

AGRICULTURE

Golden Plains Area Newsletter

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GOLDEN PLAINS AREA
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Colorado State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Kit Carson, Phillips,
Sedgwick, Washington, and Yuma Counties cooperating.

Extension programs are available to all without discrimination.

AG BUSINESS

Online Tools Help You Navigate the 2018 Farm Bill

R. Brent Young

The Agricultural Act of 2018 provides farmers and ranchers with a unique opportunity to custom design the Title 1 Commodity Programs and Title 11 Crop Insurance Programs to meet the needs of their individual operations. Growers will be able to update Price Loss Coverage (PLC) yields, choose between three different commodity programs, and consider the addition of the supplemental crop insurance product.

In order to help producers navigate through this process and to arrive at the best decision for their particular operation, the USDA has awarded funding to two land grant university lead coalitions who have developed Internet based, nation-wide farm bill decision aids. These decision aids were developed solely to provide information so producers can better understand the economic implications of their choices under the 2018 Farm Bill.

One of the tools was developed by the National Coalition for Producer Education (NCPE), led by the University of Illinois. This tool can be accessed on the Internet at the following URL: <https://fd-tools.ncsa.illinois.edu/> . In order to use this tool you will need your PLC yields for each Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm (this information can be secured at your local FSA office).

This decision tool is very user friendly and can be operated on smart phones, tablets or personal computers. Most producers who operate one to three FSA farms with up to 4 covered commodities will find that this tool will meet their needs.

Producers who have more complex operations that include several FSA farms in different counties or states may find the second tool developed by National Association of Agriculture and Food Policy (NAAFP), led by Texas A&M University to be a better choice. This tool can be found online at <https://www.afpc.tamu.edu/tools/farmbill/2018/> .

This tool requires producers to submit the same data as the NCPE version but has the capability of producing a more detailed analysis. Producers that input planted acreage and yield data for program crops from 2013-2017 (crop insurance data or elevator settlement sheets) will also be able to determine if they may update their PLC yields.

To paraphrase an old television commercial “The Agricultural Act of 2018 is not your father’s Farm Bill”. The NCPE and NAAFP tools are available to help you navigate through the process.

2018 ARC-CO Payments

R. Brent Young

Producers enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage – County (ARC-CO) program title 1 program of the 2014 Farm Bill should begin receiving their 2018 crop year payments in October. The 2018 payments will not be subject to a sequestration reduction.

Payments are made under ARC-CO when **ARC-CO Actual Revenue** is less than the **ARC-CO Guarantee** for a covered commodity. **ARC-CO Actual Revenue** is determined by multiplying the county yield during the crop year by the national price for that crop year. The **ARC-CO Guarantee** is calculated by multiplying the county benchmark yield by the national benchmark price.

The national benchmark price is determined by a 5 year Olympic Average (drop the high and the low and average the remaining three) of the higher of the Marketing Year Average (MYA) or the reference price. The national benchmark price is likely to be a bigger driver in determining the **ARC-CO Guarantee** than the county benchmark yield, as yields tend to follow predictable trend lines and do not vary much over time (barring unforeseen weather events).

Payments for the 2018 corn crop in counties served by the Northeast Regional Engagement Center are as follows: Kit Carson, irrigated \$0.00, non-irrigated

\$0.00; Logan, irrigated \$0.00, non-irrigated \$0.00; Morgan, all \$58.46; Phillips, irrigated \$0.00, non-irrigated \$0.00; Sedgwick, irrigated \$0.00, non-irrigated \$0.00; Washington, irrigated \$70.67, non-irrigated \$24.05; Yuma all \$0.00. Remember these per acre payments are made on 85% of the corn base acres.

Payments for the 2017 corn crop in counties served by the Northeast Regional Engagement Center are as follows: Kit Carson, irrigated \$0.00, non-irrigated \$0.00; Logan, irrigated \$6.24, non-irrigated \$3.24; Morgan, all \$0.00; Phillips, irrigated \$0.00, non-irrigated \$0.00; Sedgwick, irrigated \$13.08, non-irrigated \$0.00; Washington, irrigated \$6.23, non-irrigated \$3.24; Yuma all \$0.00.

