

AGRICULTURE

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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

2020 ARC-CO Payments

Dr. Brent Young, PhD, Regional ABM Specialist

Producers enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage – County (ARC-CO) program title 1 program of the 2018 Farm Bill should begin receiving their 2020 crop year payments in October. The 2020 payments were 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 2020 corn crop in counties served by the Northeast Regional Engagement Center are as follows: Kit Carson, irrigated \$0.00, non-irrigated \$30.54; Logan, irrigated \$0.00, non-irrigated \$24.86; Morgan, irrigated \$0.00, non-irrigated \$21.02; Phillips, irrigated \$0.00, non-irrigated \$29.53; Sedgwick, irrigated \$0.00, non-irrigated \$25.76; Washington, irrigated \$0.00, non-irrigated \$23.80; Yuma irrigated, non-irrigated \$31.10. Remember these per acre payments are made on 85% of the corn base acres.

Payments made for the 2019 corn crop were as follows: Kit Carson, irrigated \$54.61, non-irrigated \$0.00; Logan, irrigated \$66.75, non-irrigated \$0.00; Morgan, irrigated \$0.00, non-irrigated \$4.62; Phillips, irrigated \$0.00, non-irrigated \$0.00; Sedgwick, irrigated \$0.00, non-irrigated \$0.00; Washington, irrigated \$0.00, non-irrigated \$23.80; Yuma irrigated \$53.37, non-irrigated \$0.00.

Payments for the 2018 corn crop in counties served by the Northeast Regional Engagement Center were 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.

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

Final 2020 Price Loss Coverage Payments

Dr. Brent Young, PhD, Regional ABM Specialist

Producers enrolled in the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) title 1 program of the 2018 Farm Bill should begin receiving their 2020 crop year payments in October. The 2020 payments will again be subject to a sequestration reduction, this year in the amount of 6.9%.

Payments are made under PLC when the *effective price* is less than the *reference price* for a covered commodity. The *effective price* is determined by the higher of the Marketing Year Average (MYA) or the national loan rate. The *reference price* is also known as the statutory price and is set by the farm bill.

Area wheat farmers who elected PLC will receive a 2020 payment (to be paid after October 1, 2021). The 2020-21 MYA for wheat is \$5.05/ bu. subtracting that number from the reference price of \$5.50, farmers can expect a payment of \$0.45/bu. This per bushel payment would then be multiplied by the PLC yield of the farm, multiplied by 85% of the farms base acres in wheat and finally reduced by 6.9% for sequestration. Barley producers will see a 2020 payment as the MYA for their crop was \$4.75 below the reference price at \$4.95 for a payment of \$0.20/bu. The reference price for oats is \$2.40 and the MYA is \$2.77, with a no PLC payment for the 2020 crop.

The final MYA for corn, grain sorghum, and soybeans were released on September 30th. The MYA prices are; corn \$4.53; grain sorghum \$5.04; and soybeans \$10.80. Reference prices are \$3.70, \$3.95, and \$8.40. With these MYA prices corn, grain sorghum, and soybeans did not trigger a PLC payment for 2020.

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

Understanding Marketing Year Average (MYA)

Dr. Brent Young, PhD, Regional ABM Specialist

The term Marketing Year Average (MYA) is used throughout the 2014 Farm Bill and is an essential element in determining title 1 program payments, yet many people are unclear about how MYA is determined. In order to estimate ARC-CO or PLC payments you must know the MYA for the crop covered by the title 1 program you selected.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is the USDA agency responsible for calculating MYA prices. Using corn as an example, the NASS collects survey data from a sample of approximately 1900 mills and elevators. The survey is voluntary and the buyers are selected to create a state-wide and nationally representative estimate of prices received. Buyers are asked to report the total amount of grain purchased during a specific time period and the total amount paid.

NASS reports a statewide average price for most states that are important to the underlying commodity. The state prices are then weighted by sales volume to arrive at a preliminary estimate of a national price. The goal of the MYA is to provide a price that is reflective of the average price farmers across the U.S. received for crops they sell.

Commodity prices are collected each month during the marketing year for that commodity. The marketing year for wheat is June 1 – May 31. For corn the year begins on September 1 and ends on August 31.

The final 2020/21 MYA for wheat, barley, and oats is \$5.05, \$4.75, and \$2.77/bu. respectively. Final

prices for corn, grain sorghum, and soybeans are \$4.53, \$5.04, and \$10.80/bu. and final price for sunflowers is \$0.213/lb.

