



Boulder County Small Acreage Management

Winter 2009

<http://www.extension.colostate.edu/boulder/AG/smallacreage.shtml>

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From the SAM Coordinator Spring time grazing considerations

With our warm temperatures, the pasture grasses are beginning to grow so you need to stop grazing pastures until the grass is 6 to 8" tall. Grazing grasses at this time of the season will damage and stress the grasses which are already under stress due to lack of precipitation. If you want to maintain healthy pastures during the dry conditions, you must limit grazing.

We have had several calls from people affected by the recent Old Stage fire concerning reseeding. The fire burned so quickly that reseeding should not be needed unless the area was already in need of reseeding. Fire is a natural event in grasslands and actually releases nutrients to the soil. Keep an eye on burned areas for weeds especially the noxious one and do appropriate weed control. If your grass did suffer more damage, the best course of action would be to control weeds this year and reseed this fall.

We have just completed training for our new SAM volunteers and they will be available soon to answer your questions.

Sharon Bokan

Small Acreage Coordinator

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 boco_small_acreage@colostate.edu listserv, you may request subscription on the SAM website (linked in header above). 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.

Currently, there are 171 subscribers to the listserv (up from 167 last quarter).

Chickens 101

By Deniece Hopkins, SAM Volunteer

Chickens can be wonderful pets, incredibly entertaining and they can even provide your breakfast. However, some common concerns people have about raising chickens include being smelly, noisy and attracting predators. Smelly? Not necessarily. Noisy? They are much quieter than a barking dog. Attracting predators? Well those predators are already here. With proper and responsible management most of the concerns raised can be avoided and anyone can raise chickens. However, chickens aren't appropriate for everybody. Not everybody is going to want them or be able to care for them. In Boulder County, 50 chickens are the equivalent of one Animal Unit (AUM).

Egg production –So how many chickens do you need to feed your family? First, chickens are flock animals so don't ever get only one chicken. Chickens can lay 1 egg a day once they reach adulthood at approximately 18-22 weeks old. Their egg cycle is approximately 25 hours. They are born with approximately 1000 ovum, meaning that they have the potential of laying only about 1000 eggs in their lifetime. As they get older they also decrease in productivity. So you can expect good production from a chicken for only about 2 to 2.5 years. They will lay for longer but a lot fewer eggs making them less economical to keep because their food ration is still the same.

Some chickens are bred to be high producing layers like the Leghorn, and the Red and Black Star breeds and you will get nearly an egg a day from them. Some of the more traditional dual-purpose breeds like the Orpingtons lay fewer, 3-5 eggs a week on average. If you have an average mixed breed flock, plan on a 75% lay rate everyday; so if you want 4 eggs a day you should have approximately 6 laying chickens.

Just like us, chickens do not produce well when they are too hot or too cold. They can also slow down or completely stop production in the

winter because they require about 14 hours of light a day. Some people supplement their light by adding a small light to their coop that comes on early in the morning to extend their day. Others choose to let their chickens have their natural rest over the winter. Other things can affect their rate of lay such as stress, molting, health, age, weather, lack of water, etc.

Note that you do not need a rooster for the chickens to lay eggs. Chickens will lay just fine without a rooster. The only difference is that without a rooster, the egg is not fertilized and will not hatch.

Space - How much space a chicken requires depends on the breed of chicken you choose; heavy breeds like Orpingtons, Rocks, Australorps, and Jersey Giants require 4 sq ft. of coop space per bird while regular size breeds like Leghorns, Red Stars or Araucanas require only about 3 sq ft per bird and Bantam breeds only require 2 sq. ft.

The rule of thumb for run space (the fenced area that chickens can play in) should be about 10 sq feet per bird. This gives them room to dust bathe, play and stretch their wings a bit. The more they are out in the run the less they are inside soiling their coop so it's a good idea to have a nice run for them to spend their day in.

You might think you can get away with a smaller area per bird, but that's when trouble starts. Cramped chickens are not happy chickens. If chickens are overcrowded in a small space they start picking at each other causing bleeding and possibly even death. The coop will start to smell bad, as litter management is difficult if there are too many birds in a small space.

