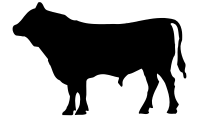


Oregon State University Extension Service
The Prompter / Rancher Review
A Union, Baker and Wallowa County Farm & Ranch Newsletter



May 2011



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

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Extension Service

CALENDAR

***Notice* Statewide Wheat Marketing Meetings suspended until Fall 2011.**

May

- May 5 Stripe Rust Webcast– Union County OSU Extension Office-9:30 a.m.
May 12 Native Plant Seed Production Field Day-Ontario OSU
Malheur Exp. Station (541-889-2174)
May 18 Wasco Co. Small Grains Crop Tour (541-296-5494)

June

- June 1 USDA-FSA Deadline for Century Farm & Ranch Applications
(www.oregonfb.org)
June 1 Direct/counter Cyclical Program Deadline
June 6-10 Eastern Oregon Livestock Show
June 14 OSU-CBARC Pendleton Field Day
June 15 OSU-CBARC Moro Field Day
June 22 35th Annual Union County Crops & Conservation Tour
June 22 OSU-HAREC Potato Field Day

July

- July 15 USDA-FSA Acreage Reporting deadline

East Oregon Plastics

Sara Bates (541) 403-1522

Containers and pick-up service provided free of charge!

Contact Sara or Anna-Marie to arrange for a storage bag , then call Sara when a full bag is ready to be picked up.

(bags also available at Intermountain Livestock and Elgin Boot and Saddle)

Recycle Your Twine!

Wolves in Oregon: An Epic Challenge

This title has been selected by the Oregon Cattleman's Association for their Wolf Symposium in Portland on June 4th at the Rose Quarter Georgia Pacific Room from 1 to 5pm. This title is not only hoping to capture the urban people's interest and encourage them to come, it is also ringing true to those producers that have been living with the wolves for the past couple of years.

The symposium will feature three speakers covering the various topics around wolves. Casey Anderson who grew up on a ranch and is currently managing the OX Ranch in Idaho will address wolf interactions with live-stock, depredation, compensation and cattle behavior. Charles Kay from Utah State University will discuss the wolf recovery process and give an Independent Analysis of its successes and failures. Tim Wigley will give a presentation covering the sportsman's perspective.

An update on the wolf situation in Wallowa County and beyond. There were a total of 16 confirmed wolves in the Imnaha pack at the first of the year. Since then one has seemed to move to the State of Washington and another wolf died of unknown causes shortly after it was collared earlier this spring. That leaves a supposed 14 wolves in the pack, however, that number has more recently been 9 to 11 wolves when seen together. Authorities are not sure if the wolves are around, just not seen or if they have broken off and are living in some new location, or some other explanation. The Imnaha pack were involved in depredation of calves in March through early June last year then killed again in the late summer/early fall. The latest live-stock depredation occurred in February when two pregnant cows were killed on the edge of the Wallowa Valley.

The Wenaha pack has 6 confirmed wolves, with at least two pups from last year. There are no collared wolves in this pack, the only wolf that had a collar was shot just prior to the hunting season last fall. These wolves have not been confirmed in any livestock depredations to date.

A third pack has been confirmed on the state line southeast of the Walla Walla Washington. It has not been determined if these wolves will be classified as Oregon wolves or Washington.

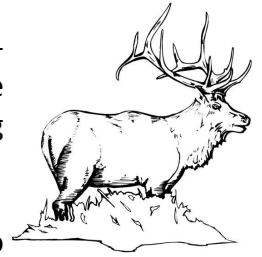


The status of wolves per the listing on the Federal Endangered Species Act took a turn Thursday April 14th when Congress passed and the President signed the budget bill for the 2011 budget. In that was a rider that essentially reinstated the status of delisting that occurred previously. This will take place within the next 60 days. The details are still not clear, however, the portion of Oregon that is east of Hwy 395 south to Burns and then the highway to Burns Junction on south to Winnemucca Nevada is the dividing line. East of that line the wolves will be delisted again putting them under the Oregon ESA with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as the lead management agency. This makes the second time they have been delisted federally. This action taken by the U.S. Congress is the first time that a species, even just in a portion of the U.S., has been delisted by congress, instead of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Reports from the ranchers on lessons learned not only include the confirmed depredation losses and the missing cattle but especially on the disposition change in their cattle. This ultimately may become one of the most important issues in the impacts of wolves on livestock. The ongoing research being conducted by OSU, U of I and the Agricultural Research Service will include temperament change in this year's efforts.

