

We feature topics to consider as **WYOMING MOVES INTO SPRING**



Jennifer Thompson

Spring is on its way! A bit hard to believe sometimes as I write this in March with snowstorms still common. But, each day brings a few more minutes of welcome sunlight, and I eagerly await the first blooming crocus that heralds spring's arrival and the end of cabin fever.

Spring is always a hectic season for my family as we transition from a season of making sure the firewood box is stacked full to one where our thoughts and activities turn toward the outdoors. This issue is particularly apt to some of the areas we are tackling. Our **featured property** this issue inspires us with what the owners have been able to achieve on their beautiful acreage – from productive pastures to a plentiful grape harvest.

As I peruse the flood of seed and plant catalogs that have found their way to our mailbox and e-mail inbox, the article on winners from the **Casper demonstration garden** and the **"Short, Sweet, and Tough" plant quiz** provide us with many ideas for hardy plants

that can thrive in our landscapes.

The **weed control** article reminds us once more to be on our toes and set aside time to tackle problem areas on our property. The pieces on tree topics, such as the **drip system** and **mountain pine beetle control** articles, have us considering the health of our windbreak and making our annual decisions on spraying and other maintenance activities. The article on **forestry management** plans provides a wealth of information and ideas on managing trees on your property – whether a few or a forest.

As cabin fever begins to wane and our sights turn outdoors, I hope you will find the articles of interest and practical use as we enter this season of hope, renewal, and hard work.

REMINDER:

In celebration of our five years in print, we are planning on printing a "Best of Barnyards & Backyards" issue. We want your votes on the articles that have been the most interesting and helpful. You can give us your nominations by e-mail or mail. Send e-mails to jsjones@uwyo.edu with "Best of Barnyards" in the subject line or send us a letter to:

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