

SOUTHEAST AREA SAYS. . . .

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Springfield, Co. . . .The moisture this year has been great for our pastures and our animals, but maybe you've also experienced a mid-western phenomenon----lots more unwanted weeds! Our roadsides are full of sunflowers and you can bet that much of the dark green we're seeing are not our eatable friends?

In 2009, Baca County received an average of 28.06 inches vs a historical average of 16 inches, and so far this year we have received 9.5 inches of precipitation, reports the CSU Agricultural Experiment Station in Walsh, CO. While it's true that the added moisture from both these years has improved pastures, small grain crops (If you dodged the hail!) and given plainsmen something to smile about, the added weeds and the cost of keeping them in check has left many of you frustrated.

Calls into my office indicate that frustration on not only the part of agriculturalists, but the homeowner as well. But some of the calls I've received from the homeowners and small acreage owners are making me take notice that we need to pay better attention to our application.

We in Extension offer Private Applicators and Commercial Applicators training for the public in the winter months and we will most likely do that again this year. What we do not currently offer is a program or training for small acreage or homeowners that buy their insecticides/pesticides/herbicides over the counter.

If your spouse, farm/ranch worker does spraying of "over-the-counter" chemicals, please keep reading and then pass this article to them.

Here are some of the basics:

1. Always, always read the label first! Even if you've used this chemical before—the formulation could have changed since your last use.
2. Is this chemical going to help your problem? Even over-the-counter chemicals are required to put what they are made for controlling or killing, ie: controlling broad leaf weeds, fungicide (attacking fungus of different types), or insects (and then they will list they type).

It seems obvious that you wouldn't use a weed killer for killing an insect, but not according the calls I've received.

3. Pay attention to warning label. Look especially for toxicity to fish, animals and people.

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4. Wear the correct clothing. It is called Personal Protective Equipment and may include a long sleeve shirt, long pants, enclosed work shoes (no sandals or tennis shoes, a protective mask or respirator, rubber gloves, and what you are to do with this clothing once the application is done.
5. What are the first aid measures? What do you do if you accidentally spill it on your skin or a concentrated vapor is inhaled or ingested?
6. Read what to do in case of a fire.
7. And how do you store this chemical once you are done?

All of these measures are very important and worth the time to make sure that you truly know what you are doing.

So help make this fall a great one, and while you are planting the wheat, breeding the cattle and working to get control of your weeds this fall so that you will have a great spring, take a minute and do something for yourself and have your family----**read the label and follow directions.**

Besides our CSU website of www.ext.colostate.edu, we utilize www.cdms.net for looking up Material Safety Data Sheets of different chemicals. Be safe.

CSU Extension offers up-to-date, unbiased, research-based information to families in Southeast Colorado. For more information, contact your local office: Baca County 719-523-6971, Bent County 719-456-0764, Cheyenne County 719-767-5716, Crowley County 719-267-5243, Kiowa County 719-438-5321, Otero County 719-254-7608, Prowers County 719-336-7734. Or find us on the web at: <http://www.extension.colostate.edu/SEA>. CSU Extension programs are available to all without discrimination.

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