



# Pueblo County Extension Agriculture Tribune



The Quarterly Pueblo County Extension Ag Newsletter



**Sorry!**  
**There will be no orders taken this year for 2023 seedling trees**

"The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) Seedling Tree Nursery is taking critical steps to improve facilities, expand staffing and increase production of quality seedlings. These improvements are essential because the Nursery has experienced significant staff shortages and failing infrastructure in recent years, and this focus on updates will unfortunately require short-term reductions in production at the facility. All existing orders and contacts for the Spring 2023 will be fulfilled, but no new orders will be accepted at this time."



## New Agriculture and Agronomy Assistant



We've hired a new Program Assistant. Monica Grosso started with us on Monday, August 8, 2022, and will be working primarily with our Agronomy Agent and Ag & Natural Resources Coordinator.

We'll let Monica introduce herself.

"I am a mother of two wonderful boys, Liam and Asher, ages 11 and 4. I am married to a great man, Joe, for the last 5 years. We have two dogs and a cat who are joyful additions to our family. My family is my life. I enjoy vacationing, playing outside, gardening, crocheting, and reading a good book.

I have lots of customer service experience working as a server/bartender, in retail, and have lots of office experience working in a variety of office settings such as Pueblo Community College, Pueblo Toyota, Flow Right Plumbing and Heating, and Pueblo County Planning and Development.

I graduated from Central High School in 2001 but have roots at Centennial High School. I have an associates degree in Computer Information Sciences - Networking Security and have Certificates in CIS Networking, CIS Security, and I am a Certified Notary Public."

### Meet the Ag Team!

**Kristi Bartolo - Agronomy Agent**  
Email: bartolok@pueblocounty.us

**Beth De Lair - Agriculture & Natural Resource Coordinator**  
Email: delairb@pueblocounty.us

Scan to access the digital version of this newsletter.



Look inside to view our highlighted community partners!



# Sorghum Field Days 2022

By: Kristi Bartolo, Agronomy Agent, Pueblo County



Each year Colorado State University (CSU) Cropping Systems Department tests a myriad of different crop varieties, including wheat, corn, and sorghum in what are known as “variety trials”. Along with these trials, the CSU Research Centers also performs studies on best management practices and new technologies. This past September, the CSU Plainsman Research Center in Walsh, Colorado conducted its Field Day Program, showcasing the corn and sorghum variety trials. Farmers, community members, and CSU personnel were able to take a closer look at the varieties and practices that the Research Center had been working on this past growing season. The Plainsman Research Center specializes in dryland farming with an average annual precipitation value of only 16 inches. This past season, they only received 13 inches but were still able to produce some crops. They learned quite a bit about which crops do well with below average rainfall and which ones are less adaptable in those conditions. The majority of the sorghum trials were trials being tested through various seed companies including Dyno-Gro, Sorghum Partners, and Dekalb. These companies breed the sorghum seed to provide better disease and insect/pest resistance and also to provide higher yields. They also focus on quickly maturing varieties, especially in grain sorghum, with some maturing in just 60 days from planting. The researchers noticed that some of the varieties who have claims to early maturation were not as quick as the seed company had described. This could be due to environmental impacts. Maturity status is important to note for farmers who are attempting to produce more than one crop per season. The Plainsman Research Center does have a limited amount of irrigation water, and so conducted a grain sorghum trial under irrigation. Though the yield totals of irrigated grain sorghum greatly exceeded the totals for dryland grain sorghum (data derived from 2021 trials) the dryland crop was a success at harvest. Forage sorghum variety trials were also conducted as a dryland crop. The purpose of forage sorghum is for livestock feed and so the trials look mostly for nutritional quality of the sorghum including proteins, digestible fiber and carbohydrates but are also looking for high yields.

