



Oregon State University Extension Service

Central Oregon Agriculture

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Wheat Marketing Meeting

Thursday, April 10, 2008 - Madras, Oregon

The Oregon Wheat League will be holding a Wheat Marketing Meeting via polycom at the Central Oregon Agricultural Research Center (COARC) in Madras. The broadcast will run from 7:00 am to 8:00 am. Speaker and topic details were unavailable at press time...

Mylon Bohle

C.O. Grape Growers Workshop & Spring Meeting

Saturday, April 19, 2008 - Terrebonne, Oregon

The agenda for our spring meeting will focus on preparation for the growing season: pruning, training, weed eradication, cover crops, and fertilizing.

At 1:00 pm, everyone will meet at Ranch at the Canyons, 10400 NE Canyons Drive, Terrebonne, for instruction on pruning and an explanation and viewing of "cordon training" by Kerry Damon. You will also have the opportunity for some hands-on taking part in pruning some of the Ranch's vines.

At approximately 2 pm, we will drive to Maragas Winery and Vineyard, 15523 S. Hwy 97, Culver, and observe a different type of pruning from that used at the Ranch at the Canyons; in this case, the focus will be on spur pruning and head training. In addition, there will be a presentation by Rick Loya of CHS on weed eradication and fertilizing vines, and a presentation by Gary Bishop on mycorrhizal treatments and cover crops.

This will be followed by a vertical tasting of Marchel Foch from Serendipity Winery. The vertical tasting, starting with 1999, and tasting each bottle back to 1988, will be a chance to taste a top quality Marchel Foch wine produced in western Oregon. It will be a chance to taste this grape as wine, and have first hand knowledge of one of the potential grapes to grow in central Oregon, and see how the wine ages. The tasting will take place inside Maragas Winery. Also, during the tasting, name of our association will be discussed and determined.

Cost for the workshop will be \$20.00 (includes wine tasting), with the proceeds going towards bringing in more experts for future workshops. Please RSVP, by email (dj@maragaswinery.com) or by phone (541) 330-0919 to Doug Maragas.

Doug Maragas, Kerry Damon, Mylon Bohle, and Dana Martin

Tractor Safety Training Being Held in June

Tractor Safety Training, for area central Oregon youth aged 14-17 for the coming agricultural year, will be held in Madras in June. (We will have more details in the May and June Central Oregon Agriculture Newsletters.) If you wish, you may pre-register by calling the OSU Jefferson County Extension office at (541) 475-3808.

Rich Affeldt, Barbi Riggs, and Mylon Bohle

“Central Oregon Agriculture” is a monthly newsletter produced by the Central Oregon Extension offices and the Central Oregon Agricultural Research Center. The intent of this newsletter is to extend agricultural research-based information to solve problems, develop leadership and manage resources wisely. Please direct comments and changes to the mailing list to your local County Extension office listed below (**all area codes are 541**).

Central Oregon County Extension Offices:

Crook County Extension Service - Phone 447-6228, 498 SE Lynn Blvd., Prineville, OR 97754

Deschutes County Extension Service - Phone 548-6088, 3893 SW Airport Way, Redmond, OR 97756

Jefferson County Extension Service - Phone 475-3808, 34 SE D St., Madras, OR 97741

Warm Springs Indian Reservation - Phone 553-3238, 1110 Wasco St., PO Box 430, Warm Springs, OR 97761

Central Oregon Agricultural Research Centers:

Madras Site – Phone 475-7107, 850 Dogwood Lane, 97741

Powell Butte Site - Phone 447-5138, 8215 SW Hwy. 126, 97753

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Dana Martin - Small Acreage, 548-6088

Barbi Riggs - Livestock and Water Quality, 447-6228

Libby Rodgers - Ag. Program Assistant/Fire Prevention, 447-6228

Pam Wiederholt - Ag Newsletter Coordinator, 447-6228

The above individuals represent 10.25 full time equivalents devoted to extending agriculture information to producers. Many of the individuals, in addition to agriculture, have assignments in research, 4H/youth, administration and community resource education.

Often it is appropriate to mention brand names of some commercial products; however, they are used only for the purpose of information. Extension does not guarantee or warrant the standard of the product, nor does it imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others.

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Livestock —

Livestock Risk Protection Insurance

Last July the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA) expanded an insurance product called Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) into the state of Oregon and Washington. This insurance coverage is designed to protect Livestock owners from the peril of price decline only. Coverage is available for Fed Cattle, Feeder Cattle, Feeder Pigs and Lambs.

