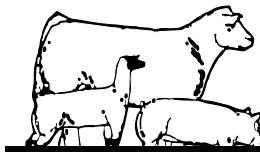


LIVESTOCK



June 2009

NEWSLETTER

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE MALHEUR COUNTY

710 SW 5th Avenue, Ontario, Oregon 97914 Telephone: (541) 881-1417 Fax: (541) 889-8840

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June:

9-12th - Lost Rivers Grazing Academy, Salmon, ID.

11- MCCA Low-Stress Handling workshop and meeting, Ironside, 9:00 am

24 - Range Field Day, Burns, 8:45 am (PST)

25 - 27 - OCA Mid Year Meeting, Baker City

July:

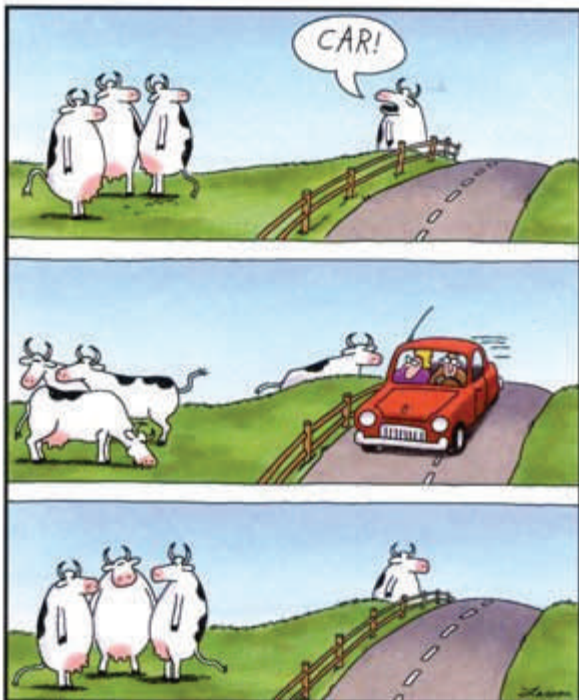
8- Summer Farm Festival and Malheur Experiment Station Field Day, Ontario, 8:00am-4:00 pm

28-Aug. 1- Malheur County Fair, 100th Anniversary, Ontario

A NOTE FROM THE AGENT-

All signs point to summer! Hay in most parts of the county is being baled, the brandings are wrapping up, the bulls are being put out, flowers are in full bloom, kids are out of school and there has been more than one occasion to necessitate the need for AC while driving the car! Yes, summer is definitely upon us! For many, summer is the season they work hardest, for others, like school kids, summer is vacation, a time to visit family and friends, take trips and relax. Whatever type of summer plans you have, enjoy them and hopefully you have a little fun planned!

Ace-Maine



Cartoons by
Gary Larson



Farmer Brown froze in his tracks; the cows stared wide-eyed back at him. Somewhere, off in the distance, a dog barked.

Become a Master of Beef Advocacy

Willie Vogt

There's a sense in the country that the image of American farming is being controlled by people with an agenda aimed at ending animal agriculture. And the pressure has been building. "There's a growing sophistication and pressure from activist groups, and they've stepped up their game," observes Daren Williams, executive director of communications, National Cattlemen's Beef Association. "And we're being outplayed in the online environment and through word of mouth."

Whether it's the myth that cows cause global warming or that all beef producers mistreat their animals, the image the U.S. consumer is getting online and through popular media is skewed. "There are more people out there that want to tell our story for us, but the story they are telling is very different from what we know to be true." Williams adds.

To tackle the issue, the beef check-off's operating committee approved a new effort last fall. The Masters of Beef Advocacy, or MBA, program aims to teach producers and others allied with the U.S. beef industry better ways to get their message to the consumer.

"No sooner did news go out that this program was approved than we started getting calls and e-mails from people asking to sign up," says Williams.

The innovative program uses an online, virtual classroom and a series of six education classes to teach participants about a range of topics. The free, self-directed program is designed to equip participants with information to be everyday advocates for beef. After completing the six courses, graduates are invited to attend a full-day final exam/graduation ceremony focused on public speaking and working with the media.

