



Boulder County Small Acreage Management Newsletter

Winter 2016

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

In this Issue:

Weather outlook – p. 2
Coming events and workshops – p. 2
Seedling tree sale – p. 2
2016 Small Acreage Management Volunteer Program – p. 3
2016 Wildlife Master Volunteer Program – p. 3
Understanding and using “cides” - p. 4
How to Read a Pesticide Label – p. 5
Cheatgrass Management – p. 7
Thinking about purchasing a small acreage – p. 8

From the SAM Coordinator

Happy 2016.
While most landowners are not thinking about their pastures, now is the time to be planning any reseeding projects and an integrated weed management plan. It won't be too long before the snow melts and the winter annual weeds will be growing. For some of them like cheatgrass, all we need is a couple of warm days and it will be growing.

If you are thinking about planting a windbreak, now is the time to submit your order to the Conservation Districts for your seedling trees.

Thank you,
Sharon Bokan
Small Acreage Coordinator
sbokan@bouldercounty.org

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 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

On **February 24, 2016**, the public is invited to learn about food production in Boulder County. **“From Our Lands to Your Hands”** will have a public event **from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm** in the **Exhibit Building on the Boulder County Fairgrounds**. You will be able to meet and talk to local growers and producers, climb into tractors and learn other information about food production in Boulder County. Food will be available for purchase.

<https://www.facebook.com/From-Our-Lands-to-Your-Hands-1531659330493567/>

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

Seedling Tree Sale

By Nancy McIntyre, Longmont and Boulder Valley Conservation Districts

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 24, 2016. You will be able to pick up your seedlings at the Exhibit Building on the Boulder County Fairgrounds on April 8 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm or on April 9 from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. We also do a planting workshop at 8:30 am and 1:30 pm on April 8 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 lilac, native plum, cottonwood and hackberry. Currently all the willow species are sold out. 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, Scotch pine and this year lilac and Mountain mahogany. Small tube trees come in lots of 30 for \$65 or trays of 50 for \$50. 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.

Because quantities are limited on most species, please go to the following website to check availability:

<http://csfs.colostate.edu/seedling-tree-nursery/seedling-sursery-inventory/>. You can also call the Conservation District Office at (303) 776-4034 x101 before ordering to see if your choice of seedling is available.



2016 Small Acreage Management Volunteer Program

We are taking applications for the 2016 Small Acreage Management (SAM) Volunteer program. Volunteers receive 24 hours of training in plant identification, weed and grazing management, pasture establishment and general program information. Training cost is \$100 which includes lunches and a copy of “Weeds of the West” book (price is \$65 if you already have a copy of the book). In return, first year volunteers are required to provide 24 hours of volunteer time. This time can be by answering small acreage questions, identifying

“weeds” that are brought into the office and providing management measures, writing articles for this quarterly newsletter, helping with the crop show at the county fair and other activities. Application deadline is February 12, 2016 with training to be held March 7, 14, 21, 28, 2016 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. More information can be found at <http://www.extension.colostate.edu/boulder/acreage.shtml>



2016 Wildlife Master Volunteer Program

What is a Wildlife Master? They are volunteers who 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 31, 2016. Training will be held 8:30 am to 4:30 pm on April 22 and 29 with possible tour on May 13, 2016.

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



Understanding and using “cides”

Humans have been trying to improve their living environment using pesticides since the beginning of civilization by killing insects, animals or diseases that impacted their life or ability to grow food. Ancient Egyptians mention using hemlock and aconite while Homer mentioned using sulfur on plants and the Romans used burning sulfur to control some insects. Humans have even used salt to keep rival nations from being able to raise crops.

Today there seems to be some confusion about pesticides. The suffix of “cide” means “someone or something that kills a particular person or thing or the act of killing”. What precedes the “cide” is the main target of the killing act. Pesticide is an all-inclusive term that includes all “cides” that affect all pests. Contained under the pesticide umbrella are the following “cides” and their main target.

