

OSU EXTENSION SERVICE



Regional Livestock & Forages Newsletter

For the Counties of
Benton, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, and Linn

Douglas Co./OSU Extension Service, PO Box 1165, Roseburg, OR 97470
(541) 672-4461

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/L&F/livestock.php>

email to: shelby.filley@oregonstate.edu



Check out the
Website



VOL. 4 NO. 2

December 2007 - January/February 2008

Inside This Edition . . .

- Greetings
- Meetings/Educational Programs
- Beef Corner—Cow-Calf Management Guide & Cattle Producers Library
- Sheep Notes—Parasite Concerns in Sheep
- Forage—Be Aware of Endophyte When Using Grass Seed Straw to Replace Hay in Livestock Feed
- Helpful Tips & Important Notices



Photo: kritttersinthemailbox.com



Greetings!

Happy Holidays, no matter how you celebrate them.
My favorite is Christmas!

Here's a whole list of December 2007 Holidays:
5 - Hanukkah (Jewish), 6 - St. Nicholas Day (International), 8 - Bodhi Day - Buddha's Enlightenment (Buddhist), 12 - Virgin of Guadalupe (Mexico), 13 - [Santa Lucia Day](#) (Sweden), 16-25 - [Las Posadas](#) (Mexico), 20 - [Eid al-adha](#) (Islamic, Muslim), 25 - [Christmas](#) (Christian, Roman Catholic, International), 26 - Boxing Day (Canada, United Kingdom), 16-24 - [Hanukkah](#) (Jewish), 26 - Jan 1 - [Kwanzaa](#) (African-American), 31 - [Eid al-Adha](#) (Islamic, Muslim).

And, here is a great toast in any language...
“¡Salud, pesetas, amor, y tiempo para gstarlos!”
That is, “Health, wealth, love, and time to spend them!”

Happy Holidays!

Shelby

Shelby Filley,
Regional Livestock & Forage Specialist



Douglas County/OSU Extension Service
1134 SE Douglas Ave., Douglas Co. Church Annex
P. O. Box 1165, Roseburg, Oregon 97470-1165
T 541-672-4461 | F 541-672-4453 | T in Douglas: 1-800-883-7568
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/index.php>

Extension Service

Agriculture, 4-H Youth, Family & Community Development, Forestry, and Extension Sea Grant Programs. Oregon State University, United States Department of Agriculture, and Douglas county cooperating. The Extension Service offers its programs and materials equally to all people.

*Coming Soon. . . . Weed Control Workshop
December 11th, Roseburg, Oregon
See page 3 for details.*

Meetings/Educational Programs . . .

Benton & Linn Counties

Linn County Livestock Association

Breakfast/Board Meeting/Edu. Program 6:30 – 8:00 AM
Pioneer Villa Restaurant, Brownsville exit I-5
This year's theme: *Livestock Marketing*

December 11, 2007 – Marketing Livestock (Mike Stevenson, Knee Deep Cattle Co.)

January 8, 2008 - USDA Disaster Programs (Dan Sundseth & John Stats, Farm Service Agency)

February 12 - Livestock Yield & Quality Grades (Shelby Filley, OSU Extension Service)

March ? (11 or 18) - Feedlot Futurity/Age & Source Verification (Randy Mills, OSU Extension Service)

Joel Pynch 541-466-5344

Roger Ruckert 541-967-7171

Douglas County

Douglas County Farm Bureau

First Monday each month at 6:00 pm. Location varies.

Rick Epp 541-679-1565

Douglas County Livestock Association

DCLA Board Meetings

January 8, 2008 (note date, time, place change)

Elmer's Restaurant at 6:00pm (no host dinner meetings)

Other meetings held the 1st Tues, 7:00 pm (7:30 pm summer hours). OSU Extension Office of Douglas

County, Roseburg, Oregon.

Troy Michaels 541-825-3760

DCLA Stockman's Breakfast Meetings

Third Tuesday, 7:00 AM

Karen's Coffee Cup

Dec, 2007 - *No meeting*, Happy Holidays!

Jan 15, 2008 - Silas Gilliam (Schering-Plough)

Vaccines vs. Antibiotics

Feb. 19 - Vaccines & De-wormers (John Herkner,

Pfizer Animal Health)

March 18 - Minerals (Greg Rousch, Land-O-Lakes, Purina)

Woody Lane, 541-440-1926

Umpqua Valley Livestock Producers

Educational programs; Feed pool

Location & dates vary

Joe Alvernaz, 541-496-3950

Jackson & Josephine Counties

Jackson County Stockman's Association

Business & Educational Meetings

2nd Wed., 6:00 PM,

Hungry Woodsman, Medford.

