Mid-Columbia
Small Farms & Acreage
Newsletter

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Dear Small Farmer and Landowner;

Welcome to the January/February Issue of the Small Farms and Acreage Newsletter. In this issue Randy Mills, OSU Umatilla County Livestock Agent continues with the second part in his series on Confined Animal Feeding Operations and the implications of the new rules on all livestock operations regardless of size. The new rules particularly effect those livestock operations that might impact surface and subsurface waters. Again, those who have livestock or are contemplating raising livestock are strongly encouraged to review these articles to make sure their operations will meet the new standards.

A second article written by Susan Kerr Klickitat County Extension Agent and DVM is about the West Nile Virus. It provides a good primer on understanding this disease and how it impacts virtually everyone in Oregon and Washington and particularly those with livestock. Susan provides some good pointers on how to protect yourself and livestock from this disease and provides additional sources of information for those who would like to learn more.

In addition to the excellent feature articles, you will note there are numerous workshops and seminars planned over the coming months for the small and large farmers and landowners in the region ranging from “Marketing and Entrepreneurship of New and Alternative Enterprises”, “Mid-Columbia Alternative Crops Workshop: Strawberry & Caneberry Production” to “Oregon Small Farmer & Landowner Pesticide Use Reporting System Update”. Also the Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District is continuing their Conservation Tree and Shrub Sale and orders will be accepted until January 31, 2003. The order form can be obtained by calling 541-296-6178 or on their web site at www.wasco.oacd.org. The tree and shrub sale is open to anyone in the region regardless of their county of residence.

If you look at this newsletter on the web, keep in mind that if you change your internet carrier to be sure to let us know.

Sincerely,

Brian V. Tuck
Mid-Columbia Extension Agent

Oregon State University and Washington State University Extension Services offer educational programs, activities, and materials—without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, disability, and disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran status—as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. OSU and WSU Extension Services are Equal Opportunity Employers.
Calendar of Events

2002

January
10  Cherry Institute meeting, Yakima Convention Center. Information: (509) 453-4837.
11  Strategies for Marketing Pork. For further information, please see Area Workshops and Seminars section of Newsletter.
13  Swine Reproductive Management Workshop. For further information, please see Area Workshops and Seminars section of Newsletter.
14  Columbia Basin Vegetable Seed Association Convention, Best Western Hallmark Inn, Moses Lake. Information: Kyle Knight (509) 531-3976.
15  Free agricultural Safety Seminar, sponsored by SAIF Corp., 2003 Hood River Best Western, 1108 East Marina Way, Hood River; 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.; (541) 386-2200. Seating limited; early registration required; participants will receive a registration confirmation letter with the address and facility location approximately one week prior to the seminar. More information: SAIF Groups Division, (800) 285-8525 or visit www.saif.com.
15  Greenhouse Chapter's Annual Growers Seminar, Gregory Forum, Clackamas Community College. For more information and to obtain registration materials, contact Michelle Miller, Miller Horticultural Associates, at (503) 699-4077 or e-mail to michelle@millerhort.com.
21  Columbia Basin Cereals Seminar. For further information, please see Area Workshops and Seminars section of Newsletter.
21  2003 Lambing School, McMinnville, Oregon. Cost is $40.00 per person and due by January 10, 2003 by calling 503-623-8395.
24, 31 & February 7  Analyzing a New Enterprise Workshops, Columbia Gorge Community College. See Area Workshops and Seminars Section of Newsletter.
28  Oregon Horticultural Society Meeting, 117th Annual Meeting, Portland, OR (program TBA)
28-30  2003 Northwest Agricultural Show. Portland Exposition Center; see the latest in ag equipment. For more information, contact Jim or Shirley Heater at (503) 769-7120 or e-mail silver.mtn@juno.com.
February
7-9  OAN's Annual Consumer Gardening, Oregon Convention Center in Portland. The show will highlight at least 200 exhibitors and an expanded New Varieties Showcase. For details on exhibiting, call Geoff Horning, trade show manager, at (503) 682-5089 or (800) 342-6401.
10  OSU Austin Family Business Center Presentation: Succession Basics for Ranchers, Farmers and Forest Landowners. For further information, please see Area Workshops and Seminars section of Newsletter.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>11</td>
<td><strong>Farmer’s Weed Workshop</strong>. For further information, please see Area Workshops and Seminars section of Newsletter.</td>
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<td>11-13</td>
<td><strong>World Ag Expo</strong>, International Agri-Center showgrounds, Tulare, Calif. Admission: $7, or $18 for three-day pass. Tickets can be purchased through Agri-Center, P.O. Box 1475, Tulare, CA 93275 or call (800) 999-9186, (559) 688-1751 or visit <a href="http://www.farmshow.org">www.farmshow.org</a>.</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td><strong>Growing Fruit in the Northwest</strong>, Gregory Forum, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clackamas Community College, 19600 South Molalla Avenue, Oregon City, OR.</td>
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<td>19-22</td>
<td><strong>65th Annual Oregon Logging Conference</strong>, “America's Forests -Habitat for Humanity” Activities to take place at Eugene Hilton Hotel, Lane County Convention Center and Fairgrounds. Online registration available at <a href="http://www.oregonloggingconf.com">www.oregonloggingconf.com</a> For more information, visit website or call (541) 686-9191.</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td><strong>Mustard Production in The Mid-Columbia</strong>. For further information, please see Area Workshops and Seminars section of Newsletter.</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td><strong>Oregon Small Farmer &amp; Landowner Pesticide Use Reporting System Update</strong>. For further information, please see Area Workshops and Seminars section of Newsletter.</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td><strong>Pruning Workshop</strong>, HOS Arboretum, 9 a.m. to noon Held on the campus of Clackamas Community College, Oregon City.</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>OSU Austin Family Business Center Presentation: <strong>Marketing and Entrepreneurship of New and Alternative Enterprises</strong>. For further information, please see Area Workshops and Seminars section of Newsletter.</td>
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**March**

