



Oregon State University Extension Service

# Central Oregon Agriculture

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## Statewide Monthly Wheat Marketing Meetings Resume

Statewide Marketing Education Series Meetings will resume in September. These monthly meetings generally occur the second Thursday of each month via Polycom video conferencing at various locations throughout the state. Keep checking the OWGL website at [www.owgl.org](http://www.owgl.org) or call the Oregon Wheat Growers League at (541) 276-7330 to see when the September meeting is scheduled.

The marketing meetings are tentatively planned for Thursday, Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 10, Jan 14, etc., through May 2011. Central Oregon producers can view the monthly polycom presentations at Central Oregon Agricultural Research Center (COARC) in Madras. Please call COARC at (541) 475-7107 the day before to confirm your attendance and /or to make sure the meeting is taking place.

*Mylon Bohle*

## Central Oregon Food Summit/Friday, Sept. 10, 9am—4 pm Central Oregon Community College/Student Center, Wile Hall 2600 NW College Way/Bend, Oregon

The Central Oregon Food Summit will provide an opportunity for the public, producers, retailers, food institutions and policy makers to create a community-based framework for action toward a more food secure Central Oregon.

Come hear keynote speaker Mark Winne, former director of Connecticut's Hartford Food System and the author of "Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty."

Breakout Sessions: see Topics and Presenters, page 3.

Registration fee is \$20.00 and includes lunch.

Space is limited, so to pre-register by Sept. 3rd, go online at [www.cofoodssummit.yolasite.com](http://www.cofoodssummit.yolasite.com) or mail a check to Wy'East RC&D, 625 SE Salmon Ave. #7, Redmond, Oregon, 97756, or call (541) 923-2204. Scholarships are available; please contact Debbe Chadwick at [missdebbel@yahoo.com](mailto:missdebbel@yahoo.com).

*Dana Martin*

## "Healthy Horses-Healthy Pastures"/Saturday, Sept. 18, 9am—2pm FlySpur Ranch 64460 Research Road/Bend, Oregon

Please join Deschutes County Soil and Water Conservation District, OSU Extension Service, and other, for their "Healthy Horses-Healthy Pastures" on-farm workshop. Topics will include Horse Health, Pasture Management, Weed Management, and Water Quality. Lunch and educational materials will be provided. Registration fee is \$20. Please R.S.V.P. by Sept. 10th to Spring Alaska Olson at [springalaska@hotmail.com](mailto:springalaska@hotmail.com) or (541) 647-9604.

*Spring Alaska Olson*

**"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. Pam Wiederholt - Ag Newsletter Coordinator, Crook County, (541) 447-6228

#### Extension offices listed below (all area codes are 541)

##### Central Oregon County Extension Offices:

**Crook County** Extension Service - Phone 447-6228, 498 SE Lynn Blvd., Prineville, OR 97754

**Deschutes County** Extension Service - Phone 548-6088, 3893 SW Airport Way, Redmond, OR 97756

**Jefferson County** Extension Service - Phone 475-3808, 34 SE D St., Madras, OR 97741

**Warm Springs** Indian Reservation - Phone 553-3238, 1110 Wasco St., PO Box 430, Warm Springs, OR 97761

##### Central Oregon Agricultural Research Center:

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

Powell Butte Site - Phone 447-5138, 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>

##### Central Oregon Agricultural Extension Service Staff:

Rich Affeldt - Mint, Seed Crops and Weed Control, 475-3808

Myleen Bohle - Forage, Hay, Pasture and Cereals, 447-6228

Fara Brummer - Ag. and Natural Resource, 553-1520

Marvin Butler - Mint and Seed Crops, 475-3808

Tim Deboodt - Range Resources and Livestock, 447-6228

Amy Detweiler - Horticulture, 548-6088

Steve Fitzgerald - Forestry, 548-6088

Fahrettin Goktepe - Potatoes, 475-7107

Dana Martin - Small Acreage, 548-6088

Barbi Riggs - Livestock and Water Quality, 447-6228

Bo Ming Wu - Plant Pathology, 475-7107

The above individuals represent 7.75 full time equivalents 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, nor does it imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others.

Extension work is a cooperative program of Oregon State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Oregon counties. Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities, and materials without discrimination based on age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual identity or expression, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran's status. Oregon State University Extension Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

OSU Extension programs will provide reasonable accommodation to persons with physical or mental disabilities. Contact Pam Wiederholt at (541) 447-6228 to request reasonable accommodation.

