Spring IS on its way

(If it hasn't arrived yet in your neighborhood!)

As the sun starts to get up earlier, so do we, shaking off our winter chores and habits and kicking into gear. As windy winter weather now gives way to the occasional delightfully calm day, the bulbs in our landscapes start to brighten lives with colorful blooms, and my family starts tackling spring clean up chores. It feels great to tidy up and plan activities for the growing season that's on the horizon.

Jennifer Thompson

As you enter spring, we hope this issue's articles are useful now and in the future. We cover topics ranging from soils in "**How a soil test can determine suitability of soil for plants,**" to the vegetation they support, such as our native grasses in our quiz (did you identify them all?), the poisonous native and introduced plants that inhabit our state in "**Green light for spring grazing should be yellow for caution,**" and the stately conifers many of us strive to grow for a variety of benefits in "**Conifer diversity creates more resilient and appealing landscapes.**"

For those who are continuing or beginning to develop a closer link to your food, several articles may be of interest. Our featured landowners in southeast Wyoming raise a large part of their diet themselves despite extreme challenges of climate. From another section of the state – Hot Springs County – we learn about the 365-day challenges and rewards of having "house cows." On the veggie front, our UW Extension insect expert **Scott Schell** helps us keep in mind some hidden pests that may be denting our harvests in "**The worst garden pests you've never seen**." For all the folks keeping chickens and enjoying those fresh eggs, don't miss our article from northeastern Wyoming on "**How not to be at your chicken's beck and call**" (Ah, where were automatic chicken doors when I was in charge of the coop?).

As always, we hope your spring brings renewal and is the start of a season of plenty.

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