

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



MAY-JUNE 2010



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Extension Service

34<sup>th</sup> Annual Union County Crops & Conservation Tour

June 23, 2010

**Time:** Coffee & donuts 7:00 a.m. Program starts 7:30 a.m. Buses return to CPS by 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: 2009 Conservation Farm of the Year— The Bowman Farm; Union Soil & Water Conservation District Projects; Certified Potato Seed & Specialty Seed Production; Agri-Tourism in Union Co.; and other interesting topics! Please note that a detailed agenda will be available on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

A short program will take place at 7:30 a.m. immediately followed by the bus tour. The traditional barbecue steak, baked potato, and salad lunch will be served to tour participants at approx. noon at the Grande Ronde Seed Farm headquarters (contact Phil Rathbun at 805-1780 for parking details) at the intersection of Peach & Gekeler. After lunch, bus passengers will be returned to Crop Production Services between 1:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by June 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

OSU Hermiston Agricultural Research & Extension Center 2010 Field Days

<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/hermiston/>

**Grass Seed Field Day** - May 27, 2010

**Potato Field Day** - June 29, 2010

**Sweet Corn Field Day** - August 31, 2010

OSU-CBARC, Pendleton Field Day- June 15

<http://cbarc.aes.oregonstate.edu/>

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### **Oregon Dept. of Agriculture Organic Certification Program:**

Looking to become a certified organic producer or processor? If so, ODA now offers an organic certification program based upon the USDA National Organic Standards. ***Note: Application deadline for all scopes of organic certification is April 1. Now is a good time to start planning and making preparations for the 2011 growing season.***

#### **Steps for requesting organic certification services**

1. Contact the ODA Organic Certification Program for an application packet by calling (503) 986-4620, or download the electronic forms which are available online at <http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/CID/organic.shtml>.
2. Download the ODA Organic Certification Guide and a copy of the latest version of the National Organic Standards. These tools will help you understand all the requirements of becoming certified organic.
3. Complete the application packet and submit application fee as applicable to your operation. (See fees section for more information.) If you have questions filling out the application packet forms, please call the ODA Organic Certification Program at (503) 986-4620.

### **Oregon Farm Direct Nutrition Programs**

Oregon currently offers two state-administered federal nutrition programs providing sales opportunities for farmers selling directly to consumers. The Farm Direct Nutrition Program (FDNP) distributes approximately \$1 million dollars to eligible low-income seniors (identified by Seniors & People with Disabilities Division as of April 1, 2010), and low-income nutritionally at-risk pregnant women and young children enrolled in the WIC (Women Infants & Children) program. Eligible clients will receive these funds as \$4 (WIC families receive \$20, and each senior client will receive \$32), specifically to purchase locally produced fresh fruit and vegetables directly from authorized farmers at farm stands and farmers markets from June 1 to October 31.

The WIC Fruit & Veggie Voucher Program vouchers are distributed to low-income nutritionally at-risk pregnant women and young children enrolled in the WIC (Women Infants & Children) program to purchase fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables at authorized retailers or from authorized farmers at a farm stand or farmers' markets. The approximately \$8 million dollars worth of \$6, \$8 or \$10 vouchers specify monthly purchases, year-round. To find out more information about becoming a producer, call ODA at (503) 872-6600 or online at [http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/ADMD/farm\\_direct.shtml](http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/ADMD/farm_direct.shtml)

### **NE Oregon Spotted Wing Drosophila Workshop**

May 28, 2010– 9:00-11:00 AM, OSU Extension Service Union County, Conference Room  
10507 N. McAlister Road, LaGrande, OR

RSVP required, so please call your local extension office to let us know your coming!  
\$10/person payable at the door (make checks payable to “OSU Extension”)

## Wolf Update:

The first confirmed wolf kill of livestock in Wallowa County occurred May 5<sup>th</sup> in the mid afternoon. A two month old calf was killed by wolves in the northern part of the county. Wallowa County currently has 14 confirmed wolves in two different packs. The pack of 4 wolves in northern Wallowa County is currently living in the back country. That region of the county has only received a few wolf sightings and limited reports of interactions between people or livestock.

Since late March producers have been dealing with frequent visits from wolves of the pack of 10 (some are calling it the PAC 10). The wolves have spent the vast majority (estimated at 80%) of the time (calving season and early turn-out time) on private land in, around or near the cattle herds. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has captured and placed radio collars on three different wolves. A fourth wolf has a GPS collar that records the location of the wolf every 6 hours. This allows ODFW to keep relatively close contact with at least four of the wolves.

Many nights ranchers have not had to rely on ODFW to know where some of the wolves were, as their cattle, horses and dogs told them. It seems that when wolves are in the area all the domestic animals sense their presence and become restless. The cows move away to the far corner of the pen, dogs bark, and horses refuse to leave the barn. With this going on the rancher and his family don't sleep much and the cycle continues the next day. One rancher slept in his pickup for 3 nights following the wolves visiting his pasture out on the prairie. Finally exhausted he gave up and went home. Other ranchers have been reluctant to turn out into their early spring pasture because it is in direct line of where the wolves are most often seen traveling or are detected with the collars.

What have we learned in the short time since becoming up-close and personal?

It is denning time for wolves. This is a new problem Wallowa County and Oregon will have to deal with this spring. The concern is where are those dens going to occur? Where ever the females decide to den is then the central place for much of the wolf pack for the next couple of months and therefore the place that more loss of wildlife, livestock, pets and fear of even a human attack occurs.

When the alpha-female is in the den the male wolves scatter and hunt food for her. They seem to do this miles from the den. This spring the wolves have been hunting from 5 miles to 31 miles out from the den, making their kills, eating the meat and then quickly returning to the den site and regurgitating the meat for the female in the den. We understand that when the pups get a little older then the mother uses the area close to the den to teach hunting to the pups.

If wolves are, or have been in your livestock the cows will be agitated, bunch up and not return to their normal grazing and disposition for some time.

It is reported from Idaho ranchers that body condition scores will dip on your cows, calf weight gain will be reduced and potentially more open cows. The Cattle/wolf interaction study being conducted is attempting to answer those questions.

Wolves in Wallowa County and Northeastern Oregon are currently delisted federally but all wolves in Oregon are listed by the state of Oregon under their Endangered Species Act (ESA). Under the Oregon ESA and Wolf Plan, ranchers cannot harm a wolf, even if it is caught attack-

ing their livestock, until 4 breeding pairs east of Highway 97 (must include two pups and two adults on Jan 1) occur for three consecutive years. If wolves are found to be living in the Central and Southern Cascades, where many sightings have been occurring, they will not count toward the 4 pair needed as the wolf plan only counts breeding pairs east of Hwy 97.

To help ranchers prepare for the time when wolves are in your neighborhood the following management recommendations for dealing with wolves is strongly encouraged.

Bury or remove dead animals immediately to keep from attracting wolves to your operation

Clean-up old bone piles

Begin conducting Body Condition Scores on your cattle when coming off range in the fall

Tag your calves with individual tag numbers so that accurate tallies of stock can be conducted at turn out in the spring and at fall gathering

Weigh as many of your calves as possible to establish current production

Keep accurate records of cattle movements and tallies

For more information about whom to call, phone numbers and what is allowed if you encounter a wolf, contact your local Extension office for a copy of "Dealing with Wolves" by John Williams.

## **Can Ranchers and Wolves Co-Exist?**

*A Symposium Hosted by the Oregon Cattlemen's Association and Eastern Oregon University Range Club*

A symposium on wolves is being sponsored by the *Oregon Cattlemen's Association and Eastern Oregon University Range Club* May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Eastern Oregon University's Badgley Hall in the first floor auditorium from 1- 4 p.m. The symposium titled "Can Ranchers and Wolves Co-Exist?" brings in two wolf experts that have extensive experience dealing with wolves or the policies of wolves.

Casey Anderson, who was born in Pendleton, grew up on a ranch and is currently managing the OX Ranch in Idaho will address wolf interactions with livestock, depredation, compensation and cattle behavior as well as the Idaho/Oregon Wolf Research Study made possible with funding by the Oregon Beef Council.

Jim Beers, former chief of national wildlife refuge operations for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, now writes extensively and speaks to various organizations throughout the country about the federal wolf program and the cumulative impact of wolves on rural American life. Beers has written two dozen articles on wolf history and wolf management and has spoken to more than 2,000 attendees at public meetings from Arizona and New Mexico to Montana and Oregon.



## ***2010 Range Field Day:*** **Beef Cattle Production and Wildlife Values on Western Rangelands.**

**Where:** *Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center (EOARC), Union*

**When:** *June 29<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 to 4:00*

**Who:** Oregon State University, Dept of Range Ecology & Management, the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center, and the USDA ARS Burns

**8:30-9:00 Coffee, Doughnuts and Introductions:**

**9:00-9:40 Beef Cattle Grazing and Multiple Use Values on Western Rangelands**

Tim DelCurto – EOARC, Union Station

**9:40-10:20 Interaction of Agricultural Systems with Bird Habitat and Viability**

Pat Kennedy - EOARC, Union Station

**10:20-10:40 Mid-morning Break**

**10:40-11:20 Beef Cattle Grazing and Sage Grouse Habitat in the Great Basin**

Chad Boyd - EOARC, USDA ARS Burns

**11:20-12:00 Research Update: Beef Cattle Riparian Grazing Behavior in Riparian Areas and Impact of Wolves on Beef Cattle Grazing Behavior** Doug Johnson, Kerry Wilson, Marie Wilson - Dept. of Range Ecology and Management, Corvallis; Larry Larson – Dept of Range Ecology and Management; OSU Agriculture Program, La Grand; and John Williams – Dept of Range Ecology and Management, OSU Extension Service, Wallowa County

**12:00 - 1:00 “Pit Barbequed” Beef and Pork Lunch**

**1:00 - 2:00 “The Zumwalt Project:” The Influence of Beef Cattle Stocking Range on Ground Nesting Birds**

**2:00 – 3:30 Afternoon Field-day Workshops:** We will have two workshops that will be available to all participants. The attendees will be split into two groups and each workshop will be 45 minutes in length.

**1) Techniques to Study Beef Cattle Distribution and Grazing Behavior**

Doug Johnson, Tim DelCurto, Kerry Wilson, Marie Wilson

**2) Techniques to Study Bird Habitat, Abundance, and Viability**

Pat Kennedy and Tracy Johnson

**3:30 – 3:45 Field Day Wrap-up and Discussion**



A Vision for Rangeland  
and Pasture Research

# EOARC Beef Cattle Field Day

**Thursday, May 27th, 2010**

Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center  
67826 Hwy 205 – Burns, OR

**RSVP REQUIRED by**  
**5/17/10**

**Full Registration: \$30.00**  
**(Includes Program, Lunch & Dinner)**  
**Program & Lunch Only: \$15.00**  
**Dinner Only: \$20.00**

7:30 – 8:40 am	<b>On-Site Registration</b>
8:40 – 9:00 am	<b>Introduction and Welcome</b> Dr. Dave Bohnert – <i>EOARC Assistant Superintendent</i> Dr. Tony Svejcar – <i>USDA-ARS Research Leader</i>
<b><u>Morning Section</u></b>	<b><u>Contemporary Issues for Beef Cattle Producers</u></b> <i>Moderator – Dr. Reinaldo Cooke (EOARC – Burns)</i>
9:00 – 9:30 am	<b>Current Topics in Beef Cattle Health</b> Dr. Masie Custis – <i>Harney County Veterinary Clinic</i>
9:30 – 10:00 am	<b>Bureau of Land Management Updates</b> Ed Shepard – <i>Oregon/Washington BLM Director</i>
10:00 – 10:30 am	<b>Public Lands Issues</b> John O'Keeffe – <i>Beef Producer and Chair of OCA's Public Land Committee</i>
10:30 – 11:00 am	<b>What does the Oregon Beef Council Provide to Cattlemen?</b> Will Wise – <i>Oregon Beef Council Executive Director</i>
11:00 – 11:15 am	<b>Break – Refreshments Provided</b>
11:15 – 12:00 pm	<b>Round Table</b> All Morning Speakers
12:00 – 1:30 pm	<b>Lunch</b>

## **WOOL POOL Information!!**

The tri-county wool pool has a tentative date for wool delivery this year of July 10<sup>th</sup> at the Union County Fairgrounds. Returning this year is a sign-up which will allow for the pool/wool buyer to better plan the needed staff and trucks for that day. If you would like to sell wool to the pool and have not received a letter from the wool pool requesting you return the sign-up sheet, contact your local Extension office. The sign-up is requested back by June 1<sup>st</sup> to better facilitate planning. The Quoted price is (continued page 7):

<b><u>Afternoon Section</u></b>	<b><u>Research Update</u></b>
	<i>Moderator – Dustin Johnson (Harney County Extension)</i>
1:30 – 2:10 pm	<b>Managing Disposition to Improve Performance of the Cow Herd</b> <i>Dr. Reinaldo Cooke – Beef Cattle Specialist</i>
2:10 – 2:45 pm	<b>Consequences of Late-Gestational Nutrition on Future Performance</b> <i>Dr. Dave Bohnert – EOARC Assist. Superintendent and Ruminant Nutritionist</i>
2:45 – 3:25 pm	<b>Including Production and Environmental Aspects in a Breeding Program</b> <i>Dr. Chad Mueller – Beef Cattle Nutrition and Management</i>
3:25 – 3:40 pm	<b>Break – Refreshments Provided</b>
3:40 – 4:20 pm	<b>Nutritional Implications for Beef Cattle Grazing Rangelands</b> <i>Dr. Tim DelCurto - EOARC Superintendent and Range Cattle Nutritionist</i>
4:20 – 5:00 pm	<b>Campus Beef Cattle Research Overview</b> <i>Dr. Jim Males – Head of Department of Animal Sciences</i>
<b><u>Evening Section</u></b>	<b><u>Dinner and Social at the Burns Elks Lodge (118 N. Broadway, Burns)</u></b>
	<i>Moderator – Dr. Dave Bohnert (EOARC – Burns)</i>
5:30 – 6:30 pm	<b>Social Hour</b>
6:30 – 8:00 pm	<b>Prime Rib Dinner</b>
8:00 pm	<b>Cowboy Poetry by Marty Campbell</b>

For more information, please visit the Beef Cattle Sciences Website (<http://beefcattle.ans.oregonstate.edu>), or contact David Bohnert at (541) 573-8910 or Reinaldo Cooke at (541) 573-4083

## Oregon State University



## Beef Cattle Sciences

### **Wool Pool (con't)**

**Prices:** If there is a full truck then prices below are accurate, if the truck is not full, or relatively full, then the price is reduced by .05 for the white face and the black face.

White Face wool (56 grade or 27 microns +)	\$1.00	Black Face	\$.45
Tags	\$.15	Bellys	\$.40
Black	\$.10	Lambs (white face)	\$.50
Lambs (black face)	\$.225		

For more information contact your local Agricultural Extension agent for any potential car pooling, or donation program available in your county.

**Eastern Oregon Livestock Show  
Jun 7 - 12, 2010**

**Union Co. Fair  
August 2 - 7, 2010**

**Baker Co. Fair  
August 2 - 7, 2010**

**Wallowa Co. Fair  
July 31– Aug. 7, 2010**



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