

A change of seasons



By Tom Heald

Autumn in Wyoming is my favorite season! Of course, we can get the errant snow-storm, but this is the time of year when the weather usually plays nice and we get extraordinarily clear, warm days and crisp nights. In many ways, it's a slower-paced time – the

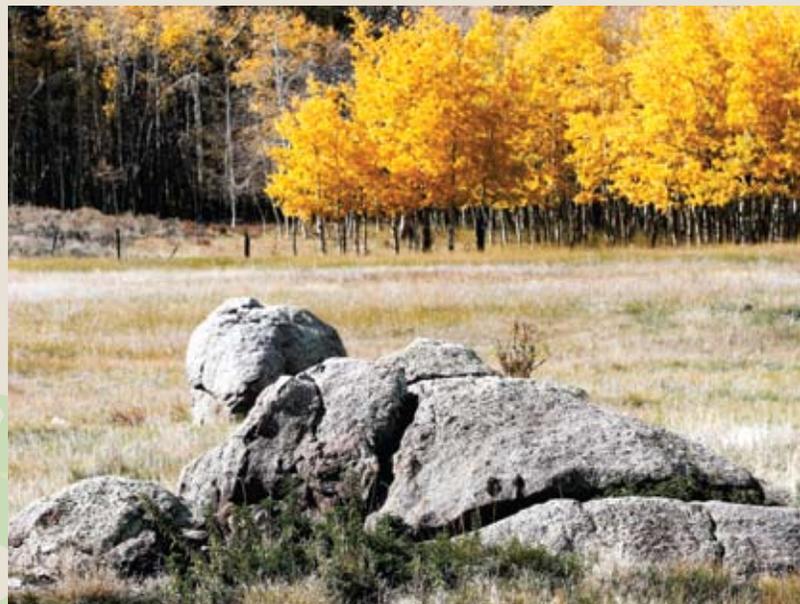
irrigating and harvest are done, the bugs are dead, the kids are back in school, and no longer can you work outside 'til 10 at night; however, autumn is the time of year when chores become more important as we prepare for the onslaught of winter.

In this edition, I am particularly pleased with the articles featuring chainsaw safety and how to fell a tree. Cutting firewood is a big activity for a lot of our rural Wyoming folks. Every year, we hear of chainsaw mishaps that maim or kill people. Read these articles – they can save lives.

In fact, you'll find great tips throughout this edition that can help you resolve problems going into winter – snow drifts where you don't want them, for example. Although snow fences are nothing new to Wyoming residents, I think our article on snow fencing brings a new dynamic in creating snow/wind protection not only for ourselves but our animals with the possibility of capturing snow for irrigation and pond use in the spring. And our article on knowing the body condition of our animals can play a significant role in

their welfare. Animals too thin will find it difficult to weather our Wyoming winters, and animals too fat – well, we're wasting feed and not really helping them. Knowing the condition of an animal can help you adjust your feed management program. Lastly, leave it to a geologist to read the Wyoming landscape like a book! Our article on land formations and how they affect water quality may very well dictate where you drill for water.

This is my last edition as this magazine's coordinator. I'm stepping down but not away from this great endeavor! Tony Hoch, Laramie Rivers Conservation District manager in Albany County, will be taking over the reins going forward. As with anything, change is often for the better, and I can't help but think Tony will provide excellent direction. I'm excited for Tony as this has been a wonderful endeavor for me.



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