Herbicide – plants

Insecticide – insects

Fungicide – fungi

Bactericide (aka antibiotic, like those prescribed by a physician) – bacteria

Miticide – mites

Rodenticide – rodents

Avicide – birds

Nematicide – nematodes

Piscicide – fish

Predacides – vertebrates

Slimicide – slime molds

While all of the above have the specific target in their name, there are other “cides” that don’t carry the “cide” suffix.

Attractants – attracts birds, insects, etc.

Desiccant – unwanted plant tops

Defoliant – unwanted plant leaves

Repellants – repel insects, birds, other vertebrates

A biocide is a pesticide that affects both plants and animals. Pesticides only affect their target unless they are improperly used.

Can an insecticide harm a plant? The answer is yes if it is improperly used. If you mix it stronger than the label recommends or apply it when the temperature is too high, the wind is blowing or the plant is sensitive, then you can harm the plant. Will an herbicide harm insects? Again, the answer is yes if improperly used. Insecticide labels are now including information on using the insecticide in such a manner so as to not harm honey bees. Be sure to read and understand label instructions prior to purchasing any “cide” to make sure it will manage the target species while not harming other species.

This warning does not apply only to “synthetic” “cides” but also to “organic” “cides”, they are both designed to kill something. The first pesticides used were “organic”. **Many “organic” herbicides can be just as harmful or more harmful if used improperly.** So you need to be just as careful with and “organic cide” as you would be with a “synthetic cide”. A note of clarification about pesticides, unless you are using an element such as sulfur, most pesticides are based on organic chemistry not inorganic chemistry. Most “synthetic” pesticides are based on “organic” compounds but are produced synthetically.

For “synthetic” “cides”, years of research and millions of dollars are invested in a product prior to its release. There are a series of required tests that must be completed prior to the product being released. These tests are required to determine the application rates, mixing instructions, protective equipment required, potential harm to off target species and many other pieces of label and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) information. So always take time to read and follow the label.

So how do you find out about a product before you purchase it? Most companies are now posting the product labels and the MSDS on their websites. There is also a great website that has both posted on it <http://www.cdms.net/Label-Database> .

The first step in using any “cide” is to first positively identify what is the problem whether insect, mammal, plant or bacteria. Using the wrong product on the problem will give you less than desired results and may lead to other more serious problems. The local Extension Office can help you identify plants and plant diseases.

Extension uses Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in our recommendations to the public. Integrated pest management uses multiple techniques to manage a pest. The techniques

are Prevention, Cultural, Mechanical, Biological and Chemical. Prevention is purchasing good pasture seed or hay from a reputable dealer that has minimal weed seed in it. Cultural is keeping desired plants healthy so that they can prevent weeds from getting a foothold. Mechanical is hoeing, hand pulling, dead heading, plowing, burning, etc. Biological is the use of another biological agent such as livestock, insects or bacteria for management help. Chemical is the use of a chemical or element whether naturally occurring or synthetically manufactured to manage a pest.

For questions about using “cides” safely, please contact the Extension Office.

Reference: The Standard Pesticide Users Guide 7th edition, Bert L. Bohmont, 2007, Prentice Hall

How to Read a Pesticide Label

By Kim Wolinski, SAM Volunteer, updated by Sharon Bokan Small Acreage Coordinator

You know the humor around the infamous (now in several languages and print so small your 3.50 reading glasses are no help at all) Instruction Manuals, like “How can I have this swing set all put together and there’s still parts?” My dad taught me to fix and repair things and self-reliance by using all the four learning skill areas that are necessary, though he didn’t know he was doing that: 1) Tell me; 2) Show me; 3) Watch me do it with support, and 4) READ AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL!

“Instructions” (also referred to as procedures and in the case of Pesticides Labels, **WARNINGS**) should be easy to locate and use, easy to understand, reflect best practice or use of the product and give clear warnings when applicable.

What You Need to Know About Pesticides and Their Labels

So, you've tried organic, mechanical, cultural and biological weed controls and you still have a weed problem – it's time for the big guns! Chemicals and Pesticides! (Insert Tim Taylor *Home Improvement* Show tool-man grunt here!!)

Pesticides can serve a useful purpose around the home and garden by reducing some of the problems we face from pests. Pesticides include insect killers (insecticides), weed killers (herbicides), and fungus killers (fungicides). If not used according to label specs humans, pets and water supplies can be harmed.

