Welcome New Crook County 4-H Agent!

Hello! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to all of you whom I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting. My name is Jeremy Green and I am the new OSU/Crook County 4-H Extension Agent. I'm looking forward to the opportunity of getting to know and work with all of you in Crook County and in doing so would like to tell you all a little bit about myself.

I was born and raised in Central Oregon and was heavily involved in the 4-H program in Deschutes County, participating in a variety of project areas. I received my bachelors degree from a small private university in California and a masters in youth development from Michigan State. For the past 3 years I have worked in Wyoming as a 4-H Agent for Laramie County.

Please feel free to stop by, call, or email even if it is just to say hello (jeremy.green@oregonstate.edu). I look forward to meeting all of you and I’m eager about this opportunity to work with you in the variety of programs offered by OSU/Crook County Extension Service.

Jeremy Green

Fruit Trees in Central Oregon

Friday, July 25; 6-9pm, Deschutes County Fairgrounds, Redmond, North Sister Building, Registration deadline: July 11, 2008 - $25.00 per person or two for $40 -

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. Registration forms available at: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes/index.php

Registration Form: (Due July 11)

Note: Workshop will be cancelled if there are not enough registrations by due date!

Name: ____________________________ Address: ______________________________

Name: ___________________________ Address: (if different) ________________________

City, State, ZIP: __________________________________________________________

Email: ___________________________________ Phone: ________________________

Registration fee: ______ $25/ person OR ______ $40 for two people

Checks payable to: OSU Extension Service
Mail registration to: Deschutes County Extension
Attn: SF/SA Tree Workshop
Redmond, OR 97756

Dana Martin, 548-6088, ext. 7957 or dana.martin@oregonstate.edu
“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

Central Oregon Agricultural Extension Staff:
Rich Affeldt - Mint, Seed Crops and Weed Control, 475-3808
Mylen Bohle - Forage, Pasture and Cereals, 447-6228
Marvin Butler - Mint and Seed Crops, 475-3808
Fara Currim - Ag. and Natural Resource, 553-1520
Tim Deboodt - Range Resources and Livestock, 447-6228
Amy Detweiler - Horticulture, 548-6088
Brian Duggan - Crop Physiology 475-7107
Steve Fitzgerald - Forestry, 548-6088
Steve James - Potatoes, 475-7107
Dana Martin - Small Acreage, 548-6088
Libby Rodgers - Livestock and Water Quality, 447-6228
Barbi Riggs - Ag Newsletter Coordinator, 447-6228

The above individuals represent 8.50 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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GENERAL AG - Beneficial Interest Exceptions for 2008 Crop Wool, Mohair, and Unshorn Pelt Loan Deficiency Payments

Redmond, OR, June 25, 2008—Cameron Kirsch, Executive Director for USDA’s Farm Service Agency in Central Oregon announced today that there will be beneficial interest exceptions for 2008 crop of wool, mohair, and unshorn pelts for producers who lost beneficial interest in the 2008 crop between May 24, 2008 and June 5, 2008. The beneficial interest exception will expire July 11, 2008.

For additional information about the beneficial interest exception or to determine if you are eligible, contact Cameron Kirsch, County Executive Director, at (541) 923-4358.

2005-2007 Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Quality Application Signup

Redmond, OR, June 25, 2008—Cameron Kirsch, Executive Director for USDA’s Farm Service Agency in Central Oregon announced today that the quality signup has begun June 23, 2008. Those eligible to sign up for this program are producers that had NAP or other crop insurance during the year in which they are applying for.

To be eligible for the CDP program, your affected crop must have suffered a quality loss of at least 25%. Producers Must provide acceptable verifiable evidence substantiating the quantity, quality, and price received or value of the stored production. Examples of verifiable records include grading receipts, detailed sales receipts, and university or other commercial lab test results completed by January 1st following harvest.

For additional information about the Crop Disaster Program, or to further determine your program eligibility, contact Cameron Kirsch, County Executive Director, at (541) 923-4358.

* * *

√ For a Listing of Bend, Madras, Prineville, Redmond and Sisters upcoming Farmers’ Markets, go to:
http://www.oregonfarmersmarkets.org
Planning your winter feeding program?  
Trying to decide how to stretch short hay supplies?  
Looking at alternative feeds and other ways to cut operating costs?  
You’re not alone...tight hay supplies and high feed and energy costs are on the minds of cow/calf producers across the nation this year. Please join us for an interactive discussion with fellow producers and livestock specialists about practical options for lowering operating costs.

