

Area Yule Tree Growers, among Nation's Largest, Backing New Industry Promo

By **Mitch Lies**,
GROWING Editor

Linn and Benton County Christmas tree growers are hoping consumers “keep it real” this holiday season: Real, that is, in regard to their Christmas tree selection.

The growers have joined with Christmas tree growers across the United States in backing the first-ever Christmas Tree Promotion Board promotional campaign. Funded by grower assessments, the campaign includes the tagline: “IT’S CHRISTMAS, KEEP IT REAL!”

Accounting for about 3 percent of the U.S. production of Christmas trees, Benton and Linn counties are major contributors to the Christmas Tree Promotion Board, and to the Christmas tree industry, in general. Benton County is home to what many believe is the largest Christmas tree operation in the U.S. in Holiday Tree Farms of Corvallis. (Holiday annually sells around 1 million trees.) And two of the 12 members on the Christmas Tree Promotion Board hail from Benton County, including its



Holiday Tree Farms Nursery Manager Dale Stephens moves five-month old Christmas tree plugs to a processing area, where they will be prepared for shipment to transplanter. The seedlings will spend eight to ten years in the ground before they are fully grown Christmas trees ready for harvest.

chairperson, Betty Malone of Sunrise Tree Farm in Philomath.

Malone, in fact, helped rally support for the development of the Christmas tree checkoff, and was integral to its formation.

“Individually, I felt we

could have little influence in increasing demand for real Christmas trees,” Malone said. “But by pooling our resources, I felt we could have a real chance of doing so.”

The Christmas Tree Promotion Board is one of 22 checkoff programs

administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Growers pay an assessment of 15 cents for each tree sold to fund the program. By law, funds generated by the assessment can be used only for research and promotion.

Growers opted to back the

program after several years of low returns brought on by a variety of factors, including an oversupply of Christmas trees and stagnant demand – a stagnation influenced in part by a growing consumer preference for artificial Christmas trees.

“We’ve been through lots of cycles of boom and bust, and we haven’t been able to increase the demand for Christmas trees that get sold nationally. This is an effort to try and do that,” said Oregon State University Extension Service Christmas Tree Specialist Chal Landgren, who works with local Extension forestry agent Brad Withrow-Robinson on helping growers produce Christmas trees.

Agricultural producers long have utilized checkoff programs to boost demand for their products. Among the most successful programs are the “Beef – It’s What’s For Dinner” campaign funded by cattle producers, and the “Got Milk?” mustache ads funded by dairy producers.

Continued on Page 15

INSIDE: Volunteers Propose Benton County Extension and 4-H Service District. 4-H programs are seeking volunteer leaders for all areas.

Who We Are

The Oregon State University Extension offices in Linn County and Benton County offer practical, lifelong learning experiences. We sponsor conferences, workshops, demonstrations, tours, and short courses. We recruit, train and manage volunteers who assist us with community outreach and education. Our Extension faculty and volunteers answer questions and give advice by phone, in person, through e-mail, and on our Websites. We provide brochures and flyers with specific information on a variety of subjects. We are funded by a cooperative partnership between Oregon State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and our local counties.

Office locations and hours

The Benton County office is located at 4077 SW Research Way in Corvallis. Office hours are 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Telephone: 541-766-6750. Fax: 541-766-3549. <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton>.

The Linn County office is located at 33630 McFarland Rd (on the corner of Old Highway 34 and McFarland Road), in Tangent. Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Phone 541-967-3871. Seed Certification phone 541-967-3810. <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/linn>.

Program Staff Phone Numbers

Linn County 4-H Youth Development	Robin Galloway	541-730-3469
Linn County 4-H Youth Development	Andrea Leao	541-730-3534
Benton County 4-H Youth Development	Carolyn Ashton	541-766-6750
Benton County 4-H Natural Science and Benton County Leader	Maggie Livesay	541-766-6750
4-H Latino Outreach Coordinator	Ana Lu Fonseca	541-766-6750
Field Crops*	Clare Sullivan	541-730-3537
Livestock & Forages*	Shelby Filley	541-672-4461
Dairy*	Jenifer Cruickshank	971-600-1222
Commercial Swine & Forage*	Gene Pirelli	541-623-8395
Small Farms*	Melissa Fery	541-730-3538
Small Farms*	Amy Garrett*	541-766-6750
Small Farms & Groundwater Education*	Chrissy Lucas	541-766-3556
Community Horticulture*	Brooke Jackson	541-766-6750
Community Horticulture*	Pami Opfer	541-730-3471
Forestry, Natural Resources*	Brad Withrow-Robinson	541-967-3871
Forestry and 4-H Youth	Jody Einerson	541-766-6311
Family & Community Health (FCH)*	Jeanne Brandt	541-730-3544
FCH & SNAP Ed*	Tina Dodge Vera	541-730-3541
SNAP Ed*	Brooke Jackson	541-967-3871
SNAP Ed*	Constanza Maureira	541-766-6750
FCH & EFNEP*	Leonor Chavez	541-730-3542

* Multi-county assignment

Administration and program support serving Linn County

Office specialist	Laurie Gibson	541-248-1088
Office specialist	Jolynn O'Hearn	541-967-3871
Office manager & Linn County Leader	Michele Webster	541-248-1087
Seed certification	Doug Huff, Tamara Fowler	541-967-3810

Administration and program support serving Benton County

Office specialist	Kelly Cotter	541-766-6750
Office manager	Liz McGovern	541-766-6750
Office specialist	Andrea Watson	541-766-6750

Regional Administrator	Derek Godwin	541-967-3871
GROWING editor	Mitch Lies	541-967-3871

Oregon State University Extension Service offers educational programs, activities and materials without discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, disability, disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran status. Oregon State University Extension Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Reasonable accommodations to persons with physical or mental disabilities will be provided. Please notify the Extension office five working days prior to the event you are interested in attending to request reasonable accommodations.

Volunteers Propose Benton County Extension and 4-H Service District

A group of Extension volunteers in Benton County have been working the past two years to establish a Benton County Extension and 4-H Service District. They have received resolutions from all five cities in the county and have requested the county commissioners hold public hearings to consider the proposal. If the commissioners support the proposal, they will create a measure for the May 16, 2017 ballot.

What is proposed and why?

A new Benton County Extension and 4-H Service District would be a permanent source of funding for Extension services in Benton County. Every \$1 collected by the proposed service district would leverage \$4 in state, federal, and grant funds, and an additional \$2 in volunteer services for Extension programs.

State and federal budget allocations have caused losses to more than 20 percent of Extension positions across the state, and more than 30 percent in the Willamette Valley, since 2000. Remaining positions have been modified to cover larger, multi-county regions. These reductions in positions ultimately cause a loss of services to county residents unless county and grant funding are generated to fund county-based faculty and education program assistants to continue services. In Benton County, the 4-H Natural Resources, Forestry, Field Crops, Vegetable Crops,

Orchard Crops, Community Horticulture (includes Master Gardeners), and Family Community Health positions have been impacted.

While county funding has remained consistent, county officials have been unable to replace Extension losses from state and federal budgets. Since Extension is not considered an essential county service, such as law enforcement and emergency management, it could be reduced or eliminated during tough budget times ahead.

What services would be gained?

The service district will stabilize local funding and strengthen 4-H Youth Development programs throughout the county, especially after-school, camps, and school enrichment activities; education services for local family farm and forest businesses; and training and volunteer support for local food systems and sustainable natural resource education, such as Master Gardeners, Master Food Preservers, community and school gardens, Master Woodland Managers and 4-H Wildlife Stewards. Benton County boasts one of the largest volunteer programs in the state. Increased funding allows more volunteers to be trained to serve communities.

What have other counties done?

In Oregon, voters in 25 of

36 counties have established Extension service districts to secure, maintain, and in some cases, expand educational services for their county. All of the coastal counties, along with Linn, Lane, Polk, Yamhill, Marion, and Clackamas Counties in the Willamette Valley, have service districts to fund Extension. All of these counties have significantly leveraged new state, federal, and grant money from dollars collected by the service district.

How much would a service district cost taxpayers?

The maximum rate is 8 cents for every \$1,000 in assessed property value. This amount may never be increased. A homeowner with an assessed property value of \$200,000 would pay approximately \$16 per year for the service district. The average assessed property value in Benton County, including manufactured structures, is \$194,220.

Is there an election campaign for the proposed service district?

The Citizens for Benton County Extension will form a Political Action Committee (CBCE PAC) if this proposal is accepted. For more information on this effort, please view their website at <http://citizensforbentonextension.com>. There are many opportunities to help with this effort. Please email cbceext@gmail.com for more information.

\$20 OFF
Sewing Machine
Full Service
expires 11-30-16



CORVALLIS
SEWING & VACUUM
Performance for Life

\$20 OFF
Vacuum Cleaner
Full Service
expires 11-30-16

920 NW 9th Street • Corvallis • 541-752-0011 • corvallisvac.com



Brooke Edmunds
541-730-3470
brooke.edmunds@
oregonstate.edu



Pami Opfer
541-730-3471
pamela.opfer@
oregonstate.edu

Community Horticulture

Linn-Benton Master Gardener Programs Accepting Applications

Love to be in the garden? Do you notice the plantings around you? Want to know what they are and how they grow? Like sharing what you know and learning more? Believe in giving back to your community?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, you should consider becoming a Master Gardener.

The application period for the 2017 Master Gardener program is open now through December 1. There will be mandatory orientation dates for all applicants during the first week in December. The classroom portion of the MG program will run for

eight consecutive weeks on Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., beginning February 2, and ending March 23, in Tangent. In addition, applicants must be willing to access online training modules and attend several workshops during the growing season.

At OSU Extension, we rely heavily on volunteers in order to extend horticultural education to our communities. We could not be the leading resource for gardening information without our knowledgeable and dedicated volunteer base. To this effect, the Master Gardener program is a volunteer program – each applicant must agree

to “pay-back” 66 volunteer hours in their community. Master Gardeners receive a tremendous amount of training in order to become a resource for home gardeners in their county. Volunteers also get access to an amazing network of OSU Extension researchers, local experts and garden enthusiasts in the area.

For applications and more information please contact: Pami Opfer; Linn-Benton Master Gardener Program Coordinator; Linn Phone: 541-967-3871; Benton Phone: 541-766-6750;

E-mail: pamela.opfer@oregonstate.edu

November-December Gardening Calendar for Western Oregon

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

Planning

- **November:** Force spring bulbs for indoor blooms in December.

Maintenance and clean up

- Check stored flower bulbs, fresh vegetables, and fruits for rot and fungus problems. Discard any showing signs of rot.
- Place a portable cold frame over rows of winter vegetables.
- Place mulch around berries for winter protection.
- Cover rhubarb and asparagus beds with composted manure and straw.
- Rake and compost leaves that are free of diseases and insects.
- Clean and oil lawnmower, other garden equipment and tools before storing for winter.
- Drain and store hoses carefully to avoid damage from freezing. Renew mulch around perennial flower beds after removing weeds.
- Protect tender evergreens from drying wind.
- Tie limbs of upright evergreens to prevent breakage by snow or ice.
- Leave ornamental grasses up in winter to provide winter texture in the landscape. Cut them back a few inches above the ground in early spring.
- **Early November:** Last chance to plant cover crops for soil building. You can also use a 3- to 4- inch layer of leaves, spread over the garden plot, to eliminate winter weeds, suppress early spring weeds and prevent soil compaction by rain.

