



### **Extension Service Douglas County**

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## *Applied Research Projects*

### **FORAGE OBSERVATION PLOTS**

**Filley, S.J. 1999 - 2004. Forage Observation Trial.** Some ranchers lacked the ability to identify pasture forages for management purposes. I developed forage observation plots of 24 different grasses and legumes at the OSU Demonstration Farm, developed a forage identification manual, and am preparing a section on my county web page on the forage plots and educational materials. I conducted Forage Identification programs in 2000 and 2001 for 55 participants using the “Living Classroom.” More farmers can identify their pasture forage plants and therefore be able to manage grazing accordingly. In the spring of 2004 I renovated the plots and worked with the OSU Horticulture Agent and Roseburg High School FFA class to include both forage and turf varieties of grass and legumes, have youth volunteers, and collaborate on the plot work. A forage ID class is planned for fall 2004. Publication in the Journal of Extension and submission to Oregon State University Extension Annual Conference (Peer Poster Session) are planned.

### **SHEEP FOOT ROT TRIAL**

**Berg, J. and S.J. Filley. 1999 - 2000. Sheep Footrot Vaccination Efficacy Trial.** I cooperated with Bayer, Inc. and two Douglas County sheep producers for FDA re-certification of a footrot vaccine. Results were reported to the corporation and at county educational programs. Due to differences in strain of organism, positive results were realized in only one flock. Previous research showed a 7.1 lb increase in lamb weight gain for footrot-free versus footrot-infected lambs. Also, ewes infected with footrot are less productive overall. With less footrot in the flock less labor is necessary for time spent treating animals. This information was used to make management decisions on whether or not to use the vaccine. The 600-ewe flock with a positive response to the vaccine has the potential to increase annual revenues by \$0.97 per ewe through increased weight gains in lambs. The 600-ewe flock with the negative response is not using the vaccine, thus saving the \$2 per ewe annual vaccine cost. With 18,000 ewes in Douglas County, there is a potential revenue increase of \$26,689 annually by using vaccine trial information.