

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



MAY — JUNE 2005



Calendar of Events

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- May 25 HAREC Grass Seed Plot Field Day, Hermiston Ag Research & Extension Center.
- June 1 Deadline for Century Farm or Ranch applications.
- June 1 Umatilla Co. Smoke Management Workshop, Wildhorse's New Conference Center.
- June 6 OSCS Certified-Generation Grass Seed Field Inspections start in Union and Baker Co.
- June 6 Rapeseed District 12 Board Meeting
- June 7 OSU/ARS Station Field Day, Pendleton. (more inside)
- June 8 OSU/ARS Station Field Day, Moro. (541) 278-4396
- June 9 Kentucky Bluegrass Tour, Potlatch, ID (208) 885-5041
- June 14 CLB Parasitoid Wasp Workshop & Tour
- June 14 Legume & Cereal Variety Trials, Walla Walla WA (509) 335-5831
- June 14-15 Tractor Driving and Safety Course, Lexington.
- June 15 WSU Weed Science Tour, Pullman WA (509) 335-2961
- June 16 UI Weed Science Tour, Moscow ID (208) 885-6214
- June 17 Morrow Co. Crop Tour.
- June 21 29th Annual Union County Crops and Conservation Tour, Union County. (541) 963-1010
- June 28 OSU Range Field Day. Eastern OR Livestock Show Clubhouse, Union.
- June 29 U of I Parker Plant Science Farm (oilseeds), Moscow ID. 8:00 AM, Contact Bob Zemetra (208) 885-7810.
- June 30 OSU Extension - Wallowa Co. Pesticide Container Recycling Event, Enterprise. Details to follow.
- July 1 OSU Extension - Union and Baker Co. Pesticide Container Recycling Event, La Grande. Details to follow.

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Upcoming Events

29th Annual Union County Crops & Conservation Tour *June 21, 2005*

Time: Coffee & donuts 7:00 a.m. Program starts 7:30 a.m. Buses depart 7:45 a.m.

Location: Western Farm Service on Booth Lane, 2.6 miles NE of Island City on HWY 82.

The half-day bus tour will give participants a chance to view selected sites and learn about new crop production and conservation efforts that are taking place within Union County. Information will be both technical and general in nature to meet the informational needs of both the agriculture and public sectors.

Participants should arrive at Western Farm Service (NE of Island City on HWY 82) between 7:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. for coffee, donuts, and conversation with friends and colleagues. A brief welcome will take place at 7:30 a.m. followed by loading the buses for the tour. At the end of the tour (approx. noon), lunch will be served at a site along the tour route. As with tradition, participants will enjoy a barbecue steak and baked potato lunch at no charge. Please be sure to thank the many great sponsors and volunteers who continue to support this annual event! After lunch, bus riders will be returned to Western Farm Service between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Mark your calendars and plan on attending a fun and educational community event!

Contact Darrin L. Walenta, OSU Extension Service - Union County Crops Agent, at 541-963-1010 or email at darrin.walenta@oregonstate.edu for more information. Hope to see you there!

The Union County Agricultural Industry and the Crops Tour Committee would like to extend our appreciation to the many local and regional sponsors who continue to provide support of our annual event. Thank you!



Feature Article

Tiny Wasps Attacking Cereal Leaf Beetle in Oregon

Darrin L. Walenta – OSU Extension Service

Gary Brown – USDA-APHIS

The cereal leaf beetle (CLB) is again causing damage to Oregon winter and spring grain fields and, recently, has expanded its menu to include newly seeded tall fescue and perennial ryegrass seed fields. The cost associated with chemical control of CLB has continued to increase dramatically every year since CLB was first found in Oregon (1999). Last year, a study found that over 64,000 acres in Oregon were sprayed for CLB control at an estimated cost of \$770,000. The 2004 estimates are nearly double those for 2003. The CLB has been successful at damaging crops because the PNW region lacks native beneficial insects that prey on CLB. CLB infestations are controlled easily with a properly-timed insecticide application, however, such efforts are costly and may not be necessary in all situations.



