



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/lf>

email to: shelby.filley@oregonstate.edu



Check out the
Website 

VOL. 8.

November/December 2011

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Greetings...

Hello All,

Another year has just about flown by. I am still enjoying working with you and your livestock, pastures and hay ground, and your ideas for the future. I hope that you remain invigorated in your work too. You have one of the most important jobs in the world – providing food and fiber for people and animals, caring for the land, and raising the most wonderful families. Please try and make it to some educational programs, we have some good ones coming up. If that is not your style, give me a call and let's get together and discuss your ranch activities and see if there is something I can help you with. Efficiency of production is always on my mind, and I have resources for many other topics. I would love to work more closely with you.

Take care as we end our year with some fun holidays and look forward to 2012! Thank you for all you do.

Shelby
Shelby Filley,
Regional Livestock & Forage Specialist

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 2011-2012 **Oregon Hay and Forage Association Directory** is now available. I have a limited number of copies in my office, but can get more. Let me know if you would like one. You could also visit their website at www.oregonhaygrowers.com

Red Books – those little pocket-sized record books the National Cattle-men's Beef Association puts out – will soon be ready. Please let me know if you want one, and I will make sure to order it for you. You can pick one or two up at the Extension Office at the end of December. Last year the cost was \$5 each. Add postage if you want one mailed to you.

Flock Record Books – those little pocket-sized record books for sheep that THE SHEPHERD magazine gives away free – will be ready soon. You can pick one or two up at the Extension Office at the end of December. Please let me know if you want one, and I will make sure to order it for you.

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 email, saving time and the expenses for printing and postage. So, if you'd like, contact me by email or visit my website...anytime (see above for addresses).



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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...

◆ *OSU Livestock & Forages Educational programs...*

For details, see the list below, contact your local Extension Office, or look on the Livestock & Forages website (<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/lf>, Item 2. Educational).

- Beef Reproduction and Genetics (5 locations in Oregon; Dec 8 in Roseburg and Dec 9 in Albany). See program announcement included in this newsletter.
- Livestock Health (Dec 13th Brownsville). See Linn Co programs below.
- Pasture Fertility and Grazing Management (Jan 19th in Elkton). See full program announcement included in this newsletter.
- Douglas County Weed Day (Feb 1 at the DC Fairgrounds). Details TBA.
- Ultrasound Evaluation of Breeding Stock (March 2nd in Roseburg). Details TBA.
- Artificial Insemination School (March 2012 in Albany area). Details TBA.
- Livestock Marketing Series (Spring 2012 in Willamette Valley; Fall 2012 in southern Oregon). Details TBA.

◆ *OSU Small Farms Program*

The Oregon State University Small Farms program provides information for the commercial small farmer as well as the small acreage landowner. Innovative programming is a hallmark of this program. You will be pleased with many of the classes, tours, and opportunities they provide. Small Farms faculty are available in most counties. Contact your local Extension Office, or visit their website at <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/> Check it out!

- Equine series in Roseburg on 1/18, 2/1, & 2/15/2012

◆ *County Livestock Monthly Meetings...*

... *Business, educational & social meetings* ...

Oregon State University Extension Service assists county livestock associations by organizing educational meetings and assisting with meeting rooms and other arrangements. Guest and local speakers discuss various topics from cattle prices and production practices to vaccinations. Below are tentative schedules and other details for your county meetings. Call your local contact for more information.

Monthly breakfast meeting schedules for different locations are posted on the website of OSU Livestock & Forages at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/lf>, click on item 2.

Benton County

Benton County Livestock Association
Rick Wells, 541-929-4361.

You're invited to join Linn/Benton Livestock breakfast programs and Linn County Livestock Association.

See more information under Linn County below.

Douglas County

Douglas County Farm Bureau

1st Monday, 6:00 PM, (except Dec & July), location varies.

