

<http://goldenplains.colostate.edu>
<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/>

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SEPTEMBER 2014

**CSU Extension Hosting Natural Gas
Symposium Viewing Session**

Dennis Kaan, Golden Plains Area Director
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CSU Extension will be hosting live online viewing sessions of CSU's 4th annual Natural Gas Symposium on September 24 from 8:15am – 12pm at Extension offices in Akron, Julesburg and Holyoke. The viewing session will live stream two panels focused on the big picture of oil and gas development in Colorado and what the community and industry need to know about each other. Speakers include the Vice President of Oil and Gas for General Electric, a Vice President for Noble Energy, a Boulder County Commissioner, and a Regional Director for the Environmental Defense Fund. Questions can be submitted during the presentations by attendees at the viewing sessions, and attendees will also have a chance to comment on a CSU white paper on the State of Oil and Natural Gas Development.

Viewing session attendees can attend as much or as little of the morning as they choose, but are asked to register in advance. Registration is free and light refreshments will be provided. For more information on the Natural Gas Symposium and viewing session, visit <http://naturalgas.colostate.edu/live-streaming-sessions/>

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

8:15 AM – 12 PM

PHILLIPS COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

22505 U.S. Hwy 385, Holyoke, CO

SEDGWICK COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

315 Cedar St., Julesburg, CO

WASHINGTON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

181 Birch, Akron CO

LIVESTOCK

Before You Buy Feed

Chris Shelley, GPA Livestock Extension Agent (chris.shelley@colostate.edu)

When forage enters dormancy this fall and winter, many producers purchase feedstuffs for animal consumption. If you are planning to buy livestock feed there are some things you should know that could save you money. Feedstuff purchases can make up a large majority of the costs associated with livestock production.

Livestock do not have a requirement for alfalfa, corn, or even grass. What they do need are the nutrients contained in them. By thinking about nutrients rather than feedstuffs, we can more effectively purchase feedstuffs and feed livestock. There are six nutrients that all livestock species need. They are water, carbohydrates, protein, fat, vitamins and minerals.

In most situations, you will have a choice on what feeds are available for purchase. It can be difficult to know what to buy and what your animals will need. A consultation with your county extension office can help you determine what nutrients your animals need and how much. Finding the animal requirements is the first step in any livestock-feeding situation.

After you know what nutrients you need, the next step is to see which feedstuff has those nutrients and at what price. Common feeds such as corn and alfalfa both have protein, but how much protein do they have and what is the price of the protein? Research has shown that nutrient concentration of feeds can vary dramatically, especially in by-product feeds. However, there are several methods to determine which nutrients your feed has and how much.

The visual appearance of the feed may give you an idea of the feed's nutrient content. The

color of the feed is a great starting point. The green color in most hays is a good indicator of Vitamin A content. If hay contains a high amount of stems to leaves, that means the plant was more mature when harvested. This will generally increase the fiber content and decrease the protein. A good visual appraisal will be very valuable in assuring you that no weeds or foreign contaminants are present, that the moisture level is correct, and that there is no mold or mildew. It is important to keep in mind that these are not precise measurements and will not accurately predict nutrient content.

The most reliable and accurate method for assessing nutrients is through laboratory chemical testing. Many feed producers will have their feed analyzed prior to selling it. The tests are affordable and county Extension Offices have resources to help you collect and ship samples.

By breaking down feeds into their respective nutrients, the livestock feeder can then compare "apples to apples". Purchasing nutrients is much easier than purchasing feeds. It can still be difficult to know whether to buy alfalfa with 18 % crude protein at \$195 per ton or alfalfa with 19.5% crude protein at \$202 per ton. Colorado State University Extension has an easy to use feed and mineral calculator available online. Visit the Golden Plains Area Extension website at goldenplains.colostate.edu.

For a free nutritional assessment, contact Chris Shelley at 970-332-4151, chris.shelley@colostate.edu or your local Extension Office.