Industry responds. "When we first initiated this program," Williams explains, "we figured if we could start with 50 participants in perhaps 4 or 5 states, that would be a good beginning." It didn't go that way. Instead, more than 400 producers and industry-allied folks have signed on for the program since the virtual classroom went live March 1. And in April, the program held its first graduation event with 39 students in Kansas.

Kansas State University Beef Cattle Institute graduate assistant Chelsea Good helped organize the Kansas class, which includes students from K-State's College of Agriculture and College of Veterinary Medicine.

Graduation ceremonies are in the works for other locations as well, including the Cattle Industry Summer Conference in Denver. "There are definite plans to have ceremonies in Oklahoma, Nebraska, Illinois, New York and Washington state, and there are plans in the works for others," Williams says. At these events, students receive their MBAs.

From learning to action. Spending time in a virtual classroom learning facts is great, but turning that into action is the key issue for the program.

"We've created an MBA Alumni Association, which is a private, Facebook-style social networking site that all of the participants will be invited to join after graduation," Williams says. "They can have their own profile page with pictures, and it's a place where they can share their success stories."

He points to a producer from Missouri who didn't have computer access at his home, but took the course in the Missouri Beef Council offices. When he went through the nutrition course, he saw the value of protein in the diet in later life. On his own, he called an extended-care facility and asked if he could make a presentation about the value of beef protein in preventing muscle loss as we age.

Those are the kinds of stories that will be shared in the MBA Alumni Web pages, Williams says. The program has been so popular that Williams—who had been reviewing every applicant himself—has now handed the duties off to an MBA registrar.

He notes that class participants and graduates are already at work on the issues. "I get calls and e-mails from people asking me if I've seen this story or heard that," Williams says. "These folks have become our eyes and ears in the country."

RANGE FIELD DAY 2009

Oregon State University's Range Field Day is a cooperative effort of the Department of Rangeland Resources at Oregon State University and the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center (EOARC) with stations located at Burns and Union, OR.

This year's field day will feature presentations from OSU, USDA-ARS, and visiting scientists, with a focus on livestock grazing behavior. There will be an afternoon tour, a poster session, and plenty of opportunities for one-on-one discussions with ARS and OSU faculty and staff.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend. If you have an interest in learning about current research that our scientists are conducting, this will be an opportunity to see and hear first hand about our research projects.

AGENDA:

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

- 9:00: Opening remarks and business—Bohnert & Svejcar
- 9:15: Cattle & Wolf Interactions—Pat Clark
- 9:45: Cattle/Deer/Elk Interactions—Marty Vavra
- 10:15—10:30: Break
- 10:30: Riparian Grazing—Doug Johnson
- 11:00: Pre- and Post- Burn Cattle Distribution in sagebrush steppe—Dave Ganskopp
- 11:30: Beef Cattle Temperament and Performance—Reinaldo Cooke
- 12:00-13:00: Lunch
- 13:00: Cattle Temperament assessment at Butte handling facilities—Cooke and Bohnert
- 14:00: Post-burn cattle distribution and veg recovery—(above Range 7: stock water site) Bates, Ganskopp, & Svejcar

DIRECTIONS:

To the Northern Great Basin Experimental Range:

From Bend: Take Hwy 20 east toward Burns. Approximately 1/2 mile past mile marker 95, turn right at the Northern Great Basin Experimental Range sign. Continue 3.8 miles (gravel road) to the Northern Great Basin Experimental Range headquarters.

From Burns: Take Hwy 20 west toward Bend. Continue on Hwy 20 past Riley approximately 7 miles. Turn left at the Northern Great Basin Experimental Range sign. Continue 3.8 miles (gravel road) to the Northern Great Basin Experimental Range headquarters.



Lodging: For a list of places to stay in the Burns-Hines area, please contact the Harney County Chamber of Commerce at (541)573-2636 or visit their website at www.harneycounty.com/lodging.htm

Dairy Report

CWT TO REMOVE OVER 100,000 COWS, 2 BILLION POUNDS OF MILK IN LARGEST-EVER HERD RETIREMENT

Wednesday, May 13th, 2009

ARLINGTON, VA – Cooperatives Working Together (CWT) announced today that it has tentatively accepted 388 bids representing 102,898 cows and 2 billion pounds of milk production capacity in the first of a series of herd retirements planned over the next twelve months. The number of cows and pounds of milk represent the largest single herd retirement carried out in the six year history of CWT.

