



Oregon State University Extension Service

Central Oregon Agriculture

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Central Oregon Small Farm Network Gathering

Date: Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: OSU Extension Service/Redmond office

It's time to meet! Please bring food -- something good to share!

Program:

- Cooperative Spring Ordering (bulk row crop cover and supplies).
- Central Oregon Food Network Website update (Sarahlee Lawrence).
- Community Food Assessment/Ag Producer Survey, Agri-tourism and more.
- Guest Speaker Chef Dave, vegetable grower and owner of 3456 Café, will cover the following topics: Communication between chefs and growers (social media including Twitter and Facebook websites), delivery of produce, pricing and affordability.

Dana Martin

Living On A Few Acres (LOAFA) Conference

Date: Saturday, March 20, 2010

Time: 8:30am to 4:30pm

Location: North Sister Building, Deschutes County Fairgrounds, Redmond, OR

Registration Fee: \$35/person or \$60 for two (if registered by March 15; \$50/person (for registrations received March 16 and after)

Information: Dana Martin. Email: dana.martin@oregonstate.edu; Phone: (541) 548-6088 ext. 7957

What is LOAFA? The Living on a Few Acres conference was developed by Oregon State University Extension Service in Central Oregon to provide educational workshops that focus on the needs of those living on small farms and acreages.

This year, participants can attend four classes from a selection of the following topics: Simple Season Extension; Growing Poultry; Managing Rodents; Irrigation Management; Alternative Value-Added Crops; Pasture and Grazing Management; Pond Management; Tractor Maintenance, Safety and Driving; Raspberries, Blueberries and Other Berry Crops for Central Oregon, Horse Nutrition, Marketing Farm Products, First Aid for Livestock, Wildlife Habitat, and Quality Hay.

LOAFA will also highlight Featured Speaker Sean Dodson of Dancing Cow Farm; Exhibitor booths, and a food concession provided by the Very Impressive Pig (VIP) 4-H Club.

Class descriptions and registration form available at this website:

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

Dana Martin

Oregon Country Trails — Agri-tourism

Are you ready for agri-tourism/value-added opportunities on your farm?

“Oregon Country Trails”, Oregon’s only agri-tourism system is developed and ready to help organize agricultural producers, entertainment farms, rural entrepreneurs and the small family farms into friendly, low impact, self-guided tours.

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"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 Extension office 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/coar/index.php>

Central Oregon Agricultural Extension Service Staff:

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

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

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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

Dana Martin - Small Acreage, 548-6088

Barbi Riggs - Livestock and Water Quality, 447-6228

Pam Wiederholt - Ag Newsletter Coordinator, 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.

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Oregon Country Trails - Agri-Tourism

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The process begins with "Trail-in-a-Box" where 10 people from a targeted area come together to learn more about Oregon Country Trails and get started. Check out their website:

www.OregonCountryTrails.com.

As of now, people in Terrebonne, Prineville and East Bend are interested in bringing Oregon Country Trails to Central Oregon. The first meeting for these groups will be happening soon. If you are interested in participating, please contact Dana at dana.martin@oregonstate.edu; (541) 548-6088 x 7957.

Dana Martin

Community Food Assessment/Agricultural Producer Survey - Deadline Extended to March 22nd

Have you completed your survey? Out of the nearly 1000 surveys distributed, 75 have been returned. This means that fewer than 10 percent of you are "telling" the agricultural story in Central Oregon! While 10 percent is considered "good" by general standards, we are hoping for much more. So why should you care?

By documenting what is being produced, the challenges and barriers you face as producers and hearing your ideas about what can help you succeed, we are in a better position to help. Once the assessment is complete, it may position Central Oregon for opportunities in funding/grants, input on direction of policies, access to resources and who knows what else.

Since this survey was produced in coordination with Wy'East Resource Conservation and Development, Oregon State University Extension Service, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, and Neighbor Impact, this collaborated effort can make things happen. All we need is information from you, our ranchers and farmers.

If you have not yet completed your survey, please reconsider. You can do it online: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NY8Y8MB> or I will be happy to mail you a hard copy. Please contact me at: dana.martin@oregonstate.edu; (541) 548-6088 x 7957.

Dana Martin

Growing Farms: Successful Whole Farm Management Series ---- Register Now!

Dates: (Tuesday nights), March 30; April 6, 13, 20, 27; May 4, plus one Farm Tour (Saturday, April 24)

Time: 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Location: Deschutes County Extension Service, Redmond, OR; and local farms

Registration Fee: \$200/person, \$350/couple from the same farm.

