



Helping People Help Themselves ✓ **Yes for Extension!**

New Extension Tax Base Ensures Future Impact

OSU EXTENSION SERVICE OF POLK COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2010-11

Dear Polk County Residents,

Thank you for supporting us over the last few years to establish a Tax Service District for Extension in Polk County. Our future looked dire two years ago; but thanks to you, we will be serving you for years to come.



Derek Godwin,
Administration
Derek.godwin@oregonstate.edu

We are also celebrating OSU Extension Service's 100th anniversary this year. Look for our booths and staff at many local events around the county this year. Please contact us if you would like to help.

Would you like to help us serve others? Many of our programs rely on training volunteers who, in turn, teach others. Last year, our volunteers reported about 15,000 hours of service. This is equivalent to 7 full time employees!! We would love your help to continue serving others in Polk County.

Don't be a stranger – come visit our office, call or email us, and visit our website for information on our programs.

Thank you again for your support!

For The OSU Extension Service office staff in Polk County



Thanks for the Tools!

OSU Extension Staff and Faculty based in Polk County: Back row, from left to right, Debra Minar Driscoll, Neil Bell, Derek Godwin, Judi Peters, Pam Scharf, Marita Broadus, Margi Tipton, Dolores May; front row, from left to right, Gene Pirelli, Suzi Busler, Gail Miles.

HOW TO REACH US

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In this issue:

Budget Information Page 2

Gardening Page 3

4-H Programs Pages 4-5

Family & Community Health . Page 6

Forestry..... Page 7

FarmingPage 8

Extension Faculty and Staff

Located in the Polk County Office

Derek Godwin – Staff Chairman and Watershed Educator

Neil Bell – Horticulture Faculty

Marita Broadus – Office Manager

Suzi Busler – 4-H Faculty

Dolores May – Front Office Support

Debra Minar Driscoll – Family & Community Health Faculty

Gail Miles – Master Gardener Program Assistant

Judi Peters – 4-H Faculty

Gene Pirelli – Livestock & Forages Faculty, State Swine Specialist

Pam Scharf – Office Specialist, 4-H and Agriculture

Margi Tipton – 4-H Support

Located in nearby counties and serving Polk County

Nicole Anderson – Field Crops Faculty

Troy Downing – Dairy Faculty

Jeff Olsen – Tree Fruits and Nuts Faculty

Brad Withrow-Robinson – Forestry Faculty

Located at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center, Aurora, who have regional and statewide responsibility for Extension education and research, 503-678-1264

Mike Bondi – Director

Shelley Hughes – Office Manager

Jan Egli – Secretary

Marc Anderson – Farm Manager

Geoff Lewis – Facilities Manager

Ben Ekstrom – Information Technology

Jim Owen – Research and Extension Faculty/Nursery Crops

Rich Regan – Area Extension Agent/Nursery Crops

Robin Rosetta – Area Extension Agent/Nursery Entomology

Luisa Santamaria – Area Extension Agent/Nursery Pathology and Bi-Lingual Outreach

Chal Landgren – Extension Specialist/Christmas Trees

Nick Andrews – Extension Agent/Small Farms

Joe DeFrancesco – Senior Research Faculty/Specialty Crop Pesticide Registrations

Bob McReynolds – Extension Agent/Vegetable and Specialty Seed Crops

Bernadine Strik – Research and Extension Faculty/Berry Crops

Diane Kaufman – Extension Agent/Strawberry and Cane Berry Crops

Wei Yang – Extension Agent/Blueberry Crops

Gina Koskela – Senior Research Assistant/Specialty Crop Pesticide Registrations

Gil Buller – Senior Research Assistant/Berry Research and Extension Program

Heather Stoven – Research Assistant/Nursery

Judy Kowalski – Bio Technician/Nursery and Christmas Trees

Peter Sturman – Bio Technician/Blueberries and Specialty Crop Pesticide Registrations

Kristen Pool – Research Analyst/Small Farms

Derek Wells – Bio Technician/Nursery, Integrated Pest Management and General Farm

Administration Update from Staff Chair

Celebrating 100 Years of Service

The OSU Extension Service has been in existence since 1911 and began operating in Polk County in 1918. An outgrowth of federal legislation including the 1862 Morrill Act, the Hatch Act of 1887 and the 1914 Smith-Lever Act, the partnership and cooperation with Oregon counties enables OSU Extension Service to be the “Front door to OSU.” In Polk County, the Extension Service functions as an integral part of the county. Faculty housed in this office, in surrounding counties and at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora deliver educational programs to Polk County citizens in several key areas: Family and Community Health (formerly known as Home Economics), Farming, Forestry and Natural Resources, 4-H Youth Development and Gardening.