Dairy farmers in 41 states submitted a total of 538 herd retirement bids by the May 1 deadline. The 388 bids tentatively accepted represent 72 percent of the total bids received by CWT. The number of cows now scheduled to be removed account for 64 percent of the total number of cows offered and the 2 billion pounds of milk account for 67 percent of the milk production offered. “The high percentage of bids CWT selected this time around is an indication that producers understood that CWT would only be able to accept reasonable bids per hundred pounds of milk in order to adjust the nation’s dairy herd and better align supply and demand,” said Jerry Kozak, President and CEO of the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), which administers CWT.

Starting next week, CWT field auditors will begin visiting the 388 farms whose bids were accepted, checking their milk production records, inspecting their herds, and tagging each cow for processing. All farms should be audited by early July and cows should begin moving off dairies by late May. All bidders will be notified no later than June 12, 2009, as to whether their bid was among those accepted.

“The bids selected ranged from farms with fewer than 50 cows to dairies with over 5,000, demonstrating that farms of all sizes in all areas are facing a very difficult year in 2009,” Kozak said. “Those that took advantage of CWT’s offer to retire their herds will aid others still wanting to farm by reducing the amount of milk coming to market and strengthening prices going forward.”

“CWT, thanks to the commitment of 36 cooperative members and over 500 individual dairy farmer members, has the resources to carry out additional herd retirements in the coming months. That is why CWT will not announce the average level of the bids accepted until all the herd retirements are completed,” Kozak noted. “We will continue to monitor key economic indicators in order to determine the right time to implement the next herd retirement.”

Once CWT’s field auditors inspect and accept the herds offered as part of the bidding process, farmers will have 15 days in which to send their animals to a processing plant. CWT will again provide to each farmer the NMPF guidelines for the proper culling and transporting of dairy cattle, Kozak said.

Producers whose bids are accepted in this herd retirement will be paid in two installments: 90% of the amount bid times the producer’s 12 months of milk production when it is verified that that all cows have gone to slaughter, and the remaining 10% plus interest at the end of 12 months following the farm audit, if both the producer and his dairy facility – whether owned or leased – do not become involved in the commercial production and marketing of milk during that period.

Cooperatives Working Together is being funded by dairy cooperatives and individual dairy farmers, who are contributing 10 cents per hundredweight assessment on their milk production through December 2010. The money raised by CWT’s investment is being apportioned between two supply management programs that strengthen and stabilize the national all milk price. For more on CWT’s activities, visit www.cwt.coop.

OREGON DAIRY PRODUCTS COMMISSION BUDGET
July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

