Oregon State University Extension Service
The Prompter / Rancher Review
A Union, Baker and Wallowa County Farm & Ranch Newsletter

April/May 2009

Calendar of Events

May

May 19  Umatilla County Weed and Crop Tour, Pendleton, OR—8:30 am, contact Mary Corp 541-278-5403

May 19  Canola Field tour, Chelan/Douglas Co. Extension, Bridgeport, WA—10:00 AM, contact Dale Whaley, 509-745-8531

May 27  Columbia Co. Conservation Tour, Dayton WA - 8:30 AM, contact Paul Carter 509-382-4741

June

June 4  Union County Weed Board Open House, 6:00 PM, Ag Service Center Conference Room

June 9  Pendleton Ag Research Center Field Day, Pendleton, OR - 8:30AM, contact Steve Petrie 541-278-4189

June 10  Sherman Station Field Day, Moro, OR - 7:30, contact Steve Petrie  541-278-4186

June 17  WSU Weed Tour, Cook Agronomy Farm, Pullman, WA - 1:00 PM contact Joe Yenish 509-335-2961

June 17  Union County Crops and Conservation Tour, La Grande, OR - 7:30 AM contact Darrin Walenta 541-963-1010

June 18  University of Idaho Weed Tour, Moscow, ID - 7:30 am, contact Donn Thill 208-885-6214

June 23  Clearwater Direct Seeders Tour, Uniontown/Genesee - 8:00 AM contact Dennis Roe 509-335-3491

June 24  University of Idaho parker Farm Plant Sciences Field Day, Moscow, ID - 8:00 am, contact Donn Thill 208-885-6214

June 24  High Residue Farming under Irrigation Field Day, Connell, WA - 2:00 pm contact Andy McGuire 509-754-2011 x413

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Calendar of Events (cont)

June 25  Precision Farming and Direct Seed Field Day at Cook Agronomy Farm - 7:30 AM, contact Hans Kok 208-885-5971

June 26  Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management Annual Field Day. Location TBA. Contact Mike Borman at michael.borman@oregonstate.edu

June 30  Centennial Celebration! OSU Ag Experiment Station Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center—2:00 PM contact Phil Hamm or Annette Teraberry 541-567-8321

July

July 8  Malheur Experiment Station Annual Field Day, Ontario. 8:30 – 1:00 PM. A complimentary lunch will be served. Please make reservation for lunch by contacting Janet Jones 541-889-2174 or email her at janet.jones@oregonstate.edu

August

August 25  Malheur Experiment Station Onion Variety Day, Ontario. A complimentary lunch will be served. Please make a reservation for lunch by contacting Janet Jones 541-889-2174 or email her at janet.jones@oregonstate.edu.

Camelina Update: An Ancient Oilseed Crop with New Potential

Camelina (Camelina sativa L., Brassicaceae) is an oilseed crop native to Central Asia and the Mediterranean region with unique oil properties that may have potential added-value in food, feed, and industrial/biofuel markets. Today much emphasis is placed upon the development of local renewable energy sources, however, the crop is considered to be “ancient” given evidence of cultivation dating back to 600 B.C. (Rhine River Valley). Camelina (a.k.a. false flax or Gold of Pleasure) could serve as a potential alternative oilseed crop in Oregon where canola/rapeseed production is currently restricted or prohibited in order to protect specialty brassica seed production areas. Efforts to develop improved varieties and agronomic practices are gaining momentum. Recently, I have collaborated with fellow OSU colleagues Don Wysocki and Nick Sirovatka to screen camelina varietal adaptation and production aspects in Union County. Some of our 2008 results are presented in this article. A new trial was seeded on April 8, 2009 near Island City and includes several breeder lines and currently “named” varieties. Watch for a field tour announcement!


2008 Camelina Variety Drill Strip Trial – Island City, OR. Seven varieties of camelina were seeded (3 lbs/A) on April 3, 2008 with a double disc plot drill into a firm seedbed prepared by conventional tillage operations. 4 reps of each variety were included in the trial except for “Celine”, “Ligena”, and “Suneson”. Dry fertilizer was broadcast and incorporated prior to seeding at a rate of 80 lbs/A. The field site was re-crop spring wheat after peppermint and irrigated with a total of 2.8 inches during the growing season. Only slight varietal differences were observed during the flowering stage. For the most part, all varieties began flowering around May 27, were at 50% flowering around June 4, and at 100% flowering by June 12. The variety “Columbia” appeared to have the highest percentage of flowers per plant soon after flower initiation, whereas, the varieties “Yellowstone” and “Blaine Creek” tended to push more blooms later during the flowering stage.

No insect or disease problems were observed. Several weed species were present (such as field pennycress, common lambsquarters, cutleaf nightshade), however, the dense crop foliage may have shifted competitive advantage to the crop. Currently, Poast has a supplemental label for annual/perennial grass weed control in Gold of Pleasure (camelina). Note: both the full label and supplemental label must be in possession during application. Plots were harvested on August 8, 2008 by direct threshing with a small plot grain/grass seed combine. Yields were not statistically different. We thank Trico Farms for allowing us to conduct this research on their farm, preparing the site for seeding, and trusting us with their tractor!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Camelina Variety</th>
<th>Lbs/acre</th>
<th>Tons/acre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Celine</td>
<td>2620</td>
<td>1.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligena</td>
<td>2490</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calena</td>
<td>2486</td>
<td>1.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suneson</td>
<td>2343</td>
<td>1.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td>2200</td>
<td>1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blaine Creek</td>
<td>2098</td>
<td>1.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellowstone</td>
<td>2035</td>
<td>1.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Union-Baker-Wallowa Co. Rapeseed/Canola District:

If you plan to grow canola or rapeseed in NE Oregon, please be aware of Oregon Administrative Rule 603-052-0850 which has established 4 protected districts to protect Brassica spp. seed producing areas of the state from the potential for cross-pollination between related species. The following details are specific only to the NE Oregon Protected District:

- Growing for seed (seed stock for planting) OK
- Growing for forage/cover crops OK but not allowed to flower.
- Plant only Certified and treated seed.
- 1 in 4 rotation
- 2 mile isolation required
- All field locations must be pinned on the map at the local Extension Office at least 10 days prior to planting the field.
- Secure transportation and volunteer control required.
- Growing brassicas for crushing purposes (e.g. oil) OK if all rules for the Control Area are followed!

http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/canola_rapeseed.shtml#Control_area_maps

Notice: Revisions planned for Willamette Valley Protected District. Growers in the Willamette Valley are interested in making changes to the rule (which will affect only their district), therefore, they are currently engaged in discussions with the Canola Advisory Committee. Growers in other protected districts who have interest in making changes to the rule should contact Dan Hilburn, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, at 503-986-4644 to let ODA know your interests in and to find out more information on the rule revision process.
Effect of Body Condition on Consumption of Pine Needles by Beef Cows

Scientists from the Poisonous Plants Laboratory in Logan, Utah conducted research to determine whether cows in low or high body condition would consume different amounts of green pine needles.

Grazing cows often consume pine needles in amounts sufficient to cause abortions. Abortion risk is greatest in cows in the third trimester of gestation. It has been reported that feeding high levels of protein increased consumption of needles by pen-fed cows. Body condition may be an important factor influencing consumption of toxic plants.

Livestock in a low body condition may alter diet selectivity and feed intake to compensate for their poor nutrient status.

Grazing cattle eat more pine needles during cold weather, particularly when snow cover actually reduces the availability of standing forage.

Results of Research

The low body condition cows (3.5 on scale of 1 to 9) consumed more pine needles than did high body condition score cows (7.5; Figure). These findings suggest that pregnant cows in low body condition score are at greater risk of pine needle abortion if provided access to pine needles. Grazing animals also increased pin needle intake during periods of cold weather when snow covered much of the available forage, but the increase was much greater for low body condition cattle compared with high body condition cattle. Past research has shown that pregnant cows in mid to late gestation should have restricted access to ponderosa pine needles. Maintaining cows in at least moderate body condition during gestation and calving is also beneficial for reproductive success in beef herds.


Malignant Catarrhal Fever

Do you have sheep and cattle? You may want to read on and learn how to reduce the risk of Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF) occurring in your cattle. This past year you may have read about the disease that caused 24 cows to die after the Puyallup Fair. They died from MCF, a disease that is transmitted from sheep to cattle. Sheep are carriers of the disease but are not affected by it.
Malignant Catarrhal Fever causes lesions of the gastro-intestinal tract from the mouth though the colon. The most obvious symptoms include running of the eyes, lesions in the mouth, and a lack of desire to eat. It is fatal to a high percent of the cattle that contact this disease, however, some do survive and make a full recovery.

The most important information about this disease is to understand how you can manage to reduce the possibility that your cattle could become infected. Sheep seem to spread the disease more when they are young. By the time they are between 10 months and a year old their ability to spread it decreases. Transmission of the disease usually occurs in two different situations. First, when cattle become in direct contact with the saliva, mucus or especially the afterbirth or fluids associated with lambing. Second, when they are housed in enclosed barns or facilities where the air can have higher concentrations. There is as much not known as there is known about when it is really a problem so as managers it is wise for us to manage to minimize the risk and then not to worry about the problem.

Management suggestions to minimize the risk of MCF in your cattle, if you cannot run them completely separate from sheep.

- Make sure that you do not use the same feed pans for young sheep and the cattle (be especially careful to not use the plastic buckets that don’t allow the saliva to be absorbed)
- Have separate water sources for your sheep and cattle
- During lambing make sure the cattle do not have access to the areas where afterbirth and fluids exist.

We do not see outbreaks of this all the time and we know that we have run cattle and sheep together for many years, so we actually don’t know all the particulars on how MCF spreads and why it sometimes strikes. The above actions should help reduce the risk.

**Zinc Phosphide Bait Use in Grass Seed Update:**

According to the Oregon Department of Agriculture, there continues to be some confusion regarding which Special Local Need (SLN) registrations of zinc phosphide are current for use on grass seed fields. Please note that some SLN (or 24C labels) have expired. Currently, only two 24C labels exist that allow hand baiting down vole holes with zinc phosphide baits as year-around, below-ground applications only.

There are no labels that allow above-ground applications of zinc phosphide on grass seed fields at this time because those labels have expired. As of April 22, 2009, ODA continues to actively working with other state/federal agencies to renew and/or revise such labels for this season. If the labels are renewed, more than likely there will be changes to label directions. SLN registrations in Oregon can be accessed online at [http://www.pnn.wsu.edu/pnnor.html](http://www.pnn.wsu.edu/pnnor.html). More information can be obtained by calling the ODA Pesticides Division in Salem at 503-986-4651.

**Phone:**  541-963-1010  
**Fax:**  541-963-1036  
**Email:**  darrin.walenta@oregonstate.edu  
**Web Site:**  [http://extension.oregonstate.edu/union/index.php](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/union/index.php)
Weed Free Hay Now Required On All National Forest Land In Pacific Northwest

The U.S. Forest Service has announced that all hay, hay cubes, straw, grain, and other crop or mulch products brought on to National Forest land in the Pacific Northwest Region must be certified “weed free” using North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) standards, or better, regardless of how they are used (livestock feed, bedding, erosion control, mulch, etc.). This regulation does not apply to commercially processed feed pellets or steamed, rolled grains. They are considered weed-free feed and need not be state certified (see additional information about commercially processed feed below). It also does not apply if you are simply passing through National Forests or National Grasslands as long as hay or crop products are not unloaded or otherwise used on National Forest System lands or the Crooked River National Grassland.

Certified weed free hay can be obtained locally through the Wallowa County Certified Weed Free Hay program. This program is a program of Wallowa County and supported by the Wallowa County Hay Growers Association. You can review who has hay for sale, including those that have certified weed free hay at their website http://www.certifiedwallowacountyhay.com/ or contact the Extension office in Enterprise 426-3143. Oregon Department of Agriculture also has established a certification program. For a list of providers in Oregon or to get into the program, please see: http://oregon.gov/ODA/CID/weed_free_forage.shtml or call (503) 986-4620.

The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, in cooperation with county weed boards, manages the inspection and certification program in Washington. It is referred to as the Washington Wilderness Hay and Mulch (WWHAM) program and is approved by NAWMA. For information and a list of providers in Washington, please see: http://www.nweb.wa.gov/index.htm or call (360) 902-2053.

Penalties for violating the new order will become effective following a period of adjustment and education. Violations of the closure order prohibitions are punishable by a fine of not more than $5,000 for an individual or $10,000 for an organization or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both (16 U.S.C. 551 and 18 U.S.C 3559 and 357).

Delisting of Wolves from Federal Endangered Species Act moves forward

In early March Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar affirmed the decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to remove gray wolves from the ESA in the western Great Lakes and the northern Rocky Mountain states of Idaho and Montana and parts of Washington, Oregon and Utah. Wolves will remain a protected species in Wyoming.

“When it was listed as endangered in 1974, the wolf had almost disappeared from the continental United
States. Today, we have more than 5,500 wolves, including more than 1,600 in the Rockies.” The objections that derailed the earlier attempt to delist are being addressed by dropping Wyoming from the proposed delisting area and offering new and updated data on the viability of the remaining populations. This delisting rule was first announced in January then was delayed when the new Obama administration put all unfinished final rules on hold until they could review them. This announcement means that 30 days following the rule coming out in the federal register the rule will become final if it is not stopped by the courts.

If this delisting occurs, wolf management will move from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The wolf is listed on the state Endangered Species Act. The state wolf management plan keeps the wolf on the state ESA until there are 7 breeding pairs in Eastern Oregon for at least 3 years.

**Travel Management in Wallowa County**

Travel management Planning continues on the Wallowa Whitman National Forest. The US Forest Service indicates that the draft plan will be out for public comment in late spring. This draft will have 6 alternatives including one that represents the "county alternative". This alternative was written by the Forest Service from the input given to them by the counties last spring followed by questions and answers to clarify the counties intent.

Wallowa County felt that this process had the potential to cause significant impact on the local people that a more thorough review of roads was needed. Since the U.S. Forest Service was not inventorying the roads, the county took it on themselves to do the inventory so that accurate information could be used to make decisions on which roads needed to stay open and which roads should be closed. Since the county did not have the inventory done before the deadline to give input for the draft plan you will not find complete information in the draft when it comes out later this spring. However, the principles that the draft alternative was based on have not changed so hopefully the draft plan is constant with the county's intent. During this upcoming public comment period the county will include the final survey results on the remaining roads that have been surveyed since the deadline last spring.

In addition the county is preparing a local land use plan for travel on public lands to guide the current and future planning effort. This plan will be based on the local custom, culture and economic stability of the local community. The county commissioners of Wallowa County will be holding public hearing on the local plan to offer public input in the near future. If you are interested in the process you need to keep a look out for both the public meetings held by the Wallowa County Commissioners and the public meetings held by the U.S. Forest Service on the draft Travel Management Plan. Public input is important to this effort.
Bur Buttercup: An Early, Short-Season Weed

Latin Name: *Ranunculus testiculatus* Crantz. Genus synonym: *Ceratocephala*

Other Common Name(s): Horned-head buttercup, Little bur, curvseed butterwort.

Growth Habit: Low-growing annual, seedlings emerge very early in the spring as soon as snow disappears. Plants flower early. Seed heads produced in late March to mid-April in Union Co.

Root System: shallow tap root

Leaves & Stems: Greyish-green attached at the base of plant and divided into finger-like segments. Flowers are born on stems up to 5 inches in height.

Flowers & Fruit: Yellow flowers have 5 distinct petals and each develops into a ½ to ¾ inch long gray-wooly “head” made up of “horned” fruits. Each fruit has a curved-beak appearance and contains only one seed. The “head” resembles a stiff-brown “bur” at maturity.

Important Characteristics: Seed heads mature long after plant foliage has withered away. A common weed in small grains, pastures, non-crop land, and roadside areas in several western states. Can be very competitive in dryland situations, however, its growing season is very short. Toxic to livestock if consumed when plant is fresh, however, livestock generally will not eat the plants due to its acrid taste and blistering effect. Reduced crop competition (e.g. over-grazed pastures or weak lawns) enables weed encroachment into weak areas.

Management: In turf, pre-packaged herbicide mixtures containing the active ingredient triclopyr can be effective if applied early before bur formation. In pasture, herbicides with the active ingredients metsulfuron or triclopyr can also be effective if applied early before bur formation. Always Read and Follow Label Directions. If the use site is not listed, do not use.

Photo by Jacob Sturm in *Deutschlands Flora in Abbildungen* by Johann Georg Sturm (1796).
Source: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ceratocephala_sp_Sturm60.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ceratocephala_sp_Sturm60.jpg)
Beyond herbicide label changes

There have been changes to the Beyond label, most notable is the Rotation Interval to wheat.

Previous rotation to wheat: 3 months.

Label change, based on annual precipitation, pH and tillage:
< 16" of precipitation or pH < 6.2, rotation interval is 15 months
>16" of precipitation and pH > 6.2 rotation interval is 3 months
*** if field is moldboard plowed, rotation is 3 months regardless of precip. or pH.

Also, it is important to realize that a Clearfield spring or winter variety may be seeded at anytime following a Beyond application.

Daniel A. Ball
Professor of Weed Science
Columbia Basin Agric. Research Ctr.
Oregon State University