

# Logan & Morgan Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter

The combined Logan & Morgan Ag and Natural Resources Staff provide this newsletter to provide upcoming events and news on current issues affecting agricultural businesses, rural land owners and urban landscape managers.



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## **USDA Announces Decision to Fully Deregulate Roundup Ready Alfalfa – 27 January 2011**

A decision has been made in late January on the status of Roundup-ready alfalfa use by United States farmers. Agriculture Secretary Vilsack said: “The Record of Decision that is going to be released today will deregulate alfalfa without conditions. It is based on the findings supported by science and... that there is no plant-pest risk.”

“In an effort to encourage and inform appropriate stewardship practices for GE alfalfa and to work at continuous improvement, to lessen any risk of gene flow, Secretary Vilsack is directing that USDA take the following steps.”

“ARS geneticists are charged with identifying genes that can cause alfalfa lines to be protected from unwanted pollination by foreign pollen. Genetic pathways have been established in corn to make certain corn lines non-receptive to transgenic pollen. The goal is to develop a similar genetic mechanism for restricting out-crossing of alfalfa with foreign pollen.”

“Secondly, to ensure that farmers have the best seed for their particular operations and to serve the needs of alfalfa stakeholders, USDA is going to reconstitute the National Germ Plasm Resource Advisory Committee. This committee is charged with finding how to best assure an alfalfa germ plasm system that ensures that there is always choice in a variety of products; GE and non-GE alike.”

## **Northeast Regional Engagement Center’s Range Website**

<http://range.colostate.edu/>

Casey Matney, CSU’s Extension Range Management Specialist has developed this website. It includes local news and events including links to this and other area Extension Newsletters.

## **In this Newsletter**

AgrAbility Workshops

Pesticide Applicator Continuing Education Credit Workshops

Pasture & Range Forage Insurance Update

Marketmaker & Beginning Farmer Introduction program

2011 Seedling Tree program

Turf Management & Water Savings classes

Native Plant Master Course – Pawnee Buttes Area

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Options

The Future of Alfalfa in Dairy Nutrition

**Calendar:** *Information - see articles in newsletter or call the program contact*

## February

- 7<sup>th</sup> - Ag in Uncertain Times Webinar <http://www.farmmanagement.org/aginuncertaintimesenglish/>  
Pre-Registration Deadline - Greeley Pesticide Applicator's Workshop
- 8<sup>th</sup> - Pesticide Applicator's Continuing Education Credit Workshop – Holyoke
- 9<sup>th</sup> - AgrAbility Program – Assistance for Farmers with Disabilities – Fort Morgan
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Pesticide Applicator's Continuing Education Credit Workshop – Greeley
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Pasture & Range Forage Insurance – Brush
- 18<sup>th</sup> - Agricultural Marketmaker – Sterling Regional Engagement Center

## March

- 15<sup>th</sup> - Registration Deadline – Native Plant Master – Northeast Colorado
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Lower South Platte Water Symposium – Northeast Junior College – Sterling  
“Cooperating for our Future” – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Joel Schneekloth (970) 345-0508
- 17<sup>th</sup> - CRP Breakout Planning Workshop – Gary Desoto Building – Sterling
- 28<sup>th</sup> - Sterling Seedling Tree Distribution
- 31<sup>st</sup> - The Future of Alfalfa in Dairy Nutrition - Fort Morgan - Bruce Bosley (970)768-6449

## April

- Turf Management & Water Savings classes – Fort Morgan & Sterling
- 8<sup>th</sup> - Fort Morgan Seedling Tree Distribution  
Pesticide Applicator Continuing Education Credit Workshop: To-be-announced

## May

- 21<sup>st</sup> - Native Plant Master – first class session

## Goodwill and CSU Partner to Get Farmers and Ranchers Back to Work

*Workshops across Colorado find solutions for disabled agricultural producers*

Colorado AgrAbility, a unique, USDA-funded program run by Goodwill Industries of

Denver and Colorado State University Extension and designed to assist some of Colorado's agricultural workers with disabilities, will be holding a series of winter workshops around the state this winter to provide information on “Solutions for Tractor Access and Comfortable Operation.”

The workshops assist farmers like Leonard Rink, who has experienced difficulty with his tractors due to a knee replacement, a pending shoulder replacement, and other physical ailments. Even given all of these difficult conditions, he still has to get out and tend to the land. “Things have to get done, no matter if my knee is bothering me or not,” says Rink. “That’s why working with AgrAbility has been such a great help.”

