

Boulder County Small Acreage Management Newsletter



Winter 2019

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

In this Issue:

Weather outlook – p. 2
Coming events and workshops – p. 2
Seedling Tree Sale – p. 2
Spring Small Acreage Tasks – p.3
The Value of Reading a Pesticide Label – p.4
Dealing with Our Dry Conditions – p.5
Web Soil Survey – p.6

From the SAM Coordinator

I don't know about you but I really appreciated the precipitation that we received on the 11th. The soil and plants are getting really dry. If you have new shrub and tree plantings, you'll want to water them periodically when we aren't getting precipitation.

This is a good time of the year to evaluate last year, repair tools and plan. You can also be doing reseeding and some weed management on those nice days.

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 most of the state will be above normal in temperature and above average in precipitation.

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



Coming events and workshops

The National Western Stock Show will take place January 12 - 27, 2019 at the Stock Show Complex in Denver. In addition to all the rodeos, events and livestock judging, the Stock Show is a great place to connect with livestock producers. If you are thinking about getting some livestock, you can talk to producers and attend seminars to learn more.

<http://www.nationalwestern.com/>

The Colorado Farm Show will occur January 29 – 31, 2019 at Island Grove Park in Greeley. There are 4 buildings of equipment and supplies at the show. The Farm Show also has 3 days of workshops ranging from marketing, energy, climate to beef quality.

<http://www.coloradofarmshow.com/>



I am in the process of planning other workshops and will advertise them in future newsletters or e-mails. I hope that you will take advantage of the events.

Seedling Tree Sale

Faith Kroschel, 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 to 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 order form for the seedling tree program is available on our website at www.longmontcd.org under the Programs tab,

or you can contact the Conservation District office at (720) 378-5521 to request a paper order form. Payment in the form of cash or check must accompany the order form to reserve your trees. We will be taking orders until March 22, 2019. You will be able to pick up your seedlings at the Exhibit Building on the Boulder County Fairgrounds on Friday, April 11, 2019 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm or on Saturday, April 12, 2019 from 8:00 am to 11:00 am.

The available seedlings are sold in a variety of sizes and containers. The bare root seedlings are sold in lots of 25 for \$30.00. The large tube species are sold in lots of 30 for \$90.00. These species include Colorado blue spruce, Ponderosa Pine, and Douglas fir amongst many others. Extra-large potted trees are sold individually at a cost of \$12.00 each.

Quantities are limited on most species, so we strongly encourage you to check the CSU Nursery's inventory web page before placing your order to ensure your desired seedlings are in stock. The inventory webpage address is: <http://csfs.colostate.edu/seedling-tree-nursery/seedling-nursery-inventory/>. The Conservation Districts are sometimes able to secure select popular species before they sold out. These may be still available for purchase through the Districts, even if they are listed as sold out online. You can call the Conservation District Office at (720) 378-5521 before ordering to see if your choice of seedling is available. Thank you for supporting our Tree Seedling Program. We look forward to hearing from you soon.



Spring Small Acreage Tasks

Winter is a good time to review your property and projects from the previous growing season and plan for the 2019 growing season. What worked well, what didn't and what do you still have to do on your list. Here are some thoughts to get you started on your review of 2018 and plans for 2019.

Grazing – Have you been grazing your animals this fall and winter? If so, how high was your stubble when you started and what height are you at now? Hopefully, you started with more than 3 – 4" of stubble and that you still have at least 3 – 4" of stubble. If you don't have 3 – 4" of stubble and you are continuing to let your animals graze, you are overgrazing your pasture. You need to remove your animals from the pasture and not let them back out to graze until spring when you have a minimum of 6 – 8" of forage. By grazing lower, you are removing energy the grass has stored to survive the winter. With our dry conditions this year, the grass needs all the energy it can keep to stay healthy.

Reseeding – There is still plenty of time to reseed. The only concern this year is the dry conditions. If we don't get moisture this winter or this spring, the grass seed may not germinate. Depending on when we get

precipitation, the grass seed may germinate later this year or possibly next year.

Weeds – You can do some weed management this winter with our warm temperatures. Once your forage plants are dormant, you can spray cheatgrass if it is growing. As long as the ground is not frozen, you can also undercut and get rid of biennial weed rosettes.

Water – Are there trees or shrubs that need to be removed along your ditch? Now is the time to work on projects like this so you are ready for water in the spring. A lot of ditch companies have their annual meetings now. Make sure to attend the meeting so that you know who to contact and what projects they may be doing.

Soil – Make sure that you are not overgrazing your pasture so that you are keeping your plants healthy and your soil healthy. If you haven't taken a soil test lately, you may want to do this when the soil is not frozen.

Livestock – Are you providing your animals with additional feed to keep them healthy? Most livestock is fine in cold conditions but you do need to provide them with somewhere to get out of precipitation. Their ability to cope with the cold temperatures decreases if they are also wet. If they are dry, they can easily cope with 20 – 32°F temperatures without additional nutrition. If they get wet, they can only handle 60°F without additional nutrition. In addition to the shelter, having dry bedding will also help them cope with colder temperatures.

