

# Oregon State University Extension Service

## The Prompter/Rancher Review

A Baker, Wallowa and Union County Farm and Ranch Newsletter

JANUARY 2005



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

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Extension Service

(\*\* Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification and/or CCA credits requested and/or available.)

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Jan. 11-13 | Spokane Ag Show. Spokane, WA.   |
| Jan. 13-14 | **PNW Direct Seed and Cropping Systems Conference. Spokane, WA.   |
| Jan. 13-14 | Oregon Mint Growers Annual Meeting—Gleneden Beach   |
| Jan. 21    | **OSU Field Crops Winter Weed Workshop – NE Oregon. Ag Service Center Conference Room, Island City.   |
| Jan. 25    | **Central Oregon Pest Management Course—Bend  |
| Jan. 25-26 | **Oregon Horticulture Society 119th Annual Meeting—Portland ( <i>see article page 2</i> )   |
| Jan 27     | PGG Irrigation School   |
| Jan. 27-28 | 38th Annual Potato Conference—Doubletree Hotel—Lloyd Center   |
| Feb. 1     | Wasco County Fruit and Produce League Cherry Horticulture Meeting—The Dalles  |
| Feb. 1-2   | **Integrated Pest and Nutrient Management Options: Practices and Tools to Protect Water Quality Workshop. Boise, ID. Contact: 541-737-2683. |
| Feb. 1-2   | **Non-Crop Vegetation Management Course—Corvallis   |
| Feb. 3     | **Hood River Winter Horticulture Meeting—Hood River   |
| Feb. 8     | **Urban Pest Management Course—Oregon City  |
| Feb. 8-9   | **Pesticide Chemistry, Toxicology, and Policy Short Course—Ontario  |
| Feb. 8-9   | **PNW Integrated Pest Management Short Course—Eugene  |
| Feb. 14    | **Private Pesticide Applicator Training and Examination Preparation – Union Co. Open to any licensed pesticide applicators. Fee: free.      |
| Feb. 15    | **Private Pesticide Applicator Training and Examination Preparation – Baker Co. Open to any licensed pesticide applicators. Fee: free.      |
| Feb. 16    | **Private Pesticide Applicator Training and Examination Preparation – Wallowa Co. Open to any licensed pesticide applicators. Fee: free.    |
| Feb. 18    | Pesticide Applicator Exam Session – Ag. Service Center Conf. Room, Island City.   |
| Feb. 15-16 | **Integrated Pest and Nutrient Management Options: Practices and Tools to Protect Water Quality Workshop. Pasco, WA.                        |
| May 16-20  | Columbia Basin Soil Quality Tours with Dr. Jill Clapperton. More details to follow, however, start planning now to attend this event!       |

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## WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS

### Oregon Horticulture Society Annual Meeting

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Doubletree Inn, Columbia River, Portland, OR

Chairman: Jeff Olsen, OSU Extension Horticulturist

8:30 **Blush Sweet Cherries** - Dr. Anita Azarenko, OSU Horticulture Professor and Annie Chozinski, OSU Research Assistant

9:00 **Improving Orchard Soil Quality** - Dr. Sarah McDonald, OSU Department of Horticulture

9:30 **Protected Cultivation of Sweet Cherry Using Plastic Tunnels and Synthetic Fabric Ground Cover: Its Potential and Recent Advances** - Dr. Roberto Nunez-Elisea, OSU Horticulture Assistant Professor, OSU Mid-Columbia Research and Extension Center

10:00 **Break**

10:20 **OSU Department of Horticulture Update** - Dr. Anita Azarenko, Interim Department Head

10:30 **Pruning for Dollars: High Density Management Systems for Sweet Cherry** - Dr. Mathew Whiting, WSU Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center, Prosser, WA

### 2004 NE OR Private Applicator "CORE", General, and Pre-Exam Training:

Need to take an exam for private pesticide applicators license? Need to take a Laws and Safety exam for another license type? Need private pesticide applicator CORE training? Need general re-certification credit? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions plan on attending one of the NE Oregon training sessions sponsored by your local OSU Extension Service. Each session will last from 10:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. A lunch break (on your own) will take place between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. Re-certification credit sign-up sheets will be available at the end of the training session.

**Register** for the training session at your local OSU

Extension office **no later than February 11th.**

Feb. 14, 2005 Union Co. Ag Service Center Conference Room - Island City  
Contact: Darrin L. Walenta, OSU Extension Service-Union Co.  
10507 North McAlister Road  
La Grande, OR 97850  
Phone: 963-1010

Feb. 15, 2005 Baker Co. Extension Service Conference Room - Baker City  
Contact: OSU Extension Service-Baker Co.  
2610 Grove Street  
Baker City, OR 97814  
Phone: 523-6418

Feb. 16, 2005 Cloverleaf Hall – Enterprise  
Contact: John Williams, OSU Extension Service-Wallowa Co.  
668 NW 1<sup>st</sup>  
Enterprise, OR 97828  
Phone: 426-3143

Feb. 18, 2005 Examination Session (for any type of license). Union County Ag Service Center Conference Room. ***Starts promptly at 9:00 a.m.***

