Grain and Rain

The average Portland price of soft white wheat for January 2009 was $5.76 and for club, $7.05 per bushel. Barley at Portland averaged $100 per ton.

The precipitation as reported at the Sherman Experiment Station was 1.86 inches. This still leaves a buck sixty shy on crop year moisture to date at 4.71 inches.

Rhode Passes

Long time grain researcher, Chuck Rhode passed away January 1, in the Pendleton area. He was 86. Rhode worked our area for 35 years officially, although he was a constant participant in projects and field days after that. He will be remembered for introducing us to Moro, Oveson and Faro wheats.

Potential for Carbon Sequestration

A group of researchers from OSU and the Ag Research Service, got down and dirty with answering the question about the potential for marketing your soil by reducing CO₂ emissions, or by storing more carbon in the soil.

Their findings are not very exciting in our dryland systems of cropping. Dryland ag offers limited opportunity for C sequestration in the soil and the potential value of the C credits will be low relative to cropping input costs and the value of the cereal crops. Rather than C sequestration in the soil, there is a greater opportunity to emit less Carbon through more accurate fertilizer application rates, conservation tillage that reduces fuel use, and through greater farming efficiency.

The value of agricultural C credits has not yet been established by the marketplace, but the figure of $10 per ton is often used. Using that figure and Pendleton data the estimated value of C sequestered at Pendleton is $0.35 per acre per year, and likely significantly lower in the lower rainfall, crop fallow regions.

For a copy of the report, contact the County Extension Office.

Happy Birthday, Oregon!

February 14 marks Oregon’s official 150th birthday, so you will be hearing a bunch about the celebrations throughout the year.
## Credit Hours at Condon

Monday, February 9, has been designated for an Ag Technology and Pesticide Workshop in Condon, at the Memorial Hall. The program starts at 1, and runs through 5 pm. Topics include “Grassy Weed Resistance in Clearfield Wheat Fields,” “Herbicide Control of Annual Grasses in Rangeland,” and Direct Seeding After 5, SWCD continues with a sharing of what their group of ranchers has done to protect their resources and their economy while complying with various rules and regulations. The pesticide portion of the afternoon offers two hours of recertification credits. For more information, contact the Gilliam County Extension Office at 541-384-2271.

## Neighborhood Meetings, Wasco County

Wasco County’s popular Neighborhood Meetings are back on the list of things to do. These two hour sessions bring you the latest in various area of ag management. Featured speakers include Kevin MacIntyre and Dusty Eddy with updates from their roles in the new Farm Bill; Brian Tuck and Barbi Riggs discussing crop and livestock updates; Ellen Hammond shares what’s new in Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), while Ron Graves focuses on the SWCD District’s assistance and cost share programs to help you meet requirements.

Several sessions will be held at growers homes/ shops but if you don’t get the word, be sure to attend the Open Sessions: February 11 at 1 pm at the Catholic Church Hall in Dufur and February 12, beginning at 9 am at Cousin’s Restaurant in The Dalles.

## Sherman County After Hours

In Sherman County, you are invited to attend one of the “After Hour Meetings,” featuring Martin Nguyen from FSA; Kristie Coelsch, NRCS; Krista Coelsch, SWCD; Sandy Macnab, OSU Extension; and a guest from Mid-Columbia Producers. Topics include updates on the Farm Bill and other ag related subjects.

Sessions open to all are Monday, February 9 at the church in Kent at 1:30, and again at 1:30 pm on Thursday, February 19 at the Senior Center in Moro.

## Sherman SWCD Dinner Feb 10

Plan to join your neighbors at the SWCD Annual Meeting and Dinner, Tuesday, February 10, at the Senior Center in Moro. Call Krista at 565-3216 ext 101, by February 5, to reserve your dinner spot for only $7 per person. Social hour begins at 5 pm with dinner catered by Rod McGuire and Paradise Rose, beginning at 6.

David Olszyk From EPA Will Discuss “Potential Climate Change & How Crop Suitability May Be Affected.”

## Wasco Co Ag Banquet Feb 26th

Once again the ag groups of Wasco County gather to celebrate success in 2008 and look forward into 2009. This meeting and banquet is set for Thursday, February 26, at the Discovery Center. The no-host social for the Wheat Growers, Livestock Association, Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers and the SWCD begins at 5:30 pm. The prime rib and salmon dinner follows at 6 pm (only $22.50). Contact Tammy at 541-206-6178, Ext 3, for reservations.

Special speaker is Mike Omeg, discussing how bats and predatory birds can be used to provide control of pests in crops and orchards.

## Grower’s Winter Meeting, Feb 24

Celebrate getting back to the field by attending the Winter Meeting, Tuesday, February 24, from 9:30 am to 4 pm in Moro, at the 4H Pavilion at the Sherman County Fairgrounds.

Topics include: Jointed Goatgrass and Wheat Hybridization; Beyond Herbicide Use Patterns and Labels; Understanding Herbicide Sprays In, Around and Next to Cherry Orchards; Micro-Enterprise Support Assistance; Small Wind Projects for the Landowner; and Coordinating your Yield Monitor Data with Sprays and Fertilizers.