Larry Williams 541-440-9657

Douglas County Livestock Association

Website: www.dclivestock.org

Board Meetings - 1st Tues. 7:00 PM

Douglas Co. OSU Extension Office, Roseburg

Veril Nelson 541-459-1330

DCLA Stockman's Breakfast Meetings

4th Tuesday. 7 – 8 AM

Karen's Coffee Cup

2445 NE Diamond Lk. Blvd, Roseburg

Woody Lane, 541-440-1926

Jackson & Josephine Counties

Jackson County Farm Bureau

3rd Tues, 6:00 PM, location varies

Ron Bjork 541-821-4249

Jackson County Stockman's Association

Dinner, Business, and Educational meeting

2nd Wed., 6:00 PM Black Bear Diner, Medford

*** Josephine County invited! ***

Randy White 541-734-3143

FARRM – Farming & Ranching Resource Management

Randy White 541-734-3143

Josephine County Farm Bureau

Lynne Vanderlinden 541-592-3444 or

van@cavenet.com

Lane County

Lane County Livestock Association

Annual meeting January 28, 2012

Website: www.lcla.org

Board Meetings 2nd or 3rd Tues., location varies.

Jim Sly 541-895-2084

Invited to join Linn County programs too.

Linn County

Linn/Benton Livestock and Forages

Breakfast/Board Meeting/OSU Edu. Program

2nd Tuesday of the month (Sept., Nov. - May)

Octobers are the Rusty Skillet Breakfasts—*Don't miss these!*

6:30 –8:00 AM, Pioneer Villa Restaurant, Brownsville exit I-5

Joel Pynch 466-5344

Dec 13, 2011 program will be on Animal Health. Our guest speaker will be Charles Estill, OSU Extension Veterinarian.

FORAGE INFORMATION...



Prepare for Weeds...

You KNOW they are coming!

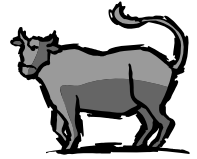
Now is the time to prepare for controlling weeds in and around your pasture, hayfield, home, business, and other sites. There are some important steps to take for doing this, so I have outlined them as a plan of attack below. If you need any assistance in making your plan, please give me a call or look in the “Gray Weed Box” on the L&F website where you can find links to weed ID and control, laws and safety, poisonous plant lists, and more.

Plan of Attack

- Positively identify the weed (use websites, books, or bring a sample in for ID)
- List control options (find scientifically proven methods and choose one or more)
- Ready equipment (get in good working order, order parts, review use, etc.)
- Purchase supplies (or set up a borrowing network)
- Read and re-read any pesticide labels (ask me for help if you want)
- Wait for appropriate timing and rate (don't waste resources by getting these wrong)

Come to the Douglas County Weed Day educational program to learn more and discuss your line of attack. Weed Day is held the 1st Wednesday of each February at the Douglas County Fairgrounds, 8 AM to 5 PM. The fee is either \$5 or a weed specimen for the ID demonstrations. Weed Day is much more than just pesticides and classes for licensed applicators. Weed Day is for everybody concerned with weeds. Yes, in the morning program we go over laws and safety of pesticide applications. Anyone interested in this topic is sure welcome. We have many private, group, and government people pitching in with information for you. Licensed and unlicensed folks using products around their own farm, ranch, or home can use the information for safe, effective, and economical use of pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, etc.). And, we don't just talk about herbicides; we discuss all forms of weed control. Please make plans now to join us. In the mean time, get working on your weed plan of attack now!

BEEF CORNER...



Keep on making beef

Producers and consumers want to see ranchers in Oregon producing beef well into the future. What will it take to keep on making beef? Many producers believe that they first need to tell the story of how well they care for the land, water, and the animal systems that make it possible to produce food for Americans like you and me. By the way, animals include both the wildlife and domesticated species in the care of producers. An excellent example of this is the Oregon Cattlemen's Association award winning **Land of Contrasts: Ranching's Commitment to Wildlife** video. Find it at www.orcattle.com. Look for “Videos” under the “Cattle Production” drop-down menu along the top rail.

