Tree Farmers Find Reward in Forest Management

By Mitch Lies

By woodlands-management standards, Greg and Barb Vollmer, Benton County Tree Farmers of the Year for 2015, have barely scratched the surface: They’ve owned their 22-acre woodlot for just 34 years, not nearly long enough for a harvest rotation.

Still, the Vollmers already have experienced an entire cycle in that they’ve planted, managed, harvested and replanted trees on their woodlot.

Granted, most of the acreage they harvested in 2013 was already in trees when the Vollmers purchased the Alsea property. But, according to Greg Vollmer, harvesters thinned some of a stand the Vollmers planted in 1984 and 1988.

“We’ve already achieved going from planting a young tree, to maintaining it, managing it, to beginning to harvest the stand,” Vollmer said.

The Vollmers, who live outside Philomath, about 28 miles from their woodlot, originally purchased the lot with the intention of building a house on the property and retiring there.

“We thought Alsea was a quiet place, and we like rural living, so we had that goal in mind,” Greg Vollmer said. “The reality is we just decided that being closer to Corvallis would be a lot more fun, so we never proceeded with our development plans.”

With the development plans shelved, the Vollmers set about managing the woodlands for timber.

Greg started working on a woodlands-management plan in 2006, two years after the couple returned from a lengthy stint in Pullman, where Greg worked with Washington State University in their foundation seed program. (Greg retired from Oregon State University, where he worked for the better part of twenty years, first in OSU’s foundation seed program, then in seed certification.)

He became certified in the American Tree Farm System in 2014, after deciding it was worth “jumping through the final hoops,” as he put it to obtain the certification.

“If you have an interest in how trees grow and the environment and you jump through all these hoops, you gain just a ton of knowledge,” Vollmer said.

The certification forces a woodland’s manager to “consider more things,” Vollmer said. “For example, in the process of being certified, you have to think about how are you going to manage your riparian areas? What are you going to do with your boundaries?

“And a management plan is

Continued on Page 15
Benton County Extension Service District Effort On Hold

By Derek Godwin, West Central Region Administrator

Extension volunteers and leaders in Benton County have been working the past year to establish a Benton County Extension and 4-H Service District. The original plan was to submit the measure for the May 2016 ballot. The effort was postponed for a variety of reasons. Here is an update on the project.

Why was the May 2016 election date proposed?

Extension funding from Benton County is allocated through June 30, 2017. Passage of a service district in May 2016 would allow district funds to be collected in November 2016, while passage of a district in November 2016 or May 2017 would not provide funding until November 2017. A May 2016 election would have prevented a funding gap, established a contingency fund and provided funding to cover existing Extension positions, services and district start-up costs.

Choosing this election date was based on input from Benton County commissioners on how to minimize conflict with other ballot measures planned for future elections, such as the county jail levy, the county five-year levy, and the Corvallis School District levy.

Timeline limited flexibility to address challenges

There are specific timelines and steps that must be followed to put service district measures on the ballot, and not all district timelines are the same. Choosing the May 2016 election limited our flexibility in meeting the Extension District timeline should we face significant challenges. We encountered a few “bumps in the road” that would not have been as serious if we had more time to address them.

First “bump” – We had to obtain city council resolutions from all five cities before creating an order to initiate the process to put the measure on the ballot. Educating city councilors, getting on the agenda, and waiting for approval took longer than expected. We did not receive all of the resolutions until late December.

Second “bump” – The commissioners have to hold a public meeting to initiate the process followed by two public hearings on the district proposal. Public notices and minimum waiting periods are required for each of these meetings. The absolute earliest this process would have been completed was two days prior to the deadline for submitting the measure to the county clerk for review and approval.

Third “bump” – The commissioners, county counsel and staff, and Extension leaders scrambled to announce and hold the first public meeting on January 5 to initiate the process. The commissioners also held a work session on January 5 to discuss progress to date. Several concerns were raised during the work session that caused everyone to worry if it would negatively affect other future ballot measures and whether the effort would be successful. For example, fundraising for the campaign had not started because the measure still had another eight weeks before being approved for the ballot. Even though Benton County Leader Maggie Livesay and I felt the service district effort would be successful in May should it proceed, there was enough concern to cause everyone to pause. Unfortunately, we were out of time to discuss the concerns adequately, given the timeline that had to be met.

A huge Thank You and next steps

We are very, very thankful for our volunteers that worked hard to get us to this point. A lot of effort was put into this project over a very short period of time. We wish everyone could have heard the testimonies on how much Extension and our many volunteer programs have changed lives. We learned a great deal over this past year, and we have support from the commissioners to come back and try this again in the near future. Please let us know if you would like to join the Citizens for Benton County Extension leadership team and be involved in these future discussions.
Introducing the 2016 Class of Master Gardeners
Thanks for serving your community through research-based horticulture education

March-April Gardening Calendar for Western Oregon

Planning
- Plan your vegetable garden carefully for spring, summer, and fall vegetables that can be eaten fresh or preserved. If you lack in-ground gardening space, plan an outdoor container garden.
- Use a soil thermometer to help you know when to plant vegetables. Some cool season crops (onions, kale, lettuce, and spinach) can be planted when the soil is consistently at or above 40 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Prepare garden soil for spring planting. Incorporate generous amounts of organic materials and other amendments, using the results of a soil analysis as a guide.

Maintenance and clean up
- Lawn mowing: Set blade at 0.75 to 1 inch for bentgrass lawns; 1.5 to 2.5 inches for bluegrasses, fine fescues, and ryegrasses.
- Compost grass clippings and yard waste, except for clippings from lawns where weed-and-feed products or herbicides (weed killers) have been used.
- Spread compost over garden and landscape areas.
- Prune gooseberries and currants; fertilize with manure or a complete fertilizer.
- Fertilize evergreen shrubs and trees, only if needed. If established and healthy, their nutrient needs should be minimal.
- If needed, fertilize rhododendrons, camellias, and azaleas with acid-type fertilizer. If established and healthy, their nutrient needs should be minimal.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after blossoms fade.
- Fertilize caneberries using band fertilizer, broadcast fertilizer or a complete fertilizer or manure.
- Allow foliage of spring-flowering bulbs to brown and die down before removing.
- Apply commercial fertilizers, manure, or compost to cane, bush (gooseberries, currants, and blueberries), and trailing berries.
- Cut back ornamental grasses to a few inches above the ground, in early spring.
- Cover transplants to protect against late spring frosts.

Continued on Page 8
**Linn County Master Gardener Volunteer Spotlight:**

**Larry Steele**

**Member-at-Large, LCMGA Board**

Larry Steele has been a Master Gardener since 2009. He has spent a lot of time at the Demo Garden where the impact of his passion for gardening is very evident. Larry has done most of the hardscapes projects at the DG (Lavender bed, retaining wall on North fence line, the pathways from the parking lot and the one to the front of the garden shed). He acquired donations from Willamette Graystone, where he used to work, for these projects. He also taught classes on hardscape installation.

He often works with Dave Krieger on the irrigation system. This past year, the two of them built a much-needed shed addition. Larry helps wherever he is needed – pruning, harvesting, digging to fix broken pipes, painting, turning compost, and more. His worm bin at the Demo Garden has drawn a lot of interest. In the fall, he teaches classes at the Demo Garden on worm bins. One of his continuing projects is a themed PPP plot. The original PPP was the Purple Plant Plot. Another year it was Peppers, Peppers, Peppers, with a large variety of peppers beyond the usual green bell peppers. A recent theme was a Plant Protein Plot that included plants such as spinach, green beans, sugar snow peas and fenugreek (which kept a lot of people guessing).

As Larry harvests, he shares. He often takes crop excess from his home garden and from the Demo Garden to FISH of Albany food bank. Over the years Larry has worked plant clinic tables during the Linn County Fair and The Mother Earth News Fair. He has worked at container planting days, at the Garden Tour, plus more events too numerous to name. During MG training, Larry has been a presenter for the plant scenario training sessions. Larry is again on the LCMGA board, now one of the four Members-at-Large who represent the general membership.

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**Susan Glaser**

**Member-at-Large, LCMGA Board**

Susan Glaser has been involved in agriculture most of her life. After taking a plant propagation class at LBCC, she knew she wanted to continue learning how to grow a better garden and prettier flowers. In 2009, Susan enrolled in the Master Gardener program, learning successful and healthy gardening practices that had always been important to her. Susan is certified through Portland’s American College of Health Care Sciences in basic herbalism. This was a great way to pull all of her interests together.