## Attention All Landowners: Deschutes County SWCD 2009/2010 Small Grant Program is Here!

Funding for The Small Grant Program is generated through Oregon lottery dollars and is a voluntary program that works with your framework and objectives to enhance and preserve natural resources on your property. Some of the goals for maximizing resource potential include: soil stabilization (reducing erosion in uplands and riparian), native bunchgrass and perennial grass recovery and enrichment, weed control, in-stream and riparian enhancements, irrigation efficiency, improve wildlife habitat, increase water quality and improve water quality. Funding is limited, so if you're interested, please contact Spring Olson/Conservation Technician at (541) 647-9604 or email: [springalaska@hotmail.com](mailto:springalaska@hotmail.com).

*Spring Alaska Olson*

## Central Oregon Food Network

Have you posted anything to the Central Oregon Food Network site? Please check it out. This can be a great tool if used:

<http://centraloregonfoodnetwork.com/>

At the "Network Now" link, you will find several events and workshops that are taking place as well as available products, and an article that could create some active discussion. If you are listed on the website, please let Sarahlee Lawrence know if your information needs to be updated. If you are not listed, you can be, just email: [sarahlee.lawrence@gmail.com](mailto:sarahlee.lawrence@gmail.com)

There is a lot of interest out there regarding harvesting and cleaning equipment for small farms grain production. Imagine what would happen if everyone interested in this started communicating and joined together to make it possible! Please make the most of this website ---- great things can happen when people share information and ideas.

*Dana Martin*

## Oregon Country Trails

Three Central Oregon Country Trails including the Good Earth (Terrebonne), Crooked River (Prineville) and High Desert (Redmond, Tumalo, Bend) feature 33 farms and businesses in the region. The Oregon Country Trails system was developed to promote agri-tourism by providing a rural, self-guided driving tour that offers something to see, something to do and something to buy. Many trail members are open for regular hours and others by appointment only or for special occasions.

Oregon Country Trails is Oregon's only branded rural tourism system which provides maps, brochures, website, online shopping, festivals and events. Trails in Central Oregon join a statewide system of 14 trails formed in Deschutes, Crook, Lane, Benton, Linn, and Lincoln Counties.

Special activities, product information and more can be found at this site: [www.oregoncountrytrails.com](http://www.oregoncountrytrails.com) Check it out and discover all there is do in rural Oregon.

***Continued on page 3***

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## **Oregon Country Trails**

GO! -- Discover dude ranches, river lodges, B&B's farm stays, old fashioned wagon rides, white buffalos, wild mustangs, old wagon roads, stage coach depots, covered bridges, river waysides, campgrounds, waterfalls, hidden lakes, historic museums, beekeepers

Shop! -- Wineries, country crafts, mercantile, antiques, fused glass, jewelry, art studios, galleries, alpacas, bakeries, lavender farms, pottery, organic gardens, nurseries, ironworks, woodworkers, candy makers, produce stands, farmers' markets, organic milk, eggs, cheese and meat.

Do! -- Attend country festivals, century bike rides, glass blowing demonstrations, garden exhibits, antique barns, wine tasting, kayaking, fly fishing, river rafting, golfing, boating, hiking, bird watching, u-pick berries, flower farms, spas, pet farm animals, go horseback riding, discover a petrified forest!

*Dana Martin*

*(Continued from front page)*

## **Central Oregon Food Summit**

Breakout session topics and presenters include:

1. Community Food Projects
  - A. Common Table & Nativity Food Forest  
Zach Hancock
  - B. City Support for Food Security  
Ann Donahue: City of Eugene Strategic Food Security Plan & Friendly Neighborhood Farmers Group
  - C. Local ore  
Nicole Timm
  - D. St. Charles Hospital  
Mark Peterson: Farm/Community Garden
2. Building Local Food System Infrastructure
  - A. Processing Issues  
Casey Berman, Butcher Brothers
  - B. Successful Food Cooperatives  
TBA
  - C. Need for a Producers' Coop  
Mike Duggan: DD Ranch
  - D. Training Next Generation of Farmers  
Stu O'Neill: Rogue Farm Corps  
Megan Fehrman: Friends of Family Farmers
3. Food Systems Coalition
  - A. Mark Wine: 45 min presentation on Food System Coalitions
  - B. Group Discussion
4. Hunger/Food Insecurity/Health
  - A. Policy, Advocacy, Food Security Context, 5 year plan to end hunger in Oregon  
Robyn Johnson Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon
  - B. Enhancing Emergency Food Services: cooking, gardening, building on brown bag infrastructure, etc.  
Oregon Food Bank: Operation Frontline partnership
  - C. EBT at Farmers' Market  
NEDCO, Springfield Market example
  - D. Community Health  
Kate Wells: Kids at Heart  
Beth Ann Beamer on CHIP-community gardens/health

Your voice matters. Everyone has a part in the food system. The Central Oregon Food Summit is a follow-up to the Community Food Assessment/Producer's Survey that many of you completed. This is the NEXT STEP to resolving some of the challenges you identified ----- please stay involved. If you have questions, please contact Dana Martin, [dana.martin@oregonstate.edu](mailto:dana.martin@oregonstate.edu); (541) 548-6088 x 7957.

