

Central Oregon Agriculture

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 5

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2015

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West Coast Irrigation Efficiency Webinar

Please join the Washington State University Energy Program on Monday, September 28, 2015 at 12:00 PM Pacific Time for "West Coast Irrigation Efficiency", a webinar sponsored by Western Area Power Administration and Bonneville Power Administration's Emerging Technologies Showcase series.

Register now at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2865766376341966338>.

Agricultural growers are more concerned than ever about increasing both water and energy efficiency in addition to improving crop yield and quality. Precision irrigation does just this by releasing the right amount of water in the right place at the right time. This webinar features presentations on emerging technologies by experts on both drip and pivot irrigation systems. Growers, utilities, irrigation consultants, researchers and policy makers are all encouraged to attend.

Sponsored by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), these monthly webinars bring you the latest information about some of the promising energy efficiency technologies and practices that BPA is considering for future research opportunities or focus areas. All webinars are recorded and available on the E3T website, www.E3TNW.org and Conduit, www.ConduitNW.org

Debbe Chadwick, District Manager ~ Jefferson SWCD

Sheep Nutrition Workshop

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Crook County Open Campus Building, Prineville
5:30 – 8:00 (Pizza dinner included)

Shelby Filley, OSU Extension Livestock and Forage Specialist from Douglas County, OR will be the guest speaker at this workshop hosted by the Central Oregon Sheep Growers group and the OSU Crook County Extension Service. The purpose of the workshop is to discuss the nutritional requirements of sheep according to the animal's biological cycle and the effects of nutrition on animal well-being and performance. The nutritive values of different feeds and why they differ will also be covered. Those in attendance will be encouraged to bring with them, information about their feed resources including costs. This information will be used to show producers how they can develop their own rations while including cost considerations. Sheep producers of all ages are invited to attend. RSVP's are encouraged. Call the OSU Crook County Extension Office for registration. 541-447-6228.

Tim Deboodt

Rural Oregon

Rural Oregon: Analyzing demographic and economic trends across rural Oregon and a look ahead. "It is no secret that rural Oregon has yet to fully share in the economic recovery, if at all. Rural America at large, experiences a similar pattern, outside of the oil and gas boom towns across the country's heartland." (M. McMullan and J. Lehner) This is a 6 page brief written by the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis.

<https://oregoneconomicanalysis.files.wordpress.com/2015/08/rural-oregon-2015.pdf>

Mylen Bohle

Central Oregon Agriculture is a bi-monthly newsletter produced by the Central Oregon Extension offices and the Central Oregon Agricultural Research Center (COARC). 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 of your local County office.

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- ◆ Kim Herber, Ag Newsletter Coordinator, (541) 447-6228

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3893 SW Airport Way, Redmond, OR 97756

Jefferson County Extension Service - Phone 475-7107,
850 Dogwood Lane., 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

- ◆ Carol Tollefson, Operations Director, 475-7107

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

Powell Butte Site - 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 Center:

<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/coarc/index.php>

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The above individuals are 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, or does it imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others.

Post-Fire Grazing Field Tour

Thursday, October 15, 2015

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Wildfires have altered wildland ecosystems throughout the west and negatively impacted rangeland-based beef cattle production and the rural way of life. On Thursday, October 15th (10 am MDT; 9 am PDT), a private landowner affected by wildfire and University of Nevada, Reno and USDA-Agricultural Research Service rangeland scientists will highlight the current science related to rangeland response to wildfire. They will also present three years of data collected on a post-fire grazing experiment that assessed simulated and natural grazing treatments applied for three consecutive years immediately after fire. That afternoon, participants will visit the post-fire grazing project area that lies within a Wyoming sagebrush/Thurber's needlegrass ecological site to observe and discuss the impacts of light to moderate spring grazing, simulated grazing at different times of the year, and no grazing.