Annual Master Gardener Luncheon Nov. 10

We are thrilled to celebrate another year of our incredible volunteers in the Master Gardener Program. The annual Master Gardener Graduation and Recognition Luncheon will recognize all of our new Master Gardener



trainees who completed their volunteer hours and are now certified MGs! We will also be recognizing our veteran Master Gardeners who are the backbone of the program. These are the volunteers who certify each year, who dedicate hours and hours of volunteer time to an impressive array of horticulture projects, and

who strive to bring the most current, research-based gardening advice to their communities.

Friends, family members, and community partners are encouraged to attend. Our 2016 MG Awards Luncheon will be at Oddfellows Hall in downtown Corvallis at 223 S.W. 2nd St., beginning at noon on November 10.

Continued on Page 4



**Holiday
ART &
WINE**
in the Greenhouse
at Garland Nursery

**Saturday, December 3rd
10am – 4pm**

Sip on wine, spirits, or warm apple cider, as you stroll among the beautiful and unique handcrafted art and wares, all perfect for gift-giving.



5470 NE Hwy 20, Corvallis 97330
(541) 753-6601

GarlandNursery.com

- Watch for wet soil and drainage problems in yard during heavy rains. Tiling, ditching, and French drains are possible solutions. Consider rain gardens and bioswales as a long-term solution.
- Take cuttings of rhododendrons and camellias for propagation; propagate begonias from leaf cuttings.
- Prune roses (tea and floribunda, but NOT climbers and ramblers) to around 3 feet in height to prevent winter damage.
- Turn the compost pile and protect from heavy rains, if necessary.
- Do not walk on lawns until frost has melted.

Planting/propagation

- Plant window garden of lettuce, chives, parsley.
- Good time to plant trees and shrubs. Consider planting shrubs and trees that supply food and shelter to birds (sumac, elderberry, flowering currant, and mock orange).
- **Early November:** Still time to plant spring-flowering bulbs, such as tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, crocuses. Don't delay.

Pest monitoring and management

- Rake and destroy leaves from fruit trees that were diseased this year. Remove and discard mummified fruit.
- Check firewood for insect infestations. Burn affected wood first and don't store inside.
- Treat peaches four weeks after leaf fall spray for peach leaf curl and shothole diseases.
- Moss appearing in lawn may mean too much shade or poor drainage. Correct site conditions if moss is bothersome.
- Check for rodent damage around bases of trees and large shrubs. Remove weeds to prevent rodents from using them as hiding places. Use traps and approved baits as necessary.
- Avoid mounding mulching materials around the bases of trees and shrubs. The mulch might provide cover for rodents.



Master Gardeners, Peggy Worthington (Benton), and Pat Mason (Linn), at a Soils Science Class earlier this fall led by OSU Horticulture faculty, James Cassidy. Thirteen Master Gardeners gathered at a soils lab space at the OSU campus to learn about soil structure and different soil types in the Willamette Valley. This was part of a continuing educational opportunity organized by MG, KJ Lee. Thank you, James, for sharing your amazing knowledge of soils with our Master Gardeners!

Conifers Naturally Shed Needles in Summer and Fall

By Kym Pokorny

Source: Paul Ries

Watching trees turn bewitching shades of orange, red and yellow is part of the magic of autumn, but seeing the needles on conifers fade to yellow and fall to the ground can be unnerving.

Such botanical behavior is natural, said Paul Ries, urban forestry specialist for the Oregon State University Extension Service. Evergreen conifers shed needles just as deciduous trees lose leaves; it just happens over a longer period of time.

“The difference is that with deciduous trees they do it all at once in a shorter time span,” he said. “Evergreen conifers shed needles from summer through fall. And those that fall are only a fraction of the total needles.”

Depending on the species, it can take anywhere from two to seven years for a conifer to lose and grow all its needles.

“When you look at a conifer, yes, it’s technically evergreen because it’s always green,” Ries said. “But you’re not looking at the same needles all the time. They shed the oldest needles every year. People think they’re not in good health. But in reality they’re just going through the normal cycle.”

The outermost needles are the newest, so those dropping are in the interior and less likely to be noticed. If other areas of the tree are turning yellow, then it’s time to get advice from your local Extension office or a certified arborist. In the past two years, large numbers of Oregonians have watched some of their conifers – largely Douglas-firs – turn brown and sometimes die. That damage, Ries said, is the result of drought and also a problem that should be referred to experts.

A few conifers do lose all their needles in one



Evergreen conifers drop their needles over a long period of time.

year, namely western larch (*Larix occidentalis*), dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) and bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*). So if you see one of these trees without needles in winter, no need to worry.

If all this talk about conifers is making you feel like adding one to your landscape, fall is a fine time to plant one. Fall and winter rains will keep the tree watered and give it a good start. But before you take a trip to the nursery and plunk down your money, Ries said to do some homework first and choose the right tree for the right place.

“One call I often get is from people worrying about trees too close to the foundation of their house,” he said. “The rule of thumb is if you have a small tree like a vine maple or Japanese maple, it’s OK close to the house. A large-growing tree like an oak should be at least 20 feet from the foundation.”

Get help choosing a tree, with Extension’s free app designed for iOS and Android tablets called Selecting, Planting and Caring for a New Tree, co-authored by Ries. A downloadable publication is available for those without tablets.

Paul Ries’ recommendations for planting a tree:

- Dig a hole that’s two to three times the width of the tree’s root ball, but only deep enough for the root ball to sit 1 to 2 inches above the ground. A wide hole will allow better root growth and is especially important in compacted soil. The hole should be the same width at the top and bottom.
- Mulch around tree, keeping mulch away from the top of the root ball.
- Use a shovel or other tool to roughen the sides of the hole, which will allow roots to grow into surrounding soil. Remove any roots or debris.
- Be sure to remove twine from trees wrapped in burlap.
- Tamp down soil in the bottom of the hole. Place tree in the hole, making sure it sits above ground by at least 2 inches to allow for settling. The biggest mistake people make, Ries noted, is to plant a tree too deep.
- Fill in hole with the soil you dug from it. Although you don’t need to, you can add a soil amendment. Don’t use more than a ratio of one-third soil amendment to two-thirds native soil. It’s not necessary to add fertilizer until tree is established, about a year after planting.
- Most trees don’t need to be staked because young trees left to stand alone develop a stronger trunk. But an especially weak tree or one planted in a windy area will need to be staked for the first six months to a year. Use two stakes and straps or hose. Don’t use wire, which will cut through the bark. Always remember to remove the stakes and ties.

Linn County Master Gardener Volunteer Spotlight: Karin Magnuson

By Rane Webb

Karin has been gardening since she was a little girl on her family's dairy farm in Astoria and has had container gardens as well as small or large garden plots nearly everywhere she has lived since then. She says she is currently in the process of turning her previously juniper-covered corner lot into something much more beautifully diverse and bee, wildlife and neighbor friendly. It's a big, ongoing process.

Karin is a member of the Albany Symphony Orchestra. She retired from full-time teaching at LBCC a year ago and made taking the Master Gardener Training a priority. Karin says she has learned so much from the classes, from the other students and Master Gardeners and from the time spent on the Help Desk. She can't wait to keep learning and offering what she learns to others.

As a trainee Master Gardener (and soon graduate), she used her considerable skills to put together the Garden Tour brochure/map. Linn



Karin Magnuson

County Master Gardener Association will continue to use her skills on a new project this coming year. Karin has kept the Demo Garden kiosk updated with the latest monthly garden calendars and some of the upcoming events. She is someone we can go to for help when we need a last minute substitute at the Farmers Market. We are very lucky to have Karin on our MG team.

Benton County Master Gardener Volunteer Spotlight: Rosalind Hutton

By Pami Opfer

Rosalind has been a Master Gardener with the Benton County group since 2013. Ever since she joined the program, Rosalind has been a go-getter and has been involved with a number of volunteer projects. She brings a wealth of knowledge to our network of gardeners and completes tasks with a no non-sense attitude.

In 2016, Rosalind took over the chair of the Benton County Demonstration Garden Committee – not a role for the weak-hearted. The demo garden is located at the Benton County fairgrounds and has steadily expanded each year to include an incredible showcase of vegetable gardening techniques, espaliered fruit trees, and a composting area. In addition, it now boasts an amazing pollinator and xeriscape garden to highlight different plant varieties for these thematic landscapes.

Rosalind has led an amazing team of Master Gardeners in the demo garden to maintain this



Rosalind Hutton

garden as a "learning-lab" for our volunteers and the public. Also, under the leadership of Rosalind, the Master Gardeners offered a hands-on gardening workshop series in conjunction with the demo garden team and Seed to Supper program. Although a bumpy road at times to get this new workshop series off the ground, Rosalind was open to trying new ways of extending horticulture knowledge to the public. Along with the entire demo garden team, she is a driving and dynamic force within our Master Gardener program and a role-model volunteer.

2017 International Master Gardener Conference in Portland

The Oregon State University Extension Master Gardener program is very proud and excited to be hosting the 2017 International Master Gardener Conference (IMGC) in Portland. The IMGC has been held every two years since 1987. The conference provides an amazing opportunity for

Master Gardeners, state and county coordinators to come together and learn through seminars and tours, celebrate successes through the International Search for Excellence Program, and meet and network with Master Gardener volunteers, faculty and staff from across the United States,

Canada, the United Kingdom, and South Korea.

The next IMGC will be hosted at the Oregon Convention Center and will take place July 10-14, 2017. The conference committee is headed up by OSU MG Statewide Coordinator Gail Langelotto and a large team of OSU Extension

staff, faculty, and volunteers. IMGC 2017 is open to any and all gardening enthusiasts, so mark your calendars. There will be a ton of educational offerings: 44 concurrent session classes and 16 tours to choose from; plus events such as the opening reception and three movies in a film festival. We

hope that you can make Portland and the IMGC a destination in July next year and join us for a horticulture education extravaganza.

Registration is now open and all details can be found on the official website at <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/>

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





The Trick to Maintaining a Healthy Immune System

By Darcie Hill, MPH, OSU Dietetic intern

Did you know that at least 70 percent of our immune system is found in our gastrointestinal (GI) tract? The GI is more commonly known as the digestive system or gut. The gut plays a huge role in overall well-being and immune health. Inside are about 100-trillion live microorganisms, also known as microbes or probiotics, referred to as “good bacteria.” Probiotics promote normal gut function, protect the body from infection, and regulate metabolism. Healthy probiotics act like quarterbacks in football or center-midfielders in soccer. They call the shots and control the tempo by helping our bodies digest, absorb, and distribute nutrients, create vitamins, and defend the body against intruders, such as bacteria and viruses that can cause sickness. In addition to boosting our immune system, probiotics send messages to our brain and helps to regulate metabolism.

Continued on Page 8

BE READY! FLOODS

DURING

- Unplug appliances to prevent electrical shock when power comes back on.
- Do NOT drive or walk across flooded roads. Cars and people can be swept away.
- Gather emergency supplies and follow local radio or TV updates.
- Tie down or bring outdoor items inside.

AFTER

- PRACTICE SAFE HYGIENE**
 - Wash hands with soap and water to help prevent germs.
 - Listen for information from your local officials on how to safely use water to drink, cook, or clean.
- Clean walls, hard floors, and other surfaces with soap and water. Use a mixture of 1 cup bleach and 5 gallons water to disinfect.
- Use fans, air conditioning units, and dehumidifiers for drying.
- For cleanup, wear rubber boots and plastic gloves.
- Caution! Flood water may contain trash.
- Throw away items that cannot be disinfected, like wall coverings, cloth, rugs, and drywall.

RECOGNIZE FLOOD RISK

- Identify flood-prone or landslide-prone areas near you.
- Know your community's warning signals, evacuation routes, and emergency shelter locations.
- Know flood evacuation routes near you.