*Dana Martin*

## 2009 Oregon Soft White Winter Wheat Yield Trial

Following is the winter wheat trial yield and agronomic data for the 2008/2009 crop year at the COARC Madras, OR. The previous crop rotation was 4 years of 4-cut alfalfa (2004-2007) and one year of summer fallow in 2008. No additional nitrogen fertilizer was applied. 28 of the 40 entries are listed in the table; the rest of the entries were experimental lines from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, etc. 10 of the experimental lines yielded higher than Tubbs. From the protein data, it would appear that we were slightly under-fertilized with N (around 9.5% protein content will produce optimum yield). The web site for all of the locations for the state wide Oregon Winter Elite Yield Trials and other wheat class trials information can be found online at <http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/wheat/>. (The 2010 crop was just sent over to Corvallis on August 19 for processing.)

Table. The 2009 (with 2 and 3 year means) Oregon Winter Elite Yield Trial yield and other agronomic data from the COARC, Madras, Oregon.

Variety/Line	2009 Yield (bu/ac)	2 Year Yield (bu/ac)	3 Year Yield (bu/ac)	2009 Test Wt. (lb/bu)	2009 Plant Ht. (in.)	2009 Head Date (doy)	2009 Protein (%)	2009 Lodge (%)
OR2060431	160.5			58.4	35.7	150.7	7.9	0.0
Tubbs	147.1	139.9	150.7	61.8	37.3	151.7	8.0	0.0
Westbred 528	144.9	136.9	142.7	62.4	34.7	149.7	8.4	1.7
AP700CL	144.2	137.7	145.2	62.2	39.0	151.7	8.5	0.0
Legion	143.9	131.8	142.4	61.1	37.3	151.3	7.7	15.0
Tubbs 06	141.5	139.5	144.9	61.8	38.0	151.3	8.3	13.3
Masami	140.0	129.8	132.4	61.2	40.0	154.0	8.3	5.7
Goetze/Skiles	139.8			61.2	40.0	154.0	8.3	5.7
AP Legacy	137.3	139.2		62.7	38.7	152.0	8.1	0.0
Stephens	136.4	129.4	138.6	61.5	33.7	150.0	8.6	2.3
ORCF-102	136.1	137.7	143.1	61.7	36.7	152.3	8.6	0.7
Cara	134.7	128.7	132.8	60.5	37.7	152.3	8.5	0.0
Brundage 96	134.4			60.5	37.7	152.3	8.5	0.0
ORCF 101/102	133.5			61.8	35.3	151.0	8.8	0.0
Xerpha	133.2	120.5	129.7	61.7	38.7	152.3	8.0	0.0
Madsen	132.6	124.6	133.4	61.5	35.3	152.3	8.7	0.0
Skiles	131.6	133.8	135.9	63.8	34.0	152.0	8.9	0.0
Skiles/Tubbs 06	131.2			63.8	34.0	152.0	8.9	0.0
Gene	131.0	123.8	120.4	62.2	30.7	150.7	8.9	0.0
ORCF-101	130.4	128.0	130.6	61.8	35.7	151.3	8.6	0.0
ORCF-103	128.4	118.1	121.0	61.1	38.7	153.0	8.3	5.7
Goetze	128.2	135.5	140.5	62.1	33.3	147.7	8.7	0.0
ID -D -05	128.2			63.4	33.7	150.3	9.0	0.0
ORSS-1757	124.8	125.4	133.5	61.1	34.7	150.7	7.7	0.0
Coda	123.9			62.4	41.3	152.3	9.3	68.3
Bitterroot	123.8	117.0	129.8	61.4	36.7	152.3	8.3	20.0
Salute	123.3	128.9	138.5	61.7	37.0	150.0	8.6	1.7
Bruneau	112.6	124.0	140.9	62.8	37.7	152.3	8.5	48.3
Mean	139.0	131.9	137.0	61.4	36.1	151.3	8.4	5.1
LSD (0.05)	20.6	13.4	11.1	0.9	2.3	1.6	0.5	17.3
CV%	9.0	8.8	8.6	0.9	3.9	0.7	3.9	210.0

### Seeding Rate Effect on Winter Cereal Grain Yield and Lodging

Choices about planting what class and varieties of wheat have probably been made and the seed may already be planted. Expenses seem to go up every year – fuel, fertilizer, irrigation costs, and seed. Producers might think about backing off on seeding rates to cut seeding rate expenses. In fact, maybe even cut back to half of the usual seeding rate of the typical 30 seeds per square foot. As with any new cultural idea or crop, one does not want to plant the whole farm to a new crop or one variety, or plant everything with a new cultural practice such as a “new” seeding rate.