Payments made for the 2016 corn crop were as follows: Kit Carson, irrigated \$40.86, non-irrigated \$0.00; Logan, irrigated \$57.57, non-irrigated \$26.82; Morgan, all \$0.00; Phillips, irrigated \$93.41, non-irrigated \$0.00; Sedgwick, irrigated \$82.39, non-irrigated \$0.00; Washington, irrigated \$88.62, non-irrigated \$0.00; Yuma all \$87.18.

If you have questions about this topic or any other agricultural business management issue, please feel free to contact me at 970-522-7207 or by email at brent.young@colostate.edu

2019 Golden Plains Area Agricultural Handbook Orders Being Taken Now

Dennis A. Kaan

The 2019 edition of the Golden Plains Area Agricultural Handbook is currently in production and orders are being taken now for your copy. This publication is a permanent and often used item in many farm, ranch and agribusiness offices in Northeastern Colorado. This resource book contains the latest university research for high plains agriculture in Colorado. Most of the research results presented in the handbook are conducted on local farms and ranches in the area.

The handbook will be formatted in two parts this year.

Part one will contain much of the crop production, water management, crop pathology, insect control and weed management information. Part two will contain information on, livestock cost of production, and crop cost of production. In total subscribers will find approximately 150 pages of current research information required to make informed decisions for agricultural operations.

Pricing for the handbook will remain the same as previous years with tiered pricing for multiple subscriptions and the availability of a printed copy or CD version.

CD Version

Copies	Before 1/10/2019	After 1/10/2019
1 to 4	\$8.00	\$11.00
5 to 9	\$7.00	\$10.00
10 or more	\$6.00	\$9.00

Printed Version

Copies	Before 1/10/2019	After 1/10/2019
1 to 4	\$25.00	\$28.00
5 to 9	\$23.00	\$26.00
10 or more	\$21.00	\$24.00

The CD version has the added benefit of spreadsheet templates and other resources useful in the decision-making process. The deadline for receiving a break on your subscription price is January 10, 2019. Order forms are available at Golden Plains Area Extension offices or from the web site at www.goldenplains.extension.colostate.edu. Purchase and payment can be made online or printed and sent to the Washington Count Extension

Office at 181 Birch, Akron, CO 80720. Don't miss out, hurry and get your order in today. Another option to obtain your copy of the Agricultural Handbook is to download a printable version from the GPA web site at <http://goldenplains.extension.colostate.edu>. In the right-hand column of the home page, click on Agricultural Handbook under GPA Resources. This will take you to the page where you can download your copy or order a print or cd format.

ORDER FORM

2019 Golden Plains Area Agricultural Handbook



Please complete this order form and mail with a check for the appropriate amount to:

CSU Extension
181 Birch Avenue
Akron, Colorado 80720

(Please Print)

Date:		
Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:

Prior to 1/10/2019		After 1/10/2019	
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5 to 9	\$23.00/copy	\$26.00	
10 or more	\$21.00/copy	\$24.00	
Total Enclosed			

Please make check payable to: *GPA Extension Fund* with mail in registrations
Online ordering and payment is available at <http://goldenplains.extension.colostate.edu>
 Cost includes postage and handling for Part 1 and Part 2.

Colorado State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Kit Carson, Phillips, Washington, Sedgwick and Yuma Counties cooperating.
 Extension programs are available to all without discrimination

AGRONOMY

Private Pesticide Recertification Meetings

Ron F. Meyer

Colorado State University Extension is hosting Private Pesticide Recertification sessions at various locations in Northeast Colorado. Anyone who purchases restricted-use pesticides must have a Private Pesticide Applicator license which is issued by the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Private Applicator license study guides and exams can be obtained either from the Colorado Department of Agriculture or some Extension offices. This test is also available on-line. Once a license is received,

it is active for 3 years before renewal is needed. Renewal can be achieved by either retaking the exam or attending a recertification meeting. These recertification meetings offer credits which can be substituted for retaking the exam. Licenses that expire prior to obtaining recertification credits will require re-taking the private pesticide exam.