Safety - Protecting your chickens from harm is an important responsibility. Coops should be good solid predator-safe houses. They need to be safe from dogs, foxes, snakes, skunks and coyotes. Many people have lost most of their flock due to flimsily built coops and runs. Chickens will naturally return to the roost at

dusk. So all you need to do is shut and lock the door after the sun goes down. It's important that you lock them safely in their coops at dusk. No exceptions here, it only takes leaving the door open once to lose your entire flock.

The runs also need to be secure and need to be safe from flying and climbing predators such as hawks and owls. The modern day chicken wire has become too flimsy to keep out most predators. I'd suggest that you use welded wire and bury about a foot of wire into the ground or fold it out about a foot along the ground around the run to deter digging predators.

Feed - A good quality feed is critical for chickens. Chicks need a different feed than laying chickens. Baby chicks need to be eating starter feed until about 18 weeks of age. This feed is low in calcium which they don't currently need and feeding them the layer ration will give them too much calcium that could endanger their kidneys.

Laying chickens need a good quality layer ration; this will give them the added necessary nutrients needed for egg production. Even with the added nutrients they will probably need additional calcium for shell strength. Most people feed crushed oyster shells in a separate feeder so they can eat what they need when they need it

Water is a critical part of chicken feeding. It's important that they always have plenty of clean fresh water available. Never let them run out as it could take a week or more to recover after only a very short time without water. Laying eggs uses a lot of water, letting a chicken run out of water can easily and quickly lead to death.

Scratch is the chicken equivalent of candy to humans. Feeding just scratch grains is not a sufficient source of nutrients for chickens. It's also not good to feed too much scratch in the summer as it may cause them to overheat. Chickens love scratch and if you need to move them around, just throw a little scratch wherever you want them to go.

Chickens love treats, they eat a lot of the leftovers and scraps from the kitchen and they LOVE green grass. Letting them out to play in the backyard or pasture is good for them and hugely entertaining to watch. If free ranging is not possible giving them handfuls of green grass will do.

Litter management - With proper management, you shouldn't have to change the litter more than just a few times a year. Many people use pine shavings; they absorb the moisture and have the fresh pine smell. The chickens keep the litter fluffed up and you can aid in that by throwing a handful of scratch in the litter and they'll search for seeds. Pine shavings also work well in the nesting boxes and you get much cleaner eggs from using shavings in the nesting boxes.

Other people like to use straw. The problem with straw is it gets smashed down and with the chicken droppings adding to it constantly you end up with something close to adobe. It's very hard to clean up once it gets to this state.

With shavings you just put down about 4" or so, and as they soil the bedding, just mix it up and add a few inches of fresh shavings. This is actually a very beneficial way of handling the litter. It's called the Deep Litter Method and I'd recommend you research it more as you decide how you want to handle the litter issue.

Noise- Chickens are not very noisy. They do bawk and squawk when they lay an egg, and I don't blame them. But that's about all you hear out of them. They are much quieter than barking dogs for sure and because they don't lay at night, they make no noise after dark. There are however, some breeds that are noisier than others or the rare chicken who just can't stop talking but those are exception rather than the rule. Roosters, of course, like to crow, whenever it is light out. They are very proud of being roosters and want the whole world to know it.

Weather- Temperature can play havoc on chickens. There are some breeds that are better suited for cold winter weather than others. Your

major concern here is keeping the water from freezing; adding a red heat lamp over the water supply to keep it thawed and also helps keep the coop a little warmer. You can also purchase heated waterers or heat pans that go under them.

Heat can be more of a problem than cold; after all they do have feathers to stay warm. Make sure they have a shaded area to get out of the sun, plenty of fresh water and well-ventilated coop. Avoid feeding them scratch in the summer.

How to choose a chicken? There is a lot of information on choosing the right Chicken breed to meet your objective. Once you decide what your goal is, whether is be just for fun, egg production, or meat or both, then you can find many sources that will outline some of the basic breeds that meet that criteria. The best chart I've found that outlines most of these traits is the Henderson Chicken Chart and it is available online at:

<http://www.ithaca.edu/staff/jhenderson/chooks/chooks.html> .

There is much to learn and know about raising chickens. More than can be covered in this short article. I recommend that you take the time to research chickens to decide if they are a good fit for you or not. It took me about 2 years of research before I managed to beat my husband over the head with all my knowledge so he would let me start my chicken venture.

