



**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
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Life in the Times of COVID-19

As our lives become more and more impacted by the spread of this previously unimaginable situation, we here at the small acreage team want to help get you resources and information that may help you or make you think differently about how these hard times may be affecting you.

Taking care of yourself and your family is always the number one priority. However, people who choose to have livestock, animals, property and other responsibilities often need to look

out for far more than themselves and loved ones.

I hope some of the resources and articles you find in this special edition of the Small Acreage Management Newsletter will help to make these times a bit easier or make you feel more in control.

Stay well,
Kara Harders, SAM Specialist for the Peaks and Plains Region

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Thoughts to Consider

Do you usually buy feed for pets and livestock in relatively small batches?

Feed stores are not as well stocked as they usually are for the same reason grocery stores aren't. The regular kind of dog food or horse feed **may** not be available. Changing the type of feed you give to your animals abruptly is unwise as it may cause abdominal upset, colic, etc. Always try to make changes in food type over at least 3-5 days, mixing the familiar brand (or bale) with the new brand. Gradually add more of the new kind to the old kind with each meal or feeding.

To avoid abrupt changes, try to have a few days of familiar pet/animal food left when you go to purchase more.

What would happen to your pets/livestock if you were too sick to care for them?

This is a dark thought, but one which is probably currently facing many people. Make plans with close family or neighbors and try to set up a plan if one of you becomes unable to care for your animals. Additionally, be sure to know where any needed paperwork or medical records are for your pets or livestock, in case you need them, or someone caring for your animals needs them.

We prepare for all kinds of natural disasters but what about a virus?

The large amounts of stimuli and tension generated during disasters affect both humans and animals. Because people get so focused on 1 to 3 objectives they often fail to look around and notice the other things that are going on around them.

Emergency responders get better at avoiding this problem with experience and training. Usually they follow a response guideline that reminds them to take in all the other factors. Use teamwork (at a 6 ft distance of course!), and try to not lose sight of things that matter when focusing on the big problem.

Extension has three great fact sheets about livestock before, during, and after a disaster. While these factsheets focus on disasters more in line with fire, flood, earthquakes etc. they may still help you think outside the box and be better prepared for whatever may come our way.

Caring for Livestock Before a Disaster:

<https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/agriculture/caring-for-livestock-before-disaster-1-814/>

Caring for Livestock During a Disaster:

<https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/agriculture/caring-for-livestock-during-disaster-1-815/>

Caring for Livestock After a Disaster:

<https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/agriculture/caring-for-livestock-after-disaster-1-816/>

Septic Systems

By: Jennifer Cook, Gilpin County Director

Toilet paper is a hot topic right now, as shelves are empty in most stores. With toilet paper on all our minds, it seems fitting to discuss septic systems.

Best practices to keep your septic system working like a charm:

- Space out laundry loads, washing dishes, and showers.
- Practice water conservation.
- Only flush toilet paper. Avoid flushing inorganics solids such as trash and feminine products.
- Refrain from pouring kitchen grease, bleach, paint, or drain cleaner down your drain.
- Know the location of your tank, leach field and well head.
- Plant native grasses and flowers on your leach field. Avoid trees, shrubs, and irrigation on this sensitive area.
- Don't drive on your leach field, compaction can impact leaching field function.

