

<http://goldenplains.colostate.edu>
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DECEMBER 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

December

- 1** Beef Quality Assurance Certification – Sterling, CO – Sterling Livestock Commission
- 1-2** CSU/CCA Colorado Crop Clinic – Fort Morgan, CO – Clarion Inn
- 7-9** 2015 Colorado Ag Classic – Loveland, CO – Embassy Suites
- 8** Beef Quality Assurance Certification – Wray, CO – Ranchland Livestock Auction

February

- 10** Cattlemen's Day – Wray, CO
- 11** Cattlemen's Day – Brush, CO
- Private Pesticide Applicator Training (PPA)
- 8** PPA - Fort Morgan Extension Office
- 9** PPA - Sedgwick County Fairgrounds
- 10** PPA – IRF – Yuma, CO
- 11** PPA - Burlington Community Center
- 12** PPA - Akron Extension Office – 8:30 to 4 pm (The PM will include a Commercial License session at this site)

See articles and enclosed flyers in this newsletter for more information on these events.

To receive an e-mail notification of publication on-line for the Golden Plains Area Agricultural Newsletter call 970-332-4151 or e-mail coopext_yuma@mail.colostate.edu

LIVESTOCK



Beef Quality Assurance Certification

- ▶ Are you looking to become BQA certified or renew your expired certification? CSU Extension will be holding a certification program on December 8, 2015 from 3:30-5:30 pm at Ranchland Livestock Auction in Wray CO.
- ▶ We will be covering low-stress cattle handling, facilities, body condition scoring, transportation issues, compromised cattle and BQA best practices.
- ▶ Please call or email with questions or to RSVP - Chris Shelley, CSU Livestock Agent 970-332-4151 or chris.shelley@colostate.edu.

Please RSVP no later than Friday, December 4th.



AGRONOMY

Researchers Receive \$ 1 Million Grant to Study Cropping Systems in the Western Great Plains

Addressing the needs of farmers and producers

Plant Scientists with Colorado State University will be studying cover cropping choices and strategies, thanks to a successful grant application by Colorado State University Soil and Crop Sciences Department's Dr. Meagan Schipanski.

"This study came about when farmers and producers came to us," said Schipanski. "The national buzz about cover crops and crop rotations hasn't really included a discussion of how those techniques can be used in our climate, where we have less water available."

This project will look at the economic and soil quality trade-offs of different practices. Traditional farming practices plant fields with a single crop such as corn or wheat to reduce farmers' short-term risk related to crop losses and low yields. By rotating crops or integrating mixtures of grazed forage crops, farmers might reduce their long-term risk by improving the quality of their soil to the benefit of all the crops they plant. The challenge is in reducing short-term risk while managing the soil for longer-term benefits.

A broad collaboration

Diversifying crop rotations and the use of cover crops has maintained yields while reducing environmental impacts for farmers in other parts of the United States, and Schipanski and her team want to see what rotation strategies can be best utilized here in Colorado as well as in Kansas and western Nebraska.

Schipanski is collaborating with a number of other researchers in CSU Extension, her own Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, and the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

"This project is a great example of the type of collaboration we need among CSU researchers, Extension, and producers to identify and evaluate the potential of new technologies and management approaches for our region," said Mark Brick, acting head of CSU's Department of Soil and Crop Sciences.

As the winter months approach, Schipanski plans to attend winter-grower meetings and to recruit additional farmers to participate in her study. Right now, there are six farmers willing to take part in the research and Schipanski would like to get that number to 10.

"On-farm research is an essential component of this study," Schipanski said. "We would like to utilize a wide spectrum of farmers from across the region to help validate our recommendations for new crop rotation practices." As a result, on-farm research will be conducted with Extension's Golden Plains Area in Northeastern Colorado. Ron Meyer and Wilma Trujillo, Colorado State University Plant Scientists in Burlington and Ft. Morgan will be working closely with local producers in an effort to "ground truth" cover cropping research results.

Source: Jason Kosovski, Colorado State University

2015 CSU Crop Clinic

Colorado State University Extension is currently taking registrations for the 2015 CSU/CCA Crop Clinic. This clinic is a joint partnership

between Colorado State University Extension and the Certified Crop Advisors of Colorado. The Clinic will offer approximately 4 continued

education credits in Nutrient Management, 3 credits in Soil and Water, 3 credits in Pest Management, and 2 credits in Crop Management. Pesticide Applicator credits will also be available, pending approval. Topics addressed will include Soil Remediation, VRT Soil Sampling and Results, Tillage Effects on Soil Penetrometer readings, Drone Technology and Applications, along with Fertility, Herbicide, Disease and Insect updates.