Producers might want to try planting at a lower seed rate on a few acres in a field or two and compare the response with their usual seeding rate. Possible benefits include: varieties that are not as resistant to lodging will benefit from a lower seeding rate and respond with a stronger stem, and have less lodging and higher yields (or same yields) and find the field easier to harvest. Even ‘Stephens’, which has good lodging resistance, seems to benefit from a reduced seeding rate, with less lodging and increased yield over the usual seeding rates.

In a two year study (planting dates of October 10, 1997 and October 16, 1998) at the COARC, Madras, Oregon site, we planted 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 20, 30, and 40 pure live seeds (PLS) per square foot. Stephens, soft white winter wheat, achieved it’s highest yield at 8-16 seeds per square foot (41-83 lb/acre PLS) planted (we typically recommend 30 seeds per square foot). Lodging was reduced, substantially, with the lower seeding rates, both years. In contrast, ‘Celia’ winter triticale, a lodging-resistant, semi-dwarf variety, was less consistent, but had highest yields at 30-40 seeds per square foot one year, and then at 20 seeds per square foot the other year. Regardless of the seeding rate, Celia did not lodge substantially. (see table)

The data from the trial are somewhat amazing. Even when planted at 1 seed per square foot, Stephens (4.8 lb/ac PLS seed rate) and Celia (3.8 lb PLS seed rate) still produced almost 112 and 92 bu/ac, respectively. Planting Stephens at 1 seed per square foot planting rate will produce plants with 47 heads per plant, compared to the usual 30 seeds/square foot which will produce plants with 3.1-3.4 heads per plant! Typical seeding rates (30 seeds/ft<sup>2</sup>) would be 155 lb/ac PLS for Stephens, based on the seed source we planted both years. Cereals have great ability to tiller!

Table. Seeding rate effect on Stephens SWWW and Celia winter triticale yield and lodging at the COARC Madras, Oregon, harvested in crop years 1998 and 1999.

Seeding Rate (Seeds/ft <sup>2</sup> )	Stephens 1998 Yield - Lodging (bu/ac & %)	Stephens 1999 Yield - Lodging (bu/ac & %)	Celia 1998 Yield - Lodging (bu/ac & %)	Celia 1999 Yield - Lodging (bu/ac & %)
1	--	111.9 – 1	--	91.9 – 0
2	--	144.2 – 6	--	125.1 – 1
4	156.1 – 0	161.5 – 3	131.2 – 0	138.1 – 2
8	161.3 – 10	185.6 – 2	137.4 – 0	150.0 – 1
16	170.5 – 10	178.2 – 2	141.9 – 0	144.8 – 1
20	162.6 – 18	174.2 – 26	148.1 – 0	149.2 – 1
30	139.4 – 40	178.7 – 35	149.9 – 0	174.2 – 3
40	135.7 – 60	177.7 - 36	149.5 – 0	176.1 - 3
Mean Yield	154.3	164.0	143.0	143.7

*Mylen Bohle, Ernie Marx, Rhonda Simmons, Russ Karow, Steve James*

### Central Oregon Weekly Hay Report

Want to keep track of the Central Oregon Hay Market (or any other hay market)? Go to USDA Market News, Moses Lake, WA, at their website. [www.ams.usda.gov/LSMarketNews](http://www.ams.usda.gov/LSMarketNews). You may also call (509) 765-3611 and talk to someone in person or call their 24 hour market number at (509) 765-0311. You can also help contribute to the hay market report by reporting your weekly hay sales. Please talk to Lance.

*Mylen Bohle*



## Planting Winter-Hardy Challenged Cereals

If you are thinking about or would like to plant a cereal species or variety that is less winter-hardy like ‘Gene’ or ‘Goetze’ soft white winter wheat, or ‘Hoody’ winter barley, or some of the winter oat varieties; is there a way to hedge your bets?