Over the years, Susan has volunteered at school gardens, at information tables, at Garden tours, at Farmers Markets, and at the Linn County Demo Garden. She has facilitated Brown Bag classes in Lebanon, Albany, and Sweet Home. At the various information tables, Susan enjoys meeting and speaking with the community while helping educate and answer gardening questions.

Susan also volunteers at Oregon Garden, and she has written two specialty tour programs, “Plants of the Bible” and the newest one, “Intro into Herbs” (coming this summer). In 2013, Susan traveled to Italy with 30 other Master Gardeners from across the U.S. to study Renaissance Gardens (a trip coordinated by the Purdue University Master Gardener’s Program). The Master Gardener program has allowed Susan to learn from the professionals and meet others who share the same passions and interests. She has enjoyed the hands-on, guided teaching at schools as she helped students learn where our food comes from and gives them skills to grow their own gardens. Susan continues to look forward to the journey. There will always be more to learn and more opportunities to share.

> Flowers always make people better and happier and more helpful. They are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul...

— Luther Burbank

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*Agricultural Business Management - Agricultural Sciences
Animal Science - Animal Technology
Animal Technology: Horse Management
Crop Production - Equine Science
Horticulture - Profitable Small Farms
Veterinary Assistant
linnbenton.edu/programs*
Set Seeds on the Right Path with Homemade Soil Mixture

By Kym Pokorny, OSU Extension

While you’re battling the winter blues, make your own seed-starting mix and plan for the gardening days ahead.

Home gardeners can start vegetable and flower seedlings indoors from four to 12 weeks before the last average spring frost in their area, which means it’s time to get started. Making homemade planting medium can be more economical than buying a sterile mix at the store, said Brooke Edmunds, a horticulturist with Oregon State University’s Extension Service.

A good germinating mix must be fine and uniform, yet well-aerated, loose and free of pests, diseases and weed seeds, Edmunds said. It also should be low in fertility and total soluble salts, yet capable of holding and moving moisture.

But beware, she warned. Soil straight from your backyard just won’t do the job.

Typical backyard soil is too compacted, full of weed seeds and it is not pasteurized, causing seedling diseases and death. Native soil often does not drain as well as seedling mixes. And it can develop a crust that prevents seedlings from pushing through.

Edmund’s recipe for a good basic pasteurized medium for growing seedlings is a mixture of one-third pasteurized soil or compost, one-third sand, vermiculite or perlite, and one-third peat moss.

“Many people just use half peat moss and half perlite, vermiculite or sand, and this combination seems to work well, too,” she said.

To pasteurize a small quantity of soil or compost in an oven, put the slightly moist soil or compost in a heat-resistant container or pan. Cover with a lid or foil. Place in a 250-degree oven; check the temperature periodically using a candy or meat thermometer. When the mix reaches 180 degrees, cook for an additional 30 minutes. Avoid overheating it, as the structure of the soil may be damaged, rendering it useless as a seedling soil ingredient.

Mix pasteurized soil or compost with peat moss. Add sand, vermiculite or perlite. All ingredients are available at most nurseries and garden stores.

Another task to complete before the start of seed-sowing is to clean your pots, trays and flats. After washing, rinse the containers in a solution of 1 part chlorine bleach to 10 parts water to kill remaining plant disease microorganisms that could weaken or kill your tender young seedlings.

For information about starting seeds, see Extension’s publication Propagating Plants from Seeds: https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/pnw170

BEEvent Pollinator Conference Open for Registration

By Sheryl Casteen

Hurry and register now for the 2016 Linn County Master Gardener Pollinator Conference. Seating is limited. Register online at www.extension.oregonstate.edu/linn/beevent, or call the Linn County Extension office at 541-967-3871.

The conference is on Saturday, March 12, 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Registration is $30. This all-day seminar will be hosted at the Holiday Inn & Suites, 105 Opal Court, in Albany. It will feature the following subjects and speakers:

- **Increasing Pollinators in Gardens** – Dr. Sujaya Rao, Professor in Entomology, OSU Associate Department Head, Crop and Soil Science, will discuss the life cycle of bumblebees, including specifically, where they nest and the food they need.
- **Naturescaping for Pollinators** – Beth Young owns a professional garden design firm. She will present an easy guide to native plants that encourage birds, butterflies, and beneficial wildlife, while discouraging damaging insects in a low-maintenance garden.
- **Conserving Bumble Bees: You Can Help** – Rich Hatfield, a Senior Conservation Biologist for Xerces Endangered Species Program, will discuss these native pollinators and other species that are experiencing dramatic population declines throughout North America. Learn what the Xerces Society is doing to help conserve these essential pollinators.
- **Rearing and Caring for Mason Bees** – Rich Little, a retired Deputy Agriculture Commissioner, focusing on pest detection, exclusion, and management will discuss one of the most active pollinators, better than honeybees, the Mason Bee. Learn how to attract them to your gardens and the simple steps you can take to increase these almost stingless bees.

The day includes book signing by Beth Young and Xerces books on pollinators, an “all-things pollinator” vendor room and all-day homemade cookies/snacks, coffee, tea, and water from the Master Gardeners. We hope to see you there.
Master Food Preservers Training Scheduled

There is still space in the 2016 volunteer Master Food Preserver program. This eight-week training covers all aspects of food preservation and prepares volunteers to assist with hands-on classes and sharing information at community events. Novice and experienced food preservers are invited to participate.

The training is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursdays, beginning April 14. Classes will be held at the Linn County Extension Office in Tangent. Applications are available at Linn and Benton county Extension offices, or online at http://extension.oregonstate.edu/linn/linn-benton-county-master-food-presenter-program. For more information, call Jeanne at 541-730-3544.
What To Do With Those Hard Cooked Eggs? Pickle Them!

Pickled eggs are a favorite snack in some bars or taverns; they are also a delicious way to add variety to your meals. Easy to make, they can be added to a packed lunch, sliced over a salad or used for especially tasty deviled eggs.

Pickled eggs should be stored in the refrigerator and never be at room temperature, except for brief serving times.

The container used for the eggs should be one that can be closed or sealed tightly; glass canning jars work well. All equipment should be washed well and the container sterilized before use.

Each of these recipes makes enough brine for 12 peeled, hard-cooked eggs.

The directions for each recipe are to bring all the ingredients except the eggs to a boil, reduce the heat and simmer for five minutes. Egg whites tend to be more tender if a boiling solution is used, instead of room temperature solutions. Small or medium eggs are usually a good choice for pickling, so the seasoning can penetrate into the egg. Pack no more than one dozen peeled, hard-cooked eggs loosely into a warm, pre-sterilized quart jar (or other similar size container which can be closed tightly).

There needs to be enough pickling solution to completely cover the eggs. Pour the hot pickling solution over the eggs in the jar, cover, and refrigerate immediately.

After packing the eggs in the jars of brine, they require some time to season (i.e., pick up the flavors from the pickling brine). Keep them refrigerated at all times.

- If small eggs are used, one to two weeks are usually allowed for seasoning to occur.
- Medium or large eggs may require two to four weeks to become well-seasoned.

Use the eggs within three to four months for best quality.

### Recipes

#### RED BEET EGGS

1 cup red beet juice (from canned beets)
1/2 cup cider vinegar
1 teaspoon brown sugar
A few canned whole tiny red beets (or several slices of beets can be used)

#### DARK AND SPICY EGGS

1 1/2 cups cider vinegar
1/2 cup water
1 tablespoon dark brown sugar
2 teaspoons granulated sugar
1 teaspoon mixed pickling spice
1/4 teaspoon liquid smoke or hickory smoke salt
2 teaspoons salt

#### CIDERED EGGS

1 1/2 cups pasteurized sweet apple cider or apple juice
1/2 cup white vinegar
6 thin slices of onion
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon whole pickling spice
1 peeled garlic clove

#### DILLED EGGS

1 1/2 cups white vinegar
1 cup water
3/4 teaspoon dill weed
1/4 teaspoon white pepper
3 teaspoons salt
1/4 teaspoon mustard seed
1/2 teaspoon onion juice or minced onion
1/2 teaspoon minced garlic or 1 peeled garlic clove

#### SWEET AND SOUR EGGS

1 1/2 cups pasteurized apple cider
1/2 cup cider vinegar
1 package (about 12 oz.) red cinnamon candy
1 tablespoon mixed pickling spice
2 tablespoons salt
1 teaspoon garlic salt

#### PINEAPPLE PICKLED EGGS

2 tablespoons salt
1 tablespoon mixed pickling spice
1 can (12 oz.) unsweetened pineapple juice
1/2 cups white vinegar
2 medium onions, peeled and sliced
1/2 cup sugar
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon whole pickling spice
*If sweetened pineapple juice is used, omit sugar

For additional information, see http://nchfp.uga.edu/hon/can_06/pickled_eggs.html.

