Quiz: Under what circumstances is it allowable to feed big game (deer, elk, bears, mountain lions, mountain goats, and bighorn sheep) in Colorado?

1. To attract them to your property to enjoy viewing them; after all, this is one of the joys of living in the mountains.
2. During times of drought or harsh winters, when their survival is at stake.
3. To bait deer/elk for hunting as long as it’s on private land.

Okay, I’ll admit that this was a trick question. Under NO circumstances is it legal to feed big game in Colorado.

Continued on page 2
In urban areas and other areas where firearms are not permitted to be discharged, feeding foxes and coyotes is also illegal. In other areas, Wildlife Commission Regulation 021(D) applies: it is unlawful for any person to fail to take remedial action to eliminate any attractant (including trash and pet food) once they have been notified that coyotes/foxes are in the area. Really, the only wildlife it makes sense to feed are songbirds. Even salt blocks for deer are not permitted. In unusual circumstances (such as a huge snow), the Division of Parks and Wildlife will undertake a feeding operation, but private citizens are not permitted to do so.

This may come as a shock, or it may seem unreasonable because it seems so harmless, or even a kind thing to do. But, feeding wildlife can have a lot of unintended consequences.

In areas across the state, there are kind-hearted people feeding coyotes. This has made the coyotes so fearless and aggressive that neighbors no longer feel safe walking their dogs in the evening, even with the dogs on a leash. Cats and dogs have also disappeared.

Feeding deer can bring different consequences: the deer may move beyond the food provided to eat everything that is growing in your yard, and everyone else’s in the neighborhood. More worrisome, deer can attract other predators such as mountain lions, or bring in a lot of ticks. Feeding deer can also spread diseases between deer, and between deer and livestock.

Sometimes, we unintentionally feed wildlife. We need to be especially vigilant about this now, due to our early spring. Bears have been spotted much earlier than usual, before much of their natural food is out, and this means that they will gravitate towards human sources of food. You may feel that their predicament is more reason to feed them, but remember that when a bear becomes a problem due to feeding/loss of fear of humans, it will be killed by Parks and Wildlife. A fed bear is a dead bear.

Trash is the number one bear attractant. If you have a trash pickup service, only put it out on the morning of pickup, rather than the night before. If you take it to the transfer station, load up just before you head off, rather than having it sit in your vehicle. Take down birdfeeders at night, or remove them altogether in the spring and summer, and attract birds with flowers and bird baths instead. Feed pets indoors. Remove all food from your car when you leave. There are many stories of bears breaking into cars for even small amounts of food (like a dog biscuit); both the car and the bear suffer traumatic consequences. Keep doors and first-floor windows to your home closed and locked, especially when no one is home. I know several people who have had their houses broken into by hungry bears, and have heard accounts of many more. If you have livestock, even just chickens, take extra measures to predator-proof their enclosures. Many livestock owners have suffered grievous losses of their animals.

Let’s keep our wildlife wild. To make reports about people feeding wildlife, or for injured or problem wildlife, call your local Parks and Wildlife office.
Adventure Awaits Teens at Camp Rocky

The air is clear, the scenery is postcard perfect, and the opportunity to find a life-long love of nature or even a future career are all at Colorado’s Camp Rocky, located high in the mountains near Divide. Camp Rocky, sponsored by the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts, is celebrating its 50th year of offering teens the opportunity to experience outdoor environmental adventures. During the week-long camp, participants choose from five areas of concentration- forest management, soil and water conservation, rangeland science, fish and wildlife management or recreation management, which they learn about through study and hands-on experiences.

After busy days gaining knowledge about the environment, participants enjoy evening activities such as volleyball games, campfires, and a dance, before turning into their bunks in cabins located beside a bubbling stream.

