



# Boulder County Small Acreage Management Newsletter

Summer 2015

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

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### **From the SAM Coordinator**

This has definitely been an interesting year weather wise. Forage is abundant but so are the weeds. I have seen more poison hemlock and moth mullein on site visits than ever before. Both are biennials so make sure you keep them from going to seed. I hope that you have a weed management plan and are keeping more seeds from making it into the soil.

If you haven't had the opportunity to check out the Grass, Crop and Pollinator Demonstration Plots on the Fairgrounds, I hope you will take the opportunity, perhaps during the County Fair. You can stop by our main office for a map and list of seeds.

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](mailto: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 below normal in temperature and above normal in precipitation.

[http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long\\_range/seasonal.php?lead=1](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.

We are just in the process of planning some tours for this fall.

The first is a series of tours of some grazing management work we have been doing. This is a continuation of the work we did prior to the grazing workshop we held last May. The tentative dates are Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> Jefferson County, 17<sup>th</sup> Boulder County and 22<sup>nd</sup> Larimer County. More details to follow.

We will also be holding an Open House for the Grass, Crop and Pollinator Demonstration Plots. No date has been chosen yet but probably in September. We hope to have representatives from the seed companies there and of course we (NRCS, Longmont and Boulder Valley Conservation Districts and CSU Extension Boulder County) will be there to answer questions.

I will send out more information as we get these events planned.

## Pesticide Safety

I hope that you are all reading the labels on your pesticides before you use them. One of the things you might not think about when using pesticides is laundering the clothing you wore when applying the pesticides.

If you used disposable gloves or Tyvek coveralls, before you dispose of them, render them unusable by cutting off fingers on gloves or cutting in several places on the coveralls to discourage re-use. If you can use something to cover up the seat in your vehicle on your drive home, that is the best and washes your hands before touching the wheel.

When you get home, take your boots off outside and store them where children and pets can't access them. Take a shower and change clothes before interacting with your family. Store your soiled personal protective equipment (PPE) in a separate area. The clothing should be laundered after each use. Do not wash them with your other clothing. Whoever is doing the laundry should wear gloves when loading the pesticide contaminated clothing. Do not pack the clothing tightly in the washer. Do a pre wash and soak with hot water and use the longest cycle with the highest water level and an extra rise cycle with hot water. Use a heavy duty liquid detergent. Using starch or a repellent (such as Scotch guard<sup>®</sup>) can help with future use. Line drying is better than using a dryer.

Do not wash boots or gloves in the washing machine but do wash them with hot soapy water. The same goes for any hats you may wear. Do not use the dishwasher to wash your hat.

Clean the washing machine by running an empty load and adding bleach to the cycle. If you have an old agitator machine, they work better than the new high efficiency machines since they use more water that removes contaminants better than the new machines.

Clean both your car and floors and vacuum carpets often to clean up dust and residues you may carry home.

## Weed Management

With all the precipitation we have received this year, there are a lot more weeds and more of certain weeds that we normally don't see too many. I have seen more moth mullein, poison hemlock this year than normal. There is also an abundance of common mullein and thistles this year. Poison hemlock is poisonous to both livestock and humans.

The poison hemlock, common and moth mullein, scotch and musk thistle are all biennials so the key to managing them is keep them from going to seed. You can do this by undercutting and flipping the rosette out of the ground, cutting off the seed head prior to seed production, or using an herbicide either an organic or synthetic. Please contact our office for weed management recommendations.

## Pasture Management

Most properties have plenty of forage this year. That still doesn't mean that you can over graze. You need to leave at least 4" of stubble at all times in your pastures. You also should be rotating between pastures and giving grazed pastures at least 28 days between grazing.

If your grasses out grew the ability for your livestock to graze, you can mow the grass and wait for re-growth. The re-growth will be much more palatable for the livestock.

## Disease Update

**HPAI** – We did not have any cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza this spring during the wild bird migration. We are gearing up for the fall migration. We are still collecting names and locations of flocks in case of an outbreak. The list will not be shared with anyone unless there is an outbreak a then only with the Colorado Department of Agriculture. The information will be used to contact poultry owners and provide them information on preventing the virus from affecting their flock.

The best method for prevention is good biosecurity practices such as keeping your flock from having contact with wild birds, washing and wearing different clothing to handle your flock after visiting another flock and keeping your flock healthy.

**Vesicular Stomatitis** - So far this year eight counties have reported VS cases. They are as follows and mostly located on the western slope.

Archuleta County 5 premises

Chaffee County 1 premises

Delta County 10 premises

La Plata County 5 premises

Larimer County 11 premises

Las Animas County 0 premises (Quarantine released)

Mesa County 3 premises

Montezuma County 4 premises

Montrose County 14 premises

**Rabies** – There have been several cases of wild animals with confirmed rabies. Making sure that your livestock is vaccinated against rabies is the best way to protect your livestock.

**Tularemia** – Several cases of tularemia in humans have occurred this year. The disease is carried by fleas and ticks on various rodents such as rabbits. If you find a dead rabbit on your property, pick it up with a shovel and double bag it to dispose of it. When you are mowing your property, wear an N95 (particulate mask available at local hardware and other

stores) to avoid inhaling the bacteria (just in case you run over an infected carcass).

**Plague** - One fatality has occurred in Larimer County this year. Be careful when working around wildlife dens and burrow entrances. The plague is carried by fleas and ticks that live on the wildlife. The fleas and ticks can survive for a week or more once the wildlife is no longer around the den or entrance. Keep pets and children from playing around dens and holes. Since the plague is an introduced disease, prairie dogs have no resistance and a colony will rapidly die from the disease.

**Hantavirus** – Any time you are cleaning out an area that has been infested with rodents, you need to take precautions against Hantavirus. We have information on how to clean an area safely. You want to disinfect the area and just the same as using pesticides, launder any clothing separately and wear proper protective equipment.

**West Nile Virus** – The best protection against West Nile Virus is to wear an insect repellent with DEET and to avoid early morning and late evening hours when mosquitoes are most active. Also treat ponds with larvicide such as bacillus thuringiensis and empty other areas where water collects such as that pail you left outside.

## **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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