Besides environment and animal care, producers need to make sure beef production is done in an economically efficient manner. Although many of the management practices done on the ranch are tried and true ways of production, there is an abundance of new ideas to consider. The OSU Extension Beef Cattle Science team is presenting the 2011 Beef Industry Tour this December in locations across Oregon. The title of our program is **New Concepts and Sustainable Approaches on Reproductive Management and Genetics of Beef Cattle**. For details, see the announcement in this newsletter. The Tour is an event that will be held every other year on a new topic. Alternate years we will have a Beef Cattle Field Day at the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center in Burns, OR. Check out the OSU Beef Cattle Sciences website at <http://beefcattle.ans.oregonstate.edu/> and look for “Extension Activities.”



SHEEP NOTES...

Let's Grow with Two Plus...

This is the American Sheep Industry Association's program to increase lamb supplied by US producers. Below is information on the motivation behind the program and the three goals of the program. Also included in this newsletter is one of the eight fact sheets written by them to help achieve the goals. The remainder of the fact sheets can be found on the *Let's Grow* website at <http://www.growourflock.org/>

Program Motivation

The U.S. sheep industry is finding itself amidst an encouraging time:

Lamb and wool prices are at an all-time high and the cull ewe and pelt markets are very lucrative. However, from the farm gate through to the lamb and wool processing level, there is a shared concern about meeting the demand for lamb and wool production in the United States.

Lamb processors, from the commercial market channel to the rapidly growing nontraditional markets, are clamoring for a greater supply of lamb. In 2011, two major announcements to carry American lamb in our nation's grocery stores occurred: Kroger, one of the nation's largest grocery store chains, launched an American lamb branded campaign and Walmart made a commitment to exclusively carry American lamb in its stores. And the nontraditional market channels, which include on-farm sales, farmers markets and small processors serving ethnic communities, have grown exponentially over the years. In fact, one-third of the U.S. lamb crop has moved outside the traditional industry infrastructure to feed this nontraditional lamb market. As an industry, we must supply the traditional market channel to keep American lamb in the nation's largest grocery store chains and restaurants all while meeting the emerging demand for American lamb in the nontraditional markets.

This robust demand for product is also being experienced in the wool market. The U.S. military, the largest domestic consumer of U.S. wool, is excited for the opportunity to clothe our troops in high-performance washable wool products. The equipment that makes washable wool top has been installed in the United States and is being used for a variety of domestically produced wool products that are already reaching the military and

commercial markets.

A strategy to strengthen the lamb and wool industry's infrastructure by increasing the number of sheep in production is vital for the long-term sustainability of the industry.

Program Goals

- ☑ Encourage producers to increase the size of their operation by two ewes per flock or by two ewes per 100 by 2014.
- ☑ Encourage sheep producers to increase the average birthrate per ewe to two lambs per year.
- ☑ Encourage producers to increase the harvested lamb crop by 2 percent – taking it from 108 percent to 110 percent.

Fact Sheets “Assessing Lamb Mortality Patterns is the First Step to Reducing Loss (see next page). Source: American Sheep Industry Association. This fact sheet and others like it are posted on their website. Find them at: <http://www.growourflock.org> and click on “Resources” and scroll down to “Management Practices.”



» Assessing Lamb Mortality Patterns is the First Step to Reducing Loss

A key part of reducing lamb mortality is to document loss patterns on an individual farm basis. These patterns may show some variation from year to year, but it is common that farm-specific patterns emerge. Once these patterns are identified, a producer can work with specialists (health, management, nutrition) to develop a prevention plan targeted at those categories of loss that have the greatest potential for impact. With this overall goal in mind, let us examine lamb mortality according to both time and category.

WHEN LAMBS DIE AND 'TYPICAL' LOSS RATES | The timing of lamb loss is remarkably consistent throughout the world with the majority of loss occurring during the first week of life. Within the first week of life, loss is clearly the highest during the first 24 hours and declines steadily each day thereafter (figure 1).

