



Oregon State University Extension Service

Central Oregon Agriculture

Volume 18 Issue 1

January 2009

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Grape Growers' Workshop - Saturday, January 24th

The workshop will be held at 9831 9th St., Terrebonne, OR (off Eby street; just across the road from the main entrance of Ranch at the Canyons).

Agenda

- 9:45 Registration
- 10:00 Wine Making Lecture - Al Debons, former owner of Mountain View Winery, Bend
- 11:00 Weather Stations for the Vineyard – Debbe Chadwick, Mike Omeg, & Tim Deboodt
- Noon Bring Your Own Sack Lunch and Refreshments
- 1:00 Review of 2008 Vineyard Observations in Central Oregon - Kerry Damon and others
- 2:00 Work Session - Draft a Vineyard Observations Data Sheet for local use – Mylen Bohle and All
- 2:30 COGGVA Business Meeting (Election of Officers) and Plan for 2009
- 3:30 Wine Tasting of Hybrid Wines
- 4:00 Adjourn

Pre-register with the OSU Crook County Extension Service at (541) 447-6228.

Mylen Bohle

Lambing School - Tuesday, January 27

“EMPHASIS TO BE HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE” Ewes: Lambing problems, obstetrics, grafting, foot trimming and health. Lambs: Castration, docking, vaccinations, and emergency situations as they arise. The school will also include discussions on sheep nutrition and facilities. McMinnville, OR. \$55 per person.

http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill/sites/default/files/lamb_school_reg09.pdf

Gene Pirelli, Ag./Livestock, Polk County

Central Oregon Farm Fair & Trade Show - Feb. 4-5

Plans are underway for the 2009 Central Oregon Farm Fair and Trade Show to be held February 4-5 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. The agenda for the educational program is posted at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/jefferson/>. Lunch will be provided both days by CHS and other sponsors, and of course there will be free refreshments.

Topics will include current agricultural issues such as a precision Ag. discussion, reports from OSU researchers, several pest and soil management topics, and of course the NUID water outlook for the 2009 season. We expect to have 3 hours of recertification credit for pesticide applicators.

The Central Oregon Farm Fair and Trade Show is a fun social event and a great opportunity to get updated on issues affecting agriculture. The event is sponsored by the Jefferson County Seed Growers, Central Oregon Peppermint Growers, and Oregon State University Extension Service.

Rich Affeldt

“**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 Center:

- Madras Site – Phone 475-7107, 850 Dogwood Lane, 97741
 Powell Butte Site - Phone 447-5138, 8215 SW Hwy. 126, 97753

Extension Service & Experiment Station Web Sites:

- Crook County: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/crook>
 Deschutes County: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes>
 Jefferson County: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/jefferson>
 Central Oregon Agricultural Research Centers, Madras & Powell Butte: <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/coarclindex.php>

Central Oregon Agricultural Extension Service Staff:

- Rich Affeldt - Mint, Seed Crops and Weed Control, 475-3808
 Mylen Bohle - Forage, Pasture and Cereals, 447-6228
 Fara Brummer - Ag. and Natural Resource, 553-1520
 Marvin Butler- Mint and Seed Crops, 475-3808
 Tim Deboodt - Range Resources and Livestock, 447-6228
 Amy Detweiler - Horticulture, 548-6088
 Steve Fitzgerald - Forestry, 548-6088
 Steve James - Potatoes, 475-7107
 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 7.75 full time equivalents devoted to extending agricultural 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.

Extension work is a cooperative program of Oregon State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Oregon counties. Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials without discrimination based on age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual identity or expression, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran's status. Oregon State University Extension Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

OSU Extension programs will provide reasonable accommodation to persons with physical or mental disabilities. Contact Pam Wiederholt at (541) 447-6228 to request reasonable accommodation.

FORAGES —

Central Oregon Forage Seminar and Central Oregon Hay Growers' Association Annual Meeting

There will be a Central Oregon Forage Seminar held on Saturday, January 31 at the Brothers Family Diner Banquet Room (Madras Hwy.) in Prineville, Oregon.

