

Summer's end signals fall enchantment

I've always enjoyed the crisp days of fall. Fall seems to add a spring to my step as the hot days of summer recede and the colors of the changing leaves wash the landscape until the wind comes to blow them away.

There's also a bit of extra hustle and bustle as we take care of summer's end chores and prepare for winter's return.

This has been an interesting year, to put it mildly. With drought back in the picture and wildfires affecting many parts of the state, we've had our challenges. As always, our goal with *Barnyards & Backyards* is to help you meet these challenges and enjoy the benefits rural living has to offer while maintaining the health and value of your land. The articles in this issue fit that bill nicely. They provide information on issues of the moment such as **winterizing that weed sprayer, weed-free forage** for the hunting season, and **incorporating organic matter** into the vegetable plot so the garden will be ready to go come spring. They also provide information for the days to come whether you are considering **vermicomposting as an option to recycle vegetable wastes, a wildflower area** on your property, **a low-input lawn**, or **how to get pastures through the drought** with the least damage.

Whatever this fall may bring, we hope this issue provides quality information and inspiration to help you get the most out of rural living.



Jennifer Thompson



Check out our ever-growing collection of useful video clips on YouTube.