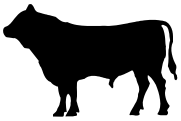
**Oregon State University Extension Service**
**The Prompter / Rancher Review**
**A Union, Baker and Wallowa County Farm & Ranch Newsletter**

# October 2010



Darrin L. Walenta
darrin.walenta@oregonstate.edu
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
Fax (541) 963-1036

John Williams
john.williams.1@oregonstate.edu
Wallowa County Extension
668 NW First St
Enterprise OR 97828
(541) 426-3143
Toll Free 1-888-844-3143
Fax (541) 426-0243

## CALENDAR

**October**

| | |
|---|---|
| Oct 6 | NE District FFA Soil Judging and Crop/Weed ID Contest, La Grande |
| Oct 19-20 | OSWS Annual Meeting, Hood River |
| Oct 22 | OSU Extension Service – Union Co. Office closed –Furlough |

**November**

| | |
|---|---|
| Nov 16 | Union Co. Chamber of Commerce Farmer-Merchant Banquet |
| Nov 17-19 | OSU Extension Annual Conference, Corvallis |

**December**

| | |
|---|---|
| Dec 1-3 | Hermiston Farm Fair |
| Dec 1-3 | Oregon/Idaho Grains Conference, Portland |
| Dec 6-7 | Oregon Seed League Annual Meeting, Salem |

## Interviews Scheduled for OSU Wheat Breeder!

Two candidates for the re-filling the OSU Wheat Breeder position will present seminars in Corvallis and Pendleton during their interviews coming up in October and November.

Dr. Bob Zemetra, University of Idaho, will present a technical seminar on October 11 in Corvallis (available via video conference) at 9 a.m. Dr. Zemetra will then present a seminar and meet with members of the wheat industry at the OSU-CBARC, Pendleton, on October 13 from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Dr. Ed Souza, USDA-ARS Soft White Wheat Quality Lab-Ohio, will present a technical seminar on November 9 in Corvallis (available via video conference) at 9 a.m. Dr. Souza will then present a seminar and meet with members of the wheat industry at the OSU-CBARC, Pendleton, on November 11 from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

The Corvallis seminars are accessible via video conference at the Union Co. Extension Office. If you are interested in the video conference, please let me know ASAP so I can reserve a connection. If you would like to participate in the Pendleton seminars, please call CBARC at 541-278-4186 to RSVP as seating is limited. I plan to participate in both CBARC seminars so let me know if you would like to carpool.

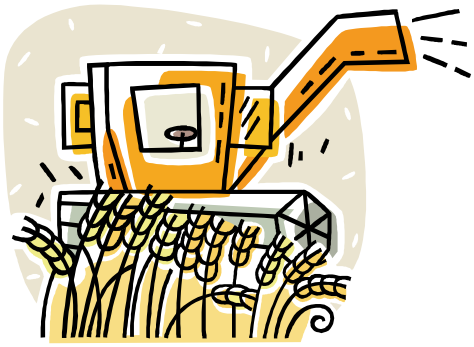
## OSHA Pesticide Applicator Training Sessions – ONLINE and Onsite

Visit the Oregon OSHA web site at http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/osha/education.html to view listings for a variety of upcoming onsite workshops and online training sessions designed for individuals needing continuing education credits (CEUs) for plumbing / construction / electrical / landscape contractors, professional loggers, insurance producers, community college credit, and pesticide applicators/consultants. All educational outreach events are free. To register for workshops or online training sessions, visit their website or call 888-292-5247. Oregon OSHA, in conjunction with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, presents the following classes for **pesticide recertification credits**:

- Class # 203 Personal Protective Equipment (online only). *OR pesticide applicator credits =*
- Class # 205 Hazard Communication (online and live). *OR pesticide applicator credits =*
- Class # 401 Worker Protection Standard (live only). *Nearest location Blue Mountain Community College-Pendleton to be held October 20, 2010. 4 Oregon pesticide applicator recertification credits (also count as CORE) available.*

## OSU Wheat Improvement Program – La Grande Winter Wheat Elite Yield Trial Data 2010

The data collected from the 2010 La Grande WEYT site is in the books and available for use in making variety selections. Given the unusually cool and wet spring conditions in 2010, it is recommended to compare varietal performance data over several years to account for the year-to-year differences in weather patterns. A special thanks goes to TRICO Farms for hosting the site again and continued support to run the trial in an irrigated re-crop system following sugar beets. Seeding date was 10/20/2009. The site quality index was 4 on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent). Overall, environmental conditions had minimal impact at the trial site. However, stripe rust did reduce yields of susceptible varieties.