### How Long Does It Take to Hard Cook an Egg?

To hard cook eggs in their shells, place the eggs in a single layer in a saucepan. Add enough cold tap water to come at least 1-inch above the eggs. Cover the pan and quickly bring the water just to boiling. Turn off the heat and let the eggs stand, covered, 12 minutes for medium-size eggs, 15 minutes for large eggs and 18 minutes for extra-large eggs. Instead of turning the heat off, you can turn the heat very low and barely simmer the eggs for the same length of time. Immediately run cold tap water over eggs, tap shells gently all over and peel eggs under running water. Refrigerate within two hours.

Note that extremely fresh eggs will be difficult to peel, so it’s best to hard cook eggs that have been in the refrigerator for a few weeks. Hard cooked eggs will be safe in the refrigerator for 7 days.

If you have a question about the safety, storage or preparation of meat, poultry or egg products, call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline toll free at 1-888-674-6854. The Hotline is open year-round M-F, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET (English or Spanish). www.fsis.usda.gov Send email questions to MPHOTLINE.FSIS@USDA.GOV.

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Don’t Kiss the Chicks

Live baby poultry, such as chicks, ducklings, goslings, and baby turkeys, can carry harmful germs called Salmonella on their bodies (feathers, feet, and beaks) even when they appear healthy and clean. After you touch a chick, duckling, or other baby bird, or anything in the area where they live and roam, wash your hands so you don’t get sick. Adults should supervise children’s handwashing.

The Center for Disease Control offers a few additional tips for reducing the risk of illness:

- Don’t snuggle or kiss the birds, touch your mouth, or eat or drink around live baby poultry;
- Don’t let live baby poultry inside the house, in bathrooms, or especially in areas where food or drink is prepared, served, or stored, such as kitchens or outdoor patios;
- Don’t eat or drink in the area where the birds live or roam.

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http://extension.oregonstate.edu/linn
Garden Calendar continued from Page 5

- April — Optimum time to fertilize lawns. Apply 1 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn. Reduce risks of run-off into local waterways by not fertilizing just prior to rain, and not over-irrigating so that water runs off of lawn and onto sidewalk or street. Optimum time of year to dethatch and renovate lawns. If moss was a problem, scratch surface prior to seeding with perennial ryegrass.
- April — Prune and shape or thin spring-blooming shrubs and trees after blossoms fade.

Planting/propagation
- Divide hosta, daylilies, and mums.
- Use stored scion wood to graft fruit and ornamental trees.
- Plant insectary plants (e.g. Alyssum, Phacelia, coriander, candytuft, sunflower, yarrow, and dill) to attract beneficial insects to the garden. For more information, see Encouraging Beneficial Insects in Your Garden (PNW550).
- If soil is dry enough, prepare vegetable garden and plant early cool-season crops (carrots, beets, broccoli, leeks, parsley, chives, rhubarb, peas, and radishes). Plant onions outdoors as soon as the soil is dry enough to work.
- Plant berry crops (strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, blackberries, currants, gooseberries, and other berry-producing crop plants).
- April — Plant gladioli, hardy transplants of alyssum, phlox, and marigolds, if weather and soil conditions permit.
- April is an ideal time to start a vegetable garden. Among the vegetables you can plant, consider: Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, chives, endive, leeks, lettuce, peas, radishes, rhubarb, rutabagas, spinach, and turnips.

Pest monitoring and management
- Spray trees and shrubs for webworms and leafrollers, if present.
- Protect new plant growth from slugs. Least toxic management options include barriers and traps.
- Learn to identify the predatory insects that can help keep aphids and other pests under control.
- Spray to control leaf and twig fungus diseases in dogwood, sycamore, hawthorn, and willow trees.
- Prune ornamentals for air circulation and to help prevent fungus diseases.
- Start rose blackspot control tactics at budbreak. Control rose diseases such as black spot. Remove infected leaves. Spray as necessary with registered fungicide.
- Monitor for European crane fly and treat lawns if damage has been verified.
- Manage weeds while they are small and actively growing with light cultivation or herbicides. Once the weed has gone to bud, herbicides are less effective.
- Clean up hiding places for slugs, sowbugs and millipedes. Least toxic management options for slugs include barriers and traps. Baits are also available for slug control; use caution around pets.
- Monitor strawberries for spittlebugs and aphids; if present, wash off with water or use insecticidal soap as a contact spray. Follow label directions.
- If necessary, spray apples and pears when buds appear for scab. See Managing Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards (PDF - EC 631).
- Use floating row covers to keep insects such as beet leaf miners, cabbage maggot adult flies, and carrot rust flies away from susceptible crops.
- Help prevent damping off of seedlings by providing adequate ventilation.

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Kids Run Better Unleaded – Protect Your Family from Exposures

Older Homes and Buildings
If your home was built before 1978, there is a good chance it has lead-based paint. Lead from paint, including lead-contaminated dust, is one of the most common causes of lead poisoning.

- Lead paint is still present in millions of homes, sometimes under layers of newer paint. If the paint is in good shape, the lead paint is usually not a problem. Deteriorating lead-based paint (peeling, chipping, chalking, cracking, damaged, or damp) is a hazard and needs immediate attention. Test kits for lead in paint are available at home improvement stores.

Drinking Water
Lead is used in some water service lines and household plumbing materials. Lead can leach, or enter the water, as water flows through the plumbing. Lead pipes and lead solder were commonly used until 1986.

- Testing your home’s drinking water is the only way to confirm if lead is present. Most public water systems test for lead at a certain number of homes as a regular part of water monitoring. These tests give a system-wide picture of whether or not corrosion is being controlled but do not reflect conditions at each home served by that water system. Since each home has different plumbing pipes and materials, test results are likely to be different for each home.

Test Your Child
Find out if your child has elevated levels of lead in his or her blood. Because lead poisoning often occurs with no obvious symptoms, it frequently goes unrecognized. You can have your child tested for lead poisoning by asking your pediatrician for a simple blood test.

- This brochure has more details for protecting your family from lead exposure.

Linn County Extension Offers Free Classes in Lebanon

- March 31, 9:30 a.m. Water Wise Garden Practices: Join OSU Master Gardeners to learn successful methods for reducing water use and waste while maintaining a healthy yard and garden. Information covers a variety of methods, equipment and some new suggestions for vegetables, herbs, and annuals that can thrive during a dry spell.
- April 28, 9:30 a.m. Preserving Oregon’s Berries: Master Food Preservers will share how to preserve Oregon’s sweetest things, our local berries, for year-round use and enjoyment. Focus will be on low sugar products and modern equipment and recipes, such as pie fillings, flavored vinegars, and sparkling jelly made from fresh juice.

Classes are held at Lebanon Senior Center, 80 Tangent St., Lebanon, Ore., 97355. There is no cost. Call the Linn County Extension office to reserve your space at 541-967-3871.
Have You Completed the Well Check List This Year?

- Do you know the location of your well, septic tank, and drainfield?
- Were your well and septic systems constructed within the last 20 years?
- Is your well deeper than 50 feet?
- Have you had your water tested within the last three years?
- Have you inspected your well within the last year?

Two common types of wells are shown in the figure to the right.

- Do you make a point of keeping contamination sources away from your well, including:
  - No chemicals in your pump house;
  - Confined animals excluded from immediate area around well;
  - Fuel tanks, pesticide mixing, and manure piles at least 50 feet away and downhill from well?

- Are you sure there are no old, unused wells on your property?
- Has it been less than five years since your septic tank was pumped and inspected?
- Is your drainfield area protected from the weight of heavy animals and vehicles, and free of wet spots or odor?
- Do you feel confident that you know how to maintain your well and septic system?
- Are you comfortable that your fertilizer, pesticide and irrigation rates are not threatening your water quality?