Mike Dauenhauer 541-482-8593

Southern Oregon Sheep Producers

Alternates between:

2nd Tues., 7:00 PM at Jackson SWCD

or 6:00 PM at a local restaurant

Charlie Boyer 541-826-9873

FARRM -Farm & Ranch Resource Management

3rd Thursday, alternating between:

8:00 am, Black Bear Diner in Medford

and 6 pm potluck meeting at Jackson SWCD,

Parsons Rd., Medford

Randy White 541-734-3143

Jackson County Farm Bureau

3rd Tues, 6:00 PM, location varies

Ron Bjork 541-821-4249

Josephine County Farm Bureau

Lynne Vanderlinden, 541-592-3444 or

van@cavenet.com

Lane County

Lane County Livestock Association

LCLA Board Meetings

2nd or 3rd Tues., location varies

Mark Meyers 541-520-4591

Livestock & Forages Educational Breakfast

Third Wednesday each month.

Village Inn Restaurant, 6:30 – 8:00 AM

1875 Mohawk Blvd., Springfield.

Dec 19, 2007 - Marketing Livestock (Mike Stevenson, Knee Deep Cattle Co.)

January 16, 2008 - TBA

Feb 20 - Yield & Quality Grades for

Livestock (Shelby Filley, OSU Ext. Service)

March ? (19 or 12) - Feedlot Futurity/Age

& Source Verification (Randy Mills, OSU Extension Service)

Info - Larry Schrenk 541-746-1007

Meetings/Educational Programs . . .

Educational Programs

Weed Control for Everyone

December 11, 2007, Roseburg

Pesticide Use Reporting

December 17, 2007, McMinnville

Sheep/Goat Internal Parasite Workshop

January 4, 2008, Corvallis

Ties to the Land: Succession and Estate Planning

January 15, 2008, Eugene (and other locations/dates)

Douglas County Weed Day

February 6, 2008, Fairgrounds in Roseburg

Spring Livestock Conference

March (TBA)

Other Livestock & Forages Meetings – monthly in communities across western Oregon.

Program Details

Weed Control for Everyone

Dec. 11, 2007, 7 – 9 PM

Douglas County OSU Extension Office

(Courthouse Annex - Dress warm for this building)

1134 SE Douglas Ave., Roseburg

Please pre-register by calling 541-672-4461

\$5.00 fee includes resource materials and hot drinks!

Pesticide Use Reporting – Free class

Dec. 17th, McMinnville, 1:30-3:30 pm, Chemekata

McMinnville Branch, 503-434-8917, 306 NE Norton Lane;

across the road from the hospital and next to the movie theater

OSU and OSGA Sheep/Goat Internal Parasite Workshop

Friday, January 4, 2008. Registration is limited.

Contact Gene Pirelli at 503-623-8395 or

gene.pirelli@oregonstate.edu

Ties to the Land: Succession and Estate Planning

Livestock producers! What would happen to your ranch and estate if you and your spouse were killed in a car wreck tonight? Would it survive to be passed to your heirs or would taxes and legal fees eat it up? Or, in a less extreme scenario, do you want to someday retire and watch the next generations assume the management and ownership of your legacy while you can still enjoy watching them carry on family traditions? These are issues that will be addressed in a workshop series to be held this winter and spring called “Ties to the Land: Succession and Estate Planning for Livestock Producers.”

The first of a two-workshop series will be offered in the following locations and dates - Springfield/Eugene on January 15; Baker City, January 23; Prineville, January 24; Klamath Falls, January 29; and Harney County, January 30. The second follow-up sessions are yet to be scheduled for the spring, after

calving season. The workshops will begin with registration and beverages at 9:30 am, program starting at 10 am and will end at approximately 3 pm. Registration for the workshop series will cost \$50 per family ranch operation for both sessions. A lunch will be served and may, or may not, involve a separate, per person charge, depending on our success in finding sponsors. The workshops are a partnership project of OSU Extension Service and Austin Family Business Program, and Oregon Cattlemen’s Association, with major funding from USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA). All livestock producer families are welcome. Speakers will include prominent estate planning advisors, a legal expert, a CPA and a farm/ranch business management advisor. Topics to be addressed include:

- What do you want to happen? Goals of all parties
- Is equal fair?
- Getting it together. Communication among family members
- Inventory of legacy.
- Business analysis. Is the future possible/viable?
- Picking your succession “team members”.
- Tax considerations. How to avoid/reduce estate tax?
- Legal considerations. So you have the right business structure?
- Insurance considerations. Can your survivors survive?
- Ways of transmitting assets.
- Transferring control to the successors.

