



OSU EXTENSION SERVICE

Regional Livestock & Forages Newsletter



Check out the
Website 

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

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Inside This Edition . . .

- **Announcements – County Funding for OSU Extension Service: Douglas, Lane, Linn, Benton, Jackson & Josephine Counties**
- **Forage Info – upcoming article**
- **Beef Corner - Hi-Tech Cattle Management**
- **Sheep Notes – Flushing Ewes**
- **Program Announcements – Pastured Poultry and Sheep Production Basics**



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 above for addresses).

Greetings!

Happy days of summer! Wow, this year is flying by fast. There sure is a lot going on in each of the counties in my region. Look for some specific notes on your county in the “Announcements” section. Some news on county office situations is positive and some is negative. It’s unfortunate that we have to take the good along with a little bad. But, we are made up of a strong base, an agricultural foundation that is more tenacious than any other. Where does that come from? I don’t know, but I sure am proud to be a part of it. And, glad that we can work together. Please contact me on how you can help.

God Bless America.
Hope you had a good Independence Day!

Shelby
Shelby Filley,
Regional Livestock & Forage Specialist
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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.

Announcements . . .

Douglas County Voters Pass Measure 10-86, The Douglas County 4-H, Master Gardener & Extension Service District.

First, let me express my appreciation for the overwhelming response we received for this measure. Thank-you! Thank-you! Thank-you! It was so nice to have so many of you stand up and work so hard to support us in our OSU Extension Service programs. It really touched our hearts to know so many of you cared so much. *Thanks again! Shelby.*

The following is part of an article that was published in the News Review as an update on the situation. It was written by John Punches, Douglas County OSU Extension Service Staff Chair and Forester.

Something quite extraordinary has been happening in Douglas County over the past 18 months. That's the amount of time it has taken for a group of very dedicated volunteers, working tirelessly, to organize a successful effort to create a county service district that will specifically support the OSU Extension office. On May 20 voters passed Ballot Measure 10-86 with a decided margin, and in a culminating act the County Commissioners officially established the new Douglas County 4-H, Master Gardener and Extension Service District on June 11, 2008.

Many people asked if we (the Extension faculty and staff) can now breathe easy. The answer is "yes and no." "Yes" because stable funding will allow us to continue serving in the County we call home, but "no" because there is so much Extension can and should be doing here! The good people of this county stepped forward in support of Extension, and we don't want to let you down. To that end we're working diligently to maintain excellence in traditional programs while enhancing service in some key areas. Here is a highlight of our vision for Ag and Forestry and the 4-H program over the next couple of years. Our "traditional" programs in forestry, livestock and forages, and horticulture will remain strong and serve even wider audiences. The publicity Extension experienced over the past year-and-a-half has made many more people aware of our services, and we're scrambling to keep up with demand. Our 4-H Youth Development program will be stronger than ever now that it can refill a too-long vacant position that focuses on in-school programs, and we hope to introduce 4-H to younger students through our Cloverbuds program.

Space here is too limited to give you a complete description of all our upcoming activities and other program areas, so I encourage you to visit our website at extension.oregonstate.edu for class details and a wealth of information. I'll leave you with this: "We pledge to live up to our name, by "Extending" the knowledge base of Oregon State University to the people of Douglas County, and never forgetting that our name ends in "Service." Thanks for keeping the OSU Extension tradition alive in Douglas County. **J.P.**

Lane County OSU Extension Service Looses County Funding

Loss of county funding is threatening the Livestock and Forage program I provide in Lane County. I really enjoy working with the producers in Lane County, and hope we can find a way to maintain our program. I won't be able to send much through the US Mail, so please call our office or e-mail us to let us know you are willing to support us in our efforts.

Below are the parts of a letter that written by the OSU Lane County Staff Chair, Steve Dodrill, that directly affects my program area.