Dates are Tuesday December 1 and Wednesday December 2. Location is the Ft. Morgan, Colorado Clarion Inn (970-867-8200). Registration will cost \$50 per day or a total of \$80 for both days. Lunch and Continued

Education credits are included with this registration. Registration deadline is November 20, and a late fee of \$25 will be charged for registrations after November 20.

Registrations can be accomplished by accessing the Colorado State University Golden Plains Area Website at <http://goldenplains.colostate.edu> which will accept on-line registrations and payments. The site also has a clinic flyer available. In addition, checks can be mailed to the Washington County Extension Office, 181 Birch St., Akron, CO 80720. For more information contact Ron Meyer at 719-346-5571

2015 Colorado Ag Classic

Farmers, ranchers, lawmakers, agribusiness representatives, the media and general public are all invited to attend the 2015 Colorado Ag Classic – an event that serves as the joint annual conference of Colorado Corn and Colorado Wheat, and each year draws hundreds of attendees.

The 2015 Colorado Ag Classic – titled “Defining Sustainability” – will take place December 7-9 at the Embassy Suites in Loveland (4705 Clydesdale Parkway), and will feature presentations from Cameron Bruett, head of corporate affairs and chief sustainability officer at JBS USA, who also serves as president of the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef; James Eklund, executive director of the Colorado Water Conservation Board; Rebecca Perrin, EPA Region 8 agricultural adviser; Reagan Waskom, executive director of the Colorado Water Institute; and James Pritchett, executive association dean for CSU’s College of Agricultural Sciences; along with several other industry experts, as well as everyday Colorado farmers.

Once just a buzz word among small circles of consumers, the term “sustainable” today has an ever strengthening foothold in mainstream food discussions, and due to increasing popularity and demands, is a term that will play a massive role in shaping the agriculture industry for the foreseeable future.

But more so than other trends and phrases, “sustainable food” has countless, varying meanings – nearly all of which have been defined by a rapidly growing population of consumers who are more removed from farms and ranches today than during any other time in history. Meanwhile, the ag industry tasked with producing this “sustainable” food supply seems to have had the least input in what it means, and what sustainable food production looks like going forward.

With that in mind, “Defining Sustainability” will be the theme and focus of this year’s Colorado Ag Classic.

These discussions will address how food producers can best operate within today’s “sustainable food” landscape, and what the ag industry can do in the future to help shape and define this landscape.

The 2015 Colorado Ag Classic is expected to serve as a vital conversation on sustainability that food producers need to continue well into the future, as the definition of “sustainable” will have one of the biggest impacts on the survival of Colorado’s farmers and ranchers, and what is ultimately a \$40 billion-plus industry to our state’s economy – a top two or three economic contributor each year.

Colorado Corn and Colorado Wheat are also planning to host annual meetings and board meetings in conjunction with this year’s Colorado Ag Classic. More details can be found at <http://coloradowheat.org>.

2015 CSU/CCA Colorado Crop Clinic

Co-Sponsored by Colorado State Extension and
Colorado's Certified Crop Advisors Board



December 1 & 2, 2015
Fort Morgan Clarion Inn
Fort Morgan, CO



December 1, 2015
9:00 a.m. to 4:20 p.m.

December 2, 2015
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Cost:

\$50 per pre-registration for either day

\$80 per two days received by
November 20, 2015

Additional \$25 late fee after
November 20, 2015

Continued Education Credits

Certified Crop Advisor

Pesticide Applicator Credits

(Credits are conditional upon approval)

Certified Crop Advisors:

Minimum Credits offered*

Crop Management 2.0

Nutrient Management 3.0

Pest Management 4.0

Soil & Water 4.0

Professional Development TBD

* More will be added as speaker confirmations are received

Clinic Objectives:

- Understand new pest issues & recognizing & managing pest resistance.
- Understanding changes in fertilizer research & potential nutrient availability
- Recognize advantages to different cropping systems on crop health.
- Know soil health parameters and how to make soil improvements with differing farming practices and eliminating and avoiding soil compaction.

Program Content

- Managing Pests & Pesticide Resistance
- Crop Nutrient Management
- Crop Health Optimization
- Building Soil Health

Registration and Course Credit Information are included in this newsletter.

