Wheat Marketing Meeting

The Oregon Wheat League will be holding a Wheat Marketing Meeting on Thursday, March 13th via polycom at the COARC, Madras site. The broadcast will begin at 8:00 am and run until 9:00 am. Speaker and topic details were unavailable at press time…

Mylen Bohle

Living on a Few Acres (LOAFA)

Are rodents and weeds taking over your pasture? Do you want to do something productive or innovative with your land? How about creating a wildlife paradise or learning about horse care? If you own land, the Living on a Few Acres (LOAFA) conference, planned for Saturday, March 15, 2008, Redmond, Oregon, is for you.

Class descriptions (see LOAFA Classes, page 9), and registration forms are available online: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes or can be picked up at local OSU Extension offices in Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties.

The cost is $29 per person or $50 for two people and registrations are due March 10th.

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

Dana Martin

New Food and Farm Market Opportunities

April 3, 2008, 4:00 - 8:00 P.M., St. Charles Medical Center, 2500 NE Neff Road, Bend, Oregon

Consumers are increasingly choosing food products grown regionally they believe are healthier for them, the environment, and their community. These markets are growing beyond farmers’ markets and food co-ops to include food service companies, restaurants, hospitals, schools, and grocery chains.

How can you benefit from these markets? This workshop will feature:

♦ Food and farm businesses who have accessed these markets sharing successes and challenges.
♦ Buyers of regional food and food grown with enhanced stewardship will discuss their needs.
♦ The Oregon Environmental Council will share consumer preferences and marketing trends in this fast growing sector.

To Register: This free workshop includes dinner for those registered by March 27th. To register, call Wendy Buchanan at the Oregon Environmental Council at (503) 222-1963 x 106 or http://www.oeconline.org/farmers/newmarketopportunities.
Livestock —

Beef Program with Top-Notch Speakers

Monday, March 31, 2008, 1:30 P.M.
CC 4-H Clover Club Building
502 SE Lynn Blvd.
Prineville, Oregon

Biosecurity to Increase Herd Health with

Dr. Dale Grotelueschen

Dr. Dale Grotelueschen is a senior veterinarian with the beef cattle veterinary operations group in Pfizer Animal Health. Prior to joining Pfizer, he was with the University of Nebraska for 16 years where he served in Veterinary Extension and Diagnostics and as Director of the Panhandle Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Scottsbluff. He served in private veterinary practice for 11 years. His primary interests include beef cattle production management and diagnostic investigations involving beef cattle, such as beef quality assurance, neonatal calf diarrhea, bovine viral diarrhea virus, and factors influencing feedlot morbidity and mortality.

Control and Prevention of Trichomoniasis in Oregon Beef Herds with Dr. Julie Weikel

Dr. Weikel is the Oregon Department of Agriculture Field Veterinarian for much of Eastern and Southern Oregon. She has had first hand experience with outbreaks of Trichomoniasis in this part of the state. Please join us for an update on this disease and for tips on how to control and prevent the spread of this disease.

Barbi Riggs

Dairy Goat Production Class by Tumalo Farms

Wednesday, April 2, 2008, 6:00 P.M.

Redmond Library
827 SW Deschutes Avenue

Redmond, Oregon

Tumalo Farms has graciously agreed to engage you in conversation about dairy goat production and farm management. This is your chance to ask questions and exchange ideas with one of the premier artisan cheese producers in Oregon. Check out their website at www.tumalofarms.com. Please call the Crook County Extension office at (541) 447-6228 if you wish to participate no later than March 28th, seats are limited.

Barbi Riggs
Livestock —

Get Ready for Breeding Season!

Early preparation for the breeding season helps ensure greater reproductive rates. Having a set calving date and season length increases the value of your calves by improving uniformity of the calf crop (See Length of Calving Season Can Affect your Bottom Dollar http://extension.oregonstate.edu/crook/ag/Livestock.php).

Breeding replacement heifers 3-4 weeks prior to the mature herd allows the young animal time to recover from calving and prepare for the next breeding season in time to breed back with the mature cows. Likewise, preparing replacement heifers for their first breeding season includes a sound nutritional program that allows the heifer to reach 60% of her mature body weight at the time of breeding.