This includes the resource binder, workbook and a light meal.

(Partial scholarships available; credit card payment option)

Online Registration:

<http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/growing-farms-workshop-series>

The OSU Oregon Small Farms team is collaborating with partners to offer the Growing Farm: Successful Whole Farm Management series in 2010. Growing Farms was launched in 2009 in four regions of Oregon, where 105 farmers benefited from the series.

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Oregon Forage and Grassland Council

The Oregon Forage and Grassland Council (OFGC) will be holding their annual meeting and conference on April 7th and 8th at the Benton County Fairgrounds, Corvallis, Oregon. Oregon has formed an affiliate council of the American Forage and Grassland Council. There will be a Trade Show during this 1st Annual Conference.

Wednesday, April 7

- 1:00 pm Welcome and OSU College of Ag Update - *Dean Sonny Ramaswamy*
- 1:30 pm Endophyte and Endophyte Testing - *Morrie Craig, OSU*
- 2:15 pm Grass Based Health: Turning the Food Pyramid Upside Down – *Peter Ballerstedt, Philomath*
- 3:00 pm Selenium Fertilization of Pastures – *Gene Pirelli, OSU*
- 3:30 pm Making a Profit on Forages – *Michael Murphy, Ireland*
- 5:00 pm Trade Show and Social Hour
- 7:00 pm Trade Show Adjourns
- 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Optional Session: Willamette Valley Pasture and Grazing Class Series – *Woody Lane, Lane Livestock Services*

Thursday, April 8

- 7:00 am Continental Breakfast
- 7:30 am OFGC Business Meeting – *Interim President Chad Hale*
- 9:00 am Grass Dairying in Western Oregon – *Michael Murphy, Ireland*
- 10:00 am Selecting Cattle for Your Management and Goals – *Bill Tucker, Past Pres, AFGC, Virginia*
- 10:00 am Ammonia Emission: Why It Matters - *Shabtai Bittman, Agriculture Canada, B.C.*
- 10:45 am Politics, Money, and the Future of Forage Agriculture Panel – *Woody Lane, Moderator*
(*Russ Karow, Crop & Soil Science Dept.; Jim Males, Animal and Range Science Dept.; Bill Hoyt, Pres. Cattlemen's Assoc.; Reed Anderson, Pres. Sheep Growers Assoc.; Tom Johnson, Pres. Dairy Farmers Assoc.; Scott Pierson, Pres. Hay and Forage Assoc.; Matt Herb, Pres. Seed Grower's League & Seed Trade Assoc.; & Bill Tucker, Past Pres. AFGC & Producer, Virginia*)
- 12:15 pm Catered Lunch and Trade Show
- 1:30 pm Plant Available Nitrogen from Manures – *Dan Sullivan, OSU*
- 1:30 pm Poisonous Weeds in Pastures – *Andy Hulting, OSU*
- 2:15 pm Advanced Ideas for Manure Application – *Shabtai Bittman, Agriculture Canada, B.C.*
- 2:15 pm Targeted Grazing for Weed Management – *Bill & Sharon Hoyt, Pres., OCA*
- 3:00 pm Developing Policy and the Realities of Making It Work – *Bill Tucker, Virginia*
- 5:00 pm Adjourn

Michael Murphy is one of Ireland's most progressive and profitable dairy farmers - owning and investing in farms in Ireland, New Zealand, Chile, Argentina and Missouri. Many of these ventures are equity partnerships or companies with 15-20 shareholders. He is a director of seven companies, an investor in shares, property and venture capital across many countries. Michael and his wife Geraldine live in West Cork, Ireland.

Bill Tucker and wife Claudia, are owners of Tucker Family Farms, a seventh generation family farming operation located in the heart of Virginia in Amherst County, in the foothills of the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Amherst, Virginia. Bill is the immediate Past President of the American Forage and Grassland Council. Since 1998, he has been the Director of Legislative Affairs for AFGC as well. He is the recipient of the 2000 Outstanding Commercial Cattleman Award from the Beef Improvement Federation and a member of the Grazinglands Conservation Initiative National Steering Committee. Controlled grazing and selection of cattle that fit and perform in the forage program are a key component of the operation. Tucker Family Farms runs 600 mother cows and has eight contract producers.