The Research Center also trialed dryland versus irrigated corn. Corn inherently requires more irrigation water and so the irrigation trials had more success and typically yield higher quantity and quality. Different biologic products (beneficial fungal additives) were tested but unfortunately have not shown higher yields in crops. This is most likely due to the lack of precipitation which the biologicals require to perform properly. Strip-till practices were compared to conventional tillage with little to no benefit on crop yield. Strip-till practices did, however, help to mitigate soil erosion that always occurs with high winds in the area. The final aspect tested was the chemical control of Kochia, a common weed that can devastate crop if it gets out of control. Different herbicides were used along with tilling as a control method, and it was determined that a combination of Mesotrione and Atrazine controlled this weed most successfully when used appropriately. Please note, read and abide by the label on any and all pesticides (including commercial crop herbicides). Not all products are the same and must be selected for the task at hand.

Check out more information about crop variety trials at the CSU website: <https://agsci.colostate.edu/csucrops/>



## Pueblo Community Animal Response Team - Livestock Division

By: Beth De Lair, Ag & Natural Resources Coordinator



The Pueblo County Community Animal Response Team Livestock Division (C.A.R.T.) has had a fantastic year of volunteer recruitment and mock drills. The team is responsible for all livestock evacuation and shelter needs for Pueblo County during emergency events.

As Colorado faces a new fire season each year this team is a critical community resource. To become a volunteer, each individual has had to attend a volunteer orientation course, attend a mock drill, and complete Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) courses 100 & 700. All the trainings offered by C.A.R.T. are free and available to anyone in the community. Current trainings have focused on animal handling in livestock species such as swine, cattle, sheep, goats, horses, donkeys, mules, llamas, alpacas, poultry birds, and rabbits. These trainings include classroom workshops and outdoor live animal experiences. You can join the team without any prior animal knowledge as we have many volunteer team spots that don't require animal handling. We meet at a minimum of once a month starting January – November. By joining the team, you are also able to attend trainings put on by other counties surrounding Pueblo, and receive a designated C.A.R.T. shirt and other personalized team items.

Want to join the team? Be sure to check out our newest volunteer orientation taking place on Friday, October 14th 2022, 5:30 p.m., at the Pueblo CSU Extension office, 701 Court Street, Pueblo, CO, 81003. For additional information or if you have other questions reach out to Beth De Lair, Incident Commander, Pueblo livestock C.A.R.T. team at [delairb@pueblocounty.us](mailto:delairb@pueblocounty.us) or give her a call at 719-251-0245.



# Winterizing Farm Equipment

By: Kristi Bartolo, Agronomy Agent, Pueblo County



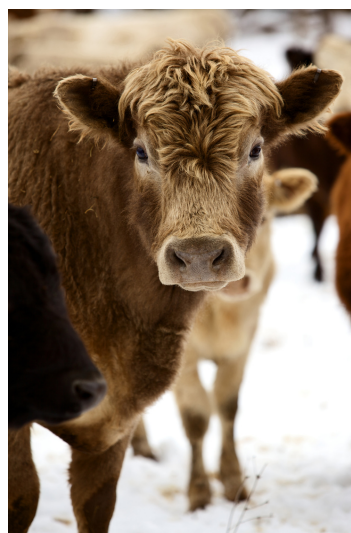
Winter is just around the corner. Is your farm equipment ready for the colder temperatures? When the harvest is complete and irrigation water has been shut off for the year, farmers can begin the process of “winterizing” their farms. Beginning with a total farm inspection can be an efficient and effective way to note specific discrepancies that should be taken care of on the farm through the winter. Check all barns, out buildings, and sheds for any holes or cracks that rodents may be able to enter at. Patching these areas will help to exclude unwanted winter visitors from entering the buildings and causing damage by chewing wires or infesting stored grain items. Check all electrical wiring in buildings so that these items are secure and are updated to reduce the risk of fire. If alternate sources of heat are used to warm barns or shops, be sure that a carbon monoxide detector is properly installed and functional. After running and using tractors, implements, and tools all growing season long, it is beneficial to clean, service, and repair this equipment. Remove all dust and debris from tractors and grease moving parts, gears, and PTO parts. Shared hand tools, discs, or harrow and plough blades. Refill hydraulic fluid and fuel so that lines stay primed while not in use.