Colorado AgrAbility utilized local resources to help Leonard gain access into his five tractors. A welder modified the existing tractor steps by adding additional steps or increasing the surface area of the steps which allows Leonard to more easily and safely use his tractors. AgrAbility was able to help procure donated funds to help pay for the welding and parts needed to make the updates. “We’re very thankful,” says Leonard’s wife, Rena. “Now I don’t worry so much about Leonard when he’s out in the fields.”





The workshops run from 9:00 a.m. to noon with a free lunch afterward for those who register at least one week in advance. All workshops are open to farm/ranch families with physical difficulties or other challenges and for professionals, including Extension Agents, occupational therapists, physical therapists, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation counselors and county health care professionals. At the conclusion of each workshop, AgrAbility staff will be available for individual consultations. For a complete listing of the workshops, please see below.

Free information, education, and services provided by AgrAbility help farmers and ranchers across the state remain active in agriculture even after experiencing a disabling injury or other health condition.

To pre-register for the workshop of your choice, either call Dr. Bob Fetsch at 970-491-5648 or e-mail him at [robert.fetsch@colostate.edu](mailto:robert.fetsch@colostate.edu).

### Workshop Schedule

- Holyoke: Tuesday February 8, 2011, Extension Office Events Center at 22505 Hwy. 385 with Dennis Kaan (970) 345-2287.
- Ft. Morgan: Wednesday February 9, 2011, Ft. Morgan Extension Office, 914 E. Railroad Ave. with Bruce Bosley (970) 768-6449.

For more information about the Colorado AgrAbility Project please contact Bob Fetsch at Colorado State University Extension (970-491-5648 or [robert.fetsch@colostate.edu](mailto:robert.fetsch@colostate.edu)).

### About Colorado AgrAbility

Colorado State University Extension and Goodwill Industries of Denver work together on the Colorado AgrAbility Project to provide on-site evaluations, resource information, disability workshops, and recommendations for equipment modification and assistive technology. The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture provides funding for the Colorado AgrAbility Project.

### Pesticide Applicator Continuing Education Credit Workshops

Pesticide application is regulated by a very strict set of guidelines and laws. Since 2007, these regulations are enforced by the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA). Some of the regulations include the licensing of private and commercial pesticide applicators. The purpose of the license is to ensure that the applicators have a good working knowledge of how the pesticides work as well as how to handle and apply them safely and correctly. To become licensed, an applicator must take and pass a test developed by CDA. Under the Colorado Pesticide Applicators Act, to maintain the status of Qualified Supervisor or a Certified Operator, applicators must accumulate seven Continuing Education Credits (CEC's) in core subjects and one or two CEC(s) in each of the categories in which they are currently licensed.

Colorado State University's Northern Extension is offering two Pesticide Applicator Continuing Education Credit Workshops in February 2011. These training programs will provide required continuing education credits to applicators already holding valid CDA licenses.

The Pesticide Applicator training sessions are scheduled as follows:

February 8 – 9:00 to 12:30 - Phillips County Pesticide Applicator Workshop  
Phillips County Event Center, 22505 US Hwy 385, Holyoke CO 80734

Pre-registration deadline: 31 January 2011 – 40 registrants required for workshop

February 14 – 9:00 to 12:30 – Weld County Pesticide Applicator Workshop  
Weld County Extension Office, 525 N 15<sup>th</sup> Ave, Greeley CO 80631



Pre-registration deadline: 7 February 2011 – 40 registrants required for workshop  
The Pesticide Applicator workshops will provide all seven (7) Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) required recertification core credits:

- Laws and Regulations (2 credits)
- Applicator Safety
- Public Safety
- Pesticides and Their Families
- Environmental Protection
- Use of Pesticides

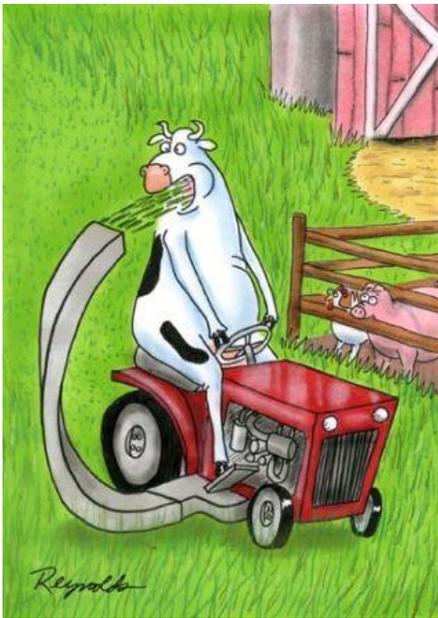
**We require a minimum of 40 pre-registrants for each program.**

