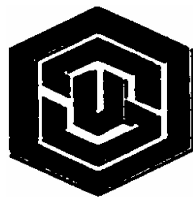


OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

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Enterprise, OR 97828
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La Grande, OR 97850
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The Prompter/Rancher Review

JANUARY 2002

“A Newsletter to Baker, Wallowa and Union County Farmers”

John Williams
Wallowa Co. Extension Agent

Darrin Walenta
Union Co. Extension Agent

OSU Calving Tune- Up in Enterprise, February 5th

The OSU Extension Service will be offering a Calving Tune-up in Wallowa County Tuesday, **February 5th at Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise from 10 a.m.—3 p.m.**

Pre-registration by **February 1st** is required and enrollment is limited to 15 participants (registrations will be taken on a first received, first paid basis).

Enclosed with this newsletter is a registration form that should be completed and returned to the Extension Office in Enterprise. A registration fee of \$40 will be charged to cover the expenses of the class and should accompany your registration form. For additional information, contact the Wallowa Extension office at 426-3143 or 1-888-844-3143.

The Calving Tune-up is designed to meet the needs of the novice producers, as well as the producer with a lifetime of experience. Topics for discussion will include: “Third Trimester Management and Nutrition”; “the Birthing Function – Identifying Membranes and Fluids”; “Calving Equipment and Its Proper Use”; “Handling Abnormal Presentations, Dystocia, and Proper Assistance”; “Post-Calving Management”; “Special Handling for First Calf Heifers”; “Health programs—Third Trimester and Following Calving” and “Getting Them Bred Back on Schedule”.

The tune-up will be held indoors with demonstrations and discussions. All of the programs are excellent trainings for the rancher, calving crew or family members who are part of the operation. The calving tune-up is sponsored by the Oregon State University Extension Service, Department of Animal Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, and your local County Extension Office and the Wallowa County Stockgrowers.

Laws, regulations, court cases and stuff

In the *Headwaters, Inc. vs. Talent Irrigation District*, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held that a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit was required for the direct application of an aquatic herbicide to water because the residual herbicide in the water following the application was found to be a pollutant. This is in spite of the fact that an aquatic herbicide is legal to apply into water when following the label. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) states that the Talent irrigation district has decided not to appeal the decision, therefore, at least in the near future to apply aquatic pesticide into water, including irrigation ditches, additional steps will need to be taken to be in compliance with the regulations and the court decision.

In a memo from EPA, the federal agency that would write the NPDES permits, they state: "We are initiating a process to determine how best to implement the Clean Water Act and FIFRA with respect to the direct application of pesticides to waters of the United States." They go on to state that they will not get this done in time for the coming irrigation season and therefore NPDES permits will not be available from them for the 2002 season. Furthermore they state, "Therefore civil administrative or judicial enforcement against discharge from the application of aquatic pesticides will be a low priority as long as the pesticides are applied appropriately and there is no egregious circumstances.

DEQ implemented a "Mutual Agreement and Order" for the summer of 2001 that allowed limited application of aquatic pesticides under limited conditions. That agreement expired October 31, 2001. When asked if a similar agreement and order will be available for the 2002 growing season, they stated that they intended to implement a new Mutual Agreement and Order if the NPDES process is not complete and available for the coming season.

We will attempt to keep you up-to-date on the rules, policies, and agreements that will help you comply with this confusing issue.

Bottom line for the irrigator: There has been a lawsuit eliminating the use of direct application of aquatic pesticides to water. EPA and DEQ are working to find an avenue for irrigators to apply limited aquatic pesticides when needed. The risk of a civil administrative or judicial enforcement against an irrigator is very low. The risk of third party lawsuits is always there.

2002 Columbia Basic Cereals Seminar January 28th

A seminar will be held on Monday, January 28, 2002, from **10:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.** at the Ag Service Center in LaGrande. This seminar will inform you about the following:

- Nitrogen Management in Dryland Production
Neil Chirstensen, OSU Soil Scientist
- Weed Management & Herbicide Resistance Considerations.
Dan Ball, OSU-CBARC Weed Specialist
- Pesticide Use Reporting System
Dale Mitchell, Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Cereal Leaf Beetle Biology & Control
Darrin Walenta, OSU-Union County Extension Service

Complimentary Lunch will be provided. Please pre-register by calling the Union County Extension Office, 1-541-963-1010 **by January 24th**.

(Pesticide Re-Certification Credit has been requested.)

Scrapie Eradication Program

Scrapie is a fatal, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats.

It is thought the Scrapie agent is most commonly spread from the ewe to her offspring and to other lambs in contemporary lambing groups through contact with the placenta and placental fluids. Signs or effects of the disease usually appear two (2) to five (5) years after the animal is infected but may be longer. Sheep may live one (1) to six (6) months or longer after the onset of clinical signs, but death is inevitable.

Signs of Scrapie vary widely among individual animals and develop very slowly. Due to damage to nerve cells, affected animals usually show behavioral changes, tremor (especially of head and neck) progressing to death.

Early signs include subtle changes in behavior or temperament. Scratching and rubbing against fixed objects, apparently to relieve itching, may follow these changes. Other signs are loss of coordination, weight loss despite retention of appetite, biting of feet and limbs, lip smacking, and gait.

Since the disease takes so long to manifest itself, a tracking system that allows diseased, exposed and high-risk individuals to be traced back to their flock/herd of origin so spread of Scrapie within and from these flocks or herds can be prevented.

The Scrapie Eradication program is relatively simple for the producer. Following are the steps a producer needs to take to be in compliance with the program.