Contact Ron Meyer with questions or program information:

Rf.meyer@colostate.edu

(719)346-5571

HORTICULTURE

Lawn Rust

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

As shown in the photo below (credited to University of Maryland Extension), rust pustules can appear on the leaf, stem, stripe or crown. When you walk through the grass, your shoes collect yellow-orange colored “dust”. This “dust” is filled with minute spores of the fungus. It is being spread throughout the lawn.

The lifecycle of rust is very complicated. For some species of *Puccinia spp.* the rust needs an alternate host before completing its life cycle on turfgrass. Some of these alternate hosts are herbaceous ornamental plants, other grasses and woody shrubs.

Rust starts to appear mid-late summer on slow growing turf. There are several contributing factors causing rust such as heavy dews, warm daylight temperatures with moderate night temperatures and high humidity. Factors which create slow growing turf can be drought, high temperatures, low fertility and low mowing height.

Rust can disappear when the turf begins to grow quickly again. It does little damage, but over time if it is a repeated occurrence, will weaken the turf leaving it susceptible to other things. The best practice to solving this is to fertilize in September and **deeply** water once a week during dry periods. To deeply water your turf that might mean an hour or more for once a week. This would be based on two things:

- 1) Know your soil structure where your turf is growing.
- 2) Understand your irrigation system by being aware of how much water is being delivered to the turf over a designated period.
- 3) Understand the watering requirements of Kentucky Blue grass or Perennial Rye grass throughout the season. During the summer Kentucky Blue grass may need as much as 2 ½” to 4” to keep it healthy and actively growing.
- 4) You can overwater your turf or underwater your turf based on the above mentioned factors.

If you have Kentucky Blue grass or Perennial Rye grass for your lawn, then know these are the more susceptible turf grasses for rust. Should you find yourself in a position where the rust does get out of hand, then there are fungicides which will help control the fungus. It is however, not the first resort or best practice.



Fall Watering

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

This is a reminder to all that now is the time to deep root water your trees. Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate before the ground freezes. Watering at this time can help your tree go into winter and survive winter better.

In order to know how to water your trees, you must know what type of soil surrounds the root zone of your tree. Is it clay? Is it sand? Clay will hold water tightly. Sandy soil will drain quickly. The only time to water more frequently and for shorter duration of time is when your soil is compacted. Otherwise, water deeply and less frequently. It is best to water during the winter, every four to six weeks depending on whether there has been any snow cover. Water when the temperature is in the low forties.

Mulching around trees and shrubs can reduce the frequency of watering. Placing the depth of the mulch 3 to 4 inches around the root zone mitigates water loss and mitigates the soil temperature. This can be done for your perennial beds and shrubs as well. The only thing to consider would be shallow-rooted plants such as boxwoods. Placing the mulch too deep can mitigate the amount of oxygen in the soil. Keep the mulch between 2 to 3 inches deep.

In keeping trees watered, it is critical to know where the root zone is located. Feeder roots which absorb nutrients and water will be located at the “dripline” or the ends of the branches. Roots can spread from one and a half to four times the height of the tree. You can lay a soaker hose along the dripline and keep go out a couple of times around the “dripline” which will cover the critical root zone area.

Soil probes are handy for being able to monitor the soil’s moisture level. It can also be helpful in showing how far down the moisture is getting, thus it is great for monitoring overwatering. This device can be pushed into the soil surface down to about 21 inches. It takes a core sample of the soil. This can be used for trees and shrubs at the root zone. Here is a helpful soil range for the best watering practice for various areas of your landscape:

- Turf and Perennial Areas use a soil probe to measure to a depth of 6-12 inches.
- Shrubs use the soil probe to measure to a depth of 12 to 24 inches.
- Trees use the soil probe to measure to a depth of 18-36 inches.

If you go to probe the soil and the soil probe will not go into the soil surface very easily, it is time to water. If you are able to push the probe down to 3 or 4 inches in the soil, it is time to water. Then, water to the correct depth. Probing during the winter during warm periods can help you track the soil’s moisture level effectively.



Golden Plains Area Horticulture Blog

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

For those who are not aware, I post horticulture information in the northeastern region of Colorado. Some of the blog posts can either focus on a current horticulture issue or just show you some fascinating occurrence in horticulture. There is something for just about any gardener. Follow me at: <http://gpahort.blogspot.com/>.