Prineville:
Thursday, July 24th, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Crook County Extension Office  
498 SE Lynn Blvd, Prineville, OR 97754  

Burns:
Thursday, July 31st, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Eastern Oregon Ag Research Center  
MP 4.62 Hwy. 205, Burns, OR  

For more information and to pre-register, contact:  
Barbi Riggs (541) 447-6228  
Barbi.Riggs@oregonstate.edu  
or  
Dustin Johnson (541) 573-2506  
Dustin.Johnson@oregonstate.edu  

A registration fee of $7.00 will be charged to cover lunch, handouts and a reference CD containing fact sheets and software for balancing rations and analyzing feeding alternatives presented in class (Cowculator, Calf Back, Feedlot, GrassFat).

The meeting will include information on traditional and alternative feeds that are locally available, forage and feeding management, feed costs, and tools available for making cost-effective decisions in your winter feeding program. Most of the meeting will be set aside to discuss 2-3 case studies (depending on time). Different scenarios of actual working operations will be presented and the group will be given an opportunity to discuss, develop and analyze different winter feeding alternatives using the information and tools presented in class.

Mike Mehren, Livestock Nutritionist, David Bohnert, Ruminant Nutritionist and Beef Extension Specialist, Barbi Riggs, Crook County Extension Agent, and Dustin Johnson, Harney County Extension Agent, will be on hand to assist in developing alternatives and analyzing implications for lowering costs, achieving production goals and, most importantly, keeping the bottom line as far into the black as possible.

AGENDA:
10:00...Registration and Welcome  
10:15...Locally available feeds and cost.  
10:30...Winter feeding options.  
10:45...Tools to support decision-making.  
11:00...Case studies.  
11:20...Breakout sessions to discuss scenarios  
Noon...LUNCH – Practice using ration balancing software (please bring info on your feedstuffs).  
1:00.....Results from breakout sessions  
2:00.....Wrap-up  

OSU Extension programs will provide reasonable accommodation to persons with physical or mental disabilities. Contact Barbi Riggs at (541) 447-6228 to request reasonable accommodation.
This is the third installment of a series on biofuels, with emphasis on their relevance to central Oregon. This month we will look at ethanol. Ethanol has been the leading biofuel in the US due to the large acreage of corn grown in the Midwest.

*What is ethanol?*

Ethanol is a two carbon alcohol (C₂H₅OH) made by fermenting either carbohydrates or sugars. Unlike biodiesel, which can vary in quality depending on the oil from which it is made, ethanol is a consistent product and in its pure form you would not be able to tell what it was made from.

*What is it made from?*

Ethanol can be made from any carbohydrate or sugar. Yeast ferment these and then produce alcohol. A maximum concentration of alcohol will be attained before the yeast is inhibited by the ethanol. The ethanol is then vaporized by heating and then condensed to produce pure ethanol.

Although it is made almost exclusively from corn in the US there are other crops that could be grown here for the production of ethanol. Below is a table of various crops that could be used for the production of ethanol in central Oregon (Table 1). Based on these results it would appear that sugar beets would be the best crops from which to produce ethanol. However there is not as much interest in producing ethanol from sugar beets due to the bulk required. Grains are much more energy dense than sugar beets or potatoes so a distillery would have to have much larger capacity to produce the same volume of ethanol than if they were using grain.

Table 1. Potential ethanol production from various irrigated crops that can be grown in central Oregon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Gallons ethanol/ton</th>
<th>Central Oregon yield (t/ac)</th>
<th>Ethanol gal/ac</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barley</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar beet</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Energy balance and criticisms*

Brazil is the world’s leading producer of ethanol and unlike the US, uses sugar from sugar cane. Sugar cane in Brazil has an energy return of between 8 to 10. In other words for every unit of energy involved in it’s production (fertilizer, fuel, processing distilling etc) between 8 and 10 times the energy is produced. When corn is used in the US for making ethanol the energy return is 1.3 to 1.6. Because of this, there is strong criticism for producing ethanol from grain in the US as it doesn’t solve the problem of energy independence.

*Effect on fuel prices and fuel efficiency*

The US Department of Energy recently released a statement that without ethanol the price of gasoline would be 20 to 35 cents/gallon higher. Recent legislation in many states, including Oregon, set mandates for the percentage of gasoline that must contain ethanol. In Oregon that is 10%. Because the energy content of ethanol is less than gasoline (77,000 BTU’s/gallon compared to 126,000 BTU’s/gallon) the energy content of what you now buy is less than pure gasoline.