When power lines are down, water is in your home, or before you evacuate, TURN OFF gas, power, and water.

For more information visit <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/>



*Home is
Where the Yarn is.*

Yarn Shop | Classes | Knit Nights | Podcast

Stash, LLC • 110 SW 3rd Street • Downtown Corvallis
541-753-YARN • www.stashlocal.com



Food Safety during Winter Emergencies

Freezer failure

Freezer failure can mean the loss of all or part of a large investment in food, time, and money.

Prepare for power outages by keeping the freezer full. Fill plastic milk jugs or soda bottles with water and keep those frozen to fill the empty space. These containers can be used for drinking water in an emergency.

During an outage, the first rule is to keep the freezer door closed. Think about moving your frozen foods to a freezer that is working, maybe at someone else's house. Locate a source of dry ice in your community. Wrap your freezer in blankets or layers of crumpled newspapers, but be sure not to cover vents in case the power comes on again. If there is snow outside, you can use that for temporary storage.

Food use guidelines

Just before you get your freezer back into operation, check your frozen foods to see if any have thawed. Be Careful. Discard anything that has developed an off-odor, or about which you have any doubt whatsoever.

You can safely refreeze any foods that have partially thawed if they still contain ice crystals. You can also refreeze many foods that have

completely thawed if they have been kept at a temperature no higher than 45 degrees Fahrenheit for no longer



Tip: Keep an appliance thermometer in the refrigerator and freezer to indicate the temperature in case of a power outage and help determine the safety of the food.

than two days (about normal refrigerator temperature). When you refreeze food, freeze it quickly. Set your freezer's temperature control on its coldest setting. After the food is well frozen, turn the temperature control to its usual setting to maintain 0 F or lower. It's a good idea to mark the foods that are being refrozen to indicate that they need to be used within a short period of time for best quality.

Meat and poultry

Completely thawed raw meats may be refrozen if they have been thawed no longer than two days and kept at a temperature no higher than 45

F (refrigerator temperature). Discard thawed cooked meat products if they no longer have ice crystals. Refreezing would result in poor quality and potential safety problems.

Fish and shellfish

If raw fish and shellfish still have ice crystals, they may be refrozen immediately. However, since bacteria multiply rapidly in these foods, it is best not to refreeze them if they have thawed completely.

Vegetables

Be careful with blanched or cooked vegetables. Bacteria can multiply rapidly in them. It may be impossible to tell by their odor whether they have started to spoil. Vegetables should be immediately refrozen if they still have ice crystals. If not, discard them.

Fruits

Usually fruits can be refrozen without danger if they still taste and smell good.

Baked goods

These foods may be refrozen safely.

Refrigerators that stop working

If at any time your refrigerator warms up to a

temperature higher than 45 F for more than two hours, discard all cooked foods, and especially any creamed mixtures, puddings, cooked meats, and meat dishes.

For additional details visit http://extension.oregonstate.edu/fch/sites/default/files/documents/sp_50_470_ifyourhomefreezerstops.pdf

Cooking without power

Hot drinks and warm food are comforting and restorative when the power is out. Plan ahead to be able to safely heat water and cook some food. Check local sporting goods stores for cooking options like flaming canisters used by caterers or hikers. Some are approved for indoor use. Carefully check the labels. Prepare a grilling rack to set in your fireplace for foil packets or skewers of food, a Dutch oven or a cast iron skillet. Get fuel for your camp stove, and identify a place that will be safe to use it close by outside. Remember never to use grills or camp stoves indoors or near open windows or doors.

Practice your chosen method of cooking before an emergency so you are familiar with the equipment and results. This can be a fun family activity, and will be reassuring to family members if a power outage does occur. There are plenty of other unknowns when the power is out, so knowing that you can still cook shouldn't create additional stress.

Safety of canned food that freezes

More than pipes can freeze during icy weather. If canned foods have frozen, they may still be safe to eat. Safety will depend on the condition of the can or jar. To evaluate safety, consider the following:

Tin cans or glass jars

- If jars have cracked or broken during freezing, the food should not be used.
- If the seams are still intact, the food is safe to use. Thaw gradually and store at room temperature.
- If the seam has broken and the food has thawed to room temperature, it should be discarded.
- If the seam has broken and the food is still cold (refrigerator temperature, 40 F or below), it may be safely salvaged. Transfer it to a container and either store it in the refrigerator or refreeze for future use.

All food that has frozen in tin cans should be examined carefully for spoilage before use. For an extra margin of safety, boil low acid foods (meats, fish, vegetables, and poultry) for 10 minutes before using.

To prevent freezing of canned foods, the storage area should be above 34 F. Wrapping jars or cans in paper or blankets will provide some protection against freezing.

Your
Independent Choice
In Primary Care!

Now accepting
new patients!

CORVALLIS
INTERNAL MEDICINE, PC
Patient Centered • Personalized Care

We are recognized as a Patient-Centered
Primary Care Home



We accept most insurances, including Medicare and Medicaid

981 NW Spruce Ave. – Corvallis – 541-758-0766 – www.corvallisinternalmedicine.com

Every person's probiotic profile in their gut is unique, depending largely upon what you eat. To explain, probiotics are alive so they need to eat in order to survive. In order for probiotics to thrive and produce health benefits, they need to be well fed with plant-based foods known as prebiotics. Prebiotics are un-digestible plant fibers. The more food, or prebiotics, that probiotics have to eat, the more efficiently these live bacteria work and the healthier your gut will be. For a clearer picture of how this process works, imagine the video game Pac-Man being played in your gut. In this case, the yellow Pac-Man is the probiotic and eats his way through a maze of dots, which are the prebiotics, and the more dots he eats, the more "points" (health and immunity) he gains.

Probiotics can also be consumed directly through dairy product cultures, such as yogurt or kefir. Not all probiotic containing foods are created equal however, so make sure you look for "Live and Active Cultures" on the seal. An example of a gut-healthy meal to get both your prebiotics and probiotics in, is to make a parfait with low-fat or non-fat yogurt (with Live and Active Cultures), blueberries, and granola, chia seeds, ground flaxseed or other high fiber cereal.

Don't worry if you not have not been consuming a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and cultured dairy products! You can cultivate a new microbiota in just 24-hours by incorporating prebiotic/fiber containing food into your diet. The following are some foods that promote and maintain strong gut-health (see "Foods Naturally High in Prebiotics" graphic):

- Cruciferous vegetables (e.g. broccoli) & leafy greens (e.g. chicory)
- Bananas (potassium and magnesium decrease inflammation)
- Beans & legumes (strengthens intestine walls and improves micronutrient absorption)
- Berries & tomatoes (can improve microbiota to enhance immune function)
- Jerusalem artichokes, asparagus, leeks, onions, garlic (inulin containing insoluble fiber)
- Polenta (fermentable components, insoluble fiber)
- Flax seed & chia seed (insoluble fiber)
- Fermented plant-based foods: kimchee, sauerkraut, tempeh & soy sauce (probiotics)

For optimal health and wellness, feed your gut! Eating to promote and maintain your gut health, combined with regular physical activity, adequate sleep, and stress management, is the perfect recipe to strengthen your immune function and overall health.

References:

Douglas, L. C., & Sanders, M. E. (2008). *Probiotics and Prebiotics in Dietetics Practice*. *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*, 108(3), 510-521. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jada.2007.12.009>

Jardine, M. (2014, August 27). *Seven Foods to Supercharge Your Gut Bacteria* [Text]. Retrieved October 3, 2016, from <http://www.pcrm.org/media/online/sept2014/seven-foods-to-supercharge-your-gut-bacteria>

Tuohy, K. M., Probert, H. M., Smejkal, C. W., & Gibson, G. R. (2003). *Using probiotics and prebiotics to improve gut health*. *Drug Discovery Today*, 8(15), 692-700.

Got Food Safety Questions?

- **USDA Meat and Poultry HOTLINE** (1-888-MPHotline or 1-888-674-6854) for questions on meat, poultry and egg safety. English & Spanish 10-4 ET www.fsis.usda.gov TTY: 1-800 256-7072

They offer a Consumer's Guide to Food Safety in Severe Storms and Hurricanes. This includes information on salvaging flood water contaminated food. http://www.fsis.usda.gov/shared/PDF/Severe_

[Storms_and_Hurricanes_Guide.pdf](#)

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (1-800-CDC-INFO or 1-800-232-4636), for information on hazards, safe clean up, and preventing illness and injury. Available in English and Spanish, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. www.cdc.gov TTY 1-888-232-6348,
- **Food and Drug Administration**. (1-888-SAFEFOOD or 1-888-723-3366). For information on

safe food handling for foods other than meat, poultry, or egg products. www.cfsan.fda.gov

FDA emergency number, staffed 24 hours a day, 1-866-300-4374

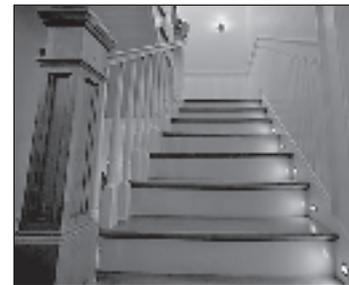
- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Safe Drinking Water Hotline** 1-800-426-4791 www.epa.gov
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Food and Water in an Emergency** www.fema.gov

Give Older People the Gift of Light

Last minute shoppers may wonder what to give their aging parents, older neighbors, favorite aunt. The gift of light is an ideal choice.

Adequate light in an older person's home is necessary to maintain safety, to allow them to fully participate in hobbies and activities and can elevate their mood. As people age, they require more light to safely navigate stairs and uneven surfaces, to read, to see the details of a project they are working on. As the shortest days of the year and the holiday season approach, this is an ideal time to show you care about the quality of an older person's life and their safety, by giving them the gift of light.

Lights are essential for safety. No one should come home to a dark house or enter a dark room to search for the light switch; this can result in tripping, slipping and falling, which is a great hazard for older adults. Many gadgets on the market today make this unnecessary. Motion, light, touch and sound sensors can be added to existing outdoor



Adequate lighting in the home is important for the safety of aging friends and family. Night lights and stair lighting are easy ways to prevent bumps and falls in the dark.

and indoor light fixtures. Timers have been around for a while, but newer to the market are remote control devices that can be carried to allow someone to turn on the home's interior lights before entering. These could also be used to turn off and on lighted holiday decorations to save a trip outside or prevent having to crawl

behind a decorated tree. Touch lights eliminate the need to fumble for a switch and are recommended next to the bed.

An older person's home should have lights at every step and stair and on the path from the bedroom to the bathroom. Look for lights that shine on the floor rather than into someone's eyes. Flat nightlights that take up little space in a hallway are available; some are battery run for locations without a convenient outlet. Novelty nightlights are available to match every home's color or decorating scheme. Rope lighting is a fun way to light stairs or halls without having to use overhead lights.

Accessible lights in an emergency are a good idea. Last winter our area experienced a number of power outages, many during the evening hours. Small flashlights that can be placed around the home for easy access prevent someone from searching in the dark. Place fresh batteries in

Continued on Page 15



Chrissy Lucas
541-766-3556
chrissy.lucas@
oregonstate.edu

Groundwater Protection Education

Iron Bacteria: A Slimy Foe

What are iron bacteria?

Iron bacteria are commonly cited as the culprit for any “slime” problems found in a well. Interestingly enough, though, only a very small percentage of the slime seen in wells and pipelines is actually iron bacteria (also referred to as iron oxidizing bacteria or by its proper name, Gallionella). Most of the slime formation found in wells is by naturally occurring soil bacteria, not iron bacteria.