RANGELAND

Controlling Prairie Dogs

Prairie dogs can be a real nuisance on agricultural lands and late fall through early spring presents a good opportunity for control methods to reduce their numbers before the next growing season. Black-tailed prairie dogs typically have 30-50 burrow entrances per acre and each “family” of prairie dogs will occupy an area of about that size. They breed only once a year from as early as January to as late as March. Their gestation period is approximately 34 days and their litter size ranges from 1-6 pups. Survival rates of their young is high and adult prairie dogs can live between 5-8 years old. From this, it is easy to see how prairie dog numbers can very rapidly expand.

The vast majority of a prairie dog’s diet consists of grass and some minor forb component. Later into the fall, seeds and even insects will make up a portion of their diet. Preferred forage of prairie dogs is similar to that of cattle and other livestock, this diet overlap is part of what makes them undesirable on grazing lands. According to research done in 1958, 256 prairie dogs will consume as much forage in a month as one cow calf pair (Koford, 1958). In addition to actually consuming forage, prairie dogs will also clip plants in their immediate area to keep the vegetation low and increase their visibility of oncoming predators. This behavior further limits available forage for grazing livestock.

Several effective methods of prairie dog control exist, one of the most economical being poison grain bait in the fall. Grain baits treated with anticoagulants will cause prairie dogs feeding on them to die of internal hemorrhage. The most common of these is Rozol. This is a restricted use pesticide requiring a license and care must be taken to follow all label directions. It is illegal to apply from March 16-September 30 of any given year and a 14 day grazing restriction must be observed. According to the manufacturer, one 25lb pail will treat approximately 7-10 acres of infested ground. Grain bait is most effective when applied after the vegetation has dried up in the fall and before the green growth returns in spring.

Although shooting prairie dogs makes for a recreational opportunity, it does not provide an economical means of control, especially across larger infestations. Intensive shooting will reduce numbers considerably but it is very expensive and time consuming.

Burrow fumigants are very effective, especially as a means of cleaning up survivors in the spring after applying poison grain bait in the fall. Gas cartridges are a readily available product that do not require a license to purchase or apply. A fuse is lit and the cartridge gets placed down the burrow. The burrow opening should then be plugged with sod or soil. Toxic gasses, primarily carbon monoxide will fill the burrow and kill its inhabitants. Gas cartridges are available through the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Aluminum phosphide tablets are another common burrow fumigant but are restricted use products and require a license. These tablets react with atmospheric or soil moisture to release phosphine gas. Due to the toxic nature of phosphine gas, extreme care must be taken to follow all label directions for storage and use.

As with all pest issues, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Not that there are really feasible means of preventing prairie dogs from coming on your land, but taking action before they get out of hand will save the operator a considerable amount of time and money.

Sources:

Montana Department of Agriculture “Prairie Dog Management”; Rozol Product Label

AG MARKET PRICES

Dennis Kaan, Golden Plains Area Director

LIVESTOCK CASH PRICES				Week Ending 11/13/15		
				Current ¹	One Month Ago ²	One Year Ago ²
Colorado Auction Feeder Cattle, Medium & Large Frame #1						
Steers,	500-550 lbs		/cwt	\$175.00-219.00	\$209.00-236.00	\$289.00-305.00
Steers,	600-650 lbs		/cwt	\$169.00-199.00	\$187.00-208.00	\$244.00-259.50
Heifers,	500-550 lbs		/cwt	\$161.00-190.00	\$181.00-215.00	\$267.00-279.00
Heifers,	600-650 lbs		/cwt	\$154.00-174.00	\$181.00-190.00	\$229.00-240.00
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				\$	\$136.00-136.50	\$173.00
65-80% Choice	166	1,350-1,365		\$129.00-130.00		\$173.00-174.00
35-65% Choice	594	1,300		\$130.00	\$137.00	\$174.00
0-35% Choice				\$		
<u>Live Basis Heifer Sales</u>	Hd Count	Wt Range	/cwt		/cwt	/cwt
Over 80% Choice				\$	\$136.00	\$173.00
65-80% Choice				\$	\$137.00	\$172.00-174.00
35-65% Choice	424	1,250		\$130.00	\$137.00	
0-35% Choice				\$		
Mountain Area and Western U.S. Direct Sheep Report, Medium and Large 1-2						
	Hd Count	Wt Range	/cwt		/cwt	
Feeder Lambs				No Reports	No Reports	\$188.00
				\$		
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		\$48.00-50.50	\$62.00-69.50	\$75.00-88.00
Iowa - Minnesota Daily Negotiated Purchases 200 lb Carcass Basis						
	1.0" Back-Fat, 6.0/2.0 Loin Area/Depth	/cwt		\$50.00-51.50	No Reports	\$75.00-86.00
Western Cornbelt Daily Negotiated Purchases 200 lb Carcass Basis						
	1.0" Back-Fat, 6.0/2.0 Loin Area/Depth	/cwt		\$48.00-51.50	\$62.00-69.50	\$75.00-86.00
LIVESTOCK FUTURES PRICES				11/13/15		
Live Cattle - CME				Current ¹	One Month Ago ²	One Year Ago ²
	Dec		/cwt	\$130.67	\$143.40	\$169.50
	Feb		/cwt	\$132.65	\$145.07	\$170.02
	Apr		/cwt	\$132.55	\$143.80	\$168.80
	Jun		/cwt	\$123.80	\$134.27	\$161.47
Feeder Cattle - CME						
	Nov		/cwt	\$175.07	\$193.25	\$233.35
	Jan		/cwt	\$164.55	\$185.50	\$231.45
	Mar		/cwt	\$160.92	\$181.90	\$231.70
	Apr		/cwt	\$162.40	\$182.40	\$231.62