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

AGRONOMY

Got Rye in Your Wheat?

Ron Meyer, Area Agronomy Agent

Feral rye, along with other annual grasses, are troublesome pests for wheat producers. Rye, along with jointed goatgrass and cheat grass, cost Colorado Wheat producers' money annually in terms of reduced yield and increased dockage. However, a newer wheat production system termed CoAXium Wheat Production System is an option for wheat producers who have annual grassy weeds. The CoAXium wheat Production System is a herbicide tolerance technology based on a non-gmo AXigen wheat trait. The technology was developed at Colorado State University and is owned by the Colorado Wheat Research Foundation. CoAXium is the name for the production system, Axigen is the wheat gene, and Aggressor is the herbicide. Aggressor applied to CoAXium wheat varieties provides control of winter annual grasses such as feral rye, downy brome (cheat), and jointed goatgrass. Aggressor is applied at 8-12 oz per acre to growing wheat and emerged rye in the fall or spring, or as a split application. Coverage and actively growing rye are important for control. Use surfactants such as MSO or COC for best results.

The new CoAXium wheat production system has proven results controlling feral rye, downy brome, and jointed goatgrass using wheat varieties such as AP 18 AX, Crescent AX, LCS Photon AX, LCS Helix AX, LCS Eclipse AX, LCS Fusion AX, Battle AX, LCS Atomic AX, Kivari AX, CP7017 AX, and CP7050 AX. Aggressor applied to these varieties at 8 – 12 oz/acre to actively growing feral rye has provided very good results. Split applications in fall (8 oz/a Aggressor + COC) and spring (8 oz/a + MSO) can be applied to emerged rye. Application coverage to rye plants is important and 15 gallons water per acre is recommended. For additional information, access WWW.Coaxium.com.

What to Expect from El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

Ron Meyer, Area Agronomy Agent

During the 1997-98 El Niño David Letterman had a running joke on his show. Each night he would read news of an odd event and follow up by saying it was caused by El Niño. This was the first time I remember the ENSO receiving large scale media attention. Many people were unaware of what ENSO was and how it affects the weather.

ENSO is weather a cycle with a seemingly random fluctuation of Pacific surface temperatures off the coast of Ecuador. If a three-month span has an average eastern equatorial Pacific surface temperature

greater than 0.5 C⁰ warmer than the long-term average, the three-month span is an El Niño. The term is Spanish for the boy. It was given this name since the events are typically occur near Christmas. When temperatures are cold to the same extent the event is called La Niña.

The direct effects are a change in atmospheric moisture and heat available in the Americas. El Niño brings more rain and warmer temperatures to us. La Niña brings drought and colder temperatures. Of course, the effects are not evenly distributed across the continents. Some areas see more of an impact. Others are less likely to notice a change. The current state is a mild La Niña. Our precipitation over the last thirty days reflects the dryer than normal expectations. Colorado's state climatologist and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration agree we should continue to see La Niña until at least February, meaning the potential for continued dry weather in our region.

The effect on our crops is yet to be known. The good news is the wheat is dormant for winter. The bad news is the soil is already dry and we will be needing strong spring precipitation as much as ever. History shows when La Niña extends into the spring, Colorado wheat has a down year. An extended La Niña from May of 2009 to April of 2012 led to the widely failed wheat crop of 2012. However, a short lived La Niña can be overcome to have a good crop. This occurred in 2017 when La Niña conditions ended in January.

LIVESTOCK

Blanketing Horses; Size and Type

Travis Taylor, Area Livestock Agent

Does your horse need a blanket this winter? The answer is probably not, a horse's body is generally well equipped to handle cold temperatures. With shorter days and cooler nights, a horse's coat will grow. Healthy well fed horses with a body condition of at least 4 on the 1-to-9 scale and access to some form of shelter may only need to be blanketed at temperatures below 10°F. However if you have an older horse or one that you ride enough during the winter to warrant some body clipping, you may need to provide them with some added protection from the elements for those colder winter days. The type of blanket you use depends on each horse's coat, if they are turned out or stabled, wind, precipitation, age and health.

