

Boulder County Small Acreage Management Newsletter



Spring 2021

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

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From the SAM Coordinator

It's been great to see the moisture that we have received this year. We are currently experiencing our 9th snowiest season. Hopefully, we'll continue to see precipitation the rest of the year.

We have a new resource for experienced and new small acreage, "Boulder County Rural Living Resource Guide".

Stay safe and healthy.

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 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.





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 below normal in precipitation.

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

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/>

If you are interested in tracking the snowpack, you can check out the Natural Resources Conservations Service Snowtel website. On the site you can track the snowpack in the various river basins and many other features. https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/co/snow/products/data/?cid=nrcs144p2_063094

Coming events and workshops

There is one more webinar in the "Invasives 101" webinar series. This last webinar is on aquatic nuisance species. We will post the links to the presentations after the series is complete.

Free, registration required.

May 5 - Colorado's Aquatic Nuisance Species
*Robert Walters, Invasive Species Specialist,
Colorado Parks and Wildlife*

Register: <http://bit.ly/Invsp>

Presented by the Front Range Invasive Species Campaign



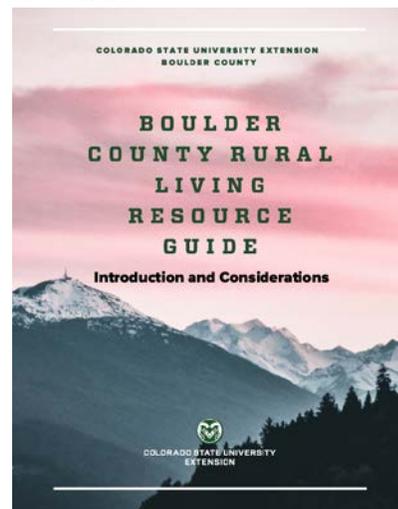
Grow and Give returns for 2021

GENERAL PROGRAM DETAILS:

Grow & Give: *Learn to grow food. Share the Harvest.*

- New Website: <http://GrowAndGiveColorado.org>
- [Register to Grow & Give](#) (open to anyone!)

New! Boulder County Rural Living Resource Guide



After several years, we finally have the “Boulder County Rural Living Resource Guide” complete and posted on our website. The guide provides prospective or existing rural property owners with resources to assist them in managing their properties. The Resource Guide along with the “Purchasing Rural Property in Colorado” check list gives prospective small acreage rural landowners resources they can use in deciding if they want to purchase a rural property or which property to purchase. Both resources are posted on the Boulder County Extension website.

<https://boulder.extension.colostate.edu/natural-resources-wildlife-rural-properties-pasture/>

The Guide is broken up into sections, so you don't need to download the whole guide just the sections you want.

Introduction and Considerations

Codes and Policies

Water, Sewer and Utilities

Agriculture

Livestock

Emergencies and Disaster

Wildlife, Pollinators and Windbreaks

Gardening

Home and Food

Local Resources

FEMA Emergency Financial First Aid Kit

We all need to be prepared for disasters and emergencies. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has a tool kit to help you get ready.

<https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/emergency-financial-first-aid-kit>

Extension Office Information

The Boulder County Extension Office is closed for the foreseeable future. The office was damaged when a fire sprinkler pipe broke in the ceiling. It is estimated that it will take 6 months to repair the damage and the office will remain closed during that time. The office may reopen

in September if work is complete. If you need assistance, please reach out to us by phone or e-mail. 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 helps. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions and I will do my best to assist you.

Spring Small Acreage Tasks

Weed management

The winter annuals are growing so now is the time to manage them. Small young plants can be hoed, or hand pulled or sprayed with an herbicide either organic or synthetic. If you hoe or hand pull, remove the seedlings as they may re-root if left on the ground You can undercut and remove the first season rosettes of biennial weeds.

As always, identify your weed and then determine what are the methods you can use to manage the weed, the best herbicide to use and the growth stage to spray for maximum effect.

Pasture management –

Animals should not be grazing until the grasses are at least 6” tall.

Reseeding –

You have until April 30th to reseed.

Water –

When you can get water start irrigating.

Plans and priorities –

If you are thinking about fertilizing, First your soil test samples and get them sent to the lab. Fertilizing based on a soil test is better than guessing what you need. This is especially important if you hay the field and remove the hay from the property. A soil test tells you if you are missing some micronutrients. Missing micronutrients affects the health of your plants similar to the macronutrients such as nitrogen.



Livestock Emergencies

Sara Spensieri, Animal Control Supervisor,
Boulder County Sheriff's Office

Boulder County Animal Control, under the direction of the Boulder County Sheriff, services and protects all unincorporated areas of Boulder County. **We want you to be prepared in case of an emergency or disaster situation.** You may be asking what emergency could happen besides a wildland fire? Well, after a fire torches the landscape, then we prepare for spring flash flooding. Emergency management thinks about all naturally occurring events such as tornados, earthquakes, extended rains/flooding (remember 2013?) and blizzards. We are also aware of the worst-case scenarios like sun flares that would completely knock out the power grid or a terrorist that introduces a chemical, nuclear or biological substance into the agricultural heartland. Any of those events could be devastating to a family, ranch, business and the animal community.