LG WEYT results are included in the following tables. Yield data was corrected to 12% moisture. Grain yields shaded in gray are not significantly different from the highest yield at this site. Visit the OSU Wheat Improvement Program web site at the following link to access 2010 Statewide Summary Tables and other varietal information.
http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/wheat/state_performance_data.htm

| 2010 Oregon Soft Winter Elite Yield Trials- La Grande | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2010 Yield Data‡ | | 2-Year Yield Data | | 2010 Agronomic Data | | | | |
| Variety | Class | Yield | Rank | Yield | Rank | Test Weight | Plant Height | Lodging | Protein | Stripe Rust |
| | | bu/ac | | bu/ac | | lbs/bu | inches | % | % | % |
| OR2070011 | SWW | 149.5 | 1 | | | 59.9 | 42.0 | 0.0 | 10.9 | 2.5 |
| OR2040726 | SWW | 149.0 | 2 | 152.6 | 2 | 60.0 | 40.0 | 0.0 | 10.8 | 12.5 |
| OR2060395 | SWW | 148.5 | 3 | 148.5 | 7 | 58.1 | 38.7 | 0.0 | 10.2 | 0.0 |
| BRUNEAU | SWW | 145.1 | 4 | 145.9 | 9 | 59.1 | 41.0 | 13.3 | 10.6 | 2.5 |
| WESTBRED 528 | SWW | 144.8 | 5 | 153.8 | 1 | 61.0 | 39.3 | 0.0 | 10.9 | 10.0 |
| SALUTE | SWW | 144.5 | 6 | 149.9 | 5 | 58.6 | 44.0 | 0.0 | 11.1 | 7.5 |
| AP700CL | SWW | 142.2 | 7 | 151.4 | 3 | 58.1 | 43.3 | 0.0 | 11.5 | 5.0 |
| BZ6W02-616 | SWW | 141.3 | 8 | | | 61.4 | 40.5 | 8.3 | 11.2 | 7.5 |
| STEPHENS* | SWW | 141.2 | 9 | 143.2 | 12 | 59.2 | 40.0 | 0.0 | 11.4 | 15.0 |
| BRUNDAGE 96 | SWW | 141.1 | 10 | 149.2 | 6 | 58.8 | 39.0 | 0.0 | 11.5 | 10.0 |
| OR2071071 | SWW | 140.6 | 11 | | | 55.8 | 37.5 | 0.0 | 11.2 | 0.0 |
| MADSEN* | SWW | 138.6 | 12 | 143.7 | 11 | 58.9 | 40.0 | 0.0 | 11.4 | 0.0 |
| CARA | Club | 138.5 | 13 | 150.0 | 4 | 57.7 | 42.0 | 0.0 | 10.8 | 0.0 |
| WESTBRED 523 | SWW | 137.5 | 14 | | | 60.2 | 39.7 | 0.0 | 11.1 | 0.0 |
| OR2070608 | SWW | 137.0 | 15 | | | 58.5 | 37.3 | 0.0 | 10.5 | 7.5 |
| OR2070870 | SWW | 136.8 | 16 | | | 59.0 | 36.7 | 0.0 | 11.0 | 5.0 |