Registration is \$50 for members and \$85 for non-members. Membership dues are \$35 for producers and \$350 for associate/corporate membership. Pre-registration is March 31 with \$10.00 off for early registration. For more information contact: Shelby Filley at (541) 672-4461 or shelby.filley@oregonstate.edu. Registration and agenda details are also available at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/ifworkshops>.

Mylen Bohle

Spotted Wing Drosophila Meeting

On Tuesday, March 30, from 1-5 pm, OSU will host a meeting to provide the latest information available on the Spotted Wing Drosophila pest which is threatening many fruits grown in California and the Pacific Northwest.

For more information contact Stella Melugin Coakley/College of Ag. Sciences/OSU at (541) 737-5264 or email at:

Stella.coakley@oregonstate.edu

Stella Melugin Coakley

Growing Farms: Successful Whole Farm Management Series

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This course is designed to provide beginning specialty crop and livestock farmers with the tools and knowledge to manage both the biological and financial risks of farming. Participants will assess their farm enterprise and gain the ability to develop a whole farm plan. Guest farmers will share their experiences and help you avoid some common mistakes when first starting out.

The workshops address these six broad topics:

- Dream It: Strategic Planning (goals, resource inventory, planning your dream)
- Do It: Farm Operations (equipment, renewable energy, season extenders, irrigation efficiency, labor issues)
- Manage It: Farm Finance (business management, financial strategies, funding options)
- Sell It: Marketing Strategies (strategies, market options, licenses and permits)
- Grow It: Production (Soil, cold climate production and techniques)
- Keeping It: Managing Liability (managing liability, insurance, farm succession).

Please contact me at: dana.martin@oregonstate.edu; or (541) 548-6088 x 7957.

Dana Martin

Clover Mite Update

Last year in Central Oregon, we conducted a 6 treatment insecticide trial effect on clover mites in an Orchardgrass mix grass pasture/hay field in the Lower Bridge area. The trial was successful, in that we were able to identify one treatment that had excellent control of the clover mites (and two treatments worked on the Winter Grain mites). We thought we had a product that could be available for use this spring with a Section 18 label. When we contacted the company about writing a Section 18 proposal, they had reasons that they would not support us doing that, this year. They need more efficacy and residue data. That makes two treatments that we have found that worked, but we could not get labeled, since we began working on this problem in 2000.

So we are back to square one and not sure where we go from here. The only known control method is Fire, at this point. We did want to alert you what you might be seeing in your fields this spring and offer the table below to give you some idea of population dynamics that will be occurring in your fields if you have either Clover mites and / or Winter Grain mites.

The use of Brigade 2EC, that was advocated in the original article, is illegal (Central Oregon Ag Newsletter, March 2010 edition. Brigade 2EC is NOT Labeled for use on Grass Pastures and Hay Fields. Always Read the Label! We do Not advocate the illegal use of Bridgade 2EC or any other non-labeled insecticide, to control mites in grass pastures or hay fields.

Last year (2009), the Winter Grain Mite population crashed at the end of April, while the Clover Mite population was still fairly high by the end of April (but population was decreasing) and then crashed the end of May. Comparing growing degrees (32 degrees F Base Temperature), this growing season is 18-30 days ahead of last year (as of February 28, 2010) depending upon your location around Central Oregon.

Table. Mean number of clover mites and winter grain mites in a 2.5 inch diameter core to a depth of 2 inches on weekly sampling dates at Lower Bridge, Deschutes County, OR in 2009

	4/2	4/10	4/17	4/24	5/01	5/08	5/15	5/22*	5/29	6/5
Clover Mite										
Untreated Check	247	118	84	175	99	47	81	--	21	0
Winter Grain Mite										
Untreated Check	11	12	9	11	0.3	0.1	0.6	--	0	0

-- = Did Not Sample. * = There were electricity problems at the lab that week in Corvallis.

Mylon Bohle

Central Oregon Hay Growers' Association

The Central Oregon Hay Growers Association (COHGA) is in the midst of their annual membership drive. Now more than ever, an increase in membership is needed. For the past couple of years, producer membership has not exceeded 30 members in the tri-county area. Census of Ag data indicates, there are over 1200 farms in central Oregon that raise hay or have irrigated pasture.