What are signs that my water may have iron bacteria?

A professional water well contractor can check your well for physical signs of contamination, such as debris in the pipelines. Also, a laboratory can analyze the chemistry of your water. The specific chemistry of your well water may help identify problems and help determine treatment options. Here are features that might indicate problems (listed in order of what is most likely to indicate a specific problem, to least likely).

Your well might have plugging problems if:

- pH is greater than 7.0
- Calcium hardness is greater than 200 ppm
- Iron is greater than 1.0 ppm
- Manganese is greater than .02 ppm
- Sulfates are greater than 50 ppm
- Phosphates are greater than 1 ppm

Your well might have corrosive problems if:

- Total dissolved solids (TDS) are greater than 600 ppm
- pH is less than 7.0
- Dissolved oxygen is greater than 2 ppm
- Carbon dioxide is greater than 50 ppm
- Chlorides are greater than 500 ppm

What problems do iron bacteria cause?

The slime generated by iron bacteria isn't a health hazard, but it can do damage in other ways. Along with the unpleasant odor, it can corrode pipes and plumbing equipment, and clog pipes, screens, and other components of the well

system. The slime can also hamper the effectiveness of the well system's water treatment components. It can overwhelm carbon filters, defeat bactericidal resins, and attack or plug reverse osmosis membranes and cartridge filters. In certain conditions, the bacteria can grow quickly and leave the entire well system virtually useless in just a few months.

How can iron bacteria be avoided?

Iron bacteria can be a major nuisance, so the best protection is prevention. This means making sure that everything related to your home water system is disinfected. When having your well system installed, tested, or repaired, always use a professional contractor. During installation of the well, check that the pipe, pump, tools, and water used are disinfected.

What can be done to treat iron bacteria in water?

In order to remove iron bacteria from water, the chemical treatment must have the capability



Iron bacteria residue occurs where an area of water becomes exposed to oxygen. The iron bacteria use the oxygen in this zone to convert ferrous iron into ferric iron. As a result, the iron changes into a rusty, red precipitate. This material can also appear as a fluffy or filamentous, organic material as a result of the bacteria growing.

of penetrating the slime, removing the live bacteria, dissolving the decaying debris totally so the nutrient is gone, and removing everything from the well. That not only requires the

proper chemistry but good development techniques, a monitoring process on the site to determine when the well is clean, and good removal pumping from the bottom of the well, once the project is complete.

All well components (e.g., pump, cable, etc.) should be thoroughly cleaned before placing them back in the well.

If a pipeline is more than 20 percent plugged, it should be cleaned. If pipelines are less than 20 percent plugged and if the well is cleaned properly, the counts of bacteria will be as in a normal aquifer, and eventually the pipeline will clean itself.

Where can I get more information?

For more information on your private water well, visit <http://wellwater.oregonstate.edu> or contact your local contractor. Also, visit the website of the National Ground Water Association, www.wellowner.org.

Reprinted from the National Groundwater Association

Bedding and wood pellets in stock!

- Packsaddle wood pellets
- Dry Den animal bedding
- Natures pine shavings

Corvallis Feed & Seed Farm Store

30685 HWY 34 SW, ALBANY, OR 541-928-1923

In between Albany and Corvallis

Find your hay and wheat straw here!

- 115 lb Alfalfa Hay
- 100 lb Orchard Grass Hay
- 80 lb Wheat Straw



Ready for Calving

Calving time is just around the corner. Check out the following tips that can help you prepare for a successful calving season each and every year.

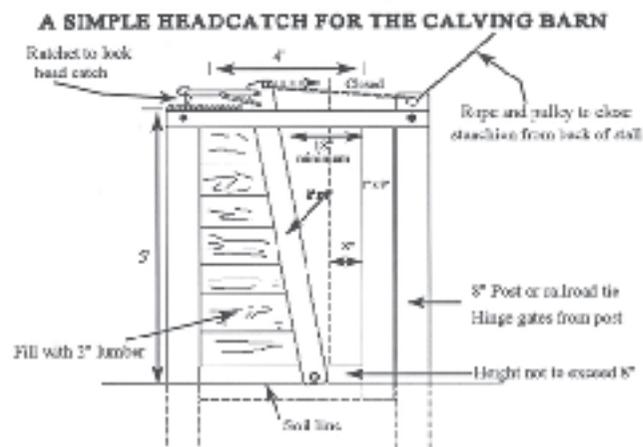
Support Team and Proper Facilities

Make sure you have an established working relationship with your veterinarian and an experienced helper before an emergency arises. It is also important to have proper calving facilities. A simple head-catch for the calving barn (Figure 1) and a good calving area floor plan (Figure 2) are safer than a regular squeeze chute if a cow in labor goes down.

Pre-calving Checklist

Here is a partial list of chores to complete and supplies you should have on hand before calving starts. Think about what you had (or wish you had) in previous years.

- Vaccinate heifers and cows for scours and enterotoxemia.
- Give Vitamin A injection unless supplement is being fed.
- Use pastures for calving or be prepared to clean calving barn and stalls daily.
- Calving lots should be clean and have not been used during the past 10 months.
- Gather equipment (tail rope, gloves, soap, lubricant, chains, bucket, disinfectant, navel dip, etc.).
- Be prepared to provide frozen colostrum if needed.



Dystocia

Calving difficulty accounts for major losses in cow-calf operations. The main cause is having a calf too big to deliver through the pelvis of the heifer or cow. There are several issues managers can address to decrease dystocia including bull selection, nutrition, and exercise.

Bulls

Watch for any calving problems this year, and make adjustments for future breeding seasons by choosing bulls with genetics for calving ease and birth weight appropriate for your cows and heifers. It is best

to select new bulls using EPD (expected progeny difference) values supplied by the breed registries rather than going on simple observation.

Nutrition

Proper nutrition is essential for a successful reproductive program. Make sure the diet of the animal has the required protein and energy levels for late gestation females. Low protein diets can result in decreased calf vigor, delayed uterine involution, increased interval from calving to first estrus, decreased conception rates following calving, and poor colostrum production,

which leads to poor immunity in calves throughout their lifetime. It is a mistake to under feed cows at this time in hopes that the calf won't grow too big to deliver easily. In actuality, under-fed cows and heifers become weak and unable to deliver smoothly, and calves are weak and have difficulty surviving the birthing process. Carefully controlled research trials show this to be true 99 percent of the time. That is, if in the past, managers were lucky enough to have observed easier calving on a year when they did not feed well, other factors were actually responsible for their success that year, not the feeding. Also, make sure you are not overfeeding cows, as obesity causes abnormal presentations due to fat filling the birth canal.

Exercise

Research has shown that heifers and cows may benefit from moderate exercise prior to calving. It stands to reason that increased muscle tone in these animals would lead to easier calving. The difference in calving ease due to exercise depends on previous shape and condition of the cattle and the management system to which they were accustomed. Heifers and cows held in confinement benefited more than the females provided larger areas such as hillside pastures. Moderate exercise, if needed, could be accomplished simply by placing the hay feeder and the water trough at opposite ends of the field.

To learn more, attend the upcoming OSU Calving School (see announcement and/or study the handbook on your own (see http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/beefcattle/files/2016/08/Calving_SchoolHandbook_000-2.pdf).

OSU Calving School in December

- **Where:** Oldfield Animal Teaching Facility, OSU Campus, Corvallis
- **When:** Thursday, December 8, 4-8 p.m.
- **Cost:** \$20 per person (includes program, the calving school handbook, and pizza dinner).
- **Presenters:** Reinaldo Cooke (Beef Cattle Specialist), Shelby Filley (Regional Livestock and Forage Specialist), and Charles Estill (Extension Veterinarian).
- **What:** This program will consist of presentations, educational videos, and simulated calving assistance. Topics covered will include:
 - The Calving Process
 - Nutritional and Management Strategies to Prevent Calving Problems
 - Designing Calving Facilities
 - Dystocia and Calving Assistance
 - Diseases and Injuries Associated with Calving, and
 - Managing Newborn Calves.

For more information, please contact shelby.filley@oregonstate.edu or call 541-236-3016.

To register visit <http://bit.ly/LinnCalvingSchool>, or call the OSU Extension Service Linn County office at 541-248-1088.

oregonstate.edu/beefcattle/files/2016/08/Calving_SchoolHandbook_000-2.pdf.



Melissa Fery
541-730-3538
melissa.fery@
oregonstate.edu



Amy Garrett
541-766-6750
amy.garrett@
oregonstate.edu

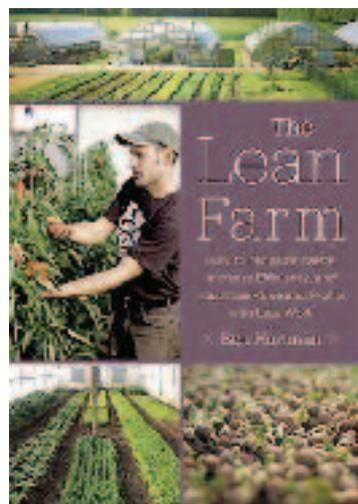
Commercial Agriculture Small Farms

Author of *The Lean Farm* Featured Speaker at Small Farms Conference

Farmer and author Ben Hartman will present a series of sessions at the 2017 OSU Small Farms Conference on Feb. 18. In his book, *The Lean Farm*, he makes the case that small-scale farming can be an attractive career option for young people who are interested in growing food for their community. The lean system identifies and eliminates waste and introduces efficiency in every aspect of the farm operation. Working smarter, not harder, also prevents the kind of burnout that start-up farmers often encounter in the face of long, hard, backbreaking labor.

“There are two pieces to lean production. On the one hand is waste elimination... the other hand is an intense focus on creating what customers actually want. You’re either adding value or you’re contributing to waste,” according to Hartman.

Lean principles grew out of the Japanese automotive



industry, but they are now being followed on progressive farms around the world. Using examples from his own family’s one-acre community-supported farm in Indiana, Hartman clearly instructs other small farmers in how to incorporate lean practices in each step of their production chain, from starting a farm and harvesting crops to training employees and selling goods. While the intended audience for this book is

small-scale farmers who are part of the growing local food movement, Hartman’s prescriptions for high-value, low-cost production apply to farms and businesses of almost any size or scale that hope to harness the power of lean in their production processes.

Ben Hartman grew up on a corn and soybean farm in Indiana and graduated from college with degrees in English and philosophy. Ben and his wife, Rachel Hershberger, own and operate Clay Bottom Farm in Goshen, Indiana, where they make their living growing and selling specialty crops on less than one acre. Their food is sold locally to restaurants and cafeterias, at a farmers market, and through CSA.

The Lean Farm Video: <https://youtu.be/ge4-JawuKZA>

Farmer to Farmer podcast with Ben Hartman: <http://www.farmertofarmerpodcast.com/episodes/hartman>.

Growing Farms Hybrid Course Schedule Set

The 2017 Growing Farms Hybrid Course will be offered in Benton County this winter. Classes will be held at the Sunset Building (Sunset Meeting Room), 4077 SW Research Way, Corvallis.

Save these Dates:

- Thursday, Feb. 9, 6-8:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb 23, 6-8:30 p.m.
- Saturday, March 4, All day farm tour
- Thursday March 9, 6-8:30 p.m.

Registration will open in November. For more information, visit: <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/south-valley/events>



Southside RV Repair & Shelter Factory

GALVANIZED STEEL SHELTERS "TOUGHER THAN WOODPECKER LIPS!"



Whatever your need, we can cover it! RV, Farm Equipment, Animal Cover, Auto, Patio or Industrial. 26 Gauge-40 Year Roofing.