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<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Mid-Columbia Alternative Crops Workshop</strong>: <strong>Strawberry &amp; Caneberry Production</strong>. For further information, please see Area Workshops and Seminars section of Newsletter.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Grafting Workshop</strong>, 9 a.m.- 2 p.m., (Beginner &amp; Intermediate) Clairmont Hall, Clackamas Community College, Oregon City.</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>HOS Scionwood Exchange, noon to 5 p.m. Rootstock, Plants and Mason Bees for sale. Grafting Instruction and Services, &quot;Build the Fruit Tree of Your Choice&quot;. Randall Gym, Clackamas Community College, 19600 S.Molalla Ave, Oregon City.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td><strong>Lingonberry Conference</strong>, North Willamette Research and Extension Center, 15210 N.E. Miley Road, Aurora. Conference will cover variety trials, the best varieties for the Pacific Northwest, picking dates, an updated cost enterprise sheet and research photos of how lingonberries are grown in Scandinavia, Germany, Estonia and Alaska.</td>
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### Area Workshops and Seminars

**Strategies for Marketing Oregon Pork**

"Strategies for Marketing Oregon Pork" is the title of the Oregon Educational Seminar scheduled for Saturday, **January 11**, from 1-5 pm at the Holiday Inn Express in Albany, Oregon.

The Holiday Inn is located on the east side of Interstate 5 at the north end of the Linn County Fairgrounds.

This seminar is designed to help pork producers remain competitive in the industry, both now and in the future. Information in this seminar will also benefit individuals who provide services to pork producers such as veterinarians and feed industry personnel.

Speakers topics are: "Farm to Market -- Does the USDA mobile slaughter truck economically fit in your program?" and "Genetics, Breeding and Meat Quality -- How do they relate?"

Pre-registration is requested. The cost is $20 per person which includes all sessions, handouts and refreshments. For more information call Gene Pirelli, OSU Swine Program Leader, at 503-623-8395 or email gene.pirelli@oregonstate.edu.

**Swine Reproductive Management Workshop**

A Swine Reproductive Management Workshop is scheduled for Monday, **January 13** from 9 am - 4 pm, to be held at Oregon State University, Corvallis.

This classroom and hands-on workshop covers the basics of swine reproduction and artificial insemination. Cost is $30 per person which covers all sessions, handout materials, lunch and break refreshments. Class is limited to 18 participants. Registration deadline is Monday, January 6. Cancellations must be received 4 working days prior to the workshop to receive a refund.

For questions or to request a registration form, call Gene Pirelli 503-623-8395 or email gene.pirelli@oregonstate.edu.

**Columbia Basin Cereals Seminar**

The Columbia Basin Cereals Seminar will make their rounds in late January, arriving at The Dalles Discovery Center on Tuesday **January 21** beginning with registration at 8:45 am and finishing by 4:00 pm.

A good program has been planned beginning with Jordan Maley discussing the NMFS 4(d) Salmon Rules and their implications for Wheat Producers. Following Jordan will be an update on the Pesticide Use Reporting System by Laurie Gordon of the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The program will conclude with an overview of the OSU/BASF Clearfield Wheat-An Integrated Approach to Weed Management Program by Chad Shelton of BASF.

After lunch the focus will be on new marketing opportunities with the Economics of Producing Bio-Diesel Fuel in Oregon, Global Markets and Impacts on Oregon Growers, Niche Market Development for PNW White Wheat and results of local small grains and alternative crops research.

