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## APRIL 2012

### Calendar of Events

#### April

**27** Energy Expo 2012 – Holyoke Event Center. More info in this newsletter. Tim Edgar at 970-522-3200 extension 276 or Rich Mullaney at 970-466-2355 or go to <http://bit.ly/e6Sg59>.

**28** Energy Expo 2012 – Country Steak out – Fort Morgan. More info in this newsletter. Tim Edgar at 970-522-3200 extension 276 or Rich Mullaney at 970-466-2355 or go to <http://bit.ly/e6Sg59>.

### Renewable Energy Options Available for Residents and Small Business

*Rich Mullaney, Community Energy Coordinator*

As a resident in eastern Colorado, what options do you have to develop renewable energy options for yourself?

This question will be the focus of Energy Expo 2012. Topics at the Expo will include:

- Over view of solar for residential electric customers.
- Contractor discussing the economics and opportunities of installing solar on your house or garage.
- Economics of leasing solar panels
- Discussion on the opportunities and problems associated with community solar gardens
- Solar garden contractor discussing options for a community Solar Garden in northeast Colorado.

The Energy Expo will have two sessions to reduce travel for the attendees. The first session will be held on April 27, 2012 from 12:00 noon to 4:30 will be in Holyoke at the Event Center. The second session will be April 28, 2012 from 8:30 to 12:30 will be at the Country Steak Out in Fort Morgan.

Cost of the event is \$5.00 per person if register prior to April 23. After April 23 cost will be \$10.00.

For more information and registration form contact Tim Edgar at 970-522-3200 extension 276 or Rich Mullaney at 970-466-2355 or go to <http://bit.ly/e6Sg59>.

# LIVESTOCK

## Assessing Cattle Injuries & Health Following Wildfires

*Michael Fisher, Golden Plains Area Livestock Specialist*

Colorado is known for our impressive and damaging wildfires, whether they occur on forested lands or on the wind-swept plains. Often, livestock are caught up in these disasters and may suffer severe burns, injuries received in an attempt to escape the flames, smoke inhalation, or even death.

If you find yourself in the position of assessing cattle that have gone through a wildfire, there are steps that you should consider taking. First and foremost is take care for your safety and the safety of other people in the area. Many hazards may be found within a fire seen. (i.e. down power lines, unstable trees and structures, tin from lost structures, injured animals that are scared, hazardous materials that are no longer secured within their original containers, etc.)



The cattle need to be located and secured.

Keep in mind that they have gone through a traumatic event and may have tried to escape it. It is possible that a cattle herd may have separated and traveled long distances in different directions from where they were originally located. Many may have joined neighboring herds and will have to be sorted out of those herds. Cattle that remain on the burned area should be removed, if possible, and located on unburned ground. Provide them with fresh, clean water as soon as possible. You will also want to provide a feed source that is not contaminated from the fire. Rotate the location where you feed these surviving cattle to prevent the buildup of pathogens in one location. Ensure that these cattle receive adequate water and forage to help mitigate stress and maintain their immune system.

Closely check the surviving animals for signs of whether they were exposed to flames, heat, or smoke. Consult your veterinarian early in this process to ensure the highest levels of welfare and well being for the affected animals. Serious burns may be obvious. You will also want to examine the cattle for injuries that are not immediately obvious. Some things to take notice of are:

*\*\*Nursing cows have the potential for suffering a scorched udder. In this situation, the cow likely will not allow her calf to nurse. You will need to monitor calves closely to be certain that they are receiving their necessary nutrients. A scorched udder may transition into a mastitis problem for the cow.*

*\*\*Secondary infections can set in as a result of burns received in the fire. This can happen at any injury point, but places to pay extra attention to are the udders, testicles, sheath, eyes, and feet. It may take 10 days to two weeks for these types of injuries to become obvious. Cattle with burnt feet may have their hoof walls slough off, crippling the animal.*

*\*\*Smoke inhalation can damage the lining of the nasal passages, trachea, and lungs. The resulting inflammation can lead to edema, emphysema, and pneumonia. The longer the animal is in the smoke*