Farm Bill, Livestock Forage Disaster Program

Chris Shelley, GPA Livestock Extension Agent (chris.shelley@colostate.edu)

The recently released Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill) was passed earlier this year to help in “ensuring that our farmers and ranchers have the tools they need to produce an abundant and affordable food and fiber supply” –Chairman Frank D. Lucas. Many parts of the United States, including Colorado, have seen devastating drought, affecting their ability to produce livestock. The farm bill provides assistance to many drought stricken areas. If your operation saw severe drought over the last several years, this option is available. The following USDA, Farm Service Agency fact sheet explains the Livestock Forage Disaster Program.

USDA, Farm Service Agency Fact Sheet Farm Bill 2014

Overview

The 2014 Farm Bill makes the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) a permanent program and provides retroactive authority to cover eligible losses back to Oct. 1, 2011. LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire. LFP payments for drought are equal to 60 percent of the monthly feed cost for up to five months. LFP payments for fire on federally managed rangeland are equal to 50 percent of the monthly feed cost for the number of days the producer is prohibited from grazing the managed rangeland, not to exceed 180 calendar days. The grazing losses must have occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011.

Sign-up will begin on or before April 15, 2014, at any local Farm Service Agency (FSA) service center. Additional details on the types of information required for an application will be provided as part of the sign-up announcement. Some eligibility restrictions

may apply. Please consult your local FSA office for details.

Eligible Counties for Drought

An eligible livestock producer that owns or leases grazing land or pastureland physically located in a county rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/> as having a:

- D2 (severe drought) in a county for eight consecutive weeks or more during the normal grazing period: assistance equals one monthly payment;
- D3 (extreme drought) in a county anytime during the normal grazing period: assistance equals three monthly payments;
- D3 (extreme drought) in a county for four weeks or more during the normal grazing period or D4 (exceptional drought) anytime during the normal grazing period: assistance equals four monthly payments;
- D4 (exceptional drought) in a county for four weeks (consecutive weeks unnecessary) during the normal grazing period: assistance equals five monthly payments.

Counties eligible for LFP assistance can be found at fsa.usda.gov. The Drought Mitigation Center has developed a tool to assist producers in determining potential LFP eligibility that may be found at:

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/fsa/FsaEligibilityCounty.aspx>

Additional information regarding LFP or other FSA programs can be found by visiting a nearby FSA Service Center or online at fsa.usda.gov.

AGRONOMY

Should I Treat My Wheat Seed?

D. Bruce Bosley, Extension Agent/Cropping Systems (bruce.bosley@colostate.edu)
RF Meyer, Golden Plains Area Extension Agronomist (RF.meyer@colostate.edu)

Seed Treatments Strongly Recommended for 2014 Wheat Crop –

Common Bunt (Stinking Smut) became an issue in some wheat growing areas in Eastern Colorado last season. The fungal disease infects seed at germination and the infection becomes systemic resulting in wheat seed produced that has poor quality. In some cases, smut infected wheat was not marketable. Characteristics include a strong fish odor in grain with darkened kernels.

As the wheat planting season approaches, it is recommended that growers treat seed with a fungicide before planting. Seed treatments control seed-transmitted diseases that lower yield and grain quality. These diseases include common bunt (also known as stinking smut) and loose smut.

The fungi that cause these two diseases infect seed or seedlings and grow within the plant until heading, at which time they invade the developing kernels and replace them with fungal spores. Common bunt in particular can lead to 100% loss because grain elevators sometimes will not accept common bunted grain. This year several growers who had common bunt in their grain were not able to sell it.

Another group of seed-transmitted diseases causes root and crown rots and seedling blights. The fungi that cause these diseases infect grain during the heading and grain maturation stages. If grain affected by these fungi is not treated with a fungicide and is used as seed, severe root and crown rots and seedling blights can occur. Together with soilborne fungi that cause damping off, damage can result in uneven stands and bare patches in wheat fields.