Upon completion and approval of an application, an owner has the option to purchase available Specific Coverage Endorsements (SCE), ranging from 13 week to 52 week periods. The desired coverage period is based on the expected marketing time of the livestock. Coverage levels for the SCE may range from 70% to 100% of the price for the day. On any given day, there may be different and/or limited coverage offerings, depending on the market volume. Coverage is chosen and an Expected Ending Value is established. Producer premium is based on the Expected Ending Value, number of head insured, weight of the animal and share of the insured livestock.

Actual Ending Values are determined daily or weekly depending on the type of livestock insured. These values are determined following a specific predetermined criteria defined in each policy. At the coverage end date of the chosen Specific Coverage Endorsement, the difference between the Expected Ending Value and the Actual Ending Value will be calculated. An indemnity will be paid if the Actual Ending Value is less than the Expected Ending Value. If the ending Actual Ending Value exceeds the Expected Ending Value, no indemnity will be paid.

The above information is general in nature and in no way intended to change or alter the LRP Insurance Policy Provisions. For more information please contact Stan and Tonya Decker, Mid Columbia Insurance, Inc. at (800) 827-1287 or (541) 296-1287. For pricing and more information on the USDA LRP plan visit

www.rma.usda.gov/livestock.

Barbi Riggs

Flexibility to Increase Profit

Today's cattle markets are surely not what grandfather experienced. We are in a new era, the time of ethanol, low value of the U.S. dollar and increasing consolidation within segments and across segments of the cattle industry. It has been stated that the cattle cycle is dead. The future of the cattle market is truly unknown and very difficult to predict. One way to protect your livelihood is to have the ability to adjust according to the conditions of the market and environment

See LIVESTOCK: Increase Profit, Page 3

LIVESTOCK: Increase Profit

Continued from Page 2

To have a management plan that will prevent rash decisions or reaction to an event such as drought or sliding calf prices will be invaluable over the next few years. There are several areas a rancher can create flexibility; stocking rate, enterprise selection/diversification, counter cyclical management, genetic makeup of the cow herd, outside investment, value-added programs and emergency reserves.

Stocking rate is probably the most important decision you can make. It determines the investment per cow and also determines the sustainability of natural resources on your ranch. Stocking at a maximum rate does reduce the per head grazing expense but leaves us with little forage in the bank. Events such as drought or fire would make it necessary to purchase feed or liquidate cattle at a time when others are facing the same decision and the most likely time for cow prices to dip in your area. As stocking rate decreases flexibility often increases and when grass is depleted, all flexibility ceases. A cow-calf operation moderately stocked with a base cow herd can greatly increase options to diversify the enterprises.

Enterprise selection/diversification can be accomplished with stocker cattle, cow or yearlings. These cattle can be purchased to utilize excess forage in years when mother-nature is generous without adding too much capital expenditures. Most moderately stocked cow-calf operations will have enough equity in the base cow herd to borrow against and purchase stocker animals. Stockers may also be last years calves. These decisions must also be based on the market prices of weaned calves, stockers and feeders. Be sure to sharpen your pencil to make the best economic decisions.

Cow-calf operations that run outside cattle must have a biosecurity plan in place. It is imperative to create the least amount of risk to exposure of infectious disease to your base cow herd, such as BVD, trichomoniasis and other devastating diseases. Ideally stocker cattle would never be commingled or in close contact with your base herd.

The genetic make-up of the cow herd is a result of years of hard work. Flexibility is not a usually a word we associate with genetic. However, flexibility is gained by having a stable genetic cow base that is suited to your environment. In arid conditions these cows usually have moderate milking ability, moderate size and carcass traits. These characteristics should be supported by the forage produced on the operation with little outside inputs such as harvested feeds. These cows provide flexibility when forage is available, heifers may be retained and/or sold as bred heifers or calves can be retained to graze excess forage.

The genetics in the bull provide genetic flexibility to meet the needs of the market. Bulls can be changed out to suit terminal markets.

A new trend is to have single sire herds. This creates the least amount of variability in the phenotype of the calves and may result in higher price for pot loads of calves. However, chasing fads and retaining heifers for the base herd often leads to herds that become less adaptive to their environment. Correcting these transitions is often very time consuming and costly. An example would be to introduce a continental breed with large frame and high milking ability in order to maximize weaning weights. These cows often require more groceries than the forage produced on the ranch can supply.

“Buy low, sell high” is always the answer to making money. However, this is not always black and white. Historically, we could predict the cattle-cycle. Today is a different story. It appears that some characteristics of the cycle will remain, at least for some time; not all segments of the industry will be profitable at the same time. An opportunity to remain profitable is to invest in outside enterprises at appropriate times. For example, if feeder calf prices are low, you may want to retain ownership of your calves. If live weight prices for fats are unfair, retain ownership clear through the rail. Other opportunities may be to find where you are spending a majority of your money and invest in those commodities. However be aware that every one of these examples add risk. You will need to evaluate whether the risk is worth the investment.