| ORCF-101R | SWW | 136.4 | 17 | 141.9 | 13 | 59.9 | 39.0 | 0.0 | 11.6 | 0.0 |
| OR2071628 | SWW | 134.7 | 18 | | | 55.5 | 39.0 | 0.0 | 11.1 | 5.0 |
| OR2071029 | SWW | 134.6 | 19 | | | 55.4 | 38.0 | 0.0 | 11.4 | 15.0 |
| OR2070453 | SWW | 134.5 | 20 | | | 58.0 | 39.3 | 0.0 | 10.9 | 2.5 |
| LEGION | SWW | 134.0 | 21 | 139.3 | 16 | 55.3 | 43.7 | 13.3 | 11.7 | 0.0 |
| OR2070385 | SWW | 132.5 | 22 | | | 56.1 | 40.0 | 0.0 | 12.5 | 2.5 |
| ORCF-102 | SWW | 132.3 | 23 | 145.4 | 10 | 59.1 | 43.0 | 0.0 | 11.1 | 17.5 |
| CODA | Club | 131.9 | 24 | 129.7 | 25 | 60.4 | 44.5 | 23.3 | 12.1 | 2.5 |
| UICF-BRUNDAGE | SWW | 131.5 | 25 | 146.1 | 8 | 58.0 | 38.3 | 0.0 | 11.4 | 40.0 |
| SKILES | SWW | 130.8 | 26 | 138.8 | 17 | 58.8 | 37.7 | 0.0 | 12.1 | 0.0 |
| ID00-475-2DH | SWW | 128.1 | 27 | | | 59.6 | 41.0 | 3.3 | 10.6 | 30.0 |
| BITTERROOT | SWW | 127.9 | 28 | 137.4 | 19 | 59.9 | 43.3 | 28.3 | 11.0 | 10.0 |
| OR2050910 | SWW | 127.8 | 29 | 141.8 | 14 | 55.9 | 39.3 | 0.0 | 11.4 | 22.5 |
| ORSS-1757 | SWW | 124.2 | 30 | 135.0 | 21 | 55.9 | 40.0 | 0.0 | 11.2 | 15.0 |
| XERPHA | SWW | 122.6 | 31 | 138.1 | 18 | 57.9 | 40.7 | 6.7 | 11.1 | 65.0 |
| AP BADGER | SWW | 121.3 | 32 | | | 56.3 | 35.7 | 0.0 | 11.1 | 25.0 |
| ORCF-101 | SWW | 120.3 | 33 | 133.7 | 23 | 56.6 | 39.3 | 0.0 | 12.5 | 10.0 |
| OR2071681 | SWW | 119.6 | 34 | | | 53.1 | 39.0 | 0.0 | 11.8 | 20.0 |
| GENE* | SWW | 118.2 | 35 | 132.3 | 24 | 55.0 | 36.0 | 0.0 | 12.1 | 30.0 |
| GOETZE | SWW | 117.9 | 36 | 135.2 | 20 | 56.4 | 37.7 | 0.0 | 11.8 | 50.0 |
| AP LEGACY | SWW | 117.5 | 37 | 141.5 | 15 | 56.7 | 41.0 | 0.0 | 11.2 | 70.0 |
| TUBBS 06 | SWW | 113.7 | 38 | 134.2 | 22 | 55.2 | 43.7 | 0.0 | 11.5 | 60.0 |
| ORCF-103 | SWW | 105.4 | 39 | 119.9 | 26 | 55.3 | 42.0 | 61.7 | 11.2 | 30.0 |
| Site Average | | 132.8 | | 141.6 | | 57.8 | 40.1 | 4.1 | 11.3 | 15.6 |
| LSD (0.05) | | 13.6 | | 11.4 | | 1.9 | 1.7 | 17.2 | 1.1 | 10.0 |
| CV (%) | | 6.1 | | 6.9 | | 2.0 | 2.6 | 259.8 | 5.8 | 31.8 |