Leveraging your tax dollars

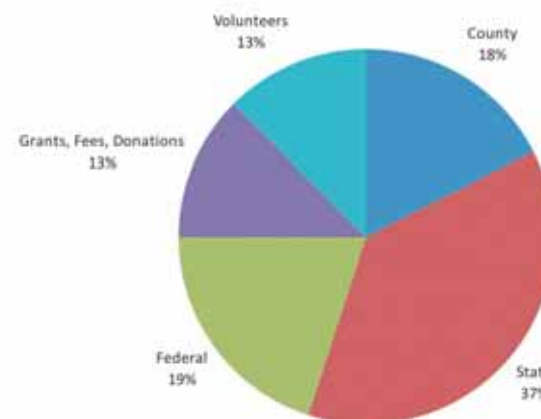
OSU places Extension faculty in counties in support of these program areas and also supports additional staff through special grant funded initiatives. As a general rule of thumb, every \$1 of county funds invested leverages an additional \$4 in state, federal and grant funding for positions that serve Polk County citizens. In addition, faculty train volunteers that serve Polk County residents (train-the-trainer programs). In 2010, we estimate that our volunteers provided approximately 15,000 hours of service which is equivalent to about 7 full time employees. If these hours are valued at the current Oregon volunteer rate, this would equate to approximately \$250,000 in wages, which means for every \$1 of county funds invested leverages an additional \$5 in funding.

“Too Good to Lose”

Polk County has provided funding to the Oregon State University Extension Service for many years as part of the General Fund budget. In May, 2010, the Polk County voters established a special Tax Service District entitled “4-H, Master Gardener, Agriculture, and Forestry Extension District.” This district generates approximately \$350,000 per year. The Polk County Commissioners are the budget authority for the district, and the Polk County Chief Administrative Officer is the budget administrator.

General Funding Contributions as a Percent of Total:

Every \$1 in county funds leverages \$5 from other sources.



Allocation of Resources

Polk County Commissioners set the OSU portion of the Polk County Extension Service's total FY 11-12 budget at \$250,000. This will fund 1.5 office support staff positions and approximately 1.5 program faculty and staff positions. The remaining budget is for materials and services which include travel, internet connections, computer support, office equipment and supplies, outreach materials, etc. The commissioners allocated the remaining amount of Service District funds (\$113,500) to pay for office space, utilities, phones, copier and copies, rent and utilities at Fairgrounds, Fair costs (ribbons, judges, etc.) and other Extension Service related items as outlined in the Polk County Tax District budget.

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Neil Bell, Extension Horticulture Faculty
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“Thank you for the tools to teach the residents of Polk County to grow their own food.”

Gardening

In 2010, Master Gardener™ volunteers learned about the art and science of growing plants and fulfilled their mission of bringing research-based sustainable gardening information to the residents of Polk County through education and outreach programs. They donated more than 9000 hours of volunteer time – 1300 of those hours while giving advice from their clinic location in the Extension office. Neil Bell, Extension horticulture faculty, provided program direction and technical advice to the Master Gardener™ program. Highlights of the 2010 Master Gardener™ program in Polk County include:

- Made 2,700 contacts with the public at Brunk House, Fall Fling, Oregon State Fair, Polk County Fair, Summerfest, Gentle House, the Holiday Fair, the annual Plant Sale and various clinics. 600 of these public contacts were at the Extension Office.
- Completed other projects: maintained flower beds at Gentle House, managed Floriculture and Vegetable Exhibits at Polk County Fair and helped establish and maintain the

plantings at Gentle House and Delbert Hunter Arboretum. Polk County Master Gardeners spent over 800 hours donating, developing and maintaining demonstration gardens and plantings at the Polk County Fairgrounds. The 16 new trainees contributed 1,650 hours, and 13 have completed their 60 hours of payback.



