

Announcements

Master Gardner Training Program - now accepting applications!

DATES: Tuesdays, February 1 - March 29 (8 weeks)

TIME: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

LOCATION: OSU Extension Conference Room, BMCC Umatilla Hall,
Pendleton, Oregon

Join the 2011 Master Garden Training Course. The class fee is \$115 which includes the course textbook, "Sustainable Gardening: The Oregon-Washington Master Gardener Handbook" (a \$30 value).

Classes will be taught by OSU Extension faculty, specialists, and local experts. The program offers a basic, practical course in plant science and horticulture what will open many doors for positive experiences in gardening.



NRCS Extends Sign-up Period for Conservation Stewardship Program

*Applications Will Be Accepted
Through January 7, 2011*

WASHINGTON,— Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chief Dave White today announced the ranking period cut-off date for producer applications in NRCS' Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) has been extended to January 7, 2011.

"We're extending the deadline for applications to CSP to provide agricultural producers more time to complete their applications," said White. "This will help farmers, ranchers and forestry producers by giving them more time and hopefully allow even more producers to participate in this program."

CSP is offered in all 50 states, District of Columbia, and the Pacific and Caribbean areas through continuous sign-ups with announced cut-off dates for ranking periods. The program provides many conservation benefits including improvement of water and soil quality, wildlife habitat enhancement and adoption of conservation activities that address the effects of climate change.

All producers are encouraged to apply for CSP. The program, authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, offers payments to producers who maintain a high level of conservation on their land and who agree to adopt higher levels of stewardship. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland and nonindustrial forestland.

A CSP self-screening checklist is available to help producers determine if CSP is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about CSP eligibility requirements, contract obligations and potential payments. It is available from local NRCS offices or online at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/csp.html.

Conservation Reserve Program UPDATE

The recent CPR signup in Umatilla County resulted in 64 contracts being accepted out of the 64 contract submitted. These contract represent 14,000 acres of CRP. The average price per acre contract was \$54.00.

This was the first signup in four years and for Oregon as a whole 75,720 acres were enrolled with a 87% acceptance rate. This enrollment statewide represented 4,208 contracts involving 2,214 farms.

Another signup is expected in next spring as there is still room under the national mandatory cap of 32 million acres. If you have environmentally sensitive land that has qualified in the past, or land you would like to have considered in a future signup, a visit to our local FSA office would be the way to begin the process. Watch for next spring's signup announcement.

OSU/Umatilla County Extension Service
2411 NW Carden, Umatilla Hall, PO Box 100
Pendleton, OR 97801

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CALENDAR

November & December

Nov. 16	Umatilla County Wheat Growers Fall Dinner/Workshop Location: Pendleton Red Lion Contact: OWGL 541-276-7330	Dec. 14	Cereal Seminar & Sustainable Ag Forum Location: OSU Extension Conference Room Pendleton, OR Contact: Mary Corp 541-278-5403
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving	Dec. 16	Statewide Marketing Meeting Location: OSU Extension Conference Room Pendleton, OR Contact: OWGL 541-276-7330
Dec. 1-3	Oregon/Idaho Grains Conference Location: Doubletree Lloyd Center Portland, OR Contact: OWGL 541-276-7330	Dec. 25	Christmas
Dec. 1-3	Hermiston Farm Fair and Trade Show Location: Conference Center Hermiston, OR Contact: Chamber of Commerce 541-567-6151		

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