



Oregon State University Extension Service

# Central Oregon Agriculture

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## Census Countdown Begins for America's Farmers and Ranchers

America's farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to make a positive impact on their communities by taking part in the 2012 Census of Agriculture. Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census is a complete count of all U.S. farms, ranches and those who operate them.

It is important that all growers, state farmers, women farmers and ranchers respond. "Census information is our voice and helps us to shape our farm future as agricultural producers.

"The Census remains the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation," said Renee Picanso, director of NASS's Census and Survey Division. "It's a critical tool that gives farmers a voice to influence decisions that will shape the future of their community, industry and operation."

The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. This information is used by all those who serve farmers and rural communities from federal, state and local governments to agribusinesses and trade associations. For example, legislators use the data when shaping farm policy and agribusinesses factor it into their planning efforts.

"Your answers to the Census impact farm programs and rural services that support your community," Picanso said. "So please do your part and be counted when you receive your form, because there's strength in numbers that only the Census can reveal."

In 2007, U.S. farmers reported over two million farms, spanning across more than 922 million acres. This showed nearly a four percent increase in the number of U.S. farms from the previous Census in 2002. These new farms tended to have more diversified production, fewer acres, lower sales and younger operators who also worked off-farm. This telling information and thousands of statistics are only available every five years as a direct result of farmer responses to the Census.

NASS mailed out Census forms in late December, to collect data for the 2012 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2013. Producers can fill out the Census online via a secure website, [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov), or return their form by mail. Federal law requires all agricultural producers to participate in the Census and requires NASS to keep all individual information confidential.

For more information, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov). The Census of Agriculture is your voice, your future, your responsibility. *USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).*

*Mylen Bohle*

## Celebrating Agriculture/Friday, January 25, 2013

SAIF Corporation and the Agribusiness Banquet is featuring comedian Jerry Carroll, who is "farm raised and certified funny". When he is not on the road making people laugh, he still works the fields of the family farm. There is a social hour at 6:00 pm and dinner at 7:00 pm. The banquet will take place at the Salem Conference Center. Cost is \$40 or \$400 for a table of ten. Call (503) 581-1466 ext. 310, or go to [www.saifagribusiness.com](http://www.saifagribusiness.com).

*Mylen Bohle*

## Multi-Peril Crop Insurance Program

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

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

*Jo Lynne Seufer, Risk Mgmt. Specialist, USDA /1-800-205-9953*

**"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, 447-6228

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- Deschutes County** Extension Service - Phone 548-6088, 3893 SW Airport Way, Redmond, OR 97756
- Jefferson County** Extension Service - Phone 550-4130, 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/coarcl/index.php>

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- Toni Stephan - Horticulture and Small Farms Instructor, 548-6088

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.

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OSU Extension programs will provide reasonable accommodations to persons with physical or mental disabilities. Contact your local Extension office to request reasonable accommodations.

## Oregon Small Farms Conference – Saturday, March 2, 2013

Registration has opened for the 13th Annual Oregon Small Farms Conference being held at the LaSells Stewart Center, 826 SW 26th Street, OSU Campus, Corvallis, Oregon.

#### 8:00 am

- \* Registration and Refreshments

#### 9:30 am - 10:30 am

- \* *Keynote: Greenhorns and Grayhorns:* featuring 4 different author/producers
- \* *Concurrent Sessions*

#### 11:00 am to 12:20 am

- \* Greenhorns and Grayhorns: Continuing the Conversation
- \* Selling Farm products via the Internet
- \* Useful Record Keeping for Vegetable Growers
- \* Starting a Farmer Network
- \* More Than an Apple A day: Farmers' Market Partnerships with Health Providers
- \* Pasture Management 101: Maximize Production for Profit
- \* Managing Insect Pests on Small Vegetable Farms

#### 12:20 pm to 1:30 pm - Lunch

#### 1:30 pm to 2:50 pm

- \* Connecting to Land: Finding, Leasing, and Purchasing Agricultural Land
- \* Systems Weed Management on Vegetable Farms: Learning from Case Studies
- \* Small Farms at the Legislature
- \* Growing the Willamette Valley Bean and Grain Economy
- \* Oh SNAP! How to Navigate SNAP Payments for CSA Shares and Increase Your Membership
- \* Pasture Management 201: Strategies for Experienced Grazers
- \* On Farm Composting and Clean Water