Emerging opportunities for adding value to the calf crop include participation in some sort of “program”. Program may be defined as a simple vaccination program such as Superior Livestock Auction’s Vac 45, or a more involved integrated system such as Country Natural Beef. Other opportunities may be BVD PI testing and selling calves as BVD PI free or age and source verified. Evaluation of the cost versus the potential premiums must be considered. This includes loss of efficiency and potential morbidity in regards to “all natural” calves to the cost of electronic ear tags in many age and source verified programs. Be sure to look at the pros and the cons.

Finally, flexibility also comes with the peace of mind that one has emergency reserves. Emergency reserves are in the form of cash in the bank and forage on the ranch. Often in times of good calf prices we fall into the trap of reinvesting the money into depreciable assets such as equipment. These times do provide us with opportunities to buy necessary items, however, don’t forget to prepare for tougher times.

Flexibility is key to management of grass and money. Opportunity to build flexibility into your beef system requires you to change the way grandpa did things. Careful consideration of how any change affects labor, quality of life and sustainability of natural resources is essential.

Barbi Riggs

Livestock —

Playground “Bully”

Bulls have a definite pecking order in the pasture with and without the cows. This chart below documents how 4 bulls established their pecking order. Notice that the older bulls are breeding more cows than the younger guys until those young bulls get enough size on them to fight their way to the top of the order and earn the right to breed cows. This is something many of us forget to take into consideration when we purchase new bulls for genetic improvement. If you have purchased young bulls and need to evaluate his progeny, you will need to have a separate breeding pasture, away from more dominant bulls. Furthermore, your oldest genetics are being expressed most often in your calf crop. If your goal is to change traits of your current herd, you will need to manage your breeding groups so that the younger, more desirable sires are exposed to a majority of the cow prior to introduction of your older bulls. A management tool would be to have your younger bulls out for the first heat cycle and then introduce your older bull to the herd on the second cycle.

This graph also has other implications, particularly if you have exposure to trichomoniasis. Let’s assume the neighbors bull got into your cows before you turned out. The neighbor bull bred 5 cows, of which 2 remained open. You turn your bull battery out and the dominant bull breeds these 2 cows. This is very likely as all the bulls are ramped up the beginning of the season and the most dominant bull will breed the first cows to cycle. Your dominant bull that is breeding 73% of the cows, has become infected with trichomoniasis and is spreading the critter to all of those cows. Now, by the third heat cycle the dominant bull has become fatigued and your younger bulls are now breeding cows that may have been bred by the dominant bull the cycle before but remained open. This cow has been infected with trich and has just spread it to the younger bull.

I would enjoy further discussion. Questions or comments, please email or phone me at barbi.riggs@oregonstate.edu or (541) 447-6228.

| Bull | | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 |
|------|-----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| A | Age | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| | % | 70 | 76 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| B | Age | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| | % | 17 | 18 | 63 | 73 | 25 |
| C | Age | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | % | 7 | 6 | 12 | 13 | 63 |
| D | Age | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | % | 6 | 0 | 12 | 15 | 15 |

Barbi Riggs

General Ag —

Prineville Landowner Workshop

April 25, 2008, 9:00 AM—2:00 PM

OSU Crook County Extension Office

498 SE Lynn Blvd., Prineville, Oregon

Connecting Landowners with Local Grant Opportunities, Research, and Education

Speakers: Ellen Hammond, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Water Quality Specialist, Chris Mundy, Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) District Conservationist, Dottie Morisette, Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) District Manager; Suzi Miller Hermens, Conservation Technician, Nicole Judge, CREP Technician, OSU Crook County Extension Agents Tim Deboodt, Ag., Mylen Bohle, Agronomist, Barbi Riggs, Livestock, Libby Rodgers, Agricultural Program Assistant and Fire Prevention Education, Dr. Max Nielsen-Pincus, Crooked River Watershed Council, Executive Director; Devin Best, Project Manager, and Berta Youtie, Crooked River Weed Management Area Director.

DELI STYLE LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

In order to plan for lunch, please RSVP at (541) 447-3548 by April 23rd.

Dottie Morisette, Crook County SWCD

CROOK COUNTY LANDFILL

SPECIAL EVENTS

MAY 10TH, 2008: FREE YARD DEBRIS DAY!