| 2010 Oregon Hard Winter Elite Yield Trials-La Grande | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2010 Yield Data‡ | | 2-Year Yield Data | | 2010 Agronomic Data | | | | |
| Variety | Class | Yield | Rank | Yield | Rank | Test Weight | Plant Height | Lodging | Protein | Stripe Rust |
| | | bu/ac | | bu/ac | | lbs/bu | inches | % | % | % |
| ML9W05-2501 | HRW | 143.5 | 1 | | | 62.1 | 43.7 | 5.0 | 11.9 | 0.0 |
| STEPHENS* | SWW | 134.9 | 2 | 140.6 | 3 | 58.9 | 39.3 | 0.0 | 11.5 | 25.0 |
| OR2080229H | HWW | 134.3 | 3 | | | 59.1 | 40.0 | 0.0 | 11.4 | 0.0 |
| SINOPE | HRW | 133.5 | 4 | 140.4 | 4 | 54.2 | 37.7 | 0.0 | 11.3 | 0.0 |
| AGRIPRO 79-5-1 | HWW | 132.6 | 5 | | | 59.9 | 38.0 | 0.0 | 12.0 | 0.0 |
| OR2080178H | HWW | 132.5 | 6 | | | 54.3 | 37.7 | 0.0 | 11.6 | 0.0 |
| NORWEST 553 | HRW | 132.3 | 7 | 138.6 | 6 | 62.0 | 33.7 | 0.0 | 11.6 | 0.0 |
| AGRIPRO 79-5-2 | HWW | 130.5 | 8 | | | 60.7 | 39.3 | 0.0 | 11.9 | 0.0 |
| BOUNDARY | HRW | 130.0 | 9 | 131.5 | 8 | 60.6 | 44.0 | 8.3 | 11.3 | 50.0 |
| BC002-2-2 | HRW | **128.8** | 10 | 142.6 | 1 | 60.5 | 39.0 | 0.0 | 13.2 | 0.0 |
| NUDAKOTA | HWW | 128.6 | 11 | 138.8 | 5 | 61.7 | 38.7 | 0.0 | 11.0 | 20.0 |
| WHETSTONE | HRW | 127.9 | 12 | 141.6 | 2 | 61.5 | 42.3 | 0.0 | 12.3 | 10.0 |
| ILLIAS | HRW | **124.6** | 13 | 133.0 | 7 | 54.9 | 43.3 | 0.0 | 12.7 | 0.0 |
| OR2070174H | HWW | 124.0 | 14 | | | 59.1 | 41.3 | 0.0 | 12.3 | 0.0 |
| OR2080156H | HWW | 123.6 | 15 | | | 58.5 | 40.0 | 0.0 | 11.6 | 0.0 |
| ESPERIA | HRW | 122.2 | 16 | | | 61.1 | 35.0 | 0.0 | 12.4 | 0.0 |
| OR2080227H | HWW | 121.9 | 17 | | | 56.1 | 40.0 | 0.0 | 12.0 | 0.0 |
| OR2080111H | HWW | 121.8 | 18 | | | 58.5 | 37.7 | 0.0 | 12.0 | 0.0 |
| ML9W05-2506 | HRW | 121.2 | 19 | | | 62.1 | 42.0 | 0.0 | 11.2 | 60.0 |
| PALOMINO | HWW | **120.1** | 20 | 128.2 | 10 | 60.9 | 38.0 | 0.0 | 13.4 | 15.0 |
| ACS52025 | HRW | 118.2 | 21 | 126.6 | 12 | 59.2 | 38.0 | 43.3 | 10.3 | 80.0 |
| EDDY | HRW | 117.1 | 22 | 124.4 | 14 | 60.9 | 43.0 | 0.0 | 11.4 | 60.0 |
| OR2070181H | HWW | **115.5** | 23 | 128.2 | 11 | 55.3 | 39.0 | 0.0 | 12.7 | 0.0 |
| IDO660 | HWW | **115.2** | 24 | | | 60.3 | 42.3 | 0.0 | 13.0 | 20.0 |
| TUBBS 06* | SWW | 114.9 | 25 | 130.1 | 9 | 55.4 | 42.3 | 0.0 | 11.7 | 70.0 |
| AGRIPRO PALADIN | HRW | 111.8 | 26 | 126.5 | 13 | 60.4 | 39.3 | 0.0 | 12.1 | 30.0 |
| BAUERMEISTER | HRW | **102.9** | 27 | 114.5 | 16 | 54.8 | 44.7 | 56.7 | 12.7 | 30.0 |
| OR2080236H | HWW | **96.3** | 28 | | | 53.6 | 40.7 | 0.0 | 13.8 | 0.0 |
| DECLO | HRW | 90.3 | 29 | 116.3 | 15 | 56.2 | 39.3 | 0.0 | 12.0 | 80.0 |
| FARNUM | HRW | **80.3** | 30 | 90.5 | 17 | 55.8 | 53.0 | 63.3 | 13.3 | 0.0 |
| Site Average | | 121.1 | | 129.0 | | 58.6 | 40.4 | 5.9 | 12.0 | 18.3 |
| LSD (0.05) | | 10.9 | | 8.7 | | 1.6 | 2.2 | 8.3 | 0.9 | |
| CV (%) | | 5.5 | | 5.8 | | 1.6 | 3.3 | 86.1 | 4.7 | |