#### 3:10 pm to 4:30 pm

- \* Visual Soil Assessment in Pastures and Cultivated Crops
- \* Basics of Artisan Cheese Making
- \* Seed Saving on the Farm
- \* What is AgrAbility & How can I Help
- \* Managing Breeding for Pasture-based Production
- \* Should I think About Using a Distributor?
- \* From Field to Jar: Value-added Consideration for Growers & Market Managers

This OSU Extension Service's Small Farms Program event is geared toward farmers, agriculture professionals, food policy advocates and managers of farmers markets. Speakers will include farmers, OSU faculty, representatives from the Oregon Department of Agriculture, and the Oregon Farmers' Markets Association.

The cost, which includes lunch, is \$50 per person or \$90 for two people from the same farm or organization through Feb. 15. Cost rises to \$60 per individual on Feb. 16, and will be \$75 at the door. To register: go to <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/sfc>.

*Toni Stephan*

## Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District Paulina Oregon Landowners Meeting/ Thursday, January 21, 2013

Please contact Priscilla Johnson at (541) 447-3548 for more information.

## Central Oregon Forage Day/Saturday, January 26, 2013

The Central Oregon Forage Day will be held at the COCC Crook County Open Campus Building at 510 SE Lynn Blvd. in Prineville, Oregon (next to Crook County Extension office). *The event is Free to attend.* The Forage Day is sponsored by the Central Oregon Hay Growers' Association in cooperation with Oregon State University Extension Service and supported by additional financial support from several local agribusinesses.

- 9:00 am Harvesting Hay: How to Calculate Net Returns for Custom Versus Owner Harvesting, Kate Painter, Agricultural Economist, University of Idaho, Moscow
- 10:30 am Best Management Practices for Export Alfalfa-Concerning GMO's, Steve Norberg, WSU Regional Forage and Cropping Systems Specialist, Pasco\*\*
- 11:00 am Improving Irrigation and Energy Efficiency Cost Share Programs, Ulrike Mengelberg, Energy Trust of Oregon, and Charlie Hanna, WY'EAST
- 11:30 am Alfalfa Variety Trial Results and Future, Steve Norberg, WSU \*\*
- Noon Lunch – Sponsored by local agribusinesses
- 1:00 pm Soybeans for Hay and Silage, Steve Norberg, WSU \*\*
- 1:30 pm TBA (Legislative Update?)
- 2:00 pm Hay Seller Beware, Jim Hensley, Crook County Sherriff
- 2:30 pm Break
- 3:00 pm Herbicide Resistance: Tools Available for Prevention, Gustavo Sbatella, COARC\*\*
- 3:30 pm Forage Pests, Control and Product Efficacy Updates Panel, Gustavo Sbatella, COARC, Mike Knepp, Wilbur Ellis, Co., Scott Simmons, Helena Chemical\*\*
- 4:30 pm Adjourn

\*\*A total of 2 pesticide recertification credits from ODA will be available.

**Door Prize!** \$500 gift certificate from Pro-Line Fabrication; must be active 2013 COHGA member to win.

To *pre-register* (helps us prepare for lunch, breaks, and handouts), or if you would like to help sponsor the event, contact the OSU/Crook County Extension Service at (541) 447-6228.

*Mylen Bohle*

## GAP? or GHP?

Are you interested in learning more about Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and/or Good Handling Practices (GHP)? Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council is hosting a FREE workshop in Mid-March (exact date and time TBD) with the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture to assist producers with understanding and moving forward with a certified audit. If you are interested in participating in this workshop please contact Katrina Van Dis at [kvandis@coic.org](mailto:kvandis@coic.org) or (541) 504-3307. For more information on GAP or GHP, please visit [http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/CID/pages/ghp\\_gap.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/CID/pages/ghp_gap.aspx).

*Katrina Van Dis, COIC*

## Washington Swine Information Day/Friday, February 1, 2013

The Washington Swine Information Day will be from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm at the Pillar Rock Grill, Moses Lake Golf and Country Club, 1373 Rd. F.2 NE, Moses Lake, WA. Registration is \$15-\$25 prior to January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Dr. Chris Hostetler, National Pork Board Director of Animal Science and former WSU Swine Center Manager, will be the featured speaker. Information is for commercial and small producers, niche pork marketers, Ag educators, Agency Reps, youth producers, and fair and junior show reps. Agenda and information: call 509-754-2011 ext. 413 or email [smithsm@wsu.edu](mailto:smithsm@wsu.edu) or go to : <http://www.animalag.wsu.edu/Upcoming%20Events/2013WASwineInfoDay.pdf>.