- 9:30 Registration and Refreshments
 10:00 Soil Fertility 101 for Hay Growers – Don Horneck, Extension Agronomist, OSU, Umatilla County
 10:45 Grass Hay Nitrogen Rate Response & Economics – Mylen Bohle, Area Extension Agronomist, OSU, Prineville
 11:15 World Fertilizer Situation – Don Horneck, Extension Agronomist, OSU, Umatilla County
 Noon *Pizza Lunch (sponsored by Midstate Fertilizer, Wilbur Ellis Co., CHS, Inc, Round Butte Seed Growers, Floyd A Boyd, Deschutes Valley Equipment, Ag West Supply)*
 1:00 Soil Moisture Monitoring to Improve Irrigation Efficiency of Alfalfa and Pasture - Steve Orloff, Farm Advisor, California Cooperative Extension Service, Yreka, CA
 1:30 Sampling Forages, Quality, & the NIRS – Chanda Engel, Extension Livestock and Forage Agent, Klamath County
 2:00 What's up with Teff – Rich Roseberg, Research Agronomist, OSU KBREC, Klamath County
 2:45 Break
 3:00 Is Fertilizing Alfalfa Wise with Current Fertilizer Prices? Diagnostic Tools to Assist Your Decision -Steve Orloff, Farm Advisor, California Cooperative Extension Service, Yreka, CA
 3:45 Alfalfa Soil Fertility: Cost of Replacement – Mylen Bohle, Area Extension Agronomist, OSU, Prineville
 4:15 Hay Market Report – Jack Getz, USDA Market News Service, Moses Lake, WA
 4:30 To be Arranged – Mylen Bohle, Area Extension Agronomist, OSU
 5:00 Adjourn & Social Hour
 6:00 Dinner (\$20 per person for Baron of Beef dinner)
 7:00 COHGA Business Meeting

Pre-register by January 27th to the OSU Crook County Extension Service at (541) 447-6228 so lunches and dinners can be ordered.

Mylen Bohle and Greg Mohnen, President, COHGA

GENERAL AG —

OSU Master Gardener Training Application Deadline Extended to January 15

Applications for the OSU Master Gardener™ Program in Central Oregon are available. The program targets individuals interested in becoming a trained volunteer who wants to learn and share research-based gardening information. Program starts with ten classes that meet on Saturdays (new this year) from 9 am - 4 pm, January 24 - April 11, 2009 at OSU Cascades Hall on the COCC campus in Bend and continues with hands-on training through September. **Application deadline has been extended to January 15th, 2009.** Cost will be \$250.00 which includes tuition, text book and supplies. Scholarships available. Only interested in classroom training? Ask us how?

More information at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes>

Amy Jo Detweiler

Multi-Peril Crop Insurance Program

Deadlines

February 2 & March 16

The Risk Management Agency reminds producers of winter and spring sales closing dates for the Multiple Peril Crop Insurance programs and the Adjusted Gross Revenue Pilot, and the Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite programs available across the PNW which cover most farm-raised crops, animals and animal products. AGR and AGR-Lite are based on a producer's five-year historical tax form information and an annual farm report to provide a level of guaranteed revenue for the insurance period. USDA will pay a portion of the premium.

February 2 – The final date to obtain or change Adjusted Gross Revenue Pilot (AGR) Insurance in Oregon and the final date to submit required documents to continue, or change 2008 Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite (AGR-Lite) insurance for existing policy holders.

March 16 – Final date to obtain 2008 Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite (AGR-Lite) insurance for new application enrollment policies. Final date to obtain or change all other spring seeded crop insurance coverage (excluding wheat in counties with fall and spring planted types).

Producers should contact a local crop insurance agent to learn additional program details. If there is no coverage in your county for a specific crop under the traditional MPCPI program, please ask your agent whether you would be eligible for coverage under a written agreement. A list of crop (and livestock) insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers or at the web site: <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>.

Jo Lynne Seuffer, Risk Mgmt. Specialist, USDA1-800-205-9953

Crook County Landowner Workshops with Local, State, and Federal Agencies

February 5, Paulina - February 6, Post and February 23, Prineville, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District, this workshop will connect landowners with local grant opportunities, research and education. A deli style lunch will be provided – RSVP: Dottie @ (541) 447-3548.

Dottie Morissette, District Manager, SWCD

Central Oregon Pest Management Course Friday, February 6th, Bend, Oregon

- 0715 Registration
- 0800 Deschutes County's Vegetation Management Program
- 0900 Adjuvants
- 0930 NOAA Study on Low-concentrated Pesticides in Water and Implications for Salmon
- 1015 Break
- 1030 Silent Invaders and Invasive Species
- 1200 Lunch
- 1300 Cleaning Your Spray Tanks
- 1345 Oregon Dept of Agriculture Update
- 1445 Break
- 1500 Useful Web sites for Pesticide Applicators
- 1545 Noxious Weeds: Focus on Methods and Herbicides to Control Them
- 1615 Product Categorization: Selecting the Right Product & Managing Pesticide Resistance
- 1700 Adjourn

The CO Pest Management Course will be held at The Riverhouse Hotel, 3075 N. Highway 97, Bend, Oregon. Hotel conference rates are \$89/\$99 (single/double), plus tax, until January 16th. Ph: (541) 389-3111 or (800) 547-3928. Pest Management Course Registration is \$60 (after Jan. 31 - \$70). We have applied for 8 pest recertification credits for Oregon and Washington.