# OSWS 2010 Annual Meeting – October 19 & 20

The annual meeting of the Oregon Society of Weed Science will be held on Oct. 19th – 20th at the Hood River Inn, Hood River, OR. Participation both days will earn ***approx. 8*** Oregon pesticide applicator recertification credits. Current OSWS members receive pre-registration information in the mail. The 2010 registration fee is $80 for the meeting and includes OSWS membership dues. For more information, call Jeannette Harper, Executive Director, at 541-752-4229 or email at jeannette.harper@oregonstate.edu. Alternatively, call the Extension office and we can provide copies of the registration materials for you!

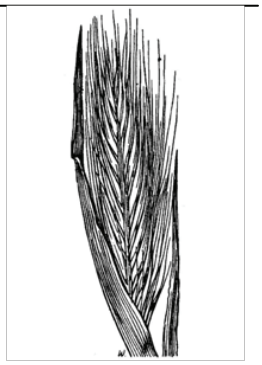
**October 19, 2010**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8:30 a.m. | Opening Remarks | Dan Curtis, President OSWS |
| 8:45 a.m. | ODA Noxious Weed Program | Tim Butler, Noxious Weed Control Program - Oregon Dept. of Ag |
| 9:30 a.m. | Prescribed Burns for Medusahead management | Dr. Joe DiTomaso, UC Davis |
| 10:15 a.m. | Break | |
| 10:30 a.m. | East Side Agriculture Rotational Concerns | Grower Panel |
| 11:30 a.m. | Weed Quiz | Dr. Gary Kiemnec, OSU Ag Program at Eastern Oregon University - La Grande |
| 12:00-1:30 | Lunch | |
| 1:30 p.m. | Grass Seedling ID | Dr. Gary Kiemnec |
| 2:15 p.m. | Non-crop Weed Control Projects on the South Coast | Amy Peters, OSU Extension - Coos Co. |
| 2:45 p.m. | Tenacity (Mesotrione): An herbicide for use with Turfgrass Establishment to Control Weeds | Dr. Gwen K. Stahnke, Washington State University |
| 3:15 p.m. | Break | |
| 3:30 p.m. | Research Update from Columbia Basin Agric. Research Center | Dr. Daniel A. Ball, OSU - Columbia Basin Agric. Research Center - Pendleton |
| | West Side Grass Seed Research Update | Dan Curtis, OSU - Corvallis |
| | West Side Wheat and Mint Research Highlights | Barbara Hinds-Cook, OSU - Corvallis |
| | Hort Crop Report | Dr. Ed Peachey, OSU - Corvallis |
| | Central Oregon Research Update | Rich Affeldt, OSU Extension – Jefferson Co. & COARC - Madras |
| | Extension Weed Control Update | Dr. Andrew Hulting, Extension Weed Specialist, OSU - Corvallis |
| 5:00 p.m. | Social Hour | |

**October 20, 2010**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8:00 a.m. | Prickly Lettuce Management in Washington | Dr. Ian Burke, Washington State Univ. |
| 8:30 a.m. | Wetlands Mitigation Bank Weed Management | Ray Fiori, Oregon Wetlands LLC |
| 9:00 a.m. | The Nature Conservancy: Approaches to Invasive Weed Management | Dr. Steven Buttrick, The Nature Conservancy Oregon |
| 9:30 a.m. | Herbicide Mode of Action: Acetolactate Synthase Inhibitors Review | Dr. Andrew Hulting Extension Weed Specialist, OSU - Corvallis |
| 10:00 a.m. | Break | |
| 10:15 a.m. | Weed Quiz Results | Dr. Gary Kiemnec, OSU Ag Program at EOU - LaGrande |
| 10:30 a.m. | Aquatic Weed Update | Dr. Mark Systma, Portland State University |
| 11:00-12:00 | Industry Research Topics | |
| 12:00-1:30 | Lunch and OSWS Business meeting | |
| 1:30 p.m. | Adjourn | |