Maintenancing equipment during the winter months can help to alleviate problems and extra work in the spring when it is more imperative to get back into the fields. Take inventory of leftover pesticides and fertilizers. Re-read labels indicating expiration dates or proper storage instruction. Be sure to dispose properly of unusable chemicals or fertilizers and store others per the label. Often fertilizers and pesticides are temperature sensitive and should not be allowed to freeze; freezing may render the chemical ineffective. Out in the fields, take note of fencing and repair any sections that are broken or weak so livestock cannot escape. Irrigation pipes should be flushed, dismantled, and taken in for the winter. Protecting them from the harsh winter temperatures and weather extremes will allow this equipment to be usable and last a little longer. Leave pressure valves open to allow water to expand and contract in the fluctuating temperatures and make sure well pumps are shut down and drained. Winterizing may take extra time and effort but is certainly worth it when springtime comes and equipment, tools and buildings are ready to go for another growing season.

# Winterizing Livestock

By: Beth De Lair, Ag & Natural Resources Coordinator

With winter approaching it's time to start thinking about what do your livestock animals need to get by? The first major concern is nutrition. Depending on what type of animals you have, their age, teeth condition, and whether they are in a breeding program or not will determine how much feed you are going to need. Younger animals that are still growing, and older animals that struggle to maintain weight are going to require extra nutrition in the colder months along with access to shelter and depending on their overall body condition a jacket that can be taken on and off as well. For cattle most herds can handle Pueblo winter weather just fine as long as they get adequate feed, have a dry spot to bed down on, and have access to water. Water for cattle is a priority in the winter as animals tend to drink less when it's cold out leading to cases of dehydration. If they don't drink enough, they won't eat enough and that ball continues to roll downhill until you wind up with a fairly sick animal that now needs more care. An easy way to make sure your cows are drinking enough is to give mineral supplements that contain salt in them. This brings up their need for electrolytes and will naturally encourage the cattle to go search out water. Be sure to stay vigilant with breaking ice on water tanks or keeping ice defrosters running as well. These same principles work for horses, sheep, goats, and donkeys as well. Be prepared to feed a bit extra in the winter and keep water fresh and accessible. For smaller livestock animals like rabbits or chickens you'll want to make sure they have access to a covered pen that is filled with either shavings or straw they can bed down in. Small animals naturally grow thicker fur in the case of rabbits and fuller plumage in the poultry birds to protect them from the cold. Watch for frost bite if winter storms roll in and again make sure they have adequate access to water that's not frozen. Again, adding in extra supplements to encourage a higher level of nutrition is going to keep those animals warm internally and help them ward off any cold weather illnesses they could contract. Unsure if you're animals are set for winter? Give us a call at the Pueblo County Extension office at 719-583-6566 and we can help make sure your operation or backyard farm is ready for the next season.





## Get Pumped for Pumpkins

By: Kristi Bartolo, Agronomy Agent, Pueblo County



Did Somebody Say "Pumpkin Pie"? Its that time of year again! Head out to the farms for some fall fun and friendly pumpkins. Pumpkins are extraordinarily versatile fruits! They are used as decorations, eaten in pies and chunked in Pumpkin-Chunkin' contests. They are one of the great symbols of fall and of season changes to colder temperatures. Below are some fun facts about pumpkins taken from University of California Davis; Rosane Oliveira, founder of Plant Based Life Foundation at UC Davis.

- Pumpkins (along with other forms of squash) were a historically important food staple among Native Americans. They would grow the squash along riverbanks next to maize and beans.
- Pumpkins originated in North America about 9000 years ago. The oldest pumpkin seeds have been found in Mexico and date back to somewhere between 7000-5550 B.C.
- Naturally low in energy density, pumpkins are an excellent source of potassium, vitamin A and beta-carotene, the powerful antioxidant that gives orange vegetables and fruits their color.
- Interestingly, pumpkins are 92 percent water.
- Technically a fruit, the pumpkin is a winter squash in the family Cucurbitaceae which includes cucumbers and melons.