Getting a succession plan together is a complicated process that requires the help of a team of experts. Take this opportunity to start the process for your family's legacy.

For more information and registration materials contact Shelby Filley (541-672-4461 or shelby.filley@oregonstate.edu) or go to the Livestock & Forages Website and click on item B, Educational Programs for a brochure.

Douglas County Weed Day

February 6, 2008, 8 am – 5 pm

Fairgrounds in Roseburg

Spring Livestock Conference

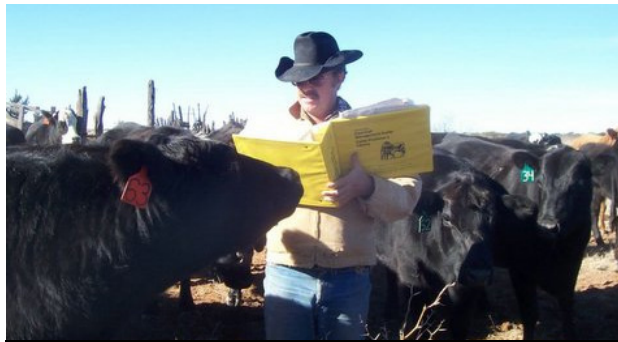
March (TBA) 2008, Roseburg



BEEF CORNER...

Cow-Calf Management Guide & Cattle Producers Library

The “Yellow Book,” as we call it, is a large reference book made specifically for livestock producers. It is prepared by the Western Beef Resource Committee, which consists of Extension Specialists in 12 western states, and contains 250 fact sheets for cattle producers. Included are sections on quality assurance, nutrition, reproduction, range and pasture, animal health, management, marketing, finance, genetics, and other natural disasters.



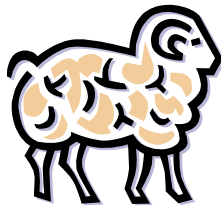
Many producers throughout the West find the Yellow Book extremely helpful, and use it “in the field.”

The library is revised annually and is in Adobe PDF format with the papers linked through a table of contents and an index. There is also a search function that will find terms and phrases that are not in the index. The library is available in a printed handbook (\$95, includes CD) and on a CD-ROM (\$35) through <http://www.avs.uidaho.edu/wbrc/index.html>. It is also available free on-line through <http://www.avs.uidaho.edu/wbrc/registeronline.html>.

Check it out!

SHEEP NOTES...

(The follow articles are available by mail on request or free on-line at the locations indicated below.)



Parasite Concerns in Sheep was a seminar presented at last year’s OSGA meeting. A written summary was prepared by *Gene Pirelli, Extension Animal Scientist, Oregon State University, and is available at http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill/pdf/parasites_sheep.pdf*

Successful Sheep Production Starts with an Evaluation
How’s the sheep business going for you? Do you really know how productive your sheep are and where you stand in overall efficiency of production? The dreary days and long nights of winter are an excellent time to evaluate your sheep enterprise. And, I have just the thing that can get you started on an evaluation for your flock.

Jim Thompson, OSU Extension Sheep Specialist, has written an excellent publication titled “Evaluation of Flock Production.” This short article provides a list of important performance indicators, along with the formulas to help you

calculate them and explanations on interpreting the results. You can use the data to evaluate your flock’s performance and to make improvements if needed.

The specific performance indicators in the evaluation include the following:

- Percent of ewes exposed that lamb
- Percent of ewes that settle on first cycle
- Percent of lamb crop born of ewes exposed
- Percent lamb crop born of ewes lambing
- Percent of lamb mortality from birth to weaning
- Average weaning weight

I encourage you to get the article, go through the calculations, and use the information to make any changes necessary to ensure good production in your flock! The article is posted to the Regional Livestock & Forages Website. Find it now at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/L&F/pdf/LnF0703EvalSheepProd.pdf>. You can also call the Lane Co. /OSU Extension Service to obtain a printed copy.

FORAGE...

Be Aware of Endophyte When Using Grass Seed Straw to Replace Hay In Livestock Feed

by Susan Aldrich-Markham, Gene Pirelli and A. Morrie Craig.
Oregon State University

This fall livestock owners may be noticing a shortage of hay. A greater percentage than usual of Oregon's 2007 hay crop has moved to markets outside the state, because of drought and wild fires that reduced production elsewhere. To fill the coming winter feed gap here, more straw from the 320,000 acres of tall fescue and perennial ryegrass grown for seed in the Willamette Valley will be fed to livestock. The current high price of hay will entice new customers to this alternative source of forage.