# Identifying Hare Barley in Oregon



Hare Barley (*Hordeum murinum* ssp. *leporinum*) is a non-native, annual, cool-season grass that is found in pastures and unmanaged areas across the state. As an immature plant, hare barley is a valuable feed source, but once the seed heads develop, it becomes unpalatable and potentially injurious to livestock because of the awns that are present on the seed heads. Hare barley produces an abundant number of seeds and can establish and expand quickly in perennial pastures, crop land and unmanaged areas. Hare barley has become a problematic weed in pastures of several counties in the Willamette Valley and is thought to infest several thousand acres. However, its distribution across the state of Oregon is currently unknown.

Further confusing the known distribution and identification of hare barley is its similarity to other prominent weeds found in Oregon. Often hare barley is confused with foxtails and foxtail barley though it is neither a foxtail nor the perennial foxtail barley. Other common names associated with hare barley include wild barley, barley grass, common foxtail, farmer's foxtail, leporinum barley and mouse barley.

We are inviting Oregon residents to submit samples of grass weeds that appear to be Hare Barley or look similar to it for identification purposes. Please refer to the following directions when submitting samples:

1. Collect as much of a plant as possible, roots are not necessary. Please be sure to include the seed head with the sample. If sending more than one plant, please use a separate bag/envelope for each plant.
2. Pack the sample in a sturdy box or envelope that will not crush during shipping and mail the sample as soon as possible after collection.
3. Include with the samples the date of collection and your contact information including the county which the sample was found in. Also include information about where the sample was collected such as in a pasture, roadside or crop.
   - A sample submission form and photos of hare barley may be found at http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/weeds/harebarley .
4. Mail samples to: Jessica Haavisto
   Department of Crop & Soil Science
   Oregon State University
   107 Crop Science Building
   Corvallis, Oregon 97331-3002

**Contact your local Extension Office if you need assistance shipping the samples.

It is possible that we may receive a large number of samples. An effort will be made to reply to you with the identification of the species you submitted by December 2010. For further questions or inquiries please contact:

Jessica Haavisto
MS Student
Dept. of Crop & Soil Science
Oregon State University
541-737-5886
haavistj@onid.orst.edu

Andy Hulting
Extension Weeds Specialist
Dept. of Crop & Soil Science
Oregon State University
541-737-5098
andrew.hulting@oregonstate.edu

# Wolf update

September, 2010

The wolf population continues to grow in Oregon and the interactions between wolves and people or their livestock also are growing. The learning curve on what to expect and when it might happen is also on the upward swing in Wallowa County as the local population finds its self dealing with the wolves. The community's interest level in the wolves is rising each week in Wallowa County.

The status of the wolf in Oregon (mostly in Wallowa County) is as follows:

- There are two confirmed wolf packs, one called the Imnaha pack and one called the Wenaha pack. The Imnaha pack has 10 adults and 4 pups (born last spring). Four of those adult wolves had collars put on them, three radio collars and one GPS collar on the alpha male. In early August a radio collar was placed on a two year old male in the Wenaha pack. Later that month two pups were trapped and released, confirming for the first time that the Wenaha pack produced pups this year.

- The alpha male of the Imnaha pack had a GPS collar on him beginning last winter. It produced valuable information through the spring until it stopped working about June 1. The information gathered allowed the ODFW to keep track of the pack's location. During the calving season the collars worked to help the ranchers know when wolves were in their territory. There was speculation that the alpha male had been killed, however, a picture of a black wolf wearing a collar confirmed that it is probably a technical glitch that stopped the GPS info from being available vs. the death of the wolf himself. (The data could be downloaded to a laptop if you got within a couple of miles and line of sight from the unit).

- Wolves in eastern Oregon (east of highway 395/95) as not listed under the federal ESA, however, listed as endangered by the Oregon ESA. Any wolf west of that line would have been listed as endangered under both the federal and state ESA. As of Aug. 5, 2010, wolves were relisted as endangered by a federal judge in Montana. This makes them protected by both the state and federal Endangered Species Act throughout Oregon.