The *Post-Fire Grazing Field Tour* is sponsored by the University of Nevada, Reno's College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources, the Oregon State University Extension Service, and the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. **Please RSVP with Dr. Sergio Arispe before October 9th to help with lunch logistics. sergio.arispe@oregonstate.edu You will receive location details then.**

Dr. Sergio Arispe

Statewide Monthly Wheat Marketing Meetings

The Oregon Wheat Growers' League has announced that the Statewide Marketing Education Series Meetings will resume Thursday, October 15th, and then December, February and April. These meetings occur the *third Thursday*, every other month, via Polycom video conferencing at various locations throughout the state. In Central Oregon producers can view the monthly Polycom presentations at the COARC, Madras site or at the OSU Crook County Extension Service Office at 498 SE Lynn Blvd, Prineville. Please call 541-475-7107 (COARC Madras) or 541-447-6228 (Prineville) the day before to confirm your attendance and / or to make sure the meeting is taking place. The OWGL website is at www.owgl.org or for other information you may call Sally Christensen, Member Services Director, Oregon Wheat Growers League, 541-276-7330, (phone), 541-276-1723 (fax).
Mylen Bohle

Oregon Society of Weed Science Annual Meeting

The Oregon Society of Weed Science will be holding their Annual Meeting and Conference at Hood River on October 27-28. Membership is \$20 annually and the one and one half day conference cost is usually \$80. Agenda and registration details once updated will be located at <http://osws.hort.oregonstate.edu/>. Contact Andy Hulting at 541-231-7410 or email: andy.hulting@oregonstate.edu. Room reservations can be made at the Hood River Inn (1-800-828-7873)
Mylen Bohle

Tri-state Grain Growers Convention

The 2015 Tri-state Grains Conference will be held at the Davenport Grand Hotel, Spokane, WA, November 11-14, 2015. The theme is "States Without Borders". Some of highlights include Damian Mason, who delivers comedy and commentary with credibility (he is very good); Jolene Brown talking about "*Wrinkles of Wit and Wisdom*" (she is very good); Jack Bobo will present "*Can Ag Save the World Before It Destroys it?*"; and Mike Pearson will present "*What is Driving Agriculture in the Coming Year.*" Juke Box Heroes will provide the entertainments. Lots of other breakout sessions are scheduled. Idaho, Oregon, and Washington will hold their annual meetings at the conference. Full registration is \$210 per person. For more details go to <http://www.owgl.org/> or <http://www.wawg.org/convention>.

Mylen Bohle

2015 Oregon Hay King Contest

The Oregon Hay and Forage Association in cooperation with Oregon State University Extension Service and Oregon State University Agricultural Experiment Station is sponsoring the 2015 Oregon Hay King Contest which will be held on Saturday, November 14th at Klamath Basin Equipment, 4304 Hwy #39, Klamath Falls. Bale Delivery is 7:00-8:45 am and judging starts at 9:00 am and will conclude at 4:00 pm or earlier. There will be complimentary donuts and coffee in the morning, and lunch will be available.

The Hay King contest is an annual event where hay growers can not only show off their hay, but network with other growers, exchange ideas, and just celebrate the end of another year's harvest. The 2015 contest will be hosted by the Klamath Basin Hay Growers' Association.

The 7 hay classes to be judged will include: 1. dairy alfalfa 2. retail alfalfa 3. grass 4. grass/legume mix 5. cereal 6. cereal/legume (pea or vetch) mix 7. timothy

Entry forms, hay samples, and checks need be received by Friday, October 30th, to the Klamath Basin Research and Extension Center (KBREC). On November 14th, show up at Klamath Basin Equipment, 4304 Hwy #39, Klamath Falls with a bale from the stack you core-sampled earlier, and watch the judges feel, smell and paw through everyone's hay. It is a very educational day. The bales are judged and awarded points based on quality testing (RFQ score) and sensory evaluation.

The quality testing will be predicted by NIRS at the Klamath Basin Research and Extension Center. Hay quality parameters quantified will include crude protein, ADF, NDF, TDN, RFV, RFQ, ash, dNDF, NDFD and many more quality indicators. The RFQ nutrient analysis scores are combined with the sensory scores, to name a winner in each category. So enter one or more classes and be the next Hay King for a year.

