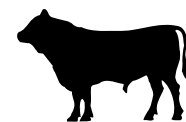


Oregon State University Extension Service
The Prompter / Rancher Review
A Union, Baker and Wallowa County Farm & Ranch Newsletter



April 2010



Calendar of Events

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Darrin L. Walenta

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Union County Extension

Ag Service Center

10507 N McAlister Rd Rm 9

La Grande, OR 97850

(541) 963-1010

Toll Free 1-800-806-5274

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John Williams

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Wallowa County Extension

668 NW First St

Enterprise OR 97828

(541) 426-3143

Toll Free 1-888-844-3143

Fax (541) 426-0243



Extension Service

April 2010

- 11-14 Pacific Branch-Entomology Society of America Annual Meeting. Boise, ID
- 15 Sign-up deadline for OSCS grass, white clover, and radish seed crops. New stands of white clover require seedling inspection and need to be signed up within 60 days of planting (red clover differs, see below!)
- 22 OSC-ODA Research Proposal Review Meeting
- 23 Union and Wallowa Co. Extension Service Offices closed (furlough)
- 27 Annual DEQ Review of Union Co. Smoke Management Program
- 27-28 OSCS Staff Training for ISTA Sampling - OSU Seed Lab, Corvallis

May 2010

- 7 Public comment period closes for OR-OSHA Proposed Changes to Div. 4, Agriculture. Text of proposed changes at www.orosha.org.
- 14 Wallowa Co. Extension Office Closed (furlough)
- 27 OSU-HAREC Grass Seed Field Day, Hermiston
EOARC Beef Cattle Field Day, Burns
- 28 Union Co. Extension Service Office closed (furlough)

June 2010

- 1 Sign-up deadline for OSCS field bean (or 15 days after planting) seed crop
- 15 OSU-CBARC Field Day, Pendleton
- 15 Sign-up deadline for OSCS alfalfa, chickpea (or 5 days after planting), red clover seed crops. New plantings of red clover require seedling inspection and need to be signed up within 60 days of planting (fields planted between April 1 and July 1 must be signed up within 15 days of planting).

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June 2010 (cont.)

- 16 100th Anniversary OSU Sherman Station Field Day, Moro
- 23 34th Annual Union Co. Crops & Conservation Tour
- 25 Union Co. Extension Office closed (furlough)
- 27 OSU Range Field Day, Eastern Oregon Ag Experiment Station, Union
- 29 OSU-HAREC Potato Field Day, Hermiston

**July 2010**

- 11-16 Summer Ag Institute Session #2 (La Grande). Contact: Jana Dick, 562-5129

August 2010

- 11-18 Union Co. 4-H Exchange Program to Rensselaer County, New York!
- 31 OSU-HAREC Sweet Corn Field Day, Hermiston

Attention Certified Seed Growers and Warehouses!
Local Seed Certification Office Hours & Work Schedule Announced for 2010!

Growers and seed company representatives are reminded that Larry Davidson, Union Co. Seed Certification Aide, will maintain the following office hours during the scheduled work days:

Monday – Wednesday – Friday 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

- After 10 a.m. on these days, Larry will be out in the warehouse/field, so give him a call at the Union OSCS phone (963-1060) or via Email: union@oscs.orst.edu. Keep in mind that once he is finished with the work scheduled for the day, he is done for the day!
- **Warehouse and Seed Company Representatives:** the same program you've been following for years still applies: call in or email requests for sampling/tagging by 9:30 a.m. to receive same day service. After 9:30 a.m., the request will be serviced the next regular business day for Larry.
- **Growers:** in order to receive in-office assistance, please consider calling Larry during this time-frame to set up an appointment. He leaves for the warehouse at approx. 10 a.m. and will be available once he returns.
- **Special Office Hours:** grass seed crop field sign-up deadline is April 15th. Larry will be available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 12th to 16th (M-T-W-Th-F) to help growers sign up for the 2010 season. However, sampling/tagging requests will interrupt availability on M-W-F so please call ahead.

