

Central Oregon Agriculture

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 2

MARCH / APRIL 2014

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Pruning in the Landscape

Date: Saturday, March 22, 2014

Time: 9:00 am—11:30 am

Location: Central Oregon Agricultural Research Center (COARC), 850 NW Dogwood Lane, Madras, Oregon

Cost: FREE

Registration: <https://secure.oregonstate.edu/osuext/register/698>

The workshop will include instruction and assistance from central Oregon Master Gardeners. There will be an hour of classroom instruction, followed by 1½ hours of hands-on learning in the Research Garden Learning Center. Participants will learn why and when they should prune along with basic pruning principles. During the hands-on section, participants will split into small groups and will have the opportunity to prune and observe pruning techniques for ornamental trees and fruit trees along with berries, shrubs and low growing plants.

Save this date: Saturday, May 10th, from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Jefferson County Extension Service will be hosting OSU Day at the Central Oregon Agricultural Research Center. All events are FREE for the day and include: gardening workshops, kids activities and crafts and much more! More information to follow! A day full of fun and learning brought to you by Jefferson County Extension Service.

Katie Ralls

Agricultural Business Plan Series

Join Patti Norris, COCC Small Business Development Center Educator, Prineville Campus, for the final class in this series of Saturday workshops.

April 19, 2014 - Marketing 101

9:00 a.m. to Noon at the COCC Crook County Open Campus building, 510 SE Lynn Blvd., Prineville, Oregon.

The Agricultural Business Plan Series is sponsored by the COCC Small Business Development Center, Central Oregon Sheep Growers and OSU/Crook County Extension Service.

[Registration](#) or *RSVP* to Pam Wiederholt at (541) 447-6228.

Pam Wiederholt



Crook County Extension Service “Centennial Anniversary Celebration” - FREE Bar-B-Q, Entertainment, and Pictures with a Donkey?

Date: Wednesday, May 7th, 2014

Time: 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Location: Crook County Courthouse Front Lawn, 300 NE Third St., Prineville, Oregon

As our way of giving back to the citizens of Crook County, the OSU/Crook County Extension Service would like to say “Thank

You” for a 100 years of support and invite all *past* and *present* Extension Agents and Staff, Colleagues, Volunteers, Supporters, Committee Members, Donors, Associations and *ALL* our local citizens to a Celebration! **FREE Hamburger and Hotdog Bar-B-Q** with entertainment provided by the **Sagebrush Shufflers** (you might just be asked to participate!), and a **1914 PHOTO BOOTH** with props (hats, boots, ponchos, you name it provided...even a live Donkey?), and “Flat Lucky 4-H Clover” with **OSU Benny Beaver**.

For more information or to *RSVP* contact Pam in the Crook County Extension office at (541) 447-6228 or pam.wiederholt@oregonstate.edu

Pam Wiederholt

Central Oregon Agriculture is a bi-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 office.

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- ◆ Pamela Wiederholt, Ag Newsletter Coordinator/ Webmaster, (541) 447-6228

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(all area codes are 541)

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Deschutes County Extension Service - Phone 548-6088, 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

- ◆ Marvin Butler, 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.

SWCD Schedules 2014 Landowners Workshops

Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District will be holding their Annual Landowner Workshop at the Powell Butte Elementary School in Powell Butte Oregon, on Wednesday, March 19, 2014. Presentations begin at 6:30 pm. Topics include: Scotch Thistle, Irrigation, Energy Improvements, and Water Quality Management. Please RSVP at (541) 447-3548.

Priscilla Johnson/SWCD Crook County

Recipe to Market --- Learn How to Take Your Food Concept to Market

Oregon State University's **Recipe to Market Online** provides an entrepreneurial foundation for developing and launching successful food business venture. Through lessons in start-up knowledge, food regulations, marketing and commercialization, these courses will teach students essential skills for navigating today's small food landscape. Gain behind the scenes access to successful food start-ups through real world case studies and interviews with professional entrepreneurs.