The COHGA board has 3 main goals they were working on in 2009 and will continue working toward in 2010:

- 1 - \$500 Scholarship for a graduating senior in the tri-county area (or child of COHGA member) wanting to major in an Ag related field or trade school. Education is key to our future.
- 2 - \$2,000 has been budgeted annually for local forage research - \$35 of each member's annual dues will go toward research. (Sixty (60) members are needed for that level of funding to be sustainable.) And \$2,000 does not buy much for forage research any more.
- 3 - Aid in Marketing your hay through the OHFA Website, and COHGA now has now developed a web site www.hayfinder.org, check it out! The web site is advertised in the Capital Press every week (More than 60 members are needed for this program to be sustainable. And yet what a bargain for you as a hay marketer.

The board consists of 5 producer members and 3 associate members. Several other producers have volunteered their time to be on the scholarship committee. There is still room for another producer board member (or two) from Jefferson County – There has been no producer participation from Jefferson County for a few years.

The OSU forage research program needs the COHGA for funding and political reasons with a need for it to function at a higher level than it has in the past. The funding from the state for the OSU Ag Experiment Station and Extension Service has dwindled over the years, and has finally caught up with COARC. Some local and state commodity groups have helped fund local crop research. The cost of doing any forage research has more than doubled and tripled, since the last local trials were funded in 2003. That forage research was partially paid for by Seed and Ag Product companies.

The COHGA board believes that their present three goals are doable, but, only with much increased membership. Twenty-six members paid their membership dues to help fund the organization in 2008. In 2009, the board raised membership dues from \$50 to \$75 annually and the membership increased to 49 members. The Organization needs to have a similar increase in membership in 2010.

If you think there is a future in agriculture in helping a young person attend a trade school or college to become a future farmer or rancher, Vet Tech, Ag Mechanic, or Agronomist... Being a member helps fund a scholarship. Being a member helps fund forage research and gives you the benefit of help with marketing your hay.

With many members paying dues, we can accomplish so much more collectively. Our goal is to increase membership to 200! Membership applications are due in April for inclusion in the Oregon Hay Directory. For more details and to obtain an application, contact the COHGA at the OSU Crook County Extension office at (541) 447-6228.

Mylen Bohle and Greg Mohnen, Pres. COHG

Pasture and Irrigation Management Workshops

If you are attending the Pasture and Grazing Management class or the Irrigation Principles and Management class at the LOAFA Expo on March 20th, you may want to also mark these two upcoming workshops on your calendar. There never seems to be enough time (1 hour and 20 minutes) to get through the materials at the LOAFA Expo... So we are scheduling a follow-up, longer, more-in-depth workshop for anyone who wants to attend. There will be a \$10 registration fee for these workshops. For those continuing from the LOAFA class, the initial fee will be less. For those who have attended the LOAFA class the last couple of years, the same offer is made to you as well.

I am also going to hold an informal workshop in someone's pasture on May 10, if there is interest, and we will talk about pasture, grazing, and irrigation, walking around in someone's pasture... And if there is interest in a monthly pasture walk-about, we can schedule more.

April 12 - Pasture and Grazing Management,
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Deschutes County Library, Redmond.
RSVP by April 9th to (541) 447-6228.

April 26 - Irrigation Principles and Management,
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm, Deschutes County Extension Service
Conference Room. RSVP by April 23rd at (541) 447-6228.

May 10 - Pasture, Grazing, and Irrigation Management In
Someone's Pasture. Farm Location TBA from selection from
previous class. Contact Mylen at (541) 447-6228.

Mylen Bohle

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.

*Spring Alaska Olson/Conservation Technician/
Deschutes County SWCD*

Wheat Marketing Meetings

The Oregon Wheat League will be holding their next Wheat Marketing Meeting on Thursday, March 12th via polycom at the COARC, Madras site. The broadcast will begin at 8:00 am and run until 9:00 am. Please call the day before, to (541) 475-7107, to make sure the meeting will be held. Occasionally, the meetings get postponed. The monthly meetings are scheduled for April 8th, May 13th, and then no meetings are scheduled until the 2nd Thursday in September.

Mylene Bohle

COARC Farm Foreman Position Available

Bob Crocker, has resigned his position as COARC Farm Foreman, to farm full time. The Central Oregon Ag Research Center is in the process of looking for a new farm foreman with a target start date of April 1. As someone who is intimately involved in the agricultural community, we would like to ask for your help to identify potential candidates that would be a good fit for this position.