541-754-9390
Call for More Info!



Near Avery Park & Marysville Golf. Free Local Delivery with this coupon! Expires 12/15/16



South Valley Field Crop Notes November/December

General management

- Seed certification: remember to sign up new plantings within 60 days for seedling inspections or crop history.
- Slug bait timing is critical – begin as soon as weather conditions are favorable. Baiting is most effective in the evening, with night temperatures above 45 F, wind speed less than 5mph, and in the absence of heavy rains.
- Monitor fields for winter cutworms and look for damage causing notched leaves

Grass

- In established grass seed fields complete sequential pre-emergence herbicide applications by late November for maximum effectiveness on grass weeds and to ensure crop safety.
- Fall/winter herbicide application in established grass seed fields can help manage tough-to-control bluegrass species, especially roughstalk bluegrass. November application timings of Outlook following earlier applications of Axiom, Dual, or Prowl at the first fall rains have shown improved roughstalk bluegrass control.
- If established grass weeds are present, glufosinate should be added to November/December applications.
- Consider controlling broadleaf weeds in newly established grasses if weed pressure is high. There are numerous broadleaf herbicides that can be used at this timing.

Mint

- Control grass weed patches in mint with clethodim or sethoxydim before heavy frosts set in. Watch for weed escapes and spot spray. Prepare for dormant timing herbicide applications in mint.

Wheat

- Increase seeding rates to 33 seeds/ft² (100-150 lbs/ac depending on seed size) for winter wheat plantings after Nov. 1. Complete winter wheat plantings by late November if possible.
- If planting wheat in November and December, pick varieties that are suitable for later plantings (e.g. Art Deco, Bianco, Drive, Goetze).
- In winter wheat, use Axiom, Zidua or Anthem Flex for control of grass and broadleaf weeds. Read labels carefully. Ensure wheat is seeded 1-1.5" deep to ensure crop safety.
- Reduce Axiom rate to 6-8 oz/ac if planting winter wheat late in November/December.

Fall Trial Plans

I like to keep the industry aware of the trials we have out in the field in hopes that people will call and ask questions, or want to visit the plots – so please feel free to get in touch. Several field trials have already gone in this fall for my Extension program, and more are planned for the spring.

The two trials evaluating alternatives to Axiom for row spraying in annual ryegrass (both at-planting and in volunteer stands) are repeated from last year. Two sites on growers' fields will be used to compare the performance of nine herbicides for row spraying at-planting. This year we ended up in fields with high volunteer annual ryegrass pressure, and expect good data on control and crop injury. We will also be evaluating nine different treatments for row creation in volunteer stands with two sites on growers' fields.

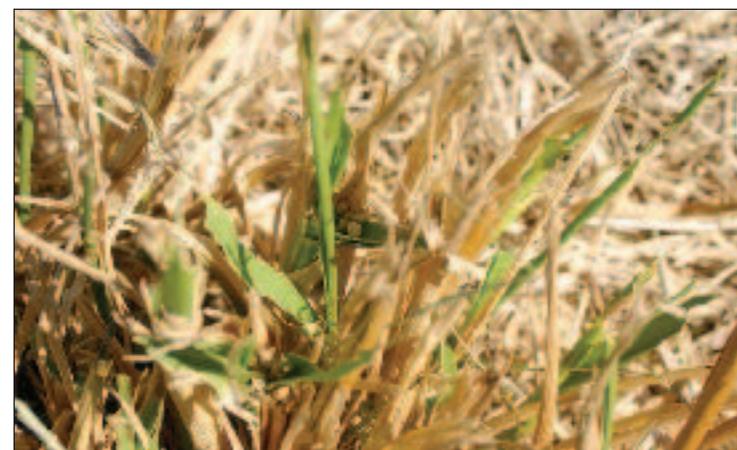
At Hyslop Research Farm, we planted a stand of white clover to compare row spacing at establishment. Clover was seeded at either 6-, 12- or 18-inch rows; crop development and yield will be evaluated. A meadowfoam variety trial was also planted this fall in collaboration with Jennifer Kling and the Barley Breeding team at OSU. Jennifer is excited to gauge the relative performance of meadowfoam varieties that she worked on for years.

As I said, if you have questions about any of this work, please do not hesitate to call: Clare Sullivan, 541-602-2009.



PHOTO BY CLARE SULLIVAN

High populations of armyworms were a serious pest in some established grass seed fields this late summer and fall.



Armyworms creating severe notching in leaves and chewing tall fescue crowns down to the ground. Symptoms will be similar to cutworm feeding.



Two more trials were planted this fall evaluating alternatives to Axiom for row spraying at planting of annual ryegrass. This year's trials have a lot of volunteer ryegrass pressure and are already showing results.

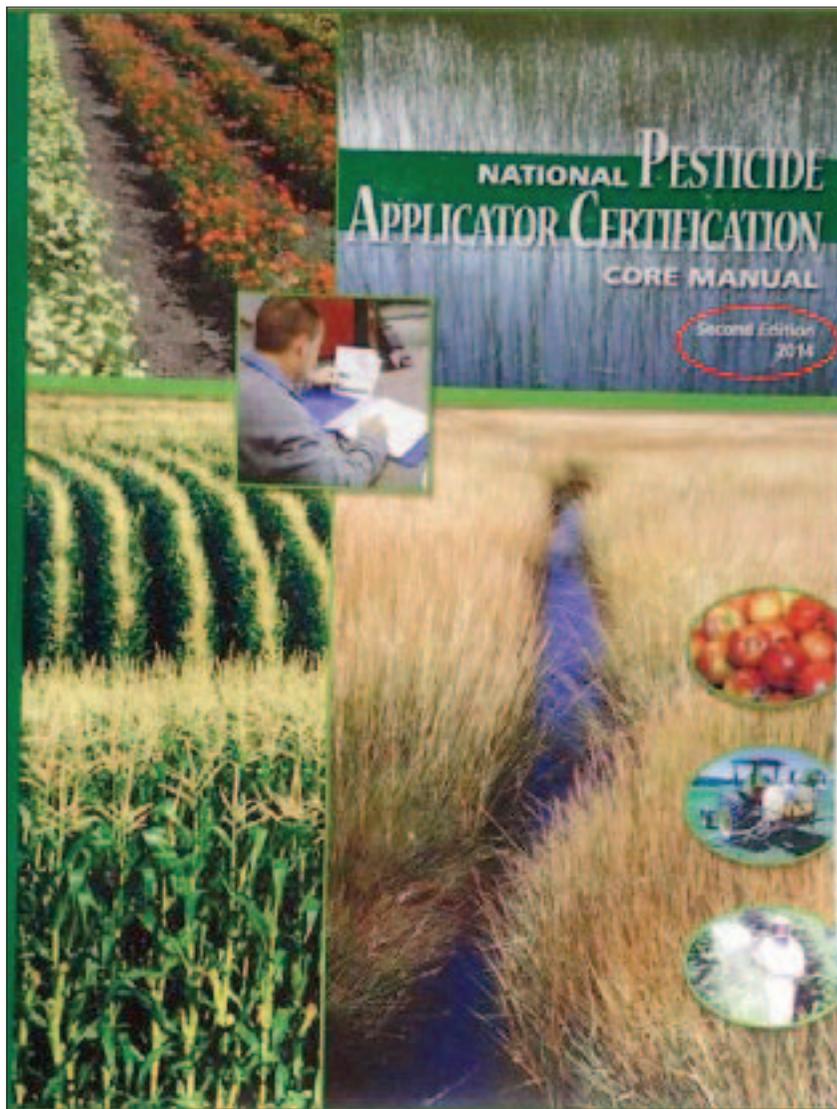
Oregon Department of Agriculture Adopts New Pesticide Applicator Study Guide

For the past decade or so, study materials to take consultant, commercial, or private applicator licenses have been using OSU publication EM8850 *Oregon Pesticide Safety Education Manual – a Guide to the Safe Use and Handling of Pesticides*. You were able to purchase a copy from your local Extension office or through OSU publications website.

Starting January 1, 2017, Oregon Department of Agriculture will discontinue the use of EM8850 and adopt the *National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual*, which is available for free online at: <http://www.nasda.org/9381/Foundation/11379/11383/30485.aspx>.

If you prefer to purchase a copy of the manual, Chemeketa College in Salem, Oregon has printed the national manual and they are selling those at \$9.95 each. Chemeketa also sells other study materials, such as aerial applicator's manual (\$9.95), agriculture herbicide

study manual (\$14.95), and soil fumigation manual (\$10.95). Visit <http://bookstore.chemeketa.edu/MerchList.aspx?txtSearch=pesticide&searchtype=Description&drpsearch2=Description&searchin=All+Merchandise> to order your study materials.



Upcoming Ag Meetings

November

- 15-17 – Willamette Valley Ag Expo. Linn County Fair and Expo Center, Albany. CORE pesticide training courses will be offered Tuesday & Thursday. No pre-registration is required. Visit wvaexpo.com for more information.

December

- 12 & 13 – Oregon Seed Growers League conference in Salem. All growers and industry representatives should receive registration material. Visit <http://www.seedleague.org/program.html> for more information.

January

- 10 – Winter OSU Extension Seed Crop and Cereal Production Meetings in Albany and West Salem. No pre-registration required.
- 12 & 13 – Oregon Mint Growers Annual Meeting at Salishan Lodge in Gleneden Beach. www.oregonmint.org/annualmeeting.html
- 18 – Oregon Ryegrass Growers Association Annual Conference at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center in Albany. Be sure to watch for conference registration letters in the mail in December. Pre-registration is recommended.

Pesticide Credits and Willamette Valley Ag Expo

Let this serve as a reminder as the end of the year draws near to check the status of your pesticide recertification credit hours. Private Pesticide Applicators in Oregon are required to obtain 16 credit hours in the five-year recertification period to renew their license. Only eight credits can be received yearly to count towards the total. To see the requirements needed to renew other pesticide licenses, see: <https://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Pesticides/Licensing/Pages/RenewalRecertification.aspx>

Of the 16 total, four of the credits must be CORE classes that cover the basics of pesticides and their use. The Willamette Valley Ag Expo will be offering five credits (four CORE and one regular) on either Nov. 15 or Nov. 17. The classes will cover pollinator protection and the new worker protection standards.

Follow this link to check your credit history report using your license number: <http://go.usa.gov/3Muu3>

CITIZENS BANK
Good Business. Good Friends.

PROUD TO SUPPORT OREGON FARMERS AND AGRICULTURE SINCE 1957

Let us help with all your agriculture business banking needs!
Our local Commercial Loan Officers can help you with the financing of new farm machinery as well as operating lines of credit. Contact us today and let us be partners in your success!

Albany (East) 541-967-1992 • Albany (West) 541-812-6178
Corvallis Area 541-752-5161 • Philomath 541-929-3228

www.citizensEbank.com



Hazelnut Growers Settle on Starting Price

The Hazelnut Growers Bargaining Association announced recently it has reached an agreement with packers on a minimum initial price for field-run hazelnuts of \$1.18 a pound.

The price is the third-highest initial minimum ever, but is down slightly from last year's \$1.22 initial minimum. The 2014 initial minimum of \$1.70 a pound stands as the highest ever.

Terry Ross, who represented growers in the negotiation, said several factors contributed to the slight decline from last year's price, including a decent sized Turkish crop; decent carryover; and a good supply of competing nuts in the marketplace, such as almonds, walnuts, pistachios and pecans.

In addition, a relatively weak Turkish lira – worth about one-third of a U.S. dollar in recent weeks – is expected to put the Turkish crop at an attractive price point for international buyers, potentially drawing exports away from the U.S. hazelnut crop.