The training session is not intended to be a complete review of all materials needed to take a Private Pesticide Applicator exam, however, many important concepts pertinent to all pesticide applicators will be presented. OSU Extension encourages self-study of pertinent license study materials prior to the training session. ***Please note that a REVISED version of the standard study manual "Oregon Pesticide Safety Education Manual – EM 8850" was released January 2004. Copies can be purchased at your local extension office for \$22.50.*** Topics covered will include:

- Math for Pesticide Applicators
- Pesticide Laws, Regulations, and Definitions
- Pesticide Safety, PPE, Storage, and Disposal
- Pesticide Label & Formulations
- Other Topics of Interest

## WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS, Con't.....

**Need to take an exam? Exam session participants need to register at the Union Co. Extension office on or before February 16.** At this session, you may take any test for any license type. When you call to register for a test, you must specify the *type of license and category* needed to make sure the appropriate exams will be available. Check the Oregon Department of Agriculture web site

<http://oregon.gov/ODA/PEST/> for information regarding license types and study materials or come by the extension office a pick up a free copy of "Pesticide Related Licensing in Oregon". Alternatively, exams can be scheduled at any time by calling the Union Baker Education Service District (Island City) at 963-4106 and setting up an appointment.

### OSU Agronomic Crops Winter Weed Workshops

Contact information: Jed Colquhoun, Extension Weed Specialist,  
541-737-8868, [jed.colquhoun@oregonstate.edu](mailto:jed.colquhoun@oregonstate.edu)

The **Agronomic Crops Winter Weed Workshops** include hands-on training opportunities for growers and field consultants. The crop focus will include grass and legume seed production, wheat, peppermint, and pasture and hay. The objective of the workshops is to bring field training opportunities indoors, while stimulating interest with small-group interactive opportunities, live plants, and programs tailored to local issues.

#### Topics will include:

**Practical and economical ways to reduce pesticide drift.** A few simple and relatively inexpensive strategies can greatly reduce the risk for pesticide drift. The ideas behind these methods will be reviewed, followed by demonstrations of their use.

**Factors that affect herbicide persistence.** The occurrence of herbicide carryover in soil and injury to subsequent crops has increased dramatically in recent years. We will review, with plant samples and demonstrations, the factors that affect herbicide persistence so that we might be able to reduce future issues.

#### Weed management diagnostic troubleshooting.

Back by popular demand! Roles will be reversed – OSU weed personnel will present the weed management problem, participants will troubleshoot the issue by asking questions, digging plants, etc.

Weed Science Research and Extension

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#### Workshop dates and locations:

**Pendleton:** January 20, 2005, 8AM to noon  
Pendleton Convention Center. Registration: Mary Corp, 541-278-5403

**La Grande:** January 21, 2005, 8AM to noon, Union County Agricultural Service Center. Registration: Darin Walenta, 541-963-1010

**Corvallis:** January 24, 2005, 8AM to noon  
OSU Crop Science Building. Registration: Barb Reed, 541-737-5854

**Madras:** January 25, 2005, 8AM to noon  
Madras Senior Center, Madras, OR. Registration: Marv Butler, 541-475-3808

- **Class size is limited to 40 participants on a first call first serve basis!** Register by phone for your location.
- **CCA and pesticide recertification** credits will be requested.
- Workshops will be held **free of charge** this year, with the generous support of several sponsors:  
Oregon Mint Commission  
Oregon Seed Council  
Oregon Wheat Commission  
OSU Extension Service  
OSU Agricultural Experiment Station

## NEWS AND OTHER INFORMATION

**Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite (AGR-Lite)** is a whole-farm revenue protection plan of insurance. The plan provides protection against low revenue due to unavoidable natural disasters and market fluctuations that affect income during the insurance year. Most farm-raised crops, animals, and animal products are eligible for protection.

AGR-Lite can stand alone or be used in conjunction with other Federal crop insurance plans, except Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR). When producers purchase both AGR-Lite and other Federal crop insurance, the AGR-Lite premium will be reduced.

The AGR-Lite concept:

- Uses a producer's 5-year historical farm average revenue reported on the IRS 1040 Schedule F tax form, other IRS farm tax forms, and an annual farm report as a base to provide a level of guaranteed revenue for the insurance period;
- Provides insurance coverage for multiple agricultural commodities in one insurance product; and Establishes revenue as a common denominator for the insurance of all agricultural commodities.

### AGR-Lite Timeline

**Sales Closing Date.** January 31 (cancellation and termination date also).

**Year of Insurance.** For the year of application, you will not be covered for any losses that occur earlier than 10 days after we receive your properly completed application.

**Insurance Year.** A calendar year if you file your taxes on a calendar year basis. A fiscal year if you file your taxes on a fiscal year basis.

**Claims.** Claims are settled after taxes are filed for the insurance year.

### Availability

AGR-Lite is available in: Alaska (selected counties), Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York (selected counties), North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania (except Philadelphia County), Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and West Virginia.