Send hay core samples, entry form, and \$25 per entry to Hay King Contest c/o Klamath Basin Research and Extension Center, 6941 Washburn Way, Klamath Falls, OR 97603-9365. Checks should be made out to "Oregon Hay and Forage Association". All sizes of bales are eligible for competition.

Hay King Contest Rules

All contestants must enter a cored sample of their hay entry by the **October 30th deadline**. The cored sample can be sent directly to the contest Lab. Payment must be turned in with the cored hay samples and entry registration form.

Additionally, one bale, of each class of hay entered, must be in place at the contest location by 9 am, November 14th.

Cored hay samples must be a representative sample of the entire lot of hay. This means that:

- Multiple cored sub-samples (20) must be taken to make up your sample, rather than an entire flake, or a portion of a flake.
- The inside diameter of the coring device must be no less than 3/8 inches (if you don't have a coring device, contact your Extension office). Note the type & size of sampling device on your entry form.
- A minimum of 20 bales must be sampled at random from each lot of hay (a lot is hay from the same cutting, variety, field, stage of maturity, and harvested within the same day). A lot should not exceed 200 tons of hay, or be less than 30 tons.
- When sampling, probe the bale near the center, at least 12 to 18 inches into the butt end of the bale. The probe should enter horizontally at a right angle to the surface of the end of the bale. Be sure the probe doesn't slant up, down, or sideways.
- Combine core samples for each class entry into a single sample by combining them into a sealed freezer bag. Samples submitted with less than a quart bag full of sample may be rejected. (This equates to a minimum of about 200 grams or 1/2 lb or greater of sample material, if sampled properly) Do not ever try to subdivide the sample! It is impossible to subdivide the sample until it is ground. Even if you have too much, send the whole sample in.

If there is not a minimum of 2 entries in a class of hay, the classes may not be judged, this will be at the OHFA board's discretion. The submitter will be informed prior to the contest.

Web site for the Oregon Hay and Forage Association is: <http://www.oregonhaygrowers.com/>.

Mylen Bohle

Western States Alfalfa and Forage Symposium

The Western Alfalfa and Forage Symposium will be held at the Silver Legacy in Reno, NV December 2-4. The theme is "Producing Forages in a Water Challenged World". Wednesday, December 2 is the preconference *Irrigation Management Workshop*. Thursday and Friday, December 3-4, will feature presentations on alfalfa and other forages. This should be an excellent 2.5 days spent in Reno! Registration fee is \$375 for the 3 days or \$300 for the 2 days. Hotel Information, Agendas, and Registration at: <http://calhay.org/symposium/>

Mylen Bohle

Klamath Basin Forage Seminar

Plans are to hold a Klamath Basin Forage Seminar on Friday, November 13th, at the Klamath Basin Research and Extension Center. This forage seminar would precede the Oregon Hay King Contest being held on Saturday, November 14th in Klamath Falls. Details and agenda are still being worked on at this time. Questions: Contact Mylen Bohle at 541-447-6228 or mylen.bohle@oregonstate.edu.

Mylen Bohle

Alfalfa Intensive Training Seminar

The Alfalfa Intensive Training Seminar will be held on November 17-19, 2015 at the Hilton Fort Wayne at the Grand Wayne Convention, Fort Wayne Indiana. The seminar is taught by Extension Forage Specialists and USDA Dairy Research Center personnel from Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota. There will be 11.5 certified crop advisor credits offered.

Topics to be covered include: Genetics, Variety Testing & Selection Testing, Seed Production, Growth & Development, Forage Quality and Terms, Soils: Fertility and Manure Management, Establishment, Irrigation, Pest Management, Harvesting: Options, Losses, & Decisions, Mowing and Field Drying, Silage Preservation, Hay Preservation, Alfalfa in Rotations, Role of Alfalfa in Animal Diets, Alfalfa – Custom Harvesting, and Economics.

