

AGRICULTURE

Golden Plains Area Newsletter

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July/September 2023

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AG BUSINESS

Margin Protection Insurance for Corn Coming to Colorado Brent Young, Regional ABM Specialist

On March 30th the Risk Management Agency (RMA) of the USDA announced the expansion of its Margin Protection (MP) Insurance plan for corn to all states in the continental US. Prior to this time margin insurance in corn was only available in a few selected counties in the mid-west. Producers have between June 30th and September 30th to purchase this coverage.

The basic concept behind MP policies can be explained by the following equation: Revenue (Yield x Price) – Costs = Margin. The yield component is based on county yields. Prices are determined in the same manner as with Revenue Protection Insurance using the December corn futures during the months of February and October. Cost includes diesel, urea, diammonium phosphate (DAP) potash, and interest. The cost factor is determined by RMA using national average prices.

An MP policy can be purchased in conjunction with Multi-Peril Revenue (RP) or Yield Protection (YP) policy or as a separate policy. Unlike RP or YP policies that utilize farm level yields, MP uses county level yields, making it possible for a farm level payment to be triggered but not an MP payment and vice-versa. MP policies must be purchased by September 30th the year prior to the production year while the sales closing date for RP and YP policies are March 15th of the production year. Indemnity payments for MP policies are paid in June of the following year.

Advantages of MP policies include earlier discovery period for projected price (September -vs- February); premium subsidy from 44% to 59%; higher coverage levels (up to 95%) and MP protects against a margin decline not just a drop in futures prices and yields. Disadvantages include additional premiums and administrative fees; Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) and Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO) can't be purchased with MP; individual farm cost are not considered under MP, its possible that an individual farm may experience reduced revenues and increased costs and not receive a payment under MP and not knowing the final MP indemnity until mid-June.

Several online MP decision tools will be available in the next several weeks to assist producers in deciding if MP will work for their operation. If you have questions about this topic or any other agricultural business management issue, please feel free to contact me at 970-580-2204 or by email at brent.young@colostate.edu.

AGRONOMY

Can I Save Wheat Seed? Ron Meyer, Area Agronomy Specialist

Throughout the ages, farmers have planted seed saved from their previous wheat crop. When making seed wheat decisions, they selected the best quality seed from the highest yielding varieties. Choosing wheat varieties based on yield and quality continues, but now seed decisions include new considerations.

With the advent of hybrid crops like corn, farmers discovered that they did not get the advantage of hybrid vigor when they saved their seed, the ensuing crop was not uniform, and yields were poor. It was quickly learned they needed to buy new seed each year of these hybrid crops to maximize yields. This annual purchase of hybrid seed commercialized the corn seed business and resulted in enormous investment into research and development for improved corn hybrids. Consequently, technology in corn has benefitted farmers with increased yield potentials. But what about a non-hybrid crop like wheat?

With the passage of the US Plant Variety Protection Act in 1970, congress encouraged private investment into development of new plant varieties, including wheat. That investment is now paying off in the form of new and improved wheat genetics. However, an important component of this act was the farmer's right to save seed from some varieties. Section 113 of the act states, "It shall not infringe any right hereunder for a person to save seed produced by the person from seed obtained, or descended from seed obtained, by authority of the owner of the variety for seeding purposes and use such saved seed in the production of a crop for use on the farm ..."

Simply stated, if a farmer purchases ordinary Certified wheat seed that is Plant Variety Protected, they may keep seed grown from that variety for planting on their farm. However, keep in mind that there are **exceptions to this law** which is **Certified Seed Only** varieties. When planting Certified Seed Only varieties, new wheat seed must be purchased yearly.

In addition, if a farmer buys non-certified wheat seed of a PVPA protected variety from someone else, it is likely that not only is the purchase of that seed in violation of the Act, but saving seed of subsequent production is also a violation. Wheat varieties that are Plant Variety Protected must be purchased from permitted seed dealers only.

