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Volume 16, Number 2

February 1996

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THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK

Kathryn Apley has resigned her position as Environmental and Pesticide Education Specialist effective February 29, 1996. Kathryn has done an outstanding job in her short tenure with Colorado State University. She was instrumental in implementing the pesticide recovery program this past fall in addition to her roles in coordinating pesticide applicator training, conducting the pesticide impact assessment program, and responding to numerous requests for information. She has also made significant contributions to the Certified Crop Adviser program during its formative period. Kathryn and her family will be moving to Ames, Iowa where her husband has accepted a faculty position in Beef Production Medicine with the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University. The department will miss Kathryn's leadership and expertise.

Arrangements have been made for Dr. John Mortvedt to rejoin the department on a part-time basis as the Interim Environmental and Pesticide Education Specialist for the next 6 months. John will provide continuity to our ongoing Cooperative Extension efforts in pesticide and environmental education. His many years of experience in research and outreach with TVA and his previous work with our soils program will be assets to our programs during this transition period. Please contact him if you have any questions or needs at 970/491-6201. His office will be C8 in the Plant Science building. □Sommers

FORAGE TESTING CERTIFICATION

The Soil, Water, and Plant Testing Laboratory has obtained certification for the analysis of forage samples through the National Forage Testing Association (NFTA). The certification process involved analyzing six forage samples of different plant species over the year. The analysis done at the laboratory involved the use of wet-chemistry methods for protein, acid detergent fiber (ADF), and neutral detergent fiber (NDF). Dry matter and minerals were also analyzed. Certification was for the analysis of ADF, NDF, protein, and dry matter. Although minerals were included in the report, the association does not certify for mineral analysis.

Many laboratories use Near-Infrared Reflectance Spectroscopy (NIR) for forage analysis. While NIR can be certified for ADF, NDF, and protein, it is not reliable for mineral analysis. Wet chemistry methods have been found to be superior for mineral analysis. The certification process is an on-going program and the laboratory will continue to participate in 1996. The NFTA has a directory available listing certified laboratories. Their address is:

National Forage Testing Association
P.O. Box 371115
Omaha, Nebraska 68137

When seeking the services of forage testing laboratories, look for labs that are certified by NFTA. Ask if the lab checks and retests results, usually by duplicate analyses. Look for wet chemistry labs that use Association of Official Analytical Chemists testing methods. Ask if the lab runs control samples that are of known content and can be used to check the accuracy of the lab equipment. Determine if the laboratory uses wet chemistry to confirm NIR results and how it verifies unusual results. Ask what types of feedstuffs can be tested since all NIR labs

may not have the ability needed to predict the nutrient content of unusual samples. Inquiring into what a lab can or cannot do will not only save money but also ensure that the results are accurate. Self

THE AVAILABILITY OF NEAR-INFRARED SPECTROSCOPY (NIR) AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

The Animal Sciences Department and the Soil, Water, and Plant Testing Laboratory collaborated to obtain a Near-Infrared Reflectance Spectrometer (NIR) for the analysis of grass or alfalfa hay. Part of the funding came from the Agricultural Experiment Station, while the remainder came from Perstorp Corporation, the supplier of the NIR. The NIR will be located in the Soil, Water, and Plant Testing Laboratory, the Natural and Environmental Sciences Building. It will be used primarily for teaching and research purposes and is available to faculty and Extension personnel. A small fee will be charged to cover operating expenses. The laboratory currently has a technician available with NIR experience that can operate and maintain the machine. The laboratory should receive the NIR in late February and have it running by mid-March. For more information about the submission of samples, contact Jim Self or Kevin Romero in the Soil, Water, and Plant Testing Lab or Nancy Irlbeck in the Department of Animal Sciences. Self

Inquiring into what a lab can or cannot do will not only save money but also ensure that the results are accurate.

CERTIFIED CROP ADVISER EXAMS

TIME TO PREPARE FOR CERTIFIED SEED

The first 1996 Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) exam was held at the Adams County Fairgrounds near Brighton on February 2. Sixty one applicants took the National exam and 66 applicants took the Colorado exam. Adverse weather conditions were responsible for some applicants not able to take either or both exams. Also, a February 1 fire in the building where the exams were scheduled necessitated a change to a nearby building. The CCA State Board thanks the Adams County Extension personnel for their prompt assistance in making this change so the exams could be held.

