

Boulder County Small Acreage Management Newsletter



Spring 2020

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

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From the SAM Coordinator

I hope that you are all staying safe and healthy during this interesting time. Please follow the Center for Disease Control, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Governor's recommendations to keep you and your loved ones safe. Let's do what we can to support those who's jobs are essential whether it is making personal protective equipment, providing meals or shopping for elderly neighbors and definitely by only going out when absolutely necessary.

If you can work from home, use your breaks and what normally would be your drive time to get some of those projects done that you have been putting off.

Stay safe and healthy.

Thank you,

Sharon Bokan

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SAM Newsletters Online

View previous newsletters via the SAM link above.

SAM Email Listserv

If you are reading 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 – THANK YOU!** I will remove you from the listserv if you use it in this manner. Use the newsletter ad section for these purposes.



*Colorado State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Boulder County Cooperating.
Extension Programs are available to all without discrimination.*



Weather Outlook

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

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

If you have not checked out NOAA's website, they have a lot of good information beside their predictions. There are sections for children, their publications and preparing for various weather conditions. <https://www.weather.gov/>



Coming events and workshops

Currently, all in person programs are on hold. I hope to be able to offer programs later this summer.

Extension Office Information

The Boulder County Extension Office is currently closed, and staff is working remotely. I am not able to perform any site visits but am available via phone or e-mail for any questions you have. If you need plants identified, you are welcome to send me photographs. When taking the photos try to provide some close ups of leaves, flowers or seed heads (even old seed heads from last year can help). Grasses are harder to identify via photo but if you can provide photos of last years seed heads that will help. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions and I will do my best to help you.



New Resources

We have just finished revising and updating some poultry fact sheets. Here are the links to the fact sheets.

Ailments of Chickens

<https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/agriculture/ailments-of-chickens-2-505/>

Brooding and Rearing Chicks for the Family Flock

<https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/agriculture/brooding-and-rearing-chicks-for-the-family-flock-2-509/>

Brooding and Space Requirements for Poultry

<https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/agriculture/brooding-and-space-requirements-for-poultry-2-502/>

Keeping Layers for the Family Egg Supply

<https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/agriculture/brooding-and-space-requirements-for-poultry-2-502/>

Practical Feeding Methods for Small Poultry Flocks

<https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/agriculture/practical-feeding-methods-for-small-poultry-flocks-2-503/>

Raising Poultry, the Organic Way – Disease Control and Feeding

<https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/agriculture/raising-poultry-the-organic-way-disease-control-and-feeding-2-507/>

Raising Poultry, the Organic Way – Management and Production

<https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/agriculture/raising-poultry-the-organic-way-management-and-production-2-508/>

Sanitation and Disease Prevention for Poultry

<https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/agriculture/sanitation-and-disease-prevention-for-poultry-2-512/>

Vaccination Program for Chickens in Colorado

<https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/agriculture/vaccination-program-for-chickens-in-colorado-2-501/>



Grow & Give

Modern Victory Garden Project

The Colorado Master Gardener program has started a new program “Grow & Give, Modern Victory Garden Project”. If you have never raised a garden or you are new to Colorado, their website provides all the information you need to get started and be successful. They are encouraging gardeners to grow for their families but to give part of their bounty with others.

<https://cmg.extension.colostate.edu/grow-give/>

Spring Small Acreage Tasks

Spring weed management

With the warm weather and precipitation, the winter annual weeds are beginning to grow. Currently, they are easy to hand pull or hoe or till. The small seedlings are also very susceptible to organic herbicides as well as synthetic herbicides.

A lot of the weeds that are growing now are in the mustard family, but you will also see cheatgrass, prickly lettuce and kochia starting to pop up. Any method you can use to prevent these weeds from growing and adding more

seeds to your soil will reduce your weeds in the future.

If you see rosettes of biennial weeds, you can undercut and pop them out of the ground or spot spray them with either an organic or synthetic herbicide.

Before spraying weeds, be sure that you have the correct herbicide for the job. Different weeds are managed by different herbicides. Spraying with the wrong herbicide will not only keep you from getting success but may cause damage to desired plants.

Spring pasture management –

The cool season grasses have taken advantage of the precipitation and the warmer temperatures and are growing. Livestock should not be allowed to graze now. You need to wait until the grasses are 6 – 8” tall before you let them out to graze again. I know it is tempting but you need to care for your grass plants just the same as you would your grasses. The grasses need this time to grow leaf surface area so that they can produce enough energy for growth and storage.

Reseeding –

You still have time to reseed until the end of April.

Water –

Now is the time to clean out your ditch so when the water starts flowing it is not impeded.