Grass seed straw is reasonably-priced alternative forage for livestock, but it cannot directly replace hay. Owners need to make adjustments in their livestock rations to avoid potential problems. The most significant problem is that many of the turf-type grass varieties are infected with an endophyte which produces toxins harmful to livestock. Turf varieties make up most of the acreage of grass seed production. Therefore, livestock owners who plan to feed grass seed straw should have that straw tested for toxin concentration level (unless the straw can be traced to a known field of a low-endophyte variety). Other feedstuffs can then be added to dilute the toxin to a safe level in the total ration. Another problem is that grass seed straw may be lower in protein and energy than grass hay. Without proper supplementation, a diet of grass seed straw can lead to nutritional deficiencies, and the effects of endophyte toxins are even more severe in malnourished animals.

Endophyte is a fungus that lives within the plant in a symbiotic relationship. The endophyte benefits the grass plant by producing toxins that help fend off insects, diseases and grazing animals. Endophyte is transmitted only through the seed, and its entire life cycle takes place inside the plant tissues. A plant does not become infected from its neighbors, so a non-infected variety will remain non-infected. All forage varieties currently produced in Oregon are endophyte-free or have very low levels. Newer turf varieties, on the other hand, are even higher in endophyte than older ones, because turf breeders have been selecting for the good qualities endophyte-infected plants have, without worrying about the effects on livestock. No endophyte problems have been found with orchardgrass, bentgrass, red fescue or chewing fescue straws. These grass species make up only about 30,000 acres of grass seed production. Annual

ryegrass, which is grown on about 130,000 acres, also has no endophyte toxins but is the least nutritious of all the grass seed straws.

Endophyte Toxins – Effects on Livestock

Different species of endophyte infect tall fescue and perennial ryegrass. The primary toxin produced in tall fescue by the endophyte is *ergovaline*, while the primary toxin produced in perennial ryegrass is *lolitrem B*.

Ergovaline constricts the blood vessels and reduces circulation to the body extremities. This interferes with the animals' ability to regulate body temperature, causing a condition called *fescue foot* in cold weather. Fescue foot is characterized by lameness and swelling in the legs, followed by tissue death, with loss of the tips of the tail or ears and sloughing of the hooves. Extreme cold in some localities increases the severity of the problem; frostbite can be a complication. A 10- to 20-day period of feeding on endophyte-infected tall fescue is required before clinical signs appear.

Horses are especially prone to developing serious reproductive abnormalities from ergovaline, including failure to come into heat, early-term abortions, difficult births, retained placentas, poor udder development with little or no milk production and poor foal survival.

Ryegrass staggers is caused by lolitrem B. This toxin causes tremors and muscle weakness that are particularly noticeable when the animal moves. The symptoms can develop into more severe tremors, with incoordination and falling down. A 7- to 14-day period of feeding on endophyte infected perennial ryegrass is required before clinical signs appear. Unlike with ergovaline in tall fescue, these symptoms disappear after the animal is removed from the infected feed.

Is there a safe level of these toxins?

Experiments and case studies conducted at the Oregon State University College of Veterinary Medicine and elsewhere have determined threshold levels of ergovaline and lolitrem B in the diet. Clinical disease is not seen at toxin levels below the threshold. These thresholds refer to the level of toxin in the total diet, not in single feed components. Forages with higher toxin levels may be fed safely, as long as they are diluted with other feedstuffs.

Continued on page 6

FORAGE...

Be Aware of Endophyte When Using Grass Seed Straw to Replace Hay In Livestock Feed (. . . Continued)

	Ergovaline parts per billion (ppb)	Lolitrem B parts per billion (ppb)
Horses *	300-500	not determined
Cattle	400-750	1,800-2,000
Sheep	500-800	1,800-2,000

* Except for mares in the last 60-90 days of pregnancy, when the threshold is zero.

Testing

The Endophyte Service Laboratory at Oregon State University tests forage samples for the level of ergovaline or lolitrem B using high-performance liquid chromatography. The cost is \$40 per sample for either test. It is important to submit a representative sample for testing. Use a core sampler at least 12 inches long, and take cores from at least 20 bales in each lot. (Many county Extension offices have forage samplers available to borrow.) Seal the sample in a plastic freezer bag, and label it with your name, phone number, a sample identification, and the test you want performed (ergovaline or lolitrem B). Send the sample and payment to:

Endophyte Service Laboratory
139 Oak Creek Building
College of Agricultural Sciences
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331

The laboratory phone number is 541-737-2872.