This is an outstanding, 16-hour training, if you want to increase your knowledge of alfalfa. I have taken the beginners and advanced courses and found the two workshops to be some of the most valuable time spent at any training. (My attendance at those trainings was made possible by Central Oregon Hay Growers Association paying my registration fees.)

“National Alfalfa and Forage Alliance’s (NAFA) mission is to ensure the ability of all segments of the alfalfa and forage industry to compete effectively and profitably, domestically and abroad. The objective of NAFA is to be a forum for consensus building among the various stakeholders and to be an effective advocate on behalf of the alfalfa and forage industry.” Contact the NAFA at 1-509-585-6798 or go to their website at www.alfalfa.org. The registration is \$550 prior to November 1st, or \$600 after that date.

Mylen Bohle

Planning your Conserved Forage Needs For Next Year’s Possible Drought

We don’t have a crystal ball, but a couple of thoughts come to mind in thinking about growing forage should we have limited water next year, should the drought continue.

One can plan to plant a winter cereal anytime between now and February. Options are winter triticale, wheat, barley, oat, and rye. The more winter hardy options (rye, triticale, and wheat) could be planted this Fall, and if need be, and if you have the irrigation water available, could be irrigated up as well as store some moisture in the field (depending upon soil depth). One can risk planting winter barley and oat early, but if cold weather happens, there is greater risk of winter kill.

The less (and more) winter hardy options could be planted after November 1, and allow them to germinate during the winter and come up after the usual coldest temperatures occur. We did this one year at COARC Madras – we planted around November 1 and the cereals came up around the first part of February. (Peas and vetch could be added to this mix)

If one wants to wait, you could wait until early winter to make a choice on cereal species and decision of when to plant, and hopefully have a better picture of water availability. After January 1st to March 1st, one could still plant winter cereals. But at this point, one might also think about Spring Triticale, which seems to almost require a bit of vernalization, if you want synchronized heading to occur. My experience has been that heading is more synchronized across the field, the earlier you plant spring triticale.

Next option is to wait until April, when irrigation water turns on, and we know more “exactly” the amount of water we will have to irrigate with. Cropping decisions can then be made on what to plant along with what spring cereal might work the best for your situation. Fertilizer decisions can also be made (March-April). If you are having problems with winter annual grasses, this might be a better option so you have mechanical or herbicidal options to lessen the weed effect prior to planting.

The earlier you plant this Fall and Winter, offer a great option if you are sure you will be short on water. With some fall rain, some winter precip, some spring rain (or no rain) and a couple of irrigations, one can harvest off cereals anywhere from late boot to soft dough. (one could also pasture off these cereals as well) Although harvesting at milk stage might be a better option for higher quality hay and leaving less grain in the field from shatter because of haying equipment operation. Nutrients are kept in the foliage more, rather than in the grain. If the grain is left in the field, there are less nutrients to feed your livestock.

Mylen Bohle

Fall Forage Management

We have about one month left of forage growth in our irrigated pastures and hay fields. How we manage these fields before the forage plants go dormant will determine how they perform next year.

Right now grass plants are growing new root systems and new tillers are being formed (since the end of August/first of September) these new tillers will be next year's grazing or hay production. If we have clipped or harvested to an inch or less that is not good plant management. This will restrict the root growth and tiller formation. While different plant species have different minimum grazing heights, they will perform optimally – around 3-4 inches minimum plant height going into the winter, that is what is needed for the majority of grass plants to function properly and optimally. Really, they do even better with higher and more plant height left behind. But, consideration of rodents and what do you do with last year's forage in next year's bales are considerations as well. (Orchardgrass, as one example, may not fully recover the carbohydrates and sugars it had prior to its harvest, until the first 5 leaves of the plant are formed during growth.)

Gene Pirelli, Regional Livestock and Forage Agent in Polk County shared an experience that he did a residual grazing height study with sheep, around 1995 in the Willamette Valley, which left different residual plant heights going into the winter in the Willamette Valley. What he found was that the pasture treatment with 4 inches or more of stubble height in the Fall, had graze-able forage 6 weeks earlier than the continuous grazed pasture the following spring.

