

Boulder County Small Acreage Management Newsletter



Fall 2018

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

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From the SAM Coordinator

First, I want to wish you all a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

We finally have gotten some cold weather to get plants into dormancy. While the plants are dormant, we can be evaluating this year and planning for next year. I know it was a tough year for many due to dry conditions and multiple hail storms. Hopefully, this winter and next year will be better. Be thinking about what you want to do next year to improve conditions on your property.

Thank you,
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Weather Outlook

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

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/tools2.php



producers and many other educational opportunities. Visit their website at <https://nationalwestern.com/> for more information.



Coming events and workshops

Soil Revolution Workshop

The next Soil Revolution Workshop is being planned for December 12, 2018 at the Boulder Jewish Community Center. More details on the website. <https://soilrev.org/>



Colorado Farm Show

The Colorado Farm Show will take place at Island Grove Park in Greeley from January 29 through 31, 2019. The Farm Show concentrates on all aspects of agriculture especially equipment. Visit their website at <https://www.coloradofarmshow.com/> for more information.



National Western Stock Show

The National Western Stock Show will take place from January 12 through 27, 2019 at the National Western Complex in Denver. This is a great opportunity to learn more about agriculture especially livestock. There are plenty of trade show booths, the opportunity to talk to

Conservation District Tree Sale

The Longmont and Boulder Valley Conservation Districts are offering seedling trees for windbreaks, snow fences, erosion control and wildlife habitat. The program is not meant to compete with local nurseries but was established to provide low cost seedlings for landowners for conservation practices. The Colorado State Forest Service Nursery grows the plants at their facility in Fort Collins and sets the rules for the sale of the plants.

The 2019 order form should be available in November for the seedling tree program at <http://longmontcd.org/Seedling-Tree-Program> or you can contact the Conservation District office at (720) 378-5521 to request a paper order form. Your check must accompany the order form to reserve your trees.



Fall/Winter Weed and Pasture Considerations

With the precipitation we have received, we are seeing some growth on the cool season grasses. You may be tempted to allow your animals to graze but it is a good time to allow your

pastures to rest and get ready for winter. If you can avoid grazing now that would be ideal. Once your grasses are dormant you can resume grazing as long as you maintain a stubble of 4" year round

If you would like to see what 2 years of over grazing looks like, please stop by and check out the grass plots located between the Natural Resources and Clover Buildings on the Boulder County Fairgrounds. Our plots that we have been clipping are really beginning to show the effects of simulated over grazing. The clipping plots can be easily found as they are the ones with the four stakes in them.

It's too late in the year to do any spraying on annual weeds. The winter annuals are done for the year (although you might begin seeing some of them beginning to emerge for next year) and the summer annuals have pretty much set seed so spraying is useless. You can still pull and dispose of any annual weeds with seeds on them. **Always Read and Follow the Herbicide Label!**

You can also be taking care of the biennial rosettes of musk and scotch thistle, diffuse and spotted knapweed, teasel, mullein and others. 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 of the compost above 140° F for at least 72 hours in order to destroy the seeds.

This time of year can be a good time to spray perennial weeds. Check the herbicide label to see if fall would be a good time to spray your specific perennial weeds.

You always want to positively identify the plant first. Certain management techniques and

herbicides work better on certain plants than others. 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 .



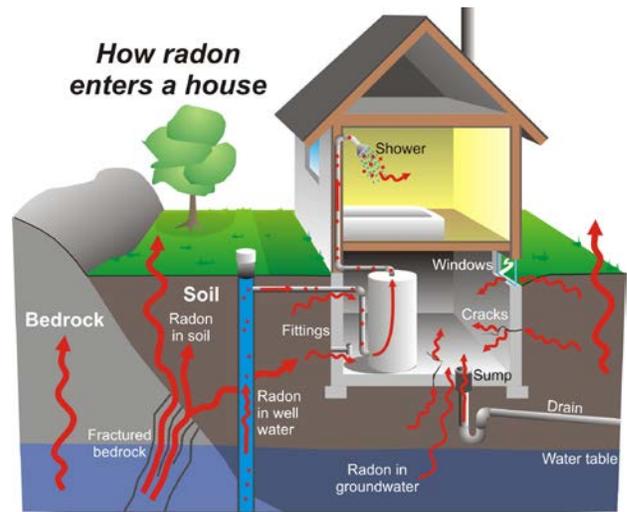
Have you tested your home for radon?

By: Karen Crumbaker, Larimer County Extension

The Governor has proclaimed January as National Radon Action Month, encouraging Coloradans to test their homes for radon. The winter months are an ideal time to test. Radon is a naturally occurring, odorless, invisible, tasteless gas which can reach harmful levels when trapped in buildings. Radon comes from the breakdown of uranium in soil and rock which can enter your home through foundation cracks, dirt floors, loose fitting pipes, slab joints or block walls. Breathing air with elevated radon levels over long periods of time is known to increase the risk of lung cancer.

Radon has been identified as a risk factor in developing lung cancer because it decays into radioactive particles that can get trapped in the

lungs. These particles release bursts of energy that damage sensitive lung tissue. Exposure to radon causes an estimated 21,000 lung cancer deaths annually, 500 in Colorado alone. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking. The Surgeon General, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Academy of Sciences, the American Lung Association, the World Health Organization, and the American Medical Association have all identified indoor radon pollution as a national health problem.



The amount of radon in the air is measured in picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L). The EPA has set 4 pCi/L as a recommended action level. All 64 Colorado counties are rated at high risk for elevated radon. Indoor radon levels are influenced by a variety of factors. It is recommended that each home be tested, regardless of geographic location or a neighbor's test result. There are affordable measures available to effectively reduce radon levels in a home.

Every house is different. Only individual testing can determine if your home has a radon problem. Measuring radon levels is simple and inexpensive. Find out more about radon at

Larimer County Lunch and Learn on January 27, 2016. All participants will receive a short-term radon test kit. To register, go to <http://bboard.larimer.org/training/schedule.cfm>. Also visit CSU Extension webpage at www.ext.colostate.edu to view fact sheet #9.953 Preventing Radon Problems in the Home for additional information.

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 or by going to https://lists.colostate.edu/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/boco_small_acreage. This quarterly e-newsletter and other timely info will be distributed via this email listserv.

The listserv is not a marketplace 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.

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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