If you answered NO to any of these questions, visit http://wellwater.oregonstate.edu, or call Chrissy at 541-766-3556 to learn more about how you can protect your drinking water supply, your family’s health, and your investment in your property.
Commercial Agriculture
Small Farms

Farm Credit’s New Programs for Beginning Farmers

By Andrea Krahmaer, Relationship Manager/AVP,
Northwest Farm Credit Services

Northwest Farm Credit Services is a financial cooperative that supports agriculture and rural communities with reliable, consistent credit and financial services, today and tomorrow. Northwest FCS is part of the 100-year-old Farm Credit System, a nationwide network of borrower-owned lending institutions and the largest single provider of credit to American agriculture. We serve our customers through 45 branch offices located throughout the Northwest.

We know financing can be difficult to find for someone entering agriculture for the first time, and even for the young producer who grew up in a farming family. To help, we offer AgVision®, our nationally recognized program available to young, beginning and small producers with at least one of the following characteristics: 35 years of age or younger, 10 years or less agricultural experience or annual gross farm production of less than $250,000. Through the AgVision program, we continually look for ways to address the challenges of a young or beginning producer. Whether it’s planning for conventional agriculture production, striving to create a direct-to-consumer local food market or developing a small-scale and sustainable operation, helping customers start and grow their own businesses is an integral part of our cooperative mission. AgVision offers competitive interest rates with possible loan-fee reductions, as well as knowledgeable staff who can help you every step of the way. Learn more about our AgVision program here: https://www.northwestfcs.com/Services/Young-Beginning.

Our unique RateWise program rewards young, beginning and small producers for continuing their management education with interest rate reductions on new loans and operating lines of credit. Participants earn credits for seminars and workshops they attend. Educational programs eligible for RateWise credits include sessions hosted by Northwest FCS’ Business Management Center; programs hosted by universities and extension offices; industry groups; the Farm Service Agency; and approved programs hosted by other resources to improve producers’ management and production skills. Read more about our RateWise program and register here: https://www.northwestfcs.com/Services/Young-Beginning/RateWise-Program.

Growing Resilience: Water Management Workshop Series

February 20, 2016 – OSU Small Farms Conference
⇒ Growing Without Irrigation – Amy Garrett (OSU), Jacques Neukom (Neukom Family Farm), Steve Peters (Seed Revolution Now and Organic Seed Alliance)
⇒ Innovative Approaches to Catching and Storing Water – Andrew Millison (OSU and Permaculture Rising), Bogdan Caceu (La Creole Orchard), Pat Shenk (Canaan Hill Farm)

March 30, 2016 – OSU Campus
⇒ Navigating Water Law and Restrictions in Oregon (train-the-trainer for agricultural professionals) - Mike McCord (Oregon Water Master)

June 2, 2016 - OSU Campus
⇒ Water, Soil and Carbon for Every Farm with Keyline Design: Learning from the world’s driest inhabited continent and it’s drought solutions – Australian Permaculture Consultant, Darren Doherty (Regrarians Ltd.)

June 3-12, 2016 – Albany, Oregon
⇒ Regrarians 10-Day Integrated Farm Planning Course - Contact Andrew Millison (amillison@gmail.com) for more information or visit: http://www.regrarians.org/product/rex7oregon/

August 2016
⇒ Dry Farming Field Days - Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture in Corvallis, NWREC in Aurora, and SOREC in Central Point
⇒ These sessions will be video-recorded and made available on the OSU Small Farms website

For more information visit:
http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/wmws

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For questions contact Chrissy Lucas at chrissy.lucas@oregonstate.edu or (541)766-3556

http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton
Feeding Young Calves

Creep-feeding and early weaning are two options a cow-calf manager has in dealing with young calves. Each practice has a specific purpose in a management scheme. However, they are sometimes used improperly and the expected goal is not achieved for the calf or the cow.

Creep-feeding is the practice of providing supplemental feed to suckling calves while restricting access of older cattle. The goal should be to increase the weaning weight of calves. Depending on the cost of feed and the price of calves, this may or may not be profitable. A good rule of thumb is: the selling price per pound of calf should be greater than 10 times the cost per pound of the creep. It takes about 10 pounds of feed per pound of gain.

One thing creep-feeding is not intended for is to help the cow with her condition. What happens is that calves continue to suckle similar amounts of milk, but decrease the amount of forage (hay or pasture) they consume. Research has shown that if the goal is to improve cow condition, it is more economical to increase the amount of nutrients the “cow” can use to increase her body weight; creep-feeding calves does not do this.

Early weaning is the removal of calves less than 7 months of age from the cow. The goal here should be to help the cow maintain or improve body condition. This may be beneficial if feed resources are scarce and cows are very thin.

You will have expenses in feeding the weaned calves. However, the nutrient requirements of the dry cow are lower than a lactating cow. So, in early weaning, with the same feed resources for the cow, cow body condition and reproductive efficiency are improved. The net result should be a higher pregnancy rate earlier in the following breeding season. And calves born earlier in the following season will be older and should weigh more at their weaning.

Due to immature digestive systems, very early-weaned calves placed in feedlots have lower rates of gain compared to calves allowed to suckle to an older age. Therefore, early weaning should not be done to get calves into a feedlot situation solely for heavier weights at a younger age. At 90 days of age calves may be consuming up to half of their diet as forage and half as milk. At 120 days of age, the rumen is functioning sufficiently for calves to make satisfactory gains without milk. Again, very early weaning should be limited to times of drought, poor pasture conditions, or other times of low feed resources. Use care when considering a feeding program for the very young calf.

Be certain your practices are designed for the purpose you have in mind. Consider costs and benefits for the specific situation you are in. Some years these practices will be beneficial, other years they will not.

Please call me if you would like to discuss the information in this article. Ask for publications on creep feeders and creep rations, weaning management, rations for early-weaned calves, estimating benefits of improved cow fertility for different early weaning schemes and calculating profitability.
General management

- Seed certification: The deadline for Crop Inspection Sign-ups is April 15.
- Scout for slugs, especially if spring planting, and bait pre-plant. Remember the basic principles of slug baiting in relation to weather and timing.
- Scout for vole activity and spot-treat with zinc phosphide down holes according to label. Timing of above-ground use in grass seed crops for 2016 will not be decided until late April, so stay tuned for news.
- Scout for aphids and cereal leaf beetle in wheat and grass seed fields through May
- As temperatures warm, prevent phenoxy drift problems by using less volatile formulations, drift reduction nozzles, and good spraying practices.
- Watch for leaf-spot diseases in brassica crops, including turnip seed fields. Contact your fieldmen or OSU Extension for fungicide recommendations to avoid infections reaching the seed.

Grass

- Complete fertilizer N applications to grass seed fields to match crop demand. Peak N uptake is late March/early April for tall fescue (TF), while peak N uptake for perennial ryegrass (PRG) is early April.
- On saturated soils, spring N application can be delayed until late March and April without reducing grass seed yields. It is best to delay applications where soils are saturated or ponded.
- Complete Rely herbicide treatments on PRG and TF seed fields by early April.
- Begin thinking about plant growth regulator applications. OSU research indicates the best seed yield responses in PRG and TF were reached with PGR applications between early stem elongation and early inflorescence emergence.
- Scout for billbug damage in orchardgrass seed fields in late March and use insecticides in early April if needed.
- Application of Bravo at boot and early head emergence remain the most cost-effective times to control headblight in orchardgrass. Look for boot stage in mid-late April.

Mint

- Sample mint fields for nematodes. While Vydate will still be hard to come by this year, there is some data showing Lannate activity on nematodes.

2016 ORGA Annual Meeting

- Fred Fowler/Mike Berger
- GK Machine
- Grassland Oregon
- Hilton Trenching, Inc
- Integrated Seed Growers
- Lewis Seed Co
- Linn Benton Tractor
- Northwest Farm Credit Services
- Opel Family Farm LLC
- Oregon Grass Seed
- Bargaining Ass’n
- Orego Seeds, Inc.
- Polk County Farm Bureau
- Pratum Co-Op
- ProSeeds Marketing
- Simplot
- Smith Packaging
- Sure Crop Farm Services
- Syngenta Crop Protection
- The Jerry Brown Co.
- Thomas Ag Services LLC
-urf Tech, Inc
- Vista Seed Partners, LLC
- West Coast Seed Mill Supply Co
- Wilco – Winfield LLC
- Willamette Community Bank
- Willamette Valley Bank

We would like to send a special thank you to everyone that attended, presented, and sponsored the 55th Annual Meeting of the Oregon Ryegrass Growers Association (ORGA) on January 21, 2016. Overall, it was a very successful meeting that would not have happened without a diverse business community supporting our ryegrass seed industry.