The most recent restrictions to saving seed are those imposed by patented traits and sales contracts. In most cases, farmers are prohibited by patent laws from saving seed of varieties with patented traits like Roundup® resistance in soybean and Clearfield® in wheat. This is usually reinforced through a contract that is signed at the point of purchase. Even if traits are not patented, saving seed may be prohibited as part of the sales contract. Certified Seed Only Varieties must be purchased every season. Current Certified Seed only varieties are: AP503 CL2, AP18AX, Brawl CI plus, Byrd CI plus, Crescent AX, Guardian, Fortify SF, Incline AX, Kivari AX, LCS Fusion AX, Monarch, Oakley CI, Snowmass, Snowmass 2.0, Sunshine, SY Legend CL2, SY Sunrise, Thunder CI, WB4269, WB4418, WB4595, WB4699, WB4721, WB4792. Other varieties may be added to this list as they become released. Varieties not on the Certified Seed Only list can be replanted every season without purchasing new seed.

The consequences of planting illegal seed can be substantial. The owner of the variety could go as far as filing a lawsuit asking for the destruction of the crop. There could also be monetary awards and attorney fees. If involved, state or federal officials could levy fines per occurrence. Ignorance of the law is no excuse. As a best management practice, farmers should know what variety they are planting and follow each variety's protocol. If they did purchase Certified seed, they should read and follow the label and sales contracts restrictions on saving seed. The label and sales contract will state planting limitations.

As a result of these new rules, new revenues are being generated which benefits wheat growers directly. Fees collected from planting patented varieties are reinvested directly toward wheat research, mostly in the form of developing new wheat varieties. The new varieties have traits that improve yield and quality, making the fees a positive investment for wheat producers. Source: Laura Pottorff, CSU State Seed Dept. Department of Agricultural Biology

Black-Eyed Pea: A Promising New Crop for Eastern Colorado

Sally Jones-Diamond, Crop Production Specialist

Black-eyed pea is a summer-annual legume crop that holds great potential for production in eastern Colorado due to its drought tolerance and available market. Black-eyed pea can be produced for the seed and marketed as a dry edible bean, or it can be used as a forage crop for animal feed due to its high nutritional value. It is well-suited for growth under dryland or limited-irrigation production, and the water use of the crop is on-par with proso millet. The crop is generally planted in early June, with harvest in September. Farmers can plant black-eyed pea using either a row-crop planter or a drill, and harvest is usually done by swathing and then picking up the crop in mid-September, or it can be direct-harvested with a combine. It is an excellent addition to crop rotations due to its limited use of water, ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen to the soil, and its versatility as a high value grain crop for human consumption and biomass as animal feed.

Dryland yield production trials conducted by Colorado State University based at Akron, Colorado have tested black-eyed pea lines since 2020. Yield results at Akron for standard commercial varieties such as CB46 and CB5 have produced an average of 680 pounds per acre in our dryland field trails, with the yield range varying between 573 and 781 pounds per acre. An irrigation study was conducted in 2021 and 2022 on a single commercial variety under the direction of Joel Schneekloth (CSU Extension Water Specialist). He found that increasing irrigation past eight inches did not further increase grain yield of cowpea, making it an ideal crop for producers with low-capacity irrigation wells.

CSU will continue research on black-eyed peas in 2023, with trials looking at the potential benefits of seed inoculation and performance under irrigated and dryland conditions. For more information on our research and production of the crop, please visit www.csucrops.com/drybean/ to view our producer webinar held in February 2023 along with trial results from 2022.

CAMCrops

Kat Caswell, Agronomy Specialist

CAMCrops is a new resource from CSU Extension to bring Colorado producers the most up to date, timely, and accessible production agricultural resources. A partnership between statewide and campus Extension Specialists, CAMCrops is the first stop for Colorado production agriculture's questions. The idea of CAMCrops came out of discussions of how to better meet crop concerns around the state of Colorado. Crop production in the High-Plains region faces unique challenges and production decisions can change from year to year.