NOTE: during the winter months there are no local office hours for Larry on Tuesday or Thursday. The work day schedule will be adjusted accordingly to accommodate increased business volume during the months of July to November if it is necessary. For example, in 2009, it was not necessary to go to a 5-day work week schedule (M-Tu-W-Th-F). The purpose for maintaining such a modified work schedule helps keep program costs down and makes efficient use of OSCS resources.



The availability of other Union County office staff to provide immediate seed certification assistance is variable based upon their daily workload and needs to provide service to other walk-in/phone-in clientele. In addition, our front

office is in the process of transition as I mentioned in the last newsletter! The easiest way to guarantee service is to give a quick call to Larry at 963-1060 and talk to him in person or leave a message so he can return your call. Bottomline, we recognize special situations do arise and we are willing and able to work with you to meet your seed certification needs! Have a great growing season!

Specialty Seed Crops & Isolation Requirements: Preparing for the 2010 Growing Season

Even though it is blowing snow today as I write this article, the 2010 growing season is here! So it is a good time to remind everyone about a couple of our specialty seed crops (canola/rapeseed and sunflower) in which production fields require specific isolation distances from other sites where similar species are growing. Isolation distance provides protection to the seed crop in order to mitigate the possibility of cross-pollination (contamination by other pollen sources). Both crops for certified seed production are susceptible to cross-pollination via wind and insect-transmission of pollen.

Canola: In 2005, the ODA revised (again in 2009) the Brassica production rules and created 4 protected districts in the state where canola/rapeseed is restricted from being grown as an oilseed crop. The NE Oregon protected district is different from the other 3 protected districts in that it allows canola/rapeseed to be grown as either a seed crop for planting purposes or as an oilseed crop for crushing purposes. *One of the key requirements is that all (seed and crush) production field locations must be pinned on the isolation map at the Union County Extension office at least 10 days prior to planting.* Other requirements are that both crops must follow guidelines set for the NE Oregon Protected District. Complete details of canola/rapeseed production districts are available at the extension office or online at www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/canola_summary.shtml.



Isolation distance requirement in NE Oregon is a minimum of 2 miles and, periodically, seed companies may require 3 mile isolation. The last two years, I've been working with Don Wysocki, OSU-CBARC, to explore the potential for camelina production in the area as an alternative oilseed crop for crushing purposes. Even though camelina is a brassica species it *does not* cross pollinate with canola/rapeseed, therefore, would not interfere with canola/rapeseed seed production. More work is needed to develop camelina agronomic practices and to identify higher yielding varieties adapted for NE Oregon that are as competitive "economically" as spring wheat.



Sunflower: Hybrid sunflower seed crop production began in 2006 in the Grande Ronde Valley and has become a successful rotational crop in irrigated cropping systems. Since 2007, annual production has been over 1000 acres even though the crop is very challenging to grow and take through harvest. Bird pests (e.g. starlings) have been well fed the last few years but have wrecked havoc on seed yields. Locally-grown, high quality sunflower seed is marketed both domestically and internationally.

The pollination period for the hybrid sunflower crop is critical since contamination by undesirable pollen can reduce genotypic and phenotypic purity. Such pollen can originate from several sources including "off-type" plants found within the production field; wild sunflowers growing in pastures, along roadsides, and other areas; and home gardens. The multi-headed wild sunflower poses the greatest threat as a source of undesirable pollen. Isolation distance requirements between hybrid sunflower production fields are 2 miles, whereas, the preferred isolation distance from garden variety sunflowers is 1 mile.

Hybrid sunflower production fields are planted as early as possible with the hopes of the seed crops blooming prior to garden sunflowers. Fortunately, the hybrid sunflowers complete the bloom stage in 2 to 3 weeks, compared to garden-type sunflowers which may bloom over a 1 to 2 month period. However, there will be short periods of time where both commercial and garden sunflower may be blooming at the same time. So to avoid any chance of cross-pollination, Betty at Alicel Feed & Seed (AFS) has offered the following assistance and options to neighbors within 1 mile of their production fields:

- AFS will communicate with neighbors early this year to discuss options that will enable both commercial and garden sunflowers to be grown successfully and prevent the possibility of cross-pollination.
- AFS will provide sunflower seed to neighbors who plant sunflowers in their gardens.
- AFS will communicate with neighbors to let them know when the commercial production field has started the pollination stage and when it has finished. AFS can also help you determine when garden sunflowers are in the pollination stage.
- AFS will provide assistance to neighbors to help pluck/remove pollinating heads from multi-head garden sunflowers and/or provide pollination bonnets for single head garden sunflowers. Note: it is not necessary to remove all heads from a multi-head sunflower plant since the heads pollinate at different times. The commercial crop pollination period generally lasts 2 to 3 weeks, so it is only necessary to monitor and pluck/remove pollinating heads during this time. Pollination bonnets may not be a practical option for multi-head types of sunflowers.
- AFS will provide pollination bonnets to neighbors with single head sunflowers in their gardens to get through the critical pollination stage of the commercial crop.
- Betty at Alicel Feed & Seed will be more than happy to discuss any questions or concerns you may have regarding commercial hybrid sunflower seed production, isolation requirements, and garden sunflowers. Please call her at 541-805-8997.

New Publications (online at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/>!)

“A New Pest Attacking Healthy Ripening Fruit in Oregon: Spotted Winged Drosophila”. October 2009. EM 8991. A great publication on this very new pest of many different fruits and berries.

“Rattail Fescue: Biology and Management in PNW Wheat Cropping Systems”. September 2009. PNW 613.

“2009 Seed Production Research at OSU, USDA-ARS Cooperating”. March 2010. Dept. of Crop and Soil Science Ext/CrS 129. Current and previous research reports available online at <http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/seed-ext/publications/research-reports>.

Printed copies available by contacting Barb Reed, CSS-Corvallis, at 541-737-5854.

“Integrated Management of Jointed Goatgrass in the PNW. May 2009. EB 2042.

“2010 Oregon Seed Certification Service Handbook”. March 2010. Copies at Ext. Office.



Furlough Days

The OSU Extension Offices are included in the furlough process where the local offices will be closed at times between now and June 30 due to the state budget reductions. The Furlough schedule is as follows:

Wallowa County OSU Extension Office

April 23

May 14

Union County OSU Extension Office

April 23

May 28

June 25

Baker County OSU Extension Office

Employees are taking their furlough days individually each month (no office closures)



EOARC Beef Cattle Field Day **Thursday, May 27, 2010**

Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center

67826 HWY 205—Burns, OR

Topics covered include:

- ▶ Managing disposition to improve performance of herd
- ▶ Campus Beef Cattle Research Overview
- ▶ BLM Updates
- ▶ Public Land Issues
- ▶ Consequence of Late-Gestational Nutrition on Future Performance
- ▶ Campus Beef Cattle Research Overview
- ▶ Plus More!

7:30 am	Registration Begins
8:40 am	Introduction and Welcome
9:00 am	Morning Section
12-1:30pm	Lunch
1:30-5:00 pm	Afternoon Session
5:30-6:30 pm	Social Hour
6:30-8:00 pm	Prime Rib Dinner
8:00 pm	Cowboy Poetry by Marty Campbell

Full Registration: \$30 (includes program, lunch, and dinner)
 Program & Lunch Only: \$15.00
 Dinner Only: \$20.00
 RSVP Required by May 17, 2010

For More Information please visit the Beef Cattle Sciences Website: <http://beefcattle.ans.oregonstate.edu> or call David Bohnert at (541)573-8910 or Reinaldo Cooke at (541)573-4083



Forest Plan Revision

The US Forest Service (USFS) is gearing up to officially move ahead with their Forest Plan Revision for the three federal forests in Northeast Oregon (Wallowa Whitman, Malheur, and Umatilla). They started this process a couple of years ago under a new set of planning rules, however, those rules got tied up in court and the forest has now restarted under the old planning rules most everyone has become familiar with. That process is driven by the national environmental policy act (NEPA) process that includes: a Need for Action, then defining of the proposal, objectives and scope. The NEPA process identifies decisions to be made and resources that might be affected. With this information alternatives are developed, environmental consequences of the proposed actions are identified and finally a decision is made. The final decision includes an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement and a Record of Decision.

