

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



APRIL 2008



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

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OSU
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Reminder of Certified Seed Crop Sign-up Deadlines

Deadlines for Oregon Certified Seed Crop Sign-Up are fast approaching so stop by your local Extension office to sign-up! Grass, fall grain, and mint (greenhouse inspection) crops need to be signed up on or before Tuesday, April 15, 2008. To avoid delays or late fees it is recommended to sign-up seed crops as early as possible.

Crop Sign-Up Deadlines: *Field must be ready for inspection, including isolation stakes at final sign-up deadlines.*

Mustard, Rapeseed, Canola: within 15 days of planting, if planted on or after March 1.

April 15: Grasses, Sugar Beets, Legumes (except Alfalfa, Field Bean, others)

June 1: Field Bean*

June 15: Mint Rootstock (Field), Alfalfa, Chickpea**, others.

*Field Bean and Sudangrass planted after crop sign-up deadline must be signed-up within **15 days after planting**.

Chickpeas planted after crop sign-up deadline must be signed-up within **5 days after planting.

Potatoes:

Seed field inspection application: June 1 (or within 15 days, if planted after May 25)

Survey of Uncertified potato fields: June 15 (commercial fields need to be surveyed to be in compliance with the new Union Co. Potato Disease Control Area)

Applications for potato seed fields not accepted after June 30.

REMINDER: Please don't forget to bring in field maps when signing-up seedling grass fields and other crops for field inspections! For Union Co. growers who utilize FSA maps, the USDA-FSA office is now located at 1901 Adams Ave. in La Grande.

Workshops, Seminars, and Training Events

Grasshopper Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Workshop:

The USDA, ODA, University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service, and Oregon State University Extension Service cordially invite you to an IPM workshop to be held on April 25, 2008 at the OSU Extension Service in Baker City, OR (2610 Grove St.) from **7:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.** The workshop will offer the latest technology for dealing with grasshopper outbreaks.

Topics include:

- Tools to manage grasshoppers (including the Clearwinged grasshopper)
- Biology and ecological role of grasshoppers
- Grazing management for grasshopper management
- Cost share program for grasshopper suppression
- Hands-on demonstration of ATV sprayer calibration

Oregon pesticide applicator recertification credits will be available. The workshop is free of charge but limited in number of participants. Please RSVP by April 18th by contacting the Baker Co. Extension Office at 541-523-6418.



Reminder Livestock Owners:

Livestock Compensation Program

The US Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) Livestock Compensation Program 2005—2007 (LCP) provides benefits to livestock producers who suffered losses or incurred additional feed costs directly resulting from natural disasters occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007.

Livestock producers may elect to receive compensation for losses in the calendar year 2007 grazing season that are attributable to wildfires, drought and other natural causes occurring during the applicable period, as determined by the US Secretary of Agriculture.

Contact the your local FSA Office for more information

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

News and Information

Union-Baker-Wallowa Co. Rapeseed/Canola District:

If you plan to grow canola or rapeseed in NE Oregon, please be aware of Oregon Administrative Rule 603-052-0850 which has established 4 protected districts to protect Brassica spp. seed producing areas of the state. *The following details are specific only to the NE Oregon Protected District:*

- Growing for seed (seed stock for planting) OK
- Growing for forage/cover crops OK but not allowed to flower.
- Plant only Certified and treated seed.
- 1 in 4 rotation
- 2 mile isolation required
- All field locations must be pinned on the map at the local Extension Office at least 10 days prior to planting the field.
- Secure transportation and volunteer control required.
- **Growing brassicas for crushing purposes (e.g. oil) OK if all rules for the Control Area are followed!**

The mustard family (*Brassicaceae*) has over 40 genera in the U.S. and Canada with more than 200 wild and cultivated species including turnips, radishes, rapeseed, canola, mustard, and many others. Current rapeseed and canola varieties come from either the *Brassica napus* or *Brassica rapa* species and both include spring- and fall-planted varieties with edible and industrial oil types. The purpose of this rule is to mitigate potential for cross-pollination between related species. More details of the control area are available online at the Oregon Department of Agriculture web site:

http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/canola_rapeseed.shtml#Control_area_maps



News and Information

Union County Potato Disease Control Area Established in February 2008:

A new control area now exists for northern Union County (area north of Craig Mountain which does not include the North Powder area) with the purpose of protecting the certified seed potato industry from the introduction and spread of potato diseases, including viruses and insect pests. Growers, landowners, and seed potato producers in the area worked together to develop and revise a rule that would protect the local potato industry. Please see the entire text of the rule on the following page.