The long-term goal for CAMCrops is to develop a reputable resource for all Coloradans to utilize for the most cutting-edge knowledge around crop production. As we build CAMCrops, we welcome any comments, suggestions, or ideas from the communities we serve. Please reach out to [Kat Caswell](mailto:kat.caswell@colostate.edu) (kat.caswell@colostate.edu or 970-400-2095) with any thoughts or questions you have. **CamCrops can be found at: csucrops.com/camcrops/**

Wheat Stem Sawfly

Ron Meyer, Area Agronomy Specialist

Wheat stem sawfly is a native insect that feeds on grasses in Colorado. The insect was first identified by entomologists in Colorado around the late 1800's and primarily fed on range grasses. However, wheat stem sawfly emerged as a Colorado wheat pest in 2010 and damage from this insect has been expanding and increasing since. Today, this pest is estimated to cause \$30 million in damage, according to Brad Erker, Executive Director of the Colorado Wheat Research Foundation. As a result, Colorado State University (CSU) is focused on addressing cropping strategies to ease pest losses to this insect. Research is focused on cropping rotations and developing wheat varieties that discourage wheat stem sawfly from reproducing and damaging plants.

CSU and others have found that wheat stems that are more solid than the traditional hollow stemmed varieties have shown merit in reducing the pest's damage. Typically, adult wheat stem sawfly lay eggs in the stem during the growing season. The developing larvae feed and move downward in the plant and eventually cut the plant's stem off near the soil surface. The wheat plant with seed in heads fall to the ground and are un-harvestable. Thus, not only is yield impacted negatively, but straw residue is also now laying flat on the ground. The larvae survive in the remaining stem near the soil surface.

Cropping strategies include shallow tillage that lifts wheat crowns and loosens soil. This activity exposes larvae to winter weather and increases mortality during some winters. However, tillage interferes with biological control insects (insects that feed on sawfly) and may increase soil erosion. Keep in mind that the advantages of controlling sawfly with tillage must be compared to the benefits of leaving residue on tops of fields.

Another strategy for tolerating wheat stem sawfly is to swath wheat early. Swathing wheat at 25-30% moisture allows wheat to reach physiologic maturity and permits harvest before sawfly cuts plants off. This strategy necessitates the use of a swather to windrow wheat, allowing grain to dry in the swath, before stem cutting has occurred. Swathing before grain is 30% moisture, will cause test weights to drop as plants are still filling grain. Wheat stem sawfly will still cut stems after swathing, but losses to yield will be reduced as grain will remain harvestable in the swath.

Planting trap crops along field edges has shown promise in research trials. Wheat stem sawfly will deposit eggs in oats, barley, and rye and developing larvae will not survive in these crops. Trap crop strategy works best with low to moderate wheat stem sawfly populations. If populations are heavy, adults will continue to fly past the trap crop and into wheat fields. Also, avoid planting new wheat next to a previous field that contained wheat with sawfly populations. Adults emerge from the old wheat stubble in the spring and move into actively growing wheat. Adult wheat stem sawfly are not strong flyers and do not move long distances.

Although new chemistry is being tested and until promising results dictate, applying insecticides has not been an effective strategy for this pest. Adults have an extended flight time during the growing season and repeated insecticidal applications in trials have not been cost effective for control. Keep in mind that new insecticidal application strategies are being investigated.

One of the most effective strategies for reducing wheat stem sawfly damage is planting solid stemmed wheat varieties. Larvae trying to feed and develop in solid stemmed wheat varieties have higher mortality rates. CSU is currently incorporating solid-stem characteristics into existing wheat varieties

and has released Fortify SF and Amplify SF. Other wheat stem sawfly varieties include AP Solid, Spur, WB4483, WB 4418, WB4595, and WB4792. For more information regarding local wheat variety availability, contact your local wheat seed dealer.