Plans and priorities –

Take any extra time at home to do planning, cleaning and repairs. Are there areas of your property that you really want to get the weeds managed or maybe you’d like to convert them into a more natural area to provide pollinator habitat?

COVID 19

I suspect that you have been getting inundated with COVID 19 information, but I wanted to provide some information for those who own livestock.

I’m sure you’ve been hearing various reports about animals and COVID 19. To get the real story, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/covid-19/sars-cov-2-animals-including-pets> and the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital

<http://veterinaryextension.colostate.edu/> and FDA <https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/outbreaks-and-advisories/animal-health-safety-and-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19> have the best and most accurate information. Please check their websites for information and recommendations.

For those of you who have livestock and are wondering what else you need to know, please read the other documents attached.



Rabies

So far two skunks and one mountain lion have been confirmed to have rabies in Larimer County this year. Pueblo County has a report of a bull with rabies. To date no rabies cases have been reported in Boulder County and we only had 3 positive bats in 2019.

Rabies: Not Just a Risk to Your Animals

By Nicolette Ahrens, former 4-H Livestock Agent, Boulder county Extension

Imagine you walk out to feed your horses, just like you do every day. You notice right away that one of them tries to eat but can't seem to swallow or chew quite right. Otherwise, he is walking normal and looks bright eyed and healthy. You walk up to check out his mouth and brush your hand around his gums and teeth looking for a sticker or piece of lodged food. You find nothing. Then you lean your ear against his side to check for gut sounds and all seems normal. So, you decide to watch him for a bit longer. Thirty minutes later, he still can't eat right and now he might even be walking funny, so you decide to call the vet.

By the time the vet arrives, your horse is now wobbly on his feet and looks depressed and uninterested in anything. The vet suspects West Nile or EHV-1 (equine herpes virus), common neurological diseases. You load up your horse carefully in the trailer and head up to the CSU vet hospital. Tests soon rule out West Nile and EHV-1. Within hours, your horse can no longer stand and is soon put down. The vet hospital decides to check for rabies, which means submitting your horse's head to the local public health laboratory.

A few days later, you receive a call confirming rabies and asking for the names of everyone who interacted with the horse. Each person deemed at risk, is required to begin rabies vaccination with includes five shots over 30 days and can cost around \$3,000.¹ On top of it all, your property is now quarantined for the next 60 days, so no humans or animals can come or go from your property.



Rabies is a fatal viral disease that is shed in the saliva usually a few days prior to the development of clinical signs. Horses can become infected by encountering a rabid wild animal. Their curiosity may lead to them being bit usually on the muzzle, head or lower limb. The virus spreads to the central nervous system causing severe inflammation of the brain and eventually will shed in the saliva of the horse. What makes it such a big concern is that rabies is zoonotic, meaning it can be spread to humans. The cost and risk to humans is significant especially when you look at how the disease progresses and shows up. Signs are widely variable and often the first sign is just a change in behavior, which is the sign for almost all other diseases. Rabies can very easily be confused with other neurological diseases such as EHV-1, tetanus, West Nile, botulism, and Western Encephalomyelitis as well as lead poisoning or head trauma. The one sign that sets it apart is how fast the disease progresses, usually resulting in death within two to four days, maybe up to two weeks with support care.

Another tricky part about rabies is that it can only be tested for after the animal is dead and there is no treatment once the horse shows clinical signs. Therefore, vets will check for all other diseases first, but keep rabies in mind because of the risk for human exposure. The good news is how preventable rabies can be by vaccinating. The American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) considers rabies a

core vaccine. Rabies has also become a greater risk in our area and something worth considering. Before 2007, a form of rabies associated in skunks has not been seen in Colorado. Since then, it has spread from Eastern Colorado and to the Front Range. Last year in 2013, 24 animals tested positive for rabies in Boulder County, including 9 skunks.

You can also limit your chances by not attracting skunks and other wildlife. Tightly seal all trash cans and feed bins, feed your pets indoors, keep outdoor pets in a fenced area, and do not feed, touch or adopt wild animals.

The story above is not unrealistic as something similar has happened to others before. If you are not vaccinating for rabies, take the time to talk to your vet about what is the best choice for your specific situation. Check out the [Colorado State University Extension Fact Sheet, "Rabies in Horses: Should Horses be Vaccinated in Colorado?"](#) for more information.

References:

1. Shwiff, Stephanie A.; Sterner, Ray T.; Jay, Michele T.; Parikh, Shefali; Bellomy, Amy; Meltzer, Martin I.; Rupprecht, Charles E.; and Slate, Dennis, "Direct and Indirect Costs of Rabies Exposure: A Retrospective Study in Southern California (1998 – 2002)" (2007). USDA National Wildlife Research Center - Staff Publications. Paper 719.