The scoping process to identify the need for action and issues of concern will begin this spring. There should be a public meeting in each of the counties as they move forward. It is predicted by the USFS that it will take approximately two years to complete the planning process.

This plan, when complete, will be the guiding document used to manage the forest land surrounding your community for at least 15 years. Because of this it is important that the local communities participate in the process when possible.

Wolf Update

In 1995 and 1996, sixty-six wolves were captured in Alberta and British Columbia, Canada, and reintroduced into Yellowstone National Park (31 individuals) and central Idaho (35 individuals). Today these populations have grown to more than 1,600 with more than 800 of them in Idaho. Wildlife officials reported over 100 packs in the state with over 200 pups this past year. The state tallied 275 wolf deaths, 135 killed by hunters, 94 in response to preying on livestock, and 48 other deaths. As populations have grown, so has predation on livestock.

In 2009 two wolves were confirmed to be living in Baker County in the Keating area. About April 1st last year these wolves began killing livestock on two local ranches. This depredation ended for a time in late spring until late summer when they returned to the area and again began depredation on livestock. Eventually the wolves were killed by Wildlife Services under the direction of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

One wolf had been confirmed to be living in the Imnaha canyon country and surrounding forest in 2008. In the fall of 2009 it was confirmed a pack of 10 wolves were living in that area with the first known wolf. In the winter of 2010 a pack of 4 wolves was confirmed to be living in the Wenaha wilderness area in northern Wallowa County. Numerous reports of wolf sightings continue to come in throughout the county. Additionally ODFW has been receiving consistent reports of wolf activity in the central and southern Cascades. There is nothing confirmed but with the number of reports the probability goes up that there actually are wolves in those areas.

As ranchers gathered their stock in the fall, those that ran in the areas where the wolves spent the summer and fall are reporting higher than expected numbers of dry cows and missing calves. There has not been any "official documentation" of these losses, however, the reports are there and the losses are consistent with the stories from Idaho.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife have captured members of Imnaha pack and have placed collars on four of the individual wolves, one of those collars is a GPS collar that records the location of the wolf several times a day. This can be down loaded from a plane or vehicle in the vicinity of the wolf. This allows the department to keep track of the wolves.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has begun to update their Oregon Wolf Plan. If you want to be involved in that process contact the ODFW office to find out how.

(Included in this newsletter is a 2-page handout covering wolf status, who to contact pertaining to wolf sightings or depredation, and actions that can be taken in various situations)

Wolves in Oregon

April 27, 2009

With the recent confirmation of wolf depredation that has occurred in Oregon 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.

Wolf Status

The wolf is listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). It is also listed as Endangered under the Oregon ESA. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed that they be removed from the federal ESA listing and has published that rule in the federal register. That delisting will occur on May 4, 2009 barring any court action that would delay or suspend it. There has been several notices of intent to file a lawsuit to stop the delisting, however, at this writing it has not occurred.

Following a delisting from the federal ESA, wolves in the eastern portion of Oregon will continue to be listed endangered under the Oregon ESA. This delisting will affect all wolves 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. For those producers west of the above described boundary, wolves will still be listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Actions While Federally Listed

Actions producers can take while wolves are listed under both federal and state ESA: (this includes producers east of above described line through May 4, 2009 and the rest of producers west of line until future delisting occurs)

Livestock producers may scare a wolf off (by making loud noises for example) but may not harm a wolf in any way, even one seen in the act of attacking livestock. Producers need to report any wolf **sightings or incidents** to:

- ▶ U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) John Stephenson 541-962-8584 or 541-786-3282
- ▶ OR Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) Russ Morgan 541-963-2138 or 541-786-5126

If you believe a wolf has killed your livestock (depredation): Do not move or disturb the carcass or the area surrounding it that might offer clues to cause. Preserve tracks, hair or scat by covering it with plywood, cans or buckets or anything that will not destroy the evidence. Cover the carcass or any remains with a tarp or other material that you might have. Weight it down so wind or other disturbances such as predators will not have access.