Anyone planning on planting potatoes for home garden, non-commercial, and commercial purposes should consider the following aspects of the rule before purchasing seed potatoes:

- ⇒ Commercial potatoes may be grown in northern Union County, however, fields must be planted with seed stock which:
 - 1) meets disease tolerance levels of the OSU Potato Seed Certification Standards for Generation 2 seed stock.
 - 2) is eligible for re-certification based upon winter-grow out test results.
- ⇒ All commercial fields must be signed up for field inspection in the *Uncertified Field Inspection Program* conducted through OSU Seed Certification Service. June 15 deadline.
- ⇒ All potato seed brought into the control area for home garden and non-commercial production must have a Federal Shipping Point inspection and be Certified Seed stock which:
 - 1) meets minimum requirements of the OSU Potato Seed Certification Standards for Generation 4 or earlier generations.

Oregon certified seed potato standards are available online: <http://www.oscs.orst.edu/>



Oregon Control Area Orders and Quarantine:

The Oregon Department of Agriculture maintains an online database of control areas and quarantines at the county level. If you want to know which are in effect in your county, go to

http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/quarantines_index.shtml

News and Information

Potato Disease Control Area; Union County

603-052-0395

Union County Potato Disease Control Area and Procedures

(1) As authorized by ORS 570.305 and 570.405, a control area is established for the protection of the seed potato industry in Union County against the introduction and spread of potato diseases, including viruses and pests. Such area includes all of Union County, Oregon north of the Craig Mountain Range: i.e. all of Union County north of a west to east line starting at the intersection of the Western border of Union County and the northern border of T4S R34E sec 34 and continuing due east to the eastern border of Union County at the northern border of T4S R43E sec 31.

(2) The following methods are to be used in the control area described in section (1) of this rule for the control of potato diseases and pests within the control area and to prevent the introduction of such diseases and pests into Union County:

(a) All potato seed imported into the control area shall have a Federal-State Shipping Point inspection and certification prior to entering the control area;

(b) All potatoes planted in the control area for the purpose of producing seed quality or commercial potatoes shall meet the minimum disease tolerances of OSU Potato Seed Certification Standards for generation 2 (field year 3) stock and must be eligible for re-certification in the growing area based upon a winter grow-out test. All production larger in scope than a home garden (potatoes not grown for resale in commercial markets are considered home garden or noncommercial potato production) must be entered into the OSU Seed Certification Program as a seed production field or into the Un-certified Field Inspection Program as a commercial production field;

(c) All potato seed sold in the control area for the purpose of home garden or noncommercial potato production shall be of a quality that meets the minimum requirements of the Oregon State University potato seed certification standards for Oregon G4 or earlier generations;

(d) All cull potatoes accumulated at the time potatoes are dug and moved into storage shall be destroyed within 30 days, and all cull potatoes accumulated during shipment process shall also be destroyed within 30 days;

(e) Diseases, such as potato late blight, or viruses vectored by aphids require preventative management. Therefore, appropriate control measures are required throughout the growing season to prevent late blight infection or buildup of insects that vector viruses. Specific ways to prevent these problems require using widely accepted methods such as found in the Pacific Northwest Disease/Insect Management Handbooks, or as recommended by local experts in disease/insect control.

(f) All farm equipment related to potato production (used to till and level farm ground or handle potatoes), must be steam cleaned or power washed to remove all soil and plant debris before entering the control area.

(3) Potatoes in transit through the control area shall be in containers or vehicles covered or sealed to prevent loss of tubers or soil.