- Wolf cattle interactions began early in 2010 when producers started reporting that the Imnaha wolf pack had again set up home just east of Joseph, they had done the same thing for the winter of 2009. Tracks were seen around buildings, corrals and houses.

- In February ranchers worked with ODFW to install a rag box (makes noise and sets off lights when activated by the frequencies from the wolf collars).In addition to the rag boxes some ranchers were given a radio to help them monitor the 4 wolves that had collars.

- On March 26th a producer approx. 8 miles east of Enterprise reported wolves in his cows 150 yards from his home. After confirmation by the local sheriff, Wildlife Services and ODFW that it was wolves, landowners along the east edge of the valley implemented different non-lethal activities to try to keep the wolves out of their cattle. These activities included the use of the rag boxes, radios to keep track of the wolf presence, cleaning up of dead piles, penning cows as close to facilities as possible, additional checks of calving cows, delaying spring turn out to grass, and removing any carcasses to the local land fill (Wallowa County landfill is licensed to receive carcasses and the county opened it up to the ranchers for this purpose.

- The first confirmed wolf kill of cattle occurred on May 5th. A total of 9 calves were suspected of being killed by wolves between then and June 3rd. ODFW confirmed 6 of those as confirmed wolf kills. Confirmed kills stopped at that time as it is predicted that wolves move to killing wildlife. Elk/deer are in their calving/fawning season by then and very vulnerable to predation.

- As the summer progressed ranchers began seeing a higher percent of dry cows. No wolf depredations on livestock were confirmed until September 22nd when a 550 calf was found and confirmed by Wildlife Services.

- The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is currently updating the Oregon Conservation and Management Plan. They are expected to complete the process at their meeting at the beginning of October in Bend.

- Oregon State University, University of Idaho and the Agricultural Research Service continue their research titled: "Evaluation of Wolf Impacts on Cattle Productivity and Behavior". Six ranches in two states are cooperating to help quantify the impacts and aid in seeing if various management techniques are effective.

For more information on the wolf management plan or other statistics contact the ODFW office in your community. If you have questions about the local experiences in Wallowa County, feel free to contact me at our Extension office 541-426-3143.

## Fall: The Season Begins for Home Invasion by Nuisance Insects!

Fall is that time of year when insects begin searching for safe places to over-winter and often find their way into our homes! In particular, several species of true bugs can become very annoying during the fall season which includes the box elder bug, grass bug, and more recently, the tuxedo bug. True bugs cross their wings over their back in an "X" pattern and have sucking mouth-parts, and therefore, are not considered a beetle. None of these species pose a threat to plants, pets, people or structures, however, they can be a significant nuisance if large numbers gather around the house and move indoors!

Grass Bug (Photo: Ken Gray Image Courtesy of Oregon State University)

In our area, the western box elder bug (*Leptocoris rubrolineatus*), tuxedo bug (*Raglius alboacuminatus*) and grass bug (various species) are the most problematic and are frequently brought into Extension Office for identification and control recommendations. These species typically spend the spring and summer months living in grasses, native plants, and other vegetation surrounding our homes, ranches, and farms.

Grass bugs are common to the region and often emit an offensive odor especially when crushed. The tuxedo bug, however, is a non-native from Europe and a relatively new introduction to the PNW. It was first detected in Oregon in 2002, Idaho in 2004, and Washington in 2005. Luckily, the tuxedo bug does not offend one's sense of smell!

Tuxedo Bug (Photo: Eric H. LaGasa – WSDA, Olympia)

*R. alboacuminatus* does not have an officially approved common name but has been coined the "tuxedo bug" due to the white-on-black coloration of the adult, thus, giving it a rather dapper appearance! The adult bugs are slender, elongate insects approximately a quarter inch in length. It appears to have only one generation per year in our climate and has a 3-stage life cycle: egg, nymph, and adult. Over-wintering adults prefer cracks and crevices on tree trunks, plant debris, voids in the soil, and man-made structures (e.g. storage sheds, barns, homes, etc.). Over-wintering adults lay eggs on the soil surface in the spring for several weeks before dying thus completing the life cycle. The eggs hatch into nymphs which feed on the developing seeds of a variety of plant species. In the fall, the new adults search for over-wintering sites until cold temperatures stop their activities for the year.