ORGA Service Award

This year, the Oregon Ryegrass Growers Association presented Dave and Rita Doerfler of Ioka Farms with the 2016 Service Award, recognizing their decades of work with the grass seed industry. Both Dave and Rita have been working the land from a very young age, and together have fostered a strong tradition of family farming since the early 1960s. In 1968 Dave’s sister and brother-in-law joined the farm and they formed Ioka Farms Inc., which has flourished into a very successful and diverse farming enterprise. There are three generations managing the farm, including two of Dave and Rita’s three kids. Outside of the farm, Rita is recognized for her dedication to organizations, such as Women for Agriculture and Oregon AgFest.

ORGA Board looking for new members

The ORGA board consists of nine grass seed growers, and will be looking for a couple new members this coming year. The primary purpose of the group is to plan and organize this January meeting, which has become a great venue to learn

Continued on Page 15

Continued on Page 15
‘Tis the Season for Scouting and Spraying

As air and soil temperatures begin to rise and days lengthen, living organisms wake up and respond with rapid growth. Plants respond to the changing weather with rapid nutrient uptake and putting on growth canopies. Not only are the plants responding, spring weather brings out plenty of pests and diseases, too. This is a key time of year for farmers and fieldmen to be out scouting fields and responding with necessary management practices to protect their crops.

For those of you less familiar with field crop production, here is an idea of some of the management practices occurring at this time.

While driving down the road to finish fertilizing a grass seed field, a grower is also on the lookout for weeds and slugs. There is no shortage of weeds to control in the spring, and it’s the time of year growers need to be careful about using the correct nozzles and sprays to minimize drift. A spring flush of slug eggs has likely hatched, and control may be needed, depending on the pressure. Metaldehyde sprays can be an effective strategy used in the spring. And don’t forget about voles. The peak breeding season starts in April, so we can expect their numbers to rise as well. Their holes and burrows are easy to spot in fields, and if damage is occurring, hand baiting down holes is recommended.

A stop at a winter wheat field would be needed to check the crop for fungal pathogens – stripe rust and septoria are two winter wheat diseases to keep an eye on. Depending on the severity of the disease, the variety of wheat, and the time the diseases are found, growers may need to apply multiple fungicides. A fungicide application might be combined with an herbicide pass, as the weeds are also taking off with the warmer weather.

As you can tell, it is very common to see spray buggies out in fields at this time of the year. You can be sure that someone has been out there monitoring the fields and has made the management decision that it is worth the cost and labor to spray.

Spring flush of growth also means an increase in pest and disease pressure.

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ORGA Meeting continued from Page 14

The ORGA board L to R: Mary Hood, Darren Hayworth, Andrew Pohlschneider, Jesse Rue, Joe Kirk, Mitch Biegler, and Marie Bowers. (not pictured are Mark Beitel, Josh Malpass, and Lee Gilmour)

about current topics affecting the grass seed industry in Oregon. Please consider becoming part of it. The group meets only a few times a year. Contact the Linn County Extension office if you are interested.

Crop Notes continued from Page 14

Wheat

- Complete N fertilizer applications on winter wheat if you have not already done so. Rapid N uptake begins at jointing (Feeks GS6), which often begins early March.
- Watch for stripe rust in winter wheat fields, especially early plantings and susceptible varieties.
- Control septoria on winter wheat when flag leaf is emerging (Feeks GS8). Make use of SDHI chemistry at this critical timing to combat septoria fungicide resistance, but be aware SDHIs are not effective rust control.
- Apply phenoxy herbicides to winter wheat before the 2-node stage if the label allows treatment after jointing starts.
- Plant spring grains as soon as possible, and include 20 lbs N/ac with the seed. Seeding rate depends on seed size, aim for 33 seeds/ft (~120–150 lbs/ac).
- To help prevent lodging, limit total N on spring wheat to 75–80 lbs/ac. Fertilizer can be applied anytime between planting and jointing.
Commercial Horticulture Hints

**March**
- Apply berry and tree fruit delayed dormant sprays.
- Finish pruning berries and tree fruits.
- Prepare for scab sprays in apple and pears.
- Apply oils to control scale, mites, and aphid eggs.

**April**
- Control mummyberry, aphids.
- Begin strawberry replant.
- Begin peach popcorn and full bloom sprays.
- Control walnut blight.

Protecting Young Trees from Scald and Sunburn

There are many ways to protect fruit trees from sunburn in the spring and summer, and winter scald by bright winter sunshine, which trees with young bark are particularly susceptible. Sun scald occurs when the cold tree bark is exposed to hot temperatures. The warmth causes the light-exposed tissue to break dormancy. The warmed tissue dehydrates due to no water being available and dies or begins to freeze. Use either exterior white latex paint mixed 1:1 in water, or whitewash to protect the bark of young fruit and ornamental trees. The protective materials are applied primarily to the south and southeast side of the tree, but can be applied all the way around the bark, usually one to two feet high. (Other materials can be used such as plastic tree wraps, cloth, metal or cardboard.)

**Latex Paint**
- 1-gallon exterior white latex paint
- 1-gallon water

Mix equal parts of paint and water before applying to tree bark. The paint can be applied with a paint brush, sponge, air painter or with an old cloth glove.

**Whitewash**
- 5 lbs. hydrated lime
- 1-gallon water
- 1-1/2 lbs. salt
- 2-quarts warm water

Stir lime into gallon of water. Let set overnight. Dissolve salt in 2-quarts water. Gradually stir salt water into lime water. Stir every 10 minutes while painting.

Spring in the Orchard and Berry Fields

Diligence with spraying and pest monitoring is a must

It is spring and prune/plum trees should be blooming, the peaches should be pushing to bloom, the pear and cherry trees are close to blooming out, and the Gravenstein apple trees will be in full bloom very soon.

Tree fruits are continuing to develop, and with the typical last hard freeze around April 14, some of the fruits will have some freeze damage. Cold weather can cause poor pollination. If the weather turns wet, then the fruit will have increased disease problems. Keep up with the necessary sprays to keep the tree and fruit clean. Get a current spray guide online at https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/topic/agriculture/tree-fruits-and-nuts or stop by your local Extension office and pick one up. If possible, spray the trees before it rains, so the blooms and leaves have been sanitized.

Be aware that there are populations of different insects out in large numbers already, including aphids and root weevils. Spotted wing drosophila have been a problem in berry crops. For the latest on the SWD, visit: http://spottedwing.org/.

Orchard and Berry Fertility

Fertilization will be needed by mid-April. Check your leaf analysis and soil tests to see what nutrients you need for the growing season. Fertilize while there is still moisture (rain or irrigation) to move the fertilizer into the root zone. Remember to look at the plant and see how well it grew this past year. Hint: On most tree fruits, the terminal sucker growth should have been at least 18-20 inches. If the growth is less than 18 inches, the tree was under stress or didn’t have sufficient fertilizer. If the growth was over 24 inches, the tree is very vigorous, so begin reducing the total amount of nitrogen.

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really a moving target, because as soon as you cut down a tree, then all of a sudden your management plan changes,” he said. “It’s an ongoing thing and it’s an ongoing process of learning.”

Vollmer said the Oregon Department of Forestry, through its forest stewardship program, and OSU Extension forestry agents have provided invaluable assistance in the 12 years since he and Barb returned from Pullman and started actively managing the property.

Vollmer also picks up knowledge from participating in the Benton County Small Woodlands Association. Vollmer joined the association in 2005 and served as a member of the Board of Directors from 2007 until 2015. During that time, he served as program chair, helping to arrange tours and events. Vollmer also has been a Master Woodland Manager since 2007.

Vollmer still participates in the association, regularly attending meetings and performing volunteer duties on an occasional basis.

Barb Vollmer, meanwhile, is an active Master Gardener, volunteering for events and contributing to the education of Benton County residents who contact Master Gardeners for gardening advice. Barb, who was the Benton County Master Gardener of the year in 2015, also is involved in managing the family’s woodlands. “And she is a good source of labor,” Greg said. “It is just like another big garden for us,” he added.