- The demonstration vegetable garden at Brunk House donated 540 pounds to the Oregon Food Bank.
- The primary fundraising event, the annual Plant Sale attracted over 1,500 people on May 7th and 8th. These funds are used for reference books for the plant clinic and office libraries; OSU lab fees for clients; computer equipment for Neil, Gail and the Master Gardener desks; and presentation equipment for the Master Gardener Training, chapter meetings and the Fall Fling.
- Welcomed the public to attend free

presentations by garden experts at monthly chapter meetings.

- In September, the Polk County Master Gardeners presented the eighth annual Fall Fling to 200 attendees. The Fall Fling is a one-day gardening workshop, featuring nationally-renowned presenters. It is offered to the public below cost to further fulfill the mission of public education.
- Awarded two \$2,300 scholarships to students participating in the Horticulture program at Oregon State University, \$200 each to five local libraries for a total of \$1,000. Each donation was split evenly between children and adult garden-related books. Other donations included \$111 for 4-H/Open Class County Fair Awards, \$125 to the Oregon Master Gardeners Association and \$200 to the Dallas Emergency Food Corp.
- From January through June, the Polk County Master Gardeners continued to pay the salary of Gail Miles, the Polk County Master Gardener Program Assistant.

“In 2011, the Polk County Master Gardeners will continue their efforts to educate the public with research-based garden information through clinics and presentations. They will also continue to offer expertise and funding to support community gardens in Polk County.”

– Dolores May, president
Polk County Master Gardeners



Annual plant sale generates funding for educational programs, supplies and equipment.



Polk County Master Gardener™ volunteers prepare to welcome the gardening public to popular Fall Fling Garden Festival.

Master Gardeners reach out to the Public with Fall Fling

Since 2003, Polk County Master Gardener™ volunteers have underwritten Fall Fling - a day of gardening presentations and workshops. Fall Fling Garden Festivals have featured such gardening experts as Northwest author Lucy Hardiman, nursery owner Daryll Combs, OSU Berry Specialist Bernadine Strik, TV's *Garden Gal* Anne Jaeger, *Oregonian* columnist Vern Nelson, Northwest author Ann Lovejoy, and nationally-known author Rosalind Creasy. Popular workshops included trellises, butterfly baths, rose propagation, sedum planters and cold frames.

The day also included shopping for garden items from OSU Bookstore, Tomboy Tools, Dancing Oaks Nursery and Daryll's Nursery. The Dallas High School Catering Class provided snacks and lunch. Local donors provided hourly door prizes. Fall Fling attendance numbers have grown from 100 in 2003 to 180 in 2010.

In 2011, presentations are expected from TV and radio personality Ciscoe Morris, Bob Denman of Red Pig Tools on Ergonomic Gardening and OSU Watershed Specialist Derek Godwin on Rain Gardens.

Polk County 4-H Extension Staff and Faculty: (Left to Right) Suzi Buster, Judi Peters, Margi Tipton, Pam Scharf.



“Thanks for the tools to reach over 350 youth in club based programs supported by over 130 adult volunteer leaders.”

4-H Youth Development

For the 4-H youth development program, our primary “tools of the trade” are the ways we deliver our programs and the resources we use.

People are probably most familiar with our club-based programs. Adult volunteer leaders work with school age youth, kindergarten through 12th grades, in a community club or project club. Youth can select from forty different project areas.

4-Her’s have the opportunity to go to camps, County Fair, Summer Conference on the campus of OSU, and much more.

In addition, we use many ways to deliver our program you may not be as familiar with, such as school-enrichment programs. Classroom teachers or volunteers can use 4-H curriculum to supplement activities in the classroom. One of our most popular subjects in this area would be our egg hatching project.

We also do many short term/special interest activities. We regularly offer educational programs for home school audiences and short term projects we

can schedule for after school. Current plans are to expand this delivery method in the coming year.



Day camp programs are another neat opportunity kids can participate in. This summer we’ll be offering two summer day-camps, in Dallas and Monmouth featuring Junior Master Gardener camps. The three-day camps focus on a different area each day: plants, critters and water.

Residential camps are always a great hit. Our multi-county Wild West Camp, held at the 4-H Education Center in the west hills of Salem, fills up fast. Youth grades 4 to 7 take part in this week-long camp. See the 4-H Center webpage for dates of other camps offered throughout the summer at: <http://oregon4hcenter.org/summercamps.html>.

The 4-H Cloverbud program is our way of reaching youth kindergarten to 3rd grade. This non-competitive program provides an exploration of a variety of 4-H project areas. Emphasis is on doing various activities and learning group social skills in a non-competitive environment.

