

AGRICULTURE

Golden Plains Area Newsletter

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GOLDEN PLAINS AREA AG NEWSLETTER

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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.

Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020¹

2020 June 08

Jeffrey E. Tranel²

President Trump just signed into law the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020. H.R. 7010 passed the Senate by unanimous consent and the House by a vote of 417-1. The Act modifies the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) in a number of ways so as to make the PPP more borrower friendly. The U.S. Department of Treasury and Small Business Administration have yet to develop any associated rules and to provide guidance for implementation of the Act.

- **The minimum maturity date for loans that are not forgiven has been extended from two years to five years.** This provision applies only to loans made on or after June 8th, but lenders and borrowers can mutually agree to modify the terms of any loans.
- **Extending the end of the “covered period” for PPP loans from June 30, 2020, to December 31, 2020.** The language allows borrowers to now spend PPP loan proceeds through December 31, 2020. Also, the language could be interpreted to allow PPP loans to be issued through December 31st.
- **Extending the loan forgiveness “covered period” from 8 weeks to 24 weeks, with the end of the covered period expiring, at the latest, by December 31, 2020 (instead of June 30, 2020).** Although this provision applies to all borrowers, a borrower who received a loan prior to the date of enactment of this Act can choose to have the 8-week forgiveness period apply. It is unclear how SBA and Treasury will modify its owner compensation guidance in response to this new law. Also, in question is the current employee compensation cap of \$15,385 per employee.
- **Extending the rehire and salary restoration safe harbor date (so loan forgiveness will not be reduced) from June 30, 2020, to December 31, 2020.**
- **Exempting employers from a reduction in forgiveness due to a reduction in their full-**

time equivalent workforce if the following requirements are met:

- 1) the employer is able to document (a) an inability to rehire individuals who were employees of the eligible recipient on February 15, 2020; and (b) an inability to hire similarly qualified employees for unfilled positions on or before December 31, 2020; **OR**
 - 2) The employer is able to document an inability to return to the same level of business activity as such business was operating at before February 15, 2020, due to compliance with requirements established or federal guidance during the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending December 31, 2020, related to the maintenance of standards for sanitation, social distancing, or any other worker or customer safety requirement related to COVID-19.
- **Requiring that borrowers use 60 percent of the covered loan amount for payroll expenses to qualify for forgiveness. Forty percent of the loan amount may be used for interest on covered mortgage obligations, covered rent obligations, or covered utility obligations.** The CARES Act did not include a requirement that a certain percentage of loan proceeds be spent on payroll. Treasury and SBA, however, issued guidance setting the requirement that borrowers use 75 percent of the loan amount for payroll costs. The Act makes it easier to receive forgiveness on one hand by allowing up to 40 percent of the loan amount to be used for non-payroll expenses. However, if the recipient does not use at least 60 percent of the loan amount for payroll, there will be no forgiveness at all.
 - **Revising the deferral period for PPP loans, allowing recipients to defer payments until the lender receives**

compensation for the forgiven amounts.

Recipients who do not apply for forgiveness will have 10 months from the end of the forgiveness covered period to begin making payments.

- **Allowing recipients who receive PPP loan forgiveness to also defer their payroll taxes (6.2 percent employer portion of social security payroll taxes) under section 2302 of the CARES Act.** The CARES Act had restricted PPP borrowers from deferring these taxes once they received PPP loan forgiveness.

- Again, the SBA and Treasury still need to revise the forgiveness application and guidance to incorporate these new provisions. It is expected that a number of additional Frequently Asked Questions will be developed to further explain these provisions, as well as other still unresolved questions relating to forgiveness.

¹ Reference: Kristine Tidgren, Director of the Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation at Iowa State University, and U.S. Department of Treasury.

