Grain and Rain

The average price of soft white wheat at Portland for October was $4.67 per bushel, with club prices averaging $7.51. Barley averaged $100 per ton for the month, but with limited bids.

Rainfall as reported at the Sherman Experiment Station in Moro was 1.51 inches. Hooray! That is nearly .6 inches over the long term average and brings our new crop year total to 1.69 inches which is .28 above normal. Wasco County is varied as usual. Antelope reported a wet 1.81 and Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue in The Dalles had only .69 of an inch.

Purple Star Thistle Alert

Land managers in Wasco and Sherman County are warned to be on the lookout for Purple Star Thistle, an obnoxious weed that has earned a spot on the state’s “A” list of targeted weeds. A patch was found this summer in Wheeler County, not far from Spray, and the state had technicians on the spot within 15 hours applying control measures.

Purple Star Thistle is more than just a cousin of Yellow Star Thistle but with a different colored flower. It is also a cousin to the knapweed family. It is far more aggressive in nature, displacing native grasses with seeds that can remain dormant in the soil for years. Like its yellow cousin, it has the familiar star spines that form around the flower but also near the center of the rosette, making it even more unattractive to cattle. It can also cause permanent brain damage to horses, much like the Yellow Star can. Mature plants may stand 1 to 4 feet high, are densely branched. Flowers may be lavender or deep purple in color. Seeds may be spread by livestock, wildlife, vehicles and high water.

A 1998 find in Sherman County was eliminated, but it is the finding of the two sites near the John Day River that has prompted the warning, as this weed can move rapidly along in waters and deposit itself somewhere not frequented, establishing a stand from which to spread. An estimated 1.5 million acres are conservatively threatened by the weed.

Keep your eyes open and if found, contact your County Weed Department immediately.
Camelina Projecting

Dr. Don Wysocki has done a bunch of research on Camelina, a small seeded, high oil content plant that has potential for use in growing bio-fuels. As Camelina is relatively new to the area, there have been many questions regarding its production potential.

Wysocki recently released information from his research trials at Moro, Pendleton and LaGrande. According to his study, producers in our area may expect dryland yields to run about 1150 pounds per acre in a 10 inch rainfall zone to 1352 with a 12 inch precipitation zone, both numbers following a fallow year. If grown in a recrop or annual crop practice, expect estimated yields of 424 to 703 pounds for the same rainfall zones. Pricing is subject to contract offers.

OSU Names New Diamond Pioneers

The OSU College of Ag Sciences announced its new inductees into the Diamond Pioneer Career Achievement, via an awards luncheon October 28 in Corvallis. Those with name familiarity to readers in the Mid Columbia include Buck Coe (South Junction), Larry Kaseberg (Wasco) and Harold Kerr (Corvallis).

Buck Coe of Madras started ranching on the Kaskela Ranch in 1969. He remained there for 36 years. During that time, he cleared 4,000 acres of juniper trees and planted crested wheat grass which enabled him to increase his herd of mother cows from 200 to 500 head. Buck established an irrigation project that allowed an additional 285 acres of malting barley and alfalfa raised with water pumped from the Deschutes River. Buck served as a member of the Wasco County Bull grading tour committee; he is a past president of the Wasco County Cattlemen’s Association and Vice President of the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association, from which he received the Distinguished Service Award.

Larry Kaseberg of Wasco is a lifelong resident of Sherman County, raising wheat, barley and Angus cattle. He has a long history of involvement with OSU. His ranch is a stop on undergraduate field trips and the site of many research trials. Larry has been active in numerous organizations on both the state and national levels. He is a past president of Oregon Wheat Growers League, Vice President of the Oregon Agribusiness Council and served for 15 years as President of the Agricultural Research Foundation. He still serves on the ARF Board. Larry and his wife Sherry were elected to the College of Agricultural Sciences’ Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2004.

Harold Kerr of Corvallis died on October 16, 2009. He was notified of his selection to the Diamond Pioneer registry before his death. Harold’s wife Carol and son Bryan are here to accept his certificate. Harold joined the OSU Extension Service in 1960 as an Extension agent working with 4-H programs. He later served for 13 years as Extension staff chair and crops agent in Morrow County and then moved to a similar position in Wasco County. He became an associate director of the Extension Service in 1982, a position he held until retiring in 1990. Harold was involved with agricultural projects in Jordan and Lithuania. He helped set up a new Farm Advisory Service in Lithuania. After retirement, Harold served as co-leader of a 4-H livestock club in Benton County.

