Greetings!

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

Here’s a whole list of December 2007 Holidays:

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

Happy Holidays!

Shelby Filley,
Regional Livestock & Forage Specialist

Photo: krittersinthemailbox.com

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
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) 2008, Roseburg

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
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.

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!

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

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 chewings 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)

Table 1. Threshold levels of ergovaline and lolitrem B in the diet that produce clinical disease

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ergovaline parts per billion (ppb)</th>
<th>Lolitrem B parts per billion (ppb)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Horses *</td>
<td>300-500</td>
<td>not determined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>400-750</td>
<td>1,800-2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>500-800</td>
<td>1,800-2,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* 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.
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/).

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Articles</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greeting</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetings/Educational Programs</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef Corner</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep Notes</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forage</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helpful Hints &amp; Important Notices</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Regional Livestock and Forage information brought to you by

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