Pollinators and beneficial insects – If you have some spare time and lumber this winter, you may want to build some native pollinator nesting boxes to place around your property. You can find some simple plans at this website. http://xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/11/nests_for_native_bees_fact_sheet_xerces_society.pdf

Plans and priorities – What are your projects for this year? Can you do any preparation for them this winter?

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.



The Value of Reading a Pesticide Label

A lot of pesticide applicators only read part of the pesticide label or only read the whole label once. Although they are not the most exciting reading you can do, there is a lot of important information that you need to know. This applies whether you are using an organic or synthetic pesticide. They are all meant to manage some type of pest. You should read the label before you purchase it to make sure that it is appropriate for your location and the pest that you are trying to manage. The pesticide may not be labelled for use where you want to use it, i.e. to manage the weeds in your ditch or it may not manage the pest you want to manage. If you know which pesticide you will be using, you can look up and read the label before you purchase it at <http://www.cdms.net/LabelsSDS/>. This website also contains the Material Safety

Data Sheets which provide more information about the product and possible environmental hazards.

If you have to spray around water, make sure that you read how close you can be to water or if there is a potential to contaminate ground water. Applying a pesticide that gets into the water supply either surface or ground water may not cause problems on your property but downstream neighbors. If the issue gets traced back to you, your pocket book may be affected.

Some herbicides will carry over on vegetation and manure and these should not be utilized as mulch or a soil amendment. There should be a warning on the label. Other pesticides may be especially toxic to bees and have additional warnings to protect bees.

You should also read the label prior to each time you mix and apply the pesticide. Don't rely on your memory for personal protective equipment, application conditions, timing and rate.

The label will also provide you with the surfactant type, if needed. Surfactants allow the herbicide to penetrate into the plant tissue better and be more effective. Plants such as mullein with its' hairy leaves and plants with waxy coatings require a surfactant to be effective. Without the surfactant, the herbicide may have no effect on the weed and you might be tempted to use the herbicide more often or at a higher rate than the label allows. This can cause collateral damage to other plants that would not have been affected had you read and followed the label.

If you are doing a tank mix of several pesticides, the label provides information on how to mix them. You may be required to mix one of them first before adding the second one. One of them may require additional mixing or the

surfactant type may change with the addition of the second chemical.

If you need help reading and deciphering a pesticide label, feel free to give the office a call and we can walk/talk through the label.



Dealing with Our Dry Conditions

Well as I start to write this article, we are finally getting some precipitation. It will be interesting to see how much water we get out of this storm.

Up until this day, 1/11/2019, we were running behind in snow fall received (8.2" compared to an average 20.8"). The last two winters have also been behind normal for the Front Range (2016/2017 21.8" and 2017/2018 25.7" as compared to a normal 57.3").

<https://www.weather.gov/bou/snowstat>

So even though 2/3 of the state including the mountains is at normal or slightly above normal, that doesn't mean we are in good shape. The snowpack in the mountains only helps us with our household use and irrigation. If you don't have irrigation, the snowpack does absolutely no good for you. Your plants still need good moisture levels in the soil for seeds to germinate and established plants to stay healthy. Even if you have irrigation, the losses along a dirt ditch will be higher so you may be getting less water to actually reach your property.

So what can you do to minimize the damage from the lack of soil moisture? The first thing is to preserve as much of the moisture in the soil as you can by keeping healthy vegetation on your property. While this sounds counter intuitive, the vegetation will use some of the moisture in the soil but it will also help water penetration and reduce runoff when we do get precipitation. It also helps shade and cover the soil so that we do not get as much evaporation. Keeping a stubble of 3 – 4” will keep your forage plants healthy and keep your soil in place.

Weed management also becomes more difficult under dry conditions. Either the weed seeds don't germinate and wait until a wetter year compounding the problem or the plants build up a thicker skin (cuticle) which makes it more difficult to get the herbicide to penetrate the cuticle and be effective. There's not much you can do until we get more precipitation.

Web Soil Survey

For any landowner there is a great resource that you may not know about, Web Soil Survey. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (as they were known in the 1940's, Soil Conservation Service) came out of the Dust Bowl era. They have mapped soils in 95% of the nations' counties with more to come. They continue to take samples and improve the quality of their soil maps.

The information is readily available at <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm> It's easy to get started by just clicking on the green "Start WSS" button. Once there you can click on address and type in the address of interest. A map will come up with the address noted on the map. You can set an "Area of Interest" by clicking on one of the two AOI buttons (one is used for a rectangular shape while the other is for non-rectangular shape). You will now have a map with your AOI highlighted.

Now the fun can begin. You will see tabs at the top of the page labelled AOI: Soil Map, Soil Data Explorer, Download Soils Data, Shopping cart. Start by clicking on "Soil Map". This will give you a map of the soils on the property. Once you do this you can click on "Soil Data Explorer". From here you can explore many different features of the soils that are on your property from aspects of the soil that will affect any construction you may want to do to the ability to put in a septic system, or a basement to how much vegetative production you might see on the property. You can also explore what native plant types your soils supported prior to the pioneers.

This is a great resource to learn more about your property.

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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