Sounds simple, but to head off problems with pesticide use, the most valuable time spent in pest control is the time you take to read the label. Before you buy a pesticide, read the label to determine:

- Whether it is the right pesticide for the job
- Whether the pesticide can be used safely under your application conditions
- Whether there are any restrictions on the pesticide
- How much pesticide you should buy for the area you are treating when to apply the pesticide.

Pesticide labels are the legal document located on the pesticide container that provides information concerning the safe and effective use of the pesticide.

Here are the ABC's of following Pesticide Labels for the best outcomes:

1. The label is the law.

This is a huge deal! The user of any pesticide is liable for all aspects of handling the product, including but not limited to mixing, loading, application, spill control, and disposal of a pesticide or its container.

2. Read the label thoroughly. It includes the following items:

a) FIRST AID INSTRUCTIONS - Before you mix and apply a pesticide, read the label to determine:

- What protective clothing to use and safety measures to follow
- What the chemical can be mixed with
- How much pesticide to mix
- The mixing process
- How long you should wait after application to reenter the area, harvest the crop, or plant another crop.

b) EPA REGISTRATION NUMBER - You can search the Pesticide Product Label System (PPLS) using the EPA Pesticide Product Registration Number at

<http://oaspub.epa.gov/pestlabl/ppls.home>

c) NAME and ADDRESS OF MANUFACTURER
d) SIGNAL WORDS and LEVELS OF TOXICITY

- indicate the toxicity and/or hazards associated with the use of the pesticide. The label indicates the level of toxicity with one of three signal words: DANGER, WARNING, or CAUTION. The precautionary statement describes the hazards to the applicator, children, domestic animals, wildlife, and the environment. If protective clothing and equipment are necessary, the precautionary statements will tell you.

The label must list the active ingredient—the ingredient that actually kills or inhibits the pest. Inert ingredients, such as carriers or solvents, do not have to be specified, but their concentrations must be listed.

e) USES INCONSISTENT WITH LABELING - It is a violation of federal law to use any pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its labeling, with the following four exemptions:

- a) Application at a rate of frequency less than specified on the label.
- b) Application on a target species not specified on the label as long as application is to the site or use specified on the label, unless the label specifically prohibits use on that specific pest.

- c) Employing any method of application not prohibited on the label.
- d) Mixing with a fertilizer, as long as such a mixture is not prohibited on the labeling.

f) APPLICATION - a pesticide at any dosage, concentration, or frequency less

Than that specified on the labeling; Applying a pesticide against any target pest not specified on the labeling if the application is to the crop, animal, or site specified on the labeling, unless the labeling specifically prohibits use against other pests

g) DO NOT - Apply pesticides at a higher rate than is on the label; Remove the label; Put pesticides in other containers, or other liquids in pesticide containers; Store pesticides near children and/or pets.

h) STORING and DISPOSAL - Before you store or dispose of a pesticide, read the label to determine:

- Where and how to store the pesticide
- How to clean and dispose of the chemical container
- How to dispose of surplus pesticide.

i) PESTICIDE ACRONYMS

- a) GUP: General Use Pesticide. Products available to the general public.
- b) MSDS: Material Safety Data Sheet. A technical bulletin that supplements information found on the product label. Visit www.cdms.net
- c) PPE: Personal Protective Equipment. Listed under the “Hazards to Humans” section on the label.
- d) RUP: Restricted Use Pesticide. Restricts the purchase of a product, and its uses, to a Certified Pesticide Applicator (CPA), or to anyone under the direct supervision of a CPA.

Important phone numbers:

Colorado Department of Agriculture
Pesticide Section, (303) 239-4147
Colorado Department of Health/Environment
Household Hazardous Waste Division,
(303) 692-3320
Colorado State University Cooperative Extension
(970) 491-6027
EPA Region VIII Pesticide Office
(303) 312-6286
Rocky Mountain Poison Control Center
(800) 332-3073
The National Pesticide Information Center
(800) 858-7378
<http://npic.orst.edu>



Cheatgrass Management

With the snow cover we have had, it’s easy to forget what’s under the snow. Cheatgrass seeds are lying under the snow just waiting to germinate and start growing. Before the snow melts you need to have a plan to manage it.