Next month, “The Future for Biofuels”.

*Brian Duggan*
FIRE —

Weather Changes Call for Private Land Fire Prevention Restrictions

Beginning Tuesday July 1, 2008 at 1:00 a.m. lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry will be placed under a regulated closure; regulating the use of fire activities or activities that could cause a fire. These prevention measures will affect Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Morrow, Wasco, and Wheeler counties.

OPEN FIRES are prohibited including: campfires, charcoal fires, cooking fires and warming fires, except at approved designated locations. Portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels are allowed as well as burning conducted in compliance with the conditions of a current and valid burning permit issued pursuant to ORS 477.515.

USE OF FIREWORKS is prohibited.

SMOKING is prohibited while traveling, except in vehicles on improved roads.

NON-INDUSTRIAL CHAINSAW USE is prohibited between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Chainsaw use is permitted at all other hours if the following fire fighting equipment is present with each operating saw: one axe, one shovel, and one operational 8 ounce or larger fire extinguisher. In addition, a fire watch is required at least one hour following the use of each saw. Example: if you have three saws in use and they all shut down at the same time watch each for one hour total. If you have three saws in use and they each shut down at different times, each saw must have a one hour watch from when it shut down; which will total more than one hour for all three saws.

Use of MOTORIZED VEHICLES including motorcycles and all terrain vehicles is prohibited except on improved roads or for the commercial culture and harvest of agricultural crops. Improved road means “a road maintained for the use of passenger cars and which is clear of flammable debris.”

All motor vehicles must be equipped with one gallon of water or one operational 2 ½ pound or larger fire extinguisher, one axe, and one shovel, except when traveling on state highways, county roads, and driveways.

All motorcycles and all terrain vehicles must be equipped with one operational 2 ½ pound or larger fire extinguisher, except when traveling on state highways and county roads.

MOWING of dried and cured grass with power driven equipment is prohibited between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., except for the commercial culture and harvest of agricultural crops.

CUTTING, GRINDING and WELDING of metal is prohibited between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

BLASTING is prohibited.

“Forest fuels are rapidly drying out,” said Kevin Benton, Protection Unit Forester with the Oregon Department of Forestry. “If a fire were to start it could spread quickly and be difficult to catch, potentially causing damage to property and resources. This time of year regulation of fire activities or activities that could start a fire is one of the best preventative measures we can take.”

If a valid burning permit has been issued, pursuant to ORS 477.515, fire officials ask residents to take great care when having that fire.

Restrictions vary from private lands to federally owned public lands so contact your local fire agency for current fire restriction information.

Campfires are not allowed on lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry in the Central Oregon District; however, if you will be where a campfire is allowed following are important steps to know:

To build a safe campfire:

♦ Do not build it under a tree.
♦ Have a bucket of water, a shovel, and an axe.
♦ Clear an area 10 feet down to mineral soil clear of forest litter / debris (pine cones, needles, twigs, grass).
♦ Do not dig a pit. Fire can burn underground through the roots.
♦ Archeologists also recommend not digging a pit to preserve any possible cultural sites.
♦ Build a 3 foot rock ring with the rocks touching so fire won’t escape.
♦ Chop your firewood to fit into the rock ring and stack your extra fire wood outside the 10 foot cleared area.
♦ Never leave your campfire unattended.

To put your campfire dead out:

♦ Make sure your campfire is dead out before leaving the area at any time.
♦ Slowly pour water on the campfire and stir with the shovel.
♦ Do not cover the fire with dirt, this could “cap” the fire and cause it to smolder.
♦ There can be heat and no smoke so feel over the campfire for heat; if you feel heat, keep using the water and stirring with the shovel until the fire is dead out.

Kevin Benton, Oregon Department of Forestry, Prineville
(541) 447-5658
Nematodes Affecting Wheat Yield in Central Oregon?

Most nematodes are microscopic roundworms that either contribute to or detract from agriculture. Out of the 20,000 identified nematode species, 2,000 are known to be plant parasites. They cause an estimated $8 billion worth of damage to all crops in the U.S. each year.

Cereal-Cyst, Root-lesion, Root-Knot, Stunt, Pin, Dagger, and Root-gall nematodes have been found in small grain crops in eastern Oregon and Washington over the years. Cyst and lesion nematodes are responsible for most of the damage or yield reduction in cereals.