If you plan on using A.I. this year, create a calendar to determine the first day you need to start the synchronization program and order the proper drugs at least 2 weeks in advance. Schedule a service of your semen tank well in advance of any delivery of semen. Check your supplies now and place an order for sleeves, lube, sheaths, and any replacement guns as necessary. Also, contact and schedule an A.I. technician now for your spring breeding herds.

Vaccination protocols are essential to proper herd health. Consult with your veterinarian on the prebreeding vaccinations, breeding soundness exams or trichomoniasis testing that need to be accomplished before bull turnout. Be sure to brush up on your Beef Quality Assurance techniques. Also remember that administering vaccines should be accomplished at least 2 weeks, preferably 3 weeks, prior to your scheduled synchronization dates or date of bull turnout. Vaccination can cause an elevated body temperature that can reduce or harm viability of the sperm and/or egg as the body mounts an immune response. Also remember that trucking cattle after breeding should be accomplished within the first 3-4 days of insemination or not until 40 days post A.I. to avoid interference with implantation of a fertilized egg. This concept is also true for cattle bred naturally. If you are turning your bull out a week or so prior to shipping cattle to summer pastures, you could be experiencing significant early embryonic death and the result could be that these cows conceive the 2nd time late in the season.

For more articles on this topic and others don’t forget to check out our website www. http://extension.oregonstate.edu/crook/ag/Livestock.php.

2008 Cattle Industry Outlook

The cattle industry is continuing to change with leaps and bounds. I encourage you to take the opportunity to read Cattle Fax 2008 Outlook (www.cattlefax.com for subscription information). This document highlights some of the important factors that are shaping the industry today. Of course most of it boils down to the price of corn and other grain commodities. The bottom line is that feed prices are very high from the feedlot sector to hay for cow calf producers.

Our margins are beginning to narrow and we need to become better at evaluating and conserving our finances; limit our expenditures and capitalize on opportunities to add value to our calves. Feed can account for 60% of our expenses, so now is the time to test your feed sources and balance the rations, feed the cow what she needs, not what she wants. Explore opportunities with preconditioning programs, age and source verification, single sire herds and BVD PI testing. If you want to visit with me about these opportunities, stop in or call any time! (541) 447-6228 or barbi.riggs@oregonstate.edu

Forages —

Central Oregon Hay Growers’ Association...Update!

The Central Oregon Hay Growers Association held their Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 1st in Prineville. In 2007, 200 membership letters were sent out to area producers – 21 producers were members last year (out of 41 total members). One hundred (100) letters were sent out to area producers in 2008. Twenty seven people attended the annual dinner and voted to continue the organization. Five (5) producer members and two (2) associate members volunteered to be on the board. The board will be meeting the second week of March to determine it’s course and business plan. Two other members volunteered to be on the scholarship committee. There is still room for another producer board member from Jefferson county. The organization needs more members (and $) to function and operate. There are approximately 1200 farms in the tri-county area that raise forage.

The forage research program at COARC needs this organization to exist and to function. The growers present at the meeting stated they believe that the forage research program is of great importance to the central Oregon forage industry. Membership applications are due this month for inclusion in the Oregon Hay Directory. For more details and to obtain an application, contact the COHGA at the OSU Crook County Extension office at (541) 447-6228.

Barbi Riggs

Greg Mohnen, COHGA President and Mylen Bohle
Cereals —

Preferred Soft White Spring Wheat Varieties

Producers need to make their choice of variety to plant based on the end use quality of the wheat variety. Much of our PNW wheat is exported and needs to be of the highest end use quality. There is much global competition for marketing this commodity. Producers can help increase the overall quality of the soft white spring wheat crop in the PNW by utilizing this list when choosing which variety to grow. Other agronomic factors come into play as well, but if you can choose the higher rated quality variety that will work in your situation, then you need to do that. Producers can be directly involved in and responsible for the quality issues in this industry.

The variety rankings are based on a minimum of three years of data. The list is revised and updated annually; this was released in February 2007. There is a two page bulletin that is available and it explains the definitions of the quality categories. This list has been put together by Andrew Ross, OSU Cereal Quality Specialist, and Tana Simpson, Administrator, Oregon Wheat Commission, with cooperation from Douglas Engle and Craig Morris, USDA-ARS Western Wheat Quality Lab, Byuang-Kee Baik, WSU, and the Washington Wheat Commission.

