



Southern Colorado Ag and Range Newsletter

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Office Hours:
 Monday—Friday
 8 a.m.—5 p.m.
 (excluding holidays)

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All articles written by Emily Lockard unless otherwise indicated.

Season's Greetings!

I hope everyone is staying warm as we get closer to the official start of winter! As the year wraps up I know what is on everyone's mind, this year's taxes! Even if that's not on your mind Jeff Tranel will be giving a presentation called "Optimizing Farm Taxes and Your Management Strategies." This should be another great presentation by Jeff that will help you make decisions about your Ag related taxes for this year. See page 8 for details.

While I'm not encouraging anyone to leave Pueblo County, CSU Extension is advertising an opening for a Range and Livestock Management Area Extension Agent in Crowley and Otero Counties. I'm excited that it is being advertised and encourage anyone qualified to apply. Please share this information with anyone you think might be interested. For the full advertisement go to: <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/coop/job1202.html>

The year isn't yet complete, but I'm already planning for next year. I encourage you to contact me with ideas for programs to meet the needs of our Ag community.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Best wishes,

Emily Lockard
 Extension Agent
 Range and Natural Resources Management

Winter Supplementation

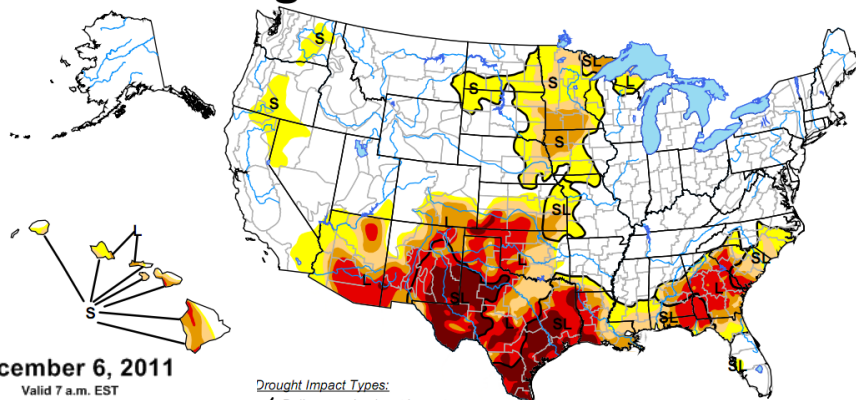
While supplementation can be used for many reasons it is important to identify the reason you are supplementing, the nutritional deficiency you are trying to rectify, and the actual cost. Doing a nutritional analysis of the forage you are feeding is a good first step. Keep in mind, the changes in nutritional value with forage exposed to the elements (standing, windrowed, baled etc.). Once you have a nutritional analysis completed, you will have more of the information you need to make informed supplementation decisions.

Continued page 4

U.S. Drought Monitor

December 6, 2011
Valid 7 a.m. EST

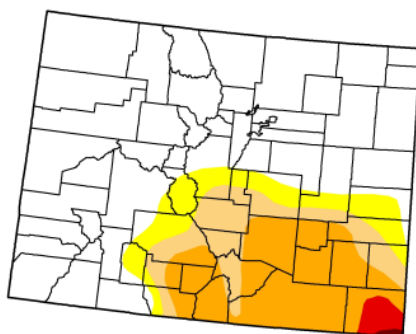
The following are maps from the
U.S. Drought Monitor
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



U.S. Drought Monitor
Colorado

December 6, 2011
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	66.70	33.30	25.71	17.30	1.33	0.16
Last Week (11/29/2011 map)	65.96	34.04	26.04	17.43	1.65	0.39
3 Months Ago (09/06/2011 map)	51.00	49.00	29.10	22.93	8.70	1.51
Start of Calendar Year (12/28/2010 map)	40.40	59.60	49.57	10.13	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map)	60.62	39.38	27.69	19.99	7.88	0.56
One Year Ago (11/30/2010 map)	39.79	60.21	38.73	9.95	0.00	0.00



Drought Impact Types:
 ~ Delineates dominant impacts
 S = Short-Term, typically <6 months
 (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
 L = Long-Term, typically >6 months
 (e.g. hydrology, ecology)



Released Thursday, December 8, 2011
Author: David Miskus, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

I've included a more detailed map of Colorado, where you can see drought in Pueblo County classified as severe. This map is updated weekly and can be viewed at

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

If you are viewing the US map, click on the state of Colorado to view a larger map.