Zumwalt Prairie Elk Hazing

Managing elk is an ongoing challenge for Zumwalt landowners and for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). In the 1970s ranchers first voiced concerns about the 150 elk that showed up on Zumwalt. Elk eat a lot of grass and are notorious for knocking down fences. By the 1990s, elk numbers on Zumwalt had grown to over 500.



Zumwalt prairie is on the southern portion of the Chesnimnus area which extends north to the Imnaha, Snake, and Joseph Creek Canyons. ODFW's 2009 spring elk counts revealed almost 2500 head of elk on the prairie. The increase is due in part to overall elk population growth in the Chesnimnus area (up 36%), but mostly due to an increasing proportion of the Chesnimnus elk living on the Zumwalt Prairie (up from 21 % in the early 1990's to 57% between 2003-09).

The Zumwalt herd now numbers over 3,000 elk. Three elk eat about as much as 2 cows. Therefore 3,000 elk eat about as much as 2,000 cattle and they are free roaming. This makes range management extremely challenging.

Chesnimnus area elk historically wintered in the breaks of the Snake, Imnaha, and Joseph Canyons and spent summers north of Zumwalt in the forests. Speculation about why many elk have shifted from using Forest Service lands in the north end of the Chesnimnus to the Zumwalt Prairie include:

1. Lower livestock numbers on the National Forest lands (forest and canyon) mean that bunchgrasses receive less grazing pressure, resulting in decreased plant growth and an accumulation of dead grass. This reduces the production of and access to the green shoots that the elk love to eat.
2. Predation pressure from cougars and bears (whose numbers may have increased since the ban on hunting with hounds) make elk wary of the timbered areas and canyons.
3. Recent "open winters" with less snow than years past make it easier for elk to stay on the prairie.
4. The conversion of some Zumwalt properties to conservation or hunting oriented ownership creates "safe havens" for the herds.

High elk numbers have significant implications to the health of the Zumwalt Prairie. Cattle are rotated through pastures on the Zumwalt from May through November, while elk herds extend grazing throughout the year. Yearlong grazing pressure is detrimental to perennial grasses. Compromised grass communities are vulnerable to invasion by noxious weeds like Medusahead rye, meadow hawkweed, and sulfur cinquefoil. Further, elk browse on young trees and shrubs, even in fenced riparian areas – affecting a limited resource on the prairie and important habitat for wildlife and fish.

Zumwalt area landowners are working with ODFW, Oregon State University Extension, The Nature Conservancy and Wallowa Resources to address this situation. Recent management efforts include:

1. ODFW provided an elk hazer in spring of 2010.
2. ODFW increased the number of elk tags for Zumwalt cow hunts and extended the seasons.
3. Emergency elk hunts and the use of a 2 for 1 exchange for Landowner Preference tags.
4. Eighteen Zumwalt landowners (owning almost 33,000 acres) signed permission forms last year that increased hunting access to private lands on the Zumwalt (with landowner permission and specific access parameters) and consented to hazing elk off their land.

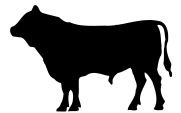
Continued from page 3

Wallowa Resources received a grant on behalf of Zumwalt landowners from the ODFW Access and Habitat Board, supplemented with funds from The Nature Conservancy and private donations. The project, designed to conduct a concerted elk hazing effort and help improve hunting access, was initiated this winter when 2 people were hired for elk hazing.