Alfalfa – the whole time it is re-growing until it reaches a plant height of 6-8 inches is totally dependent upon root reserves. If alfalfa does not grow taller than the 6-8 inches, over about 6 weeks of regrowth time, to begin to replenish the root carbohydrates, then it goes through winter in its most weakened state. If we harvest off the alfalfa, and there is no regrowth, there will be no reduction in the carbohydrate storage. Once we frost down, and alfalfa goes dormant, then we can graze alfalfa and have less effect on it.

Mylen Bohle

Cereal Hay Testing!

There seems to be even more cereal hay around this cropping season and with the hotter growing conditions this summer, producers selling, and purchasers buying cereal hay, should be testing that hay for nitrates. Elevated nitrate levels in forage, is more of an issue for ruminant animals, while horses are much more tolerant of higher Nitrate levels in forage. Of course any grass, grass/alfalfa, and even alfalfa forage that was stressed for one reason or another, should also be tested.

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, Portland, OR. The C.O. hay market report can be freely accessed at the home page: http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ml_gr313.txt or if you want to go directly to the page to check on all of the different state markets, go to this web site: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/hay-reports>

Once you are signed up to participate in the hay market report if you would like to contribute to the report, someone from the office will call (or you can call) and inquire if you have sold hay, number of tons, 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 phone number is (503) 326-2237.

Mylen Bohle

2015 Cereal Variety Trial Update

The 2015 Oregon irrigated and dryland wheat variety trials yield and agronomic data are available at <http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/content/2015-oregon-elite-yield-trial-data>. There is no winter wheat yield data for Madras this year. If you are interested in barley; there are some new winter and spring forage and grain variety releases. Barley World website is <http://barleyworld.org/>

Mylen Bohle

2015 Oregon Hay Directory Available Soon

The 2015 Oregon Hay Directory should be available sometime in October. The hay directory is published by the Oregon Hay and Forage Association (Ph: 541-447-6228). The hay directories are sent out to most all of the dairies and some feed stores in Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and northern California, as well as to OHFA producer and industry members.

Mylen Bohle

Calendar

September

28 West Coast Irrigation Efficiency Webinar (see article)

October

15 Post-fire Grazing Field Tour. McDermett, NV/OR (see article)

15 Wheat Marketing Meeting (see article)

30-31 Oregon Society of Weed Science Annual Meeting. Hood River Inn, Hood River, <http://osws.hort.oregonstate.edu/> (see article)

30 Hay Quality Samples are due for Oregon Hay King Contest. (see article)

November

9-13 Irrigation Show & Education Conference. Long Beach, Calif (703) 536-7080 ext. 11, or go to www.irrigation.org.

11-14 Oregon/Idaho/Washington Tri-state Grains Conference. Davenport Hotel, Spokane, WA . <http://www.owgl.org/>

13 KBHGA Forage Seminar. Klamath Falls, OR (see article)

14 Oregon Hay King Contest. Klamath Falls, OR (see article)

17-19 Alfalfa Intensive Training Seminar. National Alfalfa and Forage Alliance. Fort Wayne, IN. <http://www.alfalfa.org/training.html> (see article)

26 Thanksgiving Holiday

December

TBA Washington Far West Conference, Red Lion Hotel, Pasco, WA

2-4 Western States Alfalfa and Forage Conference. Silver Legacy, Reno, NV. <http://calhay.org/symposium/> (see article)

17 Wheat Marketing Meeting (see article)

25 Christmas Holiday

January 2016

1 New Years Holiday

TBA Idaho Far West Winter Conference, College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls, ID

10-13 American Forage and Grassland Council Annual Conference. Baton Rouge, LA. www.afgc.org

TBA C.O. Forage Day. Prineville, OR (tentatively Scheduled)

29 C.O. Pesticide Conference. Deschutes County Fairgrounds, Redmond, OR

OSU/Deschutes County Extension Service
3893 SW Airport Way
Redmond, OR 97756