Benefits of treating wheat seed before planting

- A good stand establishment and healthy and vigorous seedlings optimize the opportunity for high yields.
- Diseases such as common bunt that lower grain quality and can lead to 100% loss are controlled.
- Root and crown rot diseases, seedling blights, and damping off which result in uneven stands and bare patches in fields are controlled.
- If systemic fungicides are used to treat seed, additional protection from fall foliar diseases is provided.

Treating seed

Controlling Stinking Smut can be accomplished by purchasing certified treated seed or using a commercial seed conditioner to clean and treat seed. Seed treated on-farm prior to planting is also a very good option. Thorough seed coverage with the treatment is essential and maximizes seed treatment effectiveness. Most seed treatments on the market labeled for fungal diseases do a very good job protecting fields from Stinking Smut.

Due to the increased prevalence of seed-transmitted diseases this year, it is highly recommended that certified, treated seed be planted for next season's crop. If farmer-saved or bin-run seed must be used, it should be thoroughly cleaned and treated with fungicide before planting. It is also important to know that treated seed be planted and never delivered to elevators.

For more information, contact Bruce Bosley on this or other cropping systems or natural resource topics by my cell phone: (970)768-6449 or via email: bruce.bosley@colostate.edu.

Extension programs are available to all without discrimination. If you have a disability for which you seek an accommodation, please

notify Bruce Bosley ten or more days before the event.

Reference: Stephen Wegulo, Nebraska's Extension Wheat Plant Pathologist

RANGE MANAGEMENT

Late-Season Pasture Management

Casey Matney, Range Extension Specialist (casey.matney@colostate.edu)

Rangeland conditions going into September are still looking good compared to previous years. Much of the range right now could be considered in fair to good condition. Blue grama and other warm season grasses are receiving enough moisture in northeast Colorado that in some pastures, grass growth is outpacing consumption by cattle. With this abundant growth of forage, there are some good opportunities this late summer and fall to do a few things that might improve the health of your pastures.

- Consider grazing a select few healthy pastures a little longer this late summer/fall, as long as forage production within these select pastures remains high. If you do this, you may allow a little extra rest and grass growth in the less productive pastures, which can allow for more grass seed production, root growth, and standing forage that can be used later as the grasses transition into dormancy this fall. More grass seed can mean more young plants next year that can help fill in bare ground areas or compete with weeds. Stronger roots can mean better and more growth next year. And, if you can stockpile some pasture, you may be able to extend the grazing season a little or reduce the need for feeding or supplements a little longer than usual. (With this type of strategy, be careful not to harm the pastures where you are doing the prolonged grazing. Make sure that you leave some residue for thermal cover and to catch snow this

winter. Also, be sure that you leave plant crowns and growing points intact).

- There may be an opportunity to collect some grass seed to use this fall or next spring. The last two previous years were not especially great for grass seed production. However, this year many species of grass are producing abundant seed. Take advantage of this opportunity by collecting dry and mature seeds by hand from the pasture, placing them in a paper bag, and storing the seeds in a cool dry area away from sunlight. If you have the right equipment, you may be able to harvest the seed using machinery. The seeds can be dormant seeded into the pasture this fall/winter, or if well stored, they can be seeded next spring.
- Consider cutting some suitable productive pastures and doing swath/windrow grazing or putting up hay. Cutting the forage and storing the grass in this way can preserve crude protein values, rather than letting the grass wither on the stem in the pasture. This is an option for pastures with taller grasses that do not have an abundance of weeds. (Note – when weeds are mixed in windrows or hay, grazing animals are not able to easily select the good grass forage from the undesirable weeds, increasing the risk animals ingesting toxic plants that they would not normally consume.) It's also only for areas where access with equipment and tractors are not difficult. Fuel costs,

equipment needs, risk of deep snow, and your fall/winter grazing plan should be considered before making any decisions to start swath/windrow grazing. Make sure that grazing and feed storage plans are conservative and made with the worst-case

winter scenario in mind. If you are unsure of the quality of your feed, test it. Knowing the nutritional content of your winter feed will help you make decisions that are more economical

HORTICULTURE

Catnip, Not Just for Cats!