(4) Destruction of volunteer potatoes. Each grower within the control area is responsible for destroying volunteer potatoes growing on summer fallow, set-aside, non-cultivated, and rotational crop areas of the grower's property. In the event that the grower fails to destroy such plants, the Director may order them destroyed at the expense of the grower. Volunteers in rotation crops should be controlled in the best way possible.

(5) Potatoes in home gardens may be subject to inspection by the Oregon Department of Agriculture should the need arise, and effective control measures shall be taken if necessary.

(6) Any violation of this rule shall be deemed to be a violation of ORS 570.410 and subject the violator to the penalty provisions of ORS 570.990 and 570.995, including civil penalties of up to \$10,000.

Additionally, any potato seed found to be in violation of this rule shall be destroyed or disposed of in a manner prescribed by the Department. The grower shall pay the cost of destruction.

News and Information

Wolves in Oregon



With the recent changes that have occurred in Oregon relative to wolves 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.

In January a radio-collared gray wolf was confirmed in Oregon. This wolf was found between the city of Wallowa and Medical Springs in Baker County. The latest locations indicate that this female wolf was staying in the head waters of the Minam River. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has not yet found evidence that she has paired up with any other wolf.

The wolf population in Idaho has continued to expand at a rapid rate. The wolf population in the last annual report (2007) for the Northern Rocky Mountain Distinct Population Segment (DPS) totals 1513 with increases of over 200 in each of the past three years. The Idaho wolf population consists of 732 in 2007 with increases between 60 and 160 in each of the past three years.

The other event that prompts me to write about wolves is that the delisting of wolves from the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) took effect March 28, 2008 for the Northern Rocky Mountain Gray Wolf DPS. Wolves are currently delisted under the federal ESA 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. There has been a notice to file a lawsuit to stop the delisting, however, at this writing it has not occurred. For those producers west of the above described boundary, wolves are still listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act. Until wolves are delisted from the federal Endangered Species Act, livestock producers west of the above described line, that see a wolf near livestock may attempt to scare it off (by making loud noises for example) but cannot harm a wolf in any way, even when it is in the act of attacking livestock.

Since wolves in this portion of Oregon are no longer listed under the federal ESA, but are still listed under the Oregon Endangered Species Act, that kicks in the Oregon Wolf Plan rules. Livestock producers need to know what that plan says. The Oregon Wolf Plan establishes rules during Phase I. These 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:

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.

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News & Information:

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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.

USFS Travel Management Planning

The United States Forest Service (USFS) began a planning process to designate motorized vehicle use. In 2004, the Chief of the Forest Service cited four major threats to National Forest System (NFS) lands. One of these threats included "unmanaged outdoor recreation". To address this issue, the Forest Service developed a national strategy to evaluate recreational motor vehicle use on NFS lands. This strategy was then formalized as new national travel management regulations and published as a final Travel Management "Rule" in the Federal Register in 2005.

To meet the direction and intent of the Final Travel Management Rule, the Wallowa Whitman National Forest (WWNF) is developing their travel management plan for motorized vehicle use. They hope to be finished by the end of 2009. In the spring of 2007 the WWNF published a proposed action in the Federal Register. Following several public meetings around the proposed action, the local county officials in Baker and Wallowa Counties decided that on the ground surveys were needed to obtain the best information possible for this decision making process. Volunteers in those counties have since been working to survey the roads, manage the data and develop a recommendation to the USFS for consideration in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. In late February and March that information was delivered to the USFS for consideration. Wallowa, Union and Baker Counties are currently negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding for the counties to receive Cooperating Agency Status so that they can work cooperatively with the USFS as they proceed through the NEPA process. This status will allow continued local governmental input at each step as the process moves forward.

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News & Information:

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This planning process is a major change from USFS policy to date on motorized vehicle use on national forest land. Two issues make it critical that those roads needed for access to public lands be left open. First the new travel management policy states that there will be no off road travel by motorized vehicles, second when these rules are finalized all roads that are not identified open will be closed. Both of these rules are complete opposites of what has been the policy in public lands.



To assure that your needs on public lands are met, you need to stay involved in the USFS travel management planning process. There will be at least two more times for public comment and it is hoped that your commissioners will be staying involved through the cooperating agency status.

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