The primary focus is someone with the ability to effectively farm diverse crops grown in small areas. In addition the position has responsibility for non-crop areas, along with the buildings and grounds. It is necessary to have mechanical skills to maintain farming equipment, with the ability to fabricate preferred. The person needs to be self-motivated, be able to manage and coordinate a variety of activities and processes in a manner that gets things done in a timely manner, and have good communication and people skills.

Thank you for passing on this opportunity to others who would be good candidates, or share their names with Rhonda Simmons (541-420-0632), Rich Affeldt (541-460-1303) or Marvin Butler (541-480-0810). In addition, the COARC phone is 541-475-7107. Thank you for your assistance in finding the right person for this job.

Marvin Butler, COARC Superintendent

Wine Grape Association of Central Oregon

The Wine Grape Association of Central Oregon (W(G)ACO or WACO) held a general member meeting in February and has scheduled out General Meetings for the 2010 year. The meetings will be held on the third Thursday evening, every other month at 7:00 pm (started in February). Board meetings will be held monthly on the months in between member meetings (the third Thursdays). Mark these dates on your calendar if you are interested in wine or table grapes. Everyone is welcome whether you have 5 grapes, 5,000 grapes or just interested in grapes.

General Membership Meetings

April 15
June 17
August 19
October 21
December 16

Contact Cindy Grossman, Secretary, at (541) 350-5384, or Kerry Damon, Vice President, at (541) 771-7817 for more information.

Mylene Bohle

OSU Forage/Livestock Research Program Endowment

Attempts to create a Forage / Livestock Research Endowment at Oregon State University, a few years ago, has finally paid off. In 2008, the funds raised finally hit \$25,000 and was "endowed". A fund like this cannot exist until there is \$25,000 in donations in order to endow the fund - that has been accomplished!

Purpose of the endowment is to fund research for the Forage/Livestock Industry. The forage and livestock industry is the largest agricultural interlinked enterprise in Oregon - more than \$1.5 billion in farm gate sales - when you take into account hay, pasture, dairy, cattle, sheep, goats, llamas, alpacas, horses, grass seed, and also know that forage affects other crops in a beneficial way. This benefit does not include all of the wildlife in the state which depends on our grazing resources.

Our goal is to raise \$1 million to \$1.5 million for this endowment. The dollars generated by this Endowment are dedicated to researching the questions that will provide answers for forage and livestock producers. This endowment would then fund forage and livestock research in perpetuity. When fully funded, with 4.5% interest, there will be \$45,000 available annually for research. We are asking producers to help us fund this much needed research. If we can discover answers to many of the opportunities that exist in this area, every one in Oregon will benefit with an improved environment and healthier agricultural industry.

To date the following gifts have been received: 1 gift of \$13,000 (from a hay farmer in south central Oregon) 3 gifts of \$5,000; 7 gifts of \$1,000, and 22 gifts under \$1,000. How do we raise the money? It is like eating an elephant, one bite at a time, whether the donations be large annual gifts or small annual gifts. We only need about \$961,000 more to begin to meet our goal!

If you think about the need for research dollars - especially forages...Yield, quality, nutrient and mineral plant content and uptake, are all important factors of information to help the producer, which in turn can help make livestock enterprises work more economically and efficiently. Forage research (varieties, species, fertility, weed control, production, management, etc.) is different from most other crops - there are multiple harvests or clippings/grazings that need to have yield, quality, nutrient and mineral content and uptake documented. There is an increased need for dependence on forages due to the cost of grains and supplements that are needed for the livestock industry.

State support declines each biennium; there is talk of less congressional ear-mark projects which funds a lot crop and livestock research at OSU; USDA is reorganizing with the new farm bill and when you total that all up, there may be much less resources for University research (there has never been a lot of funds available in the area of forages anyway).

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OSU Forage/Livestock Research Program Endowment

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Now more than ever, more support is needed from Oregon's agricultural industries, especially the forage industry, especially the forage producer.

The Oregon Cattlemen and Dairy Farmers Associations are looking to the future and are self assessing themselves with a fee (\$1/head) through the sale of their livestock in order to help needed research, education, marketing and other business. The Forage / Livestock Research endowment presently has some proceeds to start funding a few small projects, because of another \$100,000 endowment - the Byron Scott Endowment – which splits it's proceeds evenly for forage / livestock research, and grass seed research. So half of the annual proceeds generated are pooled with the Forage / Livestock Research Endowment proceeds that are generated. There was \$3,500 available in 2009.