*plume, the greater the chance of respiratory problems. This type of damage may not be as noticeable immediately following the fire but become a problem at a later point, such as a hot period during the summer. It is important to note that cattle do not have to be within the fire to experience problems from smoke inhalation. They can be located miles from the fire, yet within the smoke plume for an extended period and have complications as a result.*

*\*\*Whether burned in the fire or irritated by smoke, the eyes of affected cattle need to be monitored closely. Due to their close proximity to the brain, infections of eyelids and eyeballs as a result of wildfires can be fatal to cattle.*

*\*\*It is important to remember that these animals may have tried to escape the fire and could have suffered injuries during that process. These cattle should be monitored for broken bones, cuts, and abrasions.*

Cattle that are determined to be injured beyond a reasonable treatment protocol should be alleviated from their suffering as soon as possible. In some cases the animal may still be eligible for human consumption. If this is the case, slaughter needs to be conducted immediately, prior to the onset of secondary complications. These animals need to have a veterinary meat inspector's antemortem inspection before harvest to determine that the product will meet safety and wholesomeness requirements for human consumption. Cattle that are injured beyond treatment, that will not be harvested, should be euthanized and the carcass disposed of following local, state, and federal regulations.

Surviving cattle should be closely monitored for several weeks after the wildfire. Consistent coughing, nasal drainage, lameness, cloudy eyes, poor gains or a loss of weight, and general lethargy could all be signs of secondary complications that may arise in the weeks to follow.

For more information on assessing and caring for your livestock following a wildfire, contact your local Colorado State University Extension office or consult with your veterinarian.

## **RANGELAND**

### **Spring Pasture Considerations**

*Casey Matney, Regional Extension Specialist (Range and Natural Resource)*

It is just about time for everything to start turning green. Now that we have had some precipitation and a bit of warmer weather, many producers will be strategizing where to focus their cattle grazing. When we do this we usually try and consider 1) current soil moisture, 2) how our pastures were grazed last year and what residual vegetation is left standing, 3) which plants species are in each pasture, and 4) what growth stage the grasses are currently in. Most of us in northeast Colorado received some winter precipitation, so the good news is that there should be some soil moisture available for plants to start growing. With that in mind, the next critical factor that should be considered is how much residual vegetation remains from the last growing season. If you have areas that have a lot of dead standing material, you will want to try and utilize that material in combination with the new soft green growth that is emerging. Doing this allows a better mix of fiber from last year's growth and a pulse of nitrogen and cell contents from the growth of new leaves. Right now, the first of the grasses to turn green are our cool season grasses like western wheatgrass, green needlegrass, needle-and-thread,

smooth brome, and even cheatgrass. The cool season grasses will peak in growth during May and early June. So, right now it would be a good idea to focus some moderate grazing of pastures that are dominantly western wheatgrass or smooth brome. The areas that you moderately graze right now will benefit from recycling old growth and opening the plant canopy, allowing more sunlight to access emerging leaves. Taking too much material could be detrimental, so try and leave 40-60% of whatever green growth is emerging, and try and not stay in any given area for more than one to two weeks, since staying any longer may result in growing plants being grazed more than once. If you have pastures that are predominately warm season grasses, it will be a while longer before you see those greening up. The warm season grasses won't really start putting on much growth until late April, peaking in July and into August. If you are wanting to make use of these warm season pastures at this time, you will be grazing last year's residual growth which will be lacking in energy, protein, and vitamin A. In order to compensate for this, you will want to have some supplementation to increase forage intake and keep your cattle healthy until they are able to be put on green growth. Later in the season, as warm season grasses begin their growth in pastures, you may be able to use the same strategy listed above for cool season grasses in order to make use of some new growth in combination with last year's growth. This is possible for the taller and mid-height warm season grasses, but in areas where blue grama and buffalograss are the dominant species, it isn't likely there will be much residual material to take advantage of. In these shortgrass pastures, you may have to wait until new growth emerges to have a worthwhile grazing rotation in that pasture. However, when you do start, you will want to make sure you are judicious in moving your cattle every week or two (taking only about 40-60% of what is available) so that the grasses have leaf material left intact to ensure photosynthesis. Again, this will help ensure plants in that pasture are not grazed more than once.