In the past, we have planted winter forage barley experimental line trials, and winter cereal for forage trials (which included barley and oat), at the end of October, at the COARC, Madras site in order to “avoid” possible winter kill to the barley and oat entries. This planting date has worked very well as the cereals emerged around the first week in February, underneath the snow cover, with no winter damage.

Winter cereals are more winter hardy at their earliest growth stage when their “antifreeze” levels are at their highest levels. But winter barley and oat lines can be damage or killed if a winter is colder than “usual” in central Oregon. Hoody winter barley can also probably be planted up until March 1, while the winter oat varieties can be planted like spring oats, although they will head out much later than the spring oat varieties. Generally we say Stephens SWWW can be planted up until March 1 (Goetze SWWW might be the better variety to late-plant instead for grain).

*Mylon Bohle*

## Late Summer/Fall Grazing Clipping Heights

Late Summer/Fall management is very important for your irrigated grass pastures and hay fields. The tillers that you graze off, just before the grass plant goes dormant in the fall, are the tillers that will be producing next springs growth and yield. If you have grazed or harvested short, and done so extremely late, and allow no regrowth, then the following year’s 1<sup>st</sup> cutting or grazing yields will be decreased.

Grass plants start growing new roots in the late August to early September time period, and if you graze off those leaves short (“the plant’s solar panels”), there is very little green leaf material left, and then there is reduced root growth occurring. That root growth is needed generate tillers and leaves to help set the plants up to go through the winter, and then begin vigorous growth in the spring.

Many grasses cannot tolerate being cut or grazed short, especially in the late summer or early fall. This late summer early Fall time period is the worst possible time for this to happen. Ideally you would like to have 3 inches, or 4 inches, or maybe even 5 inches of stubble, with regrowth, on your grass going into the Fall, before going dormant. This is all species dependent, but these numbers are a good goal in general. The crown area (from ground level to 2-5 inches) is where “most” of the non structural carbohydrates and sugars are stored in the grass plant, depending upon the grass species. There are some carbohydrates and sugars located in the root system, but the grass root is not a large storage organ (alfalfa has a large root for storage).

The non-structural carbohydrates and sugars need to be available to the plant going through the winter and be there for the plant in the spring. The plants are dormant during this time, but are still respiring. “The plants are not dead.” (Have you ever thought about the fact that if you are burning your fields in the late winter /early Spring, that you are burning off, most of the non structural carbohydrates that will help the grass plant begin growing? There are other legitimate reasons to burn your fields in the spring, but if possible, do not burn your fields or pastures.

If you graze short, or clip short, and do not allow sufficient regrowth of the plants going into the fall (and do not leave that regrowth alone), your stand may prematurely thin, and grasses like bluegrass and quackgrass and other weeds will invade. The stubble and the Fall regrowth belongs to the grass plant! It does not belong to the animal and it does not belong to you as the manager. Producers will have to renovate their fields sooner rather than later, if they mismanage their stand, which causes higher production costs over time! I have seen 2-3 year old orchardgrass fields look like they were 10-15 years old, because they were mismanaged in the fall (lots of bluegrass and quackgrass encroached and filled in).

Proper grazing height will also help to reduce parasite problems in your animals and that is a much added bonus!

*Mylon Bohle*

## Increase Your Alfalfa Knowledge-Alfalfa Intensive Training Seminar

### November 16-18, 2010/Embassy Suites Hotel, Denver International Airport, Denver, CO

With today’s technology expanding at a rapid pace, there is much to be learned about alfalfa. The Alfalfa Intensive Training Seminar gives participants the knowledge they need to make the best of their alfalfa investment.

With nationally recognized and experienced alfalfa instructors, there is no other alfalfa program like this offered in the seed industry.

What will be taught? 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.

Contact the National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance 1-509-585-6798 or go to their website at [www.alfalfa.org](http://www.alfalfa.org). Registration is \$550 prior to November 1<sup>st</sup>, or \$600 after that date.

*Mylon Bohle*

## Fall Forage Management

How much aftermath do you want to have on your hay fields and pastures going through the winter? For pastures and grass hay fields, it is somewhat species specific for the height of the aftermath you want on the field. But generally, we want a minimum of 3-4 inches (Minimum!) of growth. Why?

Grasses store their non-structural carbohydrates in their root system and crown (from ground level up to 3-5 inches in height) area. The root system is fibrous, so there is not a large storage organ sitting underneath that top growth, so very little storage occurs in the root system (of the total stored). The plant is stronger and more vigorous in the spring if allowed to go through the winter with new tillers and leaves. The plant stand is maintained as well.

