

The race is on!

Summer is finally here and folks are scrambling to plant, grow, build, and, hopefully, have a little fun in our glorious, high-elevation climate. This issue provides several timely articles to help make the best of our most fair season.

Hopefully, most of you are aware of the human and written resources available through our partner agencies that comprise the Small Acreage Issue Team behind this magazine. Their logos are inside the front cover, and their Internet links are available at the barnyardsandbackyards.com Web site.



Tony Hoch

Sometimes, the first step in getting assistance with natural resource issues is informing yourself and asking good questions of experts. Several articles in this issue show how a little homework can solve a problem or make the best of your time visiting with a professional.

The article on diagnosing plant ailments shows that how you look at and think about plant issues will allow you to diagnose or at least narrow the suspects by simply knowing what to look for.

If there is a weed or unknown plant on your place and you want to collect and take it to a local resource expert for identification, our photo essay and video on collecting plants will help you be successful.

For those thinking about installing renewable energy options of any kind, our article on economics shows how to look at different methods of deciding whether a project is a good investment in the long run.

Our featured landowner and Ask Sam pieces deal mainly with irrigation and will hopefully answer some of the questions that come to mind as you see full irrigation ditches flooding grasslands in your backyard and around the state this summer.

We introduce our third property improvement project in this edition. This project tackles an entirely different set of issues than those addressed in earlier articles. Be sure to visit our Property Improvement Facebook page (type Barnyards and Backyards Property Improvement Project into the Facebook search function) to see progress on all three of these properties in real time. Become a fan! Not a Facebook member? Type the same search into Google or any other Web browser and open the page link. You will be able to view but not access the page subjects.

And, in closing, all of us associated with *Barnyards & Backyards* magazine wish you a warm and productive summer – enjoy it while it lasts!