The best way to ensure you stock your pastures in a way that will allow you to leave the pasture on target (amount of vegetation removed in combination with the time spent in the pasture) is to have a good idea of what amount of forage is available in the pasture to start with. Some ranchers and producers have a trained eye for this, which is an art in and of itself, but we can also do some quick sampling of the forage in the pasture to get an estimate. If you have done this before, that is great. If you haven't sampled before, you can go to my website to learn how. It even includes an online calculator so you don't have to do the math yourself. All you will need is a pair of shears, a hoop or frame (inexpensive hula hoops work great), a paper bag, and a scale that can weigh in grams. For all of this information and more, go to [www.range.colostate.edu](http://www.range.colostate.edu) and click on "Calculators" at the top of the page. You can also checkout information about the upcoming CSU/UNL Range and Drought workshop coming up in Burlington, Colorado on July 31<sup>st</sup>.

If you have questions or want more information, do not hesitate to contact me. You can contact me by phone at (970) 518-0903 or contact me through my website – [www.range.colostate.edu](http://www.range.colostate.edu)



## **Rangeland Drought Considerations**

*Casey Matney, Regional Extension Specialist (Range and Natural Resource)*

Below are some points of interest I have compiled that may help ranchers and livestock producers prepare for and deal with drought.

1. Adequate forage must be left to provide a reserve for the inevitable periods of drought. In eastern Colorado, drought (< 75% of normal rainfall) is destined to occur about 2 to 4 of every 10 years ...

- a. Try to take only 40-50% of this year's growth during the growing season. Dormant grazing you can take a little more (subjective – depends on types of plants you have).
- b. Some ranches in New Mexico plan on having 4 times as much range (forage) than they need in a normal year. (This helps them survive droughts that go for longer than a year).
2. Healthy, vigorous perennial grasses with a good root system can maintain production longer into a drought and recover more quickly once rainfall occurs. Removing too much plant material can affect the roots.
3. Try to leave atleast the following average stubble height when grazing an area:
 

Blue grama: 1.5 to 2 inches	Buffalo grass: 1 to 2 inches	Little bluestem: 6 inches
Sand dropseed: 6 inches	Sideoats grama: 6 inches	Western wheatgrass: 3 inches
Bluestems: 12 inches	Indiangrass: 12 inches	Switchgrass: 12 inches
4. More rainfall gets into the soil and into plants when there is more litter and plant residues left.
5. Some plants are preferred by your livestock, these preferred plants can serve as indicators of range use and health. They can help you determine when management adjustments are needed.
6. Since we know drought is going to happen, a drought plan should be developed. Flexibility in forage use, livestock numbers, livestock classes, marketing strategies, and etc. will help you to make better management decisions.
7. Maintain a percentage of the livestock herd as a readily marketable class of stock (ready to sell).
8. Make efficient use of your pastures. You want the livestock to use the forage as uniformly as possible.
9. Store feeds (silage, hay, and etc.) when they are plentiful and inexpensive. Make sure you store them properly so that they last for as long as possible.
10. Use prickly pear and cholla cactus as emergency feeds. Encourage prickly pear growth in certain pasture areas to allow ease of "burning" or harvesting at an economical price.
11. Do rangeland improvements. Seed abandoned fields or barren areas with adapted range plants, to increase your forage supply.
12. During a drought:
  - a. Top priority should be maintaining the health of your rangeland and then next on range recovery once the drought breaks.
  - b. Try to reduce the herd gradually, cull low producers and older animals with the least reproductive potential first.
  - c. Hold or reduce replacement animal development.
  - d. Consider selling livestock earlier than normal.
  - e. Determine the amount of money that can be spent on feeds.
  - f. Utilize a drylot for holding over your animals during the drought. This reduces needless energy expenditure by your animals in search for food and it allows rangeland plants rest as well as allowing them to better utilize what precipitation they do get. Allow the rangeland to be grazed again after sufficient growth or when plant dormancy occurs.