Mail registration information (name, business name, address, phone number, email, etc) and payment (*payable to: OSU C.O. Pest Mgmt Course*) to Linda Parks, IPPC/OSU, 2040 Cordley Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331-2915, or phone (541) 737-6279.

Tim Stock and Mylen Bohle

Correction to December 2008 Newsletter, "Harvesting Clean Energy Conference"

Article

The conference will be held at the Crown Plaza in Billings, Montana, *NOT* Portland, Oregon. Information can be found at www.harvestcleanenergy.org/conference.

Mylen Bohle

GENERAL AG —

17th Annual High Desert Green Industry Conference

February 11 & 12, Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center, Redmond, Oregon

A must-attend event for all green industry professional who supply, design, maintain, or manage landscapes in the Intermountain West.

Come and be challenged by David Sandrock to become a part of the sustainable solution in our landscapes and learn how to be profitable in a recession from Charles Vander Kooi.

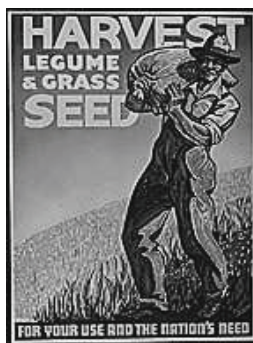
Come and visit exhibitors at the Wednesday trade show for the latest industry innovations, products and services. Attend continuing education qualified classes—arborist, pesticide, golf course, landscape—during both days of the conference with focus topics covered in-depth during Thursday's Master classes. Presented by OSU Extension Service, Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon Landscape Contractors Association.

Conference registration details can be found at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes/hdgi/home> or by calling the Deschutes County Extension Service at (541) 548-6088.

Amy Jo Detweiler

Take a Stand! Celebrate Agriculture! Get Involved!

Agriculture is facing new challenges and continuous misplaced criticism from environmental groups and animal rights activists. These people are having influence on easily misguided consumers and politicians. As producers of food and fiber, what are we doing to influence our consumers and policy makers about the benefits of our industries? We are feeding the world, creating sustainable natural resources and open space, but, are we telling them that or expecting them to someday figure it out. Agriculture is the basis of success for our nation. We have a unique ability to raise enough food to feed our citizens and enough excess to help feed the world. We have accomplished this task by improving production efficiency through ingenuity, entrepreneurship, science, technology, blood and sweat. We have survived depression, drought, fire, flood, grasshoppers, market crashes and decreasing land base. But, these new challenges may not be won with hard science or hard physical work alone. These challenges must also be faced and fought with standing up as agriculture producers and saying, "We produce safe and wholesome food.



We are good stewards of the land. We care about your family. We preserve habitat for wildlife. We care about the well-being of our animals. We feed the United States. We feed the world."

Making our message heard by our consumers and the politicians is not easy. We need to support one another regardless of what type of agricultural product you grow or raise, regardless of where you live, regardless of the specific niche you fill. We as agricultural producers need to have one voice. Promote U.S. raised products, promote locally grown products, promote your products as safe and wholesome. Gain consumer trust and continued purchasing power.

The next several years and decades of agricultural production practices and feasibility are being shaped by today's policy makers. Our way of life is under the microscope. Water rights, pesticide/herbicide use, grazing rights on public lands, contribution to greenhouse gasses, private land ownership, and much more, are topics that need our attention. Recent legislation that banned the right to slaughter horses in the U.S. is an example of legislation passed without proper assessment, but was highly influenced by individuals that are not friends of agriculture and by individuals who are not interested in assessing the impact this decision has on natural resources, long-term humanity for unwanted or neglected horses. Rather this decision was influenced and bankrolled by a very small number of people with special interests. They were effective in misguiding the public by using propaganda and playing on emotion. This can happen again and you can bet that special interest groups will continue to use these tactics to change our lives and our children's lives.

Politics and consumer perception of agricultural practices and products are not the only challenges we face. Input costs for all sectors of the industry continue to rise at unprecedented rates while prices for commodities are extremely volatile. Surviving the market may prove to be challenging for many. We must find and implement new technology to remain efficient and financially viable.