This year’s camp, limited to 65 applicants ages 14-19, is from July 8-14. The all-inclusive cost, including delicious meals, is $300, and scholarships may be available through local conservation districts. For more information, call the Colorado Association of Conservation districts at 719-686-0020 or see their web site at www.coloradoacd.org/camprocky

The Power of YOUR Conservation District
By Natalie Macsalka, State Conservation Board, Colorado Department of Agriculture

Do you know your Conservation District? Conservation Districts are a real “grass roots” organization with local landowners guiding conservation of their natural resources. Conservation Districts were established in the 1930’s to provide local conservation leadership in response to the devastation of the Dust Bowl. We’ve all heard (and some of us experienced) the huge black dust storms that traveled from the Great Plains all the way to Washington DC. Since their inception, Conservation Districts have been integral in organizing landowners to combat soil erosion. Since 1937, Conservation Districts have evolved to develop locally driven solutions and best practices for landowners on a variety of natural resource management concerns.

Conservation Districts can, and often do, function as the center of conservation activity in an area by partnering with Private, State, and Federal organizations to implement programs and provide educational materials and workshops. One of their largest partners is the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). This partnership brings an estimated $40 million dollars of federal funding to local communities each year for conservation projects throughout Colorado.

Camp Rocky is a premiere outdoor education experience

Continued on page 4
Conservation Districts continued from page 3

If you are looking for assistance on: planning a wind break or living snow fence, getting cost share assistance for noxious weed management, renting equipment to re-seed an area, water quality/quantity issues, wildlife habitat planning, and so much more, the answer, most likely, is Your Conservation District.

Conservation Districts are a division of local government and are locally led by landowners who volunteer to serve as elected officials on a board of directors. Many people don’t realize that combined, Colorado Conservation District members volunteer over 32,000 hours a year. Depending on the State budget, the Colorado Department of Agriculture provides a small amount of funding to Conservation Districts and they may also receive assistance from the Counties they serve. However, the majority of a Conservation District’s funds are from local fundraising and grants.

As you can imagine District activities are as diverse as the areas they serve. Each year Conservation Districts create an annual plan of work based on the resource needs of landowners within the district. For example, in 2011 the Mancos and Dolores Conservation Districts collaborated on a School to Farm initiative where students both visited local farms and managed gardens at their schools. Further north, in Garfield County, the Southside Conservation District partnered with local landowners and other agencies to remove Tamarisk along a local creek. But without input and involvement from the local community, your District can offer limited assistance.

The greatest strength of a Conservation District is that there are no limits to the conservation programming opportunities they can provide. Conservation Districts are always looking for landowners to volunteer and provide input on conservation concerns—and to help find solutions to local concerns. Across Colorado there are 76 Conservation Districts.

Setting up a Drip Irrigation System

By Dave Wann, community garden coordinator in Golden, Colorado and author of The Zen of Gardening

Water costs are steadily rising, as is the price of food. A drip-irrigation system can help ease both of these things. With this type of irrigation, less water is needed and yields are usually higher, because water is applied directly to the root zone. Drip irrigation also reduces weed growth, as compared with a sprinkler, as well as diseases like mildew and fire blight that are related to dampness on leaves. And you spend less time hand-watering and moving sprinklers around, and more time harvesting and eating fresh produce.

Installing a drip-system may seem daunting—you can easily imagine a tabletop of strange-looking connectors, a spider web of buried plastic tubing just waiting to be punctured by your garden spade, and the need for tools that only plumbers and engineers use. But I have good news: It’s not really much more complicated than buying, wrapping and mailing a gift. You measure, you cut, you fit, and before you know it, your task is done. Last year I installed a “T-Tape” drip system for my vegetable garden, and an emitter-tubing system for my fruit trees. I plan to fine-tune both systems this season by adding timers and zone-specific shut off valves.

Continued on page 5

To find your local Conservation District go to: www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/Agriculture-Main/CDAG/1236777874395
I gleaned a few tips that may help you install and maintain your own system. First, I did online research about T-Tape—a fairly low-cost, durable product for irrigating raised beds and long rows in a garden. A few gardening friends had recommended it for its ease of installation, good performance and relatively low maintenance. A T-Tape system has three main components: a garden hose, mainline tubing and T-Tape. Water flows from the faucet through the garden hose to the mainline tubing, which is really just a tube similar to a hose and the “supply line” that delivers water to the T-Tape. The T-Tape is just a flat plastic hose that inflates and drips as water flows through it. In homes with high water pressure, a pressure regulator and mesh filter can help slow the flow from the hose to the mainline, enabling the water to “drip” through the drip holes, called emitters, on the T-Tape. The manufacturer precuts emitters into the tape, which is the final leg of the drip-irrigation system that delivers the water to your plants. Drip-irrigation systems also have several other smaller components: fittings like elbows, tees and crosses that direct the flow where you want it to go; couplers to repair mainline tubing if it gets cut by mistake; hold-down stakes to keep the mainline tubing in place; and “Easy Loc” fittings to connect the T-Tape to the mainline.