Hazing is a word that can bring up dramatic images of chasing animals away from something. In contrast, the Zumwalt elk hazers synchronize their movements with the elk – moving slowly toward a herd until the elk get uneasy and walk away, but do not flee from the area. The project has been successful in moving elk and reducing forage loss to elk within the targeted area, while minimizing fence damage. However, it will take time to fulfill the ultimate goal of this program: to relocate the elk herds back to their historic winter range in the breaks of the northern canyons. And it will take long term commitments to habitat improvements on the National Forest, changes in elk management, and the cooperation of neighbors to create a solution that protects the forage and native habitat resources on the Zumwalt Prairie.



35th Annual Union County Crops & Conservation Tour



June 22, 2011

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: 2010 Conservation Farm of the Year— Kirk & Mikki End; McKenzie Farm Conservation Projects and Oregon Agricultural Foundation; specialty crop production; and other topics of interest. Please note that a detailed agenda will not be released until June 22nd.

The day starts with a short program at CPS (7:30 a.m.) followed immediately with the bus tour. The traditional lunch consisting of barbecue steak, baked potato, and salad will be served to tour participants at approx. noon at a site along the tour route (site to be determined). Local 4-H Ambassadors and FFA members will be on hand throughout the day to help out. After lunch, bus passengers will be returned to Crop Production Services at approx. 2:00 p.m. 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.

Landowner Preference Program (LOP) Basics

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has been encouraging landowners to utilize their LOP tag to maximize the presence of hunters on the land. We hope the LOP basics below help landowners understand their options better.

- Landowners must register land with ODFW
- Landowner must submit tag distribution form each year before May 15, listing all potential persons eligible to receive an LOP tag (including landowner). The order in which the names occur on the distribution form will be the order of priority they will be drawn. Hunter/angler ID#, Birthdate, and hunt #, will need to be included for each person on tag distribution form. (Tag distribution forms sent in after May 15, additional \$15.00 fee).
- All persons listed (including landowner) that are interested in receiving an LOP tag will need to submit a controlled hunt application by May 15.
- **Bull elk:** landowners eligible for 2, 3, or 4 LOP elk tags can give one LOP bull tag to non family person of their choice. Landowners eligible for 5 or 6 elk tags can give 2 LOP bull tags to non family persons, etc.
- **Cow elk:** landowners can give all eligible LOP elk tags to non family members to hunt cow elk.
- **Damage exchanges:** any valid LOP elk tag (bull or cow; before or after original season dates) can potentially be exchanged 1:1 or 2:1 when damage is occurring, subject to Vic or Pat's approval. Exchanged tags can go to anyone who has not previously killed an elk that fall (person does not have to be on tag distribution list), and damage exchange tags are for antlerless elk only. Damage exchange hunt dates are determined and set by Vic or Pat, and can occur anytime after August 1.
- Damage exchange for a landowner (does not include spouse or family members) with a valid controlled bull or cow elk tag (not an LOP tag) can be traded 1:1 as discussed above subject to Vic or Pat's approval.
- Fees: no cost for 1:1 damage exchanges. No cost for first tag of 2:1 damage exchange, even if tag goes to a new person. There will be a tag exchange fee of \$7.00 for 2nd tag if person receiving the tag goes already has a valid elk tag. If 2nd person has not yet bought an elk tag then they pay the standard elk tag fee for resident or nonresident.
- Late LOP tags: landowners willing to pay the \$15.00 late fee have until Sept. 15 to submit tag distribution forms for LOP bull hunts, and up to the day before the hunt for antlerless elk hunts. Persons on the tag distribution list have until the day before the hunt to purchase and submit a controlled hunt application for LOP tag. Remember all late stuff has to go through the ODFW office and processing time may take up to 2 weeks, so don't wait until the last minute.



(Note about LOP deer: No damage exchanges will be authorized for LOP deer tags in Wallowa County.)

FSA County Committee Elections

Elections will be held in December to choose a representative to serve on Baker, Union and Wallowa County Committees (COC). Each year an election is held in a specific Local Administrative Area (LAA) for each county. County office employees will be seeking producers from that specific LAA only to be placed on the election ballot. Please watch for news releases from each county office for specific LAAs in which the election will be held. Nomination forms are available at all three County FSA Offices after June 15, 2011 and will be accepted through August 1, 2011.