Research and development will remain very important in the future to do just that. Agricultural research has been one of the reasons the U.S. has safe food, environmentally safe practices and a level of production of food that has been able to feed a growing population with less land mass. Agricultural research can also serve to document how our practices impact wildlife, climate, natural resources, air quality, nutrition and society so that we can continue to demonstrate our commitment to good stewardship. Research of all kinds will be necessary to preserve agriculture. Historically, agricultural production was a noble career. We were encouraged to produce greater amounts of food and provide food to our citizens and the military at an inexpensive price.

See GENERAL AG: Take a Stand!, Page 5

General Ag: TAKE A STAND!

Continued from Page 4

During WWI, all civilians were encouraged to ration their food, grow their own food, and produce more food for the military. As WWII began, this propaganda expanded and every civilian and housewife strove to show their patriotism by learning to preserve food and plant a home garden. The idea that people should have for "Freedom of Want" became popular as civilians grew weary of going without. It seems that as time has gone on, Americans have kept striving for "Freedom of Want" but our appetite keeps increasing and our Wants are never ending. However, American support for food production seems to have been forgotten.

As the economy struggles to straighten out and unemployment grows, we as agricultural producers, have an opportunity to remind the public that we continue to care about their families, our animals AND our environment. We can promote our products, influence policy and support research by joining your local, state and national agricultural organizations. At times of financial disturbance, we all want to keep a tight hold on our wallets, but, investing in the future of your farm/ranch and your lifestyle is important. Get involved in your organization and make the voice of agriculture heard among our consumers and our policy makers.

SOURCE: National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD

AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATIONS

Central Oregon has several active groups that support and promote agriculture. These groups have members who reside and raise/grow agricultural products within the region. It is our intent to be as inclusive as possible, but, this list is ever changing.

There may be more organizations available.

General Agriculture

- Crook/Wheeler or Deschutes or Jefferson County Farm Bureau
- Prineville, Bend, Madras, Sisters and Redmond Farmers' Markets
- Oregon Women for Agriculture
- Grange

Crops/Hay

- Central Oregon Hay Grower's Association
- Central Oregon Mint Grower's Association
- Oregon Wheat Grower's League
- Central Oregon Grape Grower's and Vintner's Association
- Oregon Hay & Forage Association
- Central Oregon Seed Growers

Livestock

- Crook or Jefferson County Stockgrower's Associations
- Central Oregon Meat Goat Association
- Central Oregon Rabbit Association
- Mid-Oregon Beef Cooperative
- Oregon Cattlemen's Association
- Oregon Sheep Grower's Association

For more information contact the Crook County Extension office at (541) 447-6228.

Barbi Riggs

LIVESTOCK —

5th Annual Cattleman's Workshop

Saturday, January 17

Blue Mountain Conference Center, 404 12th Street, LaGrande, Oregon

9:00 - 9:15	Workshop Introductions & Overview. Ron Rowan, <i>Beef Northwest Feeders, North Powder, OR</i>
9:15 - 10:00	Challenges and Opportunities for the Beef Cattle Industry. Dr. Tom Field, <i>National Cattleman's Beef Association, Denver, CO</i>
10:00 - 10:45	Integration of the US Beef Industry in the World Market. Chandler Keys (<i>JBS</i>), <i>Vice President of Government and Industry Relations, Washington, DC</i>
10:45 - 11:00	Break (<i>provided by sponsors</i>)
11:00 - 11:45	Strategies for Cow/Calf Production Success. Dr. Jerry Lipsey, <i>Executive Vice President American Simmental Association, Bozeman, MT</i>
11:45 - 1:00	Lunch (<i>provided by sponsors</i>)
1:00 - 1:45	Cow/Calf Strategies for Uncertain Times. Dr. Gary Sides, <i>Cattle Nutritionist, Pfizer Animal Health, Sterling, CO</i>
1:45 - 2:30	Commodity Markets and Positioning a Business in Uncertain Times. Don Killingsworth, <i>Former Vice President of Procurement for Continental Grain, Kansas City, MO</i>
2:45 - 3:30	Tailoring Cow/Calf Production for a Changing Beef Industry. Tom Brink, <i>Senior Vice President, Five Rivers Ranch Cattle Feeding, Loveland, CO</i>
3:30 - 4:15	Panel Discussion & Wrap-up. Tommy Beall, <i>Beall Consulting Group, previously with Conti Beef and Cattle Fax, Mead, CO.</i>

Note: For more information, please contact Kim Verhelst or Tim DelCurto at (541) 562-5129.