Linda Langelo, Horticulture Program Associate (linda.langelo@colostate.edu)

Iridodial is a compound extracted “Z,E-nepetalacone” found in catnip oil which was discovered by a chemist Kamal Chauhan and entomologist Jeffrey Aldrich who are researchers at the USDA Agriculture Research Service Lab in Beltsville, Maryland. This compound extracted from catnip oil mimics a pheromone emitted from the abdomen of male lacewings.

What do lacewings do? They are predators who eat mites, aphids and several other garden pests among them are scale, whiteflies, caterpillars, small beetles, leafhoppers, thrips and small flies. Iridodial is an important repellent because lacewing adults are not as readily available for purchase as are their eggs and larvae. Because they eat many small insects as they grow, they are nicknamed, “aphid lions.” They also can eat pollen, nectar and honeydew produced by aphids. They are light green insects with wings that are transparent.

According to the two-year study conducted by these researchers, only 25 milligrams of iridodial is needed for one acre of cropland and

can remain potent for a full month. Other research shows that it takes up to five weeks before iridodial starts degrading. The best advantage is this iridodial is environmentally benign.

According to Aldrich, within the order Neuroptera containing thousands of insects, this is the first discovery of pheromone identification. This may open the door for more beneficial pheromones and natural controls. Other researchers in China through their studies have found that lacewing within their countries is also successfully attracted by iridodial. In China, Russia, Japan and parts of Europe, find the Lacewing, *Chrysopa septempunctata*, rather than *Chrysopa oculata* that is here in the United States when this catnip extract iridodial is used.

Lacewings can be attracted by other plants as well as the compound iridodial. According to Aldrich and Chauhan, plants in the carrot family such as angelica, dill and cilantro attract lacewings. If you want more lacewings in your landscape, add the aforementioned plants and catnip.



Earth-Kind® Roses

Linda Langelo, Horticulture Program Associate (linda.langelo@colostate.edu)

Texas AgriLife Extension Service designates select rose cultivars as Earth-Kind® Roses through the Earth-Kind® Landscape Program. Any rose cultivar that gains this designated title has been through eight years of research and field trial data. A seven member team of doctorate individuals include horticulturists, plant pathologists, soil scientist and an entomologist select the roses. No pesticides, chemical or organic materials are ever applied to the roses during the trial and research period of eight years. The idea is to have landscape roses which are low-maintenance, remain beautiful throughout the season and the homeowner can be environmentally-responsible in caring for the landscape. This is similar to the idea of growing natives in your landscape. The idea being the reduction of the homeowners' input of resources. By making this one change, homeowners can conserve water, fertilizer and reduce their impact on the environment.

In Sedgwick County at the courthouse, we trialed some of the Earth-Kind®Roses. We are trialing four polyantha roses listed as follows:

- Cecile Brunner
- La Marne
- Marie Daly
- Sea Foam

The requirements for growing Earth®Kind Roses successfully are placing them in a full day of direct sun or at least eight hours. They must have good air movement around the leaves to prevent foliar diseases. Good drainage is also recommended. They do well in a variety of soil types including poorly aerated, highly alkaline clay soils. To help your roses in any soil type, add three inches of plant-derived compost. Watering from the soil level with

drip irrigation keeps water off the leaves and conserves water by lessening the amount to evaporation. Also watering from the ground level keeps the leaves clean of “salty” water and here in Sedgwick County we add salt to improve the water quality, but we would add to burning the foliage of the roses if overhead watering were done. Lastly, mulching roses is also recommended which keeps the weeds down, conserves more water, can add nitrogen as it breaks down and mitigates the drastic temperature fluctuations in the soil. Mulch acts as an insulator like a blanket on the soil. Mulch should only be placed around the roses at a depth of 3- inches. Placing the mulch too deep can become a barrier to needed oxygen in the soil.