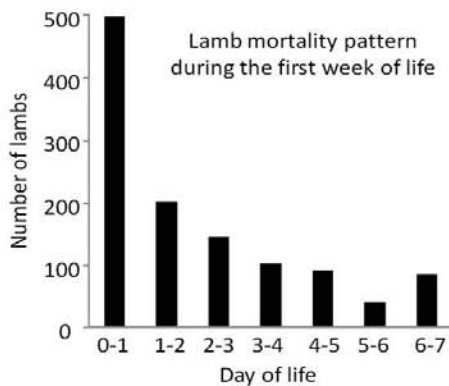


Figure 1. Pattern of lamb loss during the first week of life (Rook et al. 1990). These data were obtained from a field study looking at lamb loss in large commercial sheep farms in Michigan.

Loss in this discussion is defined as the number of lambs that die for any given reason divided by the total number of term lambs born either dead or alive. Loss estimates defined this way both worldwide and in the United States range from 5 percent to 25 percent. Overall loss is a very blunt measure; however, it needs to be considered within the context of lambing rate and production system. Therefore, benchmarks for success vary according to production level and management system, meaning that a loss rate of 15 percent for prolific sheep (>200 percent lambing rate) born on pasture may be acceptable whereas a 15 percent loss rate in ewes of modest productivity (140 percent lambing rate) born indoors would be high.

Selected References:

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- Hight GK and Jury KE. 1970. Hill country sheep production. II. Lamb mortality and birth weights in Romney and Border Leicester/Romney flocks. New Zealand Journal of Agricultural Research 13: 735-752.
- Hinch GN, Kelly RW, Owens JL and Crosby SF. 1983. Patterns of lamb survival in high fecundity Booroola flocks. Proceedings of the New Zealand Society of Animal Production 43:29.
- McCutcheon SN, Holmes CW, McDonald MF. 1981. The starvation-exposure syndrome and neonatal lamb mortality: A review. Proceedings of the New Zealand Society of Animal Production 41:209.
- Notter DR and Copenhaver JS. 1980. Performance of Finnish Landrace crossbred ewes under accelerated lambing. II. Lamb growth and survival. Journal of Animal Science 51:1043.
- Rook JS, Scholman G, Wing-Proctor S and Shea M. 1990. Diagnosis and control of neonatal losses in sheep. Veterinary Clinics of North America: Food Animal Practice 6: 531-652.
- Woolliams CG, Wiener G and McLeod NS. 1983. The effect of breed, breeding system and other factors on lamb mortality. 2. Factors influencing the incidence of delayed birth, dystocia, congenital defects and miscellaneous causes of early death. Journal Agricultural Science 100:553.

MAJOR LOSS CATEGORIES DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF LIFE

Stillborn. Stillborn lambs are full-term lambs delivered dead. Stillborn lambs can be diagnosed by examining lung tissue and hooves. Stillborn lambs will have non-compliant lungs with the tissue hard to distinguish in color and consistency from liver. The soft, cartilaginous tissue that covers hooves at birth will also be intact. Major underlying causes of stillborn lambs are: 1) placental insufficiency and 2) dystocia. Placental insufficiency is hard to diagnose but common in prolific ewes during late pregnancy and is defined as the inability of the placenta to support fetal life. Dystocia is the term for "difficult birth" and is common in large lambs born to young ewes or in high-order multiple births (>2 lambs/ewe) as the odds of malpresentation in these "litters" is much higher than in single births. Other significant but typically lower incident causes of stillborn lambs include abortion diseases and mineral deficiencies (especially iodine and selenium).

Starvation/Exposure. This term is used to describe lambs that succumb to the often combined effects of cold and lack of body fuel. Starvation/exposure mortalities will have inflated lungs and partially or fully depleted reserves of fat that surround the kidney (called brown fat). This large energy reserve (noted as tan-colored tissue surrounding the kidney) will disappear leaving behind dark red tissue as it is used up to provide heat. The extent of brown fat depletion will depend on climatic conditions as severe cold may kill lambs within eight hours before all the tissue is depleted. In milder conditions, it may take two days for reserves to be depleted. Lambs born small with low reserves and depressed suckling drive to mothers with limited colostrum production are the most at risk. Starvation exposure is estimated to account for 50 percent of loss that occurs during the first week of life.