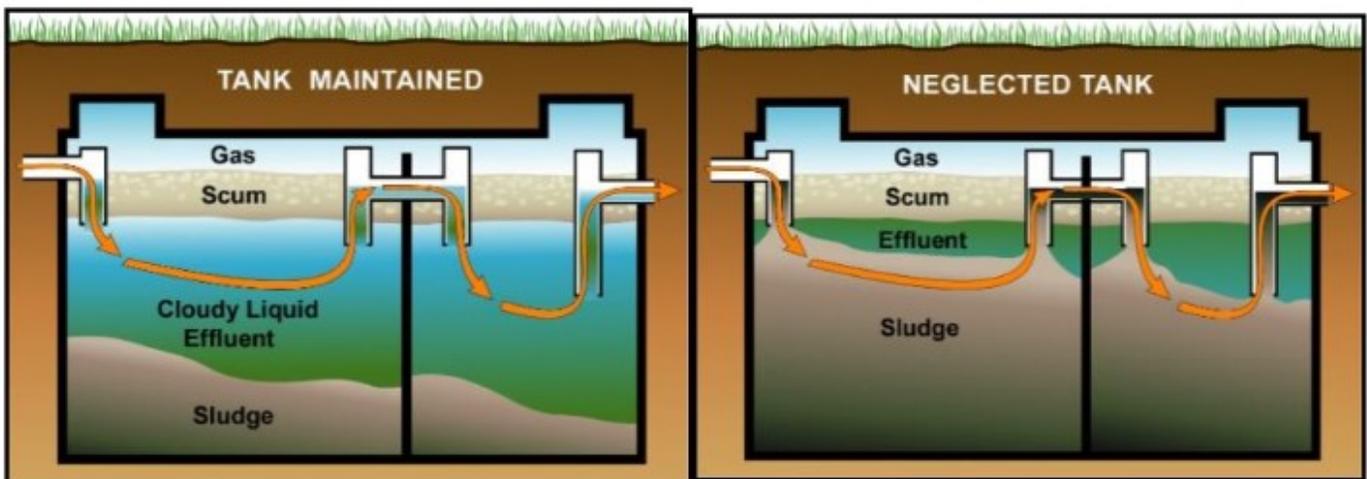
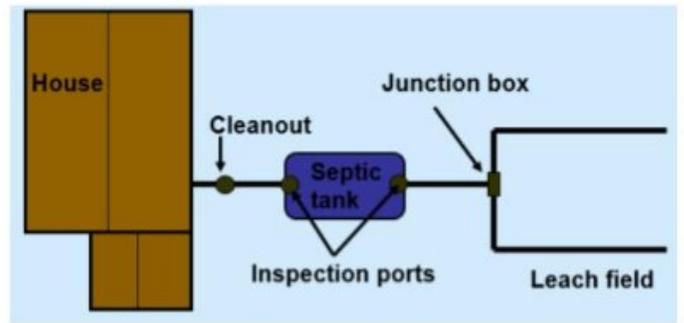
Don't get caught with your pants down!

1. Septic tanks should be inspected annually.
2. Pump your tank every 3-5 years, depending on its size and the number of people living in your house.

Sewage in your tank is about 99% water. The rest is composed of organic and inorganic solid waste. Your septic system should manage the household wastewater without any adverse health problems,

odor, aesthetic or nutrient (fertilization) effects. Your tank should be sized so that it doesn't need cleaned out more than every 3 to 5 years. It is important to do this pumping, however, as an over-full tank will not work properly, creating bad odor, elevated nutrient levels, and even health problems in the form of bacteria in your water supply.

All septic systems act in generally the same way. Household waste water is collected in a holding tank – the septic tank – where bacteria digest much of the solids. The liquid is separated from the solids and is then sent through the pipes, to the junction box, and on to the leach field. Here, the liquid slowly percolates into the ground. The soil acts as a physical and chemical filter. The remaining solids in the tank collect and need to be pumped out occasionally.



Educational Videos, Audio, and Other Recordings

Our SAM team has put together many webinars over the years, if you are looking to kill time and learn more than you would watching re-runs on Netflix check them out:

<https://sam.extension.colostate.edu/recorded-webinars/recorded-webinars-password-page/>



ATTRA Sustainable Agriculture Podcasts
Voices from the Field podcasts are the newest way to access our sustainable-agriculture expertise.

<https://attra.ncat.org/category/podcasts/>



Salida Yard and Garden Radio Show Recordings by Kurt Jones, the Chaffee County Extension Director.

In his episodes Kurt talks about all kinds of yard and garden topics, ranging from pollinators to rain barrels.

<http://www.khen.org/salida-yard-and-garden>



Ecological Weed Management for the Western Region—Organic Farming and Soil Health in the Western U.S.

Some of these webinars have already happened but the next one is scheduled for April 17th!

<https://learn.extension.org/events/3518>

COVID-19 Small Business Loan Resources

Colorado Enterprise Fund

<https://www.coloradoenterprisefund.org/resources/covid-19-your-small-biz/>

Small Business Association

EIDL loans (interest rates 3.75% for small businesses, 2.75% for nonprofit)

[https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/articles/EIDL Information and Documentation - 3-23-2020.pdf](https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/articles/EIDL%20Information%20and%20Documentation%20-%203-23-2020.pdf)

If the SBA website isn't loading, please try during lower volume times from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. MST.

Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade

<https://choosecolorado.com/covid19/>

Tips for Small Businesses

- When applying for any COVID-19 assistance, make sure you name this as the cause of your economic disruption throughout your applications!
- Apply online, paper applications move through the system slower than electronic applications.
- Write your login information (user name and password) down, SBA does not have access to these!
- Save your work CONSTANTLY!
- Make sure you use consistent contact information.
- Collect all your business tax returns to be ready to provide that information on the applications
- If you get denied, you have up to six months to fix your original application.
- Apply for assistance NOW, not when you need it.

Grant opportunities are currently not available, but will likely become available.



CSU Online Land Stewardship Short Courses

Take one or all of these self-paced online courses developed for the Colorado-arid west soil and climatic conditions.