- Step 1 **Determine if your sheep or goats need official ear tags.** All breeding sheep regardless of age; All sheep 18 months and older; All sheep and goats for exhibition other than castrated males; All high risk sheep and goats that may have been exposed; All breeding goats other than those registered in the American Dairy Goat Association.
- Step 2 **Request a Premises (Flock) ID Number by calling the USDA number in step 8.**
- Step 3 **Determine which of the approved ear tags or other approved ID systems work best for you.** A brochure is available at the OSU Extension office or you can get information by going online at www.animalagriculture.org/scrapie
- Step 4 **Set up a system to record the ear tags or other official ID that are applied.** Records must include: date tagged, owner of animal, flock of origin, and official ID number.
- Step 5 **Apply official ID before sheep/goats leave your premises (or arrange for application elsewhere).** This can be done anytime between birth and the shipment.
- Step 6 **Get a health certificate if your breeding stock is going to cross state lines.**

Step 7 **Retain ID records for 5 years.**

Step 8 **Call toll free for help and to order flock number and tags.** The Toll-free number is 866-USDA-TAG (866-873-2824) or refer to the Internet at www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/scrapie.htm

New Tax Law!

The new tax law has already taken effect and could pose a benefit to individuals, business owners, farmers and ranchers. Although the new changes aren't specific towards agriculture, there are three main areas that may affect farmers and ranchers. These areas include:

- 1) Individual income tax rate reduction
- 2) Incentives for retirement savings
- 3) Changes in estate taxes

Everyone is encouraged to review the new changes in the tax law and incorporate this information into planning for the future. OSU, in conjunction with U.S. Bank and the USDA Risk Management Agency, has developed a free tax cuts workshop that is available on the web. Visit the online workshop at:

www.familybuisnessonline.org

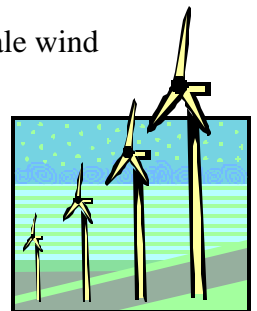
Baker County Farm Day February 19th

The Baker County Extension Service, 2610 Grove Street, will sponsor a conference on February 19, 2002 with a focus on weed and disease management in potatoes, weed and disease management in alfalfa, and cereal leaf beetle biology and control in small grains. The conference will last from **10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.** and will be held at the Baker County Extension Office. For more information, contact Jay Carr, Extension Agent, at 523-6418.

Wind Energy Workshop January 31st

Landowners interested in wind as a renewable power source should plan on attending an upcoming Wind Energy Workshop to be held on January 31, 2002 from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the Ag Service Center Conference Room in Island City.

Topics will include government programs/incentives, small-scale wind energy project development, economics, and contract/lease arrangement guidelines. The cost of the workshop is \$10 for individuals and \$15 for couples to cover a box lunch, refreshments, and printed materials. Please **register no later than January 25** by calling the Union County Extension office at 963-1010. Fees will be collected at the door. For more information, contact Darrin Walenta, Extension Agent, or Brett Kelper at Oregon Rural Action 975-2411.



Noxious Weed Conference January 29th

A Noxious Weed Conference will be held from **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** on January 29, 2002 at the Baker County Extension Office. Topics of the conference will include an invasive weed update, sprayer calibration, Pesticide Use Reporting, Russian Knapweed biology and control, biological weed control, and Rush Skeleton weed biology and control. For more information, contact Jay Carr, Baker County Extension, at 523-6418.

Calendar of Events

- January 28 Columbia Basin Cereal Seminar, Union County Ag Service Center. For more info, contact Darrin Walenta.
- January 29 Noxious Weed Conference, Baker County Extension Office, **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**
- January 31 Wind Energy Workshop. Union County Ag Service Center, **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**
- February 4 Beef Quality Assurance Program. Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise, **7:00 p.m.**
- February 5 OSU Calving Tune-Up, Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise, **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**
- February 19 Baker County Farm Day. Bakery County Extension Office, **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**
- February 21 Union County Wheat League and Seed Growers Association Meeting.

Beef Quality Assurance Program February 4

A beef Quality Assurance Program (BQA) has been scheduled for **Monday, Feb. 4th, 7:00 pm at the Cloverleaf Hall** in Enterprise. Registration is being requested through the OSU Extension Office by calling 426-3143 before Friday, February 1st. BQA is an effort, on the part of the industry, to assure consumers a safe, wholesome, and quality beef eating experience. Major beef processors, livestock sale yards, etc. are beginning to require documentation and certification of quality standards of the animals they purchase.

This meeting, sponsored by Oregon State University Extension Service and the Wallowa County Stockgrowers is an opportunity for producers to receive training and certification as an Oregon Beef Quality Assurance supplier, which will fulfill one of the basic Requirements to be a member of Oregon Trail Beef.

Dr Bill Zollinger, OSU Extension Beef Specialist and Dr. Don Hansen, OSU Extension Veterinarian have been conducting the approximately 2 ½ hour training as a continuing education program that preempts indications that USDA/APHIS may soon require certification before any beef animal is sold.

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PROMPTER/RANCHER REVIEW

Copies of the **2001 Farmer's Tax Guide** available at the Wallowa County Extension Office.

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PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

CALVING TUNE-UP

Tuesday, February 5th, 2002 (Registration deadline is February 1st)

Cloverleaf Hall, Enterprise

Sponsored by: OSU Extension Service, Department of Animal Sciences
School of Veterinary Medicine, and Wallowa County Extension Service

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

Registration is \$40 per person.

Total Amount enclosed: \$_____

Make checks payable to: **ARF**
(Agriculture Research Foundation)

Return registration form and check to:
Wallowa County Extension Service
668 NW 1st Street
Enterprise, OR 97828



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