Committee members' duties are:

- * Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
- * Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
- * Keeping the Oregon State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
- * Monitoring changes in farm programs.
- * Participating in county meetings as necessary.
- * Performing other duties as assigned by the Oregon State FSA Committee.



Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if he or she resides in the LAA in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

COC Election Calendar

June 15, 2011 – Request nomination forms from our office

August 1, 2011 – Last day to file nomination forms

November 4, 2011– Ballots will be mailed to voters in LAA 3

December 5, 2011 – Final day to return ballots

December 12, 2011 – Final day to count ballots

January 1, 2012 – Elected member takes office

Tri-County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility



The Tri-County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility is now open for residents to dispose of most items that are dangerous to the environment. There may be a charge for some products but prices vary for item and amount to be disposed. The following is a list (on page 7) of items that are accepted. However, it is not an all-inclusive list so if there is a question about what can be disposed of it is best to call City Garbage to see if it is an acceptable item.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

- Aerosol paints
- Automotive paints
- Caulking compounds, epoxies, glues or adhesives
- Colorants and tints
- Craft paints
- Deck cleaners
- Industrial maintenance coatings
- Marine paints
- OEM and industrial Surface Coatings, Paints and finishes (shop application)
- Paint Additives
- Paint thinners, mineral spirits or solvents
- Pesticide containing products
- Resins
- Roof patch or repair
- Tar or bitumen-based products
- 2-component coatings
- Old gasoline
- Antifreeze
- Any product in household that have a Mr. Yuck sticker
- Cyanide
- Old grease
- Fertilizers
- Chemicals



The state of Oregon is participating in a new non-profit program established to manage the reuse, recycling and proper disposal of old paint. They are funding this program by charging a fee per unit of paint bought. The charge is \$.35/ ½ gallon, \$.75/gallon, \$1.60/more than 1 gallon to 5 gallons. The following is a list of paint products that will not be accepted at the Tri-County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center. However, these items can be taken locally to Miller's or Ace Hardware to be recycled for no additional charge.

- Exterior and interior paints: latex, acrylic, water-based, alkyd, oil-based and enamel (all types of finishes and sheens, including textured coatings)
- Deck Coatings and floor paints (including elastomeric)
- Lacquers, Lacquer sanding sealers and lacquer stains
- Melamine, metal and rust preventatives
- Primers, undercoating and sealers
- Stains and shellacs
- Swimming pool paints (single component)
- Varnishes and urethanes (single component)
- Waterproofing, sealers and repellents: concrete, masonry and wood (no tar or bitumen-based)
- Wood coatings (containing no pesticides)

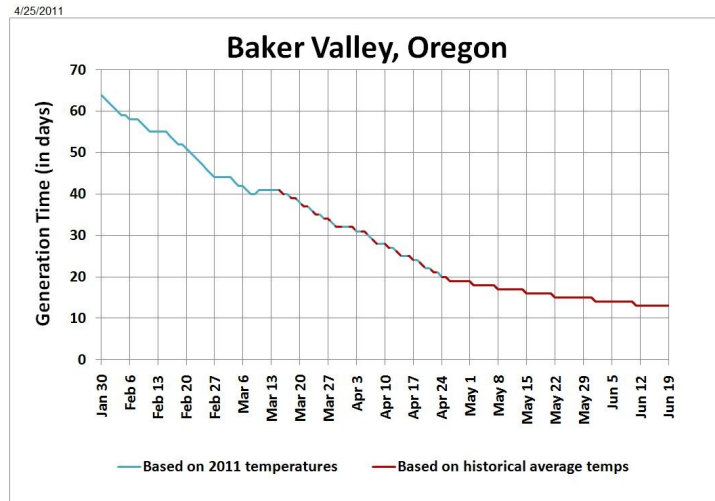
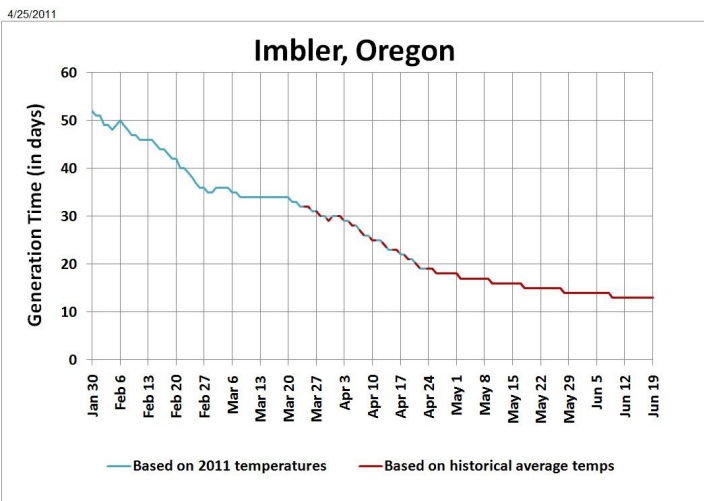
The Tri-County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility is located at City Garbage (La Grande) and will be open every other Tuesday. People wanting to dispose of hazardous waste need to make an appointment for one of those days by calling City Garbage at 541-963-5459.