*Sarah Smith, WSU Grant Adams Extension, WSU*

## Upcoming Wheat Marketing Meeting/Thursday, February 21, 2013

The meetings are broadcast over polycom at the Central Oregon Ag Research Center in Madras, (541) 475-7107 and at the 4-H Clover Club building in Prineville, (541) 447-6228. The meetings start at 8:00 am and run until 9:00 am.. The Oregon Wheat League and the OSU Extension Service is sponsoring the program. Call (541) 447-6228 if you would like to be added to an email list for notification reminders.

*Mylen Bohle*

## Idaho Hay and Forage Conference & Trade Show/Thursday & Friday, February 28-March 1, 2013

Topics include: How to price and market alternative forages, premium hay pricing as an alternative to corn, corn silage variety trials, alfalfa variety trials, heating effects on forage quality, micro and macro crop nutrients, insect pest workshop, risk management workshop, fertilizer supply and cost trends, managing your forage operation to save fuel, innovations in forage and grain harvesting technology, western hay price and supply, hot topics discussion, and forage trends survey. For more information go to: <http://www.idahohay.com/>, or call the administrative office at (208) 888-0988, or email [cindy@amgidaho.com](mailto:cindy@amgidaho.com).

*Mylen Bohle*

## Central Oregon Pest Management Course - Friday, Feb. 1, 2013

The Central Oregon Pest Management Course will be held at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds Expo Center, South Sister Bldg., 3800 SE Airport Way, Redmond, Oregon.

7:15 am - Registration

8:00 am - Implications of Pesticides for Bees - Allan Felsot, Professor, Entomology and Environmental Toxicology, WSU

8:45 am - Roadside Vegetation Management, Tools, Techniques and Best Management Practices - Will Lackey, Vegetation Management Coordinator, Oregon Department of Transportation

9:30 am - Importance of Weather & Site Assessments - Allan Felsot, Professor, Entomology and Environmental Toxicology, WSU

10:15 am - Break

10:30 am - Aluminum Phosphide Fumigant Hazards and Management Plans: Real Stories from Eastern Oregon – Leilani Monson, RN, Senior Health Compliance Officer, OR-OSHA

11:15 am - Recent Pesticide Stream Monitoring Data for Oregon Conducted as Part of the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program - Kevin Masterson, Department of Environmental Quality, Toxics Coordinator

12:00 - Lunch (*included in registration*)

1:00 am - Determining the Efficacy Cost of Pocket Gopher Control Practices - Steve Orloff, County Director/Farm Advisor, Cooperative Extension, Siskiyou County, California

1:45 pm - Regulatory Update for Applicators: Violations, Lessons Learned and Upcoming Label and Regulation Changes - ODA Representative

2:30 pm - Break

2:45 pm - Annual Grass Control in Rangeland and Pastures - Dan Comingore, Wilbur Ellis

3:30 pm - Spray Droplet Size and the Impact on Herbicide Efficacy - Gustavo Sbatella, Central Oregon Agricultural Research Center, OSU

4:15 pm - Ventenata and Medusahead Range Weed Plot Trials: Practical Applications - Fara Brummer, Ag/Natural Resources and County Leader, OSU Extension Warm Springs

5:00 pm -Adjourn

Pest Management Course Registration is \$65 (after Jan. 26 - \$75). We have applied for 8 pest recertification credits for Oregon, Washington & Idaho. Mail registration information (name, business name, address, phone number, email, etc.) and payment (*payable to: OSU C.O. Pest Mgmt. Course*) to Linda Parks, IPPC/OSU, 2040 Cordley Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331-2915, or for more information call (541) 737-6273.

*Tim Stock, Linda Ahlvin, & Mylen Bohle*

## Urban Ag Conference

The CO Food Policy Council is planning a spring workshop centered on urban agriculture. This short survey is designed to determine interests of participants so that we can tailor the schedule of events toward the most popular topics. Please participate.

Survey @ <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XLJSQYQ>

How important is urban agriculture to the resiliency of Central Oregon cities? What are the barriers to developing a healthy system? Are we doing everything we can to support urban agriculture?