Respiratory disease. Lambs that die of respiratory disease are typically older than three days of age. These lambs typically have discolored lung tissue (dark, reddish purple) in its front and lower regions. Predisposing conditions include low immune status from insufficient colostrum intake, high humidity, crowding, large manure pack and rapidly changing climatic conditions. Respiratory disease losses can be impacted by changes in facility design (improved ventilation) and management (lower animal density, improved maternal nutrition during late pregnancy).

By RICHARD EHRHARDT, PH.D.

Small Ruminant Extension Specialist, Michigan State University

www.growourflock.org





Oregon State University



Beef Cattle Sciences

2011 Beef Industry Tour

New Concepts and Sustainable Approaches on Reproductive Management and Genetics of Beef Cattle

Agenda

- 4:00 – 4:30 pm **Basic Concepts on Cattle Reproduction and Genetic Management**
Amy Peters, Shelby Filley & Gene Pirelli – Oregon State University Extension Service
- 4:30 – 5:00 pm **Nutritional Strategies to Enhance Reproduction in Beef Females**
David Bohnert – Oregon State University, EOARC - Burns
- 5:00 – 5:30 pm **Temperament and its Effects on Production and Reproduction in Beef Cattle**
Reinaldo Cooke – Oregon State University, EOARC - Burns
- 5:30 – 6:00 pm **Break – Pizza & Soft drinks. *Sponsored by American Simmental Association!*** ★
- 6:00 – 6:45 pm **Implementing Reproductive Technologies into Beef Cattle Operations**
Tom Geary – USDA Agricultural Research Service, Miles City, MT
- 6:45 – 7:30 pm **Improving EPD Accuracy by Combining EPD Info with DNA Test Results**
Alison Van Eenennaam – University of California, Animal Sciences – Davis

Schedules and Locations

Thursday, December 8th 2011

Douglas County Fairgrounds
2110 Frear Street
Roseburg, OR
Conference Hall, Cascade Room

Friday, December 9th 2011

Linn County Expo Center
3700 Knox Butte Road East
Albany, OR
Conference Room 1 & 2

No registration fee, but pre-registration is highly recommended.
The Beef Industry Tour is being partially funded by the Western SARE.
For more information and pre-registration, please contact Shelby Filley
(shelby.filley@oregonstate.edu or 541-672-4461).

Don't miss this opportunity to learn from this evening workshop.
Call 541-672-4461 to pre-register by Tuesday, January 17, 2012.



Extension Service

**Extension Service
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Shelby Filley
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*Layout
& Distribution*
Mary Hoffmann



If you have a physical disability that requires special considerations in order for you to attend, please notify the OSU Extension Service (541-672-4461) by January 3, 2012

OSU FORAGE PRODUCTION & PASTURE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

January 19, 2012 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM
at

Elkton Community Education Center
15850 Hwy 38 W
Elkton, OR 97436

Co-Sponsored by:



Umpqua Soil & Water
Conservation District
P.O. Box 415
2285 Longwood Dr
Reedsport, Oregon 97467
Phone: (541)662-1341
Fax: (888)331-4347
www.umpquasoilandwater.com

OSU Extension Regional Livestock Forages Specialist Shelby Filley will be presenting information on soil fertility, proper fertilization of pastures and hay land, soil sampling and testing, forage management, pasture grazing, hay harvesting, potential and current yield, plant identification/growth, livestock behavior and controlled grazing. If you want to improve pastures for your cattle, sheep, horse, or other livestock, or improve hay production, you don't want to miss this class.

Cost for the class is \$10
Pre-registration is encouraged.
For more details or to register,
call 541-672-4461 or by email at
shelby.filley@oregonstate.edu



Please come join us for a wonderful evening!
Refreshments will be provided.



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