Our “tools of the trade” for resource

I encourage all 4-Her’s to set out and make a difference in our community. Anything helps. You could do anything big or small, just get out there and help others and see how good it makes you feel.

— Zachary Odegard,
4-H Member-Polk County

materials would be our myriad of 4-H project materials. 4-H includes not only the member materials but also the 4-H Leader materials, to lead a project area. Extension features research-based information and much of our materials come from peer reviewed curriculum from the National 4-H Council. To supplement project materials, we also have hands-on learning lab kits and grab-n-go boxes in many of the project areas.

Volunteers can rest assured there will be education and training for those interested in being a 4-H club leader. We use online leader training modules to introduce the program and get folks the basics. We then supplement at the county level with information specific to Polk County and the projects they are involved in. Periodic leader/member educational clinics and

workshops are also offered throughout the year.

Parents can feel comfortable that their children are being led by adult volunteer leaders that have had a background check and references reviewed. Older youth in leadership roles also have background check and references, and additional counselor leadership educational programs throughout the year.

So, these are a few of the tools and resources we use on a regular basis to reach over 350 youth in club-based programs supported by over 130 adult volunteer leaders. Our other delivery methods will reach several hundred non-4-H youth with 4-H camps, programs, and activities. Come join the fun....check out the Polk County 4-H program today!



Miriam Lowrie, long-time 4-H Extension agent for Polk County, was inducted to the Oregon 4-H Hall of Fame and honored by her 4-H peers for her outstanding contribution to the 4-H program.



How To Contact 4-H

Phone 503-623-8395

In person: Academy Building, rm 102, Dallas

On the Web: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/polk/>

On facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Polk-County-4-H-Oregon/106600282713919>



Come see us at the Fair!



JOIN | THE REVOLUTION OF RESPONSIBILITY

Polk County 4-H Member Honored for Community Work

Zachary Odegard traveled to Washington, D.C. recently to attend the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. Zachary—and 101 other youth from across the nation—were recognized for their outstanding commitment to community and volunteer work. “I had the most wonderful time in my whole life,” he said. While in D.C., Zachary and the other honorees met with Congressmen, learned about proper etiquette at formal dinners, toured the nation’s capital, and participated in a Washington D.C. community service project to encourage reading in grade schools. “I would like to thank the 4-H Extension office – Suzi Busler, Judi Peters, and Marilyn Lesmeiser—for showing me the importance of community service,” said Zachary.



“The whole trip was amazing. Prudential, and the NASSP, treated us like royalty. The most impressive part of the trip was meeting the other 101 honorees.” – Zachary Odegard, 4-H member

“I had a great opportunity on the last day of my trip, when I met Senators Wyden and Merkely.”



OSU Extension Service celebrates 100th year

One hundred years ago the OSU Extension Service in Oregon was born. As a Land Grant university, part of Oregon State’s mission was written to ensure that research, teaching and learning be “extended” to the people throughout the state.

On July 24, 1911, Oregon Agricultural College’s Board of Regents organized the Oregon Extension Service in response to requests from citizens for assistance from the college, particularly in agriculture.



R. D. Hetzel, professor of political science, was named the first director of the Extension Service. The first county Extension agents in Oregon began in Marion and Willowa counties in September 1912. Legislation permitting counties to appropriate money for extension work that would be matched by state funds was enacted in 1913.

In May 1914, nearly three years after Oregon had established its Extension Service, President Woodrow Wilson

signed the Smith-Lever law, which provided federal money for the establishment of Extension services in all states with the goal of developing off-campus programs, primarily in agriculture and home economics. By 1937 all Oregon counties had at least one Extension agent.

During the first 40 years, Extension concentrated on three traditional programmatic areas: agriculture, home economics and 4-H. After World War II, many more program areas were added including: forestry, marine advisory, community resource development, energy and Master Gardener™.



Ballard Hall, on OSU’s campus in Corvallis, is the hub for the Extension Service in the state, housing administrative staff, computer technologies, business units and Extension specialists. In this 1930 photo, the same building was named Snell Hall and was a dormitory for girls.

Debra Minar Driscoll
Extension Family & Community Health Faculty
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"Thank you for the tools to teach Polk County families how to eat well, stay healthy, safely preserve their own food, improve the management of all their resources, and live their best lives."