	2006-2007 Actual	2007-2008 Approved	2007-2008 Actual	2008-2009 Approved	2008-2009 Projected	2009-2010 Proposed
Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 762,970	\$ 663,970	\$ 642,061	\$ 481,906	\$ 536,906	\$ 860,000
REVENUE						
Producer Assessments	2,386,492	2,405,000	2,256,397	2,217,000	2,828,403	2,510,000
Processor Assessments	100,190	97,000	101,524	100,000	100,000	100,000
Interest Income	30,665	24,000	18,350	18,000	9,000	10,000
Convention Income	35,802	36,000	47,055	48,000	45,170	48,000
Nutrition Education Sales	157,862	115,000	94,147	105,000	100,000	100,000
Other Income	16,206	6,000	12,578	3,000	4,000	4,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 2,727,217	\$ 2,683,000	\$ 2,530,051	\$ 2,491,000	\$ 3,086,573	\$ 2,772,000
Available for Fiscal Year	3,490,187	3,346,970	3,172,112	2,972,906	3,623,479	3,632,000
Less Total Expenditures	2,754,686	3,346,970	2,638,387	2,972,906	2,763,479	3,632,000
ENDING CASH BALANCE	\$ 735,501	\$ -	\$ 533,725	\$ (0)	\$ 860,000	\$ -
SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES						
Personnel Services	\$ 902,455	\$ 1,012,700	\$ 815,206	\$ 977,206	\$ 921,000	\$ 1,032,400
Materials & Services	233,069	250,100	209,126	219,400	227,400	251,600
Special Payments	1,608,662	1,900,100	1,594,627	1,633,800	1,602,579	2,024,500
Capital Outlay	-	7,000	6,928	-	-	10,000
ODA Commission Program	10,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	13,500
Emergency Fund	-	164,570	-	130,000	-	300,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 2,754,686	\$ 3,346,970	\$ 2,638,387	\$ 2,972,906	\$ 2,763,479	\$ 3,632,000
DETAIL OF EXPENDITURES						
PERSONNEL SERVICES						
Wages & Salaries	\$ 587,805	\$ 650,000	\$ 524,380	\$ 644,763	\$ 620,000	\$ 654,550
Contracted Services	57,408	66,500	49,200	27,066	20,000	50,000
Commissioners Per Diem	12,759	15,000	4,831	8,000	5,000	10,000
Payroll Taxes	44,634	50,300	40,499	49,877	50,000	51,000
Other Payroll Expense	191,019	229,700	195,126	247,500	226,000	266,850
CEO Relocation	8,830	1,200	1,170	0	0	0
TOTAL PERSONNEL SERVICES	\$ 902,455	\$ 1,012,700	\$ 815,206	\$ 977,206	\$ 921,000	\$ 1,032,400
MATERIALS AND SERVICES						
Computer System Support	\$ 18,693	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,900	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 24,000
In-State Travel	36,681	40,000	36,009	25,000	29,000	40,000
Out-State Travel	31,899	35,000	13,690	20,000	25,000	35,000
Postage and Freight	31,738	33,000	23,387	26,000	26,000	9,400
Rent-Office-Warehouse	48,000	54,000	54,153	58,000	58,000	60,000
Utilities and Maintenance	12,320	13,000	10,476	12,000	12,000	14,000
Communications	10,342	12,000	12,699	14,000	16,000	17,500
Audit and Legal	7,667	10,000	10,389	10,000	15,000	15,000
Insurance and Fidelity Bonds	1,385	1,500	879	1,700	1,700	2,000
Publications and Reports	683	600	616	700	700	800
Office Supplies	33,661	35,000	29,928	32,000	24,000	33,900
TOTAL MATERIALS AND SERVICES	\$ 233,069	\$ 250,100	\$ 209,126	\$ 219,400	\$ 227,400	\$ 251,600
SPECIAL PAYMENTS						
Marketing & Communications	\$ 970,788	\$ 1,210,600	\$ 1,084,077	\$ 1,029,000	\$ 925,588	\$ 1,200,500
Nutrition Education	319,045	306,000	241,739	260,000	260,000	403,000
Industry Development	212,000	282,000	212,000	291,000	291,000	291,000
Dairy Industry Convention	48,610	48,000	51,958	50,000	46,375	50,000
Producer Participation	8,219	3,500	4,853	3,800	4,616	5,000
OSU Pavilion	50,000	50,000	-	-	75,000	75,000
OSU Fluid Milk Quality Research	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dairy Management Inc	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL SPECIAL PAYMENTS	\$ 1,608,662	\$ 1,900,100	\$ 1,594,627	\$ 1,633,800	\$ 1,602,579	\$ 2,024,500
Capital Outlay	0	7,000	6,928	-	-	10,000
Commission Program/ODA	10,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500	13,500
Emergency Fund	0	164,570	-	130,000	-	300,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 2,754,686	\$ 3,346,970	\$ 2,638,387	\$ 2,972,906	\$ 2,763,479	\$ 3,632,000

Working Draft Budget 2009-2010--May 11, 2009

OREGON DAIRY PRODUCTS COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Chapter 604, Section 14, Oregon Laws 2003, notice is hereby given that the Oregon Dairy Products Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 16, 2009 at **1:00 p.m.** The hearing will be conducted at the Oregon Dairy Center, 10505 S.W. Barbur Blvd, Portland, OR 97219, for the purpose of receiving testimony and evidence on a proposed budget for operation of the Oregon Dairy Products Commission during fiscal year July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2010. For more information, contact Anna-Marie Chamberlain, Malheur County Livestock Agent, at 541-881-1417.

MALHEUR COUNTY CATTLEMEN

Thoughts from MCCA President Wannie Mackenzie

Hello everyone!

What a spring it was...cold and wet and warm, and cold again...now spring! I don't know how long it has been since I saw the low hills and the mountains look this good. Our creeks are still running water and it's the first of June. The mosquitoes are out in force and that means a great hay crop and lots of grass! (...I know there's never enough grass!) I see where hay and grains are going down and the feedlots are getting in some cheaper commodities. Most of us have our calves branded and what a nice set of calves.

