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<td>Orchard Managers’ Meetings begin (These meetings will continue on Friday mornings into May)</td>
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“Pesticide Stewardship Partnership” Returns to Wasco County

In 2010, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) plans to resume water quality sampling in Wasco County creeks as part of the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) program. The PSP program is a voluntary, collaborative approach to identify problems and improve water quality associated with pesticide use at the local level.

Currently, DEQ is negotiating a plan in which local Watershed Councils would collect water samples this year in Mill Creek, Threemile Creek, and possibly Fifteenmile Creek and then send them to the DEQ lab for analysis. The analysis will primarily look for pesticides related to orchard production, but some analytes, such as 2,4-D, are used in a wider variety of applications.

The PSP program was active in The Dalles area from 2002 – 2005. Initial analyses detected chlorpyrifos and malathion at levels that exceeded state standards. Local partners, including the fruit growers and OSU extension, examined the water quality data and made changes to pesticide management and application practices. The result: substantial improvements in water quality associated with measurable changes in pesticide management practices. Longer-term results are unknown due to discontinued funding for the program. New funding in 2010 will make it possible to check up on current water quality.

The Dalles Watershed Council will discuss sampling plans for Threemile and Mill Creeks at two upcoming meetings:

- Thursday, January 14th, 6:30 PM, USDA Service Center (2325 River Rd.): brief intro to the PSP program.
- Thursday, February 11th, 12:00 noon, Cousins Restaurant (following The Dalles Neighborhood Meeting, which begins at 9:00 am): more detailed discussion and final approval of PSP sampling plan.

The Fifteenmile Watershed Council will discuss whether to sample on Fifteenmile Creek at their next meeting:

- Thursday February 11th, 3:40 PM, St. Alphonsus Parish Hall in Dufur (following the Dufur Neighborhood meeting, which begins at 1:00 pm at the same location).

All Watershed Council meetings are open to the public. Representatives from the agricultural community are especially encouraged to attend for discussion of PSP sampling plans.

Basic Math Class for Pesticide Applicators in Spanish

A Spanish language basic math class for pesticide applicators will be presented at the Hood River Campus of Columbia Gorge Community College. This series of classes will begin January 22 and continue to be held Friday evenings and Saturdays for the 24 hours of instruction. It is designed to give participants the math skills needed in farm operations such as sprayer calibration and pesticide applications. In addition, it may help participants pass the private pesticide applicators exam. The cost is $89 for 24 hours of instruction.

This class is co-sponsored by Columbia Gorge Community College and Oregon State University Extension Service. To register call 541-506-6011.

Mid-Columbia Farm Enterprise Exploration Series Continues

The Mid-Columbia Farm Enterprise Exploration Series continues on January 23rd, at the Mountain View Grange Hall, 1085 Main Street in White Salmon, from 9am to 3 pm. The topics for the 23rd will be “Enterprise Budgets and Financial Viability and Tools for Whole Farm Success. Following workshops will be on February 6th, focusing on Sustainable Crop Production, Irrigation and Legal Water Issues; February 13th will be on Sustainable Animal Production and Grazing Management. Pre-register with Tim Shatraw at 509-773-5817 or at tshatraw@wsu.edu. Cost is $10 per family or $5 per person. For more information please contact Brian Tuck at the Wasco County Extension Office, 541-296-5494.

This program is sponsored in part by the Western Center for Risk Management Education, OSU/Wasco County Extension Service and WSU Extension-Skamania and Klickitat Counties.
**Pesticide Core Class Jan 26**

A new year has started for renewing your pesticide applicators license. Do not wait until the end of the year; begin by attending the Pesticide Core and Pre-Exam workshop Tuesday, January 26 in The Dalles. The class will be held at Columbia Gorge Community College in the auditorium, the third floor of Building No 2.

The class runs 8 am through noon and will qualify for either Core credits, or if you have satisfied your Core requirement, it will give you four hours of “other”. An applicator needs a Core class as part of the 16 recertification hours over a five year period to automatically renew their license. There is a $10 registration fee for the workshop, payable at the door.