Dear friend of the Oregon State University Extension Service in Lane County:

Imagine losing about one third of your annual household income and learning that the rest might disappear in less than a year. What would you do? How would you make ends meet? Lane County commissioners recently approved their 2008-09 operating budget without \$47 million in annual federal timber payments. This loss of federal funds is delivering a serious blow to many services supported by the county, including the OSU Extension Service.

Local Extension offices are typically funded through a cooperative agreement among federal, state, and county governments. In 2007-08, every dollar that Lane County government invested in its local Extension office was matched by similar amounts from state and federal partners. However, the loss of annual federal timber payments has forced Lane County to eliminate the OSU Extension Service from its 2008-09 budget. We now have to operate with nearly one third less money, and our matching funds from state and federal partners are now at risk. Despite the county's dire financial situation,

Announcements . . .

commissioners have granted us one year of “rent forgiveness.” We are grateful for this support, but still face a cash shortfall of about \$483,000.

Thanks to careful spending in recent years, we have built up reserves that will allow us to operate with reduced staffing and program levels through June 30, 2009. Here is what that means for our educational programming:

Farms and Gardens

Last year, Master Gardener volunteers helped more than 50,000 Lane County residents learn to grow their own food, conserve water, identify plant pests and disease, and find alternatives to pesticides. Extension composting volunteers helped local businesses divert more than 70 tons of organic material from their trash, reducing the need for landfill space and saving taxpayers money. Lane County farmers learned to improve yields, minimize pesticide and fertilizer use, and increase profitability through workshops delivered by local Extension faculty. These programs will remain active in the coming year, but only through increased assistance from volunteers, fee increases, partnerships with other organizations, and adequate fund raising efforts.

4-H Youth Development

Lane County youth learn citizenship, leadership, and life skills through 4-H clubs in animal science, natural resources, engineering and technology, home economics, horticulture, and expressive arts. These programs will remain active in the coming year, but only through increased assistance from volunteers, fee increases, partnerships with other organizations, and adequate fund raising efforts.

Due to limited space here, information on Family and Community Development and Forestry are not included here. Please contact the OSU Extension Service Lane County office for those details.

We invite you to become involved—as a volunteer or a donor—so we can rebuild the OSU Extension Service in Lane County into an organization that is bigger and better than ever before. We truly believe that is possible with the help of our loyal supporters. If you have specific suggestions about ways to address our current challenges, I invite you to share those suggestions in a letter, or via email (lanecounty.extension@oregonstate.edu).

Finally, if you have not yet had a chance to visit our Web site (<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane>), I hope you will

take a few minutes to check it out. The site provides convenient access to a variety of OSU Extension Service educational materials and may even save you the time and cost of a trip to our office near the Lane County fairgrounds. We also have plans to expand and enhance our Web site in the months ahead, using it as a communications tool to keep you informed about the latest news from the OSU Extension Service. **S.D.**

Linn County 4-H and Extension District Formation Planning in the Works

The Three Legged Stool

With the campaign to form a Linn County 4-H and Extension District in full swing, people are interested in understanding why funding for Linn County Extension programs are in jeopardy. The key to understanding is the “three legged stool”. Here is what it means.

The “three legged stool” refers to the cooperative funding agreement that supports Linn County 4-H and Extension programs by county, state, and federal partners. This partnership has been in place in Linn County since 1911. In some states, county Extension is referred to as “Cooperative Extension.” Cooperative refers to the three legged stool. Details are available on request.

Linn County pays for support staff and office operations. Oregon State University and our federal partner the US Department of Agriculture pay for the salary and benefits of Extension faculty who serve Linn County.

Each year, Linn County faculty members bring in about one hundred thousand dollars in grants for special projects for youth and family, agriculture and forestry research and education. Fees and membership dues support special programs including grass seed certification. For every county dollar contributes, state and federal partners, grants and fees contribute an addition four dollars.

A friend and colleague of mine lamented recently that the three legged stool (our cooperative funding structure) is a difficult. “One of the legs is always wobbling.” Today, the leg that is wobbling is the County general fund contribution. The problem is serious.