Pesticides and Re-entry **Ron Meyer, Area Agronomy Specialist**

What is a restricted pesticide re-entry interval? This interval is the restricted-entry interval (REI) into a pesticide treated area. In other words, when is it safe to walk into a pesticide treated area. The REI can be different for each pesticide applied and crop applied. Some pesticides list different REI's depending on the crop, application method, or the post-application activity (are workers hand hoeing or working on machinery in a field). Tank mixes occur when two or more pesticides are applied at the same time. In this case, the pesticide with the longer REI must be followed.

How do we find a pesticide's REI number? All pesticides have a "label" listed on the container. The label is the law. The label contains important information such as what the pesticide is (the active ingredient), what the pesticide controls (which pests), how much pesticide to apply, and the Directions for Use section. The Directions for Use section will list the REI for the intended use. For many common pesticides the REI is 24 hours while some applications require 48 hours. The REI is different for each pesticide, application and crop. Always find a pesticide's REI before entering into a treated area. After a pesticide application's REI has expired, the area is considered safe for re-entry. REI's for some of the typical pesticides used are 2,4-D 48 hours, Glyphosate 12 hours, Sevin garden insecticide 12 hours.

Source: www.epa.gov

Wheat Pre-harvest Weed Management **Ron Meyer, Area Agronomy Specialist**

Recent rains have encouraged broadleaf weed growth in growing wheat fields. Kochia, for the most part, is the weed in question although other weeds may also be a factor interfering with this year's harvest activities. Keep in mind that there are only a small number of pre-harvest aids for controlling weeds in wheat prior to harvest. Also, be aware of pre-harvest intervals before harvesting and feed and grazing intervals following wheat harvest. Pre-harvest interval is the time after a herbicide application is applied before wheat harvest can legally begin. Always follow pesticide label rules as the "label is the law". In addition, be sure wheat is at least in the hard dough stage before controlling weeds. Hard dough stage occurs when wheat kernels are formed, soft, but not juicy. Physiologic maturity occurs when wheat is approximately 30% moisture whereas wheat in hard dough stage will be higher than 30% moisture.

Following are herbicides labeled for weed applications prior to wheat harvest:

2,4-D: wheat must be in hard dough stage, pre-harvest interval is 14 days after application. Weak on kochia.

Aim EC or Longbow EC: wheat in hard dough, pre-harvest interval is 3 days. Use COC 1% v/v.

Ally or Metsulfuron: wheat in hard dough, pre-harvest interval is 10 days. Use NIS 0.25% v/v.

Dicamba: wheat in hard dough stage, pre-harvest interval is 7 days. Will volatilize when air temps are above 85 F. Do not graze or harvest crop residue for feed

Glyphosate: wheat is physiologically mature (30% moisture or less), pre-harvest interval 7 days. Do not feed or graze crop residue for feed until 2 weeks after application. Will control both grasses and broadleaves. Kochia may be glyphosate resistant.

Sharpen: wheat in hard dough stage, pre-harvest interval is 3 days. No grazing or feeding restrictions.

Valor: wheat in hard dough stage, pre-harvest interval is 10 days. MSO and AMS recommended.

PSNT for Corn **Kat Caswell, Agronomy Specialist**

Drought conditions in eastern Colorado broke at the start of the 2023 growing season. As the adage goes: “when it rains it pours”. From April to the second week of July, two weather stations in Weld County received 150 to 200% of the 10-year average rainfall for that time window. Other areas of Colorado received more moisture in the spring than the total average rainfall for the entire growing season.

Nitrogen is notoriously a “leaky” nutrient. This means that nitrogen is highly prone to loss from the field through leaching and other channels. Fields that experienced drought conditions in 2022 may have an excess of residual nitrogen left over from previous crops than in other years, due to the lack of moisture and growing crop to move nitrogen through the soil. For that reason, crop producers may have expected to be able to utilize that nitrogen for this growing season. Fall applied anhydrous nitrogen would also be expected to be available through the planting season for 2023 crops.