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
Chicago Mercantile Exchange

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news>
<http://www.cmegroup.com/>

CASH GRAIN PRICES**11/13/15**

		Current¹	One Month Ago²	One Year Ago²
#1 HRW Wheat				
Fleming, Haxtun, Julesburg, Holyoke, Paoli, Amherst	/bu	\$3.83-3.90	\$3.81-3.91	\$5.43-5.44
Yuma, Wray, Brush, Akron, Otis, Anton	/bu	\$3.90-3.98	\$3.90-3.98	\$5.39-5.44
Burlington, Seibert, Flagler, Arriba, Genoa, Hugo	/bu	\$3.93-3.98	\$3.96-4.06	\$5.59-5.79
#2 Yellow Corn				
Haxtun, Julesburg, Fleming, Holyoke, Paoli, Amherst	/bu	\$3.37-3.44	\$3.50-3.60	\$3.33-3.48
Yuma, Wray, Brush, Otis, Anton Seibert, Arriba, Burlington, Flagler, Bethune, Stratton	/bu	\$3.35-3.55 \$3.30-3.40	\$3.50-3.65 \$3.50-3.60	\$3.41-3.55 \$3.48-3.68
Northeast Colorado, Western Nebraska Beans				
Pinto Beans	/cwt	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$24.00
Great Northern Beans	/cwt	\$18.00	\$18.00	Not Established
Light Red Kidney Beans	/cwt	Not Established	Not Established	\$48.00
White Millet				
E Colorado / SW Nebraska	/cwt	\$5.50-6.25 Mostly \$5.50-5.75	\$5.25-6.00 Mostly \$5.50-5.75	\$5.75-6.50 Mostly \$6.00
Sunflowers				
E Colorado / SW Nebraska	/cwt	\$16.25-17.00	\$17.00	\$16.75-17.50

GRAIN FUTURES PRICES**11/13/15**

		Current¹	One Month Ago²	One Year Ago²
Wheat, Kansas City Board of Trade				
Dec	/bu	\$4.95	\$4.90	\$5.51
Mar	/bu	\$4.97	\$4.97	\$5.58
May	/bu	\$5.01	\$5.01	\$5.64
Jul	/bu	\$5.02	\$5.03	\$5.69
Corn, Chicago Board of Trade				
Dec	/bu	\$3.58	\$3.79	\$3.72
Mar	/bu	\$3.65	\$3.88	\$3.85
May	/bu	\$3.71	\$3.94	\$3.94
Jul	/bu	\$3.77	\$3.99	\$4.01

CASH HAY PRICES**Week Ending 11/13/15**

		Current¹	One Month Ago²	One Year Ago²
Colorado Hay Report, Northeastern Areas				
Large Square Bales, FOB Stack				
Supreme Alfalfa, 180+ RFV (On Contract)	/ton		No Quotes	\$230.00-250.00
Premium Alfalfa, 150-180 RFV	/ton			
Good Alfalfa, 125-150 RFV Delivered	/ton			\$170.00
Fair Alfalfa Delivered	/ton			\$120.00
Utility Alfalfa	/ton	\$95.00		
Premium Grass (Large Squares)	/ton	\$120.00		\$250.00-275.00
Premium Grass (Small Squares)	/bale			\$7.00-8.00
Straw (Large Squares)	/ton			\$60.00
Corn Stalks (Large Squares)	/ton	\$45.00		\$65.00-70.00
Oats (Large Squares)	/ton			
Cane Hay (Large Rounds)	/ton			
Millet Hay (Large Squares)	/ton			