*Daniel Hammer, (541) 848-11435/COCC*

## Enterprise Feasibility Workshop Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Time: 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Location: Deschutes County Extension Office, 3893 SW Airport Way, Redmond

Fee: \$20 (includes dinner)

Learn to estimate enterprise net returns, cost of production, breakeven prices and risk exposure, machinery costs and more, using RightRisk enterprise analysis tools. Learn to analyze your own records and see how your operation compares to others.

Instructors: John Hewlett, Ranch/Farm Management Specialist, University of Wyoming and Jay Parsons, Agricultural Economist, Colorado State University (Workshop sponsored by USDA Risk Management Agency and Oregon State University Extension Service).

To Register: Call Reza Mansur, (541) 548-6088 by 5:00 p.m., March 1, 2013 or for more information contact Toni Stephan at [toni.stephan@oregonstate.edu](mailto:toni.stephan@oregonstate.edu).

*Toni Stephan*

## Living on a Few Acres/Saturday, March 16, 2013

Time: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: Deschutes County Fairgrounds & Expo Center, Middle and South Sister Buildings, 3800 SE Airport Way, Redmond.

Living on a Few Acres (LOAFA) is a one-day conference which targets small acreage landowners and farmers of all sizes. Over 32 classes will be offered to provide opportunities to learn about field management, small acreage concerns, growing specialty crops, animal health and nutrition, tractor safety and driving, water rights and wildlife control and enhancement.

New classes this year will feature save water, save energy concepts, small scale composting, animal disaster evacuation strategy and farming for beneficial insects. Livestock classes covering poultry, beef, meat goat production and poisonous plants will be offered as well as equine sessions featuring alternative care therapy.

Farmer and Business Trade Show: If you are interested in having a booth at the trade show, contact Toni Stephan at (541) 548-6088 or @ [toni.stephan@oregonstate.edu](mailto:toni.stephan@oregonstate.edu) for more information.

The conference is in partnership with OSU Extension Service, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Deschutes County Soil and Water Conservation District, Deschutes County Weed and Vegetation Management, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District, Oregon Fish and Wildlife, Central Oregon Irrigation District, and Deschutes River Conservancy.

On-line Registration: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes> (registration opens Jan 21, 2013).

*Toni Stephan*

### **9th Annual Cattleman's Workshop/Saturday, January 19, 2013**

Time: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: Blue Mountain Conference Center, 404 12<sup>th</sup> Street, La Grande, OR

Fee: FREE!

Opportunities for the Northwest Cow/Calf Producer in a Changing World. Workshop classes will include: Megatrends in Agriculture, The Pacific NW Beef Industry: Future, Trends and Opportunities, Economist Outlook for the North American Beef Industry, Dealing with Drought and High Feed Prices; Padlock Ranch Perspective, Cow/Calf Production Reproductive Management for a Successful Bottom Line; A North Dakota Perspective, Current & Future Opportunities in Our Beef Industry; NCBA Perspective, and a panel discussion and wrap-up.

No pre-registration; for more information, please contact Kim McKague or Tim DelCurto at (541) 562-5129 or <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/eoarcunion>.

*Tim Deboodt*

### **Regional Grazing Conference/Workshop Series/Grazing in Nature's Image/Thursday & Friday, January 24 & 25, 2013**

Time: 8:00 am—6:00 pm

Location: Walla Walla Community College, 500 Tausick Way, Walla Walla, Washington

Fee: \$199 per person, snacks and lunch included

To introduce planned grazing and holistic management to PNW citizens to build interest and momentum; facilitate meaningful discussions with a variety of important producers, professionals, and science, carbon sequestration, and global food security; and announce upcoming, in-depth, multi-day workshops and demonstrations on working in context, planned grazing, financial planning, biological monitoring, and other related topics. To pre-register go to: [www.savoryinstitute.com/wallawalla](http://www.savoryinstitute.com/wallawalla).

*Mylene Bohle*

### **Soil Quality Network 2013 Workshop/Thursday & Friday, February 28 & March 1, 2013**

Location: McMenamins Edgefield, 2126 S.W. Halsey St., Troutdale, Oregon

Fee: \$75 to \$200 per person (depending on sign-up); early registration ends on February 8<sup>th</sup>

Dig deep with the Soil and Water Conservation Society and the Oregon Society of Soil Scientists to broaden your horizons of our soil and water planet. This year they are bringing you sessions and speakers for two winding, twisting, and intersecting tracks. One track for those who are more interested in the soil quality network and how to engage soil stewards in a conversation about improving soil quality; and another track for those more interested in "geeking" out on soils, where they came from, why they're here, and what they're good for. Of course you don't have to pick one or the other, you will be encouraged, to mix, match, and mingle.

