



Boulder County Small Acreage Management Newsletter

Winter 2015

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

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From the SAM Coordinator

Happy almost Spring!

It's encouraging to see plants beginning to grow but we also know that we are not done yet with the cold weather and snow.

While it is tempting to allow livestock to be grazing this time of year, you need to allow your pasture grasses time to grow and get leaf surface area developed prior to grazing. Resist the urge and keep the livestock in your drylot. Grazing now will weaken your grasses.

Thank you,
Sharon Bokan
Small Acreage Coordinator
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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 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 212 subscribers to the listserv



Weather Outlook

The NOAA forecasts for the next 30 and 90 days are showing that the state will be normal in temperature. The mountains and western part of the state may see higher than normal precipitation.

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



Coming events and workshops

Upcoming events that may be of interest.

There will be a small acreage workshop on May 16, 2015 at The Ranch in Loveland. We are still in the planning stage so I will be sending out registration and agenda details soon.

I will be planning other workshops this year and will advertise them in future newsletters. I hope that you will take advantage of these events.

Seedling 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. This year they have removed the acreage limitation that has been on this program in the past.

The order form for the seedling tree program is available on our website at www.longmontcd.org under programs or you can contact the Conservation District office at (303) 776-4034 x101 to request a paper order form. Your check must accompany the order form to reserve your trees. **We will be taking orders until March 26, 2015.** You will be able to pick up your seedlings at the Exhibit Building on the Boulder County Fairgrounds on April 10 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm or on April 11 from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. We also do a planting workshop at 8:30 am and 1:30 pm on April 10 to provide instruction on how to plant the seedlings and the use of the planting supplies that we also offer for sale. If you need help with

selection of the seedlings for your property, you can contact the office at (303) 776-4034 x101.

The available seedlings are sold in a variety of sizes and containers. The bare root seedlings are sold in lots of 25 for \$26.00. The deciduous seedlings are a minimum of 10" tall and the conifers have a 5" minimum. These species include chokecherry, native plum, cottonwood and a willow mix. We have a large selection of species but some of them have limited quantity so you need to get your order in soon.

The large tube species are sold in lots of 30 for \$76.00. These species include Colorado Blue Spruce, Ponderosa, Rocky Mountain Juniper and this year the Peachleaf Willow and Coyote Willow. Small tube trees come in lots of 30 for \$65 or trays of 50 for \$65. These seedlings have a minimum height of 3". Most of the same varieties are available in the small tubes—the difference is the size of the seedling.

The selection of extra-large potted trees this year has increased. They are sold individually at a cost of \$9. The deciduous seedlings in this size are in a very limited quantity and include the native plum, chokecherry and lilac.

A new addition this year is a variety pack for those of you who would rather not plant all of one species. They have been divided into seedlings that do well at different elevations and vary in cost depending on whether the selection includes small tube or large tube seedlings.

Because quantities are limited on most species, please call the Colorado State Forest Service Nursery sold out line at (970) 491-8278 or the Conservation District Office at (303) 776-4034 x101 before ordering to see if your choice of seedling is available.



2015 Wildlife Master Volunteer Program

What is a Wildlife Master? They are volunteers that are trained to help the public with human/wildlife conflicts. They provide current information from Colorado State University, other land grant universities and state and federal wildlife agencies.

So if you have a skunk living under a deck, raccoon eating your corn, mice in the house or flickers pecking holes in your house, we can provide you with some solutions. To leave a message in the Wildlife Master voice mailbox, please call our main office number 303-678-6238.

Volunteers receive training from Wildlife Managers with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Boulder County Parks and Open Space Wildlife Specialists, local rehabilitators and experienced Wildlife Masters. Applications for the program are available on the website with training in April and May. Application deadline is March 21, 2015.

<http://www.coopext.colostate.edu/boulder/acreage.shtml>

The History of CSU Extension

By Karen Crumbaker, Larimer County Extension

I recently attended a training and was given an assignment, "Explain what it is your organization was created for, what it does, and how it does it." The reason for this assignment - "There is a good chance your organization has a darn good reason for existing. Chances are you have a very important mission. Chances are people don't know that!" We were challenged to concisely write about the "Who, What, Where and Why" of our organization.

If you are like many citizens throughout Colorado, you may be unaware of what Colorado State University Extension is. Although we work with hundreds of volunteers each year, with expansive outreach programs touching thousands more, I often hear comments that the general public does not know what Extension is. With that said, I will do my best to concisely give you the “Who, What, Where and Why” of Extension.

Prior to 1886, there were no public universities, only private institutions, and tuition was expensive for the average family. In 1862, the Morrill Act granted 30,000 acres of Federal land to each Senator and Representative. The land was to be sold and the proceeds invested in an endowment. The interest was to be used to establish at least one college to teach branches of learning related to agriculture and the mechanic arts. As a result, Colorado’s land-grant institution, Colorado Agricultural College, was founded in 1870. Colorado Agricultural College later became known as Colorado A&M, which then became Colorado State University in 1957.

