

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



January-February 2012



We're on the web!! <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/union/index.php>

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CALENDAR

- Feb 1-2 NW Grain Growers Precision Ag Workshop
Walla Walla, WA 509.527.4275
- Feb. 7 Oregon Fine Fescue Commission Meeting (in Union County!)
3pm, Blue Mountain Seeds, Inc.– Imbler, OR
- Feb. 8 Annual Union-Baker Growers Winter Meeting-Union County (Island City)
- Feb 8-9 Direct Seed Cropping Systems Conference – Spokane, WA
www.directseed.org
- Feb. 16 Statewide Wheat Marketing Meeting, 8am, RSVP at local Ext. Office
- Feb. 23 NE Oregon IPM Workshop (RSVP required)- Island City
- Feb 25 OSU Small Farms Conf. – Corvallis www.smallfarms.oregonstate.edu
- Feb. 28 NE OR Private Pesticide Applicator Pre-Exam Training-Baker County
- Feb. 29 NE OR Private Pesticide Applicator Pre-Exam Training-Union County
- March 1 NE OR Private Pesticide Applicator Pre-Exam Training-Wallowa County

United States Department of Labor (USDOL) Proposed Young Farm worker Regulations

On Sept. 2, 2011, the US Dept. of Labor (USDOL) issued proposed tightening of regulations that control what hired young farm workers can do, particularly 14 and 15 year olds.
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-09-02/pdf/2011-21924.pdf>

Some of the biggest changes involve education and training programs (tractor safety training in particular) for certification of youth to be employed on farms. Other restrictions involve youth's ability to be around and handle livestock in confined areas.

If you haven't seen these proposed regulations, I encourage you to take a look (they are long and complex) because they will impact any youth training programs, including 4-H/FFA as well as an agricultural business' ability to hire youth for seasonal employment.

Note: the comment period ended December 1, 2011.

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Wolf Update:

Wolves in Oregon continue to make news across the state. OR-7 has migrated clear across the state, and into California. Others have dispersed into central Oregon, Washington State and back to Idaho. All of these wolves are from the Imnaha Pack. There are currently four packs in Oregon: the Wenaha Pack that has 6 wolves; Imnaha Pack that currently has between 5 wolves (have photos) and 9 wolves (reports from Variety of sources); Snake River Pack with at least 3 wolves and the Walla Walla Pack with at least 6 wolves. Other wolves are known in the NE Oregon area that are not in packs. Total known wolves in Oregon are at least 28 wolves. That is the known number, most wolf experts will tell you that there are many more wolves than those that are known.

The wolf regulatory status in Oregon continues to be split as result of an act of Congress, on May 5, 2011 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) delisted wolves within the Northern Rocky Mountain Distinct Population Segment from the federal list of endangered species. The delisting included the easternmost portion of Oregon bounded by Oregon Highways 395/78/95. Wolves in the remainder of Oregon (west of those same highways) continue to be federally protected as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Wolves east of the line are still listed as Endangered under the Oregon Endangered Species Act. Wolves in this eastern section are managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, wolves west of the line are still managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Confirmed wolf depredation in Oregon continues to be solely from the Imnaha pack. On September 22nd the ODFW staff deemed that chronic depredation was continuing from the Imnaha pack and that all the non-lethal efforts that the ranchers had employed were not working. With that evidence Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife acted by ordering the killing of two wolves including the alpha male.

A stay was imposed by the Appeals Court of Oregon on Oct 5th halting the lethal control of wolves in Oregon by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The stay was in response to a petition by Cascadia Wildlands, Center for Biological Diversity and Oregon Wild. The basis for the petition is that even though the Oregon Wolf Plan identifies killing wolves in response to livestock depredation, the Oregon Endangered Species Act does not allow the killing of an endangered species, even when allowed in the wolf plan.

Since the stay 6 cattle have been confirmed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and a mule that was called a probable wolf kill has occurred. This is a different pattern than seen last year when no depredations were found until mid-February, as calving season approached. It is not known if this difference is due to increased understanding of producers to look for losses, the open winter changing patterns of cattle and wolves or if it is a different wolf pattern.

In the 2011 legislature a wolf compensation plan was passed. HB 3560 established a wolf compensation program which is managed by Oregon Department of Agriculture. The fund is \$100,000 from the general fund with no less than 30% spent on non-lethal livestock management techniques or nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques. It is a program based in the counties where the money can be spent on death loss, injury, and/or missing animals (missing animals only in identified wolf pack areas identified by ODFW) or costs of nonlethal management. Priority is for compensation of confirmed losses. Also up to 90% of the expense for County Program can be covered.

Counties must establish a county advisory committee, establish procedures that document sufficient evidence of actual livestock and/or working dog losses attributed to wolf depredation and for applying for payment for the cost of livestock management or nonlethal deterrence. They must also establishing compensation rates for livestock or working dog losses including death, injury or missing. Counties must apply each year by February 15th.

The Commissioners shall appoint a committee that consists of: One county commissioner, two members who own or manage livestock, two members who support wolf conservation or coexistence with wolves. Once established, the county advisory committee shall agree upon two county business representatives. The committee must review eligibility requirements of ranchers. In order to award any compensation for death or injury the committee must determine a person did not unreasonably or purposefully create circumstances that attract wolves or encourage conflict between wolves and livestock or working dogs, excluding accepted normal husbandry and grazing activities.

Outside an area of known wolf activity, confirmed death or injury to livestock or working dogs that is attributed to wolf depredation shall be compensated regardless of the preexistence of wolf deterrence techniques. Within an area of known wolf activity, confirmed death or injury to livestock or working dogs, attributed to wolf depredation shall be compensable if owners have demonstrated implementation of management practices to deter wolves, including reasonable use of nonlethal methods when practicable. Within an area of known wolf activity, missing livestock above a number determined by the county advisory committee to be attributable to causes other than wolf depredation may also be compensated. Cattleman should make sure that their commissioners are working through the process. February 15 is the deadline for a county to apply for livestock losses this past year and dollars for non-lethal actions in the coming year. Oregon Cattleman's Association is committed to helping the Oregon Dept. of Ag. and the counties implement this program, if you have questions please call Don Hansen at ODA or the OCA office.

Annual Union-Baker Growers Winter Meeting – February 8, 2012

Union Co. Seed Growers Assoc., Wheat Growers League and OSU Extension Service
Location: Bud T. Jones Conference Room–OSU Extension Service Education Center, La Grande, OR

Union-Baker Co. Wheat Growers League Meeting (8:30 to noon)

- 8:00-Coffee and Donuts (sponsored by the Wheat Growers League)
8:30-Welcome and Opening Remarks – Rob Lane, President
- Update on the Alicel Grain Handling Facilities – Jon Sperl, PGG
 - Oregon Wheat Update and “Oregon Governor’s Trade Mission to Japan, Korea and China”
Blake Rowe, CEO Oregon Wheat
 - “Recent Trade Mission to Japan, Korea and China: A Grower’s Perspective” – Dale Case
 - Wheat League Business Meeting – Rob Lane
 - Updates from Jennifer Isley – FSA and Mike Burton - NRCS
 - Grain Market Update & Preparing for the Next Marketing Season – Dan Steiner, MCGG

Union Co. Seed Growers League Meeting (1:00pm to 4:00pm approx.)

- 1:00- Welcome and Open Remarks – Todd Arnoldus, President
- Oregon Fine Fescue Commission Update
 - Opening Remarks and Introduction of Visiting Commissioners – Brett Rudd
 - Commission Update – Bryan Ostlund, Administrator
 - Union Co. Smoke Management Program Update – Terri Teeter, Manager
 - Grass Seed Market Update – Sam Cable, Barenbrug USA
 - Ergot Ascospore Monitoring and Fungicide Timing Trials in KBG – Darrin L. Walenta
 - Business Meeting – Todd Arnoldus



2012 NE Oregon IPM Workshop

**For Growers, Consultants, Pest Management Specialists in Potato, Mint, Grass Seed, Cereal Production
In Union, Baker and Wallowa Counties**

February 23, 2012

Bud T. Jones Conference Room—OSU Extension Service Education Center—Union Co., La Grande, OR

AM Session (2 hours of Oregon pesticide applicator recertification credit anticipated)

- 10:00 am 2012 Diagnostic Challenges – Darrin L. Walenta, OSU Extension.
- 10:30 am “Nematode Management Systems” – Dick Smiley, Plant Pathologist, OSU-CBARC,
Pendleton.
- 11:30 “Can Green Manures Control Plant Parasitic Nematodes” - Ekaterina Riga, Director,
Nematology Division and Senior Scientist, Northwest Agricultural Products, Pasco, WA

Sign-up for AM Session recertification credits.

12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch

PM Session (2 hours Oregon pesticide applicator recertification credit anticipated)

- 1:00 pm “Root Borer & Mite Management in Oregon Peppermint”
Bryon Quebbeman, Consultant, Quebbeman’s Crop Monitoring, LaGrande, OR.
- 1:30 pm “Weed Management in Mint & Environmental Fate of Key Herbicides” – Andy Hulting,
Extension Weed Specialist, OSU Extension-Corvallis.
- 2:15 pm “New Insect Pests in Oregon & Insect Monitoring Programs for Potato IPM”
Silvia Rondon, Extension Entomologist, OSU-HAREC, Hermiston, OR.
- 2:45 pm “Nitrogen Fertilizer Choice” – Don Horneck, Extension Agronomist, OSU-HAREC
- 3:15 pm “Changes to the Union Co. Right-of-Way Weed Management Program” – Bob Kelly
- 3:30 pm “Mint Industry Update” – Mark Nelson, A.M. Todd.