² Tranel, Jeffrey E. Agricultural and Business Management Economist, Colorado State University Extension

AGRONOMY

Three Dicamba Products Cancelled

Ron F. Meyer

A decision by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has issued a ruling that cancels the registration of Xtendimax®, FeXapan®, and Engenia®. These products are primarily used in dicamba-resistant soybeans and the ruling immediately cancels the sale of these herbicides

nationwide. As a result, these products cannot be used in soybeans or other crops.

However, this ruling does not affect the sale of other dicamba type products in other crops, which can continue to be used in accordance with federal label laws.

LIVESTOCK

Controlling Flies on Beef Cattle

Travis Taylor
Area Livestock Agent

Driving the roads right now, we see cattle herds bunched in pasture corners, standing in ponds, or worse stamping out large areas of grass. It is fly season, and those pests have been causing weight loss, cattle discomfort and rancher aggravation for years. Horn flies have been shown to feed on animals up to 30 times each day and Face flies can travel up to 2 miles and effect both gain and animal health. Unfortunately, there is not a “one size fits all” product that will eliminate flies, so a producer’s best option is to implement a control

strategy. Producers should contemplate if feeding a substance that breaks the insect lifecycle or a larvicide like insect growth regulator (IGR) works with their operation goals. Cows need to be fed such products, usually in a mineral or protein supplement starting 30 days before flies typically emerge, until 30 days after a killing frost. Another measure that is being successfully utilized is fly tags. With new technological improvements fly tags are now better able to release a uniform insecticide concentration and are an effective tool in

controlling flies. It is recommended to rotate between pyrethroid and organophosphate based tags, reducing chances for building flies' chemical resistance. Follow label directions on the number of tags per cow, and refrain from using the same chemical tag type more than two years in a row. For best results when using tags, wait until you have around 200 flies per cow to tag as applying too early decreases their efficacy. Keep in mind that tags should be removed in three to five months to help with resistance issues.

Other control measures such as pour-ons, sprays and dust bags are proven beneficial. A pour-on can be used at the same time you fly-tag cows. Most pour-on dewormers will also have efficacy against horn flies and will have the added benefit of controlling internal parasites. If deemed necessary to re-pour cattle later in the season, switch to a

product only labeled for flies and/or lice as using the same deworming product multiple times throughout a given year can contribute to internal parasites building resistance. Spraying or fogging cattle in certain situations can be beneficial, but the equipment and chemical clean-up necessary makes it less economically feasible for a majority of producers. Cattle rubs or dust bags, when placed correctly can provide for cost effective control of flies. The tradeoff is the time and management required to keep equipment charged with insecticide and in proper working order. Utilizing only one of the fly control methods will most likely not give you the results you desire. Using a multifaceted approach, rotating insecticides and consulting with your beef extension specialist, veterinarian and animal health consultant to talk strategy can help increase herd health and protect your bottom line.

HORTICULTURE

Marigolds

By CSU Horticulture Agent, Linda Langelo

Marigolds make a great annual bedding plant. They are also very popular and a well-used annual for the vegetable garden. There is certainly a large variety to choose from for adding to your landscape. From the tallest, the African marigolds at three feet tall to some of the shorter marigolds, the dwarfs, only six inches tall. There is a variety of color from creamy white to combinations of orange and red and much more.

Lucky for us, marigolds like full sun and tolerate the heat. They do need well-drained soil and soil that is moist but not wet. They are perfect for edging a bed or planting amongst vegetables. Marigolds do attract beneficial insects such as lacewings, lady beetles and parasitic wasps. These predators do consume a variety of nonbeneficial insects. Lacewings eat aphids, mites, and a wide variety of soft-bodied insects. This includes eggs, thrips, mealybugs, immature whiteflies, and small caterpillars. Lady beetles eat mostly aphids. They also will eat mites, whiteflies, and scale insects. Parasitic wasps eat a lot of insect larvae. They are

good at controlling aphids, scale, whiteflies, sawfly larvae, ants, leaf miners and several types of insects. They will parasitize the eggs of European corn borers, tomato hornworms, codling moths, cabbage loopers and imported cabbage worms. Perhaps this answers the question of why marigolds are relatively pest free.