Turkey is the world's largest producer of hazelnuts.

On the plus side, Northwest hazelnut growers can expect the price to increase before the selling season concludes. In 2014, the ending price was 6.5 percent higher than the initial minimum; in 2015, the ending price was 13 percent higher than the initial minimum.

"I think it is a good place to start," said Doug Olsen, president of the association. "Our thinking was that a price at this level will give the packers an opportunity to move the price up."

As for the crop, the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service estimates growers will harvest 38,000 tons this fall, or about 7,000 tons more than last year, when yields were hurt by drought.

"The crop is better than we had last year," Olsen said. "I think we're pretty close to average in our per-acre yields."

Acreage in hazelnuts has expanded dramatically in

recent years. Ross estimates total acreage planted to hazelnuts in Oregon at around 60,000, with about 35,000 in production. It typically takes four years after planting to get a hazelnut crop, and another three to four years for trees to approach peak production. By contrast, in 2004, just 28,400 acres were planted to hazelnuts, according to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Hazelnut packers Westnut, Willamette Hazelnuts, Denfeld Packing, George Packing and Northwest Hazelnuts participated in the price negotiation, representing approximately 85 percent of the volume of hazelnuts packed annually in the Pacific Northwest.

Oregon leads the nation in hazelnut production, accounting for nearly 100 percent of the U.S. supply, according to the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Linn and Benton counties annually rank among the top-ten hazelnut producing counties in Oregon.



Go Local!
COVER CROP MIXES AVAILABLE

Corvallis Feed & Seed

Seed Division Hours:
Monday-Friday
8:00am-5pm

Cover Crop Mixes for Garden Soil Health!

 AUSTRIAN PEAS COVER CROP	 CEREAL GRAINS COVER CROP	 CRIMSON CLOVER COVER CROP	 PASTURE MIX	 COMMON VETCH COVER CROP
--	--	---	--	---

Winter Wheat Available

- Bobtail
- Kaseberg
- Goetze

Treated & Un-treated Available!

541-928-1923 Call us today! Or visit us at 30685 HWY 34 SW, Albany, OR 97321

Area Yule Tree Growers, among Nation's Largest, Backing New Industry Promo

Gift of Light continued from Page 8

Continued from Page 1

Of course, those programs operated on multi-million dollar budgets. The Christmas tree program is looking at spending about \$1.25 million this year, or about 70 percent of its \$1.8 million budget. As such, the program is hoping to get its message across with minimal paid advertising and heavy emphasis on social media and earned media, publicity gained through promotional efforts other than advertising.

“Earned media is when what you are doing is interesting enough that people go, ‘Hey, look at that, I want to write about that. I want to feature that. I want to send that out to people I communicate with,’” said Tim O’Connor, the first executive director of the Christmas Tree Promotion Board. O’Connor also served on the team that launched the “Beef – It’s What’s For Dinner” campaign.

“That was an exciting time for the cattle industry,” O’Connor said of the beef campaign, “and this is an exciting time for the Christmas tree industry.”

According to the USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Resource Center, Christmas trees have been sold in the United States since about 1850, when most were cut from forests.

Hal Schudel, the founder of Holiday Tree Farms, who died at his home in Corvallis in 2014 at the age of 96, is recognized as one of, if not the, first person to grow Christmas trees in a plantation setting. He and a



A worker prunes a Christmas tree at Holiday Tree Farms. Growers prune Christmas trees in an effort to obtain shapes desirable by consumers. The Corvallis-based company sells approximately 1 million trees annually.

partner, Paul Goodmonson, planted trees in rows and treated them like a crop beginning in 1955, forever changing the Christmas tree industry.

The industry in Oregon grew steadily over the years, reaching nearly 7.4 million in sales in 2008 before sales began falling off. By 2010, the USDA shows that Oregon growers sold 6.4 million, or 1 million less than two years earlier. Five years later, in 2015, the USDA reports Oregon growers sold less than 4.8 million trees, a 35 percent decline in trees sold in just eight years.

The number of Christmas tree operations in Oregon,

meanwhile, fell even faster, dropping from 1,633 in 2010 to 690 in 2015, a 42 percent decline in just five years, according to the USDA.

The good news for growers who survived the downturn is that there appears to be a shortage of trees this year, and growers are receiving prices not seen since the start of the Great Recession. Still, many wonder whether Christmas trees will ever again be produced and sold at the volumes they once were.

Ultimately, those hopes may rest on the success of the checkoff program, and whether consumers indeed “keep it real.”

- With nearly 4.8 million trees sold annually, Oregon leads the nation in Christmas tree production. Second is North Carolina with around 2.8 million.
- It takes from seven to ten years for a Christmas tree to be ready for harvest, with species such as Douglas-fir taking shorter durations, and Noble fir taking longer.
- Noble and Douglas-fir rank with Fraser fir, grown in the Eastern U.S., as the top three selling species of Christmas trees.
- Most of the Christmas trees grown in Oregon are sold domestically, with California comprising the largest market. Mexico is Oregon’s largest export market.

them before giving. Also available are emergency flashlights that plug into an outlet to stay constantly charged and come on automatically when the power goes off. Someone inside the home can safely get to the flashlight to remove it from the outlet for use as a handheld flashlight. Carrying a small flashlight with you in a purse or pocket can be a lifesaver if you are out in the community when the power goes off. Thousands of community members were in stores and restaurants last year when power outages occurred. Not all businesses had working emergency lights and parking lots were difficult to navigate with no street lights on.

As eyes age, they allow in less light, so a brighter light is needed to see with the same acuity as before. Place bulbs with the highest wattage allowed in each fixture. The maximum wattage that is safe should be noted on the socket cover of each light fixture. Having adequate light makes reading or participating in activities much less of an effort and has been shown to encourage people to stay more active and involved. This in turn, improves people’s moods and health.

Most pharmacies, department and home improvement stores have a selection of lighting accessories and equipment. Take time to stop and look at the options and think about what might be beneficial for the people you care about.



This local landowner is happy with his seedlings.

Seedling Sale and Goods from the Woods Fair

The Linn County Chapter of Oregon Small Woodlands Association is once again sponsoring its annual Seedling Sale on Saturday, February 4, from 8 a.m. to noon, or while supplies last. The 2017 Goods from the Woods, a local woods products fair, is also returning, and will feature many products and crafts on sale that are made from native local woods. Location of both events is the Santiam Building at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center on Knox Butte Road in Albany, near I-5 Exit 234.

The sale is a service to the community, providing a great opportunity for local homeowners to pick up small amounts of trees and shrubs that may otherwise be hard to obtain. Some of the species are suited to smaller places around a home, with spring flowers and/or nice fall colors. Portions of the money earned each year are used to help fund educational programs for youth in Linn County, including 4-H and college scholarships.

The plant list/information sheet and seedling order form are available on line, as of mid-November. Links can be found at the Benton County FNR Extension upcoming events page <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton/forestry/events>. Seedling pre-orders are always encouraged. For questions or additional information, please contact Bonnie Marshall at bonnieym@wvi.com or 503 769-6510.

What to Do about Those Drought-Damaged Trees? Seller Beware

By Amy Grotta and Brad Withrow-Robinson,
OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension

Adapted from an article that appeared in TreeTopics, <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/treetopics>

The recent drought has stressed and damaged many trees in the Willamette Valley, making stands attractive and susceptible to exploitation by insects and diseases. The situation can also make landowners attractive and susceptible to exploitation by “door knockers” making unsolicited offers to buy timber.

We are aware of a number of small woodland owners in the Valley having recently received unsolicited offers to buy their timber as a way to mitigate drought damage. The “buyers” warn of all the trees damaged by drought being killed by beetles and being lost unless harvested, and encouraging people to sell and get some value before everything dies.

Unsolicited offers to buy timber are nothing new to small woodland owners, and we always advise to be wary of them. But this seems like a time to be particularly cautious.



Group mortality of Douglas-fir in May 2015. Douglas-fir beetle was found in all these trees.

An unsolicited buyer offering to assess the health of your trees for you is a clear conflict of interest and a definite red flag. One outcome could be the buyer exaggerating the potential for future loss, thereby convincing you to sell healthy trees you had no intention to log or to accept a lower price for the timber than you'd like (claiming that it's “better than nothing”). Have a third party help you evaluate damage and if you think you want to proceed with salvage or sanitation harvest, move ahead as recommended with any harvest and seek bids from different operators.

You should realize

that nobody knows the fate of these trees with any certainty. Drought conditions may be winding down, or may stick around for a while yet. Don't be driven by speculative claims about the trees dying, and do not panic. One or two beetle-killed trees in a stand is not an uncommon event and not a certain epidemic in the making. See other drought and insect related articles in TreeTopics blog.

If you've done your homework and decide that salvaging drought-damaged trees is in your best interest and meets your objectives, you still have some due diligence to take care of in

Continued on Page 17

Shrubs for Wildlife: Snowberry



Snowberry leaves and fruit in the fall.

By Brandy Saffell and Amy Grotta,
OSU Forestry & Natural Resources Extension

If one of your land management goals is to provide wildlife habitat, you'll want to consider keeping a mix of native shrub species on your property. Shrubs provide a host of services to wildlife, including shelter or cover, nesting space, and food from their twigs, leaves, flowers, and fruit. With thought given to species selection and location, retaining existing shrubs or planting them can benefit wildlife without compromising timber growth or forest operations. This article is intended to help you recognize how some of the "brush" species that may grow on your property could benefit wildlife and fit with your management goals.

Species Name:
Common Snowberry -
Symphoricarpos albus

Description: Snowberry

is a medium-sized shrub, growing in thickets and up to six feet tall. The leaves are simple, opposite, deciduous, and variable shaped. They are generally oval, but can be nearly round (3/4-2 1/2 inches long). The leaf edges vary from entire to shallowly lobed on the same plant and same stem. The flowers are small (1/4 inch), pink-white, bell-shaped, and found in clusters at the end of the branch. The round, white, waxy berries persist into the winter; they are non-edible to humans and toxic due to the saponin they contain. Twigs are opposite, slender, smooth, and yellow-brown.

Wildlife Value:

Snowberry is useful to pollinators as a host and food plant. The flowers attract Anna's and rufous hummingbirds, as well as various insects including bees. Several birds have been observed eating the berries, such as towhees, thrushes, robins, grosbeaks, and waxwings.

Birds also use snowberry thickets for cover. In addition, the Vashti sphinx moth (*Sphinx vashti*) relies on it as a food plant in its larval stage.

Management

Considerations: Following harvest, snowberry re-sprouts readily from below ground. To ensure optimum survival and growth of planted trees, control snowberry where it is likely to overtop planted seedlings. Consider retaining snowberry plants on sites where they are not in direct competition with seedlings. For those who would like to actively enhance wildlife habitat by planting snowberry, it tolerates a variety of environments, and can be planted in coarse sand to fine-textured clay, full sun to dense understory, dry well-drained slopes to moist stream banks, and low to high nutrient soils. It also establishes readily and tolerates general neglect.

Drought-Damaged Trees continued from page 16

finding a logger. Get bids and ask for references, go see his past jobs and talk with people who worked with him. Contact ODF to find out if there are any past violations, or the Association of Oregon Loggers for information on their credentials. Finally, insist on a written contract. Consult these on-line Extension publications for more guidance: *Small Scale Harvesting for Woodland Owners* (EM 9129), and *Contracts for Woodland Owners* (EM 1192).