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



Released Thursday, December 8, 2011
David Miskus, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

Know a Native— Winterfat, *Krascheninnikovia lanata*

- Native, perennial, cool season
- Monoecious or rarely dioecious subshrub (to ~1m)
- Flowers April to September, reproduces from seeds
- Crude protein—During winter months remains at about 9%, during flowering or heading stage of growth as high as about 18%
- Crude fiber (CF)— 36.72%- 29.62% (Estes, Mark G, et al., 2008)
- Metabolizable energy—635 Kcal/lb (Cook and Harris, 1968)

Good for sheep, pronghorn, elk and mule deer, fair for cattle. Superior winter feed because it maintains a higher crude protein (>10%) in winter.

Winterfat can decrease under heavy, continuous grazing. Grazing in late winter or early spring can be the most detrimental, but it can tolerate winter use of 50% if rested properly.

Stubbendieck, James, Stephan L. Hatch, and L.M. Landholt. *North American Wildland Plants*. Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, 2003.

Mark Estes. *Nutritional Characteristics of Dormant Season Grazing Within a Winterfat (*Krascheninnikovia lanata* (Gueldenstaedt)) Dominated Plant Community, and the Effect of Seedbed Preparation on the Emergence and Survival of Winterfat and Squirreltail (*Elymus elymoides* (Raf.) Swezey) Seedlings*. Master's Thesis, Oregon State University, 2008.



© W.L. Wagner
W.L. Wagner @ USDA-
NRCS PLANTS Database

Have you ever wondered why certain plants are found in one part of the county and not in another? Have you thought about the many different soil types or ecological sites that exist across the US? Or are you now asking, what is an ecological site? An ecological site describes an area with specific physical characteristics and it describes the amount and types of vegetation that the site could typically produce. NRCS creates Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD) that outline the various ecological sites found in the US.

To find out what ecological site you have on your property you first do a soil survey. Creating a personalized soil survey is relatively simple. You can create your own soil survey by going to the Web Soil Survey website at:

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>

You can find the corresponding ESD by going to the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide website at:

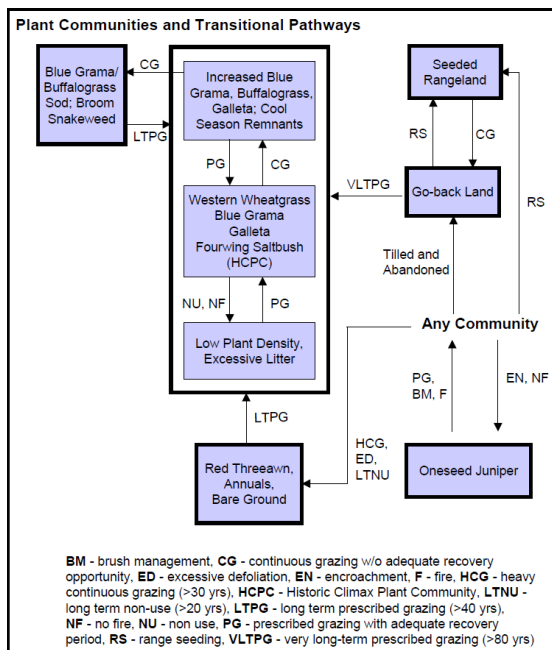
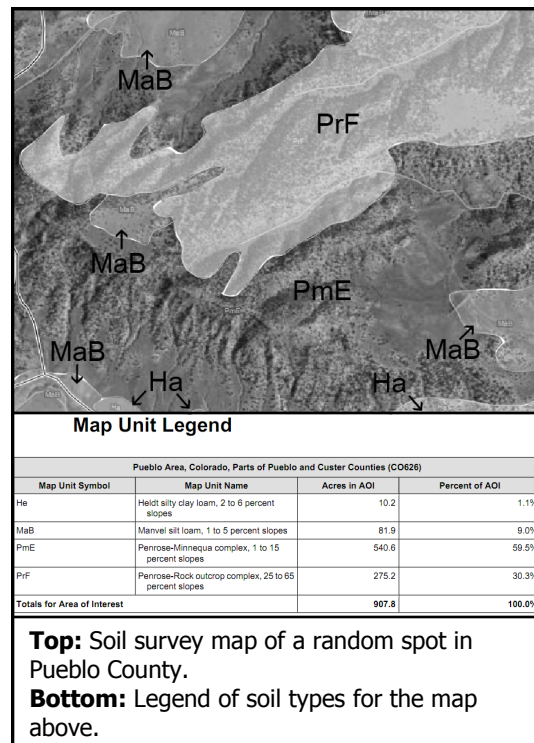
http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx

While you can get assistance creating a soil survey and finding of your own property by visiting an Extension office or NRCS office, you can create your own if you have access to the internet. Dr. Casey Matney, CSU Regional Extension Specialist, has created step by step instructions for accessing your own soil survey and the corresponding ESD.

