

Boulder County Small Acreage Management Newsletter



Summer 2019

<http://boulder.extension.colostate.edu/natural-resources/>

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From the SAM Coordinator

Our precipitation has been nice this year. As someone who's been in the state many years, I always appreciate any precipitation we receive. I know that we are only a few less storms away from a drought.

While trying to keep up with haying, irrigating and weed management, keep in the back of your minds what projects you need to add to your "to do" list. Start thinking about those fall and winter projects.

Thank you,
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SAM Newsletters Online

View previous newsletters via the SAM link above.

SAM Email Listserv

If you are receiving this newsletter for the first time and are not subscribed to the Small Acreage listserv, you may request subscription by contacting the Small Acreage Coordinator sbokan@bouldercounty.org. This quarterly e-newsletter and other timely info will be distributed via this email listserv.

Subscribers may use the listserv also as a SAM info gathering mechanism. For example, you may inquire about who is available in the area supply hay, to perform swathing/baling, etc. The listserv is not a marketplace, however. Because it is hosted on the CSU server, **NO COMMERCIAL EMAILS ARE ALLOWED. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO SELL ANYTHING VIA THE LISTSERV – THANKS.** Use the newsletter ad section for these purposes.



Weather Outlook

The NOAA forecasts for the next 30 and 90 days are showing that the state will be above normal in temperature and all but the southwest part of the state slightly above normal in precipitation.

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/seasonal.php?lead=1

If you have not checked out NOAA's website, they have a lot of good information beside their predictions. There are sections for children, their publications and preparing for various weather conditions. <https://www.weather.gov/>

The drought monitor for the state as of July 23, 2019 is showing that most of the state is not in a drought but it has been abnormally dry in the far southwest part of the state. We only had a brief time where the whole state was no longer indicating any dry conditions. If you remember, the southwest part of the state was under exception drought conditions all of last year.



Coming events and workshops



Boulder County Fair 150th Anniversary

The Boulder County Fair is the oldest fair in Colorado. The Fair will be celebrating its 150th anniversary August 2-11. Come to the fair as many times as you like since there is no charge for parking or gate admission. We offer many free activities for kids with a petting farm, music, and fun educational experiences. There are 4-H & FFA youth with their animals. Join us and eat to your heart's content, with fun fair food, a Farm to Table dinner, or Craft Distillery Festival. Take a spin on our carnival rides that are sure to thrill and enjoy nightly bands, rodeos, and entertainment!



Summer Small Acreage Tasks

Unless you have irrigation water, your grasses may not be growing much now that we are experiencing higher temperatures. With the higher temperatures, the plants are using all the water they can get.

We have seen 20°F temperature differences at the soil surface between pastures that have a 4" stubble and those that have been grazed to the soil surface. That kind of temperature difference is going to quickly evaporate any precipitation we get. So make sure whether haying or grazing to maintain a 4" stubble.

The higher temperatures and lack of precipitation are also making weed management tougher. Plants can build up a tougher skin during dry, hot conditions making it harder for an herbicide to get into the plant. Some herbicides also volatilize at higher temperatures and may affect other plants. 2,4-D (always use the amine version not the ester version which volatilizes even more) is an herbicide that should not be used when temperatures will be above 85° F. As with any herbicide – **Always Read and Follow the Label!** You can also be taking care of the biennial rosettes of musk and scotch thistle, diffuse and spotted knapweed, teasel, mullein and other biennials. You can undercut them and flip them over. If the plants have been blooming for a while or have viable seeds, you need to throw the plants into the trash. Only compost weeds with seeds if you have a highly managed compost system that can get all the compost above 140° F for at least 72 hours in order to destroy the seeds. Winter annual weeds have already produced seed so there is not much you can do with them now. Summer annual weeds can be mowed to limit seed production or sprayed. Perennials can be mowed, dug out or sprayed depending on which perennial it is. You always want to positively identify the plant first. Certain management techniques and herbicides work better on certain plants. You are always welcome to bring in a sample (preferably the whole plant with roots) for us to identify or you can e-mail a photo to either smallacreage@bouldercounty.org or sbokan@bouldercounty.org.

