



Trail News

May 12, 2016

From the

Meeteetse Conservation District

P.O. Box 237 • 1906 State Street • Meeteetse, WY 82433
307-868-2484 • Fax 307-868-2489 • mcd@tctwest.net • www.meeteetsecd-wy.gov

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You have probably noticed in recent years the emergence of a new term, “sustainable beef.” What this means and why we even need to discuss it is certainly topic for debate; however, major retail purchasers of beef in the United States have made declarations they will begin sourcing “sustainable beef” in the coming years. The term also appears frequently in questions posed to beef producers by our consumers. This means it will impact us whether we want it to or not. And why not? Too often beef has let others define our story and, when it comes to some of the key themes of sustainability, the U.S. beef community has a great story to tell.



In this effort, the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA), a contractor to the Beef Checkoff, has undertaken significant scientific research into the sustainability of beef production. The first phase of the Beef Industry Sustainability Assessment has been completed using data from the Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Nebraska. The results were recently certified by NSF International, lending credible, third-party

verification to the study, helping to prove that beef is sustainable. The results of phase one can be found here: <http://beefresearch.org/beefsustainabilityresearch.aspx>.

In phase two of the assessment, the work is being expanded to include data from individual cattle-producing regions across the country. Regional data collection is necessary to continue to improve the accuracy of the beef-industry sustainability research. To learn more about regional data collection and to see what the data collection results look like once they are aggregated, please read “Why is regional data collection important for sustainability research?” and “Characteristics of Beef Cattle Operations in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.” By looking at regional practices and incorporating that information into the study, the research will be more representative and we will be better able to tell the beef story through sound science.

To accomplish this goal we need help from you, beef producers! We are asking **cow-calf and stocker operators** to complete this 15-minute survey. All results will be confidential and will not be traceable to the individual operation. Please click on this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Region5Ranch>.

We are asking **feed yard operators** to complete this 25-minute survey. All results will be confidential and will not be traceable to the individual operation. Please click on this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Region5Feeder>.

The Beef Industry Sustainability Assessment is not an attempt to force a change in practices or advocate a one-size-fits-all approach to beef production. There are few things less sustainable than a one-size-fits-all approach. Rather, we are working to prove and showcase beef’s improved sustainability over time. If you are interested in learning more about this Beef Checkoff Research Program please visit www.beefresearch.org. Thank you for your help in this important project for the beef industry



*** GAME & FISH TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE ***

To Discuss Planning for the **BLACK-FOOTED FERRET RELEASE**

Wednesday, May 18th, 2016 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Hosted at the Meeteetse Museums

CHEYENNE – In 1981, black-footed ferrets were discovered near Meeteetse, Wyoming. North America’s only native ferret was thought to be extinct at that time, until local rancher, John Hogg, took the time to identify an animal his dog found, which turned out to be a black-footed ferret. Now,

35 years later, John Hogg’s family who still own the Lazy BV ranch; the owners of the neighboring Pitchfork ranch, where the original ferret colony was located; the Wyoming Game and Fish Department; and other partners are planning to release black-footed ferrets back at the site of the species re-discovery. To read more, go to:

<https://wgfd.wyo.gov/News/Game-and-Fish-to-hold-open-house-to-discuss-planni>

Wyoming – NRCS

Report #27

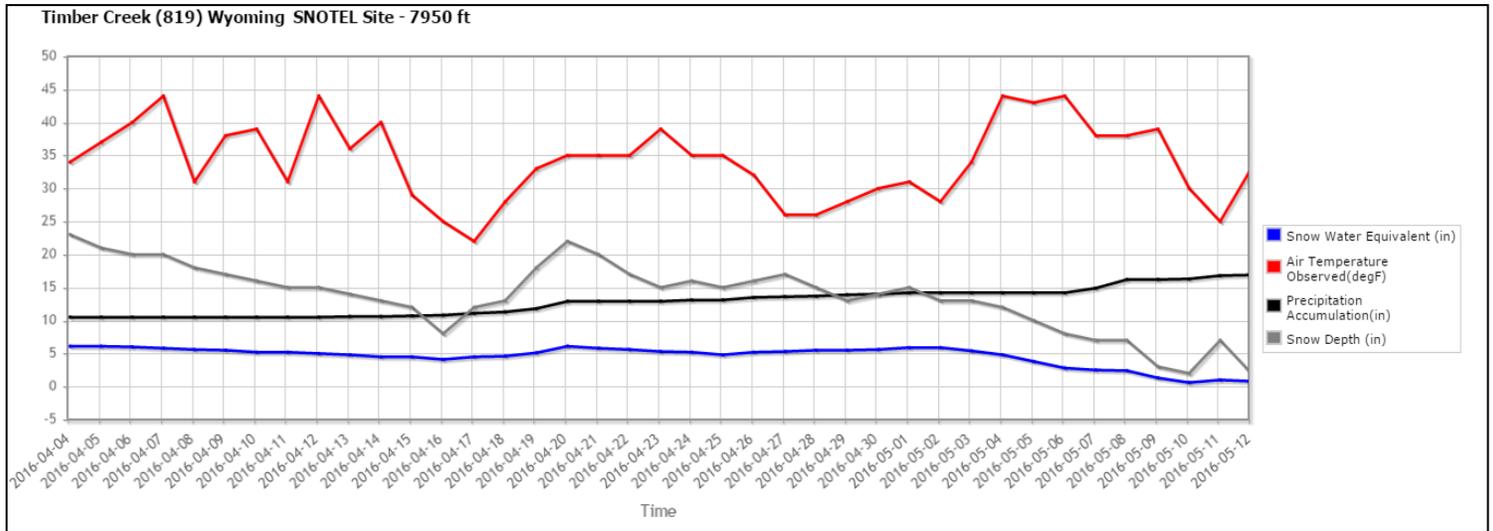
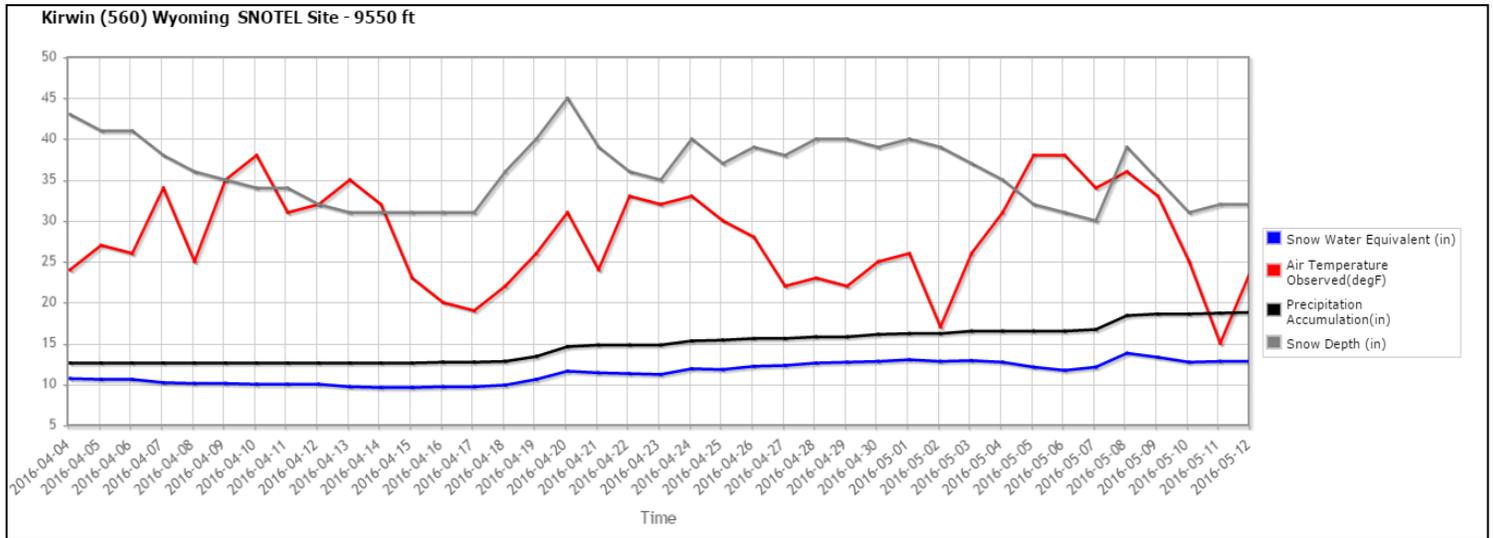
Monday Morning Snow Report

May 9th, 2016

Good morning, everyone. This is the 27th Monday Snow Report for the 2015-2016 snow seasons. Last year on this date, the state median was 45% with a low of 0% and a high of 90%. This year the state median is 95% with a low of 0% and a high of 168% of median. See the table & map below for more information. The map may differ slightly from the table depending upon how many stations were reporting at the time or date.

What a wild and wet weekend Fremont County had huh? 100 year floods etc. The SNOTEL's in the vicinity show the precipitation in the mountains at Townsend Creek SNOTEL 4.5", South Pass SNOTEL 3.6", Deer Park SNOTEL 3.5", Hobbs Park SNOTEL 4.4", St. Lawrence Alt SNOTEL 4.3" and Cold Springs SNOTEL 3.1" of rain.

For those of you with INTERNET capability, a report and map showing SWE percentages for the state can be found at www.wrds.uwyo.edu/wrds/nrcs/nrcs.html. For the median, go to www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/normals/median_average.htm.



-----Reminders and Updates-----

- May 12th ~ 6:30p.m. – FFA Banquet at the Meeteetse Schools Cafeteria. Donations accepted.
- May 14th ~ 1:00p.m. – Emily Coale's Memorial Service, Meeteetse School Gym. Luncheon to follow.
- May 16th ~ 11:30a.m. – Elaine Howard's Memorial Service, Meeteetse Senior Center
- May 18th ~ 4:00p.m. – WYG&F Open House at Meeteetse Museums for the Black-footed Ferret Release
- June 13th ~ 1:00p.m. – MCD Regular Board Meeting, 1906 State Street, Meeteetse. The public is welcome.

Happy Trails to You! *Bernie, Ginny, Gary & Steffen*