All of these nematodes decrease the function of the root to absorb moisture and nutrients through reduction of the root depth and root branching. Yield reduction is difficult to prove, because studies are needed to show effect of nematicides, soil fumigation, and resistant and susceptible varieties. It is difficult because yield responses are influenced by multiple interacting climate, plant and soil factors.

Cereal-cyst nematodes can be eliminated by one year of rotating to a non cereal or grass. Back to back wheat or grasses would encourage their reproduction. Root-lesion nematodes (Pratylenchus neglectus and thornei) have a very broad host crop range. Crop rotation can only reduce root-lesion numbers by summer fallow or by planting field pea, flax, safflower, or triticale.

In a few controlled experiments in eastern Oregon, looking at zero nematodes to increasing numbers of nematodes, Stephens wheat yield was reduced from 105 to 55 bu/acre, by Cereal-cyst nematode; Zak spring wheat yield was reduced from 85 to 65 bu/acre by root-lesion (P. thornei) nematodes; and Zak spring wheat yield was reduced from 48 to 40 bu/acre by root-lesion (P. neglectus) nematodes.

Excellent irrigation and fertility management under irrigated conditions can go a long way to lessening the damage to wheat. In irrigated crops, the 900 root lesion nematodes per pound of soil for an economic threshold is likely greater. Some fields sampled in eastern Oregon had populations as high as 16,000 nematodes per pound of soil. 40-45 percent of the fields surveyed in eastern Oregon have populations higher than the 900 per pound threshold.

There is progress being made on quantifying the resistance and susceptibility of spring and winter wheat, and barley varieties to different nematodes. Barley varieties seem to be much more tolerant. Dick Smiley at the CBARC, Pendleton, Oregon, is leading this project.

Knowledge of the nematode history of a particular field and the decision to plant what cereal, and or variety, into that field, will hopefully be made with greater knowledge in the future, as we learn more about the effects of certain nematodes on cereal production, and provide better future variety recommendations under such conditions. Hopefully there will be some very good information available before this Fall’s planting.

(The information in this article was partially edited from R. Smiley. May, 2005. “Plant-parasitic Nematodes Affecting Wheat Yield in the Pacific Northwest”. OSU Extension Service publication EM 8887.)

Mylen Bohle

Cereal Leaf Beetle Bio-control Update

About 500 T. Julius infested Cereal Leaf Beetle larvae were released at a field in the Prineville area the last week of June or so. The T. Julius wasp will travel so if a good population can be increased there, it should benefit the whole Prineville Valley. For the rest of the tri-counties, there will likely be some more releases at the insectaria plot at the OSU COARC Madras site and possibly in a field west of Terrebonne. If there are any cooperators who would like to participate in the release, please contact Colin Park, USDA/APHIS at (503-730-7622).

Mylen Bohle

What is Hay Worth?

Wondering what the price of hay is, whether you are buying or selling? Especially if you are raising and selling hay, you may want to get in on the weekly call from USDA Market News Service out of Moses Lake, WA. Jack Getz or another person in their office will call and inquire if you have sold hay, for what price, what the quality is, etc. This information is then compiled weekly and put up on the Internet or is published in the Capital Press. The idea is if both seller and buyer know the market, then a true, free and fair market exists for all concerned. It also works if you want to buy hay and you are wondering where the market is at, when looking for hay to purchase. Contact Jack Getz at (509) 765-3611 or email him at jack.getz@usda.gov.

Mylen Bohle
FORAGE —

Afternoon vs. Morning Cut Hay

What “minor” management trick is there that can change the quality of hay, to make it better, or “to make it better (by making it worse)”? We can increase the digestibility and palatability, and the protein content, of grass or legume hay by harvesting or cutting later in the day. The closer we can cut or swath our hay around 8:00 pm or so, the higher the quality of hay. So if we can swath our hay between 3:00 or 4:00 pm until around 9:00 pm or so, we can increase digestibility as well as palatability! It has been proven time and time again by a majority of animals used in feeding preference trials. The animals prefer afternoon-cut hay compared to morning-cut hay. So this would make the hay worth more, for the both the seller and buyer, if you want higher quality hay to increase meat or milk production.

Now, if we want to make hay better (by making it worse)... We would manage our hay harvest just the opposite. In this case, we are trying to conserve hay that is lower in digestibility and non-structural carbohydrates and sugars (and palatability). So we would want to cut or swath as early in the morning as possible and then stop cutting hay before noon. The problem with this management method is that the dew can stop us from starting harvest, sometimes until late morning, depending upon the time of year. This will produce lower-carb / lower-sugar hay than normal, that some of the horse hay buyers are looking for. If you swath with dew on the foliage, then you will have to tedd the hay more often to dry it down, or do you?