<http://range.colostate.edu/docs/Finding%20Soils%20and%20ESDs.pdf>

A link to his website is also included on the CSU Extension/ Pueblo County Ag Webpage.

Why would it be useful to have this information? While ESDs contain sections describing typical climatic features, typical soil features, and plant communities, it also describes how those plant communities respond to various land management strategies, typical plant composition of the site, wildlife typical to the site, and state and transition models (STM). This information can help you make informed management decisions depending on your management goals.



A feature of the ESD that can be very helpful is the Plant Communities and Transitional Pathways, also know as a State and Transition model. This shows the potential impact of various land management strategies on the plant community.

For example, if you have a plant community with red threawn, annuals, and bare ground and you are managing the site with long term prescribed grazing, you can work back to the historic climax plant community of Western wheatgrass, blue grama, galleta, and fourwing saltbush. But if you are practicing continuous grazing your landscape may become dominated by blue grama/buffalograss sod and broom snakeweed.

While any of the strategies can take time, the STM can give you an idea of what methods will work to improve your land depending on its ecological site and your goals.

A new factsheet about ESD is now on the Ag page of the Pueblo County Extension website.

High protein concentrated feeds can help to increase digestibility and intake of low quality forage. Feeding protein in winter can be used as a strategy to compensate for the low protein content of forage and increase forage consumption and digestibility. Feeding high protein concentrates will not be able to bridge large gaps in the nutritional needs of your cattle. If you find that you have a large gap, you may need to feed more, higher quality hay. With the current drought another consideration may be to remove or cull cattle if you are running out of available forage or need to buy hay. An estimated of 50-70% of a cow's carrying costs can be from feeding/supplementation in winter months, something to consider if you are predicting a lack of forage available next year for all of your cattle. Decision making tools such as "Strategies for Cattle Herd During Drought" and "Calculating your Cow Carrying Costs" are available from CSU's Agriculture and Business Management website at <http://www.coopext.colostate.edu/abm/decision.htm>

Logistics is another important consideration. Determine how realistic it is to deliver a supplement and the associated labor and transportation cost. It is an option to feed natural high protein concentrates every other day, just feed twice as much every other day. How much this will save you will depend on the details of your specific operation. Another thing to consider is the best time to provide a supplement. Consider the wind chill factor and the need for extra nutrients for your cattle to deal with cold stress. It is recommended that if you are providing a protein supplement to offer it in the afternoon to help cattle deal with cold stress at night.

If you are grazing cornstalks this fall/winter, your cattle may be lacking in protein. This depends largely on the amount of corn left in the field. An easily remedied problem is also a lack of Vitamin A and some minerals, but this can be solved by always offering a salt/mineral/vitamin supplement to your cattle free choice.

Interestingly, high energy concentrates can actually decrease the consumption of low quality forage thus decreasing the utilization of low quality forages. This is because the starch in grains such as corn, milo and wheat reduces the digestibility of lignin and cellulose, which is found in higher concentrations in poor quality forage. High energy supplementation can be used when protein requirements are met and energy is a limiting nutrient. Use caution when supplementing with energy on low quality forage as results can be variable. Supplements with high levels of starch (corn, grain sorghum, wheat, barley, etc.) can reduce forage consumption and digestibility. It is recommended to use supplements that contain highly digestible fiber (soyhulls, wheat bran, wheat middlings, and corn gluten feed).

