34th ANNUAL UNION CO. CROPS & CONSERVATION TOUR
Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Time: Coffee & donuts 7:00 a.m. Program starts 7:30 a.m. Buses depart 8:00 - 8:15 a.m.
Location: Crop Production Services on Booth Lane, 2.6 miles NE of Island City on HWY 82.

Tour participants are encouraged to park their vehicles at CPS and ride along on the bus!

7:30 a.m. Morning Program at Crop Production Services
• Welcome and Announcements – Darrin L. Walenta, OSU Extension
• Guest Introductions – Dale Case
• USDA-Farm Service Agency Update - Jennifer Isley, County Executive Director
• USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service Update - Mike Burton, Dist. Conservationist

Stop 1 2009 Conservation Farm of the Year – Bowman Farm (approx. 8:20 a.m.)
(Buchanan Lane, ¼ mile north of Gekeler Lane)

“Window Stop 1” Bowman Farm – Nibley Settlement Site
“Window Stop 2” Bowman Farm – Grey Place on Conley Road

Stop 2 Comstock Road, Cove (approx. 9:30 a.m.)
• Sweet Cherry Production – Brian Sickels, Jubilee Farms
• Cherry Fruit Fly Update – Darrin L. Walenta, OSU Extension Service
• Union Soil and Water Conservation District Update and Diversion Projects – Craig Schellsmidt, District Manager

“Window Stop 3” City of Cove Hydroelectric Plant

Stop 3 Peach Road and Airport Lane (approx. 11:00 a.m.)
• Certified Seed Potato and Specialty Seed Production – Rob & Carrie Lane, Lane Farms
• Catherine Creek Assessment Project – Jeff Oveson (Executive Director) and Lyle Kuchenbecker (Project Planner), Grande Ronde Model Watershed
• NRCS EQIP Program Update – Mike Burton, District Conservationist

Stop 4 Grande Ronde Seed Farm Headquarters - Peach Rd. & Gekeler Lane (approx. noon)
• Grande Ronde Seed Farm Overview and Handling of Certified Seed Potatoes – Greg Harris, Agronomist, R.D. Offutt Northwest
• Lunch available at approximately 12:15 p.m.

Buses will depart approx. 1:30 p.m. to return to Crop Production Services (ETA approx. 2:00 p.m.)
The 2010 Tour Committee would like to express our appreciation to the following sponsors and all other individuals, organizations, businesses and guest speakers for their contributions of time, labor, equipment and financial resources to make the 2010 Tour a success!! This annual event would not be possible without your continued support!

**Platinum**

Crop Production Services, Inc.  
Island City Grain Co.  
Barreto Manufacturing, Inc.  
Eagle Carriage & Machine, Inc.  
Community Bank  
Oregon Wheat Growers League  
Wheatland Insurance Center, Inc.  
Wallowa County Grain Growers  
Eagle Freightliner  
M.J. Goss Motor Company  
I.P. Callison and Sons  
Pendleton Grain Growers, Inc.  
Eastern Oregon Rental and Sales  
Banner Bank  
Les Schwab Tire Center, La Grande

**Gold**

Oregon Trail Seeds, Inc.  
Blue Mountain Seeds, Inc.  
Old West Federal Credit Union  
Oregon Trail Electric Co-Op  
Oregon Trail Seeds, Inc.  
Barenbrug USA  
Ranch-N-Home Realty-John Collins  
Northwest Farm Credit Services

**Silver**

S & G Machinery Co.  
The Amalgamated Sugar Co., LLC.  
Woodpecker Truck  
City of Island City  
Eastern Oregon University  
Powerhouse Plus Hydro  
S & G Machinery Co.  
The Amalgamated Sugar Co., LLC.  
Woodpecker Truck  
City of Island City  
Eastern Oregon University  
Powerhouse Plus Hydro  
Boise Cascade, LLC.  
H.L. Wagner & Sons, Inc.  
AgriCheck/AgSource  
Lackey Insurance Agency  
Guyer & Associates

**Bronze**

GlasSmith  
The Door Guy - Bob Fager  
Union Soil & Water Conservation Dist.  
Union Co. Cattlemen's Association  
GlasSmith  
The Door Guy - Bob Fager  
Union Soil & Water Conservation Dist.  
Union Co. Cattlemen's Association  
D & B Supply, Inc.  
KUO Testing Labs, Inc.  
Eagle Cap Steel & Supply, Inc.
Union County includes 1,300,480 acres of land within its boundaries. Approx. 49.7% of the land base is publicly-owned and 50.3% privately-owned. The Grande Ronde Valley lies at the center of the county and stretches approx. 35 miles north-south and 15 miles east-west.