Tetrastichus julis

Alternatively, biological control programs that focus on the introduction of natural CLB enemies have proven to be very effective in other CLB-infested regions of the U.S. Today, established populations of egg and larval parasitoid wasps in those regions now keep CLB populations in check. A cooperative biological control program between USDA-APHIS, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and Oregon State University was started in Oregon immediately after the initial find in 1999. Initial program efforts brought in parasitoid wasps from eastern states which were released in CLB infested areas of Oregon. To speed up the rate of establishment, the cooperative program initiated field insectaries for the purpose of raising the parasitoid wasps in Oregon for later distribution. Field insectaries for raising the larval parasitoid, *Tetrastichus julis*, have been set up at the Union, Madras, and Hyslop OSU Experiment Stations. Field insectaries for raising the egg parasitoid, *Anaphes flavipes*, are established on private land in Washington County and the Union OSU Experiment Station.

Success of the Oregon CLB Biocontrol Program:

Successful establishment of the introduced parasitoid wasps is currently taking place in Union, Baker, Malheur, Multnomah, and Washington Counties. CLB larvae parasitized by *T. julis* were discovered in 2003 at the Union insectary field and, in 2004, were also discovered in private grain fields in Union, Baker, Malheur, and Multnomah Counties. The egg parasitoid wasp was confirmed as established in the insectary field in Washington County in 2004.

How can I help the Biocontrol Program become more successful?

In order for the biocontrol program effort to reach full potential, the parasitoid wasps need your help to prosper and reach population levels which will, in turn, decrease CLB populations over time. The following strategies will help the parasitoid wasps establish more quickly and reduce the economic impact caused by the CLB:

- Monitor CLB populations by scouting early and frequently through the peak of egg laying and larvae emergence.

(Continued)

Feature Article, continued.....

- Apply insecticides only when larvae populations reach threshold levels, you may only need to treat portions of fields or field edges.
- Leave untreated areas within or around edges of fields that receive insecticide application to allow parasitoid wasp populations to increase (*note: insecticides are detrimental to parasitoid wasp survival*).
- Be patient – it takes time for parasitoid wasp populations to reach levels which will reduce CLB damage below economic threshold levels without the use of insecticides.
- *Participate in the Biocontrol Program – contact your local cooperative extension office to let us know if you would like to serve as a host farm for parasitoid wasp release and where untreated buffer areas are located to monitor natural increase and spread of the wasps.*

How do I scout for CLB and determine if I need to apply an insecticide?

Scout your fields early and often through the peak of egg laying and larvae emergence:

- Over-wintering CLB adults emerge in the spring (mid-late April in Union Co.) and are active for about 6 weeks. Start scouting early to monitor adult activity and identify potential problem fields. Treating adult CLB infestations has minimal effect as they are highly mobile and will readily re-infest.
- Eggs are laid during this time and hatch in 4-20 days depending on temperatures (warmer temps speed the process up).

Larvae feed for approx. 3 to 4 weeks. Larvae go through 4 instar stages with **90% of the damage caused by 3rd and 4th instar larvae** (3/16" in length). Larvae reach peak populations in Union Co. mid to late June.

Scouting method to determine insecticide application need:

- Sample a minimum of 10 random sites within a field (avoid edges).
- At each sample site: examine 10 tillers, count number of eggs/larvae.
- Record data from each site then calculate the total number of eggs and larvae. If proportion of eggs in the sample is 50% or greater, sample again in approx. 5 days. Track progression with each sample date.

CLB eggs/larvae may be unevenly distributed within a field, therefore, it may be necessary to sub-divide a field for treatment.

Current treatment threshold levels:

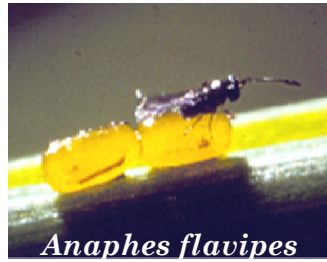
- ▶ Pre-boot stage = average 3 eggs and/or larvae per tiller
- ▶ Boot stage = average 1 larvae per flag leaf

Target insecticide application for the highest population of small larvae (1st and 2nd instar) possible to avoid significant damage/yield loss.

Control recommendations in the PNW Insect Management Handbook are available online at:

<http://pnwpest.org/pnw/insects>

Upcoming Events



Cereal Leaf Beetle (CLB) Parasitoid Wasp Workshop and Tour on June 14

Darrin L. Walenta, OSU Extension Service, and Helmuth Rogg, Oregon Department of Agriculture, will present a CLB parasitoid wasp workshop on June 14, 2005 at the Eastern Oregon Ag Research Center (conference room) in Union. The workshop will start at 1:00 p.m. and end at 3:00 p.m.