Food Innovation Center Field Trip

Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Location: Portland, Oregon

Cost: \$199 (Scholarships available)

Registration: Deadline April 21, 2014

Recipe to Market Online Classes

May 1: Brand and Market Planning

July 1: Development and Production

September 1: Business, Planning, Legality and Financing

For more information on all Recipe to Market Classes contact Alicia Winchester-Jantz at:

alicia.winchesterjantz@oregonstate.edu, (541) 447-9233.

Alicia Winchester-Jantz

Get Growing with OSU Gardening Classes

Learn how to grow your own food. The Central Oregon chapter of OSU Master Gardeners™ will offer a series of vegetable gardening classes, in both introductory and advanced levels, at several locations in Central Oregon this spring. Each class is two hours. Advance registration is required. To register, please visit: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes/garden-classes>. Advance registration is not necessary.

On April 19 the Central Oregon Master Gardener Association will present the Spring Gardening Seminar offering 16 classes and a garden market at the Deschutes Fair and Expo Center in Redmond. Registration information will be available soon at:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes/>.

Amy Jo Detweiler

Central Oregon Wine and Grape Growers

The Winegrowers Association of Central Oregon is planning some exciting events for the 2014 growing season. Whether you are interested in growing wine or table grapes, whether you have 5 grape plants or 15,000 grape plants, everyone is welcome! Go to their web site at: <http://www.centraloregonwineandgrape.com> or contact Kerry Damon, President, at (541) 771-7817 to talk about membership or upcoming meetings and educational events.

Mylon Bohle

Livestock Identification: Oregon Department of Agriculture

The question is, “who does this cow belong to”? The answer can be simplified if cattle owners take the proper steps over the next several months to identify their animals. The Oregon Department of Agriculture has advice for ranchers this time of year that can help avoid headaches when cattle are rounded up and readied for market later in the season. At the heart of the matter is the value and importance of brands.

“Our brand Inspectors are dealing with an increase in the number of ‘mistakes’ when cattle are being presented for brand inspection,” says ODA’s Rodger Huffman, manager of the Animal Identification Program. “Inspectors are identifying more and more cattle that belong to the neighbors. We understand this is the brand inspector’s job, however, we are asking for the industry’s assistance.”

There is nothing quite as effective as the old fashioned cattle brand and the work of ODA brand inspectors to help stolen or lost livestock get back to their rightful owners. But there are a number of ways producers can help themselves.

“While a brand is generally the ultimate determiner of ownership, other tools are just as important,” says Huffman. “We all know it is much more difficult to see and read brands in the winter months due to hair growth, inclement weather, and mud or manure covering brand locations. Producers can help avoid embarrassment by taking more time when handling and marking these cattle.”

Effective tools include earmarks— permanent cuts or marks in the ear of livestock— as well as ear tags, metal ID tags, and flesh marking. Ear tags should be unique in shape, color, size, or style for a geographic area. The same unique tag should be used consistently by individual producers. Metal tags should be placed in a unique location of the animal’s ear different from a neighbor’s livestock. These are available through ODA’s Animal Health Program office (call 503-986-4680). Flesh marking includes a fold of loose skin on the animals, such as wattles and dewlaps, that are unique to a producer’s livestock. Flesh marking can be listed with a registered brand by ODA.

“An involved producer knows the type of markings or tags used by his neighbors or other producers in the area, and makes an effort to mark his animals with something distinctly different,” says Huffman. “As they process this year’s calf crop and prepare to turn out the cows and bulls, producers should keep these suggestions in mind. Proper use of tags and/or flesh marking is an added insurance that an animal will return home.”

Huffman’s suggestions are prompted by a sense that the cattle industry is getting a bit lax with animal identification. The message is timed with the production of a new calf crop this winter and the preparation of adult cattle before they are turned out for grazing in a few months.

“We’re trying to get producers to think about the process they use to identify their cattle and to do a better job so there is a better likelihood they get their animals back,” says Huffman. One of the challenges is the prevalence of absentee owners or operations large enough to require multiple people to handle

the cattle. Often times, the final sorting of livestock before they are taken to sale is by somebody who isn’t the actual owner. The identification of the cattle is not obvious to these hired hands. So an animal identification system that can be recognized and understood by all employees and family members of the operation is important.