When hay is drying down from around 78-82% moisture when initially cut and until the hay reaches about 48% moisture – the plants are still transpiring and you are losing dry matter yield and feed value. If you are after high quality feed, than you want to dry that hay down as rapidly as possible – cut as wide of windrows as possible, condition it, and tedd it to increase the speed of drying time, before baling... If you are after lesser quality hay, then cut the hay into narrow windrows, do not condition, and do not tedd the hay, allow it to take longer to dry, before baling... But there may be a trade off in bleaching.

So if I was a serious buyer of hay, I would ask whether it was afternoon-cut or morning-cut hay and if I was the seller, I would want to be able to tell them the answer.

Mylen Bohle

Banks Grass Mite Update

The Banks Grass Mite has been found in Crook and Jefferson counties, and it is highly probable that it is also in northern Deschutes County at the very least. The Banks grass mite will affect corn, wheat, sorghum, soybeans, and grasses (turf also).

The Banks Grass (Oligonychus pratenis) and Two-Spotted Spider (Tetranychus urticae) Mites look very similar. They are very small (< 1/32 inch), oval, and color ranges from green, yellow, reddish-brown, to black like. Both over-winter as adult females and nymphs. As the temperature warms in the spring, eggs are deposited on the stems and leaves of grass. They go through several stages of development and there can be up to 7-10 generations per season! Both of these mites reproduce under hot and dry conditions and can attain very high populations in the summer. Banks grass mite usually appears a little earlier in the spring than does the two-spotted spider mite. Miticide efficacy varies greatly between the two in other areas of the U.S.

So what is interesting (in a very negative way), is that we already have the winter grain mite and the clover mite that we are dealing with in the Fall and then late winter through late Spring. Now we may be dealing with the Banks grass mite from late spring through the summer and possibly in to early Fall!

There are some mites or insects that will prey on the Banks grass mite. There is the Predatory mite (Neoseiulus fallacis) (juveniles feed on 4 mite eggs/day for 8 days and adults eat 15 mites/day for 70 days), Mite Destroyer Beetle (Stethorus sp.) (eats 40 mites or eggs a day and lives a year), Six-spotted Thrips (Scolothrips sexmaculatus) (larvae eat about 7 mites /day for 10 days and adults feed on 60 mite eggs/day for 60 days), and Minute pirate bug (orius sp.) (eats 30 mites a day) will prey on the Banks grass mite and help control them. Much more work needs to be done to see how well these pests control the Banks grass mite. In Kansas, there is a fungal pathogen (Neozygites floridana and adjarica) that has been identified that attacks the mite if there are several cool days (<80-85 degreees F) in a row.

If you want to see the visual differences between the four mites (clover, two-spot, banks, and winter grain mite) go to http://entomology.unl.edu/turfent/documents/spmites.shtml or type in Grass Banks Mite into an internet search engine and you will find numerous articles and Extension Bulletins on the web.

(The information in this article was edited from numerous Extension Bulletins and articles on the Web)
FORAGE —

Clover / Bluegrass Pastures & Warm Weather

With warm summer weather here, producers with Kentucky bluegrass and White clover pastures will want to start paying closer attention to grazing heights. We are now into much warmer weather than what cool season grasses like for growing conditions; but we are also now just into the type of warm weather that legumes (such as White clover), like growing in, and will stay that way into August.

Cool season grasses like Kentucky bluegrass, especially (and to a lesser extent, orchardgrass, tall fescues, the bromes, etc.) are now at a disadvantage growing in this warmer weather (they do best with temperatures in the low 60s to mid-high 70’s degrees F), and Legumes (like White clover, alfalfa, red clover, etc.) have an advantage when in a mix. Alfalfa grows best at 86 degrees F. This is just based on species adaptation.

Then if we introduce short grazing heights into the mix, how does that play out? If we can keep grazing heights up to 3-4 inches, Kentucky bluegrass will grow better and compete better with White clover. As we lower that grazing height, White clover has many tiny leaves close to the soil surface (plus it likes hot weather and grows like crazy) and can keep regenerating itself. Kentucky bluegrass on the other hand, as you reduce grazing height, has less leaf material in which to photosynthesize (plus it does like hot weather and wants to go dormant, not grow)... Suddenly you have a pasture that looks like an all White clover and no grass pasture, if you are allowing your animals to close-graze (down to one-two inches or less) your pastures. So if you want more Kentucky bluegrass growing in your mixed pasture, keep the grazing height up.