The workshop will focus on:

- Oregon CLB Biological Control Program
- Parasitoid Wasp Biology
- CLB Biology and Management

Participants will learn how to:

- Monitor their fields for parasitoid wasp activity
- Determine parasitism rate by examination of CLB eggs and larvae (w/dissecting scope)
- Establish buffer zones on their farm to harbor parasitoid wasps
- Determine the need for CLB control with insecticides

Participants will also be given a tour of the larvae parasitoid wasp (*Tetrastichus julis*) insectary and the new egg parasitoid wasp (*Anaphes flavipes*) insectary which are both located at the EOARC in Union. Oregon pesticide applicator re-certification credits have been requested.

Who can participate? The workshop is open to growers, extension agents, crop consultants, and anyone else interested. *The workshop is free of charge but you will need to call the OSU Extension Service-Union Co. office at 963-1010 to register.*

News and Other Information

Reading Bills From the Oregon Legislature



You can get a copy of any bill that is being considered by the Oregon Legislature by opening the legislative website at: http://www.leg.state.or.us/bills_laws/. You then can find the bill in several ways. You can search for the bill if you know the number or you can click on "bills", make sure you click on the 2005 session then proceed to the listing of the bills.

This will allow you to follow a bill as it moves through the legislature. At the end of each day if the bill has changed the changes should be posted. As we move toward the end of the session you may need to wait an extra 24 hours.

If you need help, you can call John Williams at 426-3143 or email me at John.Williams.1@oregonstate.edu. I will be willing to help if I am around.

Wolves HB3478

The state legislature is debating the wolf issue this month. House Bill 3478 had a hearing mid-May in the agriculture and natural resource committee. The bill, sponsored by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife attempts to make the various changes that are needed to implement the Oregon Wolf Plan that was adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission last winter. The bill's main components include 1) changing the status of the wolf in Oregon to a game mammal with special status (not yet defined); 2) defines when a person can "take" a wolf that is attacking or harassing your livestock; 3) identifies a compensation plan for both killed livestock and for changes for *...employing livestock management techniques and non-lethal wolf control techniques designed to discourage wolf depredation*; 4) identifies the procedures to appoint a committee to finalize the compensation plan and 5) allocates \$200,000 of general fund money to the compensation plan.

After listening to the hearing and all the testimony, most probably there will be changes in the bill before it is moved forward, if it moves forward. If you are interested in this issue you should follow this bill as the legislature winds down.

Coho

The Ninth District Court of Appeals announced on February 24, 2004, that it is throwing out the Endangered Species Act "threatened" listing of Oregon coastal Coho salmon. The case is *Alesea Valley Alliance v. Evans*. At issue in the case was how the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) counted Oregon coastal Coho salmon for protected status under the ESA. At the trial level, U.S. District Judge Michael Hogan ruled that NMFS acted illegally in protecting fish spawning in the wild, but not hatchery fish, which are genetically identical. Judge Hogan ruled NMFS could not pick and choose among fish swimming side-by-side in a

News and Other Information

stream which it would protect and which it would ignore. Environmental groups appealed the decision to the Ninth Circuit. NMFS chose to comply with the order and instituted status reviews of salmon and steelhead listed under the ESA across the Western states, from Seattle to San Diego and east to Boise. As a result, the Ninth Circuit dismissed the appeal because it determined the environmentalists could participate like any other concerned individuals in the public process related to the status reviews.

The biggest impact of the decision is the fact that it reinstates the district court's order invalidating and setting aside the Coho listing, which had been postponed during the appeal. Consequently, the Oregon coastal Coho listing no longer exists and may not be enforced. Still to be seen is what action NMFS takes in changing their hatchery vs. wild policy.

Injunctions under the ESA defined by 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The US Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled for an Idaho rancher, Verl Jones' family, in a case that addresses the standard by which injunctions can be issued under the Endangered Species Act. The Ninth Circuit's ruling clarifies that plaintiffs must present actual evidence that a species is likely to be harmed before an injunction can be issued against a property owner, and that a lack of evidence of past harm is indicative of the likelihood of future harm.

The court's decision means that plaintiffs can no longer use the Endangered Species Act to stop legal activities without evidence that a listed species is actually being harmed. The Jones family operates a small ranch near Challis, Idaho. Since 1961, they have diverted water from nearby Otter Creek in the summer months to irrigate their alfalfa pastures for livestock.

The Idaho Watersheds Project, sued Verl Jones and his family in 2001, claiming the family was violating the ESA by diverting water from Otter Creek and killing bull trout protected under the Act. The group presented no evidence that bull trout were being harmed to support their claim.

The Jones family presented evidence to the court, that no one has ever seen a bull trout injured in Otter Creek, let alone killed, in the 40 years the family has operated their irrigation diversion. Nevertheless, the Federal District Court granted the request for summary judgment and issued the injunction, ordering Jones to stop diverting water to the family ranch. As a result, the Jones family has been forced to buy about 100 tons of hay per year to make up for the loss of irrigation water for the past three years.

The Ninth Circuit overturned the District Court's decision, and ruled that courts cannot defer to mere assertion of harm to a species. The court reversed and remanded the case to the lower court for trial to consider the evidence - and lack of evidence - presented.

Upcoming Events

“SUSTAINING THE LAND, SUSTAINING PEOPLE”

Oregon State University’s RANGE FIELD DAY

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

8:30 am—5:00 pm

Eastern Oregon Livestock Show Clubhouse

760 East Delta Street Union, Oregon

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Oregon State University’s RANGE FIELD DAY is a cooperative effort of the Department of Rangeland Resources and the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center (EOARC) with stations located in Burns and Union, Oregon. This year’s Range Field Day will feature presentations and field demonstrations by OSU scientists from the Departments of Rangeland Resources and Animal Sciences.

The morning session begins at 8:30 am with coffee and no-cost registration at the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show Clubhouse located at 760 East Delta Street in Union, Oregon. Featured presentations include monitoring riparian zones, new techniques for managing rangelands, impacts of western juniper on watersheds, and new ideas about how grazing influences soil compaction.

The afternoon session will focus on field research conducted on the Hall Ranch Unit EOARC located along Catherine Creek. Topics include riparian grazing research, managing forests for timber and forage, and an overview of what we’ve learned from 30 years of research on the riparian ecosystems of Catherine Creek.

The public is invited to attend. Lunch is provided free of charge, courtesy of the Marvin Klemme Memorial Fund, prepared by the Union county Cattlewomen. Interested participants may earn 6 credits of continuing education toward the Certified Professional in Range Management (CPRM) Program of the Society for Range Management.

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Directions: From La Grande, proceed southeast on Highway 30 to Union (about 14 miles). Turn left off Main Street onto Delta and travel about 0.3 miles to the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show Clubhouse.

Lodging: For a list of motels in the La Grande-Union area, contact the Union County Chamber of Commerce at 541-963-8588 or their website: www.unioncountychamber.org

Contacts: Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center office: 541-562-5129, or Dr. Mike McInnis: 541-962-3812 or mmcinnis@eou.edu

(Continued)

Upcoming Events

AGENDA

Morning Session: Eastern Oregon Livestock Show Clubhouse, Union Oregon

- 8:30—9:00 Check-in (no cost) with coffee and donuts courtesy of Union County Cattlewomen
- 9:00—9:30 Introductions and Program Updates
Dr. Bill Krueger, OSU Dept. Rangeland Resources
Dr. Tim DelCurto, OSU Eastern Oregon Agric. Research Center
Dr. Tony Svejcar, USDA Agric. Research Service—Burns, Oregon
- 9:30—10:00 “New Monitoring Techniques for Riparian Zones”
Dr. Tamzen Stringham, OSU Dept Rangeland Resources
- 10:00—10:30 “New Techniques for Managing Rangelands”
Dr. Doug Johnson, OSU Dept. Rangeland Resources
- 10:30—11:00 Break — Coffee courtesy of Union County Cattlewomen
- 11:00—11:30 “Will the Creek Flow Again?: The Camp Creek Paired Watershed Study”
Tim Deboodt, OSU Crook County Extension Agent
- 11:30—12:00 “How Grazing Influences Soil Compaction”
Dr. Steve Sharrow, OSU Dept. Rangeland Resources
- 12:00—1:30 Lunch (free of charge) prepared by Union County Cattlewomen and made available by the Marvin Klemme Memorial Fund
- #### **Afternoon Session: Hall Ranch Unit of E. Oregon Agricultural Research Center**
- 1:30—2:15 “History of Research on Catherine Creek”
Dr. Bill Krueger, OSU Dept. Rangeland Resources
- 2:15—3:00 “Riparian Grazing Research”
Dr. Tim DelCurto, Angie Freeman, OSU Eastern Oregon Ag Research Center
- 3:00—3:45 “Managing Forests for Timber and Forage”
Ken Walburger, OSU Eastern Oregon Agric. Research Center
- 3:45—4:15 Return (bus) to Eastern Oregon Livestock Show Clubhouse (Union)

Upcoming Events

OSU and ARS Agricultural Research Field Day, Pendleton, Oregon

Annual field days highlighting current research findings have been scheduled by scientists from Oregon State University and the USDA-Agricultural Research Service working at the Pendleton and Moro locations. A variety of topics of interest to producers and other agricultural workers will be presented by the scientists with time for questions and examination of field plots. For more information on either field day contact Steve Petrie, 541-278-4186 or Dan Long, 541-278-4380.

PENDLETON: June 7, 2005

Registration starts at 7:45 AM at the agricultural research center located on Tubbs Ranch Road, just east of the Helix turn-off on Hwy 11. The program will run from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM, with a hosted lunch following. Pesticide and CCA credits have been applied for.

Topics will include:

- Wheat Responses to N Fertilization in a Direct-Seed Management System - Steve Albrecht
- Rattail Fescue Control in Chemical Fallow - Dan Ball
- USDA-ARS Wheat Breeding in Oregon - Kim Campbell
- Economic Analysis Of a Direct-Seed, Summer-Fallow Management System - Steve Petrie
- Alternate Harvesting System for Direct Seeding - Mark Siemens
- Yield Reduction and Management Strategies for Root-Lesion Nematodes on Wheat - Dick Smiley
- Biodiesel – Crop to Fuel Tank - Don Wysocki
- Conventional Tillage and No-Tillage Effects on Soil Organic Carbon and Crop Productivity - Stephen Machado
- Determining Optimum Agronomic Practice for Brown Mustard in The Inland Northwest - Jeannie Olmstead
- Cephalosporium Stripe Tolerance: Genetics and Screening - Chris Mundt
- Sensing Technology for Characterizing Soil and Landscape Differences Within Farm Fields- Dan Long

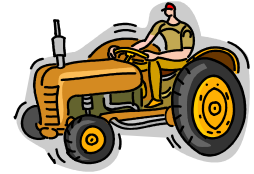


NEWS AND OTHER INFORMATION

WHAT: TRACTOR DRIVER TRAINING & SAFETY COURSE

WHEN: June 14th, 8 AM - 5 PM

WHERE: Morrow County Grain Growers in Lexington



Open to all youth ages 14 -17. Oregon State Law requires youth these ages to obtain a training certificate in order to operate tractors on farms not owned or operated by a member of your immediate family.

Participants need to bring a lunch on the first day. Pre-register by calling 541-676-9642 or 1-800-342-3664. Seating is limited. If you are not a 4-H Member, the training costs \$5.



CANOLA

Board Members Needed for District 12 Rapeseed Control Area (Union, Baker and Wallowa Counties)

District #12 Chairman of the Board, Rod Case—Union County, has called a meeting to be held on June 6, 2005 from 1:00 to 2:00 PM at the Ag Service Center Conference Room, Island City. The primary purpose of the meeting is to update proposed statewide rapeseed production rules and to review current District #12 rules. At this time, the board needs to fill a maximum of 4 vacant positions.

To become a member, the District Board must petition the Oregon Department of Agriculture Director to ensure fair representation across the district. Members serve a 3 year term and are eligible for re-appointment. Officers are elected by the board membership and include the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary. If you are interested in becoming a Board Member, please call Darrin L. Walenta at the Union County Extension Office (963-1010) as he will be collecting names of potential District #12 candidates. Please plan on attending this meeting if you are: 1) interested in being a board member; or 2) interested in or are currently producing rapeseed as either an oil-seed crop or certified-seed crop. Growers of other *Brassica spp.* are also encouraged to attend.

The Prompter/Rancher Review – A Union, Baker, and Wallowa Co. Farm and Ranch Newsletter Subscription Form

The free newsletter is distributed bimonthly (except July and August). If you would like to subscribe, please fill out the following form and mail to:

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* Note: The electronic version of the newsletter will be sent via email as a PDF file. Adobe Acrobat Reader is required in order to open the attachment. You can download this program free from the internet; simply log on to www.adobe.com, then go to support and click on "download Acrobat Reader".



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