Size is most important when selecting a correct blanket. When measuring a horse, start in the middle of his chest and measure around the widest part of the shoulder, barrel and hindquarter ending up at the center of the tail around 10-12 inches below the tail head. Keep your line horizontal to the ground and this length in inches should be the blanket number. If you can't get the exact size, always size up to the next size to prevent the blanket from rubbing or constricting your horse. **Remember that blankets should be pulled daily to check for any rubbing or other problems and to make sure your horse is in good condition.**

Blankets come in turnout and stable depending on where you keep your horse. Turnout sheets and blankets are generally a waterproof material. The "Denier" of a blanket measures its nylon fiber density and the higher the denier the more durable the blanket (range 70 to 2400). Usually a turnout blanket will

have a denier greater than 1200. The “Fill” of a blanket refers to its padding and adds extra layers to protect your horse. Refer to the following table to match your horse’s possible need to the weather temperature, and remember to make allowances for wet weather and wind chill that can make the outside temperature feel below the actual temperature.

Blanket Recommendations

| Weather Conditions (F) | Unclipped Horse | Clipped/Older Horses | Grams of Fill |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 50-60° | None | Sheet | Sheet (0g) |
| 40-50° | None | Light | Light Blanket (100g) |
| 30-40° | None - Light | Medium | Light or Medium Blanket (150 to 250g) |
| 20-30° | Medium | Medium - Heavy | Medium or Heavy Blanket (200 to 300g) |
| Below 20° | Heavy | Heavy + Sheet | Heavy Blanket (300 to 400g) |

Table adapted from ValleyVet.com and TheHorse.com

It is important to remember to utilize sheets or blankets only when necessary. Additionally, proper cleaning and storage will extend the life of you blankets. To clean, pre-wash blankets using a stiff brush to remove the excess hair, mud and dirt. Hose off the blanket and hang to dry. Then laundry through the washer using a horse blanket detergent and hang to dry. It is always suggested to follow the manufacturer’s cleaning instructions for best results.

Good Cattle Recordkeeping Can Pay Premiums

Scott Stinnett, Livestock and 4-H Youth Development

Spring calving on the high plains can start as early as January and run through May. Planning for the marketing of the soon to be born calves can also begin this time of year. The key to marketing and receiving the highest possible prices on sale day is good record keeping. When calves go to market, the ones who receive the lowest prices are the ones with the least amount of information provided. Producers who provide pertinent information about their cattle to buyers including age, sires, vaccination status, antibiotic use and days weaned tend to receive higher prices for their cattle. Many producers have more value in their cattle than they realize if they can provide buyers with additional information with recorded documentation.

The first record to keep is calving dates. The ability to verify age of cattle is a basic imperative when marketing for two reasons. First, it assures the buyer the cattle will be under 30 months of age and be in the “A” maturity grouping. This is important as beef from animals under 30 months of age can be used in most export markets. This may not seem important to a producer selling weaned calves, but it is for producers needing to market open heifers or first calf cows (sometimes referred to as heiferettes) who did not breed. If these cattle can be harvested before reaching 30 months of age, they can still qualify for “A” maturity. The second reason for verifying age, it helps cattle buyers understand the potential of the cattle. Most feeder cattle buyers expect a certain size and weight for calves by a certain age. Cattle weaning off above average in weight can bring a higher price as they will be expected to have higher feed efficiency.

Having record of calves' sires can also be beneficial. A producer using AI sires can use that information when marketing calves. AI sired calves are expected to be better performers and can garner a slightly higher price especially if the sire is well known. This is not to say that pasture bred cattle are discounted. Calves sired by terminal bulls from well-known herds can also receive higher prices. F1 or first generation crossbred calves may also receive price bumps as buyers are placing value on their heterosis.

Recording treatment of sick calves can allow a producer to separate calves into treated and untreated groups for marketing. Many sale barns will refer to cattle who have never been given antibiotics as "natural". Although the U.S.D.A. does not have an official definition of "natural" live cattle, it does for beef. Buyers looking for calves to put into a "natural" beef program prefer buying calves who have not been treated with antibiotics or implanted with growth hormones.