Reseeding – You can start planning to re-seed this fall. Do your weed management so that they will not compete with your grass seedlings and cause a delay in establishment. Don't do any re-seeding until around November 1, 2019.

Water – If you are one of the fortunate ones and you still have irrigation water, keep

irrigating as needed. Check the moisture in your soil and schedule your water.

Pollinators and beneficial insects – Survey your property and see what plants and insects you have and look for areas that you might want to use for pollinator or beneficial insect habitat.

Plans and priorities – Evaluate how you are doing on your plans. Living on a small acreage you will always be altering plans as conditions change. Start planning for those winter projects such as reseeding or setting up those pollinator areas.

If you need help developing a grazing management, biosecurity plan or weed management plan or want to talk about what's possible for your property, please contact the Extension office for assistance.



Vesicular Stomatitis Update

Colorado Department of Agriculture,
BROOMFIELD, CO

The Colorado Department of Agriculture has confirmed cases of vesicular stomatitis (VSV) in Adams, Archuleta, Boulder, Broomfield, Delta,

La Plata, Larimer, Mesa, Montezuma, Morgan and Weld counties in Colorado. All confirmed cases in Colorado have been in horses with the exception of one bovine case as indicated with asterisk on the table below.

“We understand that the VSV outbreak and quarantines are impacting the ability for people to bring their horses and livestock to fairs and shows,” said Dr. Keith Roehr, Colorado State Veterinarian. “The quarantines and hold orders must be followed, however, for the health and protection of all equine and livestock in Colorado.”

The total count of premises under quarantine for VSV by county is outlined in the table below. CDA’s Animal Health division is updating this table regularly with the latest data on its [CDA VSV website](#).

Colorado Vesicular Stomatitis Cases by County 2019		
All confirmed cases have been in equine, except where indicated below.		
Colorado County	Total Current Quarantines	Released Quarantines
Adams	3	
Archuleta	4	
Boulder	40*	
Broomfield	2	
Delta	1	
La Plata	12	4
Larimer	70	6
Mesa	5	
Montezuma	4	
Morgan	1	
Weld	29	9
Totals	171	19

*Boulder county: one confirmed bovine case

Please see the [USDA APHIS Veterinary Services website](#) to read the current situation report for all confirmed cases in the U.S.

The first case of VSV in Colorado was reported on July 3rd in Weld County by a field

veterinarian from the State Veterinarian’s Office at the Colorado Department of Agriculture. An incursion of VSV-infected insect vectors is the likely source of infection. There are no USDA approved vaccines for VSV.

Vesicular Stomatitis Background

Vesicular stomatitis is a viral disease that primarily affects horses and cattle, and occasionally swine, sheep, goats, llamas, and alpacas. The transmission process of VSV is not completely understood, but includes insect vectors such as black flies, sand flies, and biting midges.

The incubation period ranges from 2-8 days. Clinical signs include vesicles, erosions, and sloughing of the skin on the muzzle, tongue, ears, teats, and coronary bands. Often excessive salivation is the first sign of disease, along with a reluctance to eat or drink. Lameness and weight loss may follow.

Humans may become infected when handling affected animals, but this is a rare event. To avoid human exposure, individuals should use personal protective measures when handling affected animals.

Tips for Livestock Owners

- Strict fly control is an important factor to inhibit the transmission of the disease.
- Avoid transferring feeding equipment, cleaning tools or health care equipment from other herds.
- **Colorado veterinarians and livestock owners should contact the state of destination when moving livestock interstate to ensure that all import requirements are met. Contact information for all state veterinarian offices is [listed here](#).**
- Colorado fairs, livestock exhibitions, and rodeos may institute new entry requirements

based on the extent and severity of the current VS outbreak. Certificates of veterinary inspection (CVIs or health certificates) issued within 2-5 days prior to an event can be beneficial in reducing risks. Be sure to stay informed of any new livestock event requirements. See the [Vesicular Stomatitis Guidelines for Shows and Fairs](#).