## AGRONOMY

### Crop Strategies on Burned Acres

*Ron F. Meyer, Area Extension Agent (Agronomy)*

Recent winds coupled with fire damaged crop land in some areas can pose a serious threat to future growing crops. Strategies when addressing this

issue can ease further damage to both soils and crops grown.

The first order of business is to address soil erosion potentials. Fire damage to a field removes most of the organic matter, leaving nearly bare ground. Light colored, sandy type soils are more prone to wind erosion than are darker colored, heavier clay soils. Regardless of soil type, a cover crop should be established to prevent future soil erosion. Cool soils this time of year dictate that cool season plants be employed. A number of options exist with oats, barley, rye, and wheat all being excellent choices for cover, this time of year. These plants are cool season grasses that establish quickly and grow well in cool spring weather conditions.

One satisfactory option includes planting these crops using no-till strategies, meaning drill 2 inches deep without tillage. If dry soil conditions exist, plant slightly deeper if moisture can be found, and increase the planting rate by about 15%. Keep in mind that although an excellent stand is not necessary, adequate plants need to be established to hold the field during wind events.

Additional emergency soil erosion control strategies can include:

1. Emergency tillage to produce ridges and clods in an effort to make the field more resistant to wind erosion.
2. Application of livestock manure to trouble spots with a minimum of 6 tons per acre.
3. If irrigation is an option, apply water to increase the soil moisture levels, prior to emergency tillage.

If an adequate cover crop can be established, two options exist: grow out the cover crop and harvest for seed or forage; or allow the cover crop to grow to approximately 6-8 inches, then control it with a herbicide. A cash crop may then be planted directly into the covered field with a planter equipped to handle crop residues. Be sure to check with your crop insurance agent regarding cropping options using a cover crop establishment. Also, don't plant a field with irrigated cropping plans unless the irrigation system is functional. Delays with repair parts and labor may cause the field to be dryland during the growing season.

If an irrigated crop is planted into burned acres, increase fertility rates slightly. N, P, and K levels may need to be raised a small amount to compensate for organic matter levels that will not be contributing to fertilizer releases during the growing season. My best estimation is to raise Nitrogen rates by about 25 lbs/a, and Phosphorous and Potassium levels by about 15 pounds per acre. Watch the crop for color during the season and add additional Nitrogen if yellow plants begin to appear.

Addressing damaged crop land issues early, will limit crop production problems later.

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## **Rainfall Effects on Postemergence Applications**

*Ron F. Meyer, Area Extension Agent (Agronomy)*

Rainfall shortly after application often reduces weed control from postemergence applications because the herbicide is washed off the leaves before absorption is complete. Herbicides vary in rate of absorption and in ease of being washed from leaves; therefore, herbicides vary in response to rainfall. The amount and intensity of rainfall influence the washing of herbicide from leaves. The approximate time between application and rainfall needed for maximum weed control from several herbicides are as follows:

Pesticide	Time needed between application and rainfall (hours)	Pesticide	Time needed between application and rainfall (hours)
Accent	4	Ignite 280 SL	4
Accent Gold	6	Laddok	4
Achieve	1	Lightning	1
Aim	1	Marksman/Rifle Plue	4-6
Ally	4	Matrix	4
Amber	4	Maverick	4
Assert	3	MCP Amine	4
Assure II/Matador	1	MCP Ester	1
Atrazine & Oil	4*	Mirage Plus	4
Banvel	2-3	Northstar	4
Basagran	4	Olympus	4
Basis	4	Olympus FLEX	4
Basis Gold	4	Option	2
Beacon	4	Peak	1
Betamix	6	Paramount	6
Betanex	6	Permit	4
Blazer Ultra	1	Phoenix	2
Bronate Advanced	½-1	Poast	1
Buctril	1	Poast Plus	1
Bucktril & Atrazine	1	Progress	6
Callisto	1	Puma	1
Celebrity Plus	4	Pursuit	1
Cimarron Max	4	RT Master II	1-2
Clarity	4	Raptor	1
Classic	1	Resource	1
Clean	4	Rimfire	4
Cobra	½	Roundup WeatherMax	½
Crossbow	6	Saber	1
Curtail/Curtail M	6	Salvo	1
Dakota	1	Select	1
Discover	½	Shotgun	2
Distinct	4	Silverado	4
Everest	1	Spirit	4
Express	4	Starane	1
Finesse	4	Steadfast	4
First Rate	2	Stellar	1
Flexstar	1	Stinger	6
Fusilade DX	1	Synchrony STS	1
Fusion	1	Tordon 22K	2
Gramoxone Max	½	Touchdown HiTech	4
Grazon P+D	4	Touchdown Total	1
Goal	4	Valor	1
Halex GT	½	2,4-D Amine	6
Harmony Extra	4	2,4-D Ester	2
Harmony GT	1	WideMatch	4
Honcho	6	Yukon	4
Hornet	2		