There is nothing you can do while there is snow cover other than planning. Any pesticide you might use requires the herbicide to contact the cheatgrass leaves. During winter when other grasses are dormant and there isn’t snow cover, you can use the lower rate listed on the label of glyphosate (Roundup) on the cheatgrass seedlings. You must follow the label for the minimum temperature and for application rate.

Be very careful when using glyphosate, a nonselective herbicide (kills anything you get it on); make sure that your desired plants are dormant. If you are not sure whether your desired plants are dormant or not, it is best to use another method. Once the temperatures are warmer and other grasses are growing you can use imazapic (Plateau). You need to use the imazapic before the cheatgrass is 2" tall, otherwise it will not be effective. Imazapic can also be used as a pre-emergent in the fall. You cannot purchase imazapic (Plateau) but you can contact the Boulder County Weed Coordinator to get the amount you need. His contact information is Steve Sauer, ssauer@bouldercounty.org 303-678-6110. Again be sure to read the product label for any adverse effects to other grasses. Some grasses are more sensitive to herbicides so make sure you read and follow the label. You can also consider using light tillage, making sure to remove the seedlings so that they can't re-root. In an area like a driveway or riding arena, you can use a weed torch to burn the young seedlings. Be sure that there are no other dried plants or items near so you don't start a fire. You can also try an "organic" herbicide. Understand that the "organic" herbicides are nonselective and will harm desired plants.

You can try mowing but you need to time your mowing to be successful. If you mow too low or too soon, you can create a bigger problem. Wait to mow until the cheatgrass is just beginning to bloom. Mow the grass high, just below the flowering head. It will try to put out a second flower which you will need to mow prior to seed production. If you mow low the first time, the grass will produce the second head too low to mow.

If you have cheatgrass, now is the time to make your management plan so you are ready to go when the snow melts.



Thinking about purchasing a small acreage? What you need to know before you close.

If you are thinking about purchasing a small acreage or interested in a different small acreage, here are some questions to ask before you purchase a property.

Why do you want to live on a small acreage? What are your desires and goals for the acreage?

Property assessment/Inventory

Property

- How many acres and where are the property lines?
- What is my access to the property? Is there an easement for the access across another property?
- Am I in a flood plain?
- Are there conservation easements or other easements that will dictate what I can do?
- Are there covenants?
- Can I get homeowner's insurance? Due to special site conditions do I need additional insurance?
- What will the county or city allow me to do? Building permit?
- Have I walked the entire property looking for potential problems?
- Are there any liens against the property?

- Are there any non-written agreements with the neighbors? Am I willing to let them continue?
- Are there any mining claims?
- Which direction does the entrance to your property face in respect to prevailing winter winds and snow?

Structures

- Has your home been tested for radon, lead, asbestos?
- What is the condition of any existing buildings, fences, ditches, etc?
- Are any of them a safety hazard?
- Can any of them be modified for my uses or should they be torn down? Can I tear them down?

Water and mineral rights

- Do I own the mineral and gas/oil rights? If not, who does and what can they do?
- Do I have water rights, how much do I have and what does this all mean?
- Who is the ditch company and contact?
- If I don't have any water can I purchase any?
- What and where is the easement for the ditch company?

Soil

- What type of soil do I have?
- Will this soil type cause problems with construction or add additional costs?
- Do I have problem areas (alkaline, saline, marsh, wetland)?
- Has anyone ever dumped anything on the property? Oil? Chemicals?

Utilities

- Who supplies drinking water?
- Is the main on the property? If not, cost to extend.
- If by well do I have a permit and how deep to get sufficient good quality water.
- How old is the well and pump and are they in good condition?
- Do you have a copy of your well permit?
- Are there water quality issues? Has the water been tested?

- What are the issues concerning either an existing septic system or installation of a new one or connection to city sewer?
- Where is the septic tank and leach field?
- Is there a permit for the sewage system?
- How old is the system?
- What maintenance has been done?
- How long has it been since the septic tank has been pumped?
- What is the footprint of your property and subsoil, i.e.: what would be the cost to replace a septic system/leach field (in some of our areas it's over \$40K because of the soil and footprint requiring engineered systems.)
- Who supplies power? Cost to bring to site? What is the cost to put it underground?