Most local farms sell pumpkins or you can check out these local pumpkin patches for your share of the pumpkin fun!

### Harvest Days

**US-50 Business & 33rd Ln, Pueblo**

**Dates: Every weekend in October**

**Times: 11 AM - Dark**

### Milberger Farms

**28570 US-50 BUS, Pueblo**

**Every Friday, Saturday, Sunday in October**

**Times: 10 AM - 5 PM**

### DiTomaso Farms

**37137 US-50 BUS, Pueblo**

**Now through the end of October**

**Times: Every day from 8 AM - 5 PM**

### Musso Farms

**35779 Hillside Rd, Pueblo**

**Starting the second weekend on October 8th & 9th**

**Times: 8 AM - 6 PM**

### Pantaleo Farms

**39651 South Road, Pueblo**

**Dates & Times: October 11th, 4 PM - 11 PM; 12th 9 AM -**

**11 PM; 13th, 9 AM - 10 PM; 18th 4 PM - 11 PM; 19th 9 AM**

**- 11 PM; 20th 9 AM - 10 PM; 25th 4 PM - 11 PM; 26th 9**

**AM - 11 PM; 27th 9 AM - 10 PM**

## Community Partner Highlights

### La Tolteca

La Tolteca is a local food manufacturer specializing in Hispanic Mexican food products, especially corn tortillas, masa, chile spices, frozen and dry chile pods. They are almost exclusively a wholesale production, providing fresh products to Mexican restaurant all throughout Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming. They have been operating since 1966 as a family run, locally owned and operated business. La Tolteca very generously has partnered with the Pueblo County Extension Office providing their left-over oil barrels for the rain barrel classes the office has provided. In their own words "Tortillas are the Mexican diet's main staple and every traditional dish as to be eaten with at least a couple of tortillas coming right off the griddle".

**Website:**

<https://www.facebook.com/latolteca.foods.5>



### Pueblo County Stockman's Association

The Pueblo County Stockman's Association's mission is to support and enhance the interest of the stockman, agriculture and resources of Pueblo County and the surrounding area, as well as ensure the quality and safety of Pueblo County products. The Pueblo County Extension Office has partnered with the Association to provide the members and larger community with reliable science based information for rangeland, farmland and livestock. The Association is a regarded participant in the Pueblo County Fair and supports youth in agriculture. Stock Producers and land owners in the Pueblo area have been focusing on values of community citizenship, resource stewardship and strong families since before Colorado was a state. Join this non-profit organization by contacting them at pcsacattle@gmail.com

**Website:** <https://www.facebook.com/pcsacattle/>



## Upcoming Events

### October Dates

- **October 18, 2022**
  - Animals in Disaster Toolkit Workshop
- **October 19, 2022**
  - Cattlewomen's College
- **October 22, 2022**
  - C.A.R.T. Mock Drill
- **October 27, 2022**
  - Just Some Pumpkin Fun Class

### November Dates

- **November 1, 2022**
  - National GLC Stockman and Stewardship Event
- **November 8, 2022**
  - World of Soil Class
- **November 12, 2022**
  - Colorado State Bee Mtg.
- **November 17-20, 2022**
  - CO Farm Bureau Annual Mtg.
- **November 29, 2022**
  - Ag Tech

### December Dates

- **December 8, 2022**
  - CO Food Summit
- **December 13, 2022**
  - Profitability on the Farm
- **December 16, 2022**
  - Overwintering horses in Pueblo County

## Connect with Us!



**SUBSCRIBE**



<https://www.facebook.com/PuebloAg>



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi0dsYcfX1gIbHQWPit8WDQ>



<https://pueblo.extension.colostate.edu/>



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**Phone: 719-583-6566**



**PUEBLO COUNTY**  
 COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
 EXTENSION

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Full statements are available at: <https://col.st/110t3>