Cost for the workshop is $15.00 per person, which includes lunch and handouts. We are requesting that you RSVP by January 17th with either the Wasco County Extension Office at 541-296-5494, Sherman County Extension Office at 541-565-3230 or Klickitat County Extension Office at 509-773-5817. Oregon and Washington Pesticide Applicator credits have been requested. For further information, please contact your local Extension Office.
Area Workshops and Seminars

“Risk Management & New & Alternative Enterprise” Workshop Series

So you’re thinking about a new crop or livestock enterprise! Perhaps it’s a new product, or a new market for an old one. Starting a new enterprise can be a risky venture. You probably already know a lot about how to produce the product. But there are two additional, vitally important, pieces to the puzzle. To minimize your risk, you’ll need to know the costs of production to determine if it’s profitable to proceed. And of course you’ll need to know how, where and to whom you’ll be marketing. OSU Extension Service is offering a workshop series to address these questions.

There will be two hands-on computer training sessions in January designed to teach producers how to estimate their costs of production and projected profit. OSU has new enterprise budget software available on the WEB that is specifically designed for evaluating the economic feasibility of crop and livestock enterprises. These two computer workshops will be presented by Dr. Bart Eleveld, Extension Economist in Farm Management at OSU. The first session, January 24th, will cover the crop enterprises, and the second, January 31st, will cover livestock. You can register for one or both, depending on your interests. To register for the computer training workshops please contact the Columbia Gorge Community College at 541-298-3112. Cost is $10.00 per person for one or both of the workshops. Note class size is limited to the first 20 people due to room size. Classes begin at 12:30 pm and finish at 3:30 pm.

OSU Extension Teams with Austin Family Business Program for Two Risk Management Workshops:

Oregon State University Extension Service has partnered with the Austin Family Business Program (also at OSU) to present two seminars of vital importance to owners and operators of agricultural and other rural businesses trying to position themselves for continuing success in the 2000’s. Both address aspects of risk management in the operation of a family business. In one instance it’s the risks involved in intergenerational succession. The other involves the risks of starting a new business enterprise or venture. Dr. Mark Green, Director of the Program, will present both of these two topics.

Workshop #1: Succession Basics for Ranchers, Farmers and Forest Landowners

Hear why an incredible 80 percent of family businesses fail in the second generation and 60 percent of those that survive fail in the third. Learn to beat the odds with this introduction to the ins and outs of the challenging issues of succession.

The workshop will be held February 10th from 12:45 pm to 4 pm at the Discovery Center in The Dalles. Cost is $20.00 per person or family and can be paid at the door on the 10th. Pre-registration is requested with the Wasco County Extension Office by calling 541-296-5494.

This workshop is partially funded by a grant from the Western Center for Risk Management Education, Washington State University and is an independent component of the “Create a Farm/Ranch Business Plan” workshop series.
Area Workshops and Seminars.........continued

**Workshop #2:**
*Marketing and Entrepreneurship of New and Alternative Enterprises*

Thinking of producing and selling a new product or service, or filling a new or different market niche? Whether it’s farming, ranching, forestry or main street, it’s not just a question of “build it and they will come!” Non-traditional or alternative products require a different approach to management and marketing. You have to be a promoter as well as a producer to make your enterprise a success. Learn what is needed to start and succeed in a new venture.

The workshop will be held from **February 24th** from 12:45pm to 4pm at the Discovery Center in The Dalles. Cost is $20.00 per person or family and can be paid at the door on the 24th. Pre-registration is requested with the Wasco County Extension Office by calling 541-296-5494.

This workshop partially is funded by a Cooperative Agreement between OSU Extension Service and USDA’s Risk Management Agency and is an independent component of the ”Risk Management & Budgeting for New & Alternative Enterprises” workshop series.

**Farmer’s Weed Workshop**

The OSU Extension Offices of Sherman and Wasco Counties are conducting a 5 hour weed workshop on Tuesday, **February 11**, at the 4H Pavilion at the Sherman County Fairgrounds in Moro. Registration is $20 per person and class size is limited to 40 participants.

Extension Weed Specialist Jed Coulquhoun will lead the class in sessions such as weed management diagnostic troubleshooting, weed identification, spray nozzle selection, drift reduction and sprayer calibration; herbicide mode of action and symptomology and a specific crop/weed question and answer period.

Pesticide applicator credits and CCA recertification credits will be available for qualified license holders. Pre-registration is encouraged. Contact the Sherman County Extension Office (541-565-3230) for more information.

**Mustard Production in The Mid-Columbia**

Mark your calendars for **February 20th** to attend the Mid-Columbia Mustard Production Workshop to be held at The Dalles Discovery Center from 8:15-12:30.