Chickens don't have to be as difficult as some people think. For those who have the minimal time and energy to put into raising them it can be very rewarding. They do require proper management to avoid the pit falls but their eggs are wonderful and fresh and you don't have to go to the store to get them.

Resources:

Storey's Guide to Raising Chickens by Gail Damerow

<http://www.ithaca.edu/staff/jhenderson/chooks/chooks.html>

<http://animalscience.ucdavis.edu/Avian/pfs36.pdf>
<http://www.poultry.uga.edu/extension/tips/index.htm>

An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Mud

By Meg Sitarik, SAM Volunteer

Annoy: 1. to cause slight anger or mental distress. 2. harass repeatedly.

Annoyance: 1. irritation; vexation. 2. something that annoys.

(Oxford Dictionary, 2003 Ed.)

I would like to petition Oxford to include mud in the above definitions. After a not so graceful slip and fall in my muddy hen yard (major yuck) I have become a mud warrior. Meg, Warrior Princess, Defender of dry footing.

Unfortunately mud is a fact of life on the farm. In a typical barnyard, mud is made up of approximately 1 part soil, 2 parts water and 1 part manure. In high traffic areas, such as near gates and water tanks, hooves loosen topsoil and at the same time compact the soil below. Rainwater is not able to percolate through the compact soil and pools on top of the compact layer mixing with the loosened topsoil and any manure present. Compact soil, along with manures' ability to hold moisture creates a mud bog that is difficult to dry. Not all mud contains manure, whatever the "recipe" all mud is problematic.

Mud is unhealthy, costly and an environmental pollutant. Mud harbors bacteria, fungi and other pathogens responsible for abscesses, scratches, rain scald and thrush. Slippery footing is dangerous, sprains, strains and lost shoes are all costly to animals and humans. Mud also provides a breeding ground for insects that may carry disease and cause allergic reactions; also there is the major annoyance factor. Feeding animals from muddy ground increases the likelihood of dirt and sand being ingested via hay

or grain, which can lead to colic. Mud that contains manure is an environmental pollutant of streams, ponds, lakes, and ground water and household wells. The pollution will also have a negative impact on fish and other aquatic wildlife. Lastly is the high embarrassment factor; there is no way to gracefully recover from a belly flop into the mud.

Being proactive is the most effective way to control mud. Reduce mud and polluted run off by decreasing the amount of rainwater and snow melt that runs through the barnyard and animal areas.

1. Install roof gutters and down spouts to divert clean water away from area.
2. Clean water should be routed into a rain barrel, dry well, French drain, pipeline, road ditch, irrigation ditch, creek or pond. This clean water could also be routed into a vegetated area capable of using the water.
3. Rotate water tank locations.
4. Fence animals out of wetlands, streams and ditches.
5. Do not allow large animals on wet pastures. *
6. Create a small berm across the opening of loafing sheds to keep water from running into the shed area.
7. Create a sacrifice area for large animals.
8. Pick up manure daily. (See Links & Resources for more information on Manure Management)

A sacrifice area is an area where animal containment, not pasture, is the goal. For ease of chores the best location is close to the barn or loafing shed. Ideally an area that is the highest driest ground at least 100ft. away from wetlands, streams and wells. A 25ft. grass buffer around the area will help to filter run off. Animals should be kept in these areas when the pastures are wet to prevent soil compaction, plant damage and formation of muddy areas.

* For more information on pasture management for large animals refer to our Spring 2008 newsletter article, Grazing Made Easy.

www.extension.colostate.edu/boulder/AG/smallaCreage

There are commercial products and systems available.

Geotextile fabric: A non-woven polypropylene fabric. The fabric is porous enough to allow water through but not porous enough to let gravel or sand penetrate.

Grid systems: Made from recycled plastics this has the added plus of being a "green" product. These grids are 4-6in in depth and are supplied in 3ft by 3ft squares that are snapped together.

(Size may vary depending on manufacturer.) By using the snowshoe principle, the grid disperses the load over a larger surface area and prevents soil compaction. The solid framework is filled with a porous fill such as sand or some type of aggregate separating the footing aggregate from the sub-base to maintain sufficient drainage. Grasses may also be planted in these grids.

Blown in Mulch: This system will blow in mulch, sawdust and soil products to create a dry walkway. This system is mainly used at construction sites to provide dry walkways and parking for employees.