“We are getting further away from cattle owners directly managing their land and cattle,” says Huffman. “Now they have jobs off the ranch and other people help manage the cattle. That’s what is partly driving these problems— it’s other people involved in the operation who are being asked to properly identify the animals.”

The emphasis is still on the brand. Oregon has a vibrant livestock industry that depends on brand inspection. The problem is, too many owners of cattle and horses don’t know the value of the brand and don’t even know that they are required to have their animals inspected at certain times to ensure ownership.

“Brand inspection, as we say, is a cow or horse’s only return address,” says Huffman. “In a court of law, the brand is used as proof of ownership.”

With so many animals bought, sold, and transported across state lines, it is just as important today to be able to track livestock that may be missing or stolen as it was a hundred years ago when cattle rustling was a part of the old west. Whether it includes a running W, a lazy A, a bar, or a slash, the brand is unique to the owner and is recorded by ODA in a massive, electronic database. ODA registers brands on cattle, horses, and some sheep. Currently, there are a total of 10,989 active brands recorded— most involve cattle.

The application of animal brands is more prevalent east of the Cascades.

“Animals are more likely to be out on the range on the east side and commingling with another rancher’s cattle or may be out of sight from the owner’s view,” says Huffman. “They are more likely to be branded. Most Eastern Oregon producers do have a brand.”

Brands are not mandatory in Oregon, but state law does require that all cattle and horses, both branded and unbranded, be inspected before leaving the state, before being sold at an auction, before being taken to a slaughterhouse, and when change of ownership occurs (cattle only).

ODA’s brand inspection program is 100 percent fee supported and includes 65 inspectors statewide, four supervisors. Last year, the team inspected 1,134,000 cattle.

While a recorded brand is the most important way to assure animal ownership, the other identification tools being touted in ODA’s seasonal message are worthy of consideration.

“This year we hope there are a lot fewer mistakes and public embarrassment when you have to return the neighbor’s animal you just tried to market,” says Huffman.

For more information, contact Rodger Huffman at (541) 663-0199.

For an audio version of this story, please go to: http://oregon.gov/ODA/Pages/news/140212cattle_id_audio.aspx

Tim Deboodt

Investing in Forage/Livestock Research

The Departments of Animal and Rangeland Sciences and Crop and Soil Science provides unbridled opportunities for students, animal and crop science research, ranchers and farmers around Oregon and the Northwest. Forages are Oregon's number one crop. When pasture land, hay, rangeland, forest grazing and rough land forages for wildlife are considered, forage production far exceeds all other crops in Oregon, yet this is an area of agriculture that is in most need of funding for research and extension support.

Support to a Fund of this nature would be to provide for local forage research and extension activities, that will enhance the ability of Oregon State University to serve the forage/livestock industries of Oregon. Funding will focus on multi-disciplinary efforts on finding solutions for Northwest forage and livestock production systems and will link these activities with efforts in other parts of the US and the world.

Sam and Alice Dinsdale Hay Grower's Match

Sam and Alice Dinsdale have been generous supporters to Forage/Livestock Research. To get others aware of the impact it has on the industry, they are interested in offering a matching program in support for both Central Oregon Hay Growers' Association (COHGA) and the Klamath Basin Hay Growers' Association (KBHGA).

Sam and Alice will match dollar for dollar up to \$500 for each association, annually, from producers in both associations to be used for forage/livestock research.

The opportunity to send such support would coincide along with the membership dues process in your respective associations. You can send in your donation for this local annual investment, and your local association treasurer will tally up the donations for the match. These funds would then be deposited in respective Ag Research Foundation forage account funds for COARC or KBREC at OSU.

There is a strong need for forage research investment dollars locally and on an annual basis. We hope you will consider investing in your forage industry future.

The Dinsdale's believe that they have in the past, and will in the future, derive valuable information from the forage research programs at the OSU Klamath Basin Research and Extension Center and the Central Oregon Ag Research Center, as well from the OSU Extension Service.