Mylen Bohle

Marketing White Wheat after the 2007 Price Spike

For thirty years, white wheat (WW) prices fluctuated around a constant level of $3.90 per bushel and the WW basis fluctuated around 44¢ per bushel. During the 2007-08 marketing year, both wheat prices and the basis spiked dramatically higher—to over $14 per bushel for WW and over $5 per bushel for the WW basis. Wheat prices have moved into uncharted territory and much uncertainty exists about where prices will settle in the future.

How should farmers market wheat in this new environment? No one knows for sure. However, I believe helpful guidance can be obtained by 1) reviewing the marketing strategies that have worked well during the last thirty years, 2) estimating what the average level of wheat prices and the WW basis are likely to be in future years, and 3) modifying the marketing rules that were successful in the past to reflect the new higher price levels.

Successful marketing strategies for the period 1976 to 2006

Over the last 20 years, economists at Oregon State University have tested marketing strategies for selling white wheat. I believe their conclusions and advice can be summarized in three rules (also see the flowchart at the end of the article).

Most Desirable
- Alturas
- Challis
- Eden
- Fielder
- Jubilee
- Louise
- Nick
- Whitebird
- Zak

Desirable
- Calorwa
- Centennial
- Edwall
- Pomerelle
- Wakanz
- Wawawai

Acceptable
- Alpowa

Least Desirable
- Pennawawa

See CEREALS: White Wheat, Page 5
1. Day-to-day changes in the price of wheat are not predictable. Farmers should focus on producing wheat and are wasting their time if they spend much effort on marketing. See Buccola and Fujii (1998).

Many knowledgeable traders are buying and selling wheat. Exporters and professional traders are likely to have more information than farmers and have it sooner. Consequently, if there is a good reason for wheat prices to rise, prices will already be higher. If new reasons surface for a price decline, prices will decline before farmers can sell. Wheat markets are “efficient” processors of information and anyone who really knows the direction of the WW market is probably living very quietly in a big mansion in Lake Oswego.

2. Holding wheat unsold after harvest is expensive and prices don’t normally increase enough to cover the costs of holding wheat. Farmers should normally sell their crop in the early fall of the year it is produced.

Storage costs reduce the net return of wheat stored in commercial warehouses by over 2¢ per month. With the cost of bug spray and other difficulties, farm storage is also costly. The biggest cost of holding wheat unsold is the forgone interest cost (either interest that could be earned on the settlement check or interest saved on paying down an operating loan). Forgone interest cost was approximately 2¢ per month when wheat averaged $3.90 per bushel. At $12 per bushel, interest holding costs are approximately 7¢ per month.

If WW prices in future years follow the same pattern as the monthly averages of prices for 1989 through 2006, farmers should normally wait to sell until after the Portland exporters have worked through the harvest glut in July and August. By mid-September, exporters will normally be bidding for wheat from inland sources. Until November, wheat prices have increased enough on average to cover holding costs. However, after mid-November, holding wheat unsold has not normally been a profitable strategy.

3. Economic forces tend to push wheat prices and the WW basis back toward their average values. Hence, when an anomaly exists in the level of wheat prices or basis (i.e., when WW prices or basis are significantly above or below their average values), farmers can earn a slightly higher return on average by modifying their marketing strategy to take advantage of the anomaly. Specifically,

- Farmers should hedge part of their upcoming crop in the year(s) before the crop is harvested if the Chicago futures prices are at least 10% above average.

- If the cash price of WW is less than 80% of its average value, farmers should hold wheat unsold longer after harvest (since there is a better than even probability that prices will eventually rise enough to offset the higher holding costs).

- If the wheat prices are near normal and the WW basis is less than 30¢, farmers should hedge their crop using March or May futures (to take advantage of the expected increase in the WW basis).

In all other situations, sell according to rule 2. See Larry Lev (1991) and (1992).

The past tendency of WW prices to revert-to-the-mean is evident from Chart 1. High prices cause farmers to expand acreage planted to wheat and cause feedlots to substitute corn for wheat in their feed rations. The supply of wheat increases, demand falls and wheat prices tend to decrease. Similarly, low prices reduce supply and increase the demand for wheat—causing prices over the next several months or years to increase.

