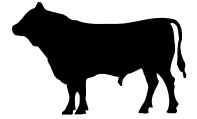


Oregon State University Extension Service
The Prompter / Rancher Review
A Union, Baker and Wallowa County Farm & Ranch Newsletter



May/June 2009



Calendar of Events

Darrin L. Walenta

Darrin L. Walenta

darrin.walenta@oregonstate.edu

Union County Extension

Ag Service Center

10507 N McAlister Rd Rm 9

La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 963-1010

Toll Free 1-800-806-5274

Fax (541) 963-1036

John Williams

John Williams

john.williams.1@oregonstate.edu

Wallowa County Extension

668 NW First St

Enterprise OR 97828

(541) 426-3143

Toll Free 1-888-844-3143

Fax (541) 426-0243



Extension Service

May

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, Ag Service Center
Conference Room 6-9 PM

June 8-12 Grass Seed Field Inspections - Union & Baker Co.

June 8-14 Eastern Oregon Livestock Show

June 15-19 Grass Seed Field Inspections - Grande Ronde Valley

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

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

Calendar of Events (cont)

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

July 27– 1 Union County Fair

August

August 1-8 Wallowa County Fair

August 5-8 Baker County Fair

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.



Rural Development — Oregon
Business & Cooperative Programs

www.RuralOregon.biz or www.rurdev.usda.gov/orbiz.htm

Grants to plan & implement value-added ventures to increase the revenue of commodity producers

Farmers, ranchers, foresters & fishermen may receive USDA Rural Development matching grants for either **planning** or **working capital** purposes to implement value-added ventures—i.e., for marketing or processing projects that will add value to the commodities they produce or for on-farm renewable energy generation projects. The goal of the program is to increase the producer's share of revenue from the commodities they produce.

Funds available

In 2009, **about \$18 million will be awarded** in a nationwide competition. A similar amount was awarded in 2008.

- **10%** of these funds are initially reserved for “**Beginning**” (<10 years in operation) or “**Socially Disadvantaged**” (minority or women) farmers & ranchers
- **10%** of these funds are initially reserved for “**Mid-Tier Value Chain**” projects

In 2008, 10 of Oregon's 13 eligible applicants received a total of \$1,038,562. In 2007, 14 of 15 Oregon applicants received a total of \$1,677,499. In 2006, 11 of 12 eligible Oregon applicants received a total of \$1,253, 612.

Wolves in Oregon

April 27, 2009

With the recent confirmation of wolf depredation that has occurred in Oregon it is time to make sure that ranchers and other livestock producers understand what they can legally do, what they cannot do and what procedures they may need to follow if they encounter a wolf in or around their operation.

Wolf Status

The wolf is listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). It is also listed as Endangered under the Oregon ESA. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed that they be removed from the federal ESA listing and has published that rule in the federal register. That delisting will occur on May 4, 2009 barring any court action that would delay or suspend it. There has been several notices of intent to file a lawsuit to stop the delisting, however, at this writing it has not occurred.

Following a delisting from the federal ESA, wolves in the eastern portion of Oregon will continue to be listed endangered under the Oregon ESA. This delisting will affect all wolves in that portion of Oregon that lies east of Hwy 395 from the Washington line to Burns, then south along Hwy 78 to Burns Junction, and south along Hwy 95 to the Nevada border. For those producers west of the above described boundary, wolves will still be listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Actions While Federally Listed

Actions producers can take while wolves are listed under both federal and state ESA: (this includes producers east of above described line through May 4, 2009 and the rest of producers west of line until future delisting occurs)

Livestock producers may scare a wolf off (by making loud noises for example) but may not harm a wolf in any way, even one seen in the act of attacking livestock. Producers need to report any wolf **sightings or incidents** to:

- U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) John Stephenson 541-962-8584 or 541-786-3282
- OR Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) Russ Morgan 541-963-2138 or 541-786-5126

If you believe a wolf has killed your livestock (depredation): Do not move or disturb the carcass or the area surrounding it that might offer clues to cause. Preserve tracks, hair or scat by covering it with plywood, cans or buckets or anything that will not destroy the evidence. Cover the carcass or any remains with a tarp or other material that you might have. Weight it down so wind or other disturbances such as predators will not have access. When you have **depredation** contact the following:

- USFWS John Stephenson 541-962-8584 or 541-786-3282
- Wildlife Services (WS) Mike Slater 541-963-7947 or 541-805-9492)

Dave Williams 503-326-2346.

- ODFW Russ Morgan 541-963-2138 or 541-786-5126

Actions while listed only under Oregon ESA

After federal delisting occurs in the eastern part of the state, since wolves in this portion of Oregon will not be listed under the federal ESA, but are still listed under the Oregon Endangered Species Act, the Oregon Wolf Plan rules apply. The Oregon Wolf Plan establishes rules by Phases. Phase I rules apply until four breeding pair of wolves produce pups for a minimum of three years. At that time wolves will be delisted in Oregon and a new set of rules will apply during Phase II.

The rules regulating the actions a livestock producer can use when encountering a wolf around his operation are as follows during Phase I:

No permit required

If a livestock producer sees a wolf testing or chasing livestock or in close proximity, they may scare a wolf off by firing shots in the air, making loud noises or otherwise confronting the wolf provided no bodily harm is done to the wolf. Such incidents must be reported to ODFW (541-963-2138) within 48 hours and the rancher cannot be intentionally looking for a wolf.

ODFW permit required

If persistent wolf activity around livestock occurs, producers may engage in additional harassment by permit:

Harassment of wolves in ways that may cause bodily harm but not death (e.g., rubber bullets or bean bag projectiles)

Intentional pursuit of problem wolves would be allowed under this permit to keep wolves away from livestock.

If a wolf is captured, ODFW may relocate it to the nearest wilderness area.

(Before a permit is issued, ODFW will consider the location of den sites and any attractants that may be luring wolves to the area. Wolf harassment under the permit must be reported to ODFW within 48 hours.)

Permits for lethal control

Permits for lethal control will be issued if non-lethal methods are deemed ineffective. This permit allows a livestock producer to kill a wolf "caught in the act" of attacking (but not testing or scavenging) livestock.

Lethal control for chronic damage situations

ODFW and authorized agents may also conduct lethal removal of wolves after chronic depredations and ineffective non-lethal efforts.

Livestock producers can work with their local wildlife biologist on these issues or they may want to work with Russ Morgan, ODFW wolf coordinator 541-963-2138.

Remember to keep from attracting wolves to your operation bury or remove dead animals immediately.

Prepared by: John Williams, OSU Extension Service, Wallowa County in cooperation with Oregon Cattlemen's Association wolf task force. Significant information was taken from *the Federal/State Coordination Strategy for Implementation of Oregon's Wolf Plan, April 2007* and ODFW's document titled: *How to Respond to Wolf Depredation under the State's Management Plan.*

Pendleton Agricultural Research Center Field Day, Tuesday, June 9, 2009

The two tours (Groups #1 & #2) operate simultaneously in a 'round robin' format. To view all topics please switch tour groups at Noon.

*OR & WA pesticide re-certification credit and CCA CEUS will be available.

	Presenter(s)	AM	PM
Group 1 Tour Schedule			
Registration and refreshments		7:45	
Welcome and Introduction	Steve Petrie and Dan Long	8:20	
Genetic Evaluation and Breeding for Resistance to Cephalosporium Stripe of Wheat	Chris Mundt	8:30	12:30
Guidelines for Managing Root-lesion Nematodes	Richard Smiley and Alison Thompson	8:55	12:55
Developing Effective and Efficient Techniques for Weed Control in No-till Fallow	Daniel Ball	9:20	1:20
Break		9:45	1:45
Winter Safflower, a Potential New Crop for Eastern Oregon	Steve Petrie and Richard Johnson	10:15	2:15
Winter Barley Update	Pat Hayes	10:40	2:40
Growing Canola on Wide Row Spacing	Don Wysocki	11:05	3:05
Lunch after the morning tour, and Ice-cream Social after the afternoon tour		11:30	3:30
Group 2 Tour Schedule			
Registration and refreshments		AM	PM
Welcome and Introduction		7:45	
Winter Wheat Varieties	Steve Petrie and Dan Long	8:20	
	Michael Flowers	8:30	12:30
Hard Red Winter Wheat Production: Varieties and Nitrogen Management	Dan Jepsen & Michael Flowers	8:55	12:55
USDA-ARS Club Wheat Breeding	Jeron Chatelain	9:20	1:20
Break		9:45	1:45
Carbon Sequestration under Alternative Cropping Systems	Hero Gollany	10:15	2:15
The Carbon Dioxide Cap and Trade System; Can Growers Capitalize on It?	Stephen Machado	10:40	2:40
Biomass Production in Different Primary Productivity Regimes	Steve Albrecht & Dan Long	11:05	3:05
Lunch after the morning tour, and Ice-cream Social after the afternoon tour		11:30	3:30
Optional: Visit OSU wheat breeding trials at the Rugg site (provide your own transportation)			4:00

Sherman Experiment Station Field Day, Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Tour Schedule		Time *
Refreshments at Sherman Co. High School		7:30
Welcome, introductions, and travel by bus to the Station	Steve Petrie	7:45
The Carbon Dioxide Cap and Trade System; Can Growers Capitalize on It?	Stephen Machado	8:15
Guidelines for Managing Root-lesion Nematodes	Richard Smiley and Alison Thompson	8:40
Probability of Rain in September and October at Moro	Steve Petrie	9:05
Winter and Spring Camelina	Don Wysocki	9:30
Break		9:55
Winter Wheat Breeding Update	Jim Petersen	10:15
Genetic Evaluation and Breeding for Resistance to Cephalosporium Stripe of Wheat	Chris Mundt	10:40
Investigating the Potential for Beyond Herbicide Persistence and Carry-over	Daniel Ball	11:05
Winter Barley Breeding Update	Pat Hayes	11:30
USDA-ARS Club Wheat Breeding	Jeron Chatelain	11:55
End of Field Tour		12:20
Lunch and wrap-up at the high school		12:45

*All times are approximate, depending on length of each presentation.

Tri-county Wool Pool Date Set

The Tri-County Wool Pool has scheduled the delivery date for wool.

Date: Saturday July 11, 2009 Time

Location: Union County Fairgrounds

Time: 8:00 AM - Noon

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.

USDA Announces Results of Lamb Checkoff Program Referendum

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that lamb producers, feeders, seedstock producers, and first handlers of lamb and lamb products who voted in a national referendum, Feb. 2-27, 2009, approved the continuation of the Lamb Promotion, Research, and Information Order, commonly known as the Lamb Checkoff Program. It passed with an 85.1 percent favorable vote.



The goal of the Lamb Checkoff Program is to strengthen the position of, and to develop and expand the markets for, ovine animals and products (sheep). Under the program, producers, seedstock producers, feeders, and exporters are required to pay an assessment of one-half cent (\$.005) per pound when live sheep are sold. The first handler, primarily packers, pays an additional 30 cents per head on ovine animals purchased for slaughter. Importers are not assessed.

Wallowa County/Asotin County Weed Tour



The Wallowa County weed tour will be held June 13th beginning at 8:45 am. The tour participants will gather at Boggan's Oasis, Troy Oregon. A bus will leave from Cloverleaf hall in Enterprise at 7:30 for anyone wishing to ride. Topics for the day will include the biology, growth, impact and control of Medusahead, Ventinada and other annual grasses, a session on calibration of sprayers, and an update on effectiveness and choices of chemicals. Lunch will be provided. There is no cost for this tour. The bus will return to Enterprise by 4:00pm. For more information call Allen Schenetzky at 426-3332.

Range Field Day

The OSU Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management is holding the annual Range Field Day June 24, 2009 at the Northern Great Basin Experimental Range (Formerly known as "The Butte") 35 miles west of Burns and about 3 miles south of Hwy 20. The agenda is listed below.

- 09:00 Opening remarks and business David Bohnert & Tony Svejcar
- 09:15 Cattle & Wolves -Pat Clark
- 09:45 Cattle/Deer/Elk Interactions - Marty Vavra
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 Riparian Grazing - Doug Johnson
- 11:00 Pre and Post Burn Cattle Distribution - Dave Ganskopp
- 11:30 Cattle Temperament and Performance - Reinaldo Cooke
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Temperament assessment at Butte handling facilities – Reinaldo Cooke and David Bohnert
- 2:00 Post-burn cattle distribution and veg recovery- Above Range 7 stock water site- Jon Bates & Dave Ganskopp

SRM Summer Tour

“Rumblings from the Deep: Fossils, Fires, Fish & Grazing, too”

The Society For Range Management is holding their summer meeting in Grant County Oregon June 25-27, 2009. The SRM writes: From pristine 50 million year old fossils and geological treasures to more recent gold rushes and current agricultural and tourism activities, all have contributed to the state of the rangelands we see today in the John Day Basin. Landowners and managers are competing with juniper and invasive species like many other areas, but a strong group of collaborators is working to restore ecosystem functions within the watershed. We invite you to come explore the John Day Basin's unique environmental attributes and rich history.

We will tour the Dayville area to experience first hand, the impact of invasives and fires and see the restoration efforts that are being implemented in the watershed. A couple of special offerings are available:

- Friday & Saturday 7:30 am breakfasts will be available at the Fish House Inn. \$10 per person as a fund raiser for the Grant County Fair Court.
- A Chili Cook-Off is scheduled; if you make chili, bring your ingredients & enter the Thursday evening contest!

Thursday:

- Thomas Condon Paleontology Center at the Fossil Beds National Monument, Sheep Rock Unit
 - ◆ 10 am to noon: SRM Advisory Council & Board meeting at the conference room; everyone welcome.
 - ◆ 11 am to 1 pm: registration and snack lunch
 - ◆ 1-5 pm presentations, followed by panel Q & A period.
 - ▶ Jason McClaughry (DOGAMI)- *“Ancient Supervolcanoes in Central and Eastern Oregon”*
 - ▶ Rick Miller (ARS & OSU)- *“Historic Fire Regimes Across Heterogeneous Landscapes”*
 - ▶ Jim Hammett and Kendal Derby-(Fossil Beds NM) *“Mimicking the Processes of Historical Fire”*
 - ▶ Tony Svejcar (ARS-Burns)-*“Using Western Juniper as example for Succession Management”*
 - ▶ Ed Vasquez (OSU & ARS-Burns)-*“Ecologically Based Invasive Plant Management of Annual Grasses”*
 - ▶ Julie Beckstead (Gonzaga U.)- *“Novel approaches for Restoring Cheatgrass - Dominated Rangelands”*
 - ▶ Stacy Davies (Roaring Springs Ranch)-*“Maintaining and Enhancing the Economic Viability of Ranching in today’s Political, Social & Environmental Climate”*
- ◆ 6 pm: Fish House Inn, Dayville- **Chili Cook-Off** and pot-luck salad or dessert. Campfire & music featuring Tim Ross, Gary Banowetz and Rob Dinwoodie.



Friday:

- 7:30 am **Breakfast at Fish House Inn**
- 8:15 am - People Mover bus available for first loading following breakfast

(Continued on page 9)

- 8:30 am - Thomas Condon Paleontology Center parking lot for field workshop
 - Tour of prescribed and wild fires on various ownerships with emphasis on juniper and annual grass invasions and post fire-treatments. Speakers will include Steve Allen (ODF&W), Bob Chouinard (Chechako Ranch), Ed Vasquez & Rick Miller (ARS-OSU), Dave Hannibal (Greyback Forestry) and Dan Comingore (Wilbur Ellis).
- 3 - 6 pm - Free time to hike the Blue Basin trail, fish the South Fork John Day River, golf at the South Fork course, or...
- 6 pm: Fish House Inn, Dayville - **BBQ**, more campfire entertainment.

Saturday:

- 7:30 am **Breakfast at Fish House Inn**
- 8:30 am - Noon - Meet at Fish House Inn
- Murders Creek Ranch at the Phil Schneider Wildlife Area,
 - Ian Tattam (OSU)- *"Monitoring John Day Steelhead by becoming a Semi-Aquatic Mammal"*
 - Jimmy Eisner (BLM)- *"ESA and Grazing Strategies for Riparian Areas"*
 - Steve Allen (ODF&W)- *"Burning Medusahead and other treatments over 20 years in Murders Creek"*
 - Ryan Torland (ODF&W)- *"The Mule Deer Initiative"*

Registration includes 2 lunches, BBQ Breaks, beverage, partial transportation (1st come, 1st served!)

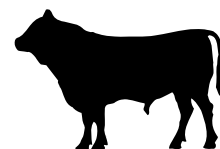
Send registration to: Mary Beth Smith, PO Box 557, Condon, 97823, 541-965-0451

maryb636@gmail.com. Early registration is \$55/late is \$70 after May 20th



33rd Union County Crops & Conservation Tour

June 17, 2009



Time: Coffee & donuts 7:00 a.m. Program starts 7:30 a.m. and ends approx. 2:00 p.m.

Location: Crop Production Services on Booth Lane, 2.6 miles NE of Island City on HWY 82

Audience: Growers, Ranchers, Ag Service Providers, University Faculty, Local Business, General Public, and anyone else interested in Union County Agriculture!

You're invited to participate in a half-day bus tour of selected sites in Union County to view first-hand and learn about agricultural production, research, and conservation efforts in the area. Topics of interest this year include: 2008 Conservation Farm of the Year— The Conley Farm; Alicel "Connect Oregon" Grain Handling/Storage Facility Project; noxious weed management; soil & conservation projects; specialty crops and other interesting topics!

A short program will take place at 7:30 a.m. immediately followed by the bus tour. As with tradition, a free lunch including barbecue steak, baked potato, and salad will be served at approx. noon at a site along the tour route. After lunch, bus passengers will be returned to Crop Production Services between 1:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. Mark your calendars and plan on attending this fun and educational annual community event! Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by June 8th by contacting Darrin Walenta, OSU Extension Service-Union County, at 963-1010. For more information, please contact Darrin or Lenard Porfily, Crop Production Services, at 963-3735.

We appreciate the many great sponsors & volunteers who provided support for the tour last year (listed below) and look forward to your continued support for the 2009 tour!



Whitetop

Union County has received grant money available to county residents for the treatment of whitetop. Tri-County Cooperative Weed Management Area has been awarded \$15,000 in grant money to help Union County residents and landowners combat whitetop, a noxious weed that has been spreading within Union County at alarming rates. Union County Weed Control and other agencies have been battling the spread of whitetop populations in Union County since the early 1970's.

Lepidium draba is a member of the mustard family, commonly known as Whitetop or Hoary cress, and is easily identified by its many white, four petal flowers that bloom in early spring. Whitetop is a highly competitive plant and creates dense monocultures where it establishes itself. Whitetop out competes native vegetation and can overrun agricultural lands if left untreated. Many control methods have been explored for the treatment of whitetop. Mechanical methods such as hand pulling, mowing, and cultivation have been attempted to no avail, because whitetop is a deep rooted perennial plant that spreads not only by seed, but also by underground runners called rhizomes. Mechanical control typically removes the above ground portion of the plant but invigorates the rooting system allowing for the spread and formation new plants. Biological control agents, in the form of insects, are being tested and explored by the Department of Agriculture but are not yet approved for use.

Recent advances in the herbicide industry have produced highly effective chemicals for the treatment of whitetop. Herbicides in the Sulfonylurea family, which includes Escort and Telar, have the ability to translocate throughout the entire whitetop plant and effectively kill the rooting system. Advantages of these newly derived herbicides are the increased mortality to site specific weeds such as whitetop and a decrease in mortality to non-target plants, including most perennial grasses.

To control whitetop, Tri-County has divided the rural areas of the county into first, second, and third priorities. This allows for control of isolated and outlying populations before moving to more heavily infested areas in the southern most part of the county.

To date, Union County has withstood the spread of heavy whitetop concentrations within its borders. With the help of grant money and additional funding provided by coordinating agencies and organizations Tri-County hopes to reduce whitetop infestations and to minimize whitetop spread into Union County. Tri County encourages landowners to report infestations to their office so that all locations can be sur-



veyed, treated, and recorded for future follow-up treatments. Please contact Angie Gibbons at Tri-County Cooperative Weed Management Area (541) 523-2740 or (541) 377-8748 with any questions or whitetop infestations reports.

How does Whitetop make its way to your backyard?

- Infested soil and rock excavated from quarries and other infested sites
- Nursery plants and planting soils ▪ Seed dispersed by wind and water channels
- Seed transported by humans, animals and machinery ▪ Uncertified Hay

Conservation Assistance *for you!*

ORGANIC OPERATION

Are you an organic grower?
Or are you transitioning your operation to organic production?
Do you want help protecting soil, water, plants and wildlife?

**Good Food.
Healthy Land.**

Conservation assistance is now available to farmers and ranchers through the Organic sign-up under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). You may be eligible to receive payments and technical expertise for the conservation work you want to do on your land, such as:

Conservation Crop Rotation, Cover Crops, Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Prescribed Grazing, Forage Harvest Management, and much more.

Call the Natural Resources Conservation Service today and ask about Organic EQIP. Program sign-up closes on **May 29, 2009**.

Contact your local USDA Service Center listed with federal agencies in the phone book or go to: <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/organic.html>



www.or.nrcs.usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity service provider and employer.

Eastern Oregon Livestock Show Jun 8 - 14, 2009

Union Co. Fair
July 27 - Aug 1, 2009

Baker Co. Fair
August 5 - 8, 2009

Wallowa Co. Fair
August 1 - 8, 2009



MAY/JUNE 2009

PROMPTER/RANCHER REVIEW

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