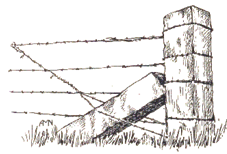




BARBED WIRE POST

Linking Boulder County Parks and Open Space and Our Agricultural Tenants



Fall 2009

New Agricultural Resource Manager Announced

David Bell has been selected as the new Agricultural Resource Manager for Boulder County Parks & Open Space. He will be taking over for Luke Stromquist, who retired at the end of July after 14 years with the department.

David officially started his new position on August 17, while wrapping up his previous job as the Lead Park Ranger for our Resource Protection Group. He began working for Boulder County Parks and Open Space in 1997 as a Trails Seasonal and has since worked in many different positions within the department.

David's agricultural background stems back to his childhood where he spent time on his family's farm, Spring Hill Farm in Lupton, Mi. His family still operates the 240 acres farm where they raise hay, corn, beans and harvest some timber. David, his wife and two children currently own and operate Bellhaven Farm near Firestone, CO. They raise goats for weed management and market sales, as well as operate a roadside market stand to sell pumpkins, ornamental corn and other fresh produce.

In the next few months David will be familiarizing himself with the Ag Division, our properties, tenants and the ever-changing agricultural industry in Boulder County.

If you have any questions, concerns or would like to stop by please contact David (303-678-6234 or dbell@bouldercounty.org) and he will be happy to sit down with you.



David Bell

Roundup Ready Sugarbeet Decision Delayed

By Tina Nielsen

County staff has dedicated considerable effort, researching, working with two advisory committees and conducting a public process in consideration of a request from six Boulder County agricultural lessees to grow Roundup Ready sugarbeets on county land. The six growers submitted a letter of request in December 2008, in accordance with the GMO protocols approved in 2003. The process generated a huge amount of public interest as many voices in the natural and organic food industry registered their opposition. The Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee voted to recommend in favor of the growers' request, while the Food and Agricultural Policy Council voted against it. A few days ahead of the August 25 hearing, the growers submitted another letter, this time requesting the Commissioners to delay their decision, "to allow the community time to find ways for our farming operations to coexist as they have for many years before."



The staff will rearrange the planning project schedule and begin work on the Cropland Management Policies, which will provide a vision for use of county agricultural lands and a framework for sustainable agriculture. There may also be some effort to formulate a more comprehensive GMO policy, though the details of scope and timing are not yet defined.

There is a lot more to come on this hot topic, and plenty of opportunity to weigh in, so stay tuned.

Winterizing Water Systems are the Tenant's Responsibility

As stated in your lease it is your responsibility to winterize all water systems.

This includes any irrigation system (pivots, pumps) and livestock watering system.

If it is not done, or not done correctly, the tenant will be responsible for all costs incurred to fix or replace water system

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Jim @ (303)678-6243.

PLEASE RETURN 2008 PRODUCTION RECORD BOOKS

Please send them in ASAP!

If you need 2009 Record Books please let us know!

Properties Out to Bid Fall 2009

Peck - 20 acres ideal for organic market farm

- Pre-Bid Meeting: Sept 21

Von Reyn - 160 acres Dryland Cropland

- Pre-Bid Meeting: Sept 14

Summer Projects

This has been a very busy summer for the Ag Division. We completed many big and small projects. The following are a few highlights:

Admor-Bowes Livestock Water Fencing Project

With the help of our seasonal, Will, and our Youth Corps Team we completed the fence system around two water tanks that will allow access from four different pastures. This system will improve our rotational grazing system.



Irrigation Systems for Small Acreage Farms



Irrigation Pond on James Construction



Concrete Lined Ditch for Monarch

Reminders:

- All harvest and grazing information needs to be in by November 15.
- Remember to get us any reimbursement requests for crop share expenses, including baling and stacking, as they occur so you don't have to wait until the end of the year to get your money.
- Please return all lease renewals as soon as possible.

To make communication more convenient and efficient please provide us with a current *email* address.

Contact Meaghan @ mhuffman@bouldercounty.org

Baling Twine and Ospreys

The Issue:

- Ospreys line their nests with soft materials, such as moss, grass and lichen. They also love to pick up baling twine left in fields.
- Baling twine easily tangles in the Osprey' sharp talons.
- Baling twine can entangle and kill about 10% of the chicks and many adults.

What can you do?

- Pick-up all used baling twine in fields and on fence posts.
- Store used twine out of sight- in barns or in 45 gallon drums.
- Dispose of old baling twine safely out of reach of ospreys.
- Spread the word- tell your friends and neighbors.



CONTACT INFO: Agricultural Resources Division

David Bell (Manager)- (303) 678-6234

Rob Alexander (Senior Resource Specialist)- (303) 678-6239

Jim Michal (Project Coordinator)- (303) 678-6243

Phill Leffler (Resource Specialist)- (303) 678-6111

Meaghan Huffman (Resource Specialist)- (303) 678-6181

Jason Sauer (Technician)- (303) 678-6236

WEED WATCH

TARGET WEEDS FOR FALL APPLICATION



Please contact us with your weed concerns.

Please help us look after the weeds on your leased property. When possible please address problem weeds to help control the spread throughout the county.

Canada Thistle

- List B Species
- 2-4 feet tall
- Leaves oblong, spiny, bright green
- Flowers in small clusters, vary in color from white to purple

Cheatgrass

- 4 to 20" tall
- Spikelets droop from thin branches
- Awns (beard) 1/2" long
- Soft, white, fine hair usually covers leaves



Leafy Spurge

- List B Species
- Flowers are yellowish-green, heart shaped bract below each flower
- Entire plant contains white, milky latex

Diffuse Knapweed

- List B Species
- 1 1/2 feet tall
- Finely divided leaves
- Flowers mostly white, sometimes lavender

* The following chart is a weed management resource provided by the County Weeds Coordinator, Steve Sauer, ssauer@bouldercounty.org or (303)678-6110. (**See Product Label for Restrictions)

Target Species	Application Timing	Suggested Herbicides	Application Rate
<u>Canada Thistle</u>	Spring/Fall	2,4-D	2 - 4 pts
	Spring/Fall	Milestone	5 - 7 oz
	Spring/Fall	Tordon	1 - 2 pts
	Spring/Fall	Curtail	4 - 8 pts
<u>Cheatgrass</u>	Fall	Panoramic	6 - 12 oz
<u>Diffuse Knapweed</u>	Spring/Fall	Milestone	5 - 7 oz
	Spring/Fall	Tordon	1 - 2 pts
	Spring/Fall	Redeem	4 pts
<u>Leafy Spurge</u>	Fall	Panoramic	8 - 12 oz
	Fall	Tordon	2 pts