

The OSU statewides: **bridges** to prosperity

OSU Extension Service

Baker County stories

Creating sustainable economic outlets for unconventional wood products

For the past six years, OSU Extension faculty have been taking part in monthly meetings with small woodland owners, U.S. Forest Service consultants, and community leaders in Baker and Grant counties to develop new outlets for forestry products. The collaborative group is currently looking at possible ways to reopen the Baker County mill so area foresters do not have to ship their products out of the county for processing. They are also discussing the possibility of heating area schools with a county cogeneration plant that would operate on forestry and agricultural by-products.

Bob Parker, Baker Co. Forestry

Changing irrigation practices to reflect community values

Extension faculty in Baker County host talks from Oregon State University and agency speakers on a regular basis to create open conversations in the community about water quality and watershed management. This March, county faculty are teaming with NRCS to host an irrigation workshop focused on creating more efficient, sustainable irrigation systems.

Cory Parsons, Baker Co. Agronomy

Reading, writing, and nutrition

Baker County schools are getting a helping hand from Oregon State University Extension to teach nutrition in the classroom. Extension faculty are working with local school districts to teach classes about the impact of proper nutrition and childhood obesity. Last spring, the class was taught to second graders. Community parents were so happy with the results they began calling the Extension and school district offices to ask when the class would be offered to other grades.

Angela Combe, Baker Co. FCD

A lifetime of strength and wellness

In Union County, enrollment in the Strong Women program, a national fitness program for middle-aged and older adults, has continuously exceeded class space and created a following of recurring participants. In its first calendar year, Oregon State University Extension faculty offered six, 12-week sessions. Women involved in the program say they can see a change in their overall fitness levels and their ability to complete daily tasks.

Angela Combe, Baker Co. FCD