**T-Tape Tips**

When using T-Tape for vegetable crops, tape with emitters spaced 8 inches apart works best, because as water drips from the emitters it spreads out underground up to 2 feet in diameter, depending on soil conditions and the amount of time it drips. One-hundred feet of high-flow T-Tape provides about 40 gallons per hour, and the volume of water that drips from an emitter at the end of a T-Tape line is just as strong as at the beginning of the tape’s connection with the mainline tubing. I bought a 750-foot spool of T-Tape for $90, and a 500-foot roll of mainline tubing for $65. The various other parts I needed cost another $100: an inline pressure regulator and filter at the beginning of the system; elbows, couplers and tee fittings; hold-down stakes, end caps and crimping devices. For a modest investment, I got a system that will keep crops happy, even in extended droughts. Both the mainline tubing and T-Tape are designed to last up to seven years if protected from the sun, so I shallowly buried (and marked) the mainline tubing, and I roll up the T-Tape at the end of a season, making sure to label which line goes where in the garden.

After making a few diagrams of how I would lay out my drip system, I calculated and ordered the tubing and T-Tape I’d need. I used a standard garden hose from the faucet to the mainline tubing, or supply line, since there are standard couplers to connect hoses and tubing. It’s important to think about how much water each crop will need and group your crops accordingly. I designed my system so that the water supply to less-thirsty crops, like basil, arugula and garlic, can be temporarily shut off while I irrigate crops that require more water. Although T-Tape can be buried, one of its strengths for garden

Continued on page 6

Water trees below the tree’s drip line. Attach circular tubing with precut emitter holes to the mainline tubing using Easy Loc connectors. As the tree matures, install tubing in a wider diameter.
Drip Irrigation continued from page 5

use is that it can be laid above ground, where you can spot possible leaks and also avoid slicing it. I use leaves, grass clippings, wood chips or burlap bags to mulch the lines and hold in moisture, and thriving row crops quickly hide both the mulch and lines. But you’ll still know where the lines are, because they’re always just beneath your rows.

You can calculate the exact amount of water supplied by multiplying the manufacturer’s rated gallons per hour for your emitters by the length of time the system is on. My own methods are a bit more intuitive: I watch the vigor of the plants and the moisture in my loamy soil to determine when and how long to turn on the drip irrigation. Some drip-irrigation suppliers provide free design consultation—a real plus for people like myself who are challenged when it comes to details.

Drip-irrigation installation and maintenance literature, and instructional online videos like those are at dripworksusa.com (type “videos” into the search bar), emphasize a few key points when creating a drip system:

- Start small and add on as you become more familiar with the system.
- Keep plenty of Goof Plugs and couplers on hand to cover mistakes.
- Don’t over-tighten connections; finger tight is usually adequate.
- When you’re ready to install mainline tubing, roll it out and stake it down to avoid kinking.
- Let the mainline tubing and T-Tape sit in the sun a while before installing, to make them more pliable.
- Use a pressure regulator and filters at the beginning of your system to avoid blowing out connections and plugging the emitters.
- Use a timer to provide convenient, dependable irrigation while you’re away.

Once your drip system is in the ground, your water bills will drop, your crops will thrive and you won’t fret as much during droughts, because your plants will be precisely watered at the root zone. Have a great growing season!

For More Information
Drip Irrigation for Home Gardens, CSU Extension
www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/garden/04702.html

Drip irrigation is ideal for rows of vegetables.
Equine Herpes Virus Update:
5-17-2012

Colorado Department of Agriculture is continuing to investigate and monitor horses exposed to one horse with a confirmed case of Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) within the state; a Douglas County premises remains under quarantine. Strict bio-security and disease prevention practices have been instituted on the quarantined premises.