Barbi Riggs

Crook County Stockgrower's Association Annual Meeting and Banquet

Thursday, January 22, 5:00 p.m., Meadow Lakes Country Club, Prineville, Oregon

5:00 p.m. Speakers: Bill Moore, OCA President and Barbi Riggs, Central Oregon Livestock Agent

6:00 p.m. No Host Social Hour

6:45 p.m. Banquet

**Raffle for sale of Three Fantastic Prizes: 1. Handmade Saddle
2. Handmade Silver Bit 3. \$200.00 Gift Certificate and two Allflex Vaccine Guns.

Tickets available at the OSU Crook County Extension office, Post and Paulina Stores, and the Crook County Stockgrower's Banquet.

Proceeds support the Crook County Stockgrower's Association Scholarship Fund.

Please RSVP by January 19 to Pam or Barbi at (541) 447-6228.

Barbi Riggs

LIVESTOCK —

Using Ration Balancing, Management Flexibility, and Past Experience to Minimize Winter Feed Costs

Friday, January 16, 1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

LaGrande, Oregon (EOU Campus)

OSU Extension Service and the OSU Agriculture Program, will conduct an interactive, participant driven, Winter Nutrition and Feed Cost Forum in LaGrande, Oregon at Eastern Oregon University (Badgley Hall Huber Auditorium). The forum will help provide cattle producers with information on how to manage their cows and feeding protocol to lower feed winter feed costs.

At the beginning of the forum, all participants will be asked to provide one question they would like answered. In addition, cattlemen are encouraged to bring their feed tests to the meeting to assist in formulating winter rations that meet management objectives but at the least cost.

Cattlemen should be enlightened about possible wintering cost saving strategies from the interactive discussion and presentation.

This timely program has the potential to assist cattlemen in saving money on their feed costs this year.

Huber Auditorium of Badgley Hall is best accessed from 6th Street and University Blvd. The location is on the Northwest end of the EOU campus.

If you have any questions about this program, feel free to contact David Bohnert (541-573-8910). **Barbi Riggs**

Cows and Creeks V

Thursday, February 19, Prineville, Oregon

8:45-9:00	Registration
9:00-9:15	Welcome
9:15-10:00	Life Cycle of Fish (Oregon State University, Guillermo Giannico)
10:15-11:00	Grazing strategies to ensure success of the rancher and the fish. (BLM National Riparian Team, Jimmy Eisner)
11:00-11:30	Update on Crooked River fish release, and progress and timing for completing construction of the new fish facilities here at Round Butte Dam. (P.G.E., Don Ratliff)
11:30-12:15	Lunch Provided
12:15-1:00	Ranching Success Story: Stacy Davies, Roaring Springs Ranch
1:00-1:45	Financial and technical assistance for landowners in preparation for fish. (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Brett Hodgson)

Roaring Springs ranch has almost 100 miles of stream banks that house redband trout.

Learn how Roaring Springs adapted management as a result of increased concern for redband population numbers.

Hear how they have created a sustainable ranching operation while improving fish habitat.

Sponsored by OSU Crook County Extension Service and Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District

Registration Deadline February 10th: \$15.00 per person.

Please mail payment to OSU/Crook County Extension office, 498 SE Lynn Blvd, Prineville, OR., 97754, or phone (541) 447-6228.

Barbi Riggs

Ewe Nutrition and Supplementation During Late Gestation and Lactation

In a sheep enterprise, feed costs account for the majority (50-80%) of the production costs. Proper feeding is essential to allow for profitable sheep production. Either excessive or inadequate nutrition is expensive. The goal of the shepherd is to utilize the feedstuffs available to realize the greatest net dollar return from the sale of lamb and wool.

There is nothing magic about feeding ewes. A producer does need to be aware that the nutritional needs of the ewe throughout the year are related to the different reproductive stages. The three main phases are gestation, lactation, and maintenance. The requirements for an average 154 pound ewe are presented in table 1. Note the dramatic differences that occur in going from maintenance to early lactation. This is especially true with ewes that have a high incidence of multiple births and raise twins.

The values in table 1 are NRC recommendations and based on averages. Thus there may be some adjustments up or down for a given flock of ewes due to environmental and breed variation. Also keep in mind that the listing for weight is for a non-pregnant ewe in moderate condition. This is the body weight to use when developing rations for gestation, lactation, etc.