There is also a satellite collection site in both Baker and Wallowa counties. In Baker, it is located at their Recycling Center, 3048 Campbell Street. Collection dates are tentatively set for the 1st Wednesday of the month. Please call Baker Sanitation at 541-523-2626 to schedule appointment. Latex paint can be recycled at Thatcher's Ace Hardware.

Wallowa County will be collecting accepted materials on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. An appointment is necessary so please call 541-426-3332. Unfortunately, there is no location in Wallowa County to return latex paints. The county is organizing a onetime collection event later this fall.

Stripe Rust Update!

Stripe rust is having a good season across the PNW with as high as 70% of fields checked showing the disease at some level of infection/severity. Up until recently, below-average cold temperatures have kept the disease from exploding but slowing wheat growth at the same time. Continued cool and wet conditions will only help stripe rust activity. So far, there have been no reports of stripe rust showing up in Union-Baker-Wallowa Co. grain fields but recent weather patterns may have enabled some level of infection but without expression of symptoms yet. Much concern remains for weather conditions over the next 4-6 weeks and subsequent impact on stripe rust infection and development. A webcast via video-conference will be held on May 5 at 9:30 a.m. to discuss the stripe rust situation/control strategies with Chris Mundt - OSU Plant Pathologist, Mike Flowers – OSU Extension Cereal Specialist, and Larry Lutcher – OSU Extension Agronomist. Join the webcast at any of the following OSU Extension Service offices located in Pendleton, Heppner, Condon, LaGrande, and The Dalles.



In addition, Dr. Mundt has developed a tool to help monitor stripe rust development rate following infection (e.g. latent period). Dr. Flowers reminds us that stripe rust can multiply rapidly in the field and, in fact, can increase 10X in a single generation so early control is important and usually cheaper (e.g. fungicide tank mixed with other pesticides for other pest control needs when label allows). Look for stripe rust generation time charts to be updated periodically and distributed via email and posted online at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/union/index.php> under the “Latest News” link!—DLW.

The charts provide an estimate of the generation time of wheat stripe rust based on a degree-hour model. Generation time is defined here as the time (in days) that passes between infection by a stripe rust spore and the time when a new, sporulating lesion appears from that infection. The generation time becomes shorter as temperatures rise during the season. The predictions are based on hourly temperature data collected at the Imbler (IMBO) and Baker Valley (BKVO) AgriMet weather stations (see below for more information about **AgriMet**).