Due to the higher-than-average rainfall, it is likely that the expected nitrogen might not be at the anticipated amount within the rooting profile of spring seeded crops. In the spring, several fields of wheat in the GPA exhibited symptoms of nitrogen. Crops that are following an alfalfa stand or with a history of heavy manure application can benefit from additional testing to ensure there isn't an over application of nitrogen.

Pre-sidedress nitrogen testing (PSNT) can determine how much nitrogen will be required for the crop for the rest of the season. The goal is to provide the corn crop with the most cost-effective amount of nitrogen to meet the yield goal, without over applying N and increase the chance of run-off. Take PSNT soil samples when corn is around 12 inches tall. Take soil samples in the same manner that typical soil samples are taken, sample similar areas or by management area, take cores to a 1-foot depth, and take 10-15 samples per area. Submit samples to a reputable soil testing lab, be sure to include the depth at which the sample was taken for the most accurate interpretation.

Take into consideration all sources of available nitrogen during the growing season. Irrigation water with excessively high in nitrate nitrogen can provide enough available nitrogen to meet yield goals without the addition of fertilizers. Consult with your agronomist or CSU agronomy agent to determine the best in-season fertilization method.

LIVESTOCK



Antibiotic Restriction Changes Travis Taylor, Area Livestock Specialist

June 11, 2023 saw additional changes to how antibiotics can be purchased by livestock producers. As of this date the Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine (FDA-CVM) discontinued “Over The Counter” purchases of injectable livestock antibiotics from your local feed store, farm supply, CO-OP or any other entity without a veterinary prescription. The rule comes after a 2018 FDA-CVM study on antimicrobial stewardship in veterinary settings. The rule is for medically important antibiotics, those used from both human and animal health, and is intended to decrease or keep bacteria from becoming antibiotic resistant.

Why is it important to producers? Slowing bacteria resistance to antibiotics will help preserve this important health tool. It took bacteria only ten years to start developing penicillin resistance. Compound this with the cost associated with developing, testing and approval of new products, it is clear why the numbers of pharmaceutical companies developing new products has gone from over 18 to just 4 companies since 2000. It is important to preserve this resource for both animal and human medicine.

Animal producers are by no means denied access to these important antibiotics. However, just like the 2017 Veterinary Feed Directive, producers must obtain a veterinary prescription to purchase and use antibiotics. It is required that a valid Veterinary Patient Client Relationship (VCPR) is established prior to a prescription being written. In Colorado a VCPR is the basis for veterinary care. It establishes such a relationship that the veterinary should have sufficient knowledge of the patient(s) to understand its current health and render at least a preliminary diagnosis. This requires that the veterinary is personally acquainted with the patient(s) either through office or farm/ranch visits.

It is important that producers take this as a signal to shift the paradigm from treating health problems to prevention. It is important to think of your veterinarian as a consultant and part of your operations planning team. In doing that your VCPR will be in place as your veterinarian will understand your operations goals, how you operate, management practices, biosecurity plans and above all your risks for animal health issues.

For additional information watch this video https://youtu.be/Iu-O_l23vg where Dr. Ragan Adams, CSU Extension Veterinarian and Beth De Lair, CSU Extension Specialist in Pueblo County provide discussion and additional resources. Most importantly producers need to have a consulting veterinarian and a valid VCPR in place prior to needing an antibiotic prescription.

Minerals for Grazing Beef Cattle **Scott Stinnett, Livestock and 4-H Youth Development**

Like all animals, beef cattle need an appropriate amount of minerals to allow for proper body function, lactation and growth. Grazing cattle intake most of their minerals through the forages they eat, but grass and forbs can provide different levels of minerals depending on their growth stage and the soil they grow in. Cattle too have differing levels of mineral requirements depending on their stage of production.