Management of box elder, tuxedo and grass bug infestations begins with exclusionary tactics that block insect entry into a home or other structure. Weather stripping, caulking, or fine mesh screening can help fill voids around doors, windows, vents, and openings in foundations. Once inside the home, a vacuum cleaner or shop-vac can quickly remove the unwelcome pest. Indoors, control of such nuisance pests with an insecticide application generally is not recommended for two main reasons. First, adult migration occurs over a long period of time during the fall so re-infestation can occur multiple times or until cold weather stops adult activity. Secondly, complete control cannot be achieved with an insecticide application.

However, several registered insecticides for use outdoors are available and may provide some level of pre-emptive control when applied according to label instructions. Commercially available products for use around home foundations/perimeter sprays are available to the homeowner at local garden supply stores. Such products include active ingredients such as beta-cyfluthrin, bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, deltamethrin, esfenvalerate, gamma-cyhalothrin, lambda-cyhalothrin, malathion, and permethrin. The active ingredient(s) and amount(s) within the product are listed in the fine print on the front panel of the label.

Remember, insecticide products containing the same a.i. are sold under many different trade names so **always read and follow label instructions** before purchasing and using any insecticide product. This is necessary to make sure the site of application is a registered use on a particular product label. Tuxedo bugs may not be listed on the label as a controlled pest so look for products that control nuisance crawling insects. Professional pest control services may be a more appropriate choice since they can offer treatment options not available to un-licensed homeowners. Contact information for pest control services can be located in the phone book.


Western Box Elder Bug (Photo: Ken Gray Image Courtesy of Oregon State University)

For more information, visit the following web sites:
http://www.ent.orst.edu/urban/home.html
http://agr.wa.gov/PlantsInsects/insectpests/Exotics/Surveys.aspx
http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/edcomm/pdf/CIS/CIS1147.pdf

## New Requirements for Weed-Free Feed and Straw on the National Forest

Baker City, OR. As part of a larger effort to reduce invasive plants on national forest lands, weed-free feed is being required on all national forest lands in Oregon and Washington. This follows a requirement in 2007 that weed-free feed be used in Pacific Northwest Wilderness areas.

According to Gene Yates, invasive Plant Program manager for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, signs are being erected around the forest alerting visitors to the new requirements for weed-free feed and straw. Livestock owners and other livestock users visiting the Forest are required to use feed that is either commercially processed or crop products certified to be free of weed seeds.

The new requirement stipulates that all hay, cubed hay, straw, mulch, and other such products used or stored on national forest lands be state certified as weed free. Crop products often contain seeds of non-native weeds that germinate on public lands and damage the resources. Non-native weeds such as leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, yellow star thistle, and others are alien to the United States and have no natural enemies to check their spread.

Oregon and Washington have developed certification processes for crop products. Hay field are inspected to ensure that listed noxious weed seeds are absent. Once a field passes this inspection, hay and other crop products from the field are labeled as "certified weed-free." The use of commercially processed feed, such as pellets and steamed rolled grains is allowed and should be used if certified hay products are not available.

Local sources for Certified weed-free feed in Baker, Union and Wallowa Counties:

| Baker County | Union County | Wallowa County |
|---|---|---|
| Oregon Trail Livestock Supply | D&B Supply | Minam Hay Station |
| Dales Farm Supply | Pendleton Grain Growers | Woody & Megan Wolfe |
| Halfway Feed & Seed | Elgin Boot & Saddle Repair | Butterfield Ranch Partnership |
| | | Gover Ranch |
| | | Wallow County Grain Growers |
| | | JS Angus Ranch (Jay McFetridge) |

Other Sources are Wallowa Co. Extension Service and the Oregon Dept. of Ag web site at http://egov.oregon.gov/DOA/CID/weed_free_forage.shtml

Additional information on weed free feed can be obtained at local Forest Service offices or on the web at www.fs.fed.us/r6/w-w

PROMPTER/RANCHER REVIEW October 2010

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Union County

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