When you have **depredation** contact the following:

- ▶ USFWS John Stephenson 541-962-8584 or 541-786-3282
- ▶ Wildlife Services (WS) Mike Slater 541-963-7947 or 541-805-9492),
Dave Williams 503-326-2346.
- ▶ ODFW Russ Morgan 541-963-2138 or 541-786-5126



Actions while listed only under Oregon ESA

After federal delisting occurs in the eastern part of the state, since wolves in this portion of Oregon will not be listed under the federal ESA, but are still listed under the Oregon Endangered Species Act, the Oregon Wolf Plan rules apply. The Oregon Wolf Plan establishes rules by Phases. Phase I rules 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 during Phase I:

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.

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.

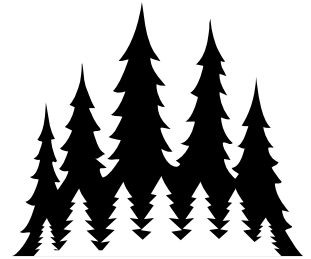
Remember to keep from attracting wolves to your operation bury or remove dead animals immediately.

Prepared by: John Williams, OSU Extension Service, Wallowa County in cooperation with Oregon Cattlemen's Association wolf task force. Significant information was taken from *the Federal/State Coordination Strategy for Implementation of Oregon's Wolf Plan, April 2007* and ODFW's document titled: *How to Respond to Wolf Depredation under the State's Management Plan.*

Travel Management Plan – Steve Ellis & Paul Boehne

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. Following a national public comment process, 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, every national forest and grassland was to develop or revise their travel management plan for motorized vehicle use by 2009.

During the spring of 2007, the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest began updating the forest's travel management plan (TMP) to designate motorized vehicle use. The Forest's stated objectives of the process were to develop a travel management plan that balances public and agency needs with forest resource objectives and allows for long-term sustainable motor vehicle use on the forest for all to enjoy.



The USFS process was to compile existing Forest Plan off-highway vehicle (OHV) direction, and existing travel management decisions and direction for the inventory; validate existing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and tabular (i.e. INFRA) road and trail data; brief elected officials; initiate public information and scoping meetings; publish proposed action in the Federal Register; and to continue through the NEPA process to a Record of Decision. These actions were to be done without ever actually doing a complete on-the-ground evaluation of the current conditions.

The local communities through their board of Commissioners initiated conversations with the USFS on obtaining cooperating agency status while surveying the potential roads that were designated to be closed. With the on the ground information and the local knowledge of citizens the counties then responded to the USFS NEPA process by submitting a county alternative to be included in the draft EIS. In all the Travel Management Draft EIS had 6 alternatives.

The USFS is currently working to identify their preferred alternative. The consultation process under the Endangered Species Act requires that the USFS consult with the US Fish and Wildlife Service on such things as Bull Trout, Wolves, Eagles and federally listed plants and the National Marine Fisheries Service on Anadromous fish such as Chinook salmon and steelhead. This consultation includes the USFS writing a Biological assessment of their proposed action and then the regulatory agencies response with a biological opinion as to how those actions might affect the listed species.

From these documents the US forest service will write a final environmental impact statement and record of decision. According to Steve Ellis, Wallowa Whitman National Forest Supervisor, these decisions won't be out until after this summer. Once the forest makes its decision they will then develop a "motor vehicle use map" that will explain to the public the specific decisions that are made. With this decision the new travel regulations on all National forest lands will take place. Included in these are the change that it will be against the rules to travel anywhere in the forest except on designated travel routes with a motorized vehicle. This will eliminate all off- road-use and will limit travel to designated roads, trails and areas.

During the TMP process discussions occurred about decommissioning, designating fire wood areas and other similar actions. None of these decisions will be included in the final decision; they will be dealt with by district rangers at a later date. Steve Ellis also indicated that the Travel management plan can be revised each year.

So stay tuned but don't look for a decision on TMP until sometime next fall.

**Eastern Oregon Livestock Show
Jun 7 - 12, 2010**

**Union Co. Fair
August 2 - 7, 2010**

**Baker Co. Fair
August 2 - 7, 2010**

**Wallowa Co. Fair
July 31– Aug. 7, 2010**



PROMPTER/RANCHER REVIEW APRIL 2010

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