Dear Small Farmer and Landowner;

Welcome to the July August Issue of the Small Farms and Acreage Newsletter. In this issue we have a important article by Ole Helgerson, Skamania County Forestry Agent titled “IS YOUR HOME WILDFIRE SURVIVABLE?”

As we enter into the wildfire season it is important to take time and review plans for protecting your home and small farm. This year like the last could be a busy fire year with the heavy spring rains which have increased fuel loads in the forests and grass lands. As plants begin to dry the potential for fires greatly increases. For additional information on fire safety around your small farm please contact your local fire department.

A second article in this issue is the first of a two part series by Susan Kerr, Klickitat concerning the New National Organic Standards. As many of you know the new standards took effect in October of 2002. Susan does a good job in laying out the basics of the standards.

A one final note, as many of you are aware both OSU and WSU Extension Services are supported by County, State and Federal Funds. In Oregon as in Washington, state revenues have significantly declined. This decline has translated into reduced funding at the county level. In Wasco County the OSU Extension Service has taken a 15% reduction in county and state funding. To meet the challenges of reduced funding, the OSU Wasco County Extension Staff have made the decision to close the Wasco County Extension Office on Fridays beginning July 1, 2003. This change means that OSU Wasco County Extension Agents will be working on Fridays but calls will not be answered and the office will not be open to the public unless prior arrangements are made.

We are very sorry for the inconvenience this will cause our clientele, but this is a necessary step to balance our local budget. Again, we ask for understanding as we go through these difficult times.

As you review this issue, if you should have any questions about any of the information found in the newsletter or questions about small farming, please give us a call. You can contact your local county extension office at the numbers found on the top of this page.

Again, please let us know how we can be of help to you.

As a reminder, if you view this newsletter on our website, whenever you change your internet carrier be sure to let us know so we stay current with your e-mail address.

Sincerely,

Brian V. Tuck
Mid-Columbia Extension Agent
August
2     Home Orchard Society Budding & Summer Pruning Workshop, 9 am - noon, Aboretum, Clackamas Comm. College, Oregon City, OR. For more information contact: Jim Cox at 503-234-3559
7     E-Commerce Adding Online Sales to Your Business, Seattle, WA. Sponsored by SBA. For more info, contact SCORE at 1-877-732-7267
20-23 Farwest Show. With more than 850 exhibitors -- nearly 500 of which are wholesale nurseries -- and 1,365 booth spaces this years show promises to be the best. The show runs from noon to 6 p.m. daily. To register for the show or seminars, visit www.farwestshow.com.

September
18-20 “Expedition to Kah-Nee-Ta”, 2003 OAN Convention. Attendees will get to take in the newly expanded and renovated Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort & Casino in Warm Springs. The convention is the perfect opportunity to combine business with pleasure. For more information, 800-342-6401 or email info@oan.org
20-21 HOS Pioneer Orchard Fruit Disply, Wintering-In, 10 am to 5pm, Bybee-Howell Pioneer Park, Sauvies Island, OR. For more information, contact Jim Cox 503-234-3559.

October
8-11 International Plant Propagators’ Society 44th Western Region Annual Meeting, The Embassy Suites Hotel-Portland Airport. Information, James McConnell, Bailey Nurseries Inc., 13670 Stag Hollow Rd., Yamhill, OR 97148; phone 503-662-3244; e-mail: jim.mcconnell@baileynursery.com
11-12 Home Orchard Society All About Fruit Show, 10 am—4pm, Tigard National Guard Building. For more info, contact Jim Cox at 503-234-3559.
11-12 EquiMasters 2003 Horse Expo, Western WA State Fairgrounds, Puyallup, WA. For more information, Pat Turner, 800-457-2804 (enter 1 and 1)
Area Workshops and Seminars

This special two-day workshop is designed to raise your awareness of potential road-related water quality and fish habitat issues. You will learn a stewardship approach for assessing, maintaining and improving forest road systems for management.

You will learn technical information like proper culvert sizing and placement. You will learn how to recognize road-related problems and ideas for possible solutions. You will learn how to develop contracts for project work and where to find technical and financial assistance to get your job done.

