Dear Small Farmer and Landowner;

Welcome to the November/December Issue of the Small Farms and Acreage Newsletter. In this issue Randy Mills, OSU Umatilla County Livestock Agent starts a series of articles on Confined Animal Feeding Operations which traditionally focused on large scale livestock operations but now effect operations of any size that might impact surface and subsurface waters. 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 that is of importance to and potentially impacts many Oregon small farmers, particularly those who sell livestock or crops raised on their land, concerns pesticide use reporting. The article by Oregon Department of Agriculture outlines the rules and regulations, who needs to report and how to make the reports. We anticipate that there will be workshops this winter in the Mid-Columbia for Oregon Small Farmers to explain the program and how to report pesticide use.

The weather is also a topic of this issue. Steve Castagnoli, Hood River County Extension Agent, has provided a good overview of the weather for the Mid-Columbia and what we might expect this fall and winter. If the very low temperatures the last few days are any indication of what is to come, it should be an interesting winter to say the least.

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.

Sincerely,

Brian V. Tuck
Mid-Columbia Extension Agent
Calendar of Events

2002

November
7 Pacific Northwest Cherry Research Review, The Dalles, OR. See Area Workshops and Seminars section of Newsletter

8 Northwest Symposium on Organic and Biologically Intensive Farming, Yakima Convention Center, Yakima, Wash., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information or to receive the full symposium announcement, contact David Granatstein at 509-663-8181, ext. 222, e-mail granats@wsu.edu.

8-10 “The Family Farm on the Cutting Edge,” Annual Conference of Tilth Producers of Washington, Yakima Convention Center and Gateway Hotel. Information: (206) 442-7620. or nancy@tilthproducers.org

12 Creating a Farm or Ranch Business Plan seminar, sponsored by Oregon State University and Columbia Gorge Community College. See Area Workshops and Seminars section of Newsletter

13 Foliar Nutrition Workshop, Pine Grove Grange, Hood River, OR See Area Workshops and Seminars Section of Newsletter


16 Small Farm School, Clackamas Community College, 8am—4pm. A workshop about horticultural enterprise opportunities, direct marketing options, community supported agriculture, and growing on small acreage. Registration flier/form, call Stephanie Taylor at 503-657-6958 ext. 2378.

19 CORE Pesticide Training, Pine Grove Grange, Hood River, OR

December

2-4 Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research Annual Conference will be held in Doubletree Hotel, Portland OR. Call 541-758-4043 or email berries@oregon-berrries.com for details.

2-4 Washington State Horticultural Association 98th Annual Meeting, Yakima, WA. For more information, call 509-665-9641 or visit the WSHA website at http://www.wahort.org/.

3-4 Forest Health: Identification and Management of Forest Insects and Diseases, Eugene, Oregon. Topics to include: Integreated pest management, foliage diseases, assessing fire-damaged trees, defoliating insects, root icases, stem problems, bark beetles and more.
4-6  **Annual Hermiston Farm Fair and Trade Show**, Hermiston Community Center, 540 S. Highway 395. Potato Seminar Dec. 4; Agricultural Issues Forum Dec. 5. Workshops; CORE pesticide training course; pesticide credits available. Farm Fair Banquet sponsored by Hermiston Chamber of Commerce at The Cottage 5:30 p.m. Dec. 4. Information: (541) 567-8321.

5-6  **Selling Forest Products Course**, Corvallis, OR For more information call 541-737-2329.

9  **Packaging Innovation: Adding Value to Your Products**, Portland, Oregon. For more information call 1-800-823-2357

10  **Western Washington Small Fruit Workshop**

### Area Workshops and Seminars

**Cherry Research Review**
This year the annual Pacific Northwest Cherry Research Review will be held in The Dalles on November 7. The review is the best opportunity of the year to hear the results of the latest sweet cherry research being conducted in the Pacific Northwest and around the United States.

For more information, contact the Washington Research Tree Fruit Research Commission (509)-665-8271.

**Pruning Tour**
*Dave Allen to lead pruning tours in English and Spanish*

The annual cherry pruning tour will be conducted in The Dalles on Monday, December 16th. Two tours will be offered. The first, beginning at 8:00 a.m. will be conducted in English.

The afternoon tour starting at 1:30 p.m. will be held in Spanish. The afternoon tour is specifically designed for orchard foremen and workers, but all are welcome to come.

Both tours will feature Dave Allen of Allen Brothers Fruit in Washington. Dave will talk about the importance of light distribution in high density systems as we prune orchards of various ages. The morning tour, in English, will start at Treaty Oak Orchards on Mill Creek Road. From the West The Dalles exit off of I-84 turn east on 6th Street, follow to Cherry Heights Road and turn south. Go to 10th Street and follow to Mt. Hood Street. Mt. Hood turns into Mill Creek Road. Travel 1.3 miles from 10th and Mt. Hood. The orchard will be on the right. The afternoon tour, in Spanish, will begin at Dean McAllister’s young block next to the Cemetery block on Three Mile Road.
Area Workshops and Seminars........continued

“Create a Business Plan”
Workshop Series Planned for Area Farmers and Ranchers

Agricultural production is an increasingly risky undertaking. Those who don’t have a clear idea of their personal and business goals will have difficulty in monitoring whether they are getting closer to or farther away from those objectives. Typically the assets and net worth of agricultural businesses represent a major share of the economic wealth and security of its owners. This wealth forms the foundation for family income, education of children, retirement and a buffer against financial adversity. For many, a major objective is to pass a viable farm or ranch operation on to offspring or successors. The decisions that will determine the success or failure of these objectives can’t be left to chance—a planning context is needed as a guide for decision making.

During the upcoming fall and winter, Oregon State University Extension Service will be collaborating with Columbia Gorge, Central Oregon and Blue Mountain Community Colleges to present a program designed to help farmers and ranchers create a comprehensive, written business plan. This plan will be designed to help producers answer three age-old questions about their business: Where are we now? Where do we want to be in the future? How do we get there?

The “Create a Business Plan” workshop series will consist of three components:

- Five to six monthly seminars on the contents and principles of writing a business plan. Attendees will be given “homework” assignments to prepare them for:
  - Individual business consultations with a farm management advisor. Three to five consultations will be arranged (outside of seminar times) during which the advisor will assist growers with computer analysis and compiling the plan. The written business plan will be submitted for:
  - Review and critique by a panel consisting of Extension staff, an agricultural lender and an accountant. Written comments will be given to producers during individual “debriefing” sessions.

While the idea of seminars has been tried before, the second two components are new ones. They give producers a degree of personalized feedback and attention that has never been available before. Well, almost. A series was conducted last season, with good results, for tree fruit producers in Hood River and The Dalles. While orchardists are certainly welcome again, this year the examples and teaching materials will be oriented towards dryland and irrigated cropping as well as livestock production.

Individualized instruction would normally be very expensive. But Bart Eleveld, OSU Extension Economist and coordinator for this project, was successful in getting two Federal grants through the Western Regional Risk Management Center at Washington State University. Participants will only be asked to pay $150 per farm/ranch rather than the approximate $1,000 total cost. Depending on participant’s location, they will be assisted by one of three highly experienced professionals who have agreed to serