GRAIN AND RAIN

The average price of soft white wheat in Portland for October was $5.33 with club averaging $5.63 per bushel. Barley averaged $135.00 per ton.

Precipitation reported from the Sherman Experiment Station in October totaled .41 inches. That’s a half inch below normal. Crop year now sits at .84 below the 97 year average at the Station.

GRAIN MARKETING SESSIONS

The statewide grain marketing meetings are growing in popularity. In October we had 68 participants from 11 connections. Sponsored by the OWGL’s Marketing Committee, the next one is Thursday, November 13 beginning at 8 am at a County Extension Office near you.

Participants will find these vary from the regular local marketing meetings which rely more on face to face discussions and using/understanding the marketing tools available to one and how to profit in a down or flat market. The statewide meetings allow us to visit with people from other regions and get their individual perspectives of influences in the market or developing a long term strategy.

The local marketing breakfasts are held every other week, Wasco County marketers can join the next sessions (Tuesdays, November 4 and 18) at Kramer’s Market in Dufur while Sherman County’s November gatherings are on Fridays, November 14 and 28.

PLAN TO ATTEND. At the request of growers, the next session in each county will feature a review of the numerous tools offered for your use and the explanations of when to chose which tool.

If you are new to the grain marketing game or want to introduce a landlord or family member to a better understanding, these will be important meetings.

PESTICIDE USE REPORTING

Fill in those rainy fall days by completing and submitting your 2008 Pesticide Use Report to the State of Oregon. The program is far improved over the original system that was never implemented, and since you reported last year’s pesticides applied, your base info should still be in the system.

Details can be found at the new website for the Oregon Department of Agriculture: http://oregon.gov/ODA/ The Pesticide Use Reporting tag is under “pesticides” on the right hand side of the page.

WINTERIZING OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

We always plan to do cold weather maintenance on those vehicles and engines that we don’t plan to use all winter, but now with widespread use of ethanol blends, it is even more important. Don’t forget your chain saw, lawn mowers, four wheelers and gas engine on the grain auger, even trucks that are only used seasonally.

Leaving any fuel in a tank over a long period will allow the fuel to degrade, but ethanol blends develop unique side issues. Ethanol absorbs water and if set for a period of time can actually separate the ethanol from the petro, creating two separate fuels and making starting even harder later.

Best action is to drain these fuel tanks once you are done with use of that particular engine.
SAIF WORKSHOPS
Don’t forget to sign up for the SAIF Workshops coming to The Dalles at the Discovery Center on Tuesday November 25. The free workshops start at 9:30 and conclude at 2 pm and include a lunch for attendees. Pre-registration is advised at: www.saif.com/seminars

PESTICIDE CORE/PRE-EXAM TRAINING
There will be a workshop offered for those needing to obtain a pesticide applicators license or those needing CORE credits. This workshop on Monday, November 24 will be in Madras beginning at 8:30 am and running to 12:30. Location is yet to be decided so call 541-475-3808 for information and to pre-register. This is especially important if you wish to take one of the applicator exams following the class. There will be a registration fee payable at the door.

A similar workshop is being planned for the Mid-Columbia region in January. Details will follow in the January newsletter.

SMALL GRAIN TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP
Here’s an exciting day to see how the world of farming is changing! Monday, December 8 at the Discovery Center outside The Dalles there will be a Technology Workshop for Small Grains. The session starts at 8 am and concludes a 3:30. There is no registration fee and lunch is on your own. Pesticide credits have been requested. A good agenda, it includes topics such as: “Tailoring technology for individual needs,” “Spray application technology,” “Calculating real N fertilizer needs and split applications,” “Using optical sensing and electrical conductivity to manage Nitrogen.” Following lunch, “Practical applications of technology” and local incentives will wrap up the program as break-out sessions.

Again, there is no charge for workshop but pre-registration is requested for choosing the breakout session of your choice. Call the Wasco County SWCD (541-298-8559 x 3) to reserve your spot.

SEE YOU IN JANUARY
Since December is so busy for all, our next planned newsletter will be January 09. Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s season.