If you are unhappy with all of that clover in your pasture, you can always spray it out with a herbicide; but you give up a resource, that if managed better, provides excellent feed quality and fixes nitrogen to feed itself and partially its surrounding grass plants. Once an excellent grass/legume pasture is functioning properly, little, if any, nitrogen fertilizer, may be needed.

Light-weight steers were grazed over the 4 seasons and the animals were put in or removed as needed to avoid under, or over-grazing.

Orchardgrass supported an average of 3.66 steers/acre, while perennial ryegrass supported 3.00 steers per acre. Average daily gains for orchardgrass was 1.92 lb/ac and for 2.26 lb/ac for perennial ryegrass. Average annual steer gains in lb/ac, was 1,106 lb from orchardgrass and 1,129 lb from perennial ryegrass. ‘Grimalda’ Perennial ryegrass sustained winter damage between the first and second years of the study, while ‘Latar’ orchardgrass was not damaged at all. Steers grazing orchardgrass had to eat 17% more forage in order to obtain the same amount of net energy as the steers that consumed the Perennial ryegrass.


Mylen Bohle

GENERAL AG —

Central Oregon Grape Workshop

Saturday, July 19, 2008

The Central Oregon Grape Growers have scheduled a grape workshop for Saturday, July 19th. We will start the workshop at 1:00 pm at the vineyard at Ranch at the Canyon and from there we will travel to Maragas Winery at about 2:30 pm. We hope to conclude the workshop around 5:00 pm.

Topics to be covered will include “management and growth of the hybrid grapes (and what has been learned this last year)” that are planted at the Ranch at the Canyon. At Maragas Winery, we will cover the same topics for the vitis vinifera grape varieties. There were lessons learned at both vineyards. The third topic we will talk about: Using the Agrimet Crop Water Use Program. The fourth topic is: “If you grow grapes, where will you process your grapes for wine, juice, or jelly, or market for fresh eating?”, for example. The fifth topic to cover will be selecting a name for the group and information will be given on the process of setting up a legal non-profit group. The attendees will need to talk about and at some point will need to elect officers and a board, and talk about membership dues structure. Then like any good grape workshop, we hope to conclude the workshop with a wine tasting of hybrid grape wines.

The workshop will have a cover charge of $20 to help with raising funds for the organization. For more information (address and directions) and to RSVP, contact Doug Maragas at (541) 546-5464.

Mylen Bohle
The following table summarizes the crop water use (evapo-transpiration (ET)) to date (June 30, 2008) for many of the irrigated crops grown in Central Oregon. For more detailed information, one can log on to the Agrimet weather site at: http://www.usbr.gov/pn/agrimet/. General information about the program, weather data, crop water use information, graphs, maps, news, relevant links, and other information will be found here. You can follow the crop water use for these sites and other locations. The green up date or emergence date, canopy closing date, daily water use (ET), 7 day predicted use, and 14 day predicted use, are just some of the information you will find.

Table. 2008 Cumulative Crop Water Use or Evapo-transpiration (ET) Summary to date (June 30, 2008) for Madras, Powell Butte, Bend, and Christmas Valley, OR Agrimet weather stations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>2008 Madras 2440 ft. (in)</th>
<th>2008 Powell Butte 3180 ft. (in)</th>
<th>2008 Bend 3650’ (in)</th>
<th>2008 Christmas Valley 4360 ft. (in)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>ETr</td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>18.3</td>
</tr>
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<td>Alfalfa Peak</td>
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<td>15.7</td>
<td>14.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alfalfa Mean</td>
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<td>13.7</td>
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Central Oregon Agriculture Calendar

JULY —
9  Malheur Experiment Station Annual Field Day. Contact Janet Jones at (541) 889-2174.
19  C.O. Grape Workshops (See page 8).
24  Winter Feeding Forum (See page 3)
25  Fruit Trees in Central Oregon (see article Front Page).
23-26  Annual Gardener’s Mini-College in Corvallis at OSU. Three days of classes and evening events. For class descriptions and registration information go to http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/home.
23-26  Jefferson County Fair
30-3  Deschutes County Fair
31  Winter Feeding Forum (See page 3)

AUGUST —
6-10  Crook County Fair

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/coarc/index.php