Workshop agenda is as follows:

8:15 a.m. – 8:30 am  **Introductions**

8:30 am – 11:30 am  **OSU and U of I Researchers**

- Adaptability of Mustard to the Region
- Research Results of Local Variety Test Plots
- General Research of Mustard Varieties
- Use of Mustard Meal for Biological Weed and Disease Control
- Future Mustard Research
- Markets
- Region-Wide Bio-Diesel Production and Use
- On-Farm Bio-Diesel Production –

11:30 am—12:30 pm  **George Taylor, OSU Climatologist**

- Current Weather Outlook
- Future Trends

There is no charge for this workshop. Pre-registration is requested by calling the Wasco County Extension Office at 541-296-5494.

**Oregon Small Farmer & Landowner Pesticide Use Reporting System Update**

With administrative rules finalized in December 2001, Oregon’s Pesticide Use Reporting Law was implemented January 1, 2002. This means that any person who uses or applies a pesticide in the course of business or any other for-profit enterprise, or for a government entity, or in a location that is intended for public use or access is REQUIRED to keep a record of applications and submit application reports annually to the Oregon Department of Agriculture.
This means that a farming or ranching operation with $1,000 in gross agriculture sales is considered a for-profit enterprise for the purpose of pesticide use reporting. Also small woodland owners who fall under the jurisdiction of any portion of the Oregon Forest Practices Act is considered a for-profit enterprise and must report pesticide use.

To help small farmers and landowners understand the Oregon Department of Agriculture Pesticide Use Reporting System and how to submit reports, Oregon State University is sponsoring a Pesticide Use Reporting Workshop to be held Saturday, February 22, 2003 at the Mosier Grange in Mosier Oregon. The agenda for the workshop is as follows:

9:30 am - 10:00 am Coffee and Donuts
10:00 am - Noon PURS Update for Small Farmers and Landowners
Laurie Gordon, OR Dept of Ag
Noon Adjourn

Cost of the workshop is $5.00 per person and can be paid at the door. We are requesting that folks pre-register for the workshop by February 19, 2003. To register for the workshop or for more information, please contact the Wasco County Extension Office at 541-296-5494 or the Hood River County Extension Office at 541-386-3343.

Directions to the Mosier Grange are as follows: Heading westbound or eastbound on I-84 take the Mosier exit (there is only one in each direction). Follow 1st Ave (Highway 30) east to Washington St. Turn right on Washington. Continue on Washington where it curves around to the left and turns into 4th Ave. The Mosier Grange is on the right side of 4th, between Main and Oregon.

Mid-Columbia Alternative Crops Workshop:
Strawberry & Caneberry Production

Oregon and Washington State Universities are sponsoring another in a series of alternative specialty crop production workshops for area small farmers and landowners. The focus of this workshop will be on strawberry and caneberry production and marketing, on Saturday, March 1, 2003 at the Mosier Grange Hall in Mosier, Oregon. Presenter for this workshop will be Diane Kaufman, Oregon State University Small Fruit Specialist.

The agenda for the workshop is as follows:
8:30 am – 9:00 am Registration
9:00 am – 10:15 am Strawberry Production (sites, land preparation, varieties, planting, weed and disease control and management)
Marketing
Future directions in research and resources
10:15 am – 10:30 am Break
10:30 am – 11:45 am Caneberry Production (sites, land preparation, varieties, planting, weed and disease control and management)
Marketing
Future directions in research and resources
11:45 am – 12:15 pm Other Horticultural Crop Options for the Mid-Columbia
12:15 pm Adjourn

Cost of the workshop is $10.00 per person and can be paid at the door. We are requesting that folks pre-register for the workshop by February 26th, 2003. To register for the workshop or for more information, please contact the Wasco County Extension Office at 541-296-5494.

Directions to the Mosier Grange are as follows: Heading westbound or eastbound on I-84 take the Mosier exit (there is only one in each direction). Follow 1st Ave (Hwy 30) east to Washington St. Turn right on Washington. Continue on Washington where it curves around to the left and turns into 4th Ave. The Mosier Grange is on the right side of 4th, between Main and Oregon.

Mid-
Area Workshops and Seminars....Continued

Low-tech, Low-cost Commercial Hydroponics

Microfarm Sustainable Research & Education, a nonprofit organization serving Oregon's small farmers, has received USDA funding to hold educational workshops on low-tech, low-cost commercial hydroponics. Funded by the USDA's Risk Management Agency, these workshops, aimed at women and limited resource farmers, will be focused on helping participants decide whether to consider adding hydroponic production to their current or planned operations. The workshops are intended to allow those who choose to do so to enter the hydroponic field at minimal cost and to grow into a more complex system as their market expands. Each participant will leave with a small, but operable hydroponic unit.

Since the number and location of these workshops will be determined by responses, anyone interested in attending one should write Microfarm Sustainable at 19940 SE Webfoot Road, Dayton OR 97114, or phone or fax at 503-868-7679, or email at info@microfarmsustainable.org.

The Wasco County SWCD Annual Meeting

The Wasco County SWCD Annual Meeting is set for February 20, 2003. This year they have Ken Karsmiziki, Assistant Director of Museum Operations at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center as a speaker. Ken has been doing exciting archaeological work on Lewis & Clark and was the focus of a Discovery Channel documentary, which aired in June 2002.

Dinner commences at 6:30 pm – Entrees are Prime rib and Chicken. Cost is $15. RSVP with Tammy at 296-6178 ext 3.

Tree School Set for 2003

Planning for Tree School in Clackamas County has been completed, the date is set, classes are scheduled, and registration information is now being prepared.

Mark Saturday, April 5 on your calendars for Oregon’s largest one-day educational event for woodland owners. The annual mini-school for tree growers and managers—now in its 13th year—attracts over 500 attendees each Spring.

April’s event will feature nearly 50 different classes, with more than 2/3 being brand new offerings. Twelve of the sessions will be ½ day classes; the others will be 90 minutes. Class topics cover a wide assortment of topics of interest to tree farmers from reforestation and weed control to silviculture and marketing to riparian management.

In addition, an exhibit area showcasing supply and service providers and informational booths will be available throughout the day. More than 50 exhibitors participated last year.

Registration for Tree School 2003 in Clackamas County opens on January 15. Contact the OSU Extension Office in Oregon City (503-655-8631) to receive a copy of the registration booklet describing all of the classes.

Agency Notes

2003 Tree & Shrub Sale

The 2003 tree and shrub list is published and available from the Wasco County SWCD web site or by mail. Trees and shrubs are bare root and cuttings are specified where applicable.

Deadline for ordering is January 30, 2003. Order early to insure you get your selections. Web address is www.wasco.oacd.org. Questions? Contact Tammy Tripp at 541-296-6718 ext 3 or tammy-tripp@or.nacdnet.org

Note: Folks from throughout the region can order trees and shrubs from the Wasco County SWCD.
**FSA Notes**

Note this information applies to all small and large farmers in both Oregon and Washington.

**APPLE MARKET LOSS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM III**

When will the AMLAP III payment be issued? The payment will not be issued before the end of 2002. We just received the notice for the download of the County files to National. The download date is 12/27/02. There will be a two week window for all files to be submitted and verified. It will take another week (+ OR -) to send out the payment rate. Once the payment rate is sent out the payments can be issued.

**WOOL & MOHAIR LOAN OR LDP PROGRAM ANNOUNCED**

Wool or mohair producers who have sheared in 2002 may qualify for a payment or loan under the new program announced. It will depend on when beneficial interest (ownership) of the shorn wool occurred whether you are eligible for a loan or an Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP). If the 2002 shorn wool has been sold an LDP can be requested for the payment rate set for that date. The LDP rate was established on a weekly basis since January 2002. There are 3 eligibility categories that will determine when and if you qualify for a payment.

1. 2002 Shorn wool or mohair sold after January 1, 2002 and before October 11, 2002; may request an LDP for the date the wool was sold. The final date to apply is January 31, 2003.

2. 2002 shorn wool or mohair sold between October 12, 2002 and November 4, 2002, must have requested an LDP or loan no later than December 6, 2002. No late file provision have been announced for the program.

3. 2002 Shorn wool or mohair sold after November 4, 2002 have until January 31, 2003 to file an application. The application must be filed BEFORE the wool or mohair is sold!

**2003 CROP ACREAGE REPORTING TO START IN JANUARY**

Acreage reporting for Wasco and Hood River County orchardists starts on January 2, 2003 (note this applies to all counties). For the 2003 crop year there are even more reasons why you should make sure your report is filed on time and accurate.

1. This is the first year of crop reports using the new GIS (digital) maps. Here is one more opportunity to make sure the field lines are drawn correctly and represent your farming operation.

2. Federal Crop Insurance agents will rely heavily on the FSA official acreage to correctly calculate yields, determine crop losses, and to set premium totals.

3. Crop reporting is required each year to maintain eligibility for a wide range of Federal programs including:
   a. Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) - young block cherries, apples, pears, chestnuts, blueberries, etc.
   b. Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) -
   c. Crop Disaster programs - If or when approved by Congress

The FSA staff will be sending out your maps for the reports. Please call for an appointment to go over the

**Resources**

**Web Pages**

WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture is a good site to find information on sustainable agricultural practices. At this web site you will find publications and coming events. The web address is csanr.wsu.edu
The Rodale Institute has a website called The New Farm, which it says provides "Farmer-to-Farmer Know How." If you haven't already seen it, it appears to have some very useful articles and information. Check it out: www.newfarm.org/newfarm/

PlantAmerica On-Line. PlantAmerica is a seven-year-old company that focuses on providing gardening information to the public via Internet. Information outreach has taken two forms: 1) a weekly gardening tips newsletter and, 2) a large and powerful online gardening library, called "myGardenGuide." E-mail is a powerful tool if the communications are short, relevant, and well presented. The weekly tips newsletter is crafted with this in mind. To subscribe, go to www.plantamerica.com/club/subscribe. “myGardenGuide” is the flagship information product. This web site (www.mygardendguide.com) aggregates, organizes, and presents a wide variety of gardening information to a broad range of consumers—from first timers to Master Gardeners. Not only does it have a large and growing content base, but there are unique customization options, as well. Here is just some of the information offered in myGardenGuide: 38,000 plant photos; hundreds of online gardening tutorials; over 15,000 answers to gardening questions; regional gardening reports; food gardening how-tos.

Guide to Forest Diseases in the Western United States
This website defines "disease" as the range of abnormalities and disturbances to the normal growth of a tree caused by weather, air pollution, micro-organisms, and parasitic plants. It does not contain information on injuries by animals and insects, or fire. http://students.washington.edu/melliott/keys/Intro.html

US Forest Service, Forest Health Protection
A wide range of information on diseases, animals, insects and other vectors for health problems in Western States forests. Also includes publications, additional links, images, and much more. http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/nr/fid/cool.shtml

Haymaking on the West Side by Steve Fransen and Mickael Hackett. WSU EB1897 provides useful information to address the challenges farmers face to obtain a good hay crop under higher rainfall conditions. Cost is $2.50 for a paper copy or it can be found on the web free of charge at: cru.cahe.wsu.edu/cepublications/eb1897/eb1897.pdf

Oregon Agricultural Resources Directory: A Resource Guide for Oregon Agriculture provides an excellent guide to resources available to the farming community. Cost is $5.00 per copy which can be obtained by calling 503-986-4762.

Organic Food Production and Certification EB1888 is an overview of the Washington State organic production standards and the certification process for crops, mushrooms, livestock, and value-added products. Cost is $1.50 per copy or it can be obtained on the WSU web site at: cru.cahe.wsu.edu/cepublications/eb1888/eb1888.pdf

Building Trust With Consumers EB1889 demonstrates that marketing is essentially an exercise in building trust. It asserts that small farmers can benefit from developing a more intimate form of trust with their customers. Cost is $1.00 per copy or it can be obtained on the WSU web site at: cru.cahe.wsu.edu/cepublications/eb1889/eb1889.pdf.

Soil Management for Small Farms EB1895 provides basic information on soil physical and biological properties, types in western Washington, nutrient management, and testing. Describes nutrient cycles, how to calculate fertilizer needs, spreader calibration for organic and inorganic fertilizers, and water quality protection. Cost is $2.00 per copy or it can be obtained on the WSU web site at: cru.cahe.wsu.edu/cepublications/eb1895/eb1895.pdf.

Taking Care of Streams in Eastern Oregon, Washington and Idaho PNW 557 is a color tri-fold publication on hows the whys of protecting streams in PNW and is available free of charge through any local Extension Office.
Resources ...continued

Publications...continued

Farming Alternatives: A Guide to Evaluating the Feasibility of New Farm-Based Enterprises
NRAES-32 provides a good review of how to evaluate an possible new enterprise. Copies can be obtained by calling 607-255-7654 or via e-mail at nraes@cornell.edu or through their website http://www.nraes.org/

The Land Stewardship Project has a new publication available online: "Water, Grass, and Livestock: An Annotated Bibliography of Riparian Grazing Publications." This report contains an extensive compilation of resources detailing the challenges and benefits of managed grazing in riparian areas. Copies can be downloaded from www.landstewardshipproject.org or http://www.landstewardshipproject.org Or order by telephone at 651-653-0618.

Feature Articles

A Primer on West Nile Virus
By Susan R. Kerr, DVM, PhD

Unless you’ve been vacationing for an extended period on Mars, you can’t help but have heard about the new disease on the block: West Nile Virus. Where did this disease come from? How much of a threat is it? What do you need to do to protect yourself and your livestock? This article will answer these and other questions as well as identify some good sources of more detailed information.