Although the Linn County Commission continues to be very supportive of Extension Education programs, loss of

Announcements . . .

federal forest timber revenues has led to significant declines in county level funding for OSU Extension programs. The loss of County general fund support puts the entire cooperative funding structure in jeopardy.

A 4-H and Extension District, if it were approved by the voters, would stabilize the county portion of the funding for 4-H and Extension programs at seven cents per thousand dollars of valuation. For every dollar generated by the special district, state and federal partners, grants and fees would continue to contribute an addition four dollars. Oregon State University and USDA would continue to pay the salaries of the Extension faculty members serving Linn County.

The proposed permanent tax rate limit of \$ 0.07 (seven cents) per \$1,000 valuation would stabilize County level funding for 4-H and Extension. An owner of a \$150,000 home would pay \$10.50 per year for Linn County Extension programs for 4-H youth and families, agriculture and forestry, small farms and the Master Gardener program.

Seven cents per thousand would be the permanent tax rate limit for the lifetime of the Service District. It could never go higher without another vote from the citizens of Linn County. All monies raised by the service district would be used for Linn County 4-H and Extension programs only.

4-H and Extension would remain within county government. By statute, budget authority for the 4H and Extension District would remain the Linn County Commission Budget Committee (ORS 451.485). Oregon State University would continue to pay the salaries of Extension faculty working in Linn County.

Seventeen counties in Oregon have Extension Service Districts: Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Crook, Curry, Grant, Deschutes, Douglas, Josephine, Lake, Lincoln, Tillamook, Union, Yamhill, Wallowa, Wasco, and Wheeler Counties.
D.M.

Benton County and Jackson County OSU Extension Service Continue On County Budget

Staff Chairs, Rick Fletcher and Phil VanBuskirk, tell me that Extension was fully funded this year, and the county administrators have advised OSU that we will continue to be funded in coming years and are important to the counties. State, Federal, and other funding continue to provide their share of our local offices here. That is good news for now, so I will keep providing assistance to producers in Benton and Jackson counties as best I can.

Josephine County OSU Extension Service Maintains Programs on Service District Dollars

Thanks to previous efforts, Extension Service in Josephine County continues on with funding from the Service District. State, Federal, and other funding also continue to provide their share of funding for this office. We hope to keep on improving what we do for the county residents.

FORAGE...

Sorry no article for forages this issue. I am working on a nice article, "Getting the Most for your Fertilizer Dollars: Using Nitrogen Efficiently."



Garden Valley pastures. Photo by Shelby Filley



BEEF CORNER...

Hi-Tech Cattle Management

DCLA Purebred Breeders' Committee and OSU Extension Service worked together to use technology in genetic evaluation of cattle this last winter. The technology was ultrasound scanning of live cattle for carcass characteristics including rib eye area (REA), rump fat, back fat and intramuscular fat (marbling). The technician was Bob Patacini out of Washington. The cattle were purebred, registered animals, mostly Red Angus and Black Angus, with a few shorthorns from our area, plus some Herefords out of Grants Pass. In all, we scanned 60 yearling heifers and 10 yearling bulls.

The scanning collected carcass data that was stored to a disc and then sent to Centralized Ultrasound Processing Lab (CUP Lab) run by Walter and Associates, LLC, which originated from Iowa State University's CUP Lab. There the results of scans from across the USA will be analyzed and reported back to the producer and the breed registries for calculation of EPD or Expected Progeny Differences, estimates of genetic merit of these purebreds that cattle producers, both purebred and commercial alike, can use to



Ultrasound on Cattle (Photo by Shelby Filley)

make breeding decisions for herd improvement and efficient, profitable production of beef for all to enjoy.

Thank you to Brian Heinze, Lookingglass Red Angus, for hosting the event. The facilities were a good set up for us and all went smoothly (Well, there was this one heifer, but isn't there always?) thanks to the entire crew made up of the producers who brought cattle. I received thanks for helping with the data collection, but the pleasure was all mine. Nice Cattle, Guys!

SHEEP NOTES...