Supplementation

Grass seed straw has been successfully used in livestock rations for years with the aid of protein and energy supplements. Straws, however, can vary greatly in the amount of digestible nutrients such as protein and energy. So in addition to testing for the toxin level, a forage test for crude protein, acid detergent fiber (ADF) and neutral detergent fiber (NDF) is also recommended. Knowing the protein and energy value of the feed will greatly aid in balancing a ration that is appropriate for the age and type of livestock being fed.

The intake (amount the animal will eat) of good quality forage on a dry matter basis for ruminants ranges from 2.5 to

3 percent of the body weight of the animal. An 1100-pound cow, for example, will eat roughly 33 pounds of dry hay. Low quality roughage, like straw, results in a reduced intake, that may be only half that of good quality hay. The combination of reduced intake plus low nutrients will lead to a loss of condition of the animal and poor reproduction. Protein is usually the most limiting nutrient in low quality forages. Natural or plant protein sources (such as alfalfa or soybean meal) are better to use than urea-based protein supplements. In addition, energy (grains) may also be required to balance the ration. Feeding only grain with low quality forage actually decreases intake and may reduce the animals' gain or condition. If the grass straw to be fed contains toxin above the threshold level, it needs to be diluted with other non-endophyte infected feed in order to bring down the level of toxin. Mixing the straw with good quality hay such as grass, grass-clover or alfalfa accomplishes the necessary dilution and also may help to balance the overall ration.

Helpful Tips & Important Notices



Finding a Veterinarian right when you need one can be difficult for some producers. The best thing you can do, before an emergency arises, is find a veterinarian who can work with you and form a relationship with that professional for your specific ranch. The Oregon Veterinary Medical Association has a website with all its members listed by type of practice. Go to <http://www.oregonvma.org/vetdirectory/index.asp> and search for the type you need. Try leaving all fields blank, except for Service or Specialty, where selecting “mixed animal” seems to provide more listings than the other options.



USDA 2007 Census of Agriculture

Report forms coming this December 2007. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the option of filling out the Census online via a secure web site (<http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>).



YOUR VOICE

The 2007 Census of Agriculture is your chance to share your voice. Your response provides vital information that impacts decisions about community development, funding availability, farm policy and other key issues. By actively participating in the Census, you join with other voices to make positive changes.

Look for the Census in your mailbox in early January 2008. Complete and return it by February 4, 2008. Remember, when you lend your voice, you help ensure a better future for your operation, your family and your community.

2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE
YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

www.agcensus.usda.gov

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

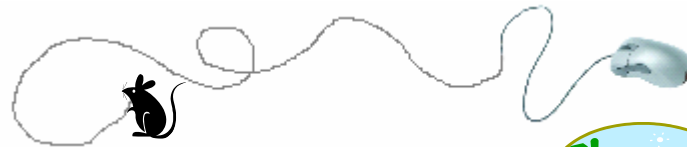


Pesticide Use Reporting (PURS) for 2007 must be reported by January 31, 2008.

Report only on-line at:

http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/PEST/purs_index.shtml.

Contact the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Pesticides Division, at 503-986-4635 or at purs-info@oda.state.or.us



Electronic Agent...



Website and E-mail are very useful tools. They have really helped me to communicate with producers that either are at some distance from my office or are not available during my office hours. I can provide technical information that otherwise would be difficult. Another useful thing about these electronic resources is that I can post on-line editions or send publications or links through the E-mail, saving time and postage expense. So, if you like, contact me by e-mail or visit my website...anytime (see front page for addresses).

OSU EXTENSION SERVICE

Regional Livestock & Forages Newsletter

For the Counties of
Benton, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, and Linn

Inside This Edition

Articles	Page
Greeting	1
Meetings/Educational Programs	2
Beef Corner	4
Sheep Notes	4
Forage	5
Helpful Hints & Important Notices	7

*Coming Soon. . . Weed Control Workshop
December 11th, Roseburg, Oregon
See inside for details, page 3*

Regional Livestock and Forage
information brought to you by



Shelby Filley
Regional Livestock & Forage Specialist
OSU Extension Service
(541) 672-4461

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Roseburg, OR
Permit No. 12

REGIONAL LIVESTOCK & FORAGE NEWSLETTER
DOUGLAS COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
PO BOX 1165 PHONE 672-4461
ROSEBURG, OR 97470