There are seventeen (17) minerals cattle require. They are divided into macrominerals: calcium (C), chlorine (Cl), magnesium (Mg), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), sodium (Na) and sulfur (S); and microminerals: chromium (Cr), cobalt (Co), copper (Cu), iodine (I), iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), molybdenum (Mo), nickel (Ni), selenium (Se) and zinc (Zn). To understand mineral needs, a producer should understand both the cattle's needs and the mineral content of their forages. There are several resources available that can provide data on cattle mineral requirements and the average mineral content of various grasses and forbs cattle graze. These resources can be helpful to determine the level of minerals provided by the forages being grazed. The key is to be aware that cattle's mineral needs and the minerals available in their forage changes over time. For example, bred cattle may require .21% of their daily ration (on a dry matter basis) of calcium but this increases to .30% when they are lactating. Conversely, minerals such as calcium are most available from new growth plants and decrease as plants mature.

Mineral supplements is a solution for providing minerals needed but can easily be a waste of money if the formulation of the supplements does not meet or exceeds the needs of your cattle. Many commercially available mineral mixes have multiple formulations for cattle. For instance, a formulation may be great for bred cows on new growth pastures, but a different formulation should be used for lactating cows on maturing pastures in late summer.

Sometimes cattle can give a producer an obvious sign of a mineral deficiency. Black cattle with hair appearing rough and pale or russet in color may be lacking in copper. One of the most unfortunate mineral deficiencies is low blood magnesium referred to as grass tetany. In the spring, cool season grasses may begin to grow lush and rapidly. If cattle have a low blood magnesium, coupled with the high potassium and protein content of the new growth grasses, a condition known as grass tetany can occur and can result in cattle deaths. (Grasses with high nitrogen content seem to also be associated with low blood magnesium.)

Understanding your cattle's mineral needs, the mineral content of forages and proper supplementation can be cost effective and lead to optimal production and growth for your herd. As always, if you are concerned about possible mineral deficiencies in your herd, consult with your veterinarian for advisement.



Best Hay for the Money

Scott Stinnett, Livestock and 4-H Youth Development

It's hay harvest time across the plains. Native grass, sudan grass, alfalfa, orchard grass, Bermuda, and mixed hays will all be put up and offered for sale, but which is the best for you and your operation?

First consideration is what other winter feed will you have available and what is the nutritional value of those sources? Will your cattle be in a dry lot, on crop residue, cover crops, or on pasture? Producers with winter feed sources that are nutritionally dense like silage and grains can use hay as a high fiber, low protein and low energy supplement to help cattle meet their daily intake needs. Producers on crop residues and pastures may need hay that is higher in nutritional value to feed when those fields are snow covered.

Once the hay need is determined, finding the best hay for the money is the goal. To do this a producer should understand two things, the price of the hay and the nutritional value of the hay. Hay price can be established through private treaty sale or through an auction. It is always advisable to have hay priced per ton as bales can vary in weight. Buying a load of hay based on weight instead of per bale price protects you from the possible variation in weight from bale to bale.

Then nutritional value can only truly be determined by laboratory testing. There are several forage testing businesses across the country that can analyze the nutritional content of hay. Most offer forage tests which can indicate moisture content, dry matter (DM), ash, crude protein (CP), acid detergent fiber (ADF), neutral detergent fiber (NDF), digestible energy (DE), metabolizable energy (ME), total digestible nutrients (TDN), and estimates relative feed value (RFV). Asking for forage test results or to have one done before purchasing hay can save you from making an expensive mistake.

Understanding the nutritional value of the hay you are considering purchasing can now be used to determine how much of this hay you will be feeding as part of the daily ration. Combining this knowledge with the price of the hay, you can determine the cost per pound of the hay to be used in the daily ration. Comparing multiple hays can help make the final decision on which hay to purchase as it best fits your cattle's nutritional needs and your budget. For example, one hay is priced at \$200 per ton and is high in protein and energy. Another hay costs less at \$175 per ton but is lower in protein and energy. Breaking this down to the per head per day costs shows the higher per ton hay needs to be fed at 12 lbs. per head per day which equates to a cost of \$1.20 per head per day. The lower price per ton hay needs to be fed at a higher amount, 15 lbs. per head per day which equals a cost of \$1.31 per head per day. The higher price per ton hay is the better value in this scenario.