The WW basis should also return to its average value of approximately 40. Enough of our customers can substitute soft red wheat for WW (and visa versa) that the export price of soft red wheat at the Gulf ports is normally about equal to the export price of WW at Portland. The Chicago futures market is 1,000 miles from the Gulf and the cost of shipping wheat from Chicago to the Gulf is about 40¢. Hence, wheat in Chicago should be priced about 40¢ less than wheat at the Gulf ports and market forces should cause the basis (the difference between wheat in Portland and wheat in Chicago) to tend toward 40¢. If WW is in short supply relative to soft red (as it is this year due to the Australian droughts), the WW basis can be much greater than 40¢. If WW is abundant and soft red has a small crop, the basis can temporarily be negative.
Cereals: White Wheat

Continued from Page 5

The substitutability of the two classes of wheat should, however, cause the basis to tend back toward its average value over time.

Professor Lev did not just develop rules to take advantage of anomalies in the WW price level and basis. He also used actual prices for the years 1976 to 2000 to calculate how much farmers would gain by using his rules. He found that in more than half the years, WW prices and basis were close to their average values and no good reason existed for not selling early. In the years when prices or basis were abnormal, hedging and/or delaying cash sales produced an increase in average returns of 4 to 5%. However, the years Professor Lev studied don’t contain any anomalies in the WW price or the Chicago futures markets that are nearly as large as those that may exist today. Using his rules now could increase returns much more than 4%.

Average WW prices and WW basis in future years

The very high WW basis during the 2007-08 marketing year is solely due to two years of severe drought in Australia. Two consecutive years of drought are unprecedented and have reduced the world supply of WW relative to soft red wheat.

Buyers of WW have had a strong incentive to switch to other classes. However, the unique characteristics of WW make switching difficult for some Asian millers and very high relative prices have been needed to ration the limited supply of WW. As soon as Australia harvests a normal crop (and the rains have started in Australia), there is reason to expect the WW basis to return to its past average of about 40¢.

While the effects of the Australian drought should be temporary, the effects of three other factors should be more permanent and should cause average WW prices to be higher in future.

1. Higher corn prices caused by rapidly expanding ethanol production – Twenty-seven percent of the U.S. corn crop was used to make ethanol in 2007 and the share of the corn crop going to ethanol plants is projected to continuing increasing. Ethanol demand has caused the average price received by corn farmers to double since 2005 from $2 per bushel to $4 per bushel. Since wheat will be used for feed if wheat prices are close enough to corn prices, corn prices have provided a price floor for wheat. Over the last ten years, Portland wheat prices have averaged about $1.50 per bushel higher than the corn prices received by farmers. Hence, higher average corn prices due to ethanol demand may provide WW with a new floor of approximately $5.50 per bushel.

2. The declining value of the U.S. dollar – Almost all PNW WW is exported and our customers must buy U.S. dollars to pay for our wheat. The dollar has declined in value by 14% relative to our customers’ currencies since 2002 and this has made our wheat less expensive in our customers’ currencies. Even more important, the U.S. dollar has declined by over 41% relative to our competitors’ currencies since 2002.

When Australian and other foreign wheat exporters convert the U.S. dollar they receive in payment for their wheat, the lower value of the U.S. dollar means they receive less of their local currency. This reduces the profitability of foreign wheat farms and causes foreign wheat production to decline. The recent decline in the value of the U.S. dollar should cause average WW prices to increase by at least $1 per bushel.

3. The decline in world grain carryovers since 1999 – World production of wheat has been less than world consumption for seven out of the last eight years (the exception was 2004). Over this period, world carryovers declined by almost half—from 208.5 million metric tons (mmt) to 110.9 mmt. There wasn’t much worry about declining stocks until the bin bottoms started to become visible this year. It now seems clear that between 1999 and 2007, world wheat prices were not high enough to induce farmers to grow enough wheat and average world prices in the future must be higher. The key question now is “how much will average world prices need to rise and how responsive will world production be to higher prices?” With wheat prices now two and a half times higher than they were a year ago, the incentives are strong for world wheat production to expand. I believe average WW prices in future years will be substantially higher than their historical average of $3.90 per bushel, but also below current levels.