DO YOU HAVE A PLAN FOR EMERGENCIES IN YOUR BARN?

When a disaster occurs, you may be stuck or quarantined on your property. If you need to shelter in place, do you have enough food, water and supplies on the property for both people and animals to sustain at least 72 hours on your own? That is the average response time nationally before local authorities can assist you.

There may be a need to evacuate your animals to a safer location. Do you have a safe place to take them? Animal Control utilizes the Boulder County Fairgrounds to house livestock animals in disaster situations, but room and resources can be limited. Perhaps you can make an agreement with a friend with property or another facility who can temporarily house and care for your animals. If you have a contingency plan in place before an emergency occurs than you can ensure the safety of your animals.



THINGS TO CONSIDER

- *Get emergency messages and evacuation alerts for imminent threats and hazards by text message, email, and/or your cell, home or work phone. Sign up at www.boco911alert.com*
- Do you have horse or stock trailers on site for transporting? Do you have enough trailer room for all the animals? Can all the horses or llamas be haltered and loaded into a trailer safely? Do you have crates or boxes for smaller livestock such as rabbits and chickens? And don't forget to take your companion animals with you in the truck too!
- Do you have registration, brand inspection papers, photos, medical records, medications and a first aid kit ready to go?
- Do you have everyday items such as fly spray, blankets, brushes, hoof care tools, treats, tack, muck buckets and rakes and water pails?
- Local and real time information about emergencies and disasters in Boulder County can be found on this website: <https://www.boulderoem.com/> You can click the big red box that says 'EMERGENCY UPDATES.' Check for their frequent social

media posts on Facebook and Twitter @BoulderOEM.

- Boulder County Animal Control has some information on their webpage, including a HOOFF form. Those forms are collected and entered into a secure database that is only accessed by Sheriff's Office employees to try and identify livestock in a certain area. This can be helpful with evacuations and also stray or found animals.
<https://www.bouldercounty.org/safety/animals/animal-control/>
- A great resource for information is CSU Cooperative Extension website: <https://extension.colostate.edu/> and look under wildfire in Natural Resource publications. There you will find [Wildfire-preparedness-for-horse-owners](#). This publication highlights and explains the need for a preparedness plan. This talks about horses, but can be tweaked for other companion livestock such as alpacas, cows, goats, etc.
- The Colorado Department of Agriculture has information on emergency preparedness and response here: <https://ag.colorado.gov/animals/emergency-preparedness-and-response>
- The United States Department of Agriculture has more information on preparedness and response for Foreign Animal Disease <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/emergency-management>

If you have questions, please call Animal Control through dispatch at 303-441-4444. Or, you can email me directly at sspensieri@bouldercounty.org .



Seed labels

We are told to read labels and instructions on just about everything we purchase whether it is a new cell phone, food or pesticide. This is also the case with seed. If you purchase your seed from a reputable dealer, then you can be assured that the information on the package and the seed in the package meets certain requirements. You may have noticed the information on the seed bag but didn't know what it meant. State law, federal law and either Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA) or the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) manage seed testing requirements.

Seed must go through several tests to ensure quality prior to sale. Once seed has been harvested, collected and cleaned to remove unwanted materials and weed or other crop seed, a representative working sample is removed for testing. If this sample is not representative, then all information gained from testing is suspect. The AOSA in their "Rules for Testing Seeds" define how samples are to be taken.

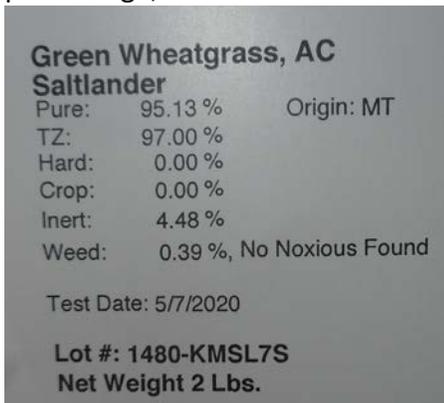
Standard tests that are performed on seed samples are purity and germination. In a purity test, the submitted working sample is divided down into two portions – the purity and the

noxious samples. The purity sample consists of at least 2,500 pure seed units (a unit can either be a single seed such as a cucumber seed, a multiple seeded capsule such as a beet, or multiple grass seed floret). This portion is sorted through by hand to separate out the pure seed from inert material such as rock, plant stems or leaves, weed seeds and other crop (such as wheat in squash seed or corn in bean) seed. In the case of a grass mix, the individual species are also separated out. All portions are weighed and the percentage of each is calculated and recorded. The noxious sample must consist of at least 25,000 seed units. This sample is only examined for any weed seed that it contains with particular emphasis placed on any noxious weed seed. The federal government and each state have a list of weed seeds not permitted in any seed sold or it may put a limit on how many of the weed seeds it allows per pound of desired seed. This is the reason why obtaining a representative sample is critical. All of this information is placed on a certificate and usually on the seed packaging. It often looks like this –

Kentucky Bluegrass	50%
Annual Ryegrass	25%
Creeping Red Fescue	21%
Inert material	2%
Weed seed	1%
Other crop	1%