All of the above products require a prepared base to allow for water percolation. More products are available with information readily available on the Internet; most are focused on large-scale operations such as oil field drilling sites. If you do search the Internet I found more information on products using Google and the search term "mud control" versus "mud prevention" which listed mostly articles on why you should control mud.

Through trial and error I found an easy and cheap fix for small areas using mulch. Dig out the area 6" deep and slightly wider than the muddy area. Fill the holes with 2in. of sand top with shredded bark mulch. Chunky bark mulch doesn't stay put as well and has a tendency to disappear into the mud. Over time the shredded mulch forms a porous mat, providing good footing while still allowing for enough drainage to keep the area free of mud. In wetter parts of the country this would not be a suitable option

because the mulch may not dry out therefore creating some of the same problems we are trying to eradicate. My horses have ignored the mulch but my hens like to search for worms under the mulch so occasionally I have to push it back in its' place.

I have not had any problems with the shredded mulch being blown away, even in the 78mph winds of last January. I wish I could say the same for my canoe, has anyone has seen a green canoe probably somewhere east of Yellowstone and 95th....perhaps Kansas?

In summary an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of mud.

Links & Resources

www.coopext.colostate.edu/adams/sa/mud
www.panutrientmgmt.cas.psu.edu/pdf/rp_ss_mu_dmgmt
www.mass.gov/dep/water/resources/pasture
www.equineextension.colostate.edu/content/view/170/57
www.extention.oregonstate.edu/news/story.php?S_No=88&storyType=news

Fun Fact: Boryeong, Korea has a yearly Mud Festival. Events include Mud Skiing, Mud Prison, Big Mud Bath, Mud Cosmetics Export Trade Show, Mr. Mud Contest and many more interesting things...hmmm....if you can't beat 'em join 'em.

Living with Wildlife on Small Acreages, Part 2

By Sharon Bokan, Small Acreage Coordinator

Prairie dogs

If you trying to have a productive hay field and prairie dogs invade the field causing denuded area and mounds that damage mower blades, then you are not so fond of them. In their favor, prairie dog burrows reduce soil compaction, increase water intake and provide homes for many other animals. The first line of defense is a

visual barrier. Prairie dogs prefer areas where they can see their predators, which is why they sit on their mounds. This can be made from burlap, black plastic fabric or long term with conifers. While this is not a guarantee to keep them out it has been shown to slow down their progression. A well maintained healthy stand of pasture grass or alfalfa could also act as a visual barrier.

Prairie dogs can be trapped and relocated if and it's a big if you can find a property to relocate them and have the permission of the property owner where you want to release them. Check with the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) for any approvals you may need prior to relocation. The main option for people is to poison the prairie dogs on your property. The first step is to check to make sure that you are located in an area without black-footed ferrites. You can do this by contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the Colorado Division of Wildlife. All poisons to control prairie dogs are restricted use so either you need to get a license from Colorado Department of Agriculture or hire someone who has a license to take care of them.

Pocket gophers

Pocket gophers can damage both alfalfa and grass pastures. They build 1-3 mounds per day. Their mounds are different from prairie dogs in that they are smaller 2-3.5" in diameter and they have a plug (the hole is covered). Trees and shrubs can be protected by using hardware cloth buried 18" deep with a bend toward the outside to prevent the gopher from burrowing toward the plants. Flooding, trapping, or toxicants can control pocket gophers. Pocket gophers rarely come above the ground so identification comes through their mounds. Alfalfa varieties with several large roots suffer less damage than those with fibrous roots. Also rotating alfalfa with grains can help. The annual grains do not have sufficient roots to support gophers. Planting a 50' strip of annual grain around alfalfa fields can help prevent damage.

Rabbits

Rabbits on a small acreage are normally not a problem until they get into the vegetable garden

or a young fruit orchard. The best control method is exclusion. For a vegetable garden a 2' tall fence made of 1" mesh poultry wire with the mesh buried several inches down is the best defense. Burying part of the mesh will prevent them from digging underneath. Young fruit trees need to be protected so that the rabbits do not damage the bark. Protectors can be made of heavy weight plastic or wire and should extend from the ground to 12-18" above anticipated snow depths. These protectors normally last 3-5 years. Removal of brushy and longer grass areas modifies their habitat and will discourage them. They no longer have protection from predators. Repellants can also be used but must be applied frequently and used according to their labels.