The target audience for this workshop is family forest owners, road contractors, logging contractors, foresters, watershed council employees and volunteers, and anyone interested in forest roads. The first day of the workshop will cover: background information, maintenance and improvement techniques, contracts and technical and financial assistance. An optional evening session will be included, too. The second day will be in the field learning how to use the new stewardship assessment form, recognizing problems, prescribing maintenance and improvements, and information about easements and road use issues.

Program locations and dates are as follows:
July 8 - 9, 2003, Clackamas,
July 23 - 24, 2003, Forest Grove,
Aug 12-13, 2003, Eugene,
Sept. 9-10, 2003, Medford
Sept. 16-17, 2003, Prineville
Registration materials and program information can be obtained by contacting the Outreach Education Office at 541-737-2329 or by e-mail at Outreach@for.orst.edu. Additional program information can also be found on their web site at http://outreach.cof.orst.edu/roads/

The program will be limited to 60 attendees. The cost will be $50 per person. Oregon Pro-Logger and Society of American Foresters CFE credits will be available.

WSU Small Farms Field Day
Come see the latest results of WSU Small Farms Program research on small-scale sustainable and organic production systems, July 16, from 1-4 p.m. in Puyallup.

You’ll learn about local, inexpensive sources of organic material, cover crops, weed management and tillage and managing carrot rust fly.

This work allows researchers to compare the costs and benefits of various organic systems. All growers are welcome and encouraged to bring questions and ideas.

The field day will be held at the WSU Puyallup Research & Extension Center. Directions are on the web at: www.puyallup.wsu.edu/map.htm For further information, contact Andy Barry, 253-445-4588.

SolWest Energy Fair

Off-grid Solar Power Installation precedes SolWest Energy Fair, July 22nd through the 24th. A remote cabin near John Day, Oregon will be the subject of a hands-on solar electric installation workshop. The cabin's owners have been living off-grid for over twenty years, but with this system they will enjoy the latest technology for producing both AC and DC power from solar panels to fill their needs in an efficient manner. They will be able to run sensitive electronics such as computer equipment, light their home at the flip of a switch, and provide power for other needs such as cordless tool charging.

SolWest Renewable Energy Fair follows the workshop July 25-27, 2003 at the Grant County Fairgrounds. SolWest is the most comprehensive energy fair in the northwest. Experts from all over the western US will offer over forty workshops on renewable energy and independent living topics (free with fair admission). Some of the workshops scheduled for this year include: "Introduction to Photovoltaics", "Solar Water Pumping", "Hydrogen Basics", "Fundamentals of Hydroelectric Power", "Bio-fuels", "Passive Solar Design", and "Solar Hot Water".

Fifty exhibitors sell wares including complete solar power systems and components, solar hot water systems, solar pumps and water-driven pumps, hydro
Area Workshops and Seminars...continued

systems suitable for the smallest springs to large streams, solar roofing and home plans, home-scale wind generators, and much more.

Activities during the weekend include Electrathon mini-electric car racing, and a Silent Auction. Childcare and children's workshops will be offered. Radio SolWest will be broadcasting from the fairgrounds on solar power. Camping is available, and volunteers get in and camp free.

The SolWest Fair program can be found on their website at www.solwest.org, or a paper copy can be requested at: SolWest/EORenew, PO Box 485, Canyon City OR 97820. 541-575-3633 or info@solwest.org.

ENHANCING MICROBIAL SAFETY OF FRESH AND PROCESSED BERRIES

This OSU workshop will be offered on September 8 & 9, 2003 from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at Food Innovation Center, 1207 NW Naito Parkway, Suite 154, Portland, Oregon

This 2-day workshop provides participants a better understanding of the potential contaminants in berry fruits and processed berry products, and how to develop and implement GAP, GMP, SSOP, and HACCP to reduce the hazards associated with fresh and processed berry products.

