

HOBBY FARMS

As the line between urban and rural areas becomes increasingly blurred, the Extension office is spending much time responding to requests from small acreage owners. New residential developments of 1, 5, or 10 acres are becoming common all across the United States, but especially in western states. Many small acreage owners do not have prior knowledge or experience in raising crops, animals and the management of land. For many, the simple pleasure of rural living is its own reward. For others, the satisfaction of making a living off the land is the ultimate goal. Most desire on-going training and an awareness of resources to help them care for their properties. As such, USU Extension has organized a small acreage team to develop and provide resources, fact sheets, presentations and hands-on training opportunities to help small land owners' dreams come true.

Our small acreage web site <http://extension.usu.edu/smac> provides information from animals to insects to water. This site is continually under modification, but interested learners can find a plethora of information while scrolling through the options. We have attempted to blend idealism with reality since most people dream of verdant green, weed free pastures, grazed by healthy, cooperative animals. The process of reaching that objective is explained with a review of multiple topics.

In 2001 Utah joined with other western States to create a small acreage curriculum entitled "Living on the Land". The curriculum is easily modified to address local needs and interests and is continually being updated. Materials can be taught in relatively short courses, or may take several weeks with multiple presentations. Evaluation data from several States show high student satisfaction and rates of adoption of best management practices. "Living on the Land" has also excelled at creating and strengthening valuable partnerships with other organizations, agencies, and private industry.

The Cache County Extension office, in cooperation with Petersen's Country Store and Intermountain Farmers Association, has organized an educational Small Acreage Workshop that will be of interest to many property owners in Cache County. Dates for the evening seminars are March 31 and April 1. We will meet from 6 to 9 p.m. each evening. Qualified instructors will address a variety of topics such as: backyard poultry production, establishment and management of pastures, identification and control of weeds, fruit and berry production, improving soil fertility, fence building, and water quality. Participants are encouraged to pre-register for the modest fee of \$15.00. Brochures are available from the sponsoring organizations or at <http://extension.usu.edu/cache/agriculture>.

UNWANTED PESTICIDES

Expired, unwanted, unused, unlabeled and unstable pesticides can be found in many storage buildings across the entire State. As such, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) is again funding the Unwanted Pesticide Disposal Program.

According to a recent UDAF press release, this program offers a safe, economical and environmentally appropriate way to dispose of pesticides that need to be discarded. Often these products are stored for long periods of time and their containers deteriorate to the point of developing leaks, which may lead to

other health and environmental problems. Disposing of unused pesticides in an improper manner is a violation of state and federal laws.

Between May 1, 2010 and June 14, 2010 unwanted pesticides can be taken to any one of fourteen locations throughout the state of Utah for free, safe disposal. Even pesticides that have been banned and stored for decades may be disposed of at no charge and with no risk of penalty or fine. Cache County residents can take their old pesticides to the IFA store in Lewiston or to the Steve Regan store in Logan.

Since the programs inception in 1993, over 91 tons of unwanted pesticides have been collected and properly disposed of. The state contracts with Clean Harbors, a licensed hazardous waste company to collect and dispose of the unwanted pesticides.