A final note: Landowners in Linn and Benton Counties can sign up to receive Emergency Forest Restoration Funds through the Farm Services Agency to address significant drought damage. The sign up period ends November 30. See our upcoming events page <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton/forestry/events> for contact information. website.

Ask An Expert question

Fairy Rings - Blessing or Curse?

Q: I just moved into a house on a golf course with giant fir trees. In our yard in the grass is a fairy ring. Is this good or bad?
- Washington County, Oregon

A: Fairy rings are neither good nor bad. They indicate that normally-occurring soil fungi are decomposing dead organic matter in the ground. The ring will gradually enlarge through the years, as the fungus works from a central point outward. The size of your ring indicates it's been there for a number of years. The mushrooms develop only when conditions of soil moisture and temperature are suitable. The mushrooms can be left in place to degrade in a natural manner, or you can collect and discard them. No treatment is needed, or useful. See this website.

Jean R. Natter
Master Gardener Diagnostician
OSU Extension Washington County
Related Materials

EC 1521 - Practical Lawn Care for Western Oregon



Most of us have seen these popping up in our yards. They're called fairy rings and we have an interesting Ask an Expert question that gives us a little insight into why they are all over the place right now.

Benton County 4-H Youth Development

AnaLu Fonseca
541-766-6249
anal.fonseca@oregonstate.edu



Carolyn Ashton
541-766-3555
carolyn.ashton@oregonstate.edu



Maggie Livesay
541-766-3550
maggie.livesay@oregonstate.edu



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.



Share Your Favorite Food

The 4-H Favorite Foods Contest will be held on Saturday, Jan. 28, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. **Any Benton County Youth, ages 5-19, are invited to participate in this fun event.** 4-H enrollment are not required to participate. Each participant brings one food item that they made at home. They also bring a place setting for one person (with a centerpiece), the recipe for the food item, and a menu for the meal. A friendly judge will visit with the participant and evaluate them on the knowledge of nutrition, the table setting, centerpiece, and taste of the food. Contact the OSU Extension office to register at 541-766-6750.

Teens As Teachers - Now Accepting Applications

Apply now to become a Teen Teacher. This program is for 9th-12th graders who are interested in receiving training on how to teach elementary aged youth about nutrition, exercise, and environmental health related topics. Teens will learn how to create, and teach lesson plans, while gaining leadership, public speaking, facilitation skills, teamwork and confidence. Teens who are interested in getting involved should complete an application (due by Dec. 1) and attend training on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the OSU



Extension Office - Benton County.

If selected to participate in the program, team members will be given additional subject matter training in

nutrition, exercise, and environmental health related topics. Applications can be found on-line at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton/4h>.

Livestock Judging Team

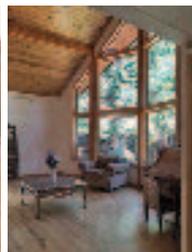
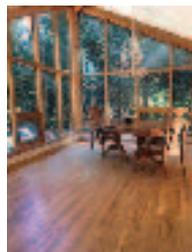
Congratulations to the Benton County 4-H Livestock Judging Intermediate and Senior teams and their coach Shelby Armstrong. The teams made a clean sweep at the Oregon State Fair, winning both the Senior and Intermediate team top honors.

The Intermediate team was comprised of: Meg N., Gracie K., LR B., Ella M. and Jacob S.

The Senior team (pictured) was comprised of: Emmitt W., Maddie N., Ashley K. and Samantha E. The Seniors are planning on attending the North



American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville in November. We wish them the best of luck!



- Lindal Cedar Home
- 39.9 private, forested acres
- 3 bed/3 full bath
- 2600 sq ft
- In-ground propane storage
- Extra water storage

- Back-up generator
- Master suite incl exercise rm & sauna
- 2 Gas fireplaces
- Trails galore
- WVMLS# 709933
- **\$875,000**

LANDMARK REALTY

Office Hours: Mon-Fri. 9:00-5:30
Sat. 10:00-3:00

405 Landmark Drive,
Philomath, OR 97370

(541) 929-2586 • 800-346-0630

Big enough to handle all your needs, small enough to care

We Need 4-H Natural Science/ Outdoor Club Volunteers!

Do you like working with youth in an outdoor setting? Do you enjoy teaching about the natural world? Do you like to see youth engaged in healthy outdoor activities? If so, the 4-H program would welcome you as a 4-H volunteer!

4-H is a learn-by-doing educational program for youth ages 5-19. Through interest in a project such as hiking, gardening, ecology, forestry, entomology, etc., youth develop skills in leadership, citizenship, communication, and other important life skills.

What is the commitment I must make?

Clubs typically meet

once or twice per month throughout the year. Your commitment will vary depending on your time, interest and the needs of youth.

How do I start?

- Choose a Project of Interest
- Complete an application & background check
- Interview with an 4-H Extension faculty member
- Attend New Leader training on Wednesday Dec. 7, from 6-8:30 p.m.

If you have questions please contact Maggie Livesay at the Benton County Extension office at 541-766-6750.



Members with Special Needs

All youth are welcome in 4-H. Clubs are encouraged to invite youth with disabilities into their groups, enriching the lives of all the youth involved. If you have members in your 4-H club with disabilities or special needs who need special accommodations for participation in 4-H activities, please contact the OSU Extension Service at 541-766-6750 well in advance of any activity. Our goal is to reach all youth who wish to participate in 4-H.

Adult Volunteers Wanted

The Benton County 4-H Program is actively looking for adults who want to share their time and talents with youth, aged 5-19.

Are you interested in making a positive impact on youth? Do you have an expertise that you want to share? Do you want to learn new skills? Volunteers will receive training, support from OSU faculty and staff, and from other 4-H volunteer leaders, as well as access to project and resource books and materials.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Benton County 4-H Program, please contact our office for more information. Our next training will be on Wednesday, Dec. 7 from 6-8:30 p.m.

4-H Enrollment Information

Oregon 4-H enrolls youth based upon their age as of September 1, 2016:

- 5-8 year olds are Cloverbuds
- 9-11 year olds are Juniors
- 12-14 year olds are Intermediates
- 15-19 year olds are Seniors



The annual enrollment fee before Jan. 15 is \$25 for ages 9-19 for the first 2 family members (*the 3rd & additional family members will be \$7 each*) and \$7 for ages 5-8.

AFTER Jan. 15, the cost will increase to \$30 per member, for the first 2 family members (*the 3rd & additional family members will be \$10 each*).

Completed enrollment forms are due with payment by Jan. 15. Enrollment forms are available to print from our website and available in our office.

4-H Materials On-line

Save time and get many of your 4-H printed materials on the web.

Benton County Extension Website:
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/benton/4h>.

Oregon State 4-H Curriculum & Project Materials:
<http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/projects>.

Shonnard's Nursery is a locally owned business devoted to supporting bees and their keepers. We cater to beginning and experienced beekeepers, as well as those interested in supporting honeybees and native bees at home.

Your success is our number one priority!

Locally Made Woodenware • Premium Bee Suits • Medication & Nutrition • Classes & Consulting

M-Sat: 9-6 • Sun: 10-5

541-929-3524

6600 SW Philomath Blvd., Corvallis
www.shonnards.com
LCB#5718



Linn County 4-H Youth Development

Robin Galloway
541-730-3469
robin.galloway@
oregonstate.edu



Andrea Leao
541-730-3534
andrea.leao@
oregonstate.edu



2016 4-H Awards Night

It is the time of year to celebrate all of the accomplishments by our 4-H members during the past year as well as kick off a new 4-H year. We will be recognizing our amazing volunteers and youth that make Linn County 4-H so successful. Please join us at 6:30 p.m. at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center on Thursday, November 10th.

Oregon 4-H Master Shooting Sports Leader Training

Adults who are familiar with shooting sports, and want to be 4-H club leaders are needed countywide. **There is a new leader training Friday-Sunday, November 11-13 at the Oregon 4-H Center, 5390 4-H Road NW, Salem, Oregon.**

The Oregon 4-H Youth Development Education Program recognizes and supports the following shooting sports disciplines: Archery, Muzzle loading, Pistol, Rifle, Shotgun, and Western Heritage Project

All equipment and materials for the workshop will be provided. Safety will be a primary concern. The Master 4-H Shooting Sports Leader Training will provide leaders with information on: Age appropriate equipment and activities, Risk management, Equipment storage requirements, and Teaching skills for classroom and range.

Registrations will be accepted until November 7, 2016.

Before registering you must obtain permission from Linn County 4-H Agent Robin Galloway, who may be contacted at 541-730-3469, or robin.galloway@oregonstate.edu. For more information, or to register see: <http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/projects/shooting-sports/register>

Food drive is kicking off



PHOTO BY ANDREA LEAO

Leadership members learn about the Linn Benton Food Share from Susan James.

Linn County 4-H is kicking off a food drive on November 10th. The 4-H program along with OSU Linn County Extension will be collecting both monetary and food donations for Linn Benton Food Share. People are welcome to bring in donations to the OSU Linn County Extension Office.

Linn Benton Food Share is a non-profit food bank that was established in 1980 to help feed hungry people in Linn and Benton counties. They gather, transport, store, and distribute **5.3 million pounds of food**

each year to nearly 70 non-profit agencies. These agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, childcare centers, shelter homes and gleaning groups.

Last year food pantries distributed an average of **4,052 boxes of emergency food to nearly 15,000 people each month** in our two-county area. Soup kitchens and emergency shelters served an additional **25,332 meals each month.** Overall, our clients constitute nearly one-fifth of the population in Linn and

Benton counties. They are our neighbors, seniors on fixed incomes, parents trying to provide for their families on minimum wage, unemployed persons, or families hit with high medical bills and no health insurance.

The goal of the Food Drive this year is to bring in at least 1,000 pounds of food and \$1,000 in cash donations.

Remember, \$10 is equal to 50 meals. We can make a difference in the lives of our neighbors. The food drive will conclude on December 10th.

FRESH, LOCAL, ORGANIC

**First Alternative
NATURAL FOODS CO-OP**

**NORTH CORVALLIS
2855 NW Grant
(541) 452-3115**

**SOUTH CORVALLIS
1007 SE 3rd St
(541) 753-3115**

**Open daily
7am-10pm**

**ANYONE
CAN SHOP AT
THE CO-OP**

www.firstalt.coop

4-H Open House Attracts New Families

More than 200 people attended the Linn County 4-H Open House at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center on Tuesday, October 4th. According to 4-H Program Coordinator Andrea Leao, the event met its goals of introducing new families to the variety of programs available in local 4-H clubs. "We especially appreciate all of the 4-H leaders and members who came out to share what they are doing in their 4-H clubs," she said. Leao emphasized that new adult leaders are always needed. "Every year we have to turn away kids who want to get involved in 4-H clubs – because we don't have enough leaders to take them." The event was staffed by OSU Extension employees

and adult volunteer 4-H leaders. The Linn County 4-H Youth Leadership team and costumed character Flat Lucky showed visitors the range of static and animal projects available. For more

information about getting involved with 4-H, contact the Linn County Extension office at 541-967-3871 or see our website: www.extension.linn.oregonstate.edu.



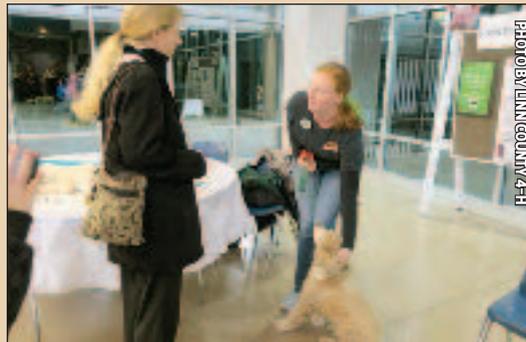
The range of 4-H projects are as varied as the people who do them! Seen here are local participants with a guide dog puppy, pategonian cavy, poultry, and rabbits. The relationships between the 4-H members and animals develops lifetime skills.