Resources

Funding/Technical Resources

Produce Marketing Association Show

Here's your chance to showcase your fresh produce and produce-related products at the most important produce show and annual conference of the year. The Oregon Department of Agriculture has reserved a prime location for the Oregon pavilion at the Produce Marketing Association Show (PMA) in Orlando, FL, October 19-21, 2003. This is your opportunity to strengthen relationships with current customers and open doors to new regional, national and global markets.

What: Produce Marketing Association Show
Where: Orlando, Florida
When: October 19-21, 2003
Who: Produce buyers, distributors, brokers, exporters/ importers
Cost: 10 x 10 booth: $2,300 plus booth furnishings, freight, travel expenses

The PMA attracts supermarket retailers, importers/ exporters, growers/packers, shippers, brokers/ distributors, wholesalers and food service operators worldwide. Attendance is expected to exceed 15,000, with over 70 countries represented. You will be presenting your products to the most powerful buyers in the industry and, at the same time, gain valuable insight into industry and consumer trends. Don't miss this opportunity to market your company and its products.

If you are ready to expand, maintain your market share, launch new products, learn about your competition and who's who in the produce industry, you cannot afford to miss this show.

Booths will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Laura Barton at (503) 872-6600 or at lbarton@oda.state.or.us for more information. The deadline to reserve a space is July 14, 2003.

Cascadia Revolving Fund

Cascadia is a private, nonprofit community development financial institution that provides loans and technical assistance to entrepreneurs and community building organizations in Washington and Oregon who have been unable to access traditional financing and support. Cascadia's goal is to help entrepreneurs start and grow successful businesses, in an effort to bring much needed jobs and economic prosperity to distressed urban and rural communities in the Northwest.

http://www.cascadiafund.org/
Funding for Wildlife Habitat Improvements on Forestland

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of National, State, Tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their property. NRCS works with the participant to develop a wildlife habitat development plan. This plan becomes the basis of the cost-share agreement between NRCS and the participant. NRCS provides cost-share payments to landowners under these agreements that are usually 5 to 10 years in duration, depending upon the practices to be installed.

To receive an application, contact the NRCS office in your region.
http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov/Cons_Assist/WHIP.htm

Funding For Road and Culvert Improvement Projects

Small Forest Landowners interested in receiving financial assistance with road and culvert improvement projects are encouraged to enroll now for funding in 2004 through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). EQIP is administered by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and will provide up to 75% of the cost of making forest road improvements that will benefit water quality and salmon habitat. NRCS is taking applications now for funding through EQIP that will be made available in 2004. To receive an application, contact the NRCS office in your region. For a list of all NRCS offices, please visit: http://oip.usda.gov/scripts/ndisapi.dll/oip_agency/index?state=wa&agency=nrcs

Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities

The Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities Partnership (HFHC) is a collaborative network dedicated to building rural economies based on forest restoration and ecosystem management, and to creating markets for the 'by-products' of these activities. HFHC business members convert these 'byproducts' – small diameter suppressed trees and underutilized species - into quality wood products—flooring, furniture, crafts, fixtures and others – creating jobs in the communities adjacent to the forests. http://www.hfhcp.org/

WA State Office of Trade and Economic Development: Small Business Resources

The Office of Trade and Economic Development (OTED) offers a variety of programs providing technical and financial assistance to support new and existing businesses within Washington. http://www.oted.wa.gov/ed/businessassistance/

Web Pages

WSU Small Farm and Direct Marketing Web Site.

http://agr.wa.gov/Marketing/SmallFarm/default.htm This page provides farmers, farmers market managers, and other local food system stakeholders information about the Small Farm program and our grant funded projects, including technical assistance that the program offers, and current program activities.

In addition, viewers are able to download an electronic copy of The Handbook of Regulations for Direct Farm Marketing, "The Green Book" from the site. This publication contains information about the regulatory landscape governing the sales of farm products in Washington State. It is a comprehensive guide to direct marketing strategies and contains an extensive resource section of organizations and relevant publications.
Resources..... continued

U.S Small Business Administration
http://www.sba.gov/starting/

WA State Small Business Development Centers
http://www.wsbdc.org/

Forestry and Natural Resources Desktop Reference Library.
http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/desktop/
This is an online resource for those interested in forestry and other related natural resource topics provided by the North Carolina State University.