FLUSHING EWES: Don't Start too late or Stop too soon

Increasing the plane of nutrition for ewes 2 – 3 weeks prior to and 3 weeks into the breeding season can improve lamb crop in some instances. Flushing works best on mature ewes that are in moderate to good body condition. Very thin or overly fat ewes have lower response. Ewes that are maintained in very good condition on relatively high planes of nutrition throughout the year are also less likely to respond to flushing. Time of breeding season also influences the response to flushing. It is more beneficial to flush early (or late) in the breeding season when ovulation rates are naturally lower compared to mid-breeding season.

Flushing not only increases the number of ovulations (eggs) in the ewe, but also improves survival of the lamb embryo. What happens is that more eggs are available for

fertilization and those that are fertilized have an improved chance to survive the early life stage that is so delicate. The end result is that more lambs are born. Corn is usually used, but there are other options that can work; one is irrigated



Photo by Stillmeadow Finn Sheep

pasture. What is actually needed is an increase in energy content of the ewe's diet. Protein levels in the diet are also usually increased at this time. Under maintenance conditions a 154 lb ewe at will need about 2.6 lbs of dry matter (dried feed), including 1.5 lb TDN (energy) and 0.25 lb of protein. During flushing that same ewe will need 4 lbs of dry matter, including 2.3 lb of TDN and 0.36 lb protein (Nutrient Requirements for Sheep, NRC 1985). One pound of corn (90% TDN, 10 % protein) can provide this extra energy (0.9 lb TDN) and protein (0.1 lb CP).

Increasing productivity through nutrition may improve return per ewe.

**SHEEP PRODUCTION BASICS SEMINAR – ROSBURG
SET FOR
SEPTEMBER 23, TUESDAY**

The Oregon Sheep Grower's Association is teaming up with Oregon State University Extension Service on Tuesday, September 23, 2008 to offer an evening seminar at Umpqua Community College, Indian and Timber Room in Roseburg, Oregon on Sheep Health and Successfully Raising Sheep with High Feed Costs.

The class is designed for newer producers and those who would like to learn more about flock management, but will contain important information for experienced producers as well. The program will cover topics on sheep health, the scrapie eradication program, grazing management and pasture production, and sheep nutrition. Goat producers are welcome to attend as some information would be beneficial to them also.

Speakers covering the program topics are Dr. Charles Estill, DVM, Dr. Shelby Filley, Regional Livestock/Forage Specialist and Dr. James Thompson, Sheep Specialist, all with Oregon State University Extension and Mr. Robert Dyk with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Services.

There is no cost to attend, but pre-registration is requested by Monday, Sept. 15, to ensure adequate supplies are available. Doors open and sign-in begins at 5:30 p.m. The class will take place from 6:00 to 9:15 p.m.

To register, please call OSU Extension Service Douglas County at (541) 672-4461 or shelby.filley@oregonstate.edu



Lopera Lambs (Photo by LaVern Murphy)



**Do you have a small farm?
Are you interested in
raising hens or broilers on pasture?**



OSU Small Farms Extension *presents*
Small-Scale
Pastured Poultry Production
Saturday, August 2nd, 2008
9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

*\$25 for the day. Lunch included.
Drinks, snacks and materials will be provided.*

Topics include:

- **General management, nutrition and health of poultry**
- **Choosing an alternative poultry production system**
 - **Poultry farmer Q&A**
- **Marketing opportunities for the small-scale producer**
- **Rules and regulations for direct marketing and poultry processing**
- **Field tour of B&K Natural Farms—a local pastured poultry farm**

**The workshop will be held at the Fair Oaks Grange,
1020 Fair Oaks Road in Sutherlin.**

**For more information, call OSU Extension-Douglas
County at 541-672-4461.**

Pre-registration required.

To register, call 541-672-4461.

Please register by Friday, July 25th.

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Inside This Edition

Articles	Page
Greeting	1
Announcements: Counties' Funding	2
Forage	4
Beef Corner	5
Sheep Notes	5
Programs: Sheep Production Basics	6
Programs: Pastured Poultry	7

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