All horses at the quarantine facility and three other facilities which received horses from the same transport are being monitored for signs of disease. No new cases of illness have been diagnosed and all the horses remain free of clinical signs.

Unlike the EHV-1 outbreak in 2011, this case is not associated with any equine show or event. To date, no other Colorado exposed horses have become ill with similar signs. With the exception of the index and direct contact horses’ premises the state veterinarian is not recommending movement or event restrictions.

The State Veterinarian encourages horse owners and event managers to observe basic biosecurity practices such as limiting horse-to-horse contact, separating feeding, watering and tack supplies, and eliminating shared water sources at events to minimize transmission of all infectious diseases.

EHV-1 is not transmissible to people; it can be a serious disease of horses that can cause respiratory, neurologic disease and death. The most common way for EHV-1 to spread is by direct horse-to-horse contact. The virus can also spread through the air, contaminated tack and equipment, clothing and hands.

Symptoms include fever, decreased coordination, nasal discharge, urine dribbling, loss of tail tone, hind limb weakness, leaning against a wall or fence to maintain balance, lethargy, and the inability to rise. While there is no cure, the symptoms of the disease may be treatable and owners are encouraged to talk to their veterinarian about vaccine which can offer some level of protection against EHV-1.

A reminder to veterinarians:

EHV-1 in its neurological form is a reportable disease in Colorado. Even if EHV-1 has not been confirmed, horses with neurological clinical signs should be reported to the State Veterinarian’s Office at 303-239-4161. If it is after-hours, our office phone message will indicate which staff veterinarian is on call.

Common thought on EHV-1 Vaccines:

• The common vaccines available for EHV-1 immunization do not protect against the neurological form of EHV-1 disease which is commonly called equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy (EHM). These immunizations do protect against the respiratory and abortion forms of the disease.

• The EHV-1 vaccines are thought to reduce the shedding of the virus and may decrease the amount of circulating virus in the system of infected horses. So vaccinations prior to exposure may help reduce the severity of infection.

• Consult with your veterinarian to determine the best vaccination and treatment strategy for your horses in your particular situation.
Some of you have noticed a large number of grasshoppers again this year. A grasshopper will eat up to 50% of its body weight per day while a cow only eats 1.5 to 2.5% of their body weight per day. Although this doesn’t seem like much this translates to pound for pound a grasshopper eats 12 – 20 times the amount cow eats or 30 pounds of grasshoppers will consume as much as a 600 pound steer. Being the selective consumers that they are, grasshoppers will eat the prime forage and leave the less desirable forage for your animals.

With most grasshoppers, they produce only one hatching per year (some migrating species do produce 2 sets of young per year). While it seems like they keep producing, it is actually the various species hatching at different times that makes it appear that way. Most grasshoppers overwinter in the egg stage in egg sacks in the ground. Some species do overwinter as eggs in plant stalks while other species overwinter in the nymph stage. Grasshoppers start hatching in May and continue until July. When they hatch they are called nymphs. While in the nymph stage, they go through 5 to 6 growth stages known as instars. At each instar, they molt their exoskeleton and get larger. They become adults in 30 to 50 days after hatching. Grasshoppers have the appearance but not the size of an adult in each of these instars.

Grasshopper species tend to eat grasses or forbs or a mix of both. If their food of choice is not available, they will migrate in search of their preferred food. “Weedy” areas along roads, fence lines, ditch banks and untilled areas are the best places for them to lay eggs. These are also the areas to target when controlling grasshoppers. The young nymphs will remain in these areas for a while after hatching. Nymph stages are the best time for control measures to be the most effective. Grasshopper populations tend to fluctuate drastically apparently in relation to weather conditions. They favor years that are hot and dry. The newly emerged nymphs are more vulnerable to heavy rainfall more than cold temperatures in the winter affect the eggs. What threshold must be reached to trigger control measures? Grasshoppers do not do significant control.
Grasshoppers continued from page 8

damage to pastures or crops until they reach a level of more than 12 per square yard. So how do you figure this? Get in your mind a visual idea of how large a square yard or square foot is. As you are walking through the pasture look ahead, imagining the area and count how many grasshoppers jump out of that area as you approach. If you count more than 12 per square yard, then you might want to consider some kind of control. Ideally, you should also identify the species to help determine your control method.