Anyone wishing to help with this work can do so with a donation to the Forage Livestock Research Endowment at the OSU Foundation. Presently, there is a mostly campus based committee set up to look over the annual proposal requests. (Once there are substantial funds to disburse, more producers will be added to the committee). Contact Russ Karow at (541) 737-2821 if you have any questions about how the endowment operates – details on proposal requirements and disbursement process. To make an annual gift, Contact the OSU Foundation (Todd Bastion or Jack Holpuch) at (541) 737-8724. How valuable is forage research to you?

Mylen Bohle, Gene Pirelli, Wayne Mosher, Bill Krueger, and David Hannaway

Investing For Farm Families Course Helps Farmers Plan For A Secure Future

A secure future, a farm for future generations. It's everything a farm family wants.

"You can learn to secure your farm's future and protect your family's legacy by enrolling now in an online course just for farm families," said Barbara O'Neill, Extension specialist in Financial Resource Management at Rutgers Cooperative Extension. "Investing for Farm Families provides the information you need to make strategic decisions while weaving together farm and personal investments."

The 8-lesson course helps farm families plan for a financially stable future that meets their long-term needs. Developed by a team of Extension educators from several states, farm families can work at their own pace while taking the course.

"You can learn to increase your future financial security, identify investment strategies, know asset allocation basics, evaluate investment production alternatives to agriculture business risks, and invest for retirement and farm succession planning," said O'Neill.

O'Neill noted that farm families have unique investing needs, which the course addresses.

Surveys and focus groups with farmers provided the course developers with insights about farmers' investment concerns and learning preferences.

Tim Eggers, Extension field agricultural economist with Iowa State University said he and others affiliated with Annie's Project have encouraged farmers to enroll in the course. Annie's Project is an educational program offered in 20 states and dedicated to strengthening women's roles in the modern farm enterprise.

"The primary benefit of the course is the thoughtful analysis of how on- and off-farm investments can be balanced based on the participant's unique situation," Eggers said. "Farm and ranch families tend to be more comfortable with the investments they can see and use. Investing for Farm Families can help farmers to diversify their investments."

O'Neill and Eggers along with several Extension staff from around the nation developed the course through the Online Investment Education (OIE) project, which was created to reach farm families nationwide with investment information relevant to their needs. It was funded with a two-year grant to the eXtension Foundation from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Investor Education Foundation.

For more information or to enroll in the course, go to: www.extension.org/pages/InvestingforFarmFamilies.

The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Investor Education Foundation supports innovative research and educational projects that give investors the tools and information they need to better understand the markets and the basic principles of saving and investing. For details about grant programs and other new initiatives of the Foundation, visit www.finrafoundation.org.

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Tim Eggers, Iowa State University, teggers@iastate.edu,
Elaine Edwards, Kansas State University, elaine@ksu.edu*

Growing Degrees Update

The T-Sum (temperature summing) is calculated by summing the daily average between the daily maximum and minimum temperature in degrees F, and then subtract 32 degrees (base temperature for T-Sum). If the average is less than 0, discard the number, if the number is positive, it is accumulated, from January 1st as a growing degree-day (gdd). One web site address you can track the thermal time is at:

<http://pnwpest.org/wea>. The direct web site to all weather stations on this system is: <http://ippc2.orst.edu/OR/index.html>.

This T-Sum 360 F or T-Sum 720 F system for calculating gdd's is only to be used for timing nitrogen fertilizer applications on grass pasture and hay fields. If you want earlier pasture production, then when 360 F gdd's is accumulated, that is the best time to apply 50-60 lb/ac N. If you are applying high rates (100 -150 lb/ac) of nitrogen to grass hay fields, than apply around 720-775 gdd's.

Continued on page 8

Growing Degrees Update

Continued from page 7

Table 1. T-Sum dates for the present year(s) for 180, 360, 540, 720, and 900 accumulated T-Sum growing-degree days (GDD's) from January 1st for selected Oregon locations. (Fertilize at 360 gdd's for pasture, if you want earlier forage, and around 720 gdd's for grass hay.) (GDD's using 32 degrees F base temperature as of February 28, 2009)