Preconditioning and vaccination status of calves also provides the buyer with needed information. Preconditioning infers calves have been weaned and have been eating grain from a bunk. Buyers prefer calves that have been preconditioned for at least 45 days or more. Vaccinated calves also gain buyers' attention. Calves that have received vaccinations and necessary boosters save the buyer the cost of vaccination and in turn receive higher prices than unvaccinated or single dose vaccinated calves. There are also multiple vaccination programs a producer can participate in. These programs may require a bit more record keeping and confirmation than the local livestock market does but can also produce an added premium paid for calves enrolled in the program. Calves who are fully vaccinated and preconditioned give the buyer confidence they will be healthy and grow. Oklahoma State University research in 2000 found "Feedlot managers indicated a significant perceived performance difference favoring preconditioned calves. Significant benefits were expected for death loss percentage, percentage of sick cattle, average daily gain, feed efficiency, and carcass traits, i.e., percent grading Choice and percent of severely discounted carcasses. Those differences increased the perceived value of preconditioned calves for feedlot managers by \$5.25/cwt."¹

Many producers have cattle that can be marketed with these pieces of information. Keeping accurate records is crucial to providing the appropriate information to buyers. An informed buyer is more willing to pay those higher prices when they know what they are getting.

References

R. K. Avent, C. E. Ward, D. L. Lalman. (2017) Economic Value of Preconditioning Feeder Calves. Fact Sheet AGEC-583. Oklahoma State University. Stillwater, OK. <https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/economic-value-of-preconditioning-feeder-calves.html>

Marketing Lambs & Goats by the 2022 Ethnic Holiday Calendar

MJ Fisher, County Extension Director, Pueblo County

A new year will soon arrive. Around this time each year, I try to look at the ethnic holiday calendar for that year. As you already know, many holidays are celebrated with a traditional holiday feast. However, it is important to realize that a lot of cultures like to celebrate their holidays with lamb or goat meat as part of the feast. If you are a lamb or goat producer, you may be able to market your product at a premium; if you know when these holidays occur and what is desired for the various ethnic holiday feasts. Here is a sampling of some of the 2022 holidays and what consumers may be looking for. (It is important to realize that the date of some holidays change on a yearly basis; so in future years you would need to look up the new date.)

Passover: In the Jewish religion, Passover (also known as Pesach) observes the exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt. The holiday continues for eight days from the 14th of Nisan. A 30 to 55 pound lamb that has been milk fed and is fat is the preferred product for this holiday. In 2022 Passover will be recognized from sunset on April 15th to nightfall on April 23rd.

Easter: This is a Christian holiday memorializing the resurrection of Jesus following his crucifixion. Easter is calculated differently by various cultures so you may hear it referred to as Western Easter, Roman Easter, Greek Easter, or Orthodox Easter. In many years, the various calculations may cause the numerous Easter celebrations to fall on different dates. In 2022 Western Easter and Roman Easter are calculated to April 17th. The Western/Roman Easter is celebrated with a 30 to 45 pound, fat, milk fed lamb. It can also be celebrated with a goat weighing between 20 and 50 pounds, 30 pounds being optimal. The goat should be fleshy and under 3 months of age. The consumer wants them to have been milk fed and they should have been gaining at least ½ pound per day. April 24, 2022 is when the Greek and Orthodox Easter celebrations will occur. The Greek/Orthodox culture likes similar lambs and goat kids, except slightly heavier. The lamb should be 40 to 55 pounds and goat kids are optimal at 35 pounds.

Ramadan: This is the Islamic month of fasting and is meant to teach the Muslim people patience, modesty, and spirituality. During this period, participants are expected to fast from sunrise to sunset. They may only eat during the night hours. In 2022, the start of Ramadan will be April 2nd and continue through May 1st. Weaned market lambs from 60 to 80 pounds and goats less than 12 months of age (still possessing their milk teeth), weighing between 45 and 120 pounds (60 pounds is optimal), are preferred during this period.

Eid al Fitr: Eid al Fitr is the breaking of Ramadan and the fasting period. It is celebrated with a feast of lamb or goat similar to those preferred during Ramadan. In 2022, the Eid al Fitr celebration is from sundown on May 2nd to sundown on May 3rd due to the Islamic calendar being a lunar calendar and its days beginning at sunset. The date is based on the first day following the new moon.

Eid al Adha: This is the Islamic festival of sacrifice. It commemorates Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son. It is a three-day celebration. It will be celebrated by many from sunset on July 9, 2022 to sunset on July 10th, 2022 due to the Islamic calendar being a lunar calendar and its days beginning at sunset. Lambs and goats marketed for this holiday should not be castrated and the tails of lambs should not be docked. A lamb of 60 to 80 pounds is preferred but heavier lambs may also be utilized. Yearling goats with one set of adult teeth are preferred on the caprine side but 60 to 100 pound kids may also be marketable.

