

Small Acreage Workshop Evaluation- 31 Responses

Berthoud, CO
September 17, 2011

We appreciate you taking time to provide us with your opinions and comments. Your input will be used to improve future programs.

1. Please rate the sessions you attended.

BEFORE - rate your knowledge before the presentation began (*1 being poor – 5 being excellent*).

AFTER – rate your knowledge after listening to the presentation (*1 being poor – 5 being excellent*).

	BEFORE	AFTER
Pasture Management	1(1) 2(13) 3(10) 4(5) 5	1 2 3(2) 4(19) 5(8)
Septic Systems & Wells	1(4) 2(9) 3(13) 4(3) 5	1 2 3(2) 4(18) 5(9)
Landscaping With Pollinators	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5 ☹
Irrigation for Small Acreage	1 2-(15) 3(9) 4(4) 5(1)	1 2 3(11) 4(14) 5(5)
Composting	1(2) 2(6) 3(9) 4(5)	1 2 3(3) 4(11) 5(4)
Windbreak Design & Planning	1(2) 2(3) 3(4) 4(2) 5	1 2 3(1) 4(4) 5(7)

2. What part of today's workshop did you enjoy the most?

- pasture management- 14
- lunch- 6
- Septic system & wells- 4 (very informative!)
- Composting- 4
- windbreak design & planning- 3
- all of it- 2
- Irrigation/ water session
- It was all beneficial- would like more specifics re: my type of property (6 ½ ac horse property)
- all about the same
- Enjoyed all speakers. I especially liked the variety of topics you offered- all were relevant & important
- had many additional resources for us to use to follow up & learn more
- Door prizes!
- Irrigation was not so useful

3. Please list any actions you plan on taking on your property as a result of this workshop.

- plant a windbreak- 6
- Reseeding- 4
- better knowledge & care of my septic system- 2
- would like an onsite property evaluation- will contact Sharon Bokan/ Jennifer- 2
- address weeds 1st then work on planting grass next year
- Weed control
- Grazing patterns & temporary fencing
- Zoning of pasture
- get consulting on pasture design & management

- research more on pasture management, learn about grasses on my property & determine plan for rotation grazing
- Pasture management changes; knowing when to plant some dryland mix
- Plan to get soil tested
- Will be doing an irrigation evaluation of my land
- create 'ditch company' for our neighborhood ditch system
- Check into well & septic systems (reports, paperwork)
- Install small drip system for irrigation
- Consider composting
- change compost composition & length of time to make it
- Not composting. All this manure/ direct spread on grass hay. Watering via spray not flood. I have overgrazed too much
- Turn compost/ manure pile- rethink location
- Windrow composting
- Better control of compost & care of septic system
- Change composting practices a little
- I plan on trying composting & possibly using my hay field as a horse pasture
- Nothing specifically- just here for the education. May cover my compost for better water retention
- I don't think any of my plans have changed
- Gained good knowledge

4. Do you expect to save money by using new management practices that you learned about today? For example, using less herbicides, or saving time and labor with better planning and more effective management. If yes, please explain.

- hopefully save some time & labor- self manage property without any assistance
- hopefully, better composting skills, so won't have to purchase soil amendments
- Hopefully, time will tell. Mostly interested in management principals & time/labor savings
- yes
- yes- save time & labor by irrigating less; may only cut hay once per year; turn compost less often
- Yes- doing work (labor) myself & smarter
- Yes, mulching trees saves water
- Yes, not spraying weeds a second time & drilling seed instead
- Yes, septic maintenance
- Pasture rotation
- Grow more vegetables & save on buying groceries
- Better planning
- How to let my new dryland mix grow before I cut & weed management for the new growth
- Control feeding areas forcing animals to consume all feed sources, rotate animals, refresh pastures, possible addition of a well
- Planning & pasture management, watering systems
- Hope to save on feed by practicing better pasture management
- planning windbreak & the management of it
- probably not
- Probably not, maybe more healthy pasture will lead to reduced feed costs
- no- \$ predictions were confirmed today
- Not really, but the education was well worth it.
- Not composting as much (saves time). Also, the irrigation changes. Use fertilizer on the field