West Nile Virus (WNV) was first detected in the West Nile Valley of Uganda in 1937. The first U.S. cases were detected in 1999. The recent global spread is probably due to one or more of the following factors:

• International travel (infected mosquitoes stowed away on airplanes and boats)
• Tropical storms carrying infected birds and mosquitoes hundreds of miles off course
• Changing weather patterns that allow infected birds to change migration patterns

As of December 3, 3,775 cases of human illness have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2002; there have been 216 human fatalities. Although no human cases have originated in Washington or Oregon, the disease has been found in a dead raven in Pend Oreille County, Washington in September; a dead crow in Snohomish County, Washington in October; an ill horse in Island County, Washington in October; and an ill horse in Whatcom County, Washington in November. Equine and human cases are expected throughout the Pacific Northwest in 2003.

Birds are reservoirs of the virus. More than 110 species can be infected, but corvids (crows and ravens) are most frequently involved and most likely to die from infection with the virus. Various species of mosquitoes pick up the virus from infected birds while taking a blood meal. When these infected mosquitoes feed on another animal such as a human, horse, dog, pig, deer, etc., the virus is passively transmitted into the next victim. For poorly-understood reasons, equines (horses, mules, donkeys, etc.) and humans are the species that show illness most often. Very few cases of illness have been reported in sheep, llamas, cats, dogs and other species.

It is important to realize that even for humans and equines, actual illness is rare. Tests of mosquitoes collected in relative “hotbeds” of infection reveal that less than one percent of mosquitoes in affected areas carry the virus. Related studies show that less than one percent of humans who are bitten develop serious illness. Most human cases are not even noticed, or resemble a mild case of the flu. WNV is most severe in elderly, immuno-compromised, or otherwise ill people. Aside from transmission through blood transfusions, organ donations, and breast milk, it is not believed that people can transmit the disease to other people, nor is it...
believed that an infected horse can transmit the disease to humans.

The signs of illness in horses are the same as many other diseases of the brain, including rabies: wobbly gait, difficulty walking, stumbling, knuckling over, tilted head, muscle tremors, depression, poor appetite, fever, being down, blindness, staggering, circling and/or head pressing. About 33% of horses that show signs of illness die.

Prevention measures include:
- wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants when in mosquito-infested areas
- using insect repellents containing DEET (humans); be sure to follow the directions on the label
- housing horses in well-screened barns during prime mosquito-feeding hours (dawn, dusk, and evening)
- eliminating mosquito breeding grounds (stagnant water in tires, buckets, etc.)
- adding larvae-eating fish such as goldfish, carp or bullheads to livestock watering troughs OR changing water in troughs every four days
- agitating or aerating ponds or other stagnant bodies of water
- encouraging bat and insect-eating bird habitat
- vaccinating your horse for WNV every year
- treating bodies of water with mosquito larvicides ONLY as a last resort and ONLY by persons with a valid aquatic pesticide license
- contacting your county public health department or health care professional for more recommendations about WNV prevention in humans

Although no vaccine is available for humans, a vaccine has been developed for horses. This is a killed vaccine, so it does not cause signs of illness in horses. It is not approved for use in pregnant mares, but has been given to many of them with no ill effects. The Food and Drug Administration approved a conditional license for this vaccine, which means it is currently only available through veterinarians. It is expected to be available through catalogs and over-the-counter like the annual equine EWT vaccination in the future. Horses should receive two doses of the vaccine three to six weeks apart with an annual booster in the spring. The spring booster should be given no later than five weeks before the start of mosquito season. If mosquito season in your area usually starts around May 1, give the booster no later than the last week of March.

The presence of WNV is monitored by public health officials in one of several ways: through mosquito pool analyses, through blood tests on sentinel flocks of chickens or other birds, and through dead bird testing. As stated on the Washington State Department of Health’s Web site, “An increase in the number of dead crows is considered the best early indicator of WNV presence.” In Washington, call 360-236-3060 to report dead crows, jays, ravens, magpies, or raptors; in Oregon, call 503-731-4024.

For more information about WNV in Washington and Oregon, contact:
- Washington State Department of Agriculture, State Veterinarian’s office, (360) 902 1878 or www.wa.gov/agr/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/WNVdefault.htm
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Olympia office, (360) 753-9430
- Oregon Health Services, (503) 731-4024 or www.ohd.hr.state.or.us/acd/wnile/home.htm
- Oregon State Department of Agriculture, 503-986-4550 or http://oda.state.or.us/information/news/020911west_nile.html

Other excellent sources of information include:
- www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile
- http://westnilevirus.nbii.gov
- http://www.mosquito.org
- http://npic.orst.edu/wnv
Both these figures came from the Washington State Department of Health Web Site:

West Nile Virus in the United States, 2002

- Orange: Verified avian, animal, and mosquito infections during 2002, as of October 7, 2002
- Brown: Pattern indicates human case(s)

Transmission Cycle of West Nile Virus (WNV)

- Infected mosquitoes transmit the virus to birds. Birds of some species get ill and die, while others become infected but do not show symptoms of the disease.
- Mammals bitten by infected mosquitoes may test positive for WNV, although most

Typical WNV transmission cycle:
Bird ↔ mosquito

Infected birds can transmit WNV to mosquitoes during a blood meal.