Accepted Free Items: Grass clippings, leaves, branches, shrubbery, bushes, tree trunks, trees (cut into smaller sections of 4’ or 5’ long), etc. If you bag your yard debris you will have to empty those bags at the landfill and a place will be provided for you to throw your bags away. No other items may be mixed in with your yard debris!

MAY 24TH, 2008: FREE APPLIANCE DAY!

Accepted Free Items: Freezers, refrigerators, air conditioners, washers, dryers, stoves, dishwashers, and water heaters. No food or other items inside appliances!

These free days will be well manned so items will be checked. If you are caught “sneaking” items into the landfill on free days that do not follow the guidelines, you will be charged for your load. Also, if an appliance is brought in containing food, this will not be a free item. You will be charged for the weight of your load plus the appliance!

For further questions please contact the Crook County Landfill at 447-2398.

Crook County Landfill is open 7 days a week, 8am – 4:30pm.

Libby Rodgers

General Ag —

Prescribed Burning & Risk Management Workshop...and Field Visit!

May 13, 2008, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

OSU Crook County Extension Office

498 SE Lynn Blvd., Prineville, Oregon

For more information contact **Libby Rodgers** at (541) 447-6228 or email her at libby.rodgers@oregonstate.edu.

Response to Wolf Depredation in Oregon

The de-listing of wolves from the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) in a portion of eastern Oregon is scheduled to take effect on March 28, 2008. The federal de-listing boundary in Oregon are Highways 395/78/20 through the eastern third of Oregon. All wolves outside of this boundary will continue to be protected by both the federal and state ESA after federal de-listing. After federal de-listing occurs in the eastern portion of the state, wolves will still be protected by the state's ESA until ODFW documents the existence of four breeding pairs for three consecutive years east of the Cascades.

Wolf Control Until March 28, 2008 and in Non De-listed Areas:

Livestock producers that see a wolf near livestock may attempt to scare it off (by making loud noises for example) but cannot harm a wolf in any way, even when it is in the act of attacking livestock.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has authority to use a variety of methods to manage any wolves which attack or kill livestock or domestic animals. If wolf depredation is suspected, immediately take the following steps:

- Do not move or disturb any evidence.
- Preserve wolf tracks, hair or scat by covering with plywood, weighted-down empty coffee cans or other material that won't ruin the evidence.
- Cover the carcass or any remains with a secured tarp to preserve them.
- Call USFWS, ODFW or Wildlife Services immediately. Timely investigation is necessary to confirm the cause of livestock death.

Any other sightings of wolves or wolf sign should be reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (541) 786-3282 or (541) 962-8584, or the ODFW at (541) 963-2138, immediately.

Wolf Control After Federal De-listing (during state ESA listing)

No Permit Required:

Livestock producers can harass wolves by firing shots in the air, making loud noises, or otherwise confronting wolves provided no bodily harm is done to the wolves. This non-injurious harassment is allowed under the following circumstances: wolves are in the act of testing or chasing livestock or in close proximity to livestock. Such incidents must be reported to ODFW (541) 963-2138 within 48 hours and the producer cannot be intentionally looking for a wolf.

Permit Required, Non-lethal Control:

Should persistent wolf activity around livestock occur, ODFW can work with producers to provide additional tools, such as injurious harassment (e.g. use of rubber bullets or bean bag projectiles) through permits. If captured, the problem wolves could also be relocated to the nearest wilderness area.

Permit Required, Non-lethal Control:

The state's wolf plan also provides for the lethal removal of problem wolves which are caught in the act of attacking livestock by ranchers, but only by ODFW permit and under specific circumstances. Lethal removal could only be permitted after ODFW confirms that wolves have previously wounded or killed livestock in the area and non-lethal efforts to resolve the problem have proven ineffective.

ODFW and authorized agents may also conduct lethal removal of wolves after chronic depredations and ineffective non-lethal efforts.

(Adapted from ODFW News Release March 21, 2008)

Barbi Riggs

Forage —

Mites in C.O. Pastures and Hay Fields

Who knows what this winter may or may not have brought us insect pests, and these pests may present a problem this spring; some may not, we never know.... You will want to scout your fields early for the buildup of pests and take appropriate action. Some of the biggest pest for years now have been mites.

Winter grain mites are active at night and on cloudy days, and tend to be in the base of the crown near the soil. 50-60 degrees F is the ideal temperature for these mites. They are active in the Fall, peaking in December, and also in late winter with activity, peaking in February and March, usually. They produce 2 generations each year. Grasses (and cereals) turn silver or dull gray and tips die. There are legal insecticide options for control.

Clover mites begin to increase in late September from over-summered eggs and then continue feeding through the winter.