Important Points for Veterinarians and Horse Owners

Any vesicular disease of livestock is reportable to the State Veterinarian’s Office in Colorado – to report call 303-869-9130. If after hours, the voice message will indicate which staff veterinarian on call.

Additional resources

[USDA APHIS Veterinary Services National VSV Update](#)

[CDA Vesicular Stomatitis Information](#)



In Search of Animal Answers: Who You Going Call?????

Dr. Ragan Adams, DVM, CSU Vet. Teaching Hospital

The Internet supplies us with an endless supply of information. Personally, the magnitude can bury me. My eyes blur. My shoulders shrug. I whimper, “Can I just get a simple answer for my

specific question “. That’s when I start looking for a person to talk to.

When it comes to questions about animal health and management, I would recommend a veterinarian and an extension educator (agent). That is my prejudice because I am lucky enough to be both. What fuels my bias?

Veterinarians complete 4 years of education following college to get their degree. In order to practice in your community they must also pass national and state testing procedures. Their answers will be grounded in science and amplified by their evidence-based practice experience. Although that is a lot of training, it is insufficient to make experts in all things known about all animals. So most veterinarians are not hesitant to plead ignorant about a species of animal that they are unfamiliar. Veterinarians are the best source of information about your animal’s health. They will answer general questions but are most valuable when a specific animal has a specific malady. Veterinarians are trained to examine the individual animal and prescribe appropriate treatment for that animal. Legally, there must be an established client-patient-doctor relationship for prescriptions to be written or drugs given. That relationship means the doctor has to have examined the animal not just talked on the phone!

Extension agents are “educators” and they do a wonderful job explaining concepts of husbandry as well as helping making decisions as how to care for animals in the best way, given a particular situation. Extension agents share scientifically based information and usually have a wide base of knowledge, knowing more about water, soil, plants as well as basic animal management.

As a veterinarian and an extension specialist, I divide my calls into three general categories that influence my answers:

Is this call about an animal with a life-threatening problem? If so, I encourage the caller to hang up and take the animal to a veterinarian for an examination. A horse that is experiencing colic, a goat torn up in a dog fight, a dog having trouble breathing should be seen by a veterinarian promptly.

Is this call about a longer standing problem that may affect the general well-being of the animal but is not immediately life threatening? These questions often revolve around body condition, poor production, change in energy level or appetite. With can have a general discussion over the phone and then I encourage the caller to have the veterinarian examine the individual(s) to define more precisely the problem. The three of us can then discuss the problem and the suitable options. A good example would be a skinny horse. Is the poor body condition due to inadequate nutrition or a chronic disease? Is it due to poisonous plant in the pasture or bad teeth? The combined expertise of the local extension agent and your veterinarian will make the best team of sleuths.

Is the call about a general management issue or how to best use the resources on a particular property to care for the animals. In this case a visit to the property is the most appropriate and extension agents are willing and able to accommodate the caller. Veterinarians can also perform this service but may have a tighter schedule due to the demand for health related services.

With the domestication of animals we trade responsibility for their care in exchange for companionship and service. There are and will always be questions about their health and well-being. A directory of county extension agents may be found on the internet at:

http://www.ext.colostate.edu/cedirectory/extension_region.cfr .

Colorado licensed veterinarians can be found through the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association. (Phone 303.318.0447; <http://www.colovma.org/>). Both types of

professional have valuable expertise for the animal owner.

Place your SAM related classified ad or print advertisement here!

Classified Advertising Rates are as follows:

General Public, Individual: \$5

General Public, Business/Show: \$10

Email Sharon Bokan for more details

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