Grasshopper control involves three methods – poison baits, spraying, and biological control.

The poison baits normally consist of insecticide treated oat bran. This method can be effective depending on the grasshopper species as some species will not eat the bait. This method is relatively safe for non-target species.

Spraying is normally done with an insecticide such as malathion or sevin. Research at the University of Wyoming has shown that Reduced Agent and Area Treatments (RAATS) is as effective as treating whole acreages. Reduced Agent and Area Treatments consists of treating in strips and leaving other strips untreated. Since the grasshoppers forage between treated and untreated areas you only lose 5-15% control by using RAATS. There is no evidence that not getting 100% control results in another outbreak. One hundred percent control is not ideal as there are birds and other mammals that depend on grasshoppers as a food source. The benefit is that you are using 50 – 60% less insecticide. Spraying has the most potential for killing non-target species.

The only biological control is a protozoa Nosema locustae. The Nosema comes in a powder form that is mixed with bran and spread in the affected area. The protozoa do not affect other organisms.

Resources
Grasshopper Control in Gardens & Small Acreages, CSU Extension [Link to CSU Extension]
Grasshoppers Management in Rangelands, Pastures, and Crops, Oklahoma Extension [Link to Oklahoma Extension]
DIY Energy Assessment Workshops
June 16, 2012-Pueblo, CO
July 7, 2012-Durango, CO
September 8, 2012-Golden, CO
September 22, 2012-Grand Junction, CO
October 13, 2012-Buena Vista, CO

Workshops to help you assess whether your home is a good candidate for energy efficiency improvements, solar energy, and/or wind energy! Pre-registration is required - space is limited. Cost is $10 payable at the door. Contact Sharal Foss at (970) 491-6281 or sharal.foss@colostate.edu to register. Visit www.ext.colostate.edu/energy/consumer.html for more information.

Habitat Gardening
May 30, 2012 (6:30-7:30 pm)
Black Hawk, CO
Learn how to attract hummingbirds, song birds, and other pollinators by growing appropriate plants and providing other enticements. Call Gilpin County Extension to register 303-582-9106.

Jams, Jellies, and Fruit Preserves
June 2, 2012 (10:00 am – 12:30 pm)
Longmont, CO
Love the flavors of summer fruits? Learn how you can enjoy the fresh-picked taste all year long by making jams, jellies, preserves, marmalades, conserves and butters. The workshop will cover the basics of boiling water bath canning to ensure safe preservation of these delightful products. Includes handouts, taste testing and recipes. To register please contact: Anne Zander, Boulder County Extension, 303-678-6238 or azander@bouldercounty.org.

Mountain Plant Sale
June 9, 2012 (9 am)
Black Hawk, CO
Call Gilpin County Extension for more info 303-582-9106.

Ag Tours
June 12 (5:30-8:30 pm)
Tuesday, July 10 (5:30-8:30 pm)
Tuesday, August 7 (5:30-8:30 pm)
Tuesday, September 11 (5:30-8:30 pm)
Saturday, October 13 (1pm to 4 pm, Check-In at 12:45 pm)
Longmont, CO
It is that time of the year again, Boulder County Parks and

Open Space Agricultural Tours. We will be hosting 5 Ag Tours this year, once a month from June to October. Please join us for these fun and informative tours of county owned agricultural land. We will visit 3 farms: crop production, livestock production and market farm on each tour. This year we will switch things up with “themed “ buses. Buses will be on a first come first choice, no reserving seats through registration. Also, if you have questions that you would like each farmer to answer please email agriculture@bouldercounty.org and we will compile the top asked questions (Deadline- June 5 for first tour). We will still have a Q&A with each farmer. Farmer profiles will also be posted on our website (www.bouldercountyopenspace.org/ag) 2 weeks prior to the tour.
All Tuesday tours will be from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. (Check-In at 5:15 pm, buses leave at 5:30 pm). Registration is Available NOW at www.2012agtours.eventbrite.com
Cost is $5 per participant/tour.
All tours will leave from Boulder County Fairgrounds in Longmont unless otherwise stated.
Questions: please email agriculture@bouldercounty.org

Dealing with Critters in the Garden
June 13, 2012 (6:30-7:30 pm)
Black Hawk, CO
Learn how to keep pocket gophers, voles, and other critters from destroying your garden. Call Gilpin County Extension to register 303-582-9106.