Locations and times are as follows:

Jan 14 Tuesday – 1 p.m., CSU Extension Office, 315 Cedar, Julesburg

Jan 15 Wednesday – 1 p.m., CSU Extension office, 817 17th St., Burlington

Jan 16 Thursday — 8:30 a.m. CSU Extension office, 181 Birch, Akron

Registration is required and the cost is \$50/person. Registration on-line can be accomplished at <https://goldenplains.extension.colostate.edu/> or by contacting the Colorado State University Extension office in Burlington at 719-346-5571.

To ensure adequate space for everyone, pre-registration at these locations is required.

New Commercial Application Pesticide Testing Center

R.F. Meyer

Colorado State University Extension and the Colorado Department of Agriculture are announcing a new testing center for commercial pesticide applicator licensing. The new location will be the Kit Carson County Extension office

located at 817 15th St., Burlington, CO 80807. This new center will join other Colorado testing sites that individuals can access to take Colorado's commercial pesticide applicator tests.

Who needs a commercial pesticide applicator license? Commercial applicator means any person, other than a private applicator, who engages in the business of applying pesticides for hire or operating a device for hire. In other words, if you apply pesticides for a fee, you are a commercial applicator. If you apply pesticides on your own farm only, then a private applicator's pesticide license is all that is required.

In order to take a commercial pesticide applicator exam, you must follow these steps:

1. Sign up for your Pesticide Applicator exam through the Metro Institute Website at <https://www.metrosignup.com/home.asp>.
2. You will receive an email verifying that you are using a valid email address. The email will also provide you with a link to continue your application process.
3. The link takes you to a webpage which contains your username/password and a login address for that site. *****Print your username/password and keep it somewhere handy! This same username/password will be used if you need to retest due to examination failure OR if you would like to add a category later on.***
4. Provide your employer address or firm name on this page. If self-employed, or not affiliated with a company, type N/A in the Employer field. Click continue.

5. Select exam categories based on whether you want to test as Qualified Supervisor or Certified Operator. Click continue.
6. The Colorado Department of Agriculture will review your application and then tell you that you can schedule your test by returning to Metro Institute's Website. When you return to the Metro site, you will be required to provide your username and password. Select the test site and testing date.

Preparation:

Preparing for the exam is your responsibility. Reading the Pesticide Applicators' Act (Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 35, Article 10) and its associated Rules and Regulations are helpful for exam preparation.

In addition to these laws, you can obtain both the General Pesticide Applicator Training Manual and guides for all categories from the National Pesticide Safety Education Center (NPSEC). For more information regarding exam preparation and study guides call the Colorado State University Extension Kit Carson County Extension office (7193465571) or visit the following websites: <https://cepep.agsci.colostate.edu/1-licensing/commercial-applicator/#1468524131717-798c2e77-4f96>
<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/agplants/commercial-pesticide-applicator-business-licensing>

LIVESTOCK

Cattle and All Those Ears

Travis Taylor

The high plains winds caused havoc with this current corn harvest. Corn loss in some fields is being reported between 20 to 60 bushel, and up to 80 per acre in extreme cases. Although not ideal,

this does provide grazing opportunities for cattle producers willing to manage fields with extreme amounts of corn available. It is important to remember that management is the key. Cattle are

able to acclimate to high corn diets but engorging on corn will cause lactic acidosis as the rumen microbial population is changed to rapidly. It can be fatal or cause lasting negative production effects. Producers need to manage cattle properly to ensure a positive and productive outcome. A University of Nebraska article, “Down Corn: Problem or Opportunity for Cattle Producers,” (<https://beef.unl.edu/down-corn-problem-or-opportunity-cattle-producers>) outlines the steps necessary to prepare cattle to enter fields with high amounts of corn. Basically, cattle can be acclimated to graze such fields by adding corn to their diets and gradually increasing to a predetermined daily consumption over ten days to two weeks. This may be the safest and best option. Another preventive measure may be the use of biologics. One such product called Lactipro *advance*® from MS Biotec claims beef producers could cut roughage-to-grain transition time by up to 50 percent. These products can change the rumen

environment to allow for quicker utilization of high energy grains. Prior to using these products it is recommended to consult with your nutritionist and veterinarian.