FEEDING DURING LATE GESTATION

Although it is very important to properly feed during early gestation, the ewe's nutrient requirements are only slightly above maintenance during this time period. Thus, it is possible to get by with rather marginal feedstuffs and yet maintain productivity and hold down costs.

However, when we approach the last 4-6 weeks, nutrient requirements for energy and protein increase dramatically. During this period approximately 70% of the fetal growth occurs. The NRC 1985 requirements (Table 1) for this period provide for both fetal growth and increasing ewe condition to assure adequate milk production during lactation. Failure to provide adequate nutrients, especially energy, during this period may result in pregnancy disease, lighter lambs at birth, increased postnatal lamb losses, decreased mothering ability, and lower levels of milk production.

See LIVESTOCK: Ewe Nutrition, Page 8

CENTRAL OREGON SMALL FARM NEWS —

OSU Extension Service Small Farms Conference

Saturday, February 21, 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

OSU Campus, Alumni Center, Corvallis, Oregon

Registration information: <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu>

Keynote speaker: Michael Rozny, founder of Red Tomato, will speak on “Values Based on Supply Chains and Community Food Systems”.

Conference Sessions: Farmscaping for Beneficial's; Building a Sustainable Business; Simple Ways to Promote your Farm; Promoting Farmer's Markets; Alternative Poultry Feeds; Alternative Energy and Renewable Energy; Management Structures for Farmer's Markets and more.

Dana Martin

Living on a Few Acres (LOAFA)

Saturday, March 14, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Deschutes County Fairgrounds, Redmond,

Oregon (*Registration forms available January 30*)

Educational Classes: Attend a variety of workshops covering different topics such as: Pasture Management, Irrigation Techniques, Specialty crops (potatoes, fruit trees), Weed and Feed Toxicity, Pond Maintenance, Fencing for Livestock, Poultry, Wildlife Habitats, Animal First Aid, and more.

Trade/Educational Show: Visit with various equipment dealers, trade association representatives and people from agricultural agencies who can help you with your needs ranging from financial to operational and management. For information on registering for a booth, visit: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes>

Networking Opportunity: Talk to other land owners and exchange ideas. Make connections and develop marketing opportunities.

Featured Lunch Program: Sponsored by the Deschutes County Farm Bureau; includes a free lunch!

For more information, contact: OSU Extension Service, Deschutes County, (541) 548-6088 x 7957, or email: dana.martin@oregonstate.edu

Dana Martin

Growing Farms: Successful Whole Farm Management Workshop Series

When: April 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13; plus one Saturday (TBA)

Where: Deschutes County Extension office, Redmond, OR

Who: This series is designed for beginning farmers who are ready to start or expand their businesses.

Topics to be covered: Developing a farm plan, farm operations/production system, financial planning, marketing, growing strategies and risk management tools.

For more information, contact OSU Extension Service, Deschutes County, (541) 548-6088 x 7957, or email: dana.martin@oregonstate.edu

Dana Martin

Oregon Small Farm News – new issue online!

Check out the new issue of Oregon Small Farm News: <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/>

This issue includes many informative articles including a Farm Profile story on Sarahlee Lawrence of Central Oregon's Rainshadow Organics farm.

Dana Martin

Central Oregon Small Farms Networking Group

An enthusiastic group of 16 small farm producers and supporters recently met at the Deschutes County Extension office to share ideas and discuss common interests. Everyone learned from each other and left with a feeling of enthusiasm and sense of community. Here are the next steps for this group:

There is a desire to cooperate in areas of sharing equipment, purchasing seeds and fertilizer, advertising upcoming farm and educational events, and distributing educational material. If you have information you want to share with this group, please email to dana.martin@oregonstate.edu or call Dana at 541-548-6088 x7957. I will be collecting this information and will distribute it to the group on a monthly basis.

A list of this Small Farms Networking Group will be shared with those who attended the meeting. If you want to be added to the list please contact Dana Martin (see above information).

Next get together: Saturday, March 7, 10am at Gigi Meyer's Windflower Farm in Alfalfa. Please bring something to share for the potluck lunch.

Dana Martin

CEREALS —

Wheat Marketing Meetings

Wheat Marketing Meetings are usually held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at least until May, 2009. The meetings are broadcast over polycom at the Central Oregon Ag Research Center at Madras. Meetings start at 8:00 a.m. and run until 9:00 a.m. These meetings will be held on Thursday, February 5th (exception), March 12th, April 9th, and May 14th. Mark those dates on your calendar and plan on attending if you are interested in marketing wheat. The Oregon Wheat League and the OSU Extension Service is sponsoring the program. Please call the COARC at (541) 475-7107 the day before to make the sure the meeting is confirmed.