Managing for grass plants with ½ to 1 inch of stubble is not managing any grass species plant to produce a good economic return for the future. It just is not good management. Grass plants are regenerating their root system in the fall (end of August and September), prior to dormancy-inducing frosts and cold weather. If you are clipping and grazing to very short plant heights, you are not allowing that grass plant to regenerate its root system, and it's tillers. (Grass plants then shed their root system in the winter and regenerate in the spring.) Those new tillers are next spring's first cutting hay or forage for grazing.

For alfalfa, it is a little different, but then again, not much different. It is recommended that you allow regrowth of 4-6 weeks before typical frost date, or you would want 12-16 inches of regrowth, before dormancy-inducing frosts occur, or you want to harvest and have no re-growth (not always very easy to do). Why? When alfalfa is re-growing, and until the plant is 6-8 inches in height, there is a great net export of nonstructural carbohydrates from the root to the top part of the plant. Beyond that height, then the top part of the plant is exporting back to the root. Fall is the most critical time of the year for the alfalfa plant to store reserves in it's root system.

If we are in a cold climate with winter kill as a potential (like Minnesota, North Dakota or Montana, or parts of Oregon) you want that stubble height to catch snow and help insulate the plants and soil, if possible. If you have 6-8 inches of top growth when the alfalfa plant goes dormant, it is now going to go through winter in its most weakened state (the stubble can help insulate the soil against a hard freeze, if there is snow cover trapped by the stubble).

How the alfalfa plants are managed, on previous cuttings, will affect carbohydrate storage, as well. Full carbohydrate storage occurs right around full bloom (very few producer manage that way anymore, because higher quality is needed from the hay produced). So what you may want to try to do is dry out the soil fairly well just before that last cutting of alfalfa (or other legumes as well) if it is weeks away from the typical dormancy inducing frosts (around 24-26 degrees F on consecutive nights). Ideally would be to manage so you get no re-growth after your last cutting in central Oregon. Producers may want to "water back" the field the week before the irrigation water is shut off. Do not irrigate a few sets if you want a comparison (or vice versa) to see if you are the getting the benefit you think you are after. (See Water Back article)

And of course we do not want too much aftermath or new growth on the grasses or alfalfa, so the growth will fall over and smother itself, or set up a great environment and habitat for a "rodent convention". If aftermath is left in the field in the spring, it has to be removed by clipping, grazing, or burning before first cutting growth begins in the spring (nobody wants to see it in next years first cutting hay bales).

*Mylon Bohle*

## Crop Water Use Program

The following table summarizes the crop water use or evapo-transpiration (ET) to date (May 2, 2010) for some of the irrigated crops grown in Central Oregon. For much more detailed information, one can log on to the Agrimet weather site at: <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/agrimet/>. There is general information about the program, weather data, crop water use information, graphs, maps, news, relevant links, and other information. You can follow the crop water use for these sites and other locations. The green up date or emergence date, canopy closing date, daily water use (ET), 7 day predicted use, and 14 day predicted use, are just some of the information you will find. Start-up dates may be different for each site for each crop. Start-up dates for some of the crops still need to be designated and added as the crop emerge or green up, and some may be changed.

Table. Accumulation summary of Crop Water Use or evapotranspiration (ET) to date (August 18, 2010) for Madras, Powell Butte, Christmas Valley, and Bend, OR Agrimet weather stations.

***Continued on page 8***

(Continued from page 7)