To learn more about the Dinsdale Match please contact: Mylen Bohle at (541) 447-6228 or Mylen.Bohle@oregonstate.edu

Mylen Bohle and Jack Holpuch

T-Sum Growing Degrees Up-Date

T-Sum N Timing for grass pastures location and dates for N application if you want to shift forage production earlier:

Madras 3/9, Prineville 3/5, Redmond 3/5, Powell Butte 3/5, Bend 3/5, Paulina 3/9 (?), Christmas Valley 317 gdd's, Fort Rock 335 gdd's, and Seneca 184 gdd's (as of March 9, 2014). For previous year(s) comparison go to:

[T-Sum Growing Degrees Update.pdf](#).

Mylen Bohle

Irrigated Pasture and Grazing Management Class

Date: Tuesday, March, 25, 2014
Time: 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Location: Redmond Public Library Meeting Room, 827 Deschutes Ave, Redmond, OR
Cost: \$10.00.
Registration: March 21, 2014
Contact: Tammy Harty, Deschutes County SWCD, (541) 923-2204 or cell (541) 815-8733.

Class will be a power point presentation concerning all aspects of irrigated pasture production and grazing animals properly on an irrigated pasture to optimize production. The class is for all levels of producer knowledge (which makes for even better discussion).

We will hold several irrigated pasture and grazing management sessions on-farm ~ in Redmond area, during the spring summer, and fall months.

We will meet in the late afternoon / early evening, walk through an irrigated pasture and talk about what is happening with the plants (top growth and root growth), watch animals graze, check grazing height, hear the management goals of the producer, and evaluate the irrigation management (locations TBA), etc.

OSU/Crook County Extension Service and the Deschutes County Soil and Water Conservation District are co-sponsoring the class and on-farm field day sessions.

Tammy Harty and Mylen Bohle

2013 Spring Wheat Variety Results

The Oregon Elite Wheat Yield Trials (OWEYT), test weight, plant height, percent lodging, and protein percentage data for the spring wheat varieties tested across Oregon are located at <http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/wheat/> (winter and spring variety performance and data). The data also includes the last 3 year averages.

Mylen Bohle

Cover Crops

Interested in learning more about cover crops? *Managing Cover Crops Profitably* (Published 2007, Third Edition) explores how and why cover crops work, and provides all the information needed to build cover crops into any farming operation. Along with detailed management information on the most commonly used species—including grasses, grains, brassicas and mustards, and legumes—[Managing Cover Crops Profitably.pdf](#) offers chapters on the role of cover crops in broader topics such as crop rotations, pests and conservation tillage. It also has appendices on seed suppliers and regional experts. To order your own copy go to the following link: <http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/Managing-Cover-Crops-Profitably-3rd-Edition> or call (301) 779-1007 or email: sarepubs@sare.org.

Why use cover crops in vegetable rotations?

Vegetable production involves many practices that compromise soil health, and therefore limit productivity. New York soils are less forgiving of such practices than many other regions. Therefore, leading vegetable growers want to overcome this barrier to success with practices that maintain soil health. Some of the management goals for which farmers use cover crops include: suppressing weeds, protecting soil from rain or runoff, improving soil aggregate stability, reducing surface crusting, adding active organic matter to soil, breaking hardpan, fixing nitrogen, scavenging soil nitrogen, suppressing soil diseases and pests.

This Cornell website is part of a project that enables growers to use a broader range of cover crops to improve soil health by biological means. It will complement the chemical (fungicide) and physical (tillage) methods that are being developed. It will also take advantage of the Cornell Soil Health Team's new diagnostic tool for determining which aspects of soil health need improvement. Our goal is to provide a key component of an integrated management recommendation for growers. <http://www.hort.cornell.edu/bjorkman/lab/covercrops/>

Other sites to get you started checking out cover crops: <http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Topic-Rooms/Cover-Crop-Topic-Room> Cover crop Topic Room from Western SARE, <http://www.mccc.msu.edu/> Midwest Cover Crops Council, <http://plants.usda.gov/java/coverCrops> USDA List of Cover Crops, and [Cover Crop Information Links.pdf](#) by Mary Beth Smith, NRCS, Moro, Oregon.