Attendees: Farmers and ranchers, NRCS and SWCD conservation planners, Extension staff, crop consultants, field representatives, soil scientists, soil quality specialists, federal, state and county agency agricultural staff, as well as third party certifiers and inspectors. Registration is The agenda is in the "Inceptisols" phase, check back often for updates as they weather more developed features - <http://www.oregonsoils.org/>.

*Mylene Bohle*

### **Up-Coming Pesticide Classes in Bend**

#### **Pesticide Applicator Laws & Safety – Friday, March 15, 8am-5pm at COCC Bend \$99**

A review of federal and state pesticide laws, regulations and safe use to prepare for the Oregon commercial pesticide certification exam in Laws and Safety. Available for 8 hours of recertification credit for Oregon applicators or consultants and 8 hours technical continuing education for landscape contractors through the Oregon LCB. Required book: Oregon Pesticide Safety Ed Manual (EM 8850). Advance study materials will be mailed. Registration/refund deadline March 4 to receive study packet. Exam offered by COCC's Testing Center (in COCC Barber Library) immediately following class (5:30-8:30 pm). Bring \$25 cash or check payable to COCC Testing Center for test.

#### **Pesticide Applicator-Herbicide (Ornamental/Turf) – Friday, April 19, 8am-5pm at COCC Bend \$99**

Covers the use of herbicides in the establishment and maintenance of ornamental plants and turf to prepare for the Oregon pesticide certification exam in the Ornamental Turf: Herbicide category. Available for 8 hours of recertification credit for Oregon applicators or consultants and 8 hour technical continuing education for landscape contractors through the Oregon LCB. Advance study materials will be mailed. Registration/refund deadline 4/8/13 to receive pre-study material. Bring a calculator; all materials and books included in course fee. Prerequisite: Pesticide Applicator Laws & Safety License. Exam offered by COCC's Testing Center (located in COCC Barber Library) immediately following class (5:30-8:30 pm). Bring \$25 cash or check payable to COCC Testing Center for test.

**Preregistration required. Call (541) 383-7270.**

*Mylene Bohle*

## Northwest Hay Expo & Trade Show/Wednesday & Thursday, January 16 & 17, 2013

Time: 7:30 am - 4:30 pm Fee: \$85 to \$200

Location: Thee River Convention Center, Kennewick, WA

More than 20 speakers and over 60 vendors representing seeds, fertilizers, soil and tissue testing, hay analysis, haying equipment, irrigation systems, hay sheds, tarp systems, and ag lenders will participate.

Topics include: preparing for farm transition, the power of life insurance, four more years of Obama-dodging the "tax the rich" bullet, managing the family farm, economics of 3 cut vs. 4 cuttings, alfalfa variety trials, biology and management of aphid and weevil pests of alfalfa, stem nematode: can it be defeated?, progress in breeding for pea aphid resistance, weed control in teff, fertilizer, exporter uses, double cutting, no-till timothy into alfalfa, roundup ready BMP's, pesticide tolerances in forage crops, soybeans for hay or intercropped with corn for silage, stack yard preparation and maintenance, cutting management for biomass and traditional alfalfa varieties, Jolene Brown Workshop – "if we huff and puff, will we blow your house down?", the game changers: the supply, demand, shifts that may affect fuel prices, as the pivot wheel turns, and forage export situation. For more information: go to:

<http://www.wa-hay.org/> or call (509) 585-5460.

*Mylon Bohle*

## North American Farm Direct Marketing Convention/Friday thru Wednesday, February 1-6, 2013

Portland Doubletree Hilton Hotel, Portland, OR. Details @

<http://www.nafdma.com/PNW2013/>

*Mylon Bohle*

## Northwest Direct Seed Cropping Conference/Wednesday & Thursday, February 6 & 7, 2013

Time: 9:00 am–9:00 pm Fee: \$200

Location: Spokane Convention Center, Spokane, Washington

The U.N. has challenged the Agriculture Industry to double food production by 2050; in anticipation of meeting the nutritional requirements of an anticipated 9.5 billion people. Agenda, general information and lodging information is available at <http://www.directseed.org/> or contact: (208) 995-6335 or email to [PNDSA@directseed.org](mailto:PNDSA@directseed.org).