The Earth®Kind Rose bed which we have at the southwest side of the building follows most of the recommended requirements for their success. They get plenty of air movement, but they do get only about 6 hours of direct sun and about an hour of indirect sun. They also received plenty of compost before planting. There were signs of thrips after they were initially planted. Other than the initial insect problem there was some dieback. Be sure to purchase healthy roses. We pruned out the dead stems and they have been blooming through the season. They have received regular watering from the ground level.

I would recommend giving them a try. There are other types of roses other than polyantha shrubs which are dwarf and medium. There are small shrubs and climbers within the list of choices. Plenty of different types to add to your landscape.

AG MARKET PRICES

Dennis Kaan, Golden Plains Area Director

LIVESTOCK CASH PRICES

Week Ending 8/29/14

		Current ¹	One Month Ago ²	One Year Ago ²
<u>Colorado Auction Feeder Cattle</u>, Medium & Large Frame #1				
Steers, 500-550 lbs	/cwt	No Reports	No Reports	No Reports
Steers, 600-700 lbs	/cwt	due to light	due to light	due to light
Heifers, 500-550 lbs	/cwt	receipts	receipts	receipts
Heifers, 600-650 lbs	/cwt			

Colorado Weekly Weighted Average Direct Slaughter Cattle, FOB the Feedyard After 3-4% Shrink

<u>Live Basis Steer Sales</u>	Hd Count	Wt Range	/cwt	/cwt	/cwt
Over 80% Choice				\$156.00	
65-80% Choice	431	1,373-1,437	\$155.00	\$157.00-157.50	\$120.00 - 120.50
35-65% Choice	808	1,288-1,425	\$153.00-155.00	\$156.00-157.50	\$120.50
0-35% Choice					
<u>Live Basis Heifer Sales</u>					
Over 80% Choice	121	1,300-1,300	\$155.00	\$156.00-157.00	
65-80% Choice	760	1,222-1,325	\$154.00-155.00	\$157.00-157.50	\$116.00 - 117.50
35-65% Choice					
0-35% Choice					

Mountain Area and Western U.S. Direct Sheep Report, Medium and Large 1-2

	Hd Count	Wt Range	/cwt	/cwt	/cwt
Feeder Lambs	13,000	100-120	\$165.00-180.25	\$165.00	No Report
	5,000	85-95	\$190.00	\$165.00	No Report

Hogs, As of 11/18/13

Base Market Hog, 200 lb. Carcass Basis, Plant Delivered

0.9-1.1" Back-Fat, 6.0/2.0 Loin Area/Depth	/cwt	\$86.00-97.95	\$111.00-129.50	\$87.00 - 102.00
Iowa - Minnesota Daily Negotiated Purchases 200 lb Carcass Basis				
1.0" Back-Fat, 6.0/2.0 Loin Area/Depth	/cwt	\$90.00-96.00	\$113.00-129.50	\$94.50 - 98.00
Western Cornbelt Daily Negotiated Purchases 200 lb Carcass Basis				
1.0" Back-Fat, 6.0/2.0 Loin Area/Depth	/cwt	\$90.00-96.00	\$113.00-129.50	\$86.00 - 98.00

LIVESTOCK FUTURES PRICES

8/29/14

<u>Live Cattle - CME</u>		Current ¹	One Month Ago ²	One Year Ago ²
Aug	/cwt	\$152.45	\$159.10	\$122.50
Oct	/cwt	\$148.02	\$159.80	\$126.87
Dec	/cwt	\$150.90	\$158.77	\$128.80
Feb	/cwt	\$152.00	\$156.85	\$130.47
<u>Feeder Cattle - CME</u>				
Aug	/cwt	\$217.35	\$218.25	\$153.92
Sep	/cwt	\$212.90	\$219.25	\$157.47
Oct	/cwt	\$211.35	\$218.85	\$159.82
Nov	/cwt	\$209.75	\$218.27	\$160.20

¹ Commodity specifications apply to the current period only. Specifications may have been different for prior period listings.

² Prices reported for the one month ago and one year ago periods are taken from previous issues of this publication.

