



Can you hear me

NOW?

By Tom Heald

You know the nerdy guy who's the spokesperson for that certain wireless phone service? Well, I'm that guy for *Barnyards & Backyards!*

Like that nerdy guy, I have a whole network of skilled individuals behind me supporting our efforts to bring you, the small-acre owner in Wyoming, the best resource information available for living on the land. Our group has folks from the University of Wyoming

Cooperative Extension Service (UW CES), Resource Conservation and Development Councils, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wyoming conservation districts, Wyoming State Forestry Division, Audubon Wyoming, and others. We know Wyoming!

Besides writing for this publication, we also offer "hands-on" small-acre workshops and other educational activities (see www.barnyardsandbackyards.com/events.htm) around the state. If you need practical information from experts, you've come to the right place!

In looking at our efforts thus far, we are pleased with the tools we have been able to create to assist landowners and managers, and, in looking forward, we see many opportunities to do more. One of the tools, *Barnyards & Backyards* magazine, has been recognized as a leader in this area! We have been nationally recognized for our efforts in addressing the needs of small-acre owners and managers. No other state is providing the kind of material we provide you – and, if copying is the sincerest form of flattery, there are other states looking to copy our efforts! But the bottom line for us is we provide concise, practical information for those seeking to live quality lives on the land.

Your comments are always welcome. You can contact me at (307) 235-9400 or at theald@uwyo.edu.

Enjoy Wyoming's autumn!

WHAT YOU THINK

To better serve the audience of the *Barnyards & Backyards* magazine, the Small Acreage Issue Team sent a survey last fall to all individual subscribers. There was a 25 percent response rate.

This survey asked who you are, what you think of the magazine, and what types of articles you would like to see in the future. We appreciate the time spent responding to our questions!

Did you know...

- 56 percent of the magazine's audience owns 5 to 80 acres with the majority at 40 acres.
- 45 percent own some kind of livestock.
- 70 percent believe the magazine does a good job of answering their land management questions.
- 46 percent have used information from the magazine to make decisions about how they manage their land.
- 81 percent intend to use information from the magazine in land management decisions.

Top five topic areas of interest for readers:

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|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Trees | 4. Establishing grass |
| 2. Weeds | 5. Wildlife habitat |
| 3. Landscaping | |

Barnyards&Backyards readers live across Wyoming, but here are the counties with the most individual subscriptions:

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. Laramie | 4. Fremont |
| 2. Albany | 5. Sheridan |
| 3. Carbon | 6. Campbell |

Tom Heald is the coordinator for Barnyards & Backyards and serves Converse, Natrona, and Niobrara counties as a UW CES educator.