*Mylon Bohle*

## Beef Cattle A.I. Course/Wednesday thru Friday, March 27-29, 2013

Time: 8:30 am—4:30 pm Fee: TBA

Location: Douglas County Extension Office, 1134 SE Douglas, Roseburg, Oregon

This 3-day school is designed to enable the producer to effectively artificially inseminate cows. Anatomy, physiology, and nutrition as it pertains to efficient reproduction in cattle, equipment and supplies and technique for AI, including practice on cows, will be covered. Each morning, there will be an indoor class at the Roseburg Extension office, followed by an outdoor afternoon session at a local ranch. High school and college students are encouraged to seek sponsorship through your local Livestock Associations. All successful participants will be awarded an AI Certificate.

Please contact Shelby Filley at the Douglas County OSU Extension office at (541) 672-4461 or email to [Shelby.filley@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Shelby.filley@oregonstate.edu). A flyer will be posted soon @ <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/lf/ewtc>.

*Shelby Filley, Douglas County Extension Service*

## Cows That Eat Juniper Risk Losing Calves

Cows that eat bark, berries or branches from western juniper trees late in pregnancy are more likely to abort their calves or give birth early, Oregon State University researchers have discovered.

The tree's harmful effect on pregnant cattle was unknown until an eastern Oregon veterinarian noticed a pattern of lost calves and asked the OSU Extension Service about it.

"People had always wondered what happened to the five to 10 percent of cows with lost pregnancies," said Tim Deboodt, a range management specialist with Extension in Crook County. "So we started our research from scratch on a tip."

OSU researchers pinpointed that western juniper contains toxins known as labdane acids. These chemical compounds constrict the flow of oxygen to a fetus. In the early 1970s, labdane acids, specifically isocupressic acid, were identified in ponderosa pine needles, which trigger premature birth in cows in a condition called pine needle abortion.

Two of the six heifers OSU researchers monitored lost calves after eating western juniper during the last 30 days of pregnancy. Only a small percentage of calves born early because of juniper or pine needles are likely to survive without intensive care, said Cory Parsons, a livestock specialist with Extension in Baker County.

OSU researchers are now conducting a larger study to examine juniper's effect on more than 20 cows in late pregnancy. Results are expected by summer 2013.

Oregon State researchers will also analyze if juniper consumption inhibits conception or bears any consequences early in pregnancy. Based on prior knowledge about pine needles, OSU researchers suspect that juniper is most likely to cause cows to abort during the last trimester of gestation – when fetuses need the most oxygen.

OSU's juniper research has been supported through a number of grants from the Oregon Beef Council and published in a handful of academic journals, including *Rangelands* and the *International Journal of Poisonous Plant Research*.

Western juniper abortions have not registered a large economic impact so far, Parsons said. Although some grazing cattle are in contact with juniper on a daily basis, cattle do not naturally seek it as food.

In recent decades, juniper trees have been piled up as riprap to stabilize the banks of creeks and streams being restored in western states. Cows may come in contact with these trees when they use these watering holes.

"If cattle have plenty to eat, they have no desire to chew on juniper," Parsons said, but then cautioned, "When cows are hungry and bored, they're going to eat to fill their bellies up, especially during times of drought and heavy snow."

To reduce the risk of exposure to juniper during the last trimester of pregnancy, Parsons recommended slowly introducing cattle to areas where juniper exists if they have not already been acclimated to the site. He also suggested cutting lower branches off trees if possible and providing adequate feed daily to reduce the animals' desire to graze juniper.

By *Daniel Robison*, (541)737-1386, [daniel.robison@oregonstate.edu](mailto:daniel.robison@oregonstate.edu), on Twitter @OregonStateExt

Source: *Cory Parsons*, (541) 523-6418, [cory.parsons@oregonstate.edu](mailto:cory.parsons@oregonstate.edu); *Tim Deboodt*, (541) 447-6228, [tim.deboodt@oregonstate.edu](mailto:tim.deboodt@oregonstate.edu)

This story is online at [http://bit.ly/OSU\\_AgNews1094](http://bit.ly/OSU_AgNews1094)

## Nutrient Shopping

"Even though the price of feedstuffs has increased significantly the biological nutrient demand of the bovine remains the same. The nutrient demand must be met or reduced production will result. "

Hay prices are skyrocketing. In some instances the price has doubled from what it was just a few short years ago. These escalating prices are primarily due to a nationwide drought which has reduced supply and increased demand for hay, grain and standing forage. The price relationship of protein and energy sources parallel corn and other grain commodities. Whether you are selling, purchasing or feeding hay it is important to know what you are dealing with. The best and most appropriate way to accomplish this is to compare price per pound of nutrient, not price per ton of feed. This is when an accurate forage/hay sample and analysis will save/earn you valuable dollars.