Know the true cost of the nutrients you feed. The various units and terms used to describe feed can be confusing and cause you to compare values that aren't equal. Most importantly, know the moisture content. Compare the cost per pound of the nutrient, not per pound of total feed. A great factsheet that walks you through this process can be found at

<http://www.ansci.colostate.edu/beef/info/cattlemanslibrary/309.pdf>

Resources:

Mathis, C.P., Bohnert, D.W., and J.E. Sawyer. 2010. Cattle Producer's Library: Supplementation Strategies for Grazing Beef Cattle. CL318 <http://www.ansci.colostate.edu/beef/info/cattlemanslibrary/318.pdf>
 Gill, Donald R. and Keith S., Lusby. Feeding High Protein Range Cubes. Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service. ANSI-3017. <http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-2014/ANSI-3017.pdf>
 Little, Clif and Stephen Boyles. Winter Supplementation of Beef Cows. Ohio State University Extension Factsheet. AS-1-99. <http://ohioline.osu.edu/as-fact/0001.html>

Average Improvement in low-quality intake in response to various concentrations of crude protein (CP)

Supplement protein content, %	Improvement in forage intake above unsupplemented, %
Less than 15	3
15-20	10
20-30	21
Greater than 30	44

Adapted from Heldt 1998 in Cattle Producer's Library, Supplementation Strategies for grazing beef cattle.



Arkansas Valley Farm/Ranch/Water Symposium & Trade Show

Save the date! February 2, 2012 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

William L. Gobin Community Building at 105 North Main St., Rocky Ford, CO



Pre-registration (due by Jan 27)

Per person \$20

Per couple \$30

Per student \$5

At the door registration

Per person \$25

Per couple \$30

Per student \$5

Interested in being a sponsor or vendor? Both will get your company logo on all of our promotional materials. Sponsorship is \$100. Vendor fees are \$200.00 per space and include an 8-foot table, two chairs, and registration for 2 company representatives.



For more information contact:

CSU Extension-Otero County (719) 254-7608

Or Emily Lockard, Committee Chairperson (719) 583-6566

Learn more or register soon at www.farmranchwater.org

You can also "Like" us on facebook!

www.facebook.com/farmranchwater



Lower Arkansas Valley Serving Bent, Crowley, Otero, Prowers and Pueblo counties
WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT



Pueblo County Stockmen's Association Annual Meeting

Saturday, February 4, 2012

Save the Date!

Free featured presentation 1 p.m.,

Teaching Cattle to Eat Weeds, Kathy Voth of Livestock for Landscapes

Funded with a grant from CO GLCI

- Using Kathy's process a cattle producer can teach cows to eat weeds in as little as 10 hours over 10 days and then sit back and relax while the cows get to work. A small group of trainees will teach their calves and herd mates to eat weeds, creating a weed eating army in the course of one grazing season.

Followed by Pueblo County Stockmen's Annual Meeting at 3:30 p.m.

5:00 p.m. Social Hour

6:00 p.m. Dinner

\$20 per person, located at the Spitfire Grill

Contact Dan Henrichs at 947-3579 or Carolyn Angelovich 676-3608

to RSVP or for more information.

If you would like to receive email notifications of PCSA events or meetings, send Carolyn an email at canelovich@live.com

Enjoy the Good Times and Work Through the Bad Times:

Managing Tough Times by Marvin Reynolds, County Director, CSUE/Pueblo County

Date: Friday, January 20, 2012 Time: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Location: CSU Extension/Pueblo County, 701 Court St., Second Floor

Cost: FREE

Pre-registration by calling 583-6566 is required.

What is Managing Tough Times?

Information on assisting farm and ranch couples during times of crisis, like drought, wildfires, blizzards, etc. when stress piles up or when families face disabilities or health problems.

Most people experience some signs or symptoms of stress after natural or personal disasters. People react in a variety of different ways to stress. Professionals agree that there's no one "healthy" pattern for reacting to stress. It depends on the individual.

Whether a person experiences these stress symptoms immediately after the disaster or later on, it is important to recognize them and help folks cope with their feelings. **Many folks are amazed to find out that others are thinking and feeling the same way.**

Common Immediate Responses to Stress or Disaster

You may notice some or all of the following normal behaviors as you meet those who have been affected by a disaster:

- Shock, feeling dazed or numb – *Junior got an A in Algebra!*
- Disorientation, confusion – *Found out at the hospital it's twins!!*
- Feeling on edge, easily startled, alert to any sign of danger – *Like un-plugging the swather header while it's still running*
- Feeling scattered, difficulty making decisions, difficulty concentrating

Remember, these responses and others are considered normal. In a sense, they are an instinctive way for the body to protect itself from other trauma. These symptoms may last for days or weeks.