### Producer Eligibility

To be eligible for AGR-Lite coverage, a producer must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or legal resident.-
- File a calendar year or fiscal year farm tax return.
- Have less than \$512,821 in approved gross income; coverage is limited to \$250,000.
- Have appropriate IRS tax forms available for the previous 5 consecutive years under the same tax entity (for exceptions, contact your crop insurance agent).
- Have no more than 50 percent of total revenue from commodities purchased for resale.
- Have no more than 83.35 percent of total revenue from potatoes.

### Premium Subsidy

The government will pay a portion of the premium for the AGR-Lite policy that equals 48 percent, 55 percent, and 59 percent of the total premiums for the coverage levels of 80 percent, 75 percent, and 65 percent, respectively.

### Insured Causes of Loss

Insurance is provided against loss of revenue due to any unavoidable natural peril or market fluctuation that causes a loss in revenue. No payment will be made for losses due to negligence, mismanagement, or wrongdoing by the insured, the insured's family, members of the household, tenants, employees, or contractors; crop abandonment; bypassing of acreage; and other causes listed in the insurance policy.

### AGR-Lite Application Information

Producers must provide the following information when completing an AGR-Lite application:

- Histories calculation worksheet, including 5 years of allowable income and expense data from their IRS 1040 Schedule F forms (or equivalent IRS forms);
- An annual farm report showing the intended revenue-producing commodities and their expected revenue;
- A commodity profile report for the previous 2 years for producers selecting higher coverage levels.

## NEWS AND OTHER INFORMATION, Con't.....

- Beginning inventories, if applicable.

### Choosing a Revenue Guarantee

Coverage levels and payment rates vary with the number of commodities produced and are selected by the producer from the Special Provisions of Insurance (see below). AGR-Lite liability is calculated by multiplying the approved adjusted gross revenue by the selected coverage level and payment rate. The coverage level will determine when indemnity payments begin. The payment rate will determine how much the producer will be paid for each dollar lost under the coverage level. A producer selects one amount of coverage that will cover all commodities.

### Available Protection Amounts

Coverage Level	Payment Rate	Minimum # of Commodities *	Max Annual Income
65	75	1	\$512,821
65	90	2	\$427,350
75	65	1	\$512,821
75	75	2	\$444,444
75	90	2	\$370,370
80	75	4	\$416,667
80	90	4	\$347,222

\* Must meet minimum income requirements.

\* Commodity grouping is available for increased coverage.

\*The Maximum Annual Income represents the maximum approved farm revenue at each coverage level and payment rate to be eligible for AGR-Lite due to the \$250,000 maximum liability allowed.

### Loss Payment Example

#### Assumptions:

- 80% coverage level and 75% payment rate chosen
- Approved adjusted gross revenue of \$100,000 and actual revenue from the farm for the year was \$70,000.
- Liability:  $\$100,000 * .80 * .75 = \$60,000$
- Loss Inception Point:  $\$100,000 * 0.80 = \$80,000$

### Loss Scenario:

- $\$80,000 - \$70,000$  revenue to count = \$100,000 loss of revenue
- $\$10,000 \times .75$  payment rate = \$7,500 indemnity payment

*Note: If the insured's allowable expenses for the current crop year falls below 70 percent of the approved expenses, the approved AGR will be reduced. This summary is for general illustration purposes only.*

### Contact Information

Please contact a private crop insurance agent to learn more about AGR-Lite. For a list of crop insurance agents, visit the Risk Management Agency's (RMA's) online agent locator at: <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>.

### Download Copies From the Web

Visit our online publications page at: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/pubs/rme/fctsh.html>

### Policy and Forms:

<http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/2005policy.html>

### Premium Calculation:

<http://www3.rma.usda.gov/apps/premcalc>

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### OSU Evaluating New Release Mechanism for a New Wheat Variety.

OSU Wheat Breeder Jim Peterson hopes to release a newly developed winter wheat variety, known as OR9801757, which is described as a "super soft" white winter wheat. The variety has exceptionally soft kernel texture, high break-flour yields, large diameter cookies, and high sponge cake volume. The agronomic-background of the dryland variety is very good and

background of the dryland variety is very good and also has a good disease resistance package. Variety performance data can be accessed at [http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/wheat/state\\_performance\\_data.htm](http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/wheat/state_performance_data.htm). Such qualities are of great economic value to millers and bakers, therefore, OSU is looking at methods to capture that value. In order for this to occur, the identity of the variety will need to be preserved continuously throughout the production and marketing process. One potential method for preserving its identity is to release the variety semi-exclusively to a limited number of licensees which will manage seed stocks, production, segregation, and IP marketing of the grain.

A draft of the proposed semi-exclusive release license is posted on the OSU Crop and Soil Science web site at <http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/>. A public comment period, which closed December 17, has provided OSU with input regarding the merits of such licensing and will be factored into the decision making process on how best to release the new variety. A colleague of mine, Sandy MacNab, has pointed out that "this is one of those issues where one needs to think globally and act locally".

If there is general support from growers and industry to continue, a final license agreement will be proposed to the Dean of the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences for administrative review and approval. An open Request for Applications' could then be distributed as soon as January 1, 2005.

## NEWS AND OTHER INFORMATION, Cont.....

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