Feeds should not be compared by cost per ton as this is very misleading. When nutrient shopping you are normally interested in protein and/or energy. When comparing feeds for specific nutrients the following guidelines assist in determining the best buy. Don't get caught paying high prices for ingredients used as fillers.

First, determine the dry matter content of the feeds to be compared. Do this by multiplying 2,000 pounds by the percent of dry matter contained in the feed as determined by laboratory analysis. This will give you the total pounds of dry matter in one ton of feed. For example, if a hay sample is 87% dry matter, multiply 2,000 pounds of as-fed hay by 87% (0.87) dry matter content which results in 1,740 pounds of actual dry matter.

Next, determine the total pounds of a nutrient in those 1,740 pounds of dry matter. Do this by multiplying 1,740 pounds by the percent of the nutrient contained in that feed. For example, if the hay is analyzed at 19.55% crude protein on a dry matter basis, multiply 1,740 pounds of dry matter x .1955 (19.55% crude protein) = 340 pounds of crude protein. This leaves 1,660 pounds of water, other nutrients and filler contained in one ton of as-fed feed (2,000 pounds – 340 pounds of crude protein = 1,660 pounds).

Finally, determine the cost per pound of actual protein. Do this by dividing the ton price of as-fed feed (most feeds are priced as-fed and/or by the ton) by the pounds of actual protein contained in that ton of as-fed feed (\$250/ton ÷ 340 pounds of crude protein = 73.5¢/lb.).

In the example above, \$250/ton of as-fed hay with a protein content of 19.55% (dry matter basis) has a price comparison shopping value of 73.5¢/lb. of crude protein. This same pricing method can be applied when shopping for energy by simply replacing the protein components of the above formula with the energy numbers.

Protein supplements are perhaps the most difficult to evaluate because they can differ in the amount of utilizable protein. Feed supplements such as tubs, liquid and block often contain non-protein nitrogen (NPN) sources such as urea, biuret and others. There is also bypass protein and rumen degradable protein. Non-protein nitrogen sources of protein do not equal natural protein yet many unsuspecting cattlemen purchase these products assuming they are. The extent to which NPN is utilized is dependent upon several factors including the energy content of the ration and the quality of the available forage. The general rule of thumb nutritionists follow for animals consuming a forage based diet is that no more than 1/3 of the total protein of the ration should be provided to the animal from non-protein nitrogen sources when adequate energy is contained in the total ration and/or supplement. It is for this reason when price comparing feeds to read the feed analysis label and remove the NPN portion of the protein for price comparison purposes. Recognize that if a supplement contains no more than 1/3 of the protein content as NPN, animals will utilize a portion of the NPN as protein.

Factors other than price should also be considered when shopping for feed ingredients. These include but are not limited to:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ✓ Convenience/feed-ability; i.e. feeding blocks or tubs vs. hay or pellets.   | ✓ Consumption amount required to balance the ration. |
| ✓ Transportation costs of getting feed to the ranch. Keep in mind it will probably cost the same to transport a load of good hay as it will a load of junk hay. | ✓ Other nutrients required to balance the ration.    |
| ✓ Storage facilities at the ranch.  | ✓ Waste.   |
| ✓ Cost of feeding the product .   | ✓ Salt and mineral content.                          |
| ✓ Availability of the product.  | ✓ Competition when fed (bunk space).                 |
|   | ✓ Opportunity to medicate feed.                      |
|   | ✓ Worn and broken teeth on blocks.                   |

Remember , not all feed ingredients are equal in nutrient value or price. Have feed analyzed so you know what you are buying or selling and sharpen your pencil to determine the best value that meets your needs.

Even though the price of feedstuffs has increased significantly the biological nutrient demand of the bovine remains the same. The nutrient demand must be met or reduced production will result.