Recent studies including the one published by Backyard Farmer, July 7, 1999 indicates that marigolds contain compounds toxic to root knot and other plant-parasitic nematodes. These nematodes are microscopic round worms that damage plant roots. This leads to reduced yields and poor quality of the vegetable crop. Root nematodes are usually brought in on other plant material coming into the area. Here is brief list of the types of marigolds that can control root nematodes. The most effective varieties are those of French marigolds such as Bolero, Bonita Mixed, Goldie, Gypsy Sunshine, Petite, Petite Harmony, Petite Gold, Scarlet Sophie, Single Gold, and Tangerine. For further reading and information on the study and how to utilize this

in your garden go to the following link:
<https://cals.arizona.edu/yavapai/anr/hort/byg/archiv e/marigoldsandnematodemangement.html>

Other studies from the University of Hawaii and the University of California states “Marigold plants produce a number of potentially bioactive compounds, among which α -therthienyl is recognized as one of the most toxic. This sulfur-containing compound is abundant in marigold tissues, including roots. It has nematicidal, insecticidal, fungicidal, antiviral, and cytotoxic activities, and it is believed to be the main compound responsible for the nematicidal activity of marigold. Thus, nematodes may be killed either by entering the root system of a marigold plant or

contacting soil containing marigold’s bioactive compounds.”

If you are interested, you can read more on this study from the University of Hawaii that says bioactive compounds differ in marigold species or *Tagetes species* and are not found in the same composition, quantity or quality. Here is a link to that study:

<https://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/bitstream/10125/12417/PD-35.pdf>

Marigolds are not just another pretty flower. Use them, plant them, but you must deadhead the spent flowers to keep them flowering all through the season.

Milkweeds, Garden Design and Monarchs

By CSU Horticulture Agent, Linda Langelo

Have you ever wondered which milkweed is really recommended for our home landscapes? There are only a 100 species across the United States to select, but the best in *Asclepias speciosa* or Showy milkweed. One word of caution is that Showy milkweed does need space because it is considered one of the tillering species of *Asclepias*.

Showy milkweed grows one and a half feet to three feet tall with blue-green pubescent or hairy leaves producing flower clusters or umbels of star-like rose colored to purple flowers in the upper axils of the stem. It grows best in full sun with moist, well-drained soil that can be course, medium or fine. Its native habitat ranges from dry to moist savannas, prairies, roadsides, old fields, and meadows according to Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. The plant has a milky sap when you break the stem, or the stem is injured in some way. This milky sap is a latex and except for *Asclepias tuberosa* is found as a characteristic of milkweeds. This sap containing toxins is a defense mechanism for the plant to make the leaves unpalatable. This plant serves as a host for monarchs while hummingbirds and other butterflies feed off the nectar.

Other milkweeds to add to your home landscape can be those with NON-Aggressive root systems which are as follows:

1. *Asclepias incarnata* or Swamp milkweed which is a native perennial growing three to four feet tall in full sun and consistently moist soils. Flowering in July through August its blossoms are pale pink to rose purple. Suggested cultivars are ‘Cinderella’ have pink to dark pink, reflexed petals, and pink to white crowns. ‘Ice Ballet’ is a white-flowering cultivar. ‘Soulmate’ has deep rose-pink flowers. For further reading:

<https://extension.iastate.edu/news/yard-and-garden-all-about-milkweed>

2. *Asclepias tuberosa* or Butterfly weed a perennial which grows one to three feet tall in full sun and soil that is average well-drained soils dry to medium moisture. It does well in poor dry soils and tolerates drought.