See FORAGE: Mites in Central Oregon, Page 6

FORAGE: Mites in Central Oregon

Continued from Paged 5

They generate multiple generations through May. This mite tends to be much more difficult to control. The damage to plants leaves a more “yellowish” chlorotic look and if bad enough, can cause what looks like fertilizer burns in the field. It has the same general life history as the winter grain mite. These mites tend to come up on the tips of the leaves to feed on warm days. They tend to be deeper in the crown on cool mornings or windy cold days. Burning may be our only option for control, but burning can damage grass crowns. The cooler the fire, the easier it is on the grass stand. We still do not have a “miticide” to control clover mites. Methyl Parathion is labeled; but it appears that it’s efficacy is not that great. There are no good legal options.

Serious consideration should be given to controlling mites by flaming or burning the field(s) if a legal application of a product to kill your pest is not available or does not fit into your management plan. In a field sampled in the Tumalo area a number of years ago, winter grain mite numbers were dramatically reduced by the burning treatment: the burned treatment had 42 live mites per crown, while the non-burned treatment had 270 live mites per crown (average of 3 orchardgrass crowns sampled per treatment). One should take care so the fire is not too hot to damage the grass crowns, as well as burn during the proper time, to do the most damage to the mite population (mites are most vulnerable and active on warm (50-60 degrees) cloudy days).

You may also start having problems with the Banks Grass Mite this summer. It is the only mite on grasses that produces webbing; it feeds on warm days and multiplies throughout late spring and summer. We have identified it in Central Oregon in 2007 on the Deschutes and Jefferson county line area.

If you are scouting for mites, be aware that on bright sunny days, the mites will be in the soil and crowns, and harder to find. Check the shady side of the crowns. We will again be putting out a multiple treatment trial this spring for clover mites. If you have a good candidate field, please contact Mylen at (541) 447-6228.

Mylen Bohle and Glenn Fisher

Forage Crop Nutrient Harvest or Requirement

With fertilizer prices continuing to climb every year, it is even more important to think about how you are spending your fertilizer dollars. One way to think about this, is to think about what a ton of alfalfa hay contains or removes from the soil. Another way to think about this is to tally up the value or the cost of replacing these nutrients on an annual basis. We are already seeing fields with soil test levels dropping below 50 ppm potassium and below 5 ppm phosphorus. The added cost of the replacement of these nutrients will have to be added into your production budgets in the present or near future. We think that around 15 ppm (10 ppm for grass) phosphorus and 150 ppm for potassium, are the soil nutrient levels that are the critical nutrient level, and that some place around those levels, we will see yield responses to adding those nutrients. Tissue tests of the growing plant, or nutrient analysis of the hay will help confirm that there are, or are not, nutrient deficiencies. The table below shows what an alfalfa crop removes from your fields based on different yield potentials.

Table A. The amount of nutrients (lb/ton) contained in and removed by an alfalfa crop (100 percent dry matter basis) based on different yield production.

| Nutrient | Symbol | 1-Ton Crop (lb/ton) | 2-Ton Crop (lb/ton) | 4-Ton Crop (lb/ton) | 6-Ton Crop (lb/ton) | 8-Ton Crop (lb/ton) |
|------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Nitrogen | N | 50.0 | 100.0 | 200.0 | 300.0 | 400.0 |
| Phosphorus | P ₂ O ₅ | 12.0 | 24.0 | 48.0 | 71.0 | 95.0 |
| Potassium* | K ₂ O | 43.25 | 86.5 | 173.0 | 260.0 | 346.0 |
| Calcium | Ca | 32.0 | 64.0 | 128.0 | 192.0 | 256.0 |
| Magnesium | Mg | 6.75 | 13.5 | 27.0 | 40.0 | 53.0 |
| Sulfur | S | 4.0 | 8.0 | 16.0 | 24.0 | 32.0 |
| Iron | Fe | 0.375 | 0.75 | 1.5 | 2.3 | 3.0 |
| Manganese | Mn | 0.25 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 2.0 |
| Chloride | Cl | 0.25 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 2.0 |
| Boron | B | 0.05 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.5 |
| Zinc | Zn | 0.05 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.4 |
| Copper | Cu | 0.015 | 0.03 | 0.06 | 0.1 | 0.13 |
| Molybdenum | Mo | 0.002 | 0.004 | 0.008 | 0.012 | 0.016 |

* = potassium removal will be dependent upon soil potassium level and can vary dramatically

Source: table edited from the Intermountain Alfalfa Management Guide (U. of California)