*Ron Torell, Long-Standing Educator, Nevada Extension Emeritus and Advocate of Agriculture*

- Central Oregon Farm Fair/Wednesday & Thursday, February 6-7, 2013, Jefferson County Fairgrounds. For more information call (541) 475-7107 or by going to the website @ <http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/jefferson>.
- Central Oregon Wheat League Meeting will be held in February. Date, Time and Location TBA. Call Kurt Feigner at (541) 475-6342.

*Mylen Bohle*

## Calendar 2013

(Have an Ag related meeting, happening? Call Pam @ 541-447-6228 to add to Calendar)

### January

- 14-15 Low Stress Cattle Handling Seminars. Grant County Fairgrounds, Moses Lake, WA. 509-754-2011 ext. 413 or [www.aminalag.wsu.edu](http://www.aminalag.wsu.edu)  
14-16 NW Food Processors Expo and Conference. Oregon Convention Center, Portland. [www.nwfpa.org](http://www.nwfpa.org)  
16-17 Northwest Hay Expo. & Trade Show. See article page 6.  
19 9th Annual Cattleman's Workshop. See article page 5.  
21 Crook County Soil & Water Conservation District Paulina Oregon Landowners Meeting. See article page 3.  
22 Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District Board Meeting. [www.jcswcd.com](http://www.jcswcd.com).  
22-23 WSU Oilseed Production and Marketing Conference. Three Rivers Convention Center. Kennewick, WA. 509-396-5936 or [css.wsu.edu/biofuels](http://css.wsu.edu/biofuels)  
24 Agribusiness Council of Oregon Annual Meeting. Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem. (503) 595-9121 or [www.aglink.org](http://www.aglink.org)  
24-25 Regional Grazing Conference. See article page 5.  
25 SAIF Corporation and the Agribusiness Banquet. See article front page.  
26 Central Oregon Forage Day. See article page 3.  
27-29 Harvesting Clean Energy Conference. Corvallis. (253) 507-8506 or [www.harvestcleanenergy.org](http://www.harvestcleanenergy.org)  
29-31 44th Annual NW Ag Show, Portland Oregon Expo Center, 2060 N Marine Drive, 503-736-5320.

### February

- TBA Central Oregon Wheat League Meeting. See article page 7.  
1 Washington Swine Conference. See article page 3.  
1 Central Oregon Pest Management Course. See article page 4.  
1-6 North American Farm Direct Marketing Convention. See article page 6.  
1 National Ag Census Forms are Due  
4 Local Food Connection, Lane Community College, Eugene. [www.localfoodconnection.org](http://www.localfoodconnection.org).  
5 Central Oregon Hay Growers' Assoc. Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Crook County Extension Office, Prineville.  
6-7 Northwest Direct Seed Cropping Conference. See article page 6.  
6-7 Central Oregon Farm Fair. See article page 7.  
7-9 Organicology Conference, Portland. [www.organicology.org](http://www.organicology.org).  
8 Crook / Wheeler County Farm Bureau Meeting. Noon, COCC Crook County Open Campus Bldg, Prineville .  
11 Deschutes County SWCD. DeArmond Room, Deschutes County Service Bldg., Bend  
21 Wheat Marketing Meeting. See article page 3.  
25-26 Oregon Dairy Farmers Annual Convention, Salem, (503) 229-5033 or [www.dairyfarmersor.com](http://www.dairyfarmersor.com).  
26 Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District Board Meeting. [www.jcswcd.com](http://www.jcswcd.com).  
28-3/1 Idaho Hay Growers Conference. See article page 3.  
28-3/1 Soil Quality Network Workshop. See article page 5.

### March

- TBA Central Oregon Hay Growers Annual Banquet. Location and details TBA, (541) 447-6228.  
2 Oregon Small Farms Conference. See article page 2  
5 Central Oregon Hay Growers' Assoc. Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Crook County Extension Office, Prineville.,  
6 Enterprise Feasibility Workshop. See article page 4.  
8 Crook / Wheeler County Farm Bureau Meeting, Noon, COCC Crook County Open Campus Bldg, Prineville.  
14,19,21 Beginning Beekeeping Classes, Salem. [www.orsba.org](http://www.orsba.org).  
15 Pesticide Applicator Laws & Safety. See article page 5.  
16 Living on a Few Acres Expo. See article page 4.  
27-29 Beef Cattle A.I. Course. See article page 6.

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