Sherman County Extension Hiring

With Joan Bird’s retirement at the end of October, the Sherman County Extension has two part time jobs for hire. The first is a one day per week position that will focus on general clerical duties, while working as part of a team.

The second position is funded by a grant from the Weir District through June 30, 2010. There is no guarantee that this position will be continued after that date, although we have been told by OSU that they will not leave us empty. This position is two and a half days per week working with youth programs, primarily 4H, and mainly in Sherman County, although some assignments may require some travel within the region.

Both positions are opened until filled. For more information, contact the Sherman County Extension at 541-565-3230.
SWCD Tree and Shrub Sale

Wasco County SWCD is offering their annual tree and shrub sale and you can order up until January 29, 2010. The District has selected 23 conservation plants, in deciduous and evergreen flavors, selected for our growing regions. All plants fill a conservation niche while providing an array of color and texture to your diverse landscapes.

Be sure to check the SWCD in The Dalles (296-6178) for a complete list. Their chart shows the proper zones, size of the delivered plant and expected height of the fully grown plant plus the price to you.

Plants Rid Selves of Pesticides

Coming to a crop near you…. Well, you may have some wait…. but Chinese researchers have discovered a plant hormone which when applied to crops helps those crops eliminate residues of certain pesticides. The hormone may be especially useful in eliminating residues from fresh garden vegetables and with no risk to the health of humans or animals. Science marches on!

Steer Futurity Entries Close Nov 13

The Umatilla Cattlemen and the OSU Extension are combining efforts once again to host the Feedlot and Carcass Futurity testing, but to enter, you must have your completed paperwork in by Friday, November 13.

Entering animals in this contest allows you to gain growth and carcass data in a trial against others in the same trial, showing you how well your herd genetics are working and if you can improve your herd prospects by selective breeding. In years past, Wasco County livestock have scored very well. Entry fees are jackpotted and paid out to those with the top ten carcasses in each category. Animals are harvested when they are deemed to reach the low-choice level, not by a calendar date, so all animals are judged fairly.

For more information contact Randy Mills in Umatilla Co. Extension at 541-278-5403.

OSU Reorganizes

OSU announced that in response to budget reductions, they are merging their 14 colleges down to 4 divisional alignments in an effort to save administrative expenses. Beginning November 2, the new divisions are:

- Division of Earth Science Systems: includes the Colleges of Ag Sciences, Forestry and the Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences. Dr Hal Salwasser will lead this division.
- Division of Arts and Sciences: combines the Colleges of Education, Liberal Arts and Science.
- Division of Health Sciences: merges Colleges of Health and Human Services, Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine.
- Division of Business and Engineering: Blends Business and Engineering Colleges.

These new formations will hopefully eliminate some administrative costs while showing no negative impact on the quality of education.
Owl Workshop November 17

Learn how to manage your rodent numbers easily and naturally when you attend the Barn Owl Workshop scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, beginning at 8 am at the Discovery Center, The Dalles. In addition to hearing about how many rodents an owl can consume, participants will learn how to attract them and why this alternative control measure can help, especially those who no longer till their cropland and therefore do not destroy rodent habitat.

The class runs through noon and includes a field trip to sites where owls have been attracted. The class is free and should include 2-3 of pesticide recertification credits for those who participate through the field trip portion.

Registration is required by contacting the Wasco Co SWCD at 541-296-6178 ext 105.

Core and Pesticide Recertification Classes

Seeking to get that elusive Core Class? Or just need some extra hours to maintain your applicator’s license? You can do both by attending the classes offered in Fossil on Tuesday, Nov. 17, at the Family Services Building across from the Wheeler County Courthouse.

Beginning at 8:30 am and running through noon is the Core class, which also serves as a good training for those wishing to take the state exams (beginning at 1 pm). If you already have Core for your recertification records this should count as 4 hours of “Other” credits.

If you do not need the testing, then you can pick up another 4 hours in the afternoon session, after the hosted lunch. Topics here include: Herbicide options on range and grasslands; Weed and Bio-controls; Control of Medusahead in Rangeland; Weeds and their economic impact.

Pre-register by Nov. 12, by calling the Wheeler County Extension at 541-763-4115. This gets you covered for the lunch and helps assure the test proctor has enough of the right exams for you to take if you need testing.

Not wishing to travel far? The annual pre-exam/Core class will be held in The Dalles on Tuesday, January 26, at Columbia Gorge Community College. More info follows in January newsletter.

Transmission Lines Across the Region?