Poisonous Plants for Horses webinar
June 13, 2012
12:00-1:00 pm MT
Webinar (can be viewed via any computer with internet access)
Dr. Anthony Knight will cover the important poisonous plants in the inter mountain area that are poisonous to horses, providing plant characteristics, the toxic principle in the plant, and the clinical signs that horses are likely to develop if they eat the plants. To register go to:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dC1CVDVuQ01RM3J4RFdHWnh6ZmNqM0E6MQ#gid=0

Jams, Jellies, and Fruit Preserves
June 14, 2012 (6:00-7:30 pm) and
June 23, 2012 (10:00 – 11:30 am) Littleton, CO
Love the flavors of summer fruits? Learn how you can enjoy the fresh-picked taste all year long by making jams, jellies, preserves, marmalades, conserves and butters. The workshop will cover the basics of boiling water bath canning to ensure safe preservation of these delightful products. Includes handouts, taste testing and recipes. To register, please contact: Sheila Gains, Arapahoe County Extension,
303-730-1920 or sgains@co.arapahoe.co.us

Forestry Field Workshop and Networking Opportunity
June 16, 2012
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
301 Boulder County Road 99, Pinecliffe, CO
Come meet your neighbors to see active forest management, explore utilization options, and network with fellow forest landowners. Please RSVP to Ben Pfohl, CSFS, at 303-823-5774 or ben.pfohl@colostate.edu or Bill Carpenter at 303-619-2635 by June 13.

Wildflower and Weed Walks
June 23, 2012 (10-noon)
and July 21, 2012 (2-4 pm) Black Hawk, CO
Join our slow easy walk of up to 1.5 miles to id local flowers. different flowers will be blooming during each walk. dress fro the weather. Call Gilpin County Extension to register 303-582-9106.

Canning Basics- Jams and Jellies
June 30, 2012 (10 am - 1 pm)
Black Hawk, CO
This class covers basic water bath canning for safe food preservation and includes demonstrations, recipes, necessary products and equipment, as well as resource info. Call Gilpin County Extension to register 303-582-9106.

Weed ID and Control
July 14, 2012 (2:00 - 3:30 pm)
Black Hawk, CO
Bring samples of weeds for identification and advice on how to control. Call Gilpin County Extension to register 303-582-9106.

Just Canning, The Basics
July 19, 2012 (6-8 pm) in Longmont, CO
August 11, 2012 (10:00 am - noon) in Littleton, CO
Learn all about the how and why of canning food at home. The workshop focuses on canning safety, types of equipment and proper canning methods for both the boiling water bath and pressure canner. *A great class for beginners and those needing a review. Price includes a free pressure canner dial gauge test (a $10 value), so bring you pressure canner lid or dial gauge if you have one. To register please contact: Anne Zander, Boulder County Extension, 303-678-6238 or azander@bouldercounty.org.

Fermenting Foods
August 25, 2012 (10:00 am – 12:30 pm) in Longmont, CO
August 30, 2012 (6:00 – 8:30 pm) in Littleton, CO
Ever wonder if you could make your own, yogurt, sauerkraut, kim chi or ginger ale? If so, this class is for you. Natural fermentation is one of the oldest means of food preservation. Learn the science behind these products. Taste test and go home with directions and recipes to try it at home. Class includes making and taking a small jar of kraut to ferment at home. To register please contact: Anne Zander, Boulder County Extension, 303-678-6238 or azander@bouldercounty.org.

Mastering High Altitude Cooking
November 10, 2012 (10:30 am – noon)
Littleton, CO
Preparing food at high altitudes requires some special considerations. Have your questions answered and baking, cooking and candy making dilemmas solved. Just in the time for holiday baking. Includes CSU Extension-tested high altitude recipes and tips for modifying your family favorites. To register, please contact: Sheila Gains, Arapahoe County Extension, 303-730-1920 or sgains@co.arapahoe.co.us.