Mylon Bohle

Northwest Direct Seed Cropping Conference

Meeting Global Demand is the 12th annual Northwest Direct Seed Cropping Conference theme to be held January 21-22, at the Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, Washington. The U.N. has challenged the agriculture to double food production by 2050; in anticipation of meeting the nutritional requirements of an anticipated 9.5 billion people.

Registration fee and deadline is January 5th, for Members \$150 and Non-members \$220 (there are special discounts for more than one from the same farm or business). Registration is more after that date. Information is available at <http://www.directseed.org/> or contact: (208) 883-3645 or email to PNDSA@directseed.org. Special Direct Seed Conference rates are available at the following Kennewick, WA.

Hotels: Hilton Garden Inn (509) 735-4600, Red Lion Inn (509) 783-0611, and Quality Inn (509) 735-6100.

Mylon Bohle

FORAGES —

T-Sum Timing for Forage Production

Starting with the February Central Oregon Agriculture newsletter we will begin updating the 2009 crop year accumulated growing degrees (ggd) for different locations. T-Sum Timing is used to time your spring nitrogen fertilizer applications on grass pastures in order to produce earlier forage for grazing, as well as optimize grass hay yield. The optimum timing for applying N fertilizer on pastures is around 360 ggd's, and around 725-775 ggd's for grass hay.

Mylon Bohle

Livestock: EWE NUTRITION

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During the last 4-6 weeks of gestation the nutrient requirements are increasing, and if the ewe is on a high roughage diet, she may not be able to consume enough to supply her requirements for increased energy. It is during this time that supplementing roughages with grain becomes necessary. This is especially necessary for ewes with multiple fetuses. Although it is difficult to distinguish ewes with multiple fetuses, previous flock history should help in this undertaking. Real-time ultrasound devices could be used to determine fetal numbers. These instruments allow you to identify ewes that are carrying multiple fetuses at about 50-60 days following conception. Once identified, these ewes can be separated and fed accordingly thus preventing excessive feeding of ewes carrying only one fetus. It should be noted that there are not many professional that offer the service so availability is limited.

FEEDING DURING LACTATION

Lactation represents the period of time when the ewe has the greatest nutritional demands. Figure 2 depicts the milk production curve in the ewe. Milk production will usually peak at about 4 weeks after lambing and gradually decline from that point. A ewe nursing twin lambs produces about 20 to 30 percent more milk than a ewe nursing one lamb. If the ewe has the genetic potential, milk production responds to the nutrient intake of the ewe and the demand for milk by the lamb or lambs. While it is important to feed for maximum milk production, it is also wise use of feed resources to separate ewes with singles from those with more than one lamb. As indicated in table 1 ewes nursing a single lamb require less protein and energy on a daily basis.

The requirements for lactation after the first 4 to 6 weeks reflect the fact that milk production has declined to 30 to 40 percent of the early stage. Therefore, it is wise use of feed resources to adjust nutrient intake to accommodate decreased nutritional demand as indicated in table 1.

TRIPLET REARING EWES

Research conducted at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center has shown that ewes can raise triplets if properly fed and managed. In most cases where there are enough ewes with singles, the extra lamb in a group of triplets should be cross fostered. However in many highly prolific flocks this might not be possible. The other alternative is to artificially raise, which can be labor intensive and costly.

The following management and nutritional considerations were observed to be important by the Ohio State University researchers for 150 pound ewes raising triplets:

- 1) Have the ability to produce milk and be in above average body condition.
- 2) Feed separately in small groups to prevent any mis-mothering.

See LIVESTOCK: Ewe Nutrition, Page 9

Livestock: EWE NUTRITION

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- 3) Feed high dietary protein (16 to 17 percent protein in total ration) in the first four weeks of lactation.
- 4) Concentrate (grain plus protein supplement) feeding at a high level on a twice a day basis (3-3.75 pounds per ewe per day).
- 5) Feed 2-2.5 pounds of high quality legume hay.

BODY CONDITON SCORE

Two research trials conducted by Oregon State University found that ewe body condition score at lambing had an effect on total pounds of lamb weaned per ewe. Ewes with a body condition score of 3 to 4 at lambing lost fewer offspring and weaned more pounds of lamb than those with a condition score of 2.5 or less.