**Programs will be canceled if minimum pre-registrations are not met by the deadline.**

For additional information please contact:

- Alan Helm, CSU Extension Golden Plains
- (970) 466-1466
- [alan.helm@colostate.edu](mailto:alan.helm@colostate.edu)

*Please bring your applicator license!*



### **Pasture & Range Forage Insurance Update**

Join fellow producers and CSU Extension personnel for an update on the Pasture, Range and Forage (PRF) Pilot Insurance Program and range management resources on Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> in Brush. The program will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the Morgan County Fairgrounds 4-H Building in Brush at 718 Ellsworth Street, concluding at 4:00 p.m.

First on the schedule will be an update on the PRF insurance program, giving insight into how the program works and how you can insure your grazing and/or forage resources against adverse weather conditions. Jeff Tranel and John Deering, Agriculture & Business Management Economists for CSU Extension will discuss the PRF program and answer questions. Following the PRF discussion will be an introduction to range management resources available through CSU Extension from Dr. Casey Matney, Regional Range Extension Specialist for CSU Extension, located at the Regional Engagement Center in Sterling.

Please join us for this program and bring your questions about range management and the PRF insurance program. Reservations are not required, but will assist in program planning. Contact CSU Extension at 970-345-2287 or [john.deering@colostate.edu](mailto:john.deering@colostate.edu) to RSVP or for any questions you may have. We look forward to seeing you!

### **MarketMaker and Beginning Farmer/Rancher Introduction**

- Join neighbors and friends on February 18th from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Regional Engagement Center in Sterling for a program introducing tools and strategies designed to help agricultural businesses of all kinds to be successful and reach new customers. The program will include dinner and materials for those that RSVP by February 16th to the Regional Engagement Center at 970-522-7207.
- Dr. Dawn Thilmany, Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at Colorado State University, will introduce Market Maker, an online marketing resource designed to give farmers greater access to regional markets by creating an online network with processors, retailers, consumers and other food supply chain stakeholders. In addition, Dawn will present an introduction to strategic business planning, a process that helps any business or operation to plan for the future.
- Following Dawn's presentation and continuing after dinner will be an introduction to Range Management and Beginning Farmer and Rancher resources available through Colorado State University Extension. Dr. Casey Matney, Regional Extension Range Specialist for Colorado State University

Extension, will discuss range management tools and resources he is organizing to benefit area producers. John Deering, Northern Region Agriculture & Business Management specialist for Colorado State University Extension, will demonstrate the various aspects of the Beginning Farmer and Rancher program and how local producers and businesses can benefit from participating. The Regional Engagement Center, located at 302 Main Street in Sterling, is a cooperative effort between Colorado State University, Northeastern Junior College and Morgan Community College.

**Directions:** The CSU NE Colorado Regional Engagement Center is located on the corner of Main and 3rd Street in Sterling.

## SEEDLING TREES FOR 2011



The Colorado State University Extension offices in Morgan and Logan Counties are taking orders for the CSU Forest Service's Seedling Tree Program. The purpose of the program is to enable farmers, ranchers, and rural landowners to plant new effective windbreaks that will reduce erosion, protect homes, cropland, livestock and highways and enhance wildlife habitat, at a nominal cost to area landowners.

Landowners must have at least two acres of land; agree not to use the plants in ornamental or landscape plantings or resell the plants as living material.

Bare root trees are available in multiples of 50 per species and small and large potted trees are available in multiples of 30 per species. A few species of extra large potted trees are available and sold individually. Trees will arrive at the Logan County Extension office on March 28<sup>th</sup> and at the Morgan County Extension office on April 1, 2011.

Extension offices have the booklet "Trees for Conservation: planning, planting, care" available to help plan before ordering and planting. To obtain an order form or for more information, contact the Logan County Extension office 970-522-3200, extension 281 or the Morgan County Extension office 970-542-3542.