Mylen Bohle

Forage —

Growing Degrees Update

The T-Sum (temperature summing) is calculated by summing the daily average between the daily maximum and minimum temperature in degrees F, and subtract 32 degrees (base temperature). If the average is less than 0 or is 0, treat as zero, if the number is positive, it is accumulated, from January 1st as a growing degree-day (GDD). Table 1 shows the dates of selected T-Sum's for numerous locations, which represent sites that have incremental elevation differences. One web site address you can track the thermal time is at: <http://pnwpest.org/wea>

Table 1. T-Sum dates for the present year(s) for 180, 360, 540, 720, and 900 accumulated T-Sum growing-degree days (GDD's) from January 1st for selected Oregon locations. (Fertilize at 360 for pasture and 725-775 for hay. (GDD's using 32 degrees base temperature as of April 1, 2008)

| Location/Elevation | Year | 180 GDD's | 360 GDD's Fertilize Pas- ture | 540 GDD's | 720 GDD's Fertilize Grass Hay | 900 GDD's |
|-------------------------------|------|--------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Madras | 2007 | Feb 15 | Mar 9 | Mar 19 | Apr 5 | Apr 19 |
| (2340') | 2008 | Feb 16 | Mar 10 | 509 | | |
| Prineville 4 NW | 2007 | Feb 12 | Mar 9 | Mar 20 | Apr 6 | Apr 22 |
| (2840') | 2008 | Feb 23 | Mar 14 | 430 | | |
| John Day | 2007 | Feb 16 | Mar 11 | Mar 22 | Apr 5 | Apr 20 |
| (3063') | 2008 | Mar 1 | Mar 25 | 368 | | |
| Redmond | 2007 | Feb 15 | Mar 11 | Mar 23 | Apr 10 | Apr 28 |
| (3077') | 2008 | Feb 24 | Mar 18 | 399 | | |
| Powell Butte | 2007 | Feb 9 | Mar 9 | Mar 19 | Apr 7 | Apr 25 |
| (3180') | 2008 | Feb 20 | Mar 10 | 453 | | |
| Mitchell | 2007 | Feb 12 | Mar 10 | Mar 22 | Apr 8 | Apr 25 |
| (3320') | 2008 | Feb 26 | Mar 10 | 473 | | |
| Bend (Agrimet) | 2007 | Feb 12 | Mar 11 | Mar 27 | Apr 7 | Apr 24 |
| (3650') | 2008 | Feb 24 | Mar 18 | 414 | | |
| Shaniko (ODT34) | 2007 | Feb 17 | Mar 16 | Apr 4 | Apr 23 | May 6 |
| (3340') | 2008 | Mar 2 | 323 | | | |
| Paulina (3688') | 2007 | Mar 7 | Mar 22 | Apr 10 | Apr 28 | May 5 |
| | 2008 | Mar 18 | 216 | | | |
| Klamath Falls (Agri) 4100' | 2007 | Mar 10 | Mar 23 | Apr 7 | Apr 27 | (863) |
| | 2008 | Mar 26 | 192 | | | |
| Burns (4E COOP) | 2007 | Mar 12 | Mar 27 | Apr 14 | May 1 | (789) |
| (4170') | 2008 | 153 | | | | |
| LaPine (4275') | 2007 | Mar 8 | Mar 29 | Apr 22 | May 6 | May 14 |
| | 2008 | Missing Data | | | | |
| Christmas Valley | 2007 | Mar 11 | Mar 25 | Apr 18 | May 5 | May 14 |
| (4360') | 2008 | Mar 12 | 250 | | | |
| Fort Rock (raws) | 2007 | Mar 6 | Mar 20 | Apr 7 | Apr 27 | May 9 |
| (4430') | 2008 | 118 | | | | |
| Seneca (4665') | 2007 | Mar 16 | Apr 7 | Apr 29 | May 11 | May 19 |
| | 2008 | 68 | | | | |
| Lakeview (Agri) | 2007 | Mar 13 | Mar 30 | Apr 17 | May 4 | May 14 |
| (4770') | 2008 | 8 | | | | |

Mylene Bohle

Small Acreage News in Central Oregon —

Living on a Few Acres — a success!

The annual LOAFA Conference proved to be a success as 125 people from throughout Central Oregon attended a variety of classes.

Here is what we learned from the 78 evaluations returned by participants:

- More than half of those attending LOAFA live on fewer than 10 acres.
- 65 percent have resided on their property for less than five years.
- About 64 percent of the participants listed their previous farm or acreage experience as a “new” experience.
- Nearly every teaching evaluation that was returned expressed that the classes were too short and that more information is needed.

As a result, we are in the process of planning more in-depth classes on various topics of interest. Here is one you won't want to miss.

