

News Release

April 1, 2015

### Fourth Annual Local Foods Expo Scheduled

The Niobrara County Fairgrounds will be the scene of the fourth annual Local Foods Expo to be held on Thursday, April 1st from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. The Expo is sponsored by the Niobrara County Extension Office and is designed to get everyone excited about gardening and all of the associated benefits of gardening and eating local foods. This year's program promises to be of interest to local gardeners, local food producers and consumers.

Two educational workshops will be held at the Expo. They are:

#### **ALTERNATIVE PEST MANAGEMENT**

**5:30-6:30 p.m.**

Karen Panter

University of Wyoming Extension Horticulture Specialist

Alternative, legal strategies for managing insects, mites, diseases and weeds will be discussed. Some of these include commercially available products such as horticulture oils and soaps, naturally occurring pathogens that attack insects, beneficials, and some softer herbicide options. We'll discuss cultural, environmental and mechanical ways to cope with some of these pests.

#### **FRUIT TREES**

**7:00-8:00 p.m.**

Ashley Garrelts

University Extension Educator, CNN Area Sustainable Management of Rangeland Resources  
Growing fruit trees in Wyoming takes a commitment to care for trees year round; however it can be a rewarding experience. This program will cover variety selection, irrigation, planting and pruning apple, pear, cherry and plum trees. Information will be helpful for beginners just starting their orchard or looking to add fruit trees into their landscapes, as well as for those who already have fruit trees on their property.

Numerous educational and informational booths will be available throughout the evening for Expo goers to visit. Three new booths this year include:

#### **Edible Native and Weedy Plants of Eastern Wyoming**

Brian Sebade, University Extension Educator from Crook County

Brian will show and discuss many native plants from our area that are delicious to eat

#### **The Kid's Corner**

Peg DesEnfants, Niobrara County Extension Office

Fruit and Veggie activity books for the kids plus the kids can plant their own seeds to take home to start a garden.

### **Apple Orchards**

Dick Young from Lingle owns and operates an apple orchard. Dick will be sharing information on what varieties grow well in our climate, plus tips and tricks of growing fruit trees.

Other interesting booths include:

- **Pressure Canner Gauge Testing & Food Preservation**

Denise Smith-University Extension Educator

Even though canning season is a few months away, bring your pressure canner gauge to be tested for free. Also get free research based canning information for all of your food preservation needs.

- **Proper Pesticide Application for Homeowners**

Tammie Jensen-University Extension Educator

- **Gardening Tool Adaptations**

Rick Geringer-Wyoming AgrAbility project

Rick will be bringing samples of gardening tools that can help people with arthritis and other disabilities still enjoy gardening and working outside.

- **“Better Bags”**

Ellis Harvest Home and Pumpkin Patch- Lingle

- **Wyoming Department of Agriculture Consumer Health Specialist**

- **Farmer’s Market**

Goshen County Master Gardeners

- **Niobrara Conservation District**

- **Niobrara Chamber of Commerce**

- **Miller Soap Company**

- **Bountiful Baskets**

- **Lusk Community Garden**

- **Specialty Crops and Farm to Plate Programs**

- **Azure Standard-**

Chantry and Amy Filener

● **Niobrara County Cattle Women**

The Expo is free of charge and everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. There will be door prizes, tasty food samples, lots of great information and sharing of ideas. Please plan to join us for an evening of learning and for a great start to spring and gardening season. Any questions, call the Niobrara County Extension Office at 334-3534.