OSU has activated the email Alert section of the Pacific Northwest Nursery IPM website.
http://oregonstate.edu/dept/nurspest/Alert/Subscribe.cfm
The PNW Nursery IPM website is devoted to providing educational materials and links concerning pest management in commercial nursery production. The Alert function allows us to send emails to subscribers as we receive pest Alerts to the website. Whenever possible we will try to provide additional links or information regarding these specific pests. To sign up to receive these email Alerts please go to the web link.

Publications

How To Direct Market Farm Products on The Internet.
This new USDA publication can be found on their web site at www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/MSB/msb.htm or by calling 202-720-8317.

Income Opportunities in Special Forest Products
http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/documnts/usda/agib666/agib666.htm

Community Forestry Research Center Publications
http://www.forestrycenter.org/cfrc/library/listcontent.cfm

Guide for Small Businesses in Washington State


Habitat Use by Snag-Associated Species: A Bibliography for Species Occurring in Oregon and Washington
http://www.cof.orst.edu/cof/pub/home/rc/rc33.htm

Controlling Pocket Gopher Damage to Conifer Seedlings, EC 1255, Revised May 2003. Cost is $2.50 and available from any OSU Extension Office.

Understanding and Addressing Issues Related to the Well-being of Livestock, EM 8826, March 2003. Cost is $1.50 and available from any OSU Extension Office.

Managing Small-acreage Horse Farms, EC 1558, May 2003. Cost is $4.00 and available from any OSU Extension Office.

Profitable Poultry: Raising Birds on Pasture. This publication by USDA is available on their web site at www.sare.org/bulletin/poultry or by calling 301-504-5230.

Meeting the Diverse Needs of Limited-Resource Producers. This publication by USDA is available on their web site at www.sare.org/bulletin/limited-resource or by calling 301-504-5230.

Profitable Pork: Strategies for Hog Producers. This publication by USDA is available on their web site at www.sare.org/bulletin/hogs or by calling 301-504-5230.

Marketing Strategies for Farmers and Ranchers. This publication by USDA is available on their web site at www.sare.org/htdocs/pubs/ or 301-504-5230.

Producer’s Guide to Reducing Microbial Contamination of Fresh Produce. A3701. This University of Wisconsin publication can be obtained by calling 608-262-3346 or on their web site at www.uwex.edu/ces/pubs/.
### Feature Articles

**Is Your Home Wildfire Surviveable?**

**Ole T. Helgerson, Area Extension Forester, WSU Extension, Skamania County**

Despite our region’s scenic beauty, to a wildland fire manager, the Columbia River gorge is a wind tunnel lined with flammable materials. Last year's Sheldon Ridge Fire between Mosier and Hood River, OR burned several thousand acres in less than a day. In the event of a larger fire, or multiple Sheldon Ridge Fires, firefighters will not be able to protect everyone's home and outbuildings in the rural urban interface.

There are several things that you can do to increase the chances of your dwelling surviving a wildfire. The key steps to think of are: LEAN, CLEAN AND GREEN.

LEAN means limiting the number of plants within at least a 30 feet radius from around your home; 60 to 90 feet on the downhill side if you live on a hill. Keep conifer trees pruned up 10 to 20 feet and thin to separate their crowns by at least 20 to 30 feet. CLEAN means removing dead wood and other flammable materials in a like distance; keep firewood stacked well away from your home; and relocate your propane tank a safe distance away if necessary. GREEN means fostering low growing herbaceous ground covers of limited flammability; keep your grass mowed.

As a heads up, look out for WSU, Hood River and Wasco County Wildfire Survey teams in the yellow and green fire gear who may be assessing wildfire hazards in your neighborhood this summer. They and your local rural fire district can help answer your questions on wildfire survivability.

More tips can be found in "Living with Fire" available from your local WSU/OSU Extension, Washington DNR, or Oregon Department of Forestry offices. Or contact Ole Helgerson, 509-427-9427, or Peter Mackwell, 509-427-4130.