Longer-term Reactions (maybe months or years later)

- Re-experiencing an event through nightmares, flashbacks and disruptive memories
- Difficulty sleeping or eating
- Irritability, sadness or depression

Many times these troubling reactions can be triggered by places, people or objects that remind a person of the traumatic event.

If You Are Having Difficulties

Remember, you are not alone. Many people are experiencing or have experienced many of the same feelings that you are having now. Your feelings are important, you are not being silly, weak or childish to have them. However, keep in mind that as bad as things seem right now, they will get better and these feelings will go away eventually.

Resource: Common Responses to Disasters or Traumatic Events, The Disaster Handbook 1998 National Edition, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida

If you wish to participate in any of the Extension events/activities listed in this newsletter and need special accommodation, please notify CSU Extension—Pueblo County (719) 583-6566 at least 5 working days prior to the event/activity.

COLORADO AgrAbility

Cultivating Accessible Agriculture

A free AgrAbility workshop will be conducted **Thursday, February 2, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at the Pueblo Zoo, 3455 Nuckols Ave., Pueblo. This workshop is for farmers, ranchers and the professionals who work with ranch and farm families who want to start or continue farming/ranching in spite of physical challenges. The workshop will focus on **“Getting Around Better on Your Farm or Ranch with AgrAbility.”**

Topics include an introduction to AgrAbility; how to access property, structures, workshop, livestock; working with AgrAbility in terms of site visit process and working with other agencies.

Our goal is to help farmers, ranchers and their families independently and successfully continue in agriculture by providing assistance, information and education.

Pre-registration required and lunch will be provided. Please contact 583-6566 for more information.

If fewer than 5 people pre-register, this class may be cancelled.



COLORADO FOOD SYSTEMS ADVISORY COUNCIL REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT PLEASE JOIN US!



Dear Friends, Colleagues, Partners, and Advocates,

The newly formed Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council (COFSAC) wants to hear from you- agriculture producers, advocates, and supporters- about regional economic development opportunities and challenges and various business models and market strategies that could open new or strengthen existing markets in your area. Specifically:

What is working and what isn't?

What challenges do you face when trying to access local markets?

Are there apparent solutions?



Please join the Council, other local food systems leaders, producers, government representatives, and advocates on December 16th, from 10 am to 2 pm at El Pueblo History Museum, 301 North Union Avenue, Pueblo, CO.

Please RSVP to Caroline at admin@wpmconsulting.net by December 12nd.

About COFSAC

The Council was created as an advisory committee to foster a healthy food supply available to all Colorado residents while enhancing the state's agricultural and natural resources, encouraging economic growth, expanding the viability of agriculture, and improving the health of our communities and residents. This can include making recommendations for research, policy, and regulatory action; informing member organizations' policies and programs; sharing information and resources; facilitating peer-to-peer networking, etc. The Council is comprised of thirteen appointees representing a broad spectrum of government and non-government entities from most sectors of the food system.

For more information about COFSAC or this event, please visit: www.cofoodscouncil.org



Extension

Optimizing Farm Taxes and Your Management Strategies

2011



Get the most out of your
Schedule F

Topics covered in this workshop include:

- Farm business expenses
- Reporting farm income
- Vehicle mileage allowances
- Farm records
- Strategies for managing tax liabilities

Class held **December 20, 2011**

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

CSU Extension Pueblo County

701 Court St., Suite C

Pueblo, Colorado

(719) 583-6566

Keep More of YOUR Money

Optimizing **IRS Schedule F** tax returns starts with good recordkeeping. Whether it is paper copy, basic spreadsheets, or advanced bookkeeping software, recordkeeping will help you:

- Monitor progress of your farming business
- Prepare your financial statements
- Identify source of receipts
- Keep track of deductible expenses
- Prepare your tax returns
- Support items reported on tax returns

Cost: \$10/person, \$15/couple

Registration:

- Deadline: December 16, 2011
- Minimum of 10 registered or class may be canceled.

Write checks to:
"Extension Program Fund"

Call CSU Extension Pueblo County with
questions or for more information.

Who Should Attend?