Source: U.S.D.A. Agricultural Marketing Service <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ismnpubs>
Chicago Mercantile Exchange <http://www.cmegroup.com/>

CASH GRAIN PRICES**8/29/14**

		Current ¹	One Month Ago ²	One Year Ago ²
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#1 HRW Wheat

Fleming, Haxtun, Julesburg, Holyoke, Paoli, Amherst	/bu	\$5.62-5.64	\$5.61-5.66	\$6.87 - 7.02
Yuma, Wray, Brush, Akron, Otis, Anton	/bu	\$5.64-5.74	\$5.71-5.79	\$6.82 - 6.87
Burlington, Seibert, Flagler, Arriba, Genoa, Hugo	/bu	\$5.74-5.94	\$5.81-6.01	\$6.87 - 6.92

#2 Yellow Corn

Haxtun, Julesburg, Fleming, Holyoke, Paoli, Amherst	/bu	\$3.53-3.81	\$3.63-4.03	\$6.14 - 6.34
Yuma, Wray, Brush, Otis, Anton Seibert, Arriba, Burlington, Flagler, Bethune, Stratton	/bu	\$3.71-3.86	\$3.68-4.00	\$5.93 - 6.39
		\$3.86	\$3.82-3.93	\$6.24

Northeast Colorado, Western Nebraska Beans

Pinto Beans	/cwt	Not Established	\$31.00	\$42.00
Great Northern Beans	/cwt	Not Established	Not Established	\$45.00
Light Red Kidney Beans	/cwt	Not Established	Not Established	\$50.00

White Millet

E Colorado / SW Nebraska	/cwt	\$6.50-7.00	\$8.00-8.25	No Bid
		Mostly \$6.75	Mostly \$8.00	

Sunflowers

E Colorado / SW Nebraska	/cwt	\$16.00-17.00	\$17.00-19.25	\$21.00 - 23.00
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GRAIN FUTURES PRICES**8/29/14**

		Current ¹	One Month Ago ²	One Year Ago ²
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Wheat, Kansas City Board of Trade

Sep	/bu	\$5.43	\$5.38	\$6.97
Dec	/bu	\$5.55	\$5.59	\$7.04
Mar	/bu	\$5.74	\$5.81	\$7.12
May	/bu	\$5.84	\$5.96	\$7.14

Corn, Chicago Board of Trade

Sep	/bu	\$3.60	\$3.63	\$4.76
Dec	/bu	\$3.67	\$3.71	\$4.53
Mar	/bu	\$3.80	\$3.83	\$4.67
May	/bu	\$3.88	\$3.91	\$4.75

CASH HAY PRICES**Week Ending 8/29/14**

		Current ¹	One Month Ago ²	One Year Ago ²
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Colorado Hay Report, Northeastern Areas

Large Square Bales, FOB Stack				
Supreme Alfalfa, 180+ RFV (On Contract)	/ton		\$200.00-240.00	
Premium Alfalfa, 150-180 RFV	/ton	\$200.00-230.00	\$170.00	\$240.00 - 250.00
Good Alfalfa, 125-150 RFV Delivered	/ton	\$130.00-140.00	\$130.00-140.00	\$215.00 - 220.00
Fair Alfalfa Delivered	/ton		\$115.00-130.00	\$200.00 - 210.00
Utility Alfalfa	/ton	\$100.00-115.00	\$100.00-115.00	
Premium Grass (Small Squares)	/ton	\$250.00-275.00	\$250.00-270.00	\$300.00 - 350.00
Premium Grass (Small Squares)	/bale	\$7.00-8.00	\$7.00-8.00	\$10.00 - 12.00
Straw (Large Squares)	/ton	\$55.00-85.00	\$70.00-90.00	\$90.00 - 100.00
Corn Stalks (Large Rounds)	/ton			\$85.00 - 95.00
Oats (Large Squares)	/ton			
Cane Hay (Large Rounds)	/ton			
Millet Hay (Large Squares)	/ton			

GOLDEN PLAINS AREA AGRICULTURAL NEWSLETTER

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