\* rain may improve performance

**Rule of Thumb:** Many farmers do not spray when there is dew on the crops or weeds. Many times you can go ahead and spray if you follow this simple rule of thumb: Spraying is OK if the combination of dew and spray do not exceed the point of run-off.

Source: Loveland Products, Inc.

# MONEY MANAGEMENT

## Documenting Economic Damages From Fire

*John Deering, Regional Extension Specialist, Agriculture & Business*

Documenting monetary damages from a fire can be a difficult process, but is often an important step in moving forward. Independent estimates of lost grazing resources, fencing, hay, and other associated costs can be

helpful to present to insurance companies or government agencies if money is available for rebuilding and recovery. For assistance in documenting economic damages from the Heartstrong fire, contact John Deering, Colorado State

University Extension  
Agriculture and Business  
Management Specialist at 970-332-4151 (Wray), 970-345-2287 (Akron) or  
[john.deering@colostate.edu](mailto:john.deering@colostate.edu)



## Tax Consequences of Selling Cows Due to Fire Damaged Range

*John Deering, Regional Extension Specialist, Agriculture & Business*

High hay prices and scarce availability of replacement grazing resources may leave many affected by the fire considering selling their cattle and replacing them in the future. This option is worthy of consideration, especially with the current high cattle prices. However, the potential tax consequences of this decision should be understood as the sale of today's high value animals could result in a considerable tax liability if not managed properly.

For cases like the Heartstrong fire, where the operator has no control over the circumstances, the Internal Revenue Service provides for a two year period after the end of the first tax year in which any part of a sale of livestock took place due to an

“Involuntary Conversion of Business Assets”. In other words, December 31, 2014 would be the deadline to replace livestock sold as a result of the Heartstrong fire. Also, it is important to properly report and document the assets that were involuntarily converted in case the tax return is reviewed.

As always, it is important that you confer with your tax professional to be sure that the involuntary conversion exemption applies to your specific situation. For more information, contact your tax professional and visit the tax topics link on the left side of the page at [ruraltax.org](http://ruraltax.org) to find fact sheets on various tax related topics including “Involuntary Conversion of Business Assets”.