Stewardship Planning—\$40

Soils—The Basics—\$50

Water—The Basics —\$50

Management of Forage Plants—\$50

Management of Invasive and Noxious Weeds—\$50

Emergency Preparedness—\$50

Management of Wildlife in Colorado—\$50

*Discounts for bundling classes

Each class aims to help small acreage audiences and takes 5—10 hours to complete at your own pace.

Participants will gain a better understanding of natural resources, localized land strategies, and build an effective long-term land management plan for their property.

More info and register here—

www.online.colostate.edu/badges/land-stewardship/

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Upcoming Focus -
Conservation of Natural Resources



Equine Corona Virus (ECov) is NOT COVID-19

Q: What is Equine Coronavirus?

A: The equine coronavirus (ECoV) and COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) are two distinct RNA viruses. ECoV can cause gastrointestinal disease in horses with signs of fever, depression, diarrhea and colic. ECoV is spread by fecal contamination from horse to horse or from contact with items contaminated with feces. Biosecurity measures and isolation should be implemented in horses that have or are suspected to have ECoV. For more information about ECoV go to: https://aaep.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Outside%20Linked%20Documents/DiseaseFactsheet_CoronavirusFINAL%20Cobranded%20.pdf AND <https://www.vet.cornell.edu/animal-health-diagnostic-center/veterinary-support/diseaseinformation/equine-enteric-coronavirus>

Q: Can COVID-19 affect horses?

A: To date there is no evidence that COVID-19 causes disease in horses or other animals. There is also no evidence that horses can be a source of COVID-19 infection in people. However, because animals can spread other diseases to people and people can also spread diseases to animals by contact, it's a good idea to always wash your hands before and after interacting with animals. The American Veterinary Medical Association has more information on COVID-19 and handling pets: <https://>

www.avma.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/covid-19-faq-pet-owners_031620.pdf.

Q: What if my horse needs routine or emergency care during the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 outbreak.

A: In the event that your horse needs veterinary care, call your veterinarian to discuss whether the care is essential. Because of the efforts to reduce the potential for human exposure to COVID-19, routine care may need to wait until there is no risk for COVID-19 exposure to you or your veterinarian. Telemedicine may be a way to provide veterinary care for your horse without risking exposure to COVID-19.

For emergency care, call your veterinarian to determine how veterinary care can be delivered while following appropriate biosecurity to prevent exposure to COVID-19. Do not take your horse to a veterinary hospital until you have consulted with your veterinarian. The Equine Disease Communication Center continues to report infectious disease outbreaks for horses. More information about horse infectious diseases and biosecurity are available on the EDCC website at <http://equinediseasecc.org>.

COVID-19 and Barn Safety

As a child who was not particularly a fan of washing her hands, I relished in the fact that my hands could get as dirty as I wanted when I was taking care of my animals (4-H projects, of course). And while it may not have been the most hygienic habit then, it could be down right dangerous in this time of COVID-19.

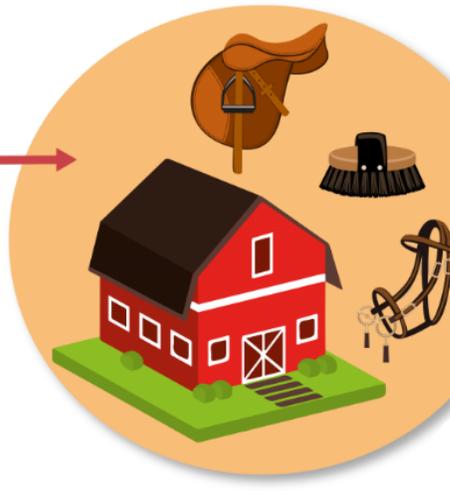


The virus is thought to spread from person to person. When a sick person, coughs, sneezes, or in some other way releases moisture from their nose or mouth, those respiratory droplets can land on other people, on surfaces, or objects, and cause new infections. So what in the barn should you wash/sanitize every day?

YES

Risk of COVID-19 spread

Some commonly used surfaces that should be disinfected at least once a day:



- Water and feed buckets
- Cross ties and lead ropes
- Halters and tack
- Grooming supplies
- Water taps and hoses
- All barn and stall handles
- Wheelbarrow/shovel/broom handles
- Light switches
- Counter tops

What else can you do to reduce the spread?

- Limit the number of people in the barn
- Encourage sick people to stay home
- Regularly clean and disinfect areas with people
- Come up with a plan to handle responsibilities if people start getting sick

Do you have a question for Extension but don't know who to ask? [Try Ask an Expert!](#)

COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION

Do you have a question about managing your small acreage?

Contact CSU Extension /NRCS Small Acreage

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Upcoming Webinars!

April 14 – Dr. Tony Pescatore

University of Kentucky

Raising pullets for egg production

<https://learn.extension.org/events/3760>



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