Biosecurity for Small Acreages

By Sharon Bokan, Small Acreage Coordinator

The following information comes from the United State Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. While some of the information sounds scary and extreme, there are some simple, practical steps that you can take to help keep you and your animals safe and healthy.

Another step to take during this time is if you are sick to have someone else take care of your animals if possible. If this is not possible, make sure that you wear the recommended personal protective equipment.

The 2 key elements for biosecurity are "Keep It Clean" and "Keep It Away".

Keep It Clean

1. Wash hands thoroughly before entering area and handling animals and after handling animals, especially those that are showing symptoms.
2. Clean and disinfect on routine basis any and all equipment that comes in contact with your animals or their waste. Prior to disinfecting equipment remove dirt and manure. If you borrow tools or equipment (not a great idea) clean and disinfect them prior to bringing onto your property.
3. Disinfect shoes on a routine basis. Again, remove dirt and manure prior to cleaning and disinfecting. Preferably keep a separate pair of shoes to use when working with animals. Disinfect shoes after visiting another property prior to returning to your property.
4. Wear clothes that you only use for working with animals. If you visit another facility take along clothing (such as coveralls, overalls) that you can remove when you leave the property. Wash and change clothes prior to working with your animals.
5. When caring for livestock, take care of healthy animals first and then work your way to ill animals. Use separate equipment for ill animals and disinfect when you are done caring for them. Clean and disinfect clothing including shoes/boots worn when caring for ill animals before wearing again.

Keep It Away

1. The best treatment is prevention. Do not allow other animal owners to visit your animals is the best policy. However, this may not be practical. If they do visit, consider providing overalls and overshoes for them to wear. Also, they should wash their hands prior to handling your animals. Have separate boots or boot covers, clothing for visitors. Have them park away from the barn if possible, if not provide a way for them to disinfect their vehicle tires and shoes (i.e. farriers and veterinarians).
2. Keep your animal vaccinations up to date and check on the vaccinations of any facility you visit.
3. Use your own trailer to move your animals if possible and don't transport your animals with others. If you must ship your animals, make sure that the trailer is properly disinfected after each use.
4. Don't share equipment or tack.
5. Keep your animals away from others as much as possible.
6. Don't let strangers pet your animals.
7. Before you leave a show grounds, clean and disinfect tack, boots, etc.
8. Animals returning to the property after being at a show or fair should be isolated for at least 2 weeks.
9. New animals to a property should be isolated for at least 30 days. Use separate tools for the new animal. Tools should be marked (i.e. Red paint or tape) so that they are only used for the isolation area. The new animal/s should be worked last or clean and change clothes prior to working with other horses. Wash hands and blow nose after working with the new horse.

Disinfectants

Household bleach - Mix 1-part bleach to 10 parts water (3/4 cup bleach per gallon of water). For metal equipment, bleach is corrosive so after disinfecting you may want to rinse off the bleach. Bleach solutions are not effective when dirt and manure are on the equipment so either clean equipment first or use a disinfectant that works when dirt and manure are present.

Spray disinfectants - Make sure the label indicates that it will kill both virus and bacteria. Waterless hand sanitizers - Very portable and easy to use away from home. Make sure to work under nails and around fingers.

Other disinfectants - when using other disinfectants, please read and use according to the label. These work well for disinfecting trailers and tires on vehicles and equipment and in foot baths. Some product names are One Stroke Environ® and Tek-trol®.

You might consider setting up a disinfecting station prior to entering your barn and stable area. Provide a way to disinfect vehicle tires (drive through or spray on system) and shoes (a simple footbath as follows) or disposable shoe covers and overalls. A foot bath can be a low plastic basin large enough to fit an adult size shoe but easy to step in and out of. Inside place a plastic doormat (the ones that are "fake grass" work well). The disinfectant should be deep enough so that the "grass" is wet. Then put in the disinfectant, one that works when shoes have dirt or manure on them is the best. Visitors can step in and wipe their feet and then step out. When the liquid begins to look brown, replace it.

These protocols apply to all livestock. So, the bottom line is to not panic but be vigilant and do what you can to help protect your animals and

yourself. Take similar precautions that you would during flu and cold season.

For more information, please see the references below.

References:

Colorado Department of Agriculture

<http://www.colorado.gov/ag>

USDA – APHIS

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahss/equine/ehv/>

Colorado State University

<http://veterinaryextension.colostate.edu/>

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