# AG MARKET PRICES

*John Deering, Agriculture and Business Management*

*Dennis Kaan, Agriculture and Business Management*

<b>LIVESTOCK CASH PRICES</b>				<b>Week Ending 3/23/12</b>		
				Current <sup>1</sup>	One Month Ago <sup>2</sup>	One Year Ago <sup>2</sup>
<b>Colorado Auction Feeder Cattle, Medium &amp; Large Frame #1</b>						
Steers,	500-550 lbs	/cwt	\$185.50 - 202.50	\$180.00 - 188.00	\$147.00 - 175.00	
Steers,	650-700 lbs	/cwt	\$160.50 - 168.00	\$150.00 - 162.00	\$141.00 - 152.00	
Heifers,	500-550 lbs	/cwt	\$164.50 - 178.00	\$158.00 - 166.00	\$131.00 - 156.00	
Heifers,	600-650 lbs	/cwt	\$153.50 - 155.00	\$148.00 - 153.50	\$132.00 - 148.00	
<b>Colorado Weekly Weighted Average Direct Slaughter Cattle, FOB the Feedyard After 3-4% Shrink</b>						
<u>Live Basis Steer Sales</u>	Hd Count	Wt Range	/cwt	/cwt	/cwt	
Over 80% Choice	295	1,375-1,425	\$127.00 - 127.00		\$118.00	
65-80% Choice	1,422	1,275-1,525	\$126.00 - 127.00	\$122.00 - 124.00	\$118.00 - 118.50	
35-65% Choice	2,051	1,275-1,475	\$126.00 - 127.00	\$123.00	\$117.00 - 118.50	
1-35% Choice					\$118.00	
<u>Live Basis Heifer Sales</u>	Hd Count	Wt Range	/cwt			
Over 80% Choice	466	1,250-1,500	\$127.00 - 127.00	\$124.00	\$118.00 - 118.50	
65-80% Choice	1,952	1,200-1,385	\$126.00 - 127.00	\$123.00	\$117.00 - 118.50	
35-65% Choice	1,601	1,100-1,350	\$126.00 - 127.00	\$123.00	\$116.00 - 118.50	
1-35% Choice						
<b>Western Weekly Lamb Report, Formula Contract Purchases, Sales FOB with 4% Shrink,</b>						
	Hd Count	Wt Range	/cwt	/cwt	/cwt	
Domestic	N/A	75-85	None Reported	None Reported	None Reported	
Imported						
<b>Hogs, As of 3/22/12</b>						
Base Market Hog, 185 lb. Carcass Basis, Plant Delivered						
0.9-1.1" Back-Fat, 6.0/2.0 Loin Area/Depth	/cwt	\$72.00 - 84.50	\$76.00 - 88.25	\$74.50 - 83.64		
Iowa – Southern Minnesota Daily Negotiated Purchases 185 lb Carcass Basis						
1.0" Back-Fat, 6.0/2.0 Loin Area/Depth	/cwt	\$74.00 - 82.00	\$75.00 - 88.75	\$75.00 - 83.13		
Western Cornbelt Daily Negotiated Purchases 185 lb Carcass Basis						
1.0" Back-Fat, 6.0/2.0 Loin Area/Depth	/cwt	\$74.00 - 82.00	\$75.00 - 88.75	\$74.50 - 83.13		
<b>LIVESTOCK FUTURES PRICES</b>				<b>3/23/12</b>		
<b>Live Cattle – CME</b>				Current <sup>1</sup>	One Month Ago <sup>2</sup>	One Year Ago <sup>2</sup>
Apr	/cwt	\$124.65	\$127.10	\$111.60		
Jun	/cwt	\$121.30	\$126.65	\$111.80		
Aug	/cwt	\$123.45	\$128.60	\$114.10		
Oct	/cwt	\$128.55	\$132.33	\$118.00		
<b>Feeder Cattle – CME</b>						
Mar	/cwt	\$153.38	\$154.30	\$129.17		
Apr	/cwt	\$152.55	\$156.75	\$130.25		
May	/cwt	\$153.73	\$157.95	\$131.90		
Aug	/cwt	\$156.00	\$159.25	\$131.52		

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

<sup>2</sup> 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 Board of Trade

Kansas City Board of Trade

Chicago Mercantile Exchange

<http://www.ams.usda.gov>

<http://www.cbot.com/cbot/pub/page>

[http://www.kcbot.com/futures\\_quotes.asp](http://www.kcbot.com/futures_quotes.asp)