Sign-up for PM Session recertification credits.



2012 OSU Extension NE OR Private Pesticide Applicator Pre-Exam Training

Need to take an exam? The free training session is designed to cover the key principles and knowledge needed to take either the ***private pesticide applicator exam*** OR the ***Laws & Safety exam*** needed for a public or commercial license. The training session is not considered a comprehensive review. Self-study and thorough review of all ODA-recommended materials is strongly encouraged. ***Please RSVP by calling your local OSU Extension Service office!***

Need Oregon pesticide applicator re-certification credit? Any currently licensed private, public, or commercial applicators may participate and earn general re-certification credit (4 hours anticipated for entire training session).

February 28 (Tue) Baker Co. – OSU Ext. Service (Conference Room)

2600 East Street, Baker City, OR 97814
 Phone: 541-523-6418 Fax: 541-523-8225
 Contact: Janice Cowan
 Email: janice.cowan@oregonstate.edu

February 29 (Wed) Union Co. - OSU Extension Service (Bud T. Jones Conf. Room)

10507 North McAlister Road, LaGrande, 97850
 Phone: 541-963-1010 Fax: 541-963-1036
 Contact: Darrin L. Walenta
 Email: darrin.walenta@oregonstate.edu

March 1 (Thurs) Wallowa Co. OSU Extension Service (Cloverleaf Hall)

668 NW 1st Street, Enterprise, OR 97828.
 Phone: 426-3143 Fax: 541-426-0243
 Contact: John Williams
 Email: john.williams.1@oregonstate.edu

AM Session (2 general re-certification credits anticipated):

9:45 am Welcome & Program Overview – Agent from Host County
 10:00 – 10:30 am Review Key Laws, Regulations, and Study Materials
 10:30 – 11:00 am IPM and Entomology
 11:00 – noon Math for Applicators
Noon – 12:45 pm AM Session sign-up sheet for ODA Re-certification credit. On-site lunch break - Please bring your lunch!

PM Session (2 general re-certification credits anticipated)

12:45 – 1:15 pm Review Math Exercise
 1:15 – 2:15 pm Pesticide Safety & The Label
 2:15 – 2:45 pm ID & Biology of the “Top 5” Noxious Weeds in the County!
 Baker Co. – Arnie Grammon, Baker Co. Vegetation Mgmt. Supervisor
 Union Co. – Bob Kelly, Union Co. Vegetation Manager
 Wallowa Co. – Mark Porter, Wallowa Resources Weed Program Coordinator
 2:45 pm **PM Session sign-up sheet for ODA Re-certification credit.**

ODA Pesticide Applicator Exams in NE Oregon – New Process!

Oregon Dept. of Agriculture contracts with testing centers located across the state to administer exams, however, paper-based exams are being phased out by ODA. OSU Extension Service does not administer state pesticide applicator exams. Today, the only option available for anyone in the Union, Baker and Wallowa County area (NE Oregon) is to take a **computer-based exam at an ODA-approved testing center** (see list at www.oregon.gov/ODA/PEST).

How do I schedule an exam at a testing center of my choice in Oregon? Simply, call **Metro-Institute at 1-877-533-2900** to make an appointment and provide the following information:

- 1) What license type is needed: private, public, commercial, or consultant.
- 2) Is it a New, Renewal, or Trainee license? –OR- Add to add a Category to current license.
- 3) Contact information and last 4 digits of SSN
- 4) Testing Center of your choice

In NE Oregon, the closest testing centers are located at EOU-La Grande, BMCC-Pendleton or TVCC-Ontario. Computer-based exams cost \$58 each and \$58 for a re-test (so study up!). A 24-hour advance notice is required before you can schedule an exam. You are allowed a maximum of 2-hours to take an exam (used to be 3-hours!).

Paper-based Exams: For a very limited time, TVCC-Ontario will still offer paper-based exams as an option. If you prefer paper-based exams, call TVCC at 541-881-5798 to determine if that option is still available! Currently, paper-based exams are not available at either the EOU- LaGrande or BMCC-Pendleton testing center locations. For more information on the examination process, please contact Laurie Gordon (ODA-Bend) at 541-617-6097.

PROMPTER/RANCHER REVIEW - Jan.-Feb. 2012

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