What would be the best arrangement or placement of milkweed in a garden? In Dr. Adam Baker of the University of Kentucky did research and presented that research in a paper titled, “Colonization and usage of eight milkweed (*Asclepias*) species by monarch butterflies and bees in urban garden settings,” along with Daniel A. Potter, also at the University of Kentucky.

In short, the small garden plots that were designed for this study were laid out differently. The first had tall *Asclepias* host plants around the perimeter of the garden and were more isolated in their spacing from one another. This design attracted a higher number of females laying eggs on the taller plants versus the shorter ones. As quoted from the study, “Host finding and oviposition by monarchs are influenced by species, height, age, developmental stage, and condition of the milkweed in the field (Cohen & Brower 1982, Zalucki & Kitching 1982; Fischer et al. 2015).

The other design layouts of scattering the *Asclepias* in the center of the small gardens did not fare as well for attracting monarchs and nor did creating a mixed combination of *Asclepias* with other plants.

Placing taller *Asclepias* around the border and keeping the plants open and accessible was more beneficial to attracting monarchs. By doing this it is believed to be helpful for the monarch’s visual perception.



Photo credit: Teresa Howes

Repairing Your Vegetable Garden Crops

By CSU Horticulture Agent, Linda Langelo

For everyone who had their vegetable garden crops destroyed, June is still a great time to replant. If you do not have transplants, but have seed for various crops such as beans, squash, or cucumbers you still have time to replant from seed.

If cucumbers are a favorite crop, here is a short list for pickling cucumber varieties:

- 1) County Fair takes 55 to 65 days to maturity
- 2) Pickle Bush takes 50-70 days to maturity
- 3) Regal takes 52 days to maturity
- 4) Munchee Burpless takes 65 days to maturity

If you like slicing cucumbers, here is a short list for those:

- 1) Marketmore takes 68 days to maturity
- 2) Diva Hybrid takes 60 days to maturity
- 3) Slicing Lemon takes 60 days to maturity
- 4) Armenian Cucumber takes 60 days to maturity – has no bitterness
- 5) Munchee Burpless takes 65 days to maturity

As for beans most bush bean crops take about 50 to 65 days to maturity. Here is a short list for those:

- 1) Tenderette Bush
- 2) Top Crop Bush
- 3) Cherokee wax bean takes 54 days to maturity

As for zucchini and squash, these can take 45 to 55 days to maturity. Here is a short list for those:

- 1) Zucchini Dark take 45-55 days to maturity
- 2) Zucchini Golden take 55 days to maturity

As a reminder to all gardeners, included in the days to maturity, the clock starts ticking from the day the seed germinates until you begin to harvest. We have about 75 days until the end of August and then a couple more weeks after that into September. Then if your fall crops got destroyed, you can start sowing seeds in early July and early August. Fall gardening has less pests and many cool season crops love a slight frost to sweeten the flavor of the harvest.



WANTED: GARDENERS WITH A GREEN THUMB AND A HEART OF GOLD!!

In response to the recent storm that wiped out gardens in Northeast Colorado, our CSU Family would like to offer local gardeners FREE vegetable plants and an opportunity to pay it forward by participating in CSU's new Grow and Give program; a modern day Victory Garden project designed to help people learn to grow food and donate extra locally.

Northeast Colorado Extension agents are currently distributing free plants, including tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, and others. To get your plants and participate in the Grow and Give project, or for more information on how you can help, please contact your local CSU Extension Office:

Logan County: Brian Kailey; brian.kailey@colostate.edu; (970) 522-3200

Morgan County: Aimee Kanode; aimee.kanode@colostate.edu; (970) 542-3542

Phillips County: Deona Johnston; deona.johnston@colostate.edu; (970) 854-3616

Sedgwick County: Linda Langelo; linda.langelo@colostate.edu; (970) 474-3479

Washington County: Gisele Jefferson; gisele.jefferson@colostate.edu; (970) 345-2287

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Kit Carson County: McKayla Stephen; mckayla.stephen@colostate.edu; (719) 346-5571

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