For each date (horizontal axis) shown on the graph, an estimate of generation time is provided on the vertical axis. Generation time is projected forward for each date. **Example: the model predicts that on May 15 in Imbler, it would take 16 days for a new infection to show sporulating lesions!**

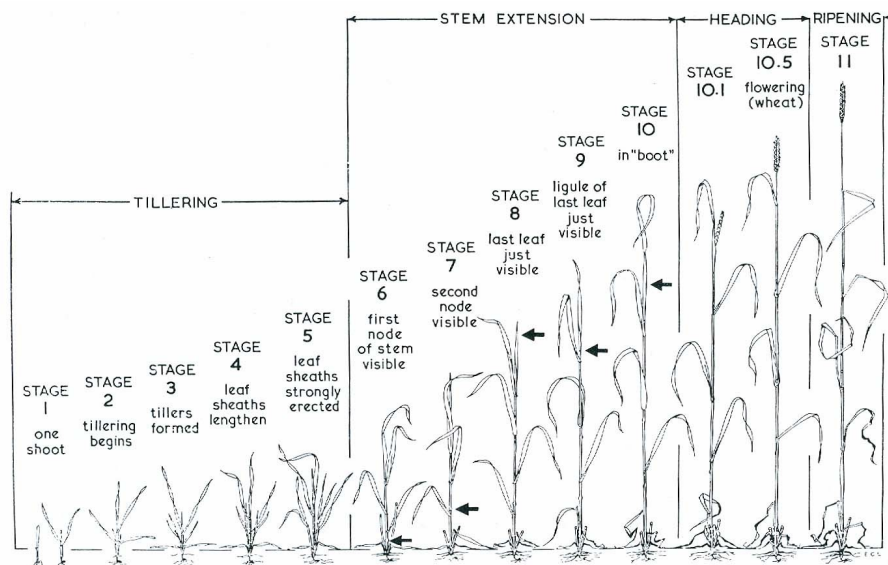
Continued on page 9

Continued from page 6

The blue portions of the lines are based on estimates using temperatures that have already occurred during 2011. The red portions of the lines are projections forward based on historical temperature data. The striped blue/red portions of the lines are dates for which some 2011 data could be used, but historical data had to be utilized to complete the predicted generation time for that date. We plan to update these graphs weekly based on 2011 from the previous week. (See online newsletter for color charts).

Though not originally developed for making predictions in commercial fields, we are making the data available as our best estimate of generation time as the season progresses. The model seems to have worked well for research purposes.—CM.

What is AgriMet? AgriMet is a satellite-based network of automated agricultural weather stations operated and maintained by the Bureau of Reclamation. The stations are located in irrigated agricultural areas throughout the Pacific Northwest and are dedicated to regional crop water use modeling, agricultural research, frost monitoring, and integrated pest and fertility management. Access to the information is free to the public at the following web site: <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/agrimet/>



The Feekes scale for the growth and development of cereals. (Reprinted, by permission of the Controller of Her Britannic Majesty's Stationery Office, from E. C. Large, 1954, Growth stages in cereals: Illustration of the Feekes scale, Plant Pathology 3:128-129, © Crown Copyright 1986)

Flag leaf emergence begins at Feekes 8

Feekes 10.5 is the cut-off date for many fungicides used for stripe rust. See label directions for specific restrictions.

USDA-ARS Ecologically-based Invasive Plant Management Field Tours & Schools:

Monday, June 6: Cheatgrass and Medusahead Management Field Tour and Workshop in Jordan Valley, Oregon. This field tour and workshop will take participants to one of our 5 demonstration sites in the Jordan Valley area to see EBIPM in action in the war with cheatgrass and medusahead. Attendees can expect to gain an increased knowledge of science-based solutions for weed management and successes in treating the true causes of invasion. To learn more about this workshop, go to <http://www.ebipm.org/calendar/23757>.

Thursday, July 7: Cheatgrass and Medusahead Management Field Tour and Workshop in Elko, Nevada...more details coming soon.

Tuesday through Thursday, September 13-15: EBIPM Field School sponsored by WSWs in Park Valley, Utah... more details and registration information can be found on our website at <http://www.ebipm.org/map/173>.

**Eastern Oregon Livestock Show
June 6 - 12, 2011**

**Union Co. Fair
August 3 - 6, 2011**

**Baker Co. Fair
August 10 - 13, 2011**

**Wallowa Co. Fair
August 6 - 13, 2011**



PROMPTER/RANCHER REVIEW - May 2011

Extension Service
Union County

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UNIVERSITY



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