See CEREALS: White Wheat, Page 7
Cereals: White Wheat

Continued from page 6

Conclusion

The three rules for marketing wheat discussed above should remain good guidelines for marketing wheat in our new environment of higher prices. The higher cash prices have increased the cost of holding wheat unsold. Hence, selling cash wheat in the early fall should remain a profitable strategy in most years. The average level of the WW basis should remain unchanged—so hedging when the basis is less than 30¢ should continue to increase average returns. To identify anomalies in the wheat price and to decide whether to price future crops now, estimates are needed of the new average level of WW prices and the average level of Chicago futures prices. It is too early to form a good estimate of future average WW prices. Wheat prices may stay above their new average level for a year or two just to rebuild world carryover stocks to adequate levels. The USDA has recently forecast average prices for the 2008 crop to be $7 per bushel. I believe $5.50 per bushel may be a good guess for the future average of WW prices, especially for the 2009 and 2010 crops. Since the WW basis should continue to average 40¢, Chicago futures prices would then average about $5.10.

If my guesses about future average prices are correct, the marketing rules discussed above indicate that farmers should price a part of their 2008 crop now and that the rewards may be even greater if prices are set now for the 2009 and 2010 crops.

REFERENCES:


ENDNOTES:

I The white wheat basis is defined as the cash price of white wheat delivered at Portland minus the price of the nearby Chicago futures contract for soft red wheat. The WW basis measures the premium that white wheat is commanding over soft red wheat. As discussed later in this article, the premium is usually positive, but is sometimes negative.

II An additional condition for recommending hedging the crop is that the “carry” in the futures market must be enough to offset the cost of holding wheat until spring, e.g., the March Chicago futures must be at least 20¢ higher than the September futures.

III Since the WW basis depends on the cost of transporting wheat between Chicago and the Gulf ports, rising fuel costs should cause the average WW basis to increase somewhat in future years.

IV Anderson, Brorsen, and Sahs (1998) test several wheat marketing strategies using historical price data on hard red winter wheat. They apply their strategies mechanically (in a way similar to the approach used by Buccola and Fujii (1998)) and don’t use the selective approach based on anomalies that Professor Lev advocates. Anderson, Brorsen, and Sahs (1998) paper concludes: “The differences between one marketing strategy and another are small, but the results slightly favor selling at harvest. The good news for producers that enjoy marketing and that enjoy keeping up with price trends, cycles and patterns, is that efforts to “beat the market” will, on average, only cost a few cents a bushel”.

I like this quote because it reflects my experience. I have generally lost money by using hedges and options or by holding wheat into the spring in the hope that prices will rise. However, I believe that I would have earned a small positive return if I had consistently followed the approach summarized in rule 3. I don’t know whether my extra return would be great enough to cover the cost of my time spent driving to marketing meetings in the hope of finding a profitable anomaly. However, I’ve been attending regular marketing meetings for 20 years—so I must enjoy them.

(1 stripped the article of graphs (for space reasons); we are posting this article with graphs (11 pages) at the Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson County and COARC Web Sites. (see box on Back Page for web sites) or call Mylen at 541-447-6228 for a hard copy – You will want to read the whole article. Mylen Bohle.)
Forages —
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 for “grass” and cereals). 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 Madras, Prineville, Powell Butte, Mitchell, Bend, and Christmas Valley, as well as other sites, which represent sites that have incremental elevation differences. One website 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 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 March 2, 2008)

<table>
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<th>Location/Elevation</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>180 GDD's</th>
<th>360 GDD's Fertilize Pasture</th>
<th>540 GDD's Begin to Fertilize Hay?</th>
<th>720 GDD’s Fertilize Grass Hay</th>
<th>900 GDD’s</th>
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Forages —

Alfalfa and Grass Variety Trial
4-Year Results

The 2003 3-cut and 4-cut alfalfa variety trial results for 2004-2007 are available on the COARC web site. The varieties represent fall dormancies (FD) 1 through 8. Most of the FD, winter survival, insect, disease, nematode and other pest and agronomic information for the varieties have been added to the report to help aid in variety selection for your specific field situations.

The Madras alfalfa variety trial is being managed for 4-cuts and the four-year cumulative yields range from a high of 37.27 ton/acre to a low of 27.65 ton/acre. The Powell Butte alfalfa variety trial is being managed as a 3-cut trial and the four-year cumulative yields range from a high of 31.98 ton/acre to a low of 25.07 ton/acre.