If management of the cows is not an option, managing the fields may be. Cross fencing fields or pivot fencing options (see the previously mentioned Nebraska article) can limit each cow’s daily corn consumption. Likewise, increased cows per acre or limiting available acres available is wise to control intake in a field. If possible, time grazing may work in the right situations. This allows a set time access to fields and utilizes electric fencing to remove and confine cattle to already grazed areas for the remainder of the day. In either case it is the management of the situation or quite possibly a combination of different strategies that will allow producers to make the most of this opportunity.

How Much Hay Do I Need

Travis Taylor

There are many factors that determine the amount of feed needed to winter your mature beef cow herd. Several estimates are required, but more precise information increases a producer’s ability to make critical financial decisions. Understanding the average cow size in your herd is important. The best time to get an actual average cow weight would be after weaning and early in the second trimester. Just as importantly, producers should have an accurate inventory of available standing or baled forage when estimating winter feed needs. Better decisions can be made with actual forage quality tests, or more educated forage quality estimates. Higher-quality forages have larger concentrations of important nutrients, and cattle can consumer them in greater quantity, as rumen fermentation is increased, allowing for quicker passage and utilization. Additionally, after calving, cows will be

able to consume a higher percent of their body weight, which increases the needed total ranch winter feed availability. Remember that no two balers are exactly the same, so as producers it is important to have an understanding of your winter forage supply available and its quality. Glenn Selk, Emeritus Extension animal scientist from Oklahoma State University, listed the following general beef cow guidelines relating to forage consumption in the November 12 Cow-Calf Corner broadcast. “Low-quality forages (below 6% crude protein) will be consumed at about 1.5 percent of body weight (on a dry matter basis) per day. Higher-quality grass hays (above 8% crude protein) may be consumed at 2 percent of body weight. Excellent quality forages like good alfalfa, silages or green pasture may be consumed at the rate of 2.5 percent dry mater of body weight per day.”

To illustrate, imagine you have 1,200 pound pregnant spring calving cows in good condition (BCS 5-6), and a sorghum hay supply that tested 8 percent crude protein and 90 percent dry matter. Cows should consume 24 pounds of dry matter per day (1200 lbs. x 2% = 24 lbs.). Adjusting for dry matter content of the forage (24 lbs. DM/ 90% forage DM) the cows should voluntarily consume 26.66 pounds per head each day. In a 100 cow herd fed 120 days, or January through April, the producer would estimate feeding 160 tons of hay. If the same cow herd had an average mature cow weight of 1,300 pounds the estimated feed inventory needed would be 173.33 tons. The percent increase or decrease in total feed required is the same as the percent change in mature cow weight, or an increase of 8.33 percent in this example. Another component to be estimated is Hay wastage.

Different feeding methods can improve hay waste which generally ranges from 10 to 20 percent, but can be even higher. At 15 percent in the above example, that would be an additional 24 tons or an entire semi load wasted. Assuming an \$85.00 per ton hay value that is \$20.40 per cow and increases the break- even price for 500 pound calves by \$5 per hundred weight. Waste estimates are influenced by factors like wind, mud, snow, feeding area, forage type and feeding equipment. Extended periods of cold and wet weather equates to cows needing increased energy and additional feed. By using more precise estimates

relating to forage available and mature cow size, producers can better calculate an operations winter feed needs. More accurate estimates mean better management decisions and translate into a more profitable operation.

HORTICULTURE

Horticulture & Social Media

By Linda Langelo, CSU Horticulture Agent

Today people get their news, stay in touch with family and friends; all thanks to social media. Now you can connect through Facebook to get current issues, insect problems, diseases, plant problems and more. How? Start following or like, Garden the Plains Facebook page.

Garden the Plains Facebook page can give you pictures of insects and diseases. It gives you links to solutions for all types of problems. It gives you tips for horticulture topics such as winter watering and a link for further information.

Put horticulture at your fingertips. Here is the link for Garden the Plains, if you should have any problem finding it:

https://www.facebook.com/Garden-The-Plains-1363524917117960/?modal=admin_todo_tour

I invite people to ask questions or make comments. I invite people to share the page with others who do not know about it. Wouldn't it be great to have information on problem spreading through your town or our area and be aware of what to do, if anything? Sometimes, the answers are there is no cure, but to keep the plants out of stress or give them the best cultural care.

Social media does have good points. Having the ability to share a post quickly, can help raise awareness. Educating people with accurate information to make better decisions is what Garden the Plains is all about.

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