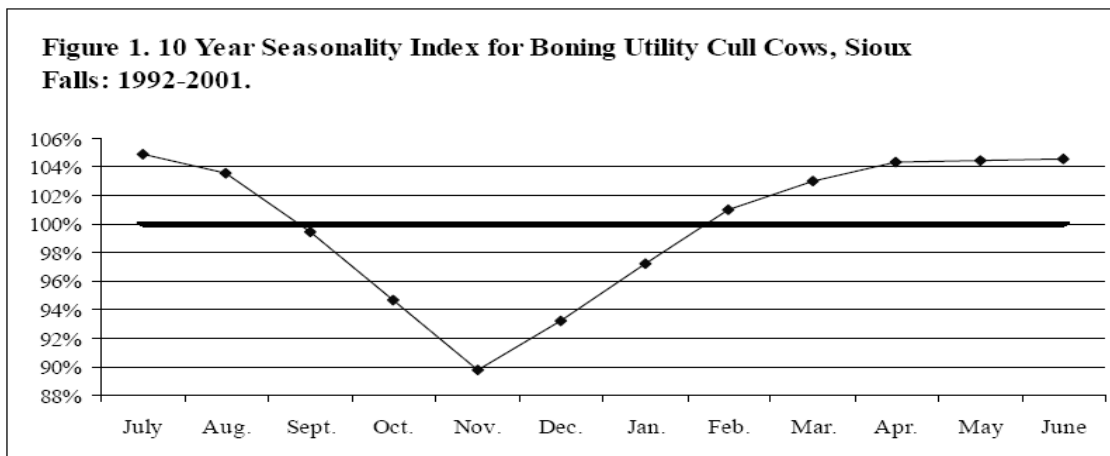
**Crop Water Use Program**

Crop	2010 Madras 2440 ft. (in)	2010 Powell Butte 3180 ft. (in)	2010 Bend Agrimet 3650 ft. (in)	2010 Christmas Valley 4360 ft. (in)
ETr	36.5	33.4	29.8	31.5
Alfalfa Peak	34.4	30.6	27.8	28.0
Alfalfa Mean	29.6	26.6	24.0	24.3
Pasture	23.7	21.4	19.3	20.1
Grass Hay Mean	32.8	30.3	26.4	27.1
Grass Hay Peak	30.3	28.2	24.3	25.2
Lawn	28.3	25.6	22.9	24.0
Winter Grain	19.6	23.0	16.5	22.2
Spring Grain (early plant)	22.1	19.1	18.3	20.3

*Mylene Bohle*

**Cull Cow Marketing**

Many of us are shoulder deep in the back-end of our money machines determining which girls stay and which girls got to go. Reproductive failure, old age, and unsatisfactory performance are the most common reasons for culling. These culled girls typically account for 20% of ranch income, but, how many of us **MARKET** these culls and how many of us load them on a truck according to what is convenient or traditional for the ranch. Cull cow prices are seasonally (Figure 1) low during the months of September-January and are above average March-August. Unfortunately, selling cows after preg checking usually coincides with low cull cow prices.



Source: Iowa Beef Improvement Center

Cull cows can be retained through the winter and sold in early spring or can be sold prior to the September slump in cull cow prices. The latter may work well if you have early-weaned your calves. Anyhow, it is too late to cash in on the seasonal high prices so you must now pencil out the options for carrying your culls through the winter. Two things you should be most interested in is the price difference between grades of cull cows and the cost of feeding the cull cow. Grades for cows (from least desirable to most desirable) are Canner, Cutter, Utility, and Commercial. Table 1 shows characteristics that are associated with each grade. If the price difference between canner and commercial are significant, you may consider feeding your culls. If there is little difference, you may be wise to load her on the truck.

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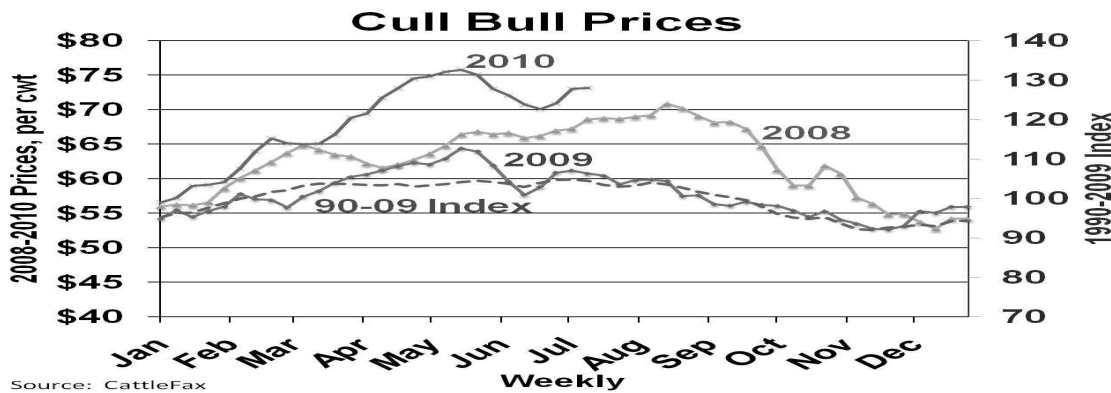
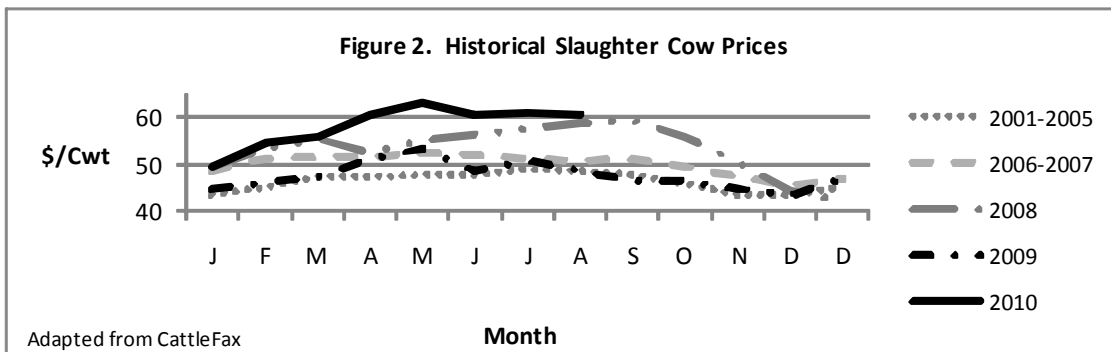
**Cull Cow Marketing**