Winter feed costs can be high especially when going into or coming out of a drought. Understanding the nutritional value compared to the price can make the balance sheet be more in your favor.



Preconditioning, Good for Calves and the Bottom Line

Scott Stinnett, Livestock and 4-H Youth Development

Making plans for preconditioning begins now, months before the fall sale run begins. There are two major reasons for preconditioning calves. It's good for the calves and good for the producer's bottom line. Preconditioned calves are healthier and gain better as they are able to handle the stresses of transitioning to feeding and are usually receive the top prices because of it.

Preconditioning consists of three components, weaning, vaccinating and exposure to concentrated feeding. Many livestock sale operators and feeder cattle buyers will tell producers, the longer calves are weaned the better. The old rule of thumb was a minimum of 30 days and an average of 45 days. There are several preconditioning programs that have 45 day minimum weaning requirements. Anecdotally, buyers prefer calves that have been weaned 60 days or more.

Vaccinations also need to be administered in a timely fashion. Once a vaccination is administered it takes a calf's immune system time for it to produce a significant level of antibodies. The first administration of a vaccine results in an initial increase in the level of antibodies 7 to 14 days later and then begins to decline. A booster vaccination given at day 21 can result in an additional increase or "bump" in antibodies that then will level off around day 30 and provide the expected level of disease protection. Calves who are vaccinated less than 21 days prior to being sold may not have the immune response needed to handle the stress and exposure to pathogens when they arrive at a new location such as a feedlot where they are comingled with other cattle. Sick calves in a feedlot are expensive calves to a raise.

Being able to go "straight to the bunk" is also highly desirable in feeder calves. Being ruminants, it takes several days for calves' digestive system to fully adjust from a milk and grass diet to grain heavy concentrate diets. Most feedlots have receiving rations to help calves transition to the concentrate diet, but without being "bunk broke", calves do not consume their new rations well and therefore delay the expected high rate of gain. Every day gain is delay or lower than expected is money out of the feeder's pocket.

Because calves that are not preconditioned to the satisfaction of feeder cattle buyers can be more expensive to feed and care for, they will not receive the top price at sale time. Essentially, they will be discounted. Calves that have been preconditioned can bring \$5 to \$6/cwt more than those not preconditioned, and calves in certified preconditioning programs can be \$10 to \$15/cwt higher at sale time.

The stresses of weaning, vaccinating, and changing diets can be detrimental to animal health and gain in the feedlot. Buyers know this and offer to pay lower prices for calves that have not been preconditioned. Although there is some work and expense involved in preconditioning, the result is healthier calves with better gains that buyers are willing to pay top dollar for proving preconditioning is good for calves and the producer's bottom line.



Cost is \$35 for event \$50 with Concert Ticket.

1 -3 p.m. BQA Certification

3 – 5:30 PM Educational Session Included Topics

***Virtual Fencing *Genetic Testing Beef Cattle *Phenotypic Scoring**

5:30 – 7 PM Dinner provided by



8 PM Concert by “The Great Divide” in Old Town Burlington

Join us at 1 pm if you need BQA Certification updated or at 2:45 if you don't!

Horticulture

Garden to Kitchen

Linda Langelo, Area Horticulture Agent

Coming on September 15 from 11AM to 1 PM, Garden to Kitchen Program covering vegetable care, herbs and preserving certain vegetables. A group of three Colorado State University Extension, Alison O'Connor, Horticulture Specialist will be teaching vegetable care, Linda Langelo will be teaching herb care and Joy Akey will be teaching preserving vegetables. More information coming closer to the event. If you wish to pre-register early, contact Linda Langelo at the Sedgwick County Extension Office at (970)474-3479.