Vegetation

- Are there noxious/poisonous/nuisance weeds?
- If so, how many and what type? What type of management am I willing to do?
- Do I have a weed management plan?
- How do I feel about native plants in a pasture?
- Am I willing to use herbicides if necessary to management weeds or am I willing to commit to the time it will take to management them organically?
- What is the current health of the pastures, forest, landscaping?
- Am I happy with the type of vegetation? Will it produce the forage or effect I want?
- What am I willing to do to mitigate forest fire danger?
- Can I get fire insurance or do I have to do mitigation beforehand?
- What is the carrying capacity of the land?
- Is there a sacrifice area so you don't overgraze the entire property?
- Are streams/water areas fenced to prevent livestock/animals from entering?

Emergency

- Who provides the emergency response for the property?
- How will I maintain the access to the property? For example, blizzard., fire, flood
- Do I have an evacuation plan, food supplies, power generation and water supplies (both domestic and for fire fighting) for an emergency situation for at least 72 hours? i.e. wildfire, blizzard
- Do I have sufficient emergency equipment access, i.e. turn arounds, and turn out space? Specifically for fire trucks
- Do I have appropriate trailers/trucks etc. to remove my animals in case of an evacuation?

My plans/expectations

General

- What are my expectations?
- What do I expect of my pastures/garden?
- What do I want to do?
- How long am I willing to work and wait for my expectations to be met?
- How do I feel about driving behind slow moving vehicles, the unique smells, animal noises, wildlife, being the last area to have roads cleared during blizzards, floods, power outages, crop dusters, etc.?
- Am I willing to be flexible with my plans if necessary?
- Does the rest of the family support my plans and are interested in and willing to help with the work?
- If I am sick or injured and as I get older, will I be willing to continue maintaining the property and the animals? Do I have backup help?

Experience

- How much experience do I have?
- Am I willing to learn?

- Is there someone that can help me when I have a question?

Financial

- How much money do I have to spend working on the acreage?
- How much money am I willing to commit to the small acreage?
- Am I willing to contract some work to others?

Equipment

- What equipment do I have and am I willing to maintain it?
- Do I have sufficient money to purchase additional equipment or to contract the work?
- Am I willing to learn to maintain it myself or pay for maintenance?
- What equipment can I borrow from a friend, neighbor or rent?

Time

- How much time do I have?
- Am I willing to commit the time to reach my goals?

Animals/Crops

- What animals do I want?
- What do I want to grow or raise?
- Do I have a vet? Shearer, etc.?
- Am I willing to learn some basic Veterinarian skills?
- What do I plan to do with the manure?
- How do I plan on disposing of carcasses?
- Do I understand how to maintain the health of the pasture and animals? Grazing management principles. Am I willing to learn?
- Do I have enough forage or sufficient funds to purchase additional feed?
- Am I willing to put an animal down if necessary?
- How do I evacuate my livestock in case of an evacuation?
- If I am gone, who will take care of my livestock?
- Do I have a biosecurity plan?

- Does my fencing match the species of livestock I have or plan on getting?
- Are my livestock branded or marked in another approved method?
- Are my buildings appropriate to the livestock? Do they need to be modified or torn down and rebuilt?

Other

- Am I willing to deal with the wildlife? i.e. prairie dogs
- Do I have a home and farm security plan?

For help with evaluating a property, call the Extension office for assistance.



All Four Feet Horse Riding Lessons

Riding Lessons, youth or adult.
Especially good with beginners.
On your horse or mine (gentle, 18 year old, small quarter mare).

Whatever your goal, we can work towards it: comfortable and safe with horses, trail riding, showing western, English or dressage, gymkhana, overcoming fear, large motor skills, confidence, train green horses, etc.

Build confidence, skill and trust in partnership with the horse.

Facilities located West of Berthoud

You can reach me, Nicolette, at All Four Feet, on Facebook or at ahrensnl@gmail.com.

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

sbokan@bouldercounty.org