Grade	Dressing Percent	Lean Content of Trimmings	Cow BCS
Canner	40-46	90-92	1-3
Cutter	45-49	88-90	4-5
Utility			
Boning	50-52	78-83	5-9
Breaking	52-54	76-82	6-9
Commercial	55-60	70-80	5-9

SOUCE: Iowa Beef Center

Feeding cull cows can be an option to increase value. However, feed cost must be carefully analyzed. This includes of course the feed source but must also add in extra labor, yardage, and interest on the cull cow. When penciling out whether or not you should feed cows, remember to compare not only the expected revenue and additional costs of keeping the cow, but analyze the revenue lost by not selling the cow at the time of culling.

Not all cows are created equal. This is true in cows that will feed well in a feedlot situation. Any cow that is smooth mouthed, excessively thin, excessively fat or crippled should be marketed at culling. Likewise cancer eyes and other physical blemishes should also be sold directly. Keep in mind cows have lower feed efficiencies than calves. Typically you will see 8-9 lbs of feed per pound of gain. Rations should be 61-63 mcal of energy with 11.5-13.5% crude protein to achieve adequate gain. Expect dry matter consumption for 1250-1350 lb cows to be 27-32 lbs/day. If you are going to sell cows for the white-fat market or on the rail, consider feeding concentrate for 50-90 days. Step-up the rations slowly, increasing concentrate 2-3 lbs of feed per day with free choice long stem hay. You may also consider immunizing against Clostridial types C & D to avoid overeating toxoids. Ionospheres (.5mg/hd/day) such as Rumensin or Bovatec along with MGA can boost your efficiency.



This year looks promising for cull cow prices and have been well above average the past several months (Figure 2). Likewise cull bull prices are quite strong this year. Consider selling bulls now when they have had the opportunity to gain a little weight on grass. Wintering cost of bulls typically run \$340-\$400/ hd. Add that to \$70/cwt cull price, you would have close to \$1,600.00 cash in hand for a replacement purchase next spring. Cull cow and bull prices typically account for 15% of annual income, however, this may be a good year to focus on marketing options for them and increase income. Regardless of what you do with your cull cows, pencil out your options and be flexible with sale dates.

*Barbi Riggs*

## Calendar

### September

- 1-4 National Hay Association Annual Meeting, Griffin Gate Marriott Resort, Lexington, KY.  
TBA Wheat Marketing Meeting (see article front page).
- 10 Central Oregon Food Summit (see article front page).
- 18 Healthy Horses-Healthy Pastures On-Farm Workshop (see article front page).

### October

- 1 October/November Central Oregon Ag. Newsletter Published  
TBA Wheat Marketing Meeting (see article front page)

### November

- 3 Oregon Hay King Contest Quality Samples Due (see article below).
- 13 Oregon Hay King Contest (see article below)
- 16-18 Alfalfa Intensive Training Seminar (see article page 6)  
TBA Wheat Marketing Meeting (see article front page)

## Oregon Hay King Contest

The Oregon Hay King Contest, sponsored by Oregon Hay & Forage Association and hosted by the Central Oregon Hay Growers Association, will be held on Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at Proline Fabrication, 1440 SW Tom McCall Road in Prineville, Oregon. Alfalfa grass, alfalfa grass mix, timothy, cereal, cereal-pea, and grass seed straw are the classes to be judged. There will be a Portable Hay Press demonstration on Friday, November 12, along with a mini-conference. Quality samples need to be in by Wednesday, November 3. Contact Mylen Bohle at (541) 447-6228 for more details or go to the Oregon Hay and Forage Association website: <http://www.oregonhaygrowers.com/>. Keep checking the website for more details.

**Oregon State University**  
**Deschutes County Extension Service**  
**3893 SW Airport Way**  
**Redmond OR 97756**

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