Muharram: Muharram is the Islamic New Year and will be July 29, 2022 thru August 28, 2022. Celebration of the holiday will begin at sunset on July 29, 2022.

Rosh Hashanah: This holiday marks the Jewish New Year and will begin with sunset on September 25, 2022 and run through nightfall on September 27, 2022. The forequarters from a weaned lamb, 60 to 110 pounds in size, are preferred for Rosh Hashanah.

Navadurgara (also known as Navratra, Navratri, Dashara, & Dassai): This is a ten day/nine night long

Hindu holiday that honors the goddess Durga. The final four days of the celebration include elaborate family feasts for which goats are slaughtered. The demand is for weaned, market kids and yearling wethers. It is unacceptable to use a female goat for this holiday feast. In 2022, it will occur September 26th through October 4th.

Mawlid al-Nabi: The prophet Muhammad was the founder of the Islam faith and this holiday celebrates his birthday. It will occur on October 7, 2022. The holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day due to the Islamic calendar being a lunar calendar and its days beginning at sunset.

Chanukah/Hanukkah: This is the Jewish festival of rededication and is celebrated for eight days from December 18, 2022 thru December 26, 2022.

Christmas: This Christian holiday, celebrating the birth of Jesus, annually falls on December 25th. It can be difficult to market for this holiday because the preference is for young milk fed kids and lambs. This requires October births, May breeding, to hit this out of season market.

There are several other special markets for goat that do not have the religious ties of the previously mentioned holidays. Much of the Hispanic culture enjoys goat meat for barbeques. Two popular items are 15 to 30 pound, suckling kids for cabrito and large weaned market kids for seco de chivo. This is especially popular at Cinco de Mayo celebrations. (May 5th)

The Chinese culture can be a strong market for 60 to 80 pound market goats. This is especially true in the colder months.

The 4th of July is another good opportunity to market goats. Once again, the smaller weight kids for small celebrations, while yearling bucks, wethers, and does are good for large barbeques.

The month of August is filled with a variety of Caribbean holidays for which goat meat is desired. Some of these include Carnival, Carifest, and the Jamaican Independence Day. The optimal goats for this group of consumers are young, 60 to 80 pound bucks in their prime. However, economics may drive some consumers to purchase older goats of either sex.

I hope that this helps you better understand some of the niche marketing opportunities that exist for lamb and goat producers. And please remember that many of the holidays discussed here have moving dates from year to year. Therefore, it is important that you check each year to see when those holidays are, if you plan to market to those cultural groups.



Online Apps for Cattle Producers Managing for Drought

Scott Stinnett, Livestock and 4-H Youth Development

Let's face it, what producers really want is moisture. The U.S. Drought Monitor Conditions for Colorado update on November 30, 2021, has 100% of the state in "Abnormally Dry" (level D0) and over 52% in Severe Drought (level D2). With La Nina conditions having forecasters labeling Colorado in above normal temperatures and only equal chances of normal precipitation, a drought breaking scenario is not looking good.

Finding tools to help producers plan for continued drought conditions can be just a few clicks away on a computer, tablet, or smart phone. There are several apps developed by various private companies and public universities. Applications allow producers to do a variety of things, from estimating forage availability, to understanding the effects of the weather on cattle. Here are some useful applications that are free to use.

Rangeland Carrying Capacity App (Colorado State University Extension)

Online Location: <https://csurange.shinyapps.io/RangeCC/>

Description: The Rangeland Carrying Capacity App streamlines carrying capacity and stocking rate estimates by integrated forage estimations with animal demand. You can import maps from Google Earth, or draw them) in the app, for the lands you are interested in. The app draws on Web Soil Survey or Rangelands Analysis Platform data (selected by the user) to estimate production. It also allows you input your own estimates if you have data for your pasture or rangeland. There is even a helpful demo to watch to understand how to use the app: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tnb5KmRjmVQ>

The Grazing Calculator (South Dakota State University Extension)

Online Location: <https://agland.sdstate.edu/content/125/>

Description: The Grazing Calculator eliminates the guesswork and mess associated with doing calculations by hand. It requires a few inputs on your end, and you'll be able to save a downloadable Excel file for your record keeping. The Grazing Calculator was designed with the end goal of helping producers calculate stocking rates under either a fixed land/time or fixed herd demographic situation. It is meant to be a tool and a resource that is one part of your management plan and your grazing plan.