## Turf Management/Water Saving Classes

Learn how to optimize water use with your home sprinkler system by attending a six week class on turf management being offered at the Morgan and Logan county Extension offices beginning in April, 2011. Class topics include soil types and amendments, advantages / disadvantages of turf species, fertilizer/mowing/aeration, pests, irrigation systems, and water audits. Fort Morgan and Sterling residents who attend 5 of the 6 classes and take part in a water audit will be eligible to compete for a one-time savings on their utility bill. Classes will run approximately 1 1/2 hours and will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tentatively classes are scheduled in Sterling on Tuesday nights and Fort Morgan on Thursday nights. For more information contact Joanne Jones, Horticulture Agent, at 970-542-3542.



## Become a Native Plant Master™

Have you always wanted to learn more about the beautiful plants that grow in nature? Would you like to learn how to use them in your landscape? Would you like to learn how to distinguish natives from noxious weeds? Become a Native Plant Master!

Courses are held in the field. Participants will learn plant identification with an emphasis on scientific names and families, use of a botanical key, ecology, landscaping, and other human uses. This award-winning program is sponsored by Colorado State University Extension in Morgan and Logan Counties.

A three-session course will be held on Saturday mornings on the Pawnee National Grasslands.

**Saturday – 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**May 21, 28, and June 4, 2011 – Meeting place to be determined**

**Course Instructors: Casey Matney, Bruce Bosley and Joanne Jones**



Those interested in taking part must apply by March 15, 2011. The cost is \$90 per course with each course consisting of three, four-hour sessions. The cost is reduced to \$60 per course for participants who agree to teach at least 10 people per year per course about Colorado plants in public programs. Participants who pass three courses, or nine sessions, and satisfy the teaching requirement become certified Native Plant Masters.

For more information about the Native Plant Master Program, visit [www.conativeplantmaster.org](http://www.conativeplantmaster.org) or contact Joanne Jones at [joanne.jones@colostate.edu](mailto:joanne.jones@colostate.edu) or phone 970-542-3542. For the latest information on native and non-native plants, browse our website at <http://coloradoplants.jeffco.us>.

## Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Options

Colorado State University is planning a series of informational meetings regarding CRP strategies. These strategies include re-enrollment, grazing, and cropping. Information regarding these topics will be presented to producers and we would like to invite you or someone from your office to participate at the local meeting. Topics will be open regarding current CRP regulatory information. Locations and dates are:

- February 24 – Holyoke Community Center – 1:30 pm
- March 1 – Yuma County Fairgrounds – 1:30 pm
- March 2 – Sedgwick County Fairgrounds – 1:30 pm
- March 17 – Gary DeSoto Building, Logan County Fairgrounds County - 1:30 pm

Agenda is as follows:

1. NRCS/FSA Update – CRP programs, rules, and regulations related to farming or grazing CRP
2. Strategies Managing Livestock on CRP grass
3. Strategies Cropping CRP: Agronomy components & Weed control strategies (wheat/corn)
4. Farm Economic Management Decisions with CRP

## The Future of Alfalfa in Dairy Nutrition

Alfalfa has been described as the “queen” of forages due to its high nutritional value in the diets of all livestock and horses as well as for specialty animal markets. When fertilized adequately and harvested in bud to very early bloom, alfalfa surpasses all other forages in providing a good balance of protein, energy, and fiber. Alfalfa also provides excellent soil health building attributes when included in a crop rotational system.

However, the alfalfa hay industry in Colorado has experienced recent challenges in both dairy and beef feeder markets. In recent years, dairies throughout the United States have increased their use of corn silage along with protein supplements and have reduced their use of alfalfa feeds. In addition, recent corn ethanol distilling plant constructions in northeastern Colorado and neighboring states has provided relatively abundant supplies of distiller’s grain bi-products, which are relative inexpensive protein supplement source.

Countering these trends, dairy production in Northern Colorado is expected to grow rapidly in the next year to accommodate the milk demand from the Leprino Cheese Plant expected to begin operations in Greeley in late 2011 and to be completed by late 2012. This plant is expected to be this company’s second largest operational facility.

An Extension program is being formulated to be held on March 31st to explore the issues surrounding the dairy alfalfa market. It will include talks from Extension Dairy, Agricultural Economy, and Forage Specialists as well as dairy and alfalfa producers. Contact Bruce Bosley for more information on this program.

