

**Ben Bonella**  
Area Resource Conservationist  
USDA-NRCS  
Riverton, Wyoming

**Biography:** Ben Bonella Graduated from University of Wyoming with a bachelor's degree in Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management. He has worked for the NRCS for 15 years, and he is currently located in the Rocky Mountain Area Office as the Area Resource Conservationist covering the west half of Wyoming. He continues to farm and enjoys the outdoors.



**Dan Mattke**  
Area Resource Soil Scientist  
USDA-NRCS  
Riverton, Wyoming



**Biography:** Dan Mattke is originally from northern Wisconsin. Dan graduated from University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point with a degree in Soil Science in 2005. Upon graduation, he packed his bags and headed west to start his career as a Soil Scientist with the USDA-NRCS in southwest Wyoming on a soil survey crew mapping the diverse soils of Uinta County. Dan has worked as a soil scientist in western Wyoming since 2005 at various locations. Currently, Dan is an Area Resource Soil Scientist for the USDA-NRCS in the Riverton office and has responsibilities that cover the western half of Wyoming and its diverse landscapes and land uses. In his spare time he enjoys all the wonderful outdoor opportunities that Wyoming has to offer.

**Workshop:** *What is Soil Health and Why is it Important to You* - This session would will cover the 5 principals of Soil Health with hands on demonstration including soil texturing, experiments with slaking (how fast does a clod of soil dissolve when immersed in water), rain fall simulator, cover crops and more. We will also look at soils under the microscope! This is an exciting topic with hands on experiments and relates directly to STEM careers. Technology and Science related to this topic is exploding and new information is coming out every year. This is a fun topic that affects everybody regardless if you are in agriculture production or not. So if you like healthy soils, clean water, abundant nutrient rich food, and clean air this topic is for you!