- Persons engaged in agricultural production
- Landowners renting to farmers and ranchers

Food Safety for Local Growers:

Understanding Your Foodservice Distributor's Requirements

Consumers value fresh and local, but above all, they want to trust in the quality and safety of the products they buy. That's why the Produce Marketing Association (PMA), the trade organization supporting the fresh produce supply chain, and Shamrock Foods have joined forces to develop and deliver a series of one-day programs uniquely-tailored to help local growers explore the challenges of implementing a company food safety plan, meet the requirements of restaurant and retail outlets, and above all, protect your business and bottom line.

Through hands-on demonstrations and discussions with experts, you will leave with the tools you need to build your own customized food safety program, based upon your specific business model.

Lunch will be prepared by the Chefs at Shamrock Foods!

For Registration Information:

Contact Chris Casson Number: 303-482-5356

Join us on

Date:	Tuesday, December 13, 2011
Location:	Shamrock Foods 5199 Ivy St., Commerce City, CO 80022
Time:	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (registration begins at 8:00 a.m.)
Cost:	\$50.00

PRESENTED BY:



NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL PLAN

- 50% **Cost Share** is available to property owners who apply and are afflicted with a species of weed listed on the Colorado Noxious Weed A or B List.
- Turkey Creek Conservation District highlights their role in Pueblo County's **Noxious Weed Control Program**.
- User friendly method of making this cost share an easy reality for landowners.
- Contact Turkey Creek Conservation District at 719-543-8386 ext. 116 or email: info@puebloweeds.com

website: www.puebloweeds.com

December

December 13, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (registration begins at 8:00 a.m.) **Food Safety for Local Growers**: Understanding Your Foodservice Distributor's Requirements. Presented by Produce Marketing Association (PMA), Shamrock Foods, CO Dept. of Ag, and CSU Extension. Location: Shamrock Foods, 5199 Ivy St., Commerce City, CO 80022, Cost: \$50.00.

December 16, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council Regional Economic Development Summit**. El Pueblo History Museum, 301 North Union Avenue, Pueblo, CO. Please RSVP to Caroline at admin@wpmconsulting.net by December 12nd.

December 20, 6-8 p.m. **Optimizing Farm Taxes and Your Management Strategies** Cost: \$10/person, \$15/couple Limited to 25, may cancel if less than 10 register. Registration deadline is December 16, 2011. Contact CSU Extension, Pueblo County for more information or to register. 701 Court St., Ste. C Pueblo, CO 81003 or (719)583-6566.

January

January 4, Applications for Range and Livestock Management Area Extension Agent in Crowley and Otero counties due. <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/coop/job1202.html> For questions regarding the job vacancy and responsibilities, please contact Bill Nobles, 970-545-1845 or william.nobles@colostate.edu.

January 20– Managing Tough Times, 5–7 p.m. Free workshop. Please pre-register by calling CSU Extension/Pueblo County at 583-6566.

January 29– February 3, Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, Spokane, WA. For more information go to <http://www.rangelands.org>

February

February 2, 2012—Arkansas Valley Farm/Ranch/Water Symposium and Trade Show 8 a.m.—4 p.m. William L. Gobin Community Building at 105 North Main St, Rocky Ford, CO. Contact: CSU Extension-Otero County (719)254-7608 or Emily Lockard, Committee Chairperson (719)583-6566. Learn more or register soon at www.farmranchwater.org

February 2, 2012—Getting Around Better on Your Farm or Ranch with AgrAbility, 9 a.m.—Noon, Pueblo Zoo, Pre-registration required by calling (719)583-6566.

February 4, 2012—1 p.m. Kathy Voth, Livestock for Landscapes, **Teaching Cattle to Eat Weeds**. Followed by Pueblo County Stockmen Association Annual Meeting at 3:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m.—Social Hour, 6:00 p.m.—Dinner \$20 per person, located at the Spitfire Grill. Contact Dan Henrichs at 947-3579 or Carolyn Angelovich 676-3608 to RSVP or for more information.

Monthly meetings:

Pueblo County Stockmen's Association meets the first Thursday of each month at Mesa Vet Clinic at 7:30 p.m. (7 p.m. after daylight savings Nov. 6)

Turkey Creek Conservation District meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month, Time: 2:30 p.m. Location: 200 S. Santa Fe Ave., 4th floor, Call: (719) 543-8386 Ext. 116 for details

South Pueblo Conservation District meets the 3rd Thursday of every month, Time: 7:30 p.m. Location: 200 S. Santa Fe Ave., 4th floor, Call: (719) 543-8386 Ext. 3 for details