OSU Cowculator (Oklahoma State University)

Online Location: <https://extension.okstate.edu/programs/cowculator.html>

Description: The OSU Cowculator is a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet designed to assist cattlemen in making informed decisions associated with beef cow nutrition. Animal criteria (such as cow weight, body condition, stage of production and breed), as well as the feed and forage library can be customized to each operation or to specific scenarios within an operation. Animal requirements and performance predictions are based on years of research data, including the 1996 and previous versions of the National Research Council's Nutrient Requirements of Beef Cattle. Classes of cattle include cows, bred heifers, growing and finishing cattle, and bulls. Cowculator does not perform least-cost formulation.

Grassland Productivity Forecast (National Drought Mitigation Center & University of Nebraska-Lincoln)

Online Location: <https://grasscast.unl.edu/>

Description: An innovative new Grassland Productivity Forecast or “Grass-Cast” can help producers in the Great Plains reduce this economically important source of uncertainty. This new experimental grassland forecast is the result of a collaboration between Colorado State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Drought Mitigation Center, and the University of Arizona. Funding for this project was provided by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and the National Drought Mitigation Center.

Grass-Cast uses almost 40 years of historical data on weather and vegetation growth— combined with seasonal precipitation forecasts—to predict if rangelands in individual grid cells (whose size is 10 km x 10km, or ~ 6 miles x 6 miles) are likely to produce above-normal, near-normal, or below-normal amounts of vegetation. Grass-Cast is updated every two weeks to incorporate newly observed weather data and emerging trends in the forecast, such as the flash drought in the western Dakotas and eastern

Montana in 2017.

Corn Stalk Calculator (University of Nebraska Lincoln Extension)

Online Location:

https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/westcentral/AgEcon/Corn%20Stalk%20Grazing%20Calculator%204%2029_2013%20%281%29.xls

Description: An Excel worksheet for matching livestock size and numbers with corn stalk acres needed with a cost. This calculator allows users to consider corn yield as criteria for calculating the worth of cornstalks using formulas from the article "A Review of Corn Stalk Grazing on Animal Performance and Crop Yield" that is found in the 2004 Nebraska Beef Report and information from Aaron Stalker. If producers have a cost per head per day target it may be necessary to adjust the cost per acre.

Guide to Poisonous Plants (Colorado State University)

Online Location: https://csuvth.colostate.edu/poisonous_plants/Plants/Search

Description: The Guide to Poisonous Plants is constructed to enable location of a plant by either knowing the common or botanical name of the plant. Alternatively, if the plant is not known, but the disease symptom is, it is possible to search by the presenting clinical sign eg: Abortion, Sudden death, photosensitization.

Beef Quality Assurance and Transport Certification

Travis Taylor, Area Livestock Agent

The national Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certification is not new, in fact it has been in existence since 1987. The first national Beef Quality Audit was conducted in 1991 with the most recent being done in 2016. “The nationally coordinated and state implemented BQA program focuses on all segments of the beef industry, including focused training for transporters as well as self-assessments for cow/calf, stocker and feeder operations” states Colorado BQA coordinator Libby Bigler. “More than ever, consumers think about animal welfare and sustainability issues, and the BQA program is committed to addressing such topics.” Those expectations have beef processors like Tyson and Cargill requiring BQA certifications for feed yards and even cattle haulers. Cargill requires 90 percent of cattle to be supplied by BQA certified feeders, and hauled by individuals with Beef Transport Quality Assurance (BTQA) certification. Tyson requires 100 percent of cattle sourced from BQA yards, and all cattle delivered to plants are to be hauled by individuals with BTQA certification.

Although such certification is an added producer requirement, it can be financially beneficial in cattle marketing. A CSU study titled “Effect of Mentioning BQA in Lot Descriptions of Beef Calves and Feeder Cattle Sold Through Video-based Auctions on Sale Price”, found a \$16.80 per head premium for cattle with BQA listed in the lot description. The data, collected through a partnership with Western Video Market, on sale price of 8,815 lots of steers and heifers sold in nine western states was between 2010 and 2017. It is important to recognize that these sales were prior to the previously mentioned requirement changes enacted by beef processors. Also remember the BQA program was developed by cattlemen for cattlemen, and is basically Checkoff funded. Producers benefit by having a science based program, recognizable by processors and consumers, which is developed by entities directly impacted by beef production changes. It speaks clearly to the dedication US beef producers have toward transparency in delivering a safe and exceptional quality product to consumers.