The 2003 4-cut grass variety trial 2004-2007 results are available. The Madras grass species and variety trial is being managed for 4-cuts and the four-year cumulative yields range from a high of 28.43 ton/acre to a low of 17.39 ton/acre.

The Powell Butte trial four-year results are not yet up on the web site. This site is being managed as a 3-cut trial and the three-year cumulative yields range from a high of 26.75 ton/acre to a low of 16.38 ton/acre.

Elk grazed the timothy varieties very hard (only the timothy varieties) on 2nd cutting, at Powell Butte in 2006, so the timothy yield data was compromised. Elk did not touch the alfalfa at that time, or any other grass species for the most part. They clearly have a preference for timothy in the summer.

We have added data comparisons of how many pounds of N it takes to produce a ton of dry matter (DM), and one lb of N produces how many pounds of DM, based on the fertilizer rate for the trial, cutting by cutting, and overall. While it is not a trial designed for this, it does give one some other interesting comparison.

The two grass trials have been fertilized at annual nitrogen rates of 312, 308, 263, and 309 lb/N/acre at Powell Butte, and at rates of 395, 390, 309, and 303 lb/N/ac at Madras, in 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007 respectively.

There is still some water use and germination and plant counts after germination information that needs to be added to the trial information in the coming months.

The results are located at the COARC web site http://oregonstate.edu/dept/coarc/index.php. Or another way to access the trial information is to just type in “COARC + Oregon” in a search engine. Once on the home page, click on “crop research”, and go to “forage research” and then click on the 2003 alfalfa variety trial results or the 2003 grass species and variety results, or any other trial results.

Hurry, Going Fast...Alfalfa Quality Prediction Sticks and Alfalfa Management Guides

Only one (1) each left, Alfalfa Quality Prediction Stick ($15) and Intermountain Alfalfa Management Guide ($20). The sticks predict the quality of alfalfa on first cutting only. The Intermountain Alfalfa Management Guide has 14 user-friendly chapters on everything from A to Z about alfalfa – it is an excellent resource! For more information contact the Crook County Extension office (541) 447-6228.

General —

Living on a Few Acres Classes

Continued from Front Page

LOFA participants will be able to register for 6 classes, choosing from the selection below (A Berry class has been added):

- Horse Basics: I have a horse, now what?
- Hay Production: Producing and Putting up Quality Hay
- Wildfire and Your Land: Preserving Wild and Domestic Meat, Poultry and Game
- Preserving Tomatoes and Tomato Products
- Managing Trees on Small Forest Parcels
- Creating Fire-Resistant Landscapes
- Extending Your Growing Season
- Irrigation Management
- Basic Weed Control
- Experience Talks: Panel of Small Farm Producers
- Dairy and Meat Goat Discussions
- Quality Hay—What is it?
- Your Meat or Milk Products for Sale
- Poisonous Weeds and your Livestock
- Create a Wildlife Paradise.

For more information call (541) 548-6088, Ext. 7957, or email: dana.martin@oregonstate.edu

Dana Martin
Central Oregon Agriculture Calendar

March

13  Wheat Marketing Meeting (see article Front Page)
    ABS Global Beef Meeting, Brother’s Restaurant Banquet Room, 6:30 p.m., Hwy 26th, Prineville, Oregon. For more information contact Seth Reno at (503) 504-6375.

15  Living on a Few Acres (see article Front Page & Page 9)

17  Aspen Management, 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., 4-H Clover Club Building, 502 SE Lynn Blvd, Prineville, Oregon. For more information or to pre-register call (541) 766-3556

USDA Upcoming Closing Dates for 2008 Crop Year Spring Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) Coverage. For more information contact Jo Lynne Seufer, USDA Risk Management Agency at (509) 228-6320 or email at: jo.lynne.seufer@rma.usda.gov

31  Biosecurity to Increase Herd Health with Dr. Dale Grotelueschen (see article Page 2)
    Control and Prevention of Trichomoniasis in Oregon Beef Herds with Dr. Julie Weikel (see article Page 2)

April

2  Dairy Goat Production Class by Tumalo Farms (see article Page 2)

3  New Food and Farm Market Opportunities (see article Front Page)

17 & 18  Targeted Grazing Workshop, Boise, Idaho. For more information contact Rochelle Oxarango, (208) 436-1113 or email: targetgraze@pmt.org or Web at: www.cnr.uidaho.edu/rx-grazing/

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