The Cascade Crossing Transmission Project is holding a series of open sessions to allow people to gain information about a proposed power transmission line that is designed to cross Wasco and Sherman Counties while reaching from Boardman to Salem. This would allow PGE to better distribute energy and allow for more transmission of renewable electricity.

Several meetings have been held to date but remaining ones include: November 5 at South Wasco County High, November 9 at Arlington High School, November 10 in Boardman, November 12 at the Portland Hilton and November 16 at Sherman High in Moro. All meetings run from 4 to 8 pm.

Proposed maps will be available, as PGE is seeking to minimize impacts on people with the project.
### Wheat Growers to Meet

**Wasco County Wheat Growers annual meeting was Friday, November 6**, beginning with breakfast at 7 am, at Cousin’s Restaurant in The Dalles.

**Sherman County Wheat Growers will meet Friday, November 13**, immediately following the regular Marketing Breakfast at 7 am, at the Senior Center in Moro.

The breakfast for each site is hosted so come and enjoy and learn more about issues related to our major income-producing crop in the region.

The Oregon Wheat Growers annual meeting is once again combined with Idaho’s producers and will be held

### Marketing Meetings

The date for the November Statewide Marketing Meeting, scheduled for November 12th, **has been changed to November 19th** to allow the speakers to attend county meetings. You can access these sessions at your local extension office. For Wasco County, we will be meeting in Suite 2.273 of Columbia Gorge Community College (next to the Extension Office). This month, Dan Steiner will report the latest S&D’s, and Darren Padget, OWGL Vice President will speak as well.

There will be NO DECEMBER MEETING.

Local marketing meetings are held every two weeks: Friday, November 13th, at 7am at Moro’s Senior Center, November 17th in Dufur at We 3 café, 7am. Future dates for Dufur include December 1st, 15th and 29th.

### SAIF Workshops

Once again the popular SAIF Workshops will be presented in The Dalles at the Discovery Center on Tuesday November 24 and repeated again on February 10. These workshops are offered at numerous sites, but this has been our closest one.

These free sessions begin at 9:30 and run through 2:30 with lunch provided. Participants are eligible for credits that hold random OSHA inspections at bay.

Registration is a must and you can do so on line at: [http://www.saif.com/employer/employer_agseminars.aspx#Dalles](http://www.saif.com/employer/employer_agseminars.aspx#Dalles) or by calling toll free to 1-800-285-8525.

### Regional Program for Ag Producers

WSU and OSU are combining efforts in conducting a series of workshops designed for experienced agricultural producers interested in changing, adding or expanding their enterprise(s) as well as new landowners interested in investigating agricultural production options for their property. At the conclusion of the series, participants will have produced a farm enterprise plan and be able to make a decision about viability of the enterprise they are considering.

The series will be conducted at the Mountain View Grange, 1085 Main St., White Salmon, WA on Nov. 14, Nov. 21, Dec. 5, Dec. 12 and Jan. 9 and Jan. 23. Contact Tim Shatraw at 509-773-5817 or tshatraw@wsu.edu for more details and to pre-register.

This program is sponsored in part by the Western Center for Risk Management Education, WSU Extension-Skamania and Klickitat Counties and the OSU/Wasco County Extension Service.
Farm Bureau Meets

The Oregon Farm Bureau holds their annual meeting this year in Hood River, December 8-10, at the Hood River Inn. If you have never attended one of these it is interesting as each issue is discussed by members before voting. Good inputs!

Then the Sherman County Farm Bureau will meet on Friday, December 11, immediately following the Marketing Breakfast at the Senior Center in Moro, which begins at 7 am. Speakers include OFB lobbyist Katie Fast and director Barry Bushue. This also promises to be interesting.

Thank You for Asking

Many of you have asked about our recent hosting of the national meeting for the National Association of County Ag Agents. This event was held in Portland in late September and was a hit. We had chamber of commerce type weather all week, including the day for professional improvement tours. Four of those tours traveled to various parts of the Mid-Columbia.

While we were asked by the NACAA to figure our budget based an attendance of 925 (and one officer thought we’d be lucky to get even 650). Our final registration exceeded 1200!

Participants were impressed with the clean, green feel of Oregon and the friendliness of all they met. Many took serious advantage of the no sales tax offerings in Oregon and only a couple moaned about not being able to pump their own gas. We had the highest number at the concluding banquet and likely one of the highest rates of folks either coming a couple of days early or staying a few days later to see more of the diversity of our great state.

A special thank you to all who hosted and/or supported us financially and otherwise.

No Newsletter in December!

Enjoy the Holidays and be safe and warm. We’ll catch up with you after the New Year.