5. If you expect to save money by implementing a new management practice learned today, how much do you anticipate saving over the next ten years?
4 Less than \$1,000; _11_ \$1,000 to \$5,000; _2_ \$5,000 or greater.
- limited financial means & unfortunately it costs to save
 - not sure
6. What improvements to this workshop would you like to see?
- specifics to management of small horse properties
 - perhaps more on weed control
 - grass seeding for overgrazed areas
 - water saving
 - tour of garden with lecturer
 - Would like the composting more to scale for acreage & manure composting to spread manure on fields
 - More how-to type information
 - Use the demo garden more
 - Discussion groups- similar owners (acreage/ livestock) share questions and best practices
 - Manure management was not what I expected, it was all composting
 - Let us go outside without being locked out
 - offer a 2nd time so ability to switch to other topics
 - Greater variety of topics
 - appreciates having made some resource contacts
 - check with speakers to ward off no-shows (before day of workshop)
 - handouts to follow along
 - Handouts for all sessions, prior to the session beginning
 - 1st time attendee, very well done!
 - This was very good
 - Can't think of any/ None at this time- 2
 - Great building, great lunch, great speakers
7. What topics would you suggest for future workshops?
- Weed id & control- 3 (with field demo)
 - Specific irrigation systems- 2 (flood)
 - Xeriscape- 2 (grass, plants/ shrubs, trees, rock garden, water feature) (native vs non-native spp.)
 - Garden/ vegetable planning- 2
 - plant selection for erosion control
 - bee keeping
 - More on plants
 - Cover crops
 - Soil amendments
 - Fly management
 - Solar or wind source- are they affordable for pumping etc.
 - Animal husbandry
 - Fencing systems
 - Selecting grasses with demonstration in garden
 - Working with dryland acreage
 - Growing & selecting fruits for small acreage
 - Making small acreage 'sustainable'
 - Nutrient management-more specific

- Supporting food production on small acreage
- Choices for forage
- Storm water protection from small farms (esp from dry lots & animal contamination)
- Layout of small acreage- siting homes/ buildings, gardens, trees, etc.
- Season extenders
- Restoring native plants & grasses
- Grants & other financial support for small acreage management landowners
- have this program next year

8. What county do you live in?

Boulder- 6

Larimer- 17

Park- 1

Weld- 7

9. How many acres do you own?

< 1 ac- 1

1-5 ac- 12

5-10 ac- 6

10-15 ac- 4

15-20 ac- 1

20-40 ac- 4

>40 ac- 3

10. How did you learn about this workshop?

brother

Email from S. Bokan- 2

Email- 2

Extension office- 2

Greeley Tribune- 4

Husband found it online

Internet/ online- 2

Karen Crumbaker email list- CSU Ext.- 2

Megan/ West Greeley CD- 2

Newspaper- 2

North Forty News

Previous attendee of workshops- email

Reporter Harold- 2

Small Acreage Newsletter- 4

Wife

Where to find resources

Word of mouth

12. Please list any additional comments or suggestions:

- Thank you so much (you need to add the ? How much did we think we know before/ after & let us tell you what we really knew)
- Wanted to know more of what to do with horse manure & grass clippings for 28 ac & multiple horses
- Thank You!
- Steer intense, specific questions from audience to experts in the field. Don't allow single audience members to hoard the presentation
- Really learned a lot. Thanks!

- Excellent location- impressive environment & great facility. Lunch, snacks, & staff were top notch!
- Name tags for participants
- Need a choice between irrigation topic & something else. Many of us don't have irrigation.
- Great job, enjoyed all the presenters and info. Lunch was great.
- Good presentations. Excellent value.
- Great Job
- Great seminar- very enjoyable & informative
- Great food
- Very much enjoyed my day & the yummy lunch! The facility & gardens are beautiful!
- Great location- Thank You
- Thank you for offering this workshop- I enjoyed topics, speakers, site & class size. Will definitely attend more such workshops.
- Excellent facility!
- A great place for meeting. Lunch was great!
- This was great- well worth taking the day off from work to attend- Thank You