“We like working outside,” Barb said. “And we use it for recreation. It has some nice trails. It is just a pretty piece of property with some very nice trees.”

The Vollmers put some of the money they made in the 2013 harvest back into the land, including laying down rock to improve their road access and purchasing Douglas-fir seedlings, which they planted last winter.

Vollmer said he leaves the harvesting to professionals, but he and Barb do much of the ongoing maintenance, including road mowing, clearing blackberries, basal pruning, clearing brush and planting the seedlings.

He also installed a fish-friendly culvert a decade back, to help improve access to the southern portion of the property.

“It is highly unlikely that a salmon will ever swim up into our property because there are two county culverts between me and the closest salmon bearing stream, and neither are fish-friendly,” Vollmer said. “But if you work in your stream, the state makes certain assumptions that sooner or later the other guy is going to fix their culvert. And I have no problem with that. I’m probably as much an environmentalist as a forester.”

Still, Vollmer said, it costs money to do the right thing. “Sooner or later, though, we are going to sell that property,” he said, “and so I want to have some nice property there for the next guy to have as much enjoyment as I have.”

Survey Says ... Farmers are Entrepreneurs and Much More

By Christine Anderson Brekken, OSU Applied Economics

OSU’s School of Public Policy and its Applied Economics Department are involved in a USDA-funded national survey to learn how farmers choose their production and marketing practices, and the barriers they face.

If you’ve already taken the survey, many thanks. If you still haven’t, we’d love to hear from you.

Take the anonymous survey here: http://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_ehzbT0pIBErUDHf

Early results from the survey show that farmers have to be canny entrepreneurs, whether they market at local, regional, and/or national scales. Respondents have been farming for five years on average, although one of you has been farming since 1847 – we bet that’s how long the farm has been in the family. Speaking of age, respondents are evenly distributed from young adults up to age 64.

Only 10 percent of respondents are certified organic, but a large number are no-spray or use organic practices but without being certified. Your motivations are personal: 93 percent said that they choose production practices because they align with their values. Many also are motivated by higher profits, but only 20 percent have changed practices specifically for marketing opportunities. You seek advice and support from fellow farmers and university Extension services (for example, the OSU Small Farms Program). We’d love to delve deeper into this dynamic.

The project is a partnership between Oregon State University, University of Vermont, and City University of New York.

http://extension.oregonstate.edu/linn
Get Involved with Your Woodland

A management plan is an important tool for communicating your ideas to other people.

A management plan is an important tool for communicating your ideas to other people.

Melody and her classmates at Muddy Creek Charter School have been very active OST observers.

By Brad Withrow-Robinson, OSU Forestry and Natural Resources Extension for Benton, Linn and Polk Counties

The Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR) Extension program in Benton, Linn, and Polk counties aims to help family forest landowners and others in the community understand and improve sustainable woodland management practices around the mid-Willamette Valley.

We do this by offering a variety of learning opportunities and resources in-person and on-line to help address the broad range of needs and interests represented among a diverse clientele of landowners and public audiences.

Life is busy, so many people find on-line self-study most convenient. OSU has a large and growing catalog of practical Extension publications, including many that address common woodland ownership issues, including enhancing woodland wildlife habitat, planting trees and shrubs, and wildfire prevention. Many can be found through links on our website http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton/forestry. Most can be downloaded free.

Among the many in-person learning opportunities, such as classes, workshops, and tours, are many seasonally and locally inspired events presented with our local partner groups. Others are part of FNR’s “Core Curriculum,” such as the Basic Forestry Shortcourse, Mentored Management Planning, and Ties to the Land.

FNR Extension is a long-time leader in what is now called “peer to peer” learning, where landowners and volunteers learn and share together through programs like Master Woodland Managers, and the Women Owning Woodlands network.

These Core programs have been developed by a team of FNR county agents, Extension Specialists, and other colleagues in response to common and recurring needs. These programs become part of our local county offerings, leveraging effort and expertise from across our state-wide group to address local needs. Let me introduce some of these Core Programs.

The Basic Forestry Shortcourse

This is ideal for anyone just starting out taking care of a woodland property. It is a survey course, meant to introduce a wide range of concepts, practices, and terms. Topics include: Assessing your property and defining your goals, understanding tree biology and forest ecology, tree planting, care for an established forest, weed control, safety, timber sale logistics, and laws and regulations. The course is typically taught in the spring over five evening sessions.

Mentored Management Planning Shortcourse

This series gives woodland owners guidance in developing a management plan which is tailored to their own goals and needs. A written Forest Management Plan serves many purposes. It is required for participation in most forest certification systems. It can help you qualify for cost-share funding programs, and it forms the foundation for sustainable forest management. Both the planning process and the resulting plan are invaluable when involving other family members in activities on the property. We hope to offer this in the fall of 2016.

Master Woodland Managers

The Master Woodland Manager program (MWM) is both an educational and a service program, modeled on the highly successful Master Gardener program. MWM volunteers are experienced woodland owners who go through an extensive training on woodland management, and, in return, volunteer their time in service to their community.

We have about 20 active volunteers in our three county area. Each year they collectively contribute around 2,000 hours of service in a variety of ways, including leadership, public outreach, and woodland owner education, which may include site visits to local woodland properties.

A visit from a MWM volunteer is a great way for a new landowner to take stock of their situation. Seeing your property through the eyes of a more experienced landowner can help you identify opportunities and needs on your property in a timely manner, giving you information and guidance to make more informed decisions.

Look for it again in 2017.
decisions. To request a site visit with a Master Woodland Manager, call the Benton County OSU Extension office at 541-766-6750.

Ties to the Land

The Ties to the Land program focuses on succession planning – the human side of estate planning. The workshop focuses on strategies to maintain family ties to the land from one generation to the next; building awareness of the key challenges facing family businesses; and motivating families to address the challenges. It is a facilitated and interactive workshop with DVD-based components and accompanying workbook that provides effective tools families can use to decide the future of their land.

WOWnet

The Women Owning Woodlands Network (WOWnet) was created to help the growing number of women who are taking on active woodland management roles to be successful. It supports women in forest leadership, women who manage their own woodlands, and all who facilitate the stewardship of forests. The network helps raise basic forestry and decision-making skill levels among women woodland managers through hands-on educational opportunities. It aims to support and increase women’s access to forestry-related resources, and to encourage communication among Oregon’s women woodland managers through the development of statewide and local networks. Contact our office or go online to find out how to connect with WOWnet locally.

Oregon Season Trackers

Who hasn’t noticed that it has been a wet winter so far? We recorded 13.92 inches at the Benton County office in December, a soggy month. Do you know how much rain you had?

The Oregon Season Tracker (OST) program is a new collaborative citizen science program we have developed to link natural resource managers, educators, researchers, and others in the community to the science they use. OST citizen science volunteers gather scientific data on daily precipitation and seasonal plant changes (phenology) at their home, woodland, farm, ranch or school to share with other observers and research partners statewide. Data is entered through two web platforms of our national partners (CoCoRaHS and National Phenology Network) where it can be used by national or local research teams, including our partners at the HJ Andrews Experimental Forest. Just two years into the program, OST now has more than 175 volunteers contributing to a better understanding of weather and climate. Although we all know you cannot do anything about the weather, you can do something to improve the (accuracy of the) weather forecast.

Sound interesting? Consider joining the OST movement and become an observer.

Several of these Oregon originals are nationally recognized programs, widely used or copied in many other states including Master Woodland Manager, Women Owning Woodlands, and Ties to the Land.

Of course, not all of these programs can be offered every year, especially when serving multiple Counties. The mix of events changes by season and year. All are posted on our website, http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton/forestry, but we service all brands of heating and cooling equipment

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Living with Fire

The 2016 Starker Lecture is addressing the “new normal” of living with fire, and will offer individuals, neighborhoods, and communities useful information and strategies for living in a changing environment. We will close the series this year with a combined lecture and workshop on “Living with Fire” by Ed Smith, University of Nevada Extension.

April 7, 3:30–6 p.m. Lecture and Resource Fair, La Sells Stewart Center C&E Hall, OSU Campus.

April 8, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. Living with Fire workshop, La Sell Stewart Center, Ag Production Room.