Extension was born from the 1914 Smith-Lever Act. The Act called for cooperative agricultural extension work between the land-grant colleges and the USDA to diffuse useful and practical information on subjects related to agriculture and home economics to the people of the United States. The purpose of the land-grant university is to educate all people, opening up higher education to businesses, farmers, and those engaged in trade. The functions of the land-grant university are research, education, service, and Extension. Extension is a partnership between the USDA, State and County.

The Mission of Extension is "to provide information and education, and encourage the application of research-based knowledge in

response to local, state, and national issues affecting individuals, youth, families, agricultural enterprises, and communities of Colorado". The goal of providing information and education is to enable people to make practical decisions that can improve their lives.

Extension is always in motion to meet the needs of the citizens of Colorado. Extension programs are shaped in response to the changing needs of the community. Extension is in almost all of Colorado’s 64 counties. Although agriculture and home economics continue to play a vital role in the work we do, citizens of Colorado look to Extension to help with concerns on food preservation and safety, financial management, community development, 4-H youth development, small acreage management, gardening, and more.

My goal to be concise in this article may not have been met, but I am confident you have a better understanding of the “Who, What, Where and Why” of Colorado State University Extension. If not, I am sure you have learned we are always here to answer any of your questions.



New Grass, Grazing, Cover Crop and Pollinator Plot on the Fairgrounds

By Sylvia Hickenlooper, Soil Conservationist,
Natural Resources Conservation Service

If you have stopped by the Natural Resources Building in the past few months you will notice some strange patterns developing in the dirt parking lot east of the building and some stakes with colorful tape on them. No these are not calling card signs to aliens, but a pretty exciting project taking place. These are the new and improved grass and vegetation demonstration plots, including cover crops trials, grazing simulations, and pollinator plants display. After many years of trying to nurse along the plots in Lafayette they become far too overwhelming to manage as prairie dogs and cheatgrass invaded the land. A new direction for the plots developed towards the end of summer last year. Thanks to Joe LaFollette, Fairgrounds Manager, Sylvia Hickenlooper, NRCS Office, the Longmont and Boulder Valley Conservation Districts and Boulder County CSU Extension, the plots were brought to the Fairgrounds. The site is perfect for public access and viewing, and we were able to tie in irrigation, and to work in topsoil to help revitalize the once barren parking lot. Since the inception of the idea, there has been a lot of manual labor and sweat equity invested to turn a parking lot that will soon be a vegetative masterpiece for many to explore and enjoy. The area measures 150 by 40 feet and within this area there are 99 plots. Within this area there were also crusher fines placed and packed to create walking trails, plots were leveled, and planted. The installation of these plots could not have taken place without the hard work, dedication, and pride that was contributed by the Boulder County Trustees. A fury of shovels loading rock into wheel barrows took place in the final hour. With backs sore, hands blistered, the project was done and everyone who lifted a shovel, pushed a wheel barrow, and packed down soil had nothing left but a smile.

Some finishing touches were put in place and finally came time to plant, which took place in mid-November. When it comes to planting timing is everything and mostly falls on luck. The stars must have been aligned just right as it was only a day after planting the plots the snow fell, gently placing the seeds into the soil, giving them the perfect start for growing in the spring. This project is in the infancy stages, but as the days get longer and the sun shines warmer these plots will be buzzing with new green life. We hope you stop by. You will see them change almost weekly. Soon there will be signs to explain what each plot is and later a brochure and layout map will be made available. Later as the plots grow and flourish there will be games and treasure hunts for kids to help them learn about grasses. If you want to gain some plant knowledge or help build on your knowledge, we hope to find you out there!



Late Winter Pasture Considerations

By Sharon Bokan, Small Acreage Coordinator

As I stated at the beginning of this newsletter, now is not the time to be grazing your pasture. The grasses are coming out of dormancy and are using stored energy to start bud and tiller growth. You need to allow the grass tillers (individual grass stems) to get to 6 – 8" tall before grazing begins. Grazing at this time can damage the tillers to the point where other dormant tillers must be stimulated to grow using additional stored energy. If you do this enough, you will use up the stored energy and stop tiller and root growth and eventually kill the plant.

Now is also the time to scout your pasture for weed infestations. You need to be planning on how to take care of the weeds you have in your pasture. If you need to know what weeds you have, the best thing to do is to bring in a sample with roots so that it can be identified. We can then provide you with management techniques for that weed.

Especially if you are haying your pasture, consider doing a soil test and then fertilize the pasture according to the soil test recommendations. If you don't have a soil test done, a good recommendation is 20# of nitrogen per acre in the spring and 20# in the fall.

Doing everything you can to keep your pasture plants healthy will not only benefit your livestock but also you.

Place your SAM related classified ad or print advertisement here!

Classified Advertising Rates are as follows:

SAM Volunteer: 20 cents/word

4-H Member/Leader: 20 cents/word

General Public, Individual: 25 cents/word

General Public, Business/Show: 30 cents/ word

Print Ad Rates are as follows:

Quarter Page Ad: \$50.00

Half Page Ad: \$80.00

Full Page Ad: \$100.00

Email Sharon Bokan for more details

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