This is the workshop you want to attend if you need to obtain your applicator license. There will be a state proctor for the exams on hand beginning at 1:30 pm. You will need to bring a picture ID and $25 for the exam fee. Pre-registration is required for the exam, 541-296-5494.

**SAIF Workshop February 10**

SAIF is conducting a repeat of its December session on February 10, at the Discovery Center in The Dalles. While there are no pesticide credits for this session, it does help you avoid surprise, random inspections by OSHA. Besides, the meetings are concise and present a different set of relevant information each year. Meetings start at 9:30 and end at 2:30 and they provide the lunch, but you do need to preregister, either on-line with SAIF or by calling 1-800-285-8525.

**Hands-On Training for Spanish-Speaking Pesticide Handlers**

This training is scheduled for Saturday, February 13 in Hood River. The Hands-on Pesticide Handler Training:
- is conducted in Spanish by trainers from the WSDA Farmworker Education Program
- provides interactive, hands-on learning activities
- is conducted in small groups with high trainer to trainee ratio
- provides effective training to unlicensed pesticide handlers*

During this day-long training, trainees participate in four modules covering five main topics:
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Respiratory Protection
- Mixing & Loading
- Clean Up
- Label Use

Although this training is primarily designed to meet the needs of unlicensed handlers, this training may also be valuable to licensed applicators. It is not, however, a “pre-exam” training.

There will be a $55 fee for the training, which will include lunch and refreshments. At the end of the training, participants will be issued a WPS Handler Training Verification Card (valid for five years) or recertification credits (if licensed) from ODA or WSDA.

The training will be limited to 30 participants and it is expected that the demand will exceed the number of spaces available. Therefore, a lottery will be conducted to allocate spaces for the training. If you would like to sponsor one or more of your employees for the training, return the completed lottery entry form by January 24. Steve Castagnoli, Hood River Hort faculty, will notify you if your entry has been selected in the lottery or not. Registration materials will be mailed to successful applicants in early January. For more information, contact Steve at 541-386-3341, steve.castagnoli@oregonstate.edu.

**Pesticide handlers are employees who mix, load, or apply pesticides, or handle open pesticide containers and concentrate materials, or clean/repair pesticide contaminated equipment.**
Lottery Entry Form
2010 Hands-On Training for Spanish-Speaking Pesticide Handlers

YOUR NAME: ________________________________

YOUR PHONE NUMBER: _______________________

How many trainees would you like to sponsor for the training? _____

Return form to:
   OSU Extension Service
   2990 Experiment Station Dr
   Hood River OR 97031
   Attn: Handler Training

Please note that the deadline for submitting the lottery form is January 24.

Do not include payment at this time.

Ag Composting Workshop

OSU Extension, Clackamas County SWCD, and the Western SARE Program are co-sponsoring Agricultural Composting Resource and Education (ACRE), a two-day workshop on February 19th and 26th, 2010. The course is designed for agricultural professionals and agricultural composters.

The workshop will be held at Oregon State University's new Agricultural Composting Facility at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center. The course will include hands-on and classroom activities. Participants will learn about different composting methods, facility design and location, environmental and regulatory concerns, equipment for agricultural composting, developing compost recipes, using compost, and more. This workshop is scheduled 8:30-5, and does include lunch. Participants are advised to dress for potentially wet and filthy afternoons. Organizers are confident that any rain will only contribute to the leachate discussions.

Registration and more information is at http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/ag-compost-workshop. Space is limited, but the plan is to offer this next year as well.

Instructors include:
   Dan Sullivan (OSU Soil Scientist)
   Andy Bary (WSU Soil Scientist)
   Jeff Gage (Composting Consultant)
   Bob Barrows (DEQ)
   Wym Matthews (ODA)
   Jason Faucera (Clackamas SWCD)
   A farm composter (tbc)
   Nick Andrews and Kristin Pool (OSU Small Farms)