Fruit Trees in Central Oregon

July 25, 2008

Deschutes County Fairgrounds

Dr. Clive Kaiser will return to present a 3 hour session where you will learn how to be successful with growing fruit in Central Oregon. Varieties, pruning techniques and other hints will be shared to make your experience a good one. Time and more class details will be shared in future announcements.

Mylene Bohle, OSU Crook County Extension Agent, teaches a class on identifying quality hay at LOAFA Workshop



What is a “Small Farm”?

It's hard to give a definite answer when asked to define a *small farm*. The United States Department of Agriculture defines a small farm as having less than \$250,000 in annual gross sales. According to statistics, these farms constitute 90 percent of U.S. farms, contain 67 percent of the farm land, and hold 77 percent of farm sector net worth. The Small Business Administration generally classifies farms as small if they have sales less than \$500,000.

By these definitions, a small farm may range from a large commercial operation to someone who raises livestock or produce on small acreage. It's hard to measure a farm in terms of size or dollar value.

As more people move to Central Oregon with the dream of producing something of value on their land, marketing a quality product on a local basis, and creating a healthy family lifestyle, the concept that a small farm is a *state of mind* seems to make sense.

Dana Martin

Dancing Cow Farm in Prineville

By Dana Martin



The Dancing Cow Farm in Prineville, Oregon, operates with a clear philosophy. “Everything on our farm has to have at least two purposes,” says Jerre Kosta Dodson, who with her husband, Sean, manage their 10-acre sustainable farm in Central Oregon.

Irish Dexter cattle provide beef, milk and can be used as draft animals. Lavender guinea fowl control insects and serve as farm guardians while a variety of heritage chickens provide meat and eggs. Jacob sheep produce meat and wool and the Icelandic horses are used for recreation and marketing purposes. “This year we plan to train the horses to move the chicken houses,” adds Jerre, noting that recycled horse trailers provide safe night quarters for their free-range chickens.

Sean and Jerre purchased their small farm in 2002 and worked hard to improve the land while developing a diverse farm, which has expanded to include 24 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) members. Located five miles northeast of Prineville, the couple produces vegetables, herbs, flowers, compost, hay, wool, lamb, eggs, chickens and beef.

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SMALL ACREAGE NEWS: Dancing Cow Farm

Continued from Page 8

“When we moved here the land had been overgrazed and the fences were completely dilapidated. We spent the first year just learning about the soil and irrigation, and worked on improving our pastures,” says Jerre. Since both of their mothers had suffered from serious medical conditions, the couple wanted to take a holistic, organic approach to raising animals and growing vegetables. “We learned that healthy foods begin with healthy soils and everything comes from the soil,” she adds.

While focused on a healthy pasture as the foundation of their operation, the couple fell in love with Dexter cattle because of their multiple-use traits. “Their genetics are such that they finish really well on grass so we immediately became a grass-fed, grass-finished operation. We started out with 5 cows and we now have 50,” says Jerre, noting that they lease an additional 80 acres to support their operation.

An management-intensive rotational grazing plan on the Dancing Cow Farm allows cattle to eat grass down to four to six inches before moving them to another section of pasture. Chickens, contained by portable Premier Net Fencing, follow cattle in the rotation.

“The chickens peck at cow pies which helps control the fly population, and they also spread organics on the land,” says Jerre. Sheep follow along with the chickens as the animals move through paddocks set up in the pastures. “We have a real diverse pasture and the sheep pick out different forbs and legumes from the cattle,” adds Jerre. “The multi-specie grazing works well and we have a nice even clipping when we’re done.”

To accommodate their small farm, Sean modifies and adapts various tools and equipment. These include a disc mower that easily cuts over the top of uneven ground, a small rake, a small broadcaster and a small baler. “Until two years ago, we had all loose hay and brought everything in by hand so Sean built a buck rake,” says Jerre. The couple later purchased a Japanese developed miniature-sized hay baler that is pulled by a small tractor. This machine produces round bales that weigh only 35 to 50 pounds, allowing their operation to be more manageable.

This is the third year that Dancing Cow Farm has participated in a CSA program where people pay upfront for the opportunity to purchase fresh produce, direct from the farm. The Dodson's began the program with 6 people, grew to 16 last year and have opened it up for 24 members in 2008. CSA subscribers pay \$380 for the season, which entitles them to about 18 to 19 weeks of fresh produce, packed up every Thursday. The fee figures out to approximately \$20 per bag of produce.

“Starting in June, we fill big brown grocery bags with whatever is ripe in the garden,” says Jerre.