For more details, visit http://starkerlectures.forestry.oregonstate.edu/.

Orchard and Berry Crops continued from Page 14

Why Does Fruit Drop from Trees?

Soon After Bloom

Those blossoms that didn’t get pollinated, or the ovaries of which were not fertilized, fall off soon after petal fall. Usually such fruits show very little development.

After Developing to the Size of Marbles

Another normal wave of fruit dropping occurs in late May or June. Particularly for apples and pears, such dropping is normal and is thought to be a result of competition between fruit. The amount and time of dropping for sweet cherries is highly variable. In cool seasons with little heat stress, some partially developed cherries may remain on the tree almost until harvest. All such fruit were pollinated, but the seeds failed to develop.

Mid-summer Drop

Italian and early Italian type prunes drop fruit all summer. This is normal for these varieties. Excessive drop of other fruit after the “June drop” is unusual. It may be caused by insect or disease damage. Gravenstein apples, which have short stems, will push each other off the spur during the normal growth. Thinning helps to prevent this from happening in mid-May.

Pre-harvest Drop

Wormy fruit tends to ripen ahead of other fruit and fall off prematurely. As soon as some sound fruit have fallen, it is a sign that harvest time is near.
4-F “Fabulous Food, Fitness, and Fun”

The “4-F” Fabulous Food, Fitness, and Fun program delivers after school/summer programs at community sites including middle schools and community organizations in the Benton and Linn county area. At Calapooia Middle School in Albany, watch out for amazing changes and advocacy in the school, because the new Wellness Leadership Committee (comprised of the amazing students from the Leadership class) are choosing and prioritizing the changes they would like to see in their food and healthy living choices at their school. At Linus Pauling Middle School in Corvallis, students are bringing their own recipes and learning about cooking and nutrition, as well as physical activity. In this school we are also starting the JUNTOS program for Parents and youth. (Read more about JUNTOS, an empowerment and school readiness program in Spanish with a 100 percent graduation success rate on these pages.)

You can also become part of this effort to promote healthy eating and physical activity among teens. If you are interested in volunteering in this awesome program, please contact Ana Lu Fonseca analu.fonseca@oregonstate.edu or call 541-766-6249. You can also follow us on Instagram “4hfood” and hashtag your favorite healthy recipes #4hfood to see all the fabulously delicious recipes we cook in the program.

Students Head Outdoors for Science Education

Spring is just around the corner and the time of year when teachers look for opportunities to get their students outside to gain hands-on natural science experience and reinforce science learning in the classroom. The FOCUS (Forests Organisms Creeks you!) program will once again be offered to 3rd–5th grade Benton County students at Beazell Memorial Forest in the months of April and May. The day begins when students arrive on site and gather to learn about the cultural history of Kings Valley. This is followed by hiking the diverse trails learning about the forest, oak savanna, and riparian areas and their diverse ecosystems. Students explore interactions of native plants and animals, including food chains/webs and biological indicators of environmental quality.

Last year, 164 students from Philomath, Blodgett and Adams Elementary schools had an opportunity to participate in this program sponsored by OSU Extension Service, Benton County 4-H and Benton County Parks and Natural Areas. The program was supported in part by the Benton County Commissioners.

The outcomes of the program were very positive for the students and teachers. “Hands-on learning is engaging and my students easily retained new information more quickly than in the classroom. I would love to do this trip again. It was well-developed, child-centered and developmentally appropriate.”—Amber Eaton, Blodgett Elementary Teacher
Fashion Revue – 4-Her’s Runaway with Style

Come cheer on Benton County 4-H members as they walk the runway and showcase their clothing and sewing projects. Benton County Fashion Revue will take place on Saturday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m., in Milam Auditorium (2520 SW Campus Way) on OSU Campus. 4-H members are judged earlier in the day on their projects and then take to the stage for a free public viewing. For more information, contact the Benton County Extension office 541-766-6750.

Fashion Revue participants get a chance to show off their sewing, knitting, or crocheting skills.

Mystery Theme at 4-H Camp

The 2016 Linn-Benton-Lincoln-Tillamook (LBLT) 4-H Camp will be Sunday, June 26, through Friday, July 1, at the Oregon 4-H Center, in Salem, Ore. Camp is open to all 4th-8th graders. Activities include swimming, archery, adventure swing, canoeing, crafts, and more. There will be educational hands-on classes, with natural resources focus. This year’s camp theme will incorporate the topic of “Mystery.” Cost to attend is $210 (limited scholarships available). Scholarship forms are available upon request.

Scholarship requests are due by Friday, May 20, to be considered. Youth applying for scholarships are required to complete the camp registration form and bring it with the scholarship form (no money) to the Benton Extension office by the May 20 deadline. Scholarship recipients will receive a letter informing them of their awarded scholarship amount and how much is due.

Camp registration begins on Monday, March 7, and runs through May 31 on a first-come, first-served basis. Forms are available at the Extension office and on our website.

Benton County and Linn County Extension programs may offer opportunities that are only open to the citizens of their respective counties. Please check with your county Extension Office if you have any questions about participation eligibility for specific programs.

Become a County Ambassador

All youth in 8th-11th grade (at the time of application) are eligible to apply. The Ambassador’s role is to represent the Benton County 4-H program throughout the county. Duties include working with a team to plan, coordinate and implement regular 4-H county events such as 4-H Information Night, Awards Banquet, and Fair. Other opportunities include, farmer’s markets, 4-H Junior Leader training, and more. Applications are due to the Benton County Extension office by Monday, May 2. Applications are available at the Benton County Extension office and on our website.

Summer Conference – Experience College Life at OSU

4-H Summer Conference will be held June 22-25 (Wed–Sat) on the OSU campus. Summer Conference is an opportunity for more than 400 youth, 12-18 years old, to explore campus life, make new friends, stay in a dorm and have lots of fun. While there, participants attend classes on a wide variety of subjects, participate in a community service project, have a pool party and a dance.

Cost is $200 per person. The first 10 Benton county registrants will get a $50 scholarship towards their $200 fee. Current County/State Ambassadors and National Congress applicants will receive partial scholarships (amount to be determined). Registration and instructions can be found on our website.

Juntos

Juntos (meaning “together” in Spanish) works to empower families around education. Uniting with community partners to provide culturally relevant programming for 8th-12th grade students and their parents, Juntos is designed to provide families with knowledge, skills, and resources to prevent youth from dropping out of high school. Juntos encourages families to work together to gain access to college. To learn more, contact Ana Gomez at Ana.Gomez@oregonstate.edu, or 541-737-2104.

La comunidad de Corvallis, el distrito escolar y OSU están trabajando de la mano con las familias Latinas para desarrollar un diálogo abierto sobre la educación. El programa Juntos, ofrece herramientas valiosas para fortalecer los conocimientos sobre el sistema educativo y enriquecer a todos los participantes con las voces de los estudiantes, padres de familia y maestros. Los invitamos a conocer el programa y participar en los talleres, actividades, clubes y visitas a las universidades.

OSU ofrece Juntos a familias y estudiantes desde la escuela Linus Pauling Middle School y Corvallis High School. El programa es gratuito, los talleres son muy dinámicos, ofrecemos cena y cuidado para los más pequeños, oportunidades de servicio comunitario y ¡mucho más!

Contacte en su escuela a:
- Corvallis High School: Carlos Valdez Casillas; 541-757-5871 Carlos.Valdez-Casillas@corvallis.k12.or.us
- Linus Pauling Middle School: Elena Chavarria; 541-757-5961 elena.chavarria-correa@corvallis.k12.or.us.
- O visite http://opencampus.oregonstate.edu/

Fiestas

The FIESTAS program engages youth, their families, future teachers, and the local community in fostering an environment of learning about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in a way that makes sense to them. FIESTAS features an afterschool program on Mondays and Wednesdays at Garfield and Lincoln Elementary schools, and is taught by the Boys and Girls Club of Corvallis (Lion’s and Gecko Clubs). The program has around 75 youth regularly attending during the school year. Many of them attend other 4-H Clubs and 4-H camps.
The goal of Ag in the Classroom’s (AITC) Literacy Project is to improve both the reading and agricultural literacy of Oregon students in grades K–5. Each year a new agriculturally-themed book is chosen and a lesson is developed that reinforces the message of the book. The 4-H Leadership team members go through training on the book and on the lesson that accompanies the book. Members of the Leadership team then deliver the lesson to school children throughout Linn County. This year’s book is Before We Eat: From Farm to Table, and the lesson has a focus on careers in ag.