The second 1996 CCA exam will be held on Friday, August 2 at Adams State College in Alamosa. Registration for this exam will be open until about June 1, 1996.

Application forms, as well as Performance Objectives for the National and the Colorado exams, can be obtained from the National CCA office, 677 South Segoe Road, Madison, Wisconsin 53711, phone 608/273-8080, and FAX 608/273-2081. This will be the last exam where government employees including Cooperative Extension personnel will have the National exam fee of \$100 waived.

A new study guide for the Colorado CCA exam has been published and is being sold by the Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. The cost is \$25 plus shipping and handling and it can be obtained by contacting:

Ron Schierer, USDA-NRCS
655 Parfet Street, Rm E200C Lakewood,
CO 80215-5517
303/236-2903, ext 246
FAX 303/236-2896.

□Mortvedt

This is the time of year that all of our seed certification efforts for 1996 begin and anyone who wants to be involved in the procedure should contact with the Colorado Seed Growers office soon. The first step in the certification process for fall planted crops is to fill out a Declaration of Certifiable Fields form. This form will provide our office with field history, crop, and location information. The form is due by March 15 and no fees are due at this time.

Final applications for field inspection for both spring and fall planted crop are to be filled out with variety and field location information and returned by the final due dates ranging from May 15 for fall planted small grains to July 10 for dry beans. Inspection fees, which vary for different crops, and the \$60 membership fee are due at that time. It is important that foundation or registered seed tags from the seed planted be included with the application.

It is also necessary that anyone who will be conditioning certifiable seed in 1996 apply as an approved conditioner. Prompt application allows plenty of time for our office to plan for a seed plant inspection. Approved conditioner fees are \$50 for Class 1 (custom conditioner) in addition to the \$60 CSGA membership, and are due with the membership application.

The above applications are currently being sent to past certified seed growers and conditioners, but new applicants must contact the CSGA office at 970/491-6202 to receive the application package. □Stanelle

August 2, 1996 will be the last exam where government employees, including Cooperative Extension personnel, will have the National exam fee of \$100 waived.

**ALFALFA AND PERENNIAL FORAGE
MANAGEMENT NOTEBOOKS AVAILABLE**

Complete reference notebooks from the Alfalfa and Perennial Forage Management Clinic held in early January are available through the Cooperative Extension Resource Center (970/491-6198). Cost for the notebook is \$50 plus \$5.50 shipping and handling.

Video tapes of the conference will be available for checkout through Bruce Bosley (970/867-2493) around mid-March.

**DON'T DELAY - RENEW PRIVATE
PESTICIDE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION
NOW**

If your private pesticide applicator certification expires in 1996, renew immediately. Due to federal government shutdowns, it is possible that you may not receive your new applicator card in time for the use season. If that happens, you will not be able to purchase restricted use pesticides from your agricultural chemical dealer. The dealer must record your certification number and expiration date as part of the Colorado Department of Agriculture recordkeeping requirements for restricted use pesticides. The Colorado Department of Agriculture warns that it is illegal for a dealer to sell restricted use pesticides to anyone who does not have a current EPA certification.

The private pesticide applicator certification is required for individuals to purchase, use, or supervise the use of, restricted use pesticides in the production of agricultural commodities on land owned or rented by that individual or their employer. Farmers, ranchers, orchardists, and greenhouse operators are private applicators in Colorado. A private applicator may also apply restricted use pesticides in production of agricultural commodities on the property of another

person, if the work is done without compensation. Trading of personal services as a form of compensation is exempted under this regulation.

To renew or obtain a new private pesticide applicator certification, contact your county Cooperative Extension office or the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension Resource Center at (970) 491- 6198 and ask for the EPA private pesticide applicator training manual packet. The packet contains a study manual, application form, and questionnaire. The 110 multiple-choice questionnaire is designed as a self-study course - not a pass-fail examination. □Apley

There are six notebooks still available from the Integrated Crop Management workshops held in December. Notebook cost is \$25.00. If you are interested, notebooks can be obtained through our Extension office (970/491-6201).

Where trade names are used, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service is implied.

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Sincerely,


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