“People understand that at the beginning of the season there is going to be a lot of green, a lot of lettuce, kale and Swiss chard. As the harvest comes

ready near the end of the season, we have just about everything you can think of. We grow lemon cucumbers, squash, sweet peppers, carrots, onions, potatoes, tomatoes, beans and different types of salad greens.”

Throughout the year, Jerre also delivers about 30 dozen eggs per week to various locations in Central Oregon. Dancing Cow Farm participates in the Prineville Farmer's Market, a weekly Saturday summer event where local farmers market their produce. Jerre serves as president of this organization.

Sean and Jerre have faced many challenges along the way in developing their operation. As more people pursue this lifestyle, they hope government laws and regulations will change to benefit those involved with small farm production. Through the past five years, the couple has learned and utilized the expertise of OSU Extension Service faculty as well as other specialists in the business. They are excited to share their knowledge and experiences with others who are interested in making a living on small acreage.

“One of the things we would like to do is teach. We'd like to share what we have learned by having workshops, tours and offering classes about different aspects of the farm,” says Jerre. “That's one of the reasons we have been so diversified. We wanted to learn about as many different things as possible.”

Although the work is hard, the days are long and the sacrifices are plenty, Jerre has no regrets about their decision to develop Dancing Cow Farm. “I am fulfilling my dream of living on a farm,” says Jerre. “I'm surprised that we have grown this big and sometimes have to pinch myself to really believe how much we have done. But I feel this is where we belong, this is what we should be doing.”

(Note: this article, along with many wonderful pictures taken by Jerre Kosta, will be published in the 2008 Winter edition of *Oregon Small Farm News*)

Oregon Small Farm News can be found at the Web site: <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/> In addition to the Farm Feature on Dancing Cow Farm, the 2008 Winter edition of SFN includes articles on Pasture Renovation, Merging Concepts in Small Ruminant Parasite Control, Finance and Purchasing Chicks. Check it out!



Central Oregon Agriculture Calendar

April —

- 10 Wheat Marketing Meeting (see article Front Page).
- 10 Oregon Hay & Forage Association Board Meeting, Klamath Falls, Oregon (Mylen @ 541-447-6228).
- 17 Central Oregon Hay Growers' Association Board Meeting. Crook County Extension Office, 7:00 p.m., 498 SE Lynn Blvd., Prineville, Oregon.
- 19 CO Grape Growers Workshop & Spring Meeting (see article Front Page).
- 25 Prineville Landowner Workshop (see Page 4).
- 31 Central Oregon Hay Grower Membership Applications Due, Crook County Extension Office, 498 SE Lynn Blvd., Prineville, Oregon, 97754.

May —

- TBA LOAFA/Pasture & Grazing Management, Irrigation Management, Grass & Legume Hay Production, Redmond, Oregon.
- 8 Wheat Marketing Meeting, 7:00 a.m., Central Oregon Ag Research Center, Madras
- 10 Deschutes Valley Equipment—Baler Service Clinic, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., 710 F Ave., Terrebonne, Oregon. Please RSVP to Reed Grote by April 30th @ 541-548-8385.
Crook County Landfill Special Event (see Page 4)
- 13 Long Term Field Experiment Field Day, Moro, Oregon (Mylen @ 541-447-6228)
- 15 Central Oregon Hay Growers' Association Board Meeting, Crook County Extension Office, 7:00 p.m., 498 SE Lynn Blvd., Prineville, Oregon.
- 19 Organic Hay & Dairy Farm Tour, Madras, Oregon (Mylen @ 541-447-6228).
- 24 Crook County Landfill Special Event (see Page 4)

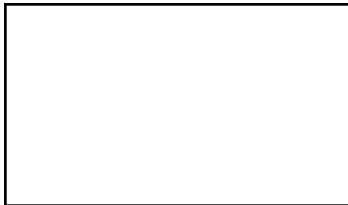
June —

- TBA CO Tractor Safety Training, Madras, Oregon (541-475-3808)

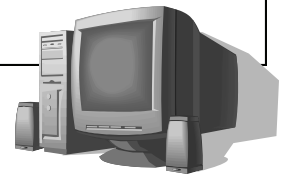
JULY —

- 25 Fruit Trees in Central Oregon (see Page 8)

Central Oregon Agriculture
OSU/Crook County Extension
498 SE Lynn Blvd.
Prineville, OR 97754-2840



Web Sites



Crook County -
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/crook>

Deschutes County -
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes>

Jefferson County -
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/jefferson>

Warm Springs -
<http://extension.warmsprings.edu/index.php>

Central Oregon Agricultural
Research Centers, Madras and
Powell Butte -
[http://oregonstate.edu/dept/coarc/
index.php](http://oregonstate.edu/dept/coarc/index.php)