

Five years and going strong!

By Tony Hoch, magazine coordinator

With this 20th regular issue, *Barnyards & Backyards* magazine passes the milestone of five years in press! I would like to salute the Small Acreage Issue Team, our editors, our contributing authors, and our partners listed under the table of contents.

We hope this issue continues to provide concise and practical tips in a time of information overload. Our article on chimney fires offers important advice on staying safe and warm over the winter, and the article on the pine beetle epidemic offers a matter-of-fact view about this natural cycle and making the best of it. The Ask Sam section makes suggestions – well before the next season is upon us – for preventing the widespread grasshopper infestations many readers saw last summer.

We also tackle some of the paradoxes and tough choices we face when we move to the country to enjoy its natural splendor and wildlife – for example, keeping domestic pets whose instincts lead to chasing and even killing the wildlife we hope to attract.

The property improvement project introduced last issue continues to the next step of winter goal setting and planning – a vital and easy but often-overlooked step to take. We also learn how to get a few steps ahead in marketing locally grown goods months before the seeds go in the ground.

While the magazine has earned national awards and is widely read among Wyomingites, I would like to remind everyone the publication is only a part of this outreach program for those who enjoy the trials and joys of rural living in Wyoming. We also encourage you to take advantage of our workshops, join our listserv, and explore our vast library of online resources – all available at www.barnyardsandbackyards.com



Tony Hoch

Facts about the Small Acreage Outreach Project

Workshops since 2006

- 2,251 participants, 92 workshops
- Overall workshop rating: 4.47 (5 = excellent 1 = poor)
- Will attendees use what they learned on their property? 4.32 (5 = very much, 1 = not at all)
- Did the workshop meet attendees' expectations? Yes, 97 percent

Magazine, by fall 2009

- More than 90,000 copies printed and distributed
- 75 authors from more than 25 organizations contributed 164 articles
- Recognized as a pioneer and model educational tool for other Western states

Web site

(www.barnyardsandbackyards.com)

- Has nearly 4,000 visitors a month