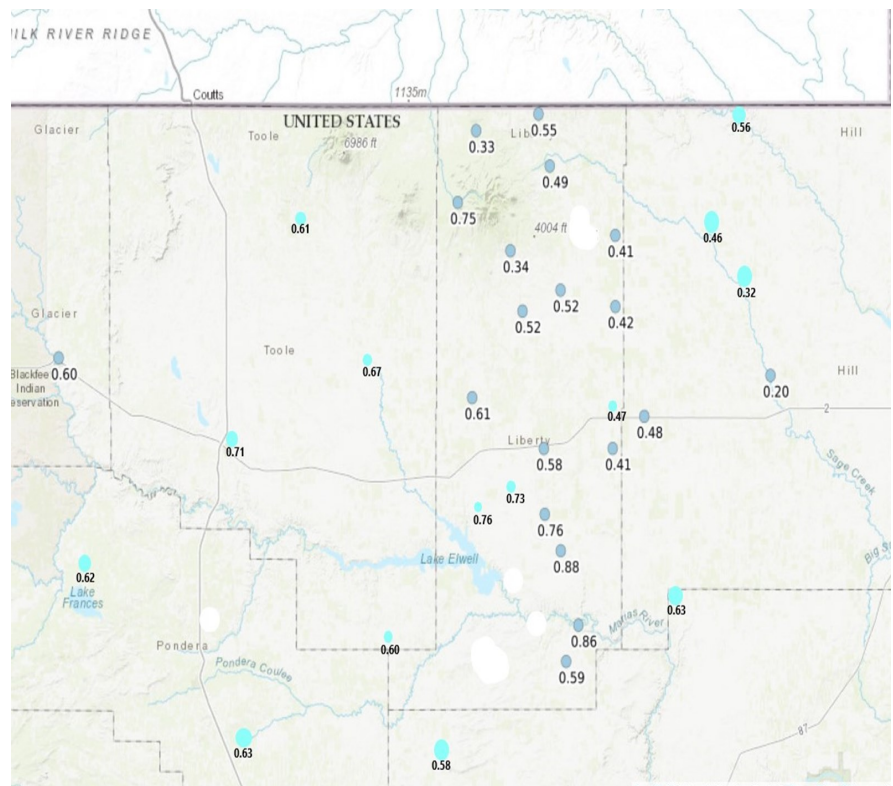
The drought rating continued to improve during November. At the end of the month, the northern two thirds of the county was abnormally dry, while the southern portion was drought free. At the end of November, the frost depth ranged between 6 and 10 inches.

The December outlook from NOAA is calling for temperatures to average near to above normal with near the usual precipitation. Normal December precipitation ranges between a third and half inch. Snowfall is usually 3 to 5 inches.

Observer	Nov	Norm	PCT
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Chester 11S Osterman	0.88	0.39	226
Tiber Dam 11ESE Cole	0.86	0.48	179
Chester 7S Harmon	0.76	0.4	190
Lothair 3SE Violet	0.76	0.4	190
Whitlash 4SE Thompson	0.75	0.65	115
Chester 5SW USACE	0.73	0.4	183
Tiber 7NW Fenger	0.61	0.42	145
Tiber Dam 12SE Skierka	0.59	0.4	148
Chester Kammerzell	0.58	0.4	145
Sage Cr Col 4N Lybeck	0.55	0.45	122
Chester 14N Hendrickson	0.52	0.43	121
Chester 16N Mattson	0.52	0.42	124
Sage Cre Col 1SE Woods	0.49	0.44	111
Joplin Snyder	0.47	0.5	94
Joplin 11N May	0.42	0.39	108
Joplin 18N Wood	0.41	0.39	105
Joplin 4S Dahinden	0.41	0.39	105
Hill 4E Wolery	0.34	0.52	65
Whitlash 6NE Engstrom	0.33	0.69	48
AVERAGE	0.58	0.45	128

November 2023 Precipitation

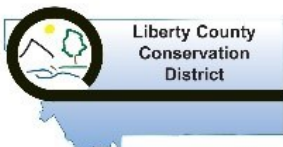


Pinwheel Cookies

- 3/4 cup salted butter, softened
 - 1 cup granulated sugar
 - 1 egg + 1 yolk, room temperature
 - 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
 - 2 3/4 c. all-purpose flour
 - 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
 - 1/2 tsp kosher salt
 - 3 tbsp. cocoa powder
- Finely chopped walnuts or sprinkles, optional.



1. Combine the butter and sugar in the bowl of a stand mixer. Beat on medium speed 2 to 3 minutes, or until light and fluffy. Add the egg, egg yolk, and vanilla, then mix on low until fully mixed.
2. Whisk together the flour, baking powder, and salt in a medium bowl. Add to the butter mixture and mix on low speed until fully combined and there are no flour pockets.
3. Divide the dough in half, reserving half in a separate bowl. Add the cocoa powder to the other half, mixing until no streaks remain in the dough.
4. Place each half of the dough on a separate piece of parchment paper and press into a 1/2 inch thick square. Place another sheet of parchment paper over the dough and roll in a 9 by 9 inch square. Chill both squares for about 30 minutes or until the dough is firm but still malleable.
5. Once the dough is chilled, remove the top piece of parchment paper from both squares and flip the chocolate dough on the top of the vanilla, lining up the edges as much as possible. Remove the top parchment and trim the edges to create even sides. Carefully roll the dough into a log, using parchment paper as a guide and peeling back the paper as it is rolled. Wrap the roll in plastic wrap, twisting the ends like a candy wrapper to press the dough together firmly and remove any air trapped inside.
6. Refrigerate the dough for about two hours. Preheat the oven to 375 and line two sheet trays with parchment paper.
7. Once the dough is firm, unwrap the log and roll it in your choice of walnuts or sprinkles. Trim the round edges, then carefully cut the log into 24 cookies, about 1/4 inch thick, using a sharp knife. Bake 1 1/2 inches apart on the prepared trays for about 8 to 10 minutes, until the tops look dry. Let cool for 2 minutes on the sheet tray, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.



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