Since BQA inception, many producers have certified. Still, the CSU study emphasized the importance of

being able to transfer BQA certification from seller to buyer. Being able to provide a certification number is integral for producers, feeders and even the truckers who deliver cattle to processors. Certifications can be obtained by attending an in person training, or an online option, and are valid for three years. Training information is updated after each new Beef Quality Audit, so recertification reinforces existing best management practices while keeping individuals updated on improved practices and procedures. To get your BQA certification as a producer or transporter go online to www.cobqa.org or contact your local extension office.

HORTICULTURE

Harison's Yellow Rose

By Linda Langelo, Area Horticulture Agent

Driving around our small rural towns you will notice a yellow shrub rose. This yellow shrub rose has many names such as Pioneer Rose, Oregon Trail Rose, The Yellow Rose of Texas, Yellow Hogg's Rose, and Yellow Sweet Brier. Some of the locals here have called it Traveler's Rose or Settler's rose who have had the rose on their farm or homestead through the decades. And that's just a few of its names, but a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, right? Its real name is Harison's Yellow rose.

This was the first rose of its color in this country. This rose has traveled the country from east to west and back again. In the 1800's Richard and George Harison were amateur rosarians and kept a rose garden at their home in Manhattan on their estate Mount Sinai in a semirural area. Today Eighth and Ninth Avenue between 30th and 31st streets are now what was once their garden. The Harison brothers kept Persian Yellow (*Rose foetida*) and Scotch Briar (*Rose spinosissima*) in their garden. The parentage is still uncertain, but most agree that this must have been a chance hybridization between the Persian Yellow and Scotch Briar growing in Harison's garden.

After being discovered in Manhattan it was to be given to several nurserymen. Two of the nurserymen were Thomas Hogg and Williams Nursery. Some accounts say it was marketed in 1830 while others say it went on sale in 1835 at the Prince Nursery in Fleming, New York called Harison's Yellow.



As the pioneers came west some of the pioneer women sewed the roots deep into their hems of their linsey-woolsey skirts. As they walked through the prairie grasses, the dew would moisten their skirts and keep the roots alive. More specifically, it came to Texas from the Prince Nursery by way of Emily D. West, a freeborn African American who contracted with the entrepreneur James Morgan to work as a servant in the town of New Washington. When the revolution for Texan independence from Mexico engulfed New Washington, Emily West became a hero. On April 21, 1836, at Santa Ana Camp Emily distracted the revolutionary leader Sam Houston long enough to give her countrymen time to stage a surprise attack. After 1837, she went back to New York and was never heard from again except in song and lyrics from a folk tune titled, "The Yellow Rose of Texas". Emily, the maid of Morgan's Point was of mixed race, a mulatto. With her light complexion she was known colloquially as "yellow". She was memorialized as "the sweetest little rosebud, that Texas ever knew."

Texans of the Knights of the Yellow Rose use a yellow rose to pin to their lapels when they convene every April on the site of Santa Ana camp and pay tribute to Emily West. The Dallas Area Historical Rose Society's newsletter, *The Yellow Rose*, annually features a yellow rose on the cover. The Harison's Yellow rose has been used among other yellow roses.

Today this rose is found in many mountain and prairie communities across Colorado growing best in zone 3. This rose grows in cool, dry weather. It has sharp thorns and forms suckers on its own roots. The best part is that it is hardy. It tolerates full sun to part shade, drought, poor soils, and pests. It is said it takes more than one attempt to get this established. I have not found that to be so. My neighbor gave me permission to take one root and shoot from my neighbor's yard, and it is 5 feet tall and 5 feet wide three years later. Truly this plant thrives on neglect



Popular Holiday Plant Gifts

By Linda Langelo, Area Horticulture Agent

If you happen to be gifted a beautiful amaryllis, poinsettia or paperwhites, do you know how to care for them? Where to properly place them in your home? Here is some helpful advice for you.

