Interested in water, composting, wildlife, horses, or landscaping, or do you have questions about weeds or septic systems? These subjects and many more will be featured in small-acreage workshops around the state this spring!

Small-acreage workshops provide attendees with the chance to hear from experts in these subjects and to meet other landowners and managers dealing with similar issues in their communities.

You can find out about workshops around the state (including more workshops, further information, flyers and agendas) and more by visiting www.barnyardsandbackyards.com/events.htm. You can also receive announcements of events as they become available by signing up for the Barnyards & Backyards e-mail listserv at www.barnyardsandbackyards.com.

Sheridan County Small-Acreage Workshop
“How to Manage Horse Grazing on Small Acreages”
Dates: April 17 and 24 6:30 p.m.
Old Highland Park School Sheridan
For more information, contact Blaine Horn at the Johnson County University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service (UW CES) office at (307) 684-7522 or bhorn@uwyo.edu.

Star Valley Backyard Wildlife Habitat Workshop
Thursday, April 17 7 p.m.
4-H Exhibit Building Lincoln County Fairgrounds Afton
For more information, contact the Star Valley Conservation District at (307) 885-7823 or bashworth@starvalleycd.org, or Hudson Hill at the Lincoln County UW CES office at (307) 885-3132 or hrhill@uwyo.edu.

Goshen County Small-Acreage Workshop
Tuesday, April 22 4-9 p.m.
James C. Hageman Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension Center (SAREC) 2753 State Highway 157 Lingle (http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/uwexpstn/SAREC/Location.htm)
Topics include: Trees, pasture grasses, irrigation, wildlife habitat, electric fencing, and more!
For more information, contact Dallas Mount at (307) 322-3667 or dmount@uwyo.edu, or Wayne Tatman at the Goshen County UW CES office at (307) 532-2436 or wwatman@uwyo.edu.

Cheyenne Area Small-Acreage Workshop
Wednesday, April 23 4-9 p.m.
Laramie County Fairgrounds (Old Archer Research Station) (Interstate 80 take Archer exit, go south, and follow signs)
Cheyenne
Topics include: Trees, pasture grasses, irrigation, wildlife habitat, electric fencing, and more!
For information, contact Dallas Mount at the Platte County UW CES office at (307) 322-3667 or dmount@uwyo.edu, or Rex Lockman at the Laramie County Conservation District at (307) 772-2600.

Platte County Small-Acreage Workshop
Monday, April 21 4-9 p.m.
Platte Valley National Bank Community Room Wheatland
Topics include: Trees, pasture grasses, irrigation, wildlife habitat, electric fencing, and more!
For more information, contact Dallas Mount at the Platte County UW CES office at (307) 322-3667 or dmount@uwyo.edu, or the Platte County Resource District at (307) 322-9060.

Star Valley Water-wise Landscaping and Irrigation Management Workshop
Thursday, April 24 7 p.m.
4-H Exhibit Building Lincoln County Fairgrounds Afton

Topics include: Trees, pasture grasses, irrigation, wildlife habitat, electric fencing, and more!
For more information, contact Dallas Mount at (307) 322-3667 or dmount@uwyo.edu, or Rex Lockman at the Laramie County Conservation District at (307) 772-2600.
Dear W.,

Saltcedar, also known as tamarisk, was first introduced in the United States from Eurasia as a beautiful ornamental shrub for horticulture purposes. Unfortunately, it escaped domestication and has taken a foothold along streams and other waterways, particularly in the southwestern United States and the West as a whole, including Wyoming. As the name saltcedar suggests, it can tolerate alkaline and salty soils exceptionally well. It displaces our native vegetation creating monocultures that severely limit wildlife diversity. Further, saltcedar is a huge water consumer. It has been documented that year-round running streams have dried up because of saltcedar’s ability to capture this water. It’s been estimated saltcedars in the Southwest consume twice as much water each year as all the major cities of southern California combined. So, all things considered, your neighbor is right! Tamarisk is a designated noxious weed in Wyoming, and your few plants need to be controlled before they become a huge monoculture.

Young plants can be controlled by hand pulling. The shoots you pull up might be growing off a larger underground root system, so don’t be surprised if new plants pop up in the same spot. If you persistently pull young shoots, you will eventually starve the larger root system. Larger plants require a combination of mechanical and chemical control. Cut-stump treatments involve cutting the tamarisk with a saw and immediately treating the stump with herbicide. Contact your local weed and pest control district office regarding the appropriate herbicide to use and what cost-share benefits they can offer. The stump should be treated within a minute after cutting the plant. If you wait longer, the chemical might not make it to the root system, and the plant may resprout. For dense stands in which cutting individual plants is impractical, wait until late summer/early fall to spray. Get going on this W.!

Sincerely,

Sam

This column features questions from landowners submitted via the Web site. To submit a question to Small Acre Sam, visit BarnyardsandBackyards.com. If your question is featured, you will receive a free one-year subscription to Barnyards and Backyards!