In one study, ewes with a body condition score of 4 at lambing had a total weight of lamb weaned per ewe that was 82 percent greater than ewes with a body condition score of 2.5. The total weight weaned was 113 pounds versus 62 pounds per ewe. The increase in total weaning weight was due to improved lamb survival and heavier weaning weights.

In the other study, there was a 33 percent difference in total weight of lamb weaned (64 versus 85 pounds per ewe) between ewes with pre-lambing body condition scores of 2.5 to 3.5. This increase in pounds of lamb weaned was primarily due to improved lamb survival for offspring from the ewes with the higher body condition score.

FEEDING PROGRAMS AND SUPPLEMENTATION

Methods of feeding the ewe flock during late gestation and lactation will vary from producer to producer depending upon the feed resources available and management program. In many instances harvested hay supplies of high quality will adequately meet the needs during periods of nutrient shortfall. When it is necessary to purchase grains and hay to meet the needs of the flock, look at the nutrient that is needed, and then determine cost per pound of that particular nutrient. A feed that might appear to be a “good deal” on a per ton or hundred weight basis may be expensive when you determine the cost per unit of nutrient supplied.

Ewes	Dry Matter Intake	TDN	Crude Protein	Calcium	Phosphorus
	lb.	lb. %	lb. %	%	%
<u>Maintenance:</u>	2.6	1.5 (55)	.25 (9.3)	.20	.20
<u>Gestation:</u>					
First 15 weeks	3.1	1.7 (55)	.29 (9.3)	.25	.20
*Last 4-6 weeks (130-150% lamb crop)	4.0	2.3 (59)	.42 (10.7)	.35	.23
Last 4-6 weeks (180-225% lamb crop)	4.2	2.8 (65)	.47 (11.3)	.40	.24
<u>Lactation:</u>					
**First 6-8 weeks (singles)	5.5	3.6 (65)	.73 (13.4)	.32	.26
First 6-8 weeks (twins)	6.2	4.0 (65)	.92 (15.0)	.39	.29

Table 1. Nutrient requirements for a 154 pound ewe

From: Nutrient Requirements of Sheep. 1985. Sixth Revised Edition.

*Use these values for the last 4-6 weeks of lactation with ewes suckling singles.

**Use these values for last 4-6 weeks of lactation with ewes suckling twins.

Jim M. Thompson, Extension Sheep Specialist, Oregon State University

Central Oregon Agriculture Calendar



January

- 14-15 Washington State Hay Growers Convention, Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, WA. For more info., www.wa-hay.org/convention/.
- 16 Using Ration Balancing, Management Flexibility, and Past Experience to Minimize Winter Feed Costs (see article page 6).
- 17 Cattleman's Workshop (see article page 5)
- 21-22 NW Direct Seed Cropping Systems Conference (see article page 8).
- 22 CC Stockgrower's Association Meeting and Banquet (see article page 5)
- 24 Grape Growers' Workshop (see article front page).
- 27 Lambing School (see article front page).
- 27-29 Harvesting Clean Energy Conference. Crown Plaza Hotel, Billings, MT., (see article page 3).
- 31 Central Oregon Forage Seminar and Central Oregon Hay Growers' Association Annual Business Meeting and Dinner, Prineville, OR., (see article page 2).

February

- 2 Multi-Peril Crop Insurance Program Deadline (see article page 3).
- 3-4 Idaho Hay And Forage Conference. Burley. Call Glenn Shewmaker at (208) 736-3608.
- 4-5 Central Oregon Farm Fair & Trade Show (see article front page).
- 5 Crook County Landowner Workshop/Paulina (see article page 3).
Wheat Marketing Meeting, COARC, Madras, 8am to 9am, (see article page 8)
- 6 Central Oregon Pest Management Course (see article page 3).
- 11-12 High Desert Green Industry Conference (see article page 4).
- 19 Cows and Creeks V (see article page 6).
- 23 Crook County Landowner Workshop/Prineville (see article page 3).
- 27 Idaho Oilseed Conference, Moscow, ID., (208) 885-8929 or
<http://www.ag.uidaho.edu/oilseeds/conference>

March

- 4-5 Western Nutrient Management Conference. Salt Lake City, UT., Red Lion Hotel, Downtown.
<http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/wera103>
- 12 Wheat Marketing Meeting, COARC, Madras, 8am to 9am, (see article page 8)
- 14 Living on a Few Acres (LOAFA) Conference, Deschutes County Fairgrounds, Redmond, OR., (see article page 9).
- 16 Multi-Peril Crop Insurance Program Deadline (see article page 3).