General information about OSU Extension programs in Linn County were on display at the Open House. 4-H is just one of the educational topics offered through the Tangent Extension office.



Static projects in 4-H don't involve animals, and are excellent for families who live in town. Photography, clothing, foods and horticulture are popular winter activities in preparation for summer fair exhibits.



Almost any dog can become a 4-H project animal. A child with a dog in 4-H must practice its basic obedience every day. It's not possible to cheat and skip homework...because the dog's manners show the results of the lessons!



Caring adult leaders listening to children is the essence of 4-H clubs. The projects, such as chickens, are the tools used towards the goal of positive youth development.

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.

Enviro Squad Invites North Santiam Community to Participate in Santiam Broomfest

Santiam Broomfest is a youth-led service learning project to eliminate Scotch Broom plants on the east end of BLM Fishermen's Bend Park on Saturday, Nov. 5, from 9 am to 3 pm. Community members who enjoy the natural respite, camping and river access are invited to join the Youth Enviro Squad (YES) in an ongoing effort to reduce the spread of this weed, which is toxic to many animals as well as individuals who have certain allergies. Folks who RSVP by Wednesday, Nov. 2, will receive a complimentary hot lunch of homemade chili, hot dog, salad choice or may bring their own lunch to enjoy near the warming fire.

This is a rain-or-shine event, so please dress for Oregon weather, including sturdy outdoor shoes/boots. Bring your own water bottle. We will provide work gloves for those who don't have their own.

Please contact Dan Hoynacki by email at dan.hoynacki@oregonstate.edu or by text at 503-551-3455 with your RSVP or questions. We appreciate knowing youth's school grade and college or adult status in advance. Linn County 4-H youth and families with questions may contact Robin Galloway at robin.galloway@oregonstate.edu.

Craft Day

Saturday, Nov. 19 • 9 a.m.-Noon

Open to all 4-H members to come and make numerous holiday crafts. A fee of \$5 and preregistration is required. The event is limited to 50 participants. Information and registration can be found on the events page of the OSU Linn County 4-H web site <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/linn/events>.



eXtension's Free Educational Program - Ask an Expert

I was out in the garden picking another bunch of green beans recently. We planted the French filet green bean. They are delicious and no string issues when they are young and slender, but you have to keep them picked or they grow too big and very fibrous. This is about the tenth harvest and I was wondering if the cooler weather would hinder the white blossoms from developing.

Continuing to pick, I lifted one large bush to reach the beans on the bottom and noticed hundreds of itty bitty

whitish insect eggs on the stems and the rims of the leaves of just the one plant, most of them in precise, neat little rows.

I use insect predators (lady bugs, green lacewings, parasitoid wasps, etc.) and would not want to destroy one of the good guys just because I could not identify the eggs. Green Lacewings use cocoons, parasitoid wasps reproduce inside aphids, and lady bug eggs are much larger than the eggs on my green bean plant.

So what pests are prevalent in my garden right now? Aphids, cucumber beetles (both spotted and striped) and slugs. All have attacked the kale, broccoli and cauliflower, which is at the opposite end of the garden from the green beans. So what laid these ever-so-tiny eggs? Ever have a question like that and couldn't answer it?

Looking it up online can be very disappointing with all the insect information you will find, especially if you have never looked at insects before.

The OSU Extension offices in Linn and Benton counties have staff and volunteers that can answer your questions

either in person or on the phone or over the Internet. Master Gardeners are trained to answer home horticulture questions about your gardens, soils, insects, irrigation, etc. Then, of course, there are 4-H experts, Forestry experts, nutrition and food preservation experts, and the list goes on. Besides attending local Extension events in your area or getting help from the Extension office, there is still another vehicle to get your questions answered.

You can turn to eXtension for the answer at **Ask an Expert**

Online: <https://ask.extension.org/ask>

Following are some typical questions sent to **Ask an Expert**

- I just bought a house with two apple trees, how do I take care of them?
- I am a new rancher and I think there are toxic weeds in my pasture, can you ID them?
- I have had these pine trees for months wrapped in burlap and I want to plant them, do they need fertilizer now?
- How do I know if my



GROWING COMMUNITY
Connect • Inspire • Advocate

pressure gauge on my canner is working properly?

- Can you identify this pear?
- What's wrong with my tree, the leaves are falling off way too early?
- What kind of snake is this?
- There's a yellow circle in my lawn, what caused it?
- Is it safe to eat the jam I canned if it didn't seal completely?

Ask an Expert is a nationwide eXtension program. "Experts" include Extension staff and trained volunteers from all over the nation. The goal is to answer within 48 hours.

Questions come in online, often with pictures. A "Question Wrangler" sorts and sends out the questions to appropriate personnel or a volunteer to be answered. **Ask an Expert** is one of eXtension's most popular programs with more than 321,284 questions answered by 6,474 experts since Feb. 21, 2008.

Not only does this provide a free and valued service to you (anyone can ask any question), it gives OSU Linn County Extension Service direct information on what people need in our county. They can catch pest problems early (numerous questions regarding the same disease or pest), advise on biological treatments, and give farmers a heads up on possible problems. That's just in the agricultural and home horticultural areas. **Ask an Expert** gives answers in numerous fields of study.

Extension is all about education. Their tagline is **Life 'get good at it'**. Extension pretty much has a program for just about everything. Look at OSU Linn County Extension online: www.extension.oregonstate.edu/linn

To ask your questions, go to: <https://ask.extension.org/ask>

Oh, and the eggs on my green bean plant? They were aphid eggs, and they were bagged and removed.

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

I am making a one-time donation of:

- __ \$250 Sponsor
- __ \$100 Benefactor
- __ \$50 Sustaining Member
- __ \$25 Contributing
- __ Any Amount \$____

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 _____

(Email address will be used to forward confirmation of your donation)

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

November starts LCEA's end-of-year donation campaign. Your donation will be used to expand Extension programs, funds for special Extension projects and college-bound student scholarships. The Growing publication highlights just some of the programs that Extension is involved in, if you have questions, please contact us at linncoextassoc@gmail.com.

Your tax deductible donation can be sent via check in the mail or online at www.linncountyextensionassociation.com to make a donation. A tax receipt will be sent to your email address or mailed to your physical address if you do not use email.

Linn County Extension Association is a 501c(3) non-profit, all-volunteer organization.

Calendar of Events for Linn and Benton Counties

November 2016

- * Now accepting applications for the 2017 Linn-Benton New Master Gardener Training Program, for more information contact Linn County 541-967-3871, Benton County 541-766-6750.
- 3 Fall Plants for Color and Birds, PNW Brownbag Gardening Talks on Thursdays, Noon-1 p.m., LBCC Center, 44 Industrial Way, Lebanon.
- 6 End of Daylight Savings Time. Set clocks back 1 hour.
- 10 What You Should Know About Raised Beds, PNW Brownbag Gardening Talks on Thursdays, Noon-1 p.m., LBCC Center, 44 Industrial Way, Lebanon.
- 10 Linn-Benton Master Gardeners 2016 Graduation and Awards Luncheon, noon, Oddfellows Hall, Corvallis.
- 10 Linn County 4-H Awards Night, 6:30 p.m., Linn County Fair and Expo Center.
- 11 Linn & Benton County Extension offices CLOSED in observance of Veteran's Day.

- 11-13 4-H Master Shooting Sports new leader training, Oregon 4-H Center, 5390 4-H Road NW, Salem, Oregon.
- 15-17 Willamette Valley Ag Expo, Linn County Fair & Expo Center, Albany. Visit wvaexpo.com for the complete schedule.
- 17 PNW Mushrooms and Other Fungi, PNW Brownbag Gardening Talks on Thursdays, Noon-1 p.m., LBCC Center, 44 Industrial Way, Lebanon.
- 24 & 25 Linn and Benton County Extension offices closed for Thanksgiving Holiday.
- 30 International Outbound 4-H Exchange applications due, for more information contact the Oregon 4-H International Program, 541-737-1303.
- 30 National Women in Sustainable Agriculture Conference, November 30-December 2, Visit <http://www.2016wisa.org> for a full schedule and session descriptions and to register.

December 2016

- 1 Linn-Benton New Master Gardener

- applications due, for more information contact Linn County 541-967-3871, Benton County 541-766-6750.
- 5 Benton County New Master Gardener Orientation, noon, Benton County Extension Office.
- 6 Benton County 4-H Awards Banquet, 6-8 p.m., Benton County Fairgrounds, to RSVP call 541-766-6750.
- 6 Linn County New Master Gardener Orientation, noon, Linn County Extension Office.
- 7 Benton County 4-H New Leader Training, 6-8:30 p.m., Benton County Extension Office.
- 8 OSU Calving School, 4-8 p.m., Oldfield Animal Teaching Facility, OSU campus.
- 15 Forestry Tax and Ownership Presentation, Planning for a generational transition of timber property ownership, 6-7:30 p.m., Benton County Extension Office, to RSVP call 541-766-6750.
- 26 Linn & Benton Extension offices closed in observance of Christmas.

New OSU Extension Slug Researcher Unveils Strategies

By Mitch Lies,
GROWING Editor

At the OSU Extension Seed and Cereal Crop Production Meeting in Albany in September, Rory McDonnell, Oregon State University's new slug expert, gave grass seed growers a preview of what to expect from his research.

Slugs are a major crop pest in Oregon agriculture, accounting for tens of millions of dollars of losses each year in grass seed crops alone. McDonnell, a world leader in slug research, with a doctorate in environmental science from the National University of Ireland, started at OSU as an assistant professor in the Department



Rory McDonnell, OSU's new slug researcher, speaks to growers at the Extension Service's Seed and Cereal Crop Production Meeting in Albany in September.

of Crop and Soil Science in July.

McDonnell presented two approaches he plans to focus on for managing slug pests in grass seed crops: novel

attractants and biological controls.

Through use of novel attractants, McDonnell said, growers may be able to attract snails and slugs into traps or kill zones, facilitating control efforts.

"It might be possible to reduce the amount of molluscicides that we are using, reduce non-target effects, and ultimately increase the efficacy of current baits that are on the market," he said.

In research conducted with colleagues at the USDA and the University of California Riverside, where McDonnell spent the past five years before coming to OSU, he showed that a food extract

served as an attractant to the Great African Land Snail, which is a major pest in many parts of the world. That extract, however, does not appear to be as effective at attracting the gray field slug, the gastropod most responsible for grass seed losses in the Willamette Valley.

McDonnell said he now is working with colleagues to develop novel attractants for the gray field slug and the European brown garden snail, a pest of nursery crops in Oregon.

As for biological control agents, McDonnell said there are several possibilities that could prove beneficial for Oregon farmers, including

nematodes.

"In my opinion, nematodes are likely to be very important for managing snail and slug pests in our agriculture in Oregon," he said.

Ultimately, McDonnell said a multi-faceted approach will be needed to successfully manage snail and slug pests in Oregon.

"The key to future control in my opinion is going to be the development of novel strategies, and then using them in conjunction with existing approaches in an integrated pest-management strategy," he said. "I really believe that if this is the approach we take, we will be able to help solve this problem."



MENNONITE VILLAGE

Picture yourself living at Mennonite Village...

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.



541-928-7232

www.mennonitevillage.org

www.facebook.com/mennonitevillage

5353 Columbus Street Southeast, Albany, OR