Mylen Bohle

Calendar 2014

March

14 COHGA Annual Meeting and Banquet, Sisters, Oregon (see article back page).

15 Living On A Few Acres (LOAFA) Expo. & Trade Show, Redmond, Oregon (see article page 2).

17-18

Great Basin Native Plant Project Annual Meeting, Boise, ID. For more information go to: <http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/research/shrub/greatbasin.shtml>.

19 SWCD Landowners Workshop, Powell Butte, Oregon (see article page 2).

22 Pruning in the Landscape, Madras, Oregon (see article front page).

April

19 Ag Business Plan Series, Prineville, Oregon (see article front page).

19 Spring Gardening Seminar, Redmond, Oregon (see article page 2).

25 Irrigated Pasture and Grazing Management Field Day, Redmond, Oregon (see article page 4).

May

TBA Irrigated Pasture and Grazing Management Field Day, Redmond, Oregon (see article page 4).

1 Recipe to Market Online Class (see article page 2).

6 Food Innovation Center Field Trip, Portland, Oregon (see article page 2).

7 **Crook County Extension Service “100th Anniversary Celebration”, Prineville, Oregon (see article front page).**

10 OSU Day, Madras, Oregon (see article front page).

June

10 OSU Pendleton Field Day. For more information go to: <http://cbarc.aes.oregonstate.edu/announcements/pendleton-and-moro-field-days>.

11 OSU Moro Field Day. For more information go to: <http://cbarc.aes.oregonstate.edu/announcements/pendleton-and-moro-field-days>.

July

TBA Irrigated Pasture and Grazing Management Field Day, Redmond, Oregon (see article page 4).

1 Recipe to Market Online Class (see article page 2).

September

1 Recipe to Market Online Class (see article page 2).

PNW Certified Forage Testing Labs

The certified forage testing labs can be found at National Forage Testing Association (NFTA). The labs are certified annually and have to test 8 samples for dry matter, crude protein, ADF, and NDF and receive a "C" or higher grade, averaged across all 8 samples for certification. The 8 samples represent 5 alfalfa samples (one of which contains at least 20% grass), 1 grass sample, and 2 corn silage samples. There is a cost to certify which is \$500 for either NIRS or chemistry or \$600 for both. Applications have to be in by February 1, and payment made by February 15 to participate. The samples are sent out in sets of two in different months. If you are interested in other labs or other information from, or about the NFTA, check out their web site: <http://foragetesting.org/>. Also check out their list of Hay Probes, and "Proper Sampling Methods Improve Accuracy of Lab Testing" information.

Mylen Bohle

COHGA Annual Meeting and Banquet

The Central Oregon Hay Growers' Association will hold their Annual Meeting and Banquet on Friday, March 14, 2014, at the Brand 33, Aspen Lakes, 16900 Aspen Lakes Drive, Sisters, Oregon. Social hour begins at 6:00 pm and a southwest fajita buffet will start at 6:30 pm and business meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

"Weather and Climate: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow" will be the topic delivered by key note speaker George Taylor. Mr. Taylor is President of Applied Climate Services of Corvallis, Oregon, specializing in extreme precipitation analyses and forensic meteorology. Prior to founding ACS in 2008, Taylor served as State Climatologist for Oregon for 19 years. He has been active in meteorology and climatology since 1971. Mr. Taylor is a Certified Consulting Meteorologist (CCM), the professional certification of the American Meteorological Society (AMS). He has written two books, The Oregon Weather Book and The Climate of Oregon.

Cost for the evening is \$25.00 per person for COHGA members; \$30.00 for non-members. Please RSVP to the OSU Crook County Extension Service office at (541) 447-6228. We absolutely need your reservation no later than Noon Thursday, March 13, 2014. You may pay at the door, but we reserve the right to bill you if you do not show. Please join us in a fun and informative evening!

Pat Albertson/Secretary and Greg Mohnen/President, COHGA

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This publication will be made available in accessible formats upon request. Please call (541) 447-6228 for information. If you have a physical disability that requires special considerations in order for you to attend an event, please notify Pam Wiederholt at (541) 447-6228, three (3) days prior to event date.

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