Location/Elevation	Year	180 GDD's	360 GDD's Fertilize Pasture	540 GDD's	720 GDD's Fertilize Grass Hay	900 GDD's
Madras	2008	Feb 16	Mar 10	Apr 6	Apr 25	May 6
(2440')	2009	Feb 6	Mar 20	Apr 8	Apr 20	May 3
	2010	Jan 21	Feb 16			
Prineville 4 NW	2008	Feb 23	Mar 14	Apr 14	May 3	May 14
(2840')	2009	Feb 3	Mar 15	Apr 7	Apr 20	Apr 30
	2010	Jan 23	Feb 17			
Redmond	2008	Feb 24	Mar 18	Apr 22	May 5	May 16
(3077')	2009	Feb 4	Mar 20	Apr 10	Apr 25	May 9
	2010	Jan 24	Feb 25			
Powell Butte	2008	Feb 20	Mar 10	Apr 13	May 2	May 14
(3180')	2009	Feb 3	Mar 15	Apr 7	Apr 21	May 6
	2010	Jan 20	Feb 16			
Bend (Agrimet)	2008	Feb 24	Mar 18	Apr 14	May 3	May 14
(3650')	2009	Feb 4	Mar 19	Apr 9	Apr 21	May 3
	2010	Jan 29	Feb 28			
Paulina (3688')	2008	Mar 18	Apr 22	May 6	May 16	May 24
	2009	Feb 25	Mar 31	Apr 23	May 3	May 15
	2010	Feb 13	263			
Christmas Valley	2008	Mar 12	Apr 24	May 8	May 17	May 27
(4360')	2009	Mar 1	Apr 8	Apr 23	May 12	May 21
	2010	Feb 12	256			
Fort Rock (raws)	2008	Mar 13	Apr 24	May 8	May 17	May 26
(4430')	2009	Feb 25	Apr 5	Apr 21	May 8	May 18
	2010	Feb 11	272			
Seneca (4665')	2008	Apr 30	May 7	May 17	May 27	Jun 11
	2009	Apr 10	May 2	May 17	May 25	Jun 2
	2010	91				

Mylen Bohle

PNW Certified Forage Testing Labs (2009)

The following labs were certified by the National Forage Testing Association (NFTA) for 2009.

Oregon:

AgriCheck, Umatilla 541-922-5496 (Chemistry)
Basin Agri-Serve, Merrill 541-798-5112 (Chemistry)

Idaho:

Bar Diamond, Parma 208-722-6761 (Chemistry)
CRI North West Labs, Inc. Jerome 208-324-7511
(NIRS & Chemistry)
GHC Labs, Filer 208-326-7237 (NIRS)

Washington:

Ag Health Laboratories, Inc. Sunnyside
(509-836-2020 (Chemistry)

A.V. Labs, Othello 509-488-2468 (Chemistry)
Custom Dairy Services, Lynden 360-354-4344
(Chemistry)

Kuo Testing Labs, Inc., Othello 509-488-0112
(Chemistry)

MuKang Labs, Inc. Pasco, 509-544-2159 (Chemistry)
Soiltest Farm Consultants, Inc., Moses Lake
509-765-1622 (Chemistry / NIRS)

USAg Analytical Services, Inc., Pasco, 509-547-3838

California:

(There are many certified labs in California)

Montana

Analytical Experiment Station, Bozeman
406-994-3383 (Chemistry)

Continued on page 9

PNW Certified Forage Testing Labs (2009)

Continued from page 8

Utah Utah Dept. of Agriculture & Food, Ogden,
801-392-2292 (Chemistry)

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 2010 certification (different from 2009). The 8 samples represent 5 alfalfa samples (one of which contains at least 20% grass), 1 grass sample, and 2 corn silage samples. The cost to certify is \$500 (up from \$375) for either NIRS or chemistry or \$600 (up from \$550) for both. Applications had 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.

Alfalfa Nutrient Removal

Have you ever wondered: if you had to pay for the complete replacement of the minerals your alfalfa hay took off your farm, what would be the cost of replacement? Two alfalfa varieties, Vernal and 54Q25, were selected to represent a low yielding and high yielding variety to compare quality and nutrient content in a 3-cut and 4-cut management regime at Powell Butte and Madras. The table below is an average of both varieties.

The following table represents the average pounds of nutrients per ton of dry matter hay, which would have been exported off your fields, over a 4 year production cycle. Some of the differences are due to soil fertility at each site, and the growth stage the crop was harvested.

Grateful Acknowledgement is given to the Crook County Government for partially funding this project. Table. Average nutrient uptake (lb/ton DM hay) for the average of Vernal and 54Q25 Alfalfa varieties, at COARC Powell Butte (3-cut) and Madras (4-cut) Oregon alfalfa variety trials conducted from 2004-2007.