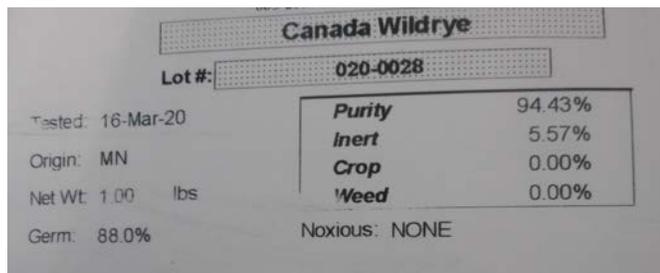
Germination tests are the next test. In this test, 400 pure seed units are pulled from the sample and placed on media and placed in a germinator. Depending on the type of seed, the media on which it is placed varies along with the temperature, light or dark conditions and the length of time the test is run to optimize germination. Tables have been developed listing species and the optimum media type, temperature and test length for the most commonly tested species. Germination tests

are repeated if all the seed is not sold in one year. If the germination falls below a certain percentage, the seed lot must not be sold.



What you might also see on the label is PLS (Pure Live Seed). This is the percentage of pure seed units in a seed lot that have the potential to germinate and produce viable seedlings. It is calculated by multiplying the percent germination by the percent pure seed and dividing by 100.

It is not possible to remove all weed seed from seed lots but through cleaning and testing, the weed seed is minimized. So next time you purchase seed, take time to read the label.



Integrated Pest Management

It doesn't matter if your pest is wildlife, insect, fungi or a weed, Integrated Pest Management, IPM, can help you manage the pest. Integrated Pest Management is a system that provides management "tools" to reduce or eliminate the pest. The IPM "tools" are Prevention (often combined into Cultural), Cultural, Mechanical, Biological and Chemical.

Prevention is doing all you can to keep a pest from entering your property. For weeds, this means purchasing good seed with minimal weed seeds, not bringing weed seeds onto the property via hay, RV's, vehicles or shoes. For insects or other biological pests, try not to bring them home in new plants or other vegetative material. Keep your property clean and don't do anything that might attract wildlife (i.e. feeding birds, leaving dog or cat food out). Isolate new livestock and those animals taken offsite for fairs and shows for at least two weeks before integrating them back with your other animals. Preventing livestock's exposure to wildlife and their feces limits disease spread. Limit visitor access to your property for both plants and livestock. Visitors that have crops or livestock similar to yours can bring diseases from their property to yours. Wearing clothing specific to your property when taking care of your property and not wearing the same clothing that you visited your neighbors in, greatly reduces the chances of bringing something unwanted onto your property.

The Cultural "tool" is keeping your plants and livestock healthy, so they are less vulnerable. When we are not getting enough sleep or eating well and are stressed is when we are most likely to get sick. The same holds for plants and livestock. Not over grazing pastures, providing proper nutrients through fertilization and adequate water reduces stress on plants and keeps them healthier. For livestock, following recommended vaccination and health care protocols as well as providing proper nutrition, shelter and water and limiting stress maintains your animal's health.

Mechanical "tools" for plants involve hand pulling, mowing, weed whacking, plowing, basically any physical method that reduces the plant's height or removes vegetation to stress the plant or removes the plant. Mowing must

be done before the plant has developed seed otherwise you just spread the seed. For livestock, this consists of fly tapes, harrowing pastures after grazing to break up manure, brushes and rollers for animals to rub against. For wildlife, this includes fencing or netting areas where you don't want wildlife to have access or use of motion activated sprinklers to scare them away.

The biological "tool" is using a biological agent such as an insect, bacteria or fungi to harm the pest. This is something like mites for bindweed or a fungus for Canada thistle or *Bacillus thuringiensis ssp. israelensis* for mosquito larvae. It could also be goats eating undesirable weeds in your pasture. In some cases, biological control may involve using one insect against another such as the parasitic nematodes or wasps to manage other insects.

Chemical "tool" is using a chemical whether it is naturally produced, or man made to manage the pest. Insecticides can be chemically produced such as malathion or a naturally occurring one such as a pyrethrin which comes from chrysanthemums. For weeds, organic pesticides include acetic acid which is the chemical in vinegar. The percentage of acetic acid in vinegar is 3 – 5% while the herbicide version is 20 – 30% acetic acid. Other organic herbicides are capric acid, citrus, and clove or cinnamon oil or ammonium nonanoate (Biosafe product). This method also includes insecticides, antibiotics and vaccines for livestock. Wildlife repellants such as putrescent egg solids or blood meal or Milorganite™ to act as an odor deterrent.

Using as many of these "tools" as you can helps you manage those pests on your property.

Varying and using as many of the IPM tools also helps prevent the pest from getting accustomed to one method and just ignoring it or becoming resistant to it. This has happened with the continued use of only one herbicide to manage certain weeds.

Place your SAM related classified ad or print advertisement here!

Classified Advertising Rates are as follows:
General Public, Individual: \$5 per year
General Public, Business/Show: \$10 per year

Email Sharon Bokan for more details
sbokan@bouldercounty.org