According to the 2007 USDA Census of Agriculture, there were 880 farms in Union Co. with an average of 554 acres per farm, which represents an 11% decrease in # of farms and a 15% increase in farm size compared to the 2002 Ag Census. Overall, land in farms totaled 487,584 acres categorized as 29% cropland, 16% woodland, 53% pasture, and 2% other land use. Irrigated land totaled 63,266 acres (or 13% of total land in farms).

Overall, soils found in Union County are complex with textures ranging from sandy loam to clay soils and pH levels ranging from acidic to alkaline. Producers utilize specialized crop and livestock production methods to meet the challenges of soil/climate variability and to promote economic and environmental sustainability. Oregon agricultural economics and crop production statistics are available at the Oregon Agriculture Information Network website – [http://oain.oregonstate.edu](http://oain.oregonstate.edu)

Detailed Oregon climate/weather information also available at [http://www.ocs.oregonstate.edu](http://www.ocs.oregonstate.edu)

### Population of Union County:

- Approximately 25,000

### Principle Industries:

- Agriculture, Timber, Government, Education, and Manufacturing

### Agriculture:

- **Estimated Farm Gate Sales:** $58,099,000 (data on reverse side)
  - (% of Total Est. Farm Gate Sales: Crops = 72%; Livestock = 27%; Small Woodlots = 1%)

#### Small Grains:
- 33,700 acres (32,000 acres wheat; 1,500 acres barley; 200 acres oats)

#### Hay:
- 38,000 acres (23,000 acres alfalfa; 15,000 acres other hay)

#### Turf Grass Seed:
- 8,815 acres (61% Kentucky bluegrass; 37% fine fescues; 2% other)

#### Peppermint for oil:
- 7,200 acres

#### Sweet Cherries:
- 325 acres

#### Other Field Crops:
- 6,000 acres (includes certified seed & commercial potatoes; sugar beet; specialty seed crops (canola, sunflower, vegetable seed, camelina, field beans/peas; & other crops)

#### Cattle:
- 14,500 head (beef cows)

#### Horses/Mules:
- 2,800 head

#### Sheep:
- 1,200 head (ewes)

#### Other Livestock/Poultry:
- 1,000 head

### CLIMATE DESCRIPTION:

(Oregon Climate Service – 30 year average from 1971 to 2000*).

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cove</td>
<td>3120</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>59.6</td>
<td>33.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elgin*</td>
<td>2660</td>
<td>23.7</td>
<td>62.4</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>Sept. 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>La Grande*</td>
<td>2760</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>60.9</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>Sept. 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Union*</td>
<td>2770</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>59.7</td>
<td>35.7</td>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>Sept. 17</td>
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June 2010

Prepared by Darrin L. Walenta – OSU Extension Agronomist

Visit us at our new web site!!  [http://extension.oregonstate.edu/union/index.php](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/union/index.php)
Agricultural Commodity Sales
Union County, 2009p

2009p Sales By Commodity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alfalfa hay</td>
<td>4,399</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grass Seed</td>
<td>4,296</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peppermint for oil</td>
<td>12,175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small woodlots</td>
<td>520</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>6,614</td>
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<td>Other crops</td>
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**ALL CROPS** 42,128

<table>
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<th>Commodity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>15,500</td>
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<td>Other animal products</td>
<td>471</td>
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**ALL LIVESTOCK** 15,971

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Crops</th>
<th>Livestock</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>2007r</td>
<td>58,109</td>
<td>16,506</td>
<td>74,615</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008r</td>
<td>62,866</td>
<td>15,338</td>
<td>78,204</td>
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<td>2009p</td>
<td>42,128</td>
<td>15,971</td>
<td>58,099</td>
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Source: Extension Economic Information Office
Oregon State University
December 29, 2009