This summer, I would like to see the ranchers look at all the ways we have talked about marketing our cattle. We need to know the value of our calves on the ranch, and break-evens at the backgrounding and the finishing lots. I know it is early, but I see some great opportunities this year.

At the livestock sales this week, yearlings were up over \$1.00, the fat market was over \$.90 and weigh-up cows were strong, with the BBQ season and 4th of July weekend still ahead of us. It looks like this fall the markets should be strong.

This spring I spent time talking to many of the FFA Chapters in Malheur county and was very impressed with the kids we have in our county and how much they want to be a part of the community and the agriculture industry. It's exciting to see that there's a good generation coming up as ranchers and cattlemen.

At our summer and fall meetings, we are going to cover low-stress cattle handling and animal compassion standards, and the ways we can educate the public on how we are good stewards of the land and how much we ranchers do for our communities. Agriculture is the background of our local economies and its sustainability is vital for all. Our meeting will be held June 11th at Ironside Associates Ranch. Jeff Palmer has a great day planned for us...enjoyable as well as educational. Please join us for a fun day!

See you next month,
Wannie Mackenzie

County Moisture Outlook

Reservoir Report 6-1-09

Thief Valley 100% full
Philips 94% full
Unity 93% full
Beulah 62% full
Bully Creek 59% full
Warm Springs 55% full
Owyhee 55% full



According to Bureau of Rec. web-site

Tri-county Wool Pool delivery on July 11



The Tri-County Wool Pool has scheduled the delivery date for wool on Saturday July 11, 2009 from 8:00 am to noon at the Union County Fairgrounds. The prices are:

White face .52 Black face .32 Lamb .25 Black .08
Belly .20 Tags .10

All wool will need to be delivered to the fairgrounds during this time. There must not be any poly twine and no wire. The fleeces should not be tied. If you have questions please contact your local Extension office.

Malheur County Cattlemen's Assoc.
Annual Summer Meeting

Low Stress Cattle Handling

Thursday

June 11, 2009

9:00 am

Ironside Associates,
Ironside, OR.
541-446-3574

Topics and Guest Speakers:

- Reinaldo Cooke, OSU- Effects of Disposition and Stress of Handling on Performance and Reproduction of Beef Cattle
- Dr. Fredrickson, Western Stockmen's- Nutrition
- Andy Bentz, Malheur County Sherriff's Office- Cattle Theft
- Dan Forsee- Baker Co. Cattlemen's- Baker School District Beef Donation Program
- Low Stress Animal Handling
 - Loading trucks, chute and corral work

**Everyone
is invited
to attend!**

**Pot Tuck
Lunch**

**Drinks, table
wear, meat and
fixings will be
provided**

**Please bring
a side dish
or dessert**

Driving Directions from
Vale:

- Head North on John Day Hwy
- Turn Right on Willowcreek Rd., North of Ironside
- Follow road 3 1/2 miles, stay to right
- White house on right, red barns on left side of road



Contact Anna-Marie Chamberlain, Malheur County
Extension if you have questions 541-881-1417

Livestock News

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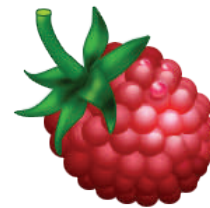
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Anna-Marie Chamberlain, OSU Extension Agent

In comparing data from 1997, 2002 and 2007, The total number of crop acres in the state of Oregon has declined. However, the percentage of acres irrigated has increased. The average farm size is down from 442 acres in 1997 to 425 acres in 2007. The average farm operator is 57 years old, up from 54 in 1997.

Estimated Top 5 Ag Exports in 2007

1. Other- \$409.0 million
2. Seeds- \$174.4 million
3. Fruits and Preparations- \$170.6 million
4. Wheat and Products- \$165.4 million
5. Vegetables and Preparations- \$145.3 million



Top 5 Counties in Ag Sales 2007

1. Marion County- \$586,743,000
2. Clackamas County- \$397,318,000
3. Morrow County- \$353,519,000
4. Umatilla County- \$320,679,000
5. Washington County- \$311,380,000

Data taken from USDA
Economic Research
Service Web-site