<http://www.cme.com/>

<b>CASH GRAIN PRICES</b>		<b>3/22/12</b>		
		<b>Current<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>One Month Ago<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>One Year Ago<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>#1 HRW Wheat</b>				
Fleming, Haxtun, Julesburg, Holyoke, Paoli, Amherst	/bu	\$5.97 - 6.04	\$6.30 - 6.38	\$6.80 - 6.88
Yuma, Wray, Brush, Akron, Otis, Anton	/bu	\$5.94 - 6.07	\$6.30 - 6.38	\$6.79 - 6.95
Burlington, Seibert, Flagler, Arriba, Genoa, Hugo	/bu	\$6.04 - 6.14	\$6.33 - 6.43	\$6.76 - 6.80
<b>#2 Yellow Corn</b>				
Haxtun, Julesburg, Fleming, Holyoke, Paoli, Amherst	/bu	\$6.15 - 6.22	\$6.14 - 6.20	\$6.06 - 6.19
Yuma, Wray, Brush, Otis, Anton, Seibert, Arriba, Burlington, Flagler, Bethune, Stratton	/bu	\$6.21 - 6.40	\$6.26 - 6.40	\$6.10 - 6.25
		\$6.06 - 6.22	\$6.17 - 6.30	\$6.04 - 6.08
<b>Northeast Colorado, Western Nebraska Beans</b>				
Pinto Beans	/cwt	\$50.00	\$47.00 - 50.00	\$27.00 - 28.00
Great Northern Beans	/cwt	\$42.00	\$42.00	\$35.00
Light Red Kidney Beans	/cwt	\$55.00 - 57.00	\$53.00	\$35.00 - 38.00
<b>White Millet</b>				
E Colorado / SW Nebraska	/cwt	\$11.50 - 11.75	\$11.50 - 11.75	\$26.50 - 30.00
<b>Sunflowers</b>				
E Colorado / SW Nebraska	/cwt	\$25.00 - 26.25	\$26.75 - 30.00	\$26.50 - 30.00
<b>GRAIN FUTURES PRICES</b>		<b>3/23/12</b>		
		<b>Current<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>One Month Ago<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>One Year Ago<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Wheat, Kansas City Board of Trade</b>				
May	/bu	\$6.88	\$7.21	\$8.45
Jul	/bu	\$6.96	\$7.30	\$8.56
Sep	/bu	\$7.09	\$7.41	\$8.70
Dec	/bu	\$7.30	\$	\$8.89
<b>Corn, Chicago Board of Trade</b>				
May	/bu	\$6.47	\$6.51	\$6.84
Jul	/bu	\$6.45	\$6.56	\$6.90
Sep	/bu	\$5.82	\$6.05	\$6.37
Dec	/bu	\$5.57	\$	\$5.99
<b>CASH HAY PRICES</b>		<b>Week Ending 3/22/12</b>		
		<b>Current<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>One Month Ago<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>One Year Ago<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Colorado Hay Report, Northeastern Areas</b>				
Large Square Bales, FOB Stack				
Supreme Alfalfa, 180+ RFV (On Contract)	/ton	\$255.00 - 270.00	\$255.00 - 270.00	\$140.00 - 150.00
Premium Alfalfa, 150-180 RFV	/ton	\$240.00 - 250.00	\$240.00 - 250.00	\$130.00 - 140.00
Good Alfalfa, 125-150 RFV	/ton	\$220.00 - 240.00	\$220.00 - 240.00	\$120.00 - 130.00
Fair Alfalfa	/ton	\$190.00 - 220.00	\$190.00 - 220.00	\$100.00 - 120.00
Utility Alfalfa	/ton	\$185.00 - 200.00		
Premium Grass (Small Squares)	/ton	\$280.00 - 350.00	\$280.00 - 350.00	\$200.00 - 240.00
Premium Grass (Small Squares)	/bale	\$8.00 - 10.00	\$8.00 - 10.00	\$5.95 - 7.25
Sorghum (Large Squares)	/ton	\$100.00 - 130.00		
Millet (Large Squares)	/ton	\$120.00 - 135.00		
Corn Stalks (Large Squares)	/ton	\$70.00 - 80.00		

**GOLDEN PLAINS AREA AGRICULTURAL NEWSLETTER**

Calendar of Events

Renewable Energy Options Available for Residents and Small Business

Assessing Cattle Injuries & Health Following Wildfires

Spring Pasture Considerations

Rangeland Drought Considerations

Crop Strategies on Burned Acres

Rainfall Effects on Postemergence Applications

Documenting Economic Damages From Fire

Tax Consequences of Selling Cows Due to Fire Damaged Range

Ag Market Prices

Colorado Ranch Practicum Flyer