Family and Community Health

The Polk County Extension Family and Community Health program provided a wide range of learning opportunities in 2010.

- As a result of increased interest in home gardens and in buying local food from farmers and fishermen, there is a great demand for the teaching of safe home food preservation skills. Current, accurate information is needed both for those new to home food preservation, and for those who need to update their skills. Seven food preservation classes were taught in Polk County. Collaboration with local businesses and churches was a key ingredient to success, providing workshop space as well as helping to recruit participants for the classes.
- OSU Extension state specialist Kathy Gunter presented her Better Balance, Better Bones, Better Bodies program to a capacity crowd of mid-life and elder participants, highlighting the latest prevention research. Participants learned how to improve their own bone density and balance, which can help improve quality of life and keep individuals living in their own homes for many years.

- By collaborating with campus faculty, we were able to bring the Environmental Health at Home program to West Salem. It provided local agency representatives and general public participants with an overview of residential environmental health issues and risk reduction strategies.
- Community outreach events help get useful resources into the hands of Polk County families. Family and Community Health provided information/activity tables at five events throughout the county.
- Partnering with local agencies allows me to reach people that wouldn't necessarily come to a public class. West Valley Housing Authority partnered with me to present ideas to parents to improve nutrition and family interaction at meals.

"Today I learned about wants versus needs. I learned about easy ways to just save a few bucks here and there. How putting 10 or 20 dollars into your account can help you when you really need it."

"It was interesting to see other peoples' views on what is important to spend money on and what is not. I will try to limit my fast food and coffee purchases because they are not really needed and just wanted and they are a waste of money."

— financial literacy class students

"I will definitely make some sauerkraut . . . I was scared at first . . . not so much now!"

"Canning has always been a mystery to me. I'm so glad I feel comfortable enough to try canning now. Will be canning tuna in the next week or so—will use everything I learned in this class."

— canning class students



Adapting Programs for New Audiences

In 2010 I received a number of requests to teach food preservation classes in Spanish. As preparation for the classes began, it became evident that our Family and Community Health statewide program had a gap that needed to be filled. There were no Spanish-language publications that addressed jam and jelly making. A national search came up with no appropriate publications from other state Extension Service programs. I worked with our campus specialist and a faculty member from another county to develop two publications to meet the need. I successfully pilot tested them with my 2010 classes and received good feedback for revisions.



Family & Community Health

Brad Withrow-Robinson
Extension Forestry Faculty
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"Thanks for the voter's support of Extension, which gives me the tools to work with landowners of a wide range of skills and interests and help them learn ways to take care of their woods."

Forestry and Natural Resources

A very significant accomplishment of the Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR) Extension program in 2010 is the development of a new group of 17 Master Woodland Manager volunteers in Polk County.

Master Woodland Managers (MWM's) are qualified local family woodland owners who receive specialized training from OSU Forestry and Natural Resources Extension to improve their abilities as land managers and community leaders. The purpose of the MWM program is to provide a core of trained volunteers that help Extension inform small woodland owners in their communities on ways to take care of their land. Their service in answering neighbor's questions, assisting on tours or serving local natural resource oriented organizations tallied up to over 600 hours of service reaching over 1300 people.

Bob Feldman is one of the 2010 MWM graduates. He has managed his 220-acre property on the Bethel Heights for 40 years. "You can never learn enough," says Bob. "There were some technical things that I felt I was a little short on, that's why I wanted to take the course."



A high point for me in the program was the session on cruising a stand of timber to determine its value. That was new for me."

"You can never learn enough. There were some technical things that I felt I was a little short on—that's why I wanted to take the course."

— Bob Feldman, 2010 MWM graduate



Ties to the Land

Ties to the Land is an educational program developed by OSU Forestry and Natural Resources Extension to help family woodland owners determine the future of their property by preparing to pass it to the next generation owners. Without a plan, properties may be more susceptible to division and or development. Family owned woodlands are important as they are generally diverse properties along the margin of the Valley, and the forests most visible and familiar to residents in Polk County.

Our analysis shows that participation in the workshops helps families begin to take some specific actions towards developing a succession plan for their family property. Succession planning is hard work and families tend to make slow progress on developing a functional plan. Even families who have begun the conversation need encouragement and guidance. As one respondent commented, "We have long been discussing many of the issues covered by Ties to the Land....The program has induced us to make our plans more concrete and has given us useful tips on how to proceed."