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**New National Organic Standards: Part 1 of 2**

By Susan Kerr, WSU-Klickitat County Extension Educator

Information courtesy of David Granatstein, WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources and USDA News Release No. 0453.02

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21, 2002 — “Today, when consumers see the USDA national organic seal on products, they will know that the products labeled organic will be consistent across the country. Organic agriculture is increasing and organic farmers across the country have been looking forward to the release of these regulations with anticipation that they will create consumer confidence in their products.” So stated U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman when she launched the implementation of USDA's national organic standards. The purpose of this program is to provide consistent labeling on agricultural products nationwide.

Organic agriculture is the production of crops and animals without the use of synthetic pesticides or fertilizers. U.S. organic farmland has recently increased from about 1.4 to 2.4 million acres. The organic industry grows between 20 and 25% annually. U.S. retail sales of organic foods were about $7.8 billion in 2000, and global sales topped $17.5 billion.

Developed from extensive industry input and hundreds of thousands of public comments, the National Organic Program (NOP) standards went into effect Oct. 21, 2002. Any organic agricultural product must now meet USDA standards to be labeled and sold as “organic.” The USDA has developed strict labeling rules to help consumers know the exact organic content of the food they buy. Consumers can tell organically-produced food from conventionally-produced food by looking at package labels and store signage. The USDA Organic Seal tells consumers that a product is at least 95% organic.
There are four classifications of organic labeling within the new NOP standards:

1. **100% Organic**: all ingredients and processing aids must be organic.
2. **Organic (95%)**: all agricultural ingredients must be organic or be commercially unavailable in organic form; all nonagricultural ingredients must be on the National List of Approved Materials.
3. **Made with Organic Ingredients**: must be comprised of at least 70% organic ingredients; non-organic ingredients may not be GMO, irradiated, or produced with sewage sludge.
4. **Products with less than 70% organic ingredients**: may only list each organic ingredient as such on the ingredients label or the information panel; no organic claim on the label's principle display panel.

The USDA is administering a $50 million national cost share program to help defray the costs of certification incurred by organic producers and handlers in all 50 states, the U.S. territories, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. For information about your state’s program contact the following state agriculture department staff:

**Oregon**
Ron McKay
Oregon Dept. of Agriculture
635 Capitol St., NE
Salem, OR 97310
P: 503-986-4720
F: 503-986-4729
E-mail: rmckay@oda.state.or.us

**Washington**
Miles McEvoy
Washington State Dept. of Agriculture
P.O. Box 42560
Olympia, WA 98504-2560
P: 360-902-1924
F: 360-902-2087
E-mail: mmcevoy@agr.wa.gov

Part 2 of this series will go into detail on organic certification steps, including organic system plans and other requirements. For homework in the meantime, interested readers should consult the following Web sites for more information:

**Helpful Resources:**
- [www.ams.usda.gov/nop](http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop)
- [www.organicaginfo.org](http://www.organicaginfo.org)
- [www.oda.state.or.us/admd/pdf/organicapp.pdf](http://www.oda.state.or.us/admd/pdf/organicapp.pdf)

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To receive a paper copy of the newsletter please fill out this form and enclose a check for $6.00 for six issues (one-year subscription). Make checks payable to **Sherman County Extension** and mail your check along with this form to:

*OSU Sherman County Extension*
*P.O. Box 385*
*Moro, OR 97039*

Name _____________________________________________

Address ___________________________________________

City __________________________ State __________ Zip ___________

If you wish to receive the newsletter electronically, which is available free of charge, you only need to send an e-mail message to [join-mcsf@lists.orst.edu](mailto:join-mcsf@lists.orst.edu) You do not need to put anything in the subject line or in the body of the message. The listserve will take your e-mail address and put it on the list to receive notification of when the most current newsletter is available on the Wasco County Extension Web Page with a hotlink directly to the web page. For additional information concerning subscribing to the newsletter please contact your local Oregon or Washington State University Cooperative Extension Office.