Bats

Although they are not everyone's favorite mammals, bats are very beneficial. They can eat up to 1/3 of their body weight in a short amount of time in an evening. If you want help with insect control, you may want to consider installing bat houses. Most bats in this area migrate to other areas during winter so they are usually only a problem in the summer.

Bats become a problem when they roost in a house or building. Bats can gain entry to a home through holes and cracks no bigger than 5/8" X 7/8" and 1/4" X 1 1/2". The main problem with bats roosting inside an attic is the insects, mites, ticks, fleas and other bugs and fungus attracted to their guano (feces) and its smell. The best control method is exclusion. Seal up all holes larger than the size mentioned above. It's best to wait until the cooler time of the year after the bats have left or in the evening after they have left to seal the openings. Fiberglass insulation, caulk, or screen over the openings is sufficient to cover the openings.

Voles

Voles are small mammals similar to mice. The main problem with voles is their winter damage to trees and shrubs. They burrow through grasses under snow cover to get to trees and shrubs. Voles girdle (gnow the bark off around the base of young trees and shrubs, killing the branch or tree) and burrow underground to eat the roots. Voles are particularly a problem when

we have snow cover for several weeks. One way to tell if you have voles is if you see "raceways" through the lawn or pasture. To protect young trees and shrubs cover lower bark with hardware cloth burying it into the ground. You can also trap them with mousetraps or use poison placed in their "raceways". Mow closely near trees and shrubs, keep tall weedy, grassy areas mowed, hardware cloth should go up 18" tall and underground 3-6". You can also use repellants such as Hot Sauce or thiram.

Mice, Rats

With small acreages come the inevitable mice and possibly rats. To keep them from entering the house, you need to plug up any hole 1/4" in diameter or larger for mice or 1/2" for rats. If you are building a new home or renovating an old home, it may be worth your time to check all conduit, pipe and wire entries. If there is a gap greater than 1/4" you can put steel wool in the hole. To help hold it in place, caulk or spray in expandable foam insulation around the steel wool. Do not use the spray in expandable foam by itself as mice like it and will chew their way through the foam. Keep all foods - pet, bird, and human in tight containers and cleaned up. For mice, excluding them from initial entrance and then denying them access to food is the best way to keep them out. Once they are in the house, your best method for control is trapping.

If you have an out building that you do not access frequently and keep clean, you will want to be careful when cleaning up any mouse debris. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has directions on how to safely clean up infested areas.

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/zoonosis/hanta/index.html> (click on Hantavirus Prevention and Cleanup Guidance) Keep compost piles as far away from the house as possible (100' or more). Keep any grain stored for farm animals in metal or mouse proof containers.

Snakes

The main food of most snakes is rodents and some small mammals. To reduce the numbers of snakes in your area, reduce their habitat and food supply by eliminating cool, damp areas, keeping shrubbery away from foundations and

controlling the rodent and insect populations. Mow weedy areas; reduce trashy areas, piles of brush, etc. to reduce their shelter areas. Properties in rural areas will have garter and bull snakes; some areas may have rattlesnakes. Keep snakes from entering buildings by sealing all holes in the foundations and lower portions of the buildings.

Snakes are ectothermic (reliance on external sources for regulation of body temperature) so they seek moderate temperatures, not the extremes. They need cool damp shelters; their activity is more noticeable in the fall as they seek a place to hibernate for the winter. In rattlesnake areas, construct snake proof outdoor play or entertainment areas. Use hardware cloth ¼", bury it 6" with it slanting outward at a 30° angle. Keep vegetation mowed around the fence and make sure the gate fits tight.

Squirrels

Squirrels are more of a problem in urban areas but small acreages with established trees may experience problems. Once again exclusion is the best control strategy whether it is for young trees, fruit, home or bird feeders. For a bird feeder, do not hang it from a tree, use a baffle or porcupine wires to prevent access. Sealing up openings in buildings will prevent them from accessing attics. Chimney caps keep them out of chimneys and access to the house. Around a garden the best defense is a wire mesh fence with an electrified wire on top. Repellants can work if properly used in the garden and also for protection of auto and tractor wiring and patio furniture.