We expect to be offering Ties to the Land workshops again, likely next spring.



OSU's North Willamette Research and Extension Center is ideally located to serve the needs of Oregon's important agricultural industries.

Extension Center Provides Research and Information

location focuses on crops, production systems, and the needs of local farmers, agricultural businesses, and natural resource managers. Work includes basic and applied research and transferring this new knowledge to the producers who can put the information into practice on the ground.

NWREC is a 160-acre agricultural experimental farm located south of Wilsonville in the Charbonneau area. The property has been owned by Clackamas County since 1965. Prior to this time, OSU managed the Red Soils Experimental Farm on the current site of the Clackamas County government buildings on its Red Soils Campus in Oregon City.

Research and outreach education at NWREC is directed to the most important agricultural crops and commodities in our area: nurseries, small fruit berries, fresh market vegetables, Christmas trees, and small farm production. In addition, NWREC is the regional home for pesticide testing and residue evaluations that ensure safe and effective use of insecticides, fungicides and herbicides across all cropping systems.

Agriculture is Oregon's leading industry and NWREC is at the hub of state's horticultural industry. About one-third of the state's \$4.8 billion farm gate value income comes from farm operations within a 40-mile radius of the Center.

All research and education facilities at NWREC have been built and are maintained by OSU. This includes: offices and laboratories, greenhouses, barns and equipment, irrigation infrastructure, and approximately 60 acres of field test plots and research trials.

In addition, NWREC has a 75-seat meeting room that is used on a regular basis for education programs and meetings of various agricultural cooperators, commodity commissions, and agencies.

For more information about NWREC, visit their website at <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC>

Gene Pirelli
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"Thank you for the tools to teach new technology in livestock and forage production systems"

Farming

Hare Barley Control

Hare barley is a nonnative, cool-season, annual grass that is invading pasture systems across Oregon. It has several common names including wild barley, foxtail or foxtail barley though hare barley is not a foxtail species. Hare barley may now infest up to 10,000 pasture acres just in western Oregon.

Hare barley has the characteristic "wild barley" seed head that usually remains intact on plants long after it has completed its life cycle. The spikelets can injure the

mouth, eyes, ears and skin of animals so mature plants are rarely grazed leading to abundant seed production.



Livestock producers have tried reducing hare barley infestations by spraying, sporadic tillage, heavy grazing early in the season, propane flaming and mowing, but all efforts had limited success. Some recent promising new herbicides

are now on the market that may have a fit for hare barley control in Oregon pastures. To test these and other products, two research trials evaluating 13 herbicides were established in 2008. This work continued in 2010.

The research work in 2010 showed the following results:

- three of the herbicides had potential in controlling hare barley.
- hare barley seeds were collected at weekly intervals in and germinated in a greenhouse in order to determine the approximate date that viable seed is produced.
- germination timing is useful for hay producers so that harvest can be timed to avoid the spread of this weed through seed.

Selenium Fertilization for Improved Animal Performance

Selenium supplemented to livestock by either injections or through salt-mineral supplements is usually inorganic sodium selenite. One limitation of supplementing with inorganic selenium in salt or feed is the appar-

ent short duration of Se storage in the animal. The application of selenium to pastures allows the plants to convert it to an organic form which is stored in the muscle of the animal and available for longer periods.

Two successful studies were conducted during 2009-2010. These projects examined the effects of supranutritional levels of selenium in beef cattle. The first study investigated supranutritional levels of selenium applied to pasture and subsequently grazed by mature beef cows. The purpose was to increase selenium levels in the blood of cows with an organic source of selenium over that normally found with the use of selenite in salt-mineral mixes. The second was a study to examine the differences in immune response and whole blood selenium levels in weaned beef calves when feed low, medium and high levels of selenium fertilized forage.

Oregon is one of only several states that allows selenium fertilization. This is a direct result of the research work conducted by OSU faculty.

The Polk County Livestock Association would like to thank the Extension Service Faculty and staff for their continuing support and educational leadership this past year. The historical relationship between OSU Extension and the Association has provided for both an "institutional memory" and the ability to conduct field days and events of interest to the varied livestock related clientele. Without their help it would be very difficult to organize most of our programs. Again our thanks.

— Jim Clawson, President



Commercial Tree Fruits & Nuts



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Field Crops



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Dairy



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