Amaryllis are gaining in popularity even over poinsettias. When your amaryllis arrives in bloom place the pot in a room with a temperature around 60 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit. If someone happens to give you an amaryllis bulb to start, then that bulb will need warmer temperatures to get started. This means 70 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit until you see a flower stalk. As for sunlight, it will need four hours of sun each day. This could mean placing it in a window with a southern exposure or an eastern or western exposure.

With your potted amaryllis in full bloom, water well once a week. If the soil is dry to the touch, water again. Make sure the soil is well-draining. While your amaryllis is in full bloom it only needs fertilization every two weeks or with a slow-release fertilizer once a month. After the flowers fade, cut the flower stalks at the base of the plant. Remove the plant from full sun but do not start on a fertilizer regime until after your bulb has a rest period. Stop watering it and fertilizing it for 8-10 weeks. This means the old leaves will yellow and wither.

After your bulb will has an 8-to-ten-week rest period without water and fertilization and you start to see new growth place it back in full sun and begin watering and fertilizing it again. Remember the temperature now needs to be slightly warmer from 65 to 70. Next season, the flowering will become more prolific.

Poinsettias make for great gifts and come in so many different variations of pink, red and white even yellow. Poinsettia flowers are made up of bracts, which look like petals. The bract is a specialized leaf which in this case turns from green to red pigmentation based on a dark period of 16 hours of uninterrupted darkness and then eight hours of daylight. The tiny yellow cyathia in the center are the true flowers. The colorful bracts attract insects to the flowers and will drop after pollination.

Poinsettias are native to Mexico where they grow wild. In our homes, they need four to six hours of bright light. They can be placed near a south, east or west window. Be sure to avoid drafts because this plant likes neither cold air nor excessive heat. A temperature fluctuation from 65 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit is an ideal environment. Keep the soil moist but well-drained but if you drench your soil the roots will rot.

When the poinsettia is in flower, it does not need fertilization. Start fertilizing when you see new stems or leaves. When you apply fertilizer, a general all-purpose fertilizer works well. Use half strength and fertilize every three to four weeks. Follow the directions on the all-purpose fertilizer you use for half-strength.

Once the bracts are gone, here is a timetable according to Minnesota University Extension to follow for reblooming of your poinsettia.

First, New Year's Day fertilize if you see new growth.

Second, Valentine's Day cut back the stems to about five inches in height so the plant can regrow in a more compact form and check for insects while you are doing this.

Third, St. Patrick's Day keep the plant in a sunny window. Remove any dead and add soil to the pot if needed.

Fourth, Memorial Day again trim off two to three inches on the stems to promote side branching. And transplant if needed.

Fifth, Father's Day place the plant outside in indirect light.

Sixth, Labor Day bring the plant back inside and place it in a window with bright light for at least six hours. And if you see new growth, dilute the fertilizer to one-quarter of the recommended strength.

Seven, Fall Equinox around September 21 start a period of 16 hours of darkness and eight hours of bright light while keeping it at a temperature of around 60 degrees Fahrenheit. And keep the fertilization at one-quarter of the recommended strength.

Eight, Thanksgiving remove the poinsettia from the 16 hours of darkness and bring it out in a sunny window for at least six hours while reducing the water and fertilization.

Nine, Christmas hopefully you are enjoying your reblooming poinsettia. Or you have abandoned the process way back on St. Patrick's Day and gone out to purchase a new poinsettia.

Paperwhite bulbs are a whole lot simpler to grow. If someone gives you a bulb in soil or water and it is not in bloom, then all you need to do is water properly. If the bulb is in soil, wait until the top inch of soil is dry then water. If the bulbs are in pebbles or marbles, keep the water line just under the bulb. Do not keep any of the bulb in water or it will rot. Paperwhites need a temperature of around 65 degrees Fahrenheit. They prefer indirect light.

If someone gives you bulbs of paperwhites to plant, either soil or pebbles, gravel or marbles are fine for placing the bulbs in a container. The bulb can sit in soil up to their neck. Keep them in a cool and in a darker room for about two weeks prior to them rooting. Be sure to check the moisture every other day. Once they are rooted then bring them into the 65-degree Fahrenheit temperature and indirect light. It usually takes about four to six weeks for them to bloom. If you want them to bloom for Thanksgiving, then plant them around the end of October. But if you want them for Christmas plant them around the end of November or beginning of December. Unfortunately, after they have bloomed, they are a disposable bulb because you have forced them into bloom out of their season.

2022 Ag Marketing Lunch & Learn Corn Producers Edition



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