Dead end carriers: The virus in mammals is not generally sufficient to transmit the virus back to the mosquito, therefore ending the transmission cycle.
CAFO Regulations Affect Livestock Operations of All Sizes

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(Editors note: This is the second in a series of articles on CAFO regulations for small farm livestock operations. There are differences in CAFO regulations between the state of Oregon and Washington. However, there are also many similarities, i.e., both states are regulated by the federal Clean Water Act.)

In this second article in our series on Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO’s) for small farms we will review CAFO definitions, regulations, permit requirements, and the recently released federal regulations.

Definitions – Animal Feeding Operation (AFO, a federal definition), is a lot or facility where the following conditions are met: (a) animals have been, are, or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total of 45 days or more in any 12 month period; and (b) crops, vegetation, forage growth, or post-harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portions of the lot or facility.

Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) is the concentrated, confined feeding or holding of animals or poultry, including but not limited to horse, cattle, sheep, or swine feeding areas, dairy confinement areas, slaughterhouse or shipping terminal holding pens, poultry and egg production facilities and for farms; in buildings or in pens or lots where the surface has been prepared with concrete, rock, or fibrous material to support animals in wet weather, that has wastewater treatment works, or that discharges any wastes into the waters of the state.

When is a livestock operation required to obtain a CAFO permit – Many small farms that concentrate livestock for feeding during winter months will meet the definition of an AFO. However, most small farm livestock operations will not meet the definition of a CAFO nor are required to obtain a CAFO permit. In Oregon, if an operation confines 1000 animal units of livestock for 45 days or more during any 12-month period a CAFO permit is required. If an operation confines 300 or more animal units for 45 days or more during any 12 month period AND (a) discharges pollutants into the waters of the state through a man-made ditch, flushing system, or similar man-made device, or (b) discharges pollutants directly into the waters of the state that originate outside of and pass over, across, or through the facility or otherwise come into direct contact with the animals in the production area of the operation.

The CAFO regulations contain specific conversion factors for animal units of all species of domestic livestock. As defined by the CAFO regulations 300 animal units is equivalent to 300 beef cattle, 750 swine, 150 horses, or 3,000 sheep. Refer to the CAFO regulations for animal unit conversions for other livestock species.

These definitions can be confusing for managers of livestock operations. By definition, essentially all small farms will not exceed the animal unit requirement of the CAFO definition. However, as discussed in the first article in this series, CAFO regulations require small farm livestock operations to do their part to sustain and/or improve water quality. Under the CAFO regulations, small farm livestock operations (of any size) that concentrate livestock for winter feeding and pollute the waters of the state (either by contaminated runoff from the confinement area reaching the waters of the state or by allowing confined livestock to have
direct access to the waters of the state) are in violation of the Clean Water Act and CAFO regulations. Waters of the state include, but are not limited to creeks, streams, rivers, lakes, and irrigation ditches. To improve/maintain water quality, small farm livestock operations, when confining their livestock for winter feeding, should (a) eliminate all direct access to the waters of the state, and (b) design these winter feeding areas in a manner that runoff can not reach the waters of the state.

**Update on the new Federal CAFO regulations** – On December 15, 2002 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published the new federal CAFO regulations. The new regulations replace requirements that had been in place for over 25 years. The new regulations are estimated to affect 15,500 US livestock operations, 11,000 more than the 4,500 operations that required permits under the old regulations. To help these livestock operations meet the requirements of the new rules, Congress increased funding for land and water conservation programs in the 2002 Farm Bill by $20.9 billion, bringing total funding for these programs to $51 billion over the next decade. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was authorized at $200 million in 2002 and will ultimately go up to $1.3 billion in 2007; 60 percent of those funds must go to livestock operations.

The new rules are 40 pages in length and have over 400 pages of “preamble” attached. We are still in the process of reviewing the new rules to determine their impact on livestock operations. Below is a list of some of the “new” items that have been added to the CAFO regulations.

- Requires a “Nutrient Management Plan” be developed that addresses the form, source, amount, timing, and methods of application of the manure and balances it with realistic production of the field.
- Clarifies the definition of the cow/calf pair as one animal unit until the calf is weaned.

There are more changes and updates, however, these are some of the main changes that will affect livestock producers. After additional review, other major changes will likely be identified.

(If you have specific questions regarding CAFO regulations for small farms, please send them to randy.mills@oregonstate.edu or to your local Extension Agent. We will answer your questions later in our series of articles on CAFO regulations.)
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