More information and registration for all of these events can be found on our web site http://extension.oregonstate.edu/linn/events.

LR Burns and Maddie Nueschwander presenting in 2015.
Great Turnout for the Western Region Livestock Education Day

More than two hundred people from Linn, Benton, Yamhill, Polk, and Marion Counties attended the education day held at Polk County Fairgrounds. 4-H and FFA Members had some hands-on opportunities to learn more about their large livestock project of choice. Several livestock experts came and taught short sessions about animal selection and nutrition, biosecurity and general diseases, how youth can market their projects and write thank you notes to buyers. Coastal Farm and Ranch was a sponsor of the event and provided lunch and door prizes for the day! Our goal is to make this an annual event for 4-H and FFA members in our region.

Horse Clinics in Full Swing

Linn County 4-H members are provided monthly opportunities to learn new skills and fine tune skills that they already know at the horse clinics. Each clinic has a different skill set that they focus on, such as showmanship, western, English, jumping, gaming, etc. Certain divisions require that members participate in one or two clinics in order to exhibit in that division at the county fair. The active, working clinics are led by experts in each particular skill set. Horse members quickly learn that this project is a year-round commitment, and so much more than just attending a 4-H meeting once a month.

Courtney Stockburger practices her skills at a Gaming Clinic held at Linn County Fair and Expo.

Top Left: Kris Kizer discussing the importance of selection in beef cattle.
Top Right: Shelby Armstrong talking about different characteristics of Meat Goats.
Bottom Left: Loyal Burns teaching selection in sheep.

http://extension.oregonstate.edu/linn
Annual Meeting Emphasizes LCEA’s “Growing Community”

By Amanda Torres

There was excitement in the air as the new and returning faces filed into Linn Benton Community College’s Fireside room to participate in LCEA’s 2016 Annual Meeting on February 17.

After feasting on exceptional morsels prepared by LBCC’s own Chef Andrew, exiting LCEA President Joy Chase commenced the meeting with a brief review of 2015 accomplishments and introduced Sheryl Casteen as the 2016 President. We are elated to hear that Joy will continue to contribute to LCEA both with her experience, valuable time, and avant-garde objectives.

We were honored to have Matt Herb, Oregro Seeds, among the evening’s guests as Sheryl revealed he was a major contributor to the 2016 Annual Meeting.

Exciting new changes come with the new Board, starting with a fantastic new and aesthetically pleasing logo. Sheryl explained how each new feature represented LCEA’s commitment to their mission: Growing Community, Connect, Inspire, Advocate.

Act I

Derek Godwin, Regional Administrator OSU Linn County Extension, gave a very informative talk about the insightful history of Oregon Extension, and reminded all that this great country was organized one Act at a time. Queue Morrill Act of 1862. He then introduced each Extension program staff to give a short review of their program.

Each program representative not only described their programs and how they worked, but when appropriate, gave the number of volunteers and hours worked – in some cases, amounting to thousands of hours per year. Linn County’s citizens are quite possibly the finest in the state of Oregon in numbers of volunteer hours alone! Garden gloves for all the helping hands!!

Act II

Stefan Seiter, LCEA Board Director, conducted a very provocative interactive Question and Answer period. Inviting the audience to think outside the box for ideas which would contribute to the public’s awareness of Extension programs.

Results: LCEA has numerous new marketing ideas, new committee members and partners, and attendees have a better understanding of OSU Extension programs.

Final Act

Are all the brownies and lemon bars gone from the buffet? After all this veggie talk my sweet tooth is feelin’ neglected.

Yes, I want to support Linn County Extension Association! Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift.

[ ] I am making a one-time donation of: $50 $100 $250 $500 $1,000 Other $ _______

[ ] I want to be a monthly donor and give $ ______ per month for ____ year(s).

Make check payable to LCEA and mail to: 33630 McFarland Rd, Tangent OR 97389

Name _________________________
Address ________________________
Email _________________________
Phone ________________________

We realize you have many donation choices, thank you so much for choosing to enhance Linn Extension Services!

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Civic engagement refers to participation in the life of a community in order to improve conditions for others or to help shape the community’s future.” (Journal of Transformative Education, What do we mean by “Civic Engagement?” by Richard P. Adler and Judy Goggin, 2005)

“Civic engagement refers to the ways in which citizens participate in the life of a community in order to improve conditions for others or to help shape the community’s future.” (Journal of Transformative Education, What do we mean by “Civic Engagement?” by Richard P. Adler and Judy Goggin, 2005)

This 4-H program is entering its 14th year of operation. Each year, more than 50 7th and 8th graders from Benton County schools attend the program for youth to learn about Civic Engagement. To learn more, visit the Benton County 4-H page.

Benton County Master Gardener Association Membership Meeting, 6-8 p.m., Sunset room of the Benton County Extension Office. Topic: TBA. Open to the public!


2016 Starker Lecture Series, 3:30-6 p.m., “Living With Fire” and Resource Fair, La Sells Stewart Center, OSU Campus

2016 Starker Lecture Series, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Living With Fire Workshop, La Sells Stewart Center, OSU Campus

Linn County 4-H Food Prep Contest, Brownsville, OR

Linn County 4-H Fashion Revue, 9 a.m., Small Theatre, West Albany High School, Albany.

Benton County 4-H Fashion Revue, 7 p.m., Milam Auditorium, OSU campus, Corvallis

Benton County Master Gardener Association Membership Meeting, 6-8 p.m., Sunset room of the Benton County Extension Office. Topic: TBA. Open to the public!

Know Your County Government. Each year Benton County 4-H hosts a day-long interactive program for youth to learn about Civic Engagement. To learn more, visit the Benton County 4-H page.

FOCUS Classroom Science Field Day at Beazell Memorial Forest

Linn County Master Gardener container planting day, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Wilco Farm Store, Lebanon. This is a fun event where Linn County Master Gardeners volunteer to pot up beautiful containers for patrons visiting the store. You provide your container, buy the plants, and the soil medium is provided.

FOCUS Classroom Science Field Day at Beazell Memorial Forest

Rural Living Basics: Living with your Well and Septic System, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Stayton Community Center, 400 W Virginia St, Stayton, OR. Free nitrate screening.

Linn County Master Gardener container planting day, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Tom’s Garden Center, Albany. This is a fun event where Linn County Master Gardeners volunteer to pot up beautiful containers for patrons visiting the store. You provide your container, buy the plants, and the soil medium is provided.

FOCUS Classroom Science Field Day at Beazell Memorial Forest

Benton County Master Gardener Plant Sale, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Benton County Fairgrounds.

Spring Garden Festival. This annual event is held at the Arts Center Plaza at Corvallis Central Park and will run from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The Spring Garden Festival offers a wide array of plants, wares and snacks for sale, plus live music! Benton & Linn County Master Gardeners also have eight different education booths and a plant clinic to answer any gardening questions.

Benton County Master Gardener Plant Sale, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Benton County Fairgrounds.
Set on 275 scenic acres with lakes, meadows, oak groves, and views of the Cascade Mountains, Mennonite Village is an inclusive community of amazing people.

Mennonite Village offers a wide range of residential and healthcare options:

- 55+ independent living houses and apartments (more than 20 floor plans)
- Assisted living apartments with 24/7 support available at Quail Run
- Foster care at Mary’s Place for individuals with early memory loss
- Alzheimer’s and dementia care and respite care at Lydia’s House
- Skilled nursing and rehabilitation at Mennonite Home
- In-home care in Linn, Benton, and Marion counties

Did you know?

- Life leases for houses start at $62,000 and are partially refundable.
- Houses and apartments are often available and move-in ready. No waiting!
- We offer delicious, farm-fresh dining choices (dine in, take out, or delivery).
- A variety of social, spiritual, fitness, and recreational activities are included.
- We offer more than 75 raised garden beds and 20’x 30’ garden plots.
- We’re expanding our fitness center to include a large, warm therapy pool.
- Bus transportation is included; personal transportation is offered for a fee.
- Our campus is tobacco-free with miles of walking paths and trails.
- Pets are welcome!

Contact Chris Spellings to schedule your personal tour: 541-704-4267.

Mennonite Village considers and admits people age 55 and older without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.