References:

"Rabbits in the Vegetable Garden", G. Ghidui, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, E. Butler, USDA

"Urban Wildlife Damage Control, Controlling Rabbit Damage in Tree Plantings", Kansas State University Cooperative Extension 11/84

"Managing conflicts with Wildlife – Bats", Colorado State University

"Bats", A. Greenhall, S. Frantz, University of Nebraska Lincoln

"Coping with Snakes", M. Cerato, W. F. Andelt, Colorado State University Fact Sheet 6.501

"Mice – White-footed and Deer Mice, Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage" – R. Timm, W. Howard, University of Nebraska Lincoln 1994

"Mice – House Mice, Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage" – R. Timm, University of Nebraska Lincoln 1994

"Managing Pocket Gophers", W. F. Andelt, R. M. Case, Colorado State University Fact Sheet 6.515

"Prairie Dogs, Capture and Relocation of Prairie Dogs", Colorado Division of Wildlife

"Management of Prairie Dogs", W. F. Andelt, S. N. Hopper, Colorado State University Fact sheet 6.506

"Rats – Norway Rats", R. M. Timm, Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage, University of Nebraska Lincoln

"Rats – Wood Rats", T. P. Salmon, W. P. Gorenzel, University of California Davis 1994

"Rodent Proof Construction and Exclusion Methods", R. O. Baker, G. R. Bodman, R. M. Timm, Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage, University of Nebraska Lincoln

"Squirrel – Tree Squirrels", Urban Wildlife Rescue, Inc.

"Squirrels – Tree Squirrels", D. Virchow, S. E. Hygnstrom, J. M. Hobbs, Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage, University of Nebraska Lincoln

"Voles", W. F. Andelt, S. Ahmed, Colorado State University Fact Sheet 6.507

What to expect at the Boulder County Fairgrounds during an evacuation

By Sharon Bokan, SAM Coordinator

In previous newsletters, we have informed you how to prepare for and how to respond in case of a forest or grassland fire to evacuate your animals. After the latest fire, we saw a need to let you know what you need to know once you get to the Fairgrounds. This information is mainly written for cattle, horse, and llamas but you can still bring hogs, chickens, goats etc. to the Fairgrounds.

Where to enter the Fairgrounds and unload animals. You will enter the Fairgrounds off Nelson Road. There will be signage pointing you to the entrance on the road between the Fairgrounds and the Longmont Humane Society. There will be people at this point that will direct you and give you instructions. You will receive a map of the fairgrounds at the “check-in” point in front of Barn-D. You will make a loop in front of Barn D and unload. You will be given an index card to fill out with your contact information. Fill out the index card and find a stall for your animal. In the case of livestock other than horses and cattle, you will be instructed where and what to do with them. There will be a limited number of poultry cages available so bring your own if possible. The card will be placed in a holder on the stall, cage, etc. There will be people available to help you fill out the card and get you to the correct location. You can drop your trailer in the grassy lot north of the Humane Society. If you find animals by the road and decide to bring them to the grounds, you will still fill out a card with as much information as you can provide such as where the animal was found (street address or intersection).

What should you bring with you? Feed and a bucket for water. Although, they will have some buckets available and donations of feed if you could have some with you that will guarantee that your animal has food readily available. Leave the bales of hay in front of the stall. The large animals will only be fed hay. If you want

your animal to have grain or other feed you will have to do this yourself.

When the emergency is over. When the evacuation is over, any information that you can bring with you to positively identify your animal/s will help in claiming them such as ownership papers or brand inspections. If you don't have this information, the name on the index card will be used for identification so please have a photo ID. This is especially important in the case of animals brought in by someone other than their owners. Check out will be done with a sheriff's officer, brand inspector and county personnel present. Once you have entered, unloaded and boarded your animal you will not be able to leave with that animal until you have been properly checked-out. A photo of the animal with the trailer license plate will be taken for security purposes.

During the evacuation there will be a veterinarian onsite. Medical treatment for people will be in Barn A. The office for the emergency will be in the indoor arena. Due to a few glitches observed during the January evacuation, the procedures are being reviewed and changed to improve the process. When we receive any revised information, we will get information out to you of the changes that will affect livestock owners.

I would like to thank Joe LaFollette, Boulder County Fairgrounds Manager for taking time to provide this information.

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