Nutrient	3-Cut Alfalfa 4-Year Avg. Uptake (lb/ton DM Hay)	4-Cut Alfalfa 4-Year Avg. Uptake (lb/ton DM Hay)
P2O5	11.8	12.6
K2O	59.5	78.0
Ca	21.9	26.1
Mg	4.8	5.7
S	3.9	4.0
Mn	0.033	0.066
Cu	0.113	0.015
Bo	0.080	0.093
Zn	0.029	0.025
Fe	0.105	0.136
Mo	0.002	0.002
Cl ¹	0.25	0.25

¹ = book value (was not tested)

Nutrient analysis conducted at OSU Analytical Lab in Corvallis

Certified Labs for 2010 list will be available in April?

Mylon Bohle

2009 Spring Wheat Variety Results

The spring wheat trial results highlights the yield, test weight, plant height, percent lodging, protein percentage for the spring wheat varieties tested at the COARC, Madras site in 2009. For a more complete set of data, which includes the last 3 year averages and other trial sites around Oregon, go to: <http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/wheat/> and then click on Oregon Elite Yield Trials. There was no nitrogen fertilizer applied to the spring wheat trial. The previous cropping history was 4 years of alfalfa and one year of summer fallow. Rhonda Simmons (and her assistant Mylen Bohle), at the COARC, manages the trials in cooperation with Jim Peterson and Mike Flowers on campus.

Rhonda Simmons and Mylen Bohle

Mylon Bohle

Calendar

March

- 10 Central Oregon Small Farm Network Gathering (see article front page).
- 11 Wheat Marketing Meeting - Oregon Wheat League. COARC, Madras. 8:00 am (Call 541-475-7107)
- 15 Final Date to Obtain 2010 Adjusted Gross-Revenue-Lite (AGR-Lite Insurance for New Application/Enrollment Policies)
Jo Lynne Seufer, Risk Management Specialist. (509) 228-6320.
- 20 Living On A Few Acres (LOAFA) Conference (see article front page)
- 22 Community Food Assessment/Ag. Producer Survey Deadline (see article page 2)
- 30 Small Farms Program: Growing Farms—Successful Whole Farm Management Workshop (see article pages 2 & 4)
- 30 Spotted Wing Drosophila Pest Meeting (see article page #)

April

- 6 Small Farms Program: Growing Farms—Successful Whole Farm Management Workshop (see article pages 2 & 4)
- 7 & 8 Oregon Forage and Grassland Council Annual Conference (see article page 3)
- 8 Wheat Marketing Meeting - Oregon Wheat League (see article page 6)
- 12 Pasture and Grazing Management (see article page 5)
- 13, 20, 24, 27 Small Farms Program: Growing Farms—Successful Whole Farm Management Workshop (see article pages 2 & 4)
- 15 Wine Grape Association of Central Oregon Member Meeting (see article page 6)
- 17 Central Oregon Goat Jamboree, Bend, Oregon. Contact Kim Griffin @ (541) 447-4052 or kaco4@msn.com
- 24 & 25 Ag Fest, Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem, Oregon (1-800-874-7012)
- 26 Irrigation Principles and Management (see article page 5)

May

- 1 Deschutes County SWCD Farm Workshop (541-923-2204)
- 4 Small Farms Program: Growing Farms—Successful Whole Farm Management Workshop (see pages 2 & 4)
- 10 Pasture, Grazing, and Irrigation Management In Someone's Pasture (see article page 5)
- 13 Wheat Marketing Meeting - Oregon Wheat League (see article page 6)

June

- 17 Wine Grape Association of Central Oregon Member Meeting (see article page 6)

OSU Planning For Change

Throughout the recent series of Town Hall meeting with stakeholders of the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences (internal and external), Dean Sonny Ramaswamy has reiterated his commitment to making the process both broadly engaging and transparent.

Much of that process is now captured and available on the College's web site. The site includes reports from unit leaders, branch experiment station superintendents, the Strategic Discussions Panel chaired by emeritus dean C.J. Weiser, a fact sheet distributed to stakeholders, and a link to video of an on-campus Town Hall meeting.

If you would like to peruse this information, you may find it at: <http://agsci.oregonstate.edu/about/planning-for-change>.

Or...from the College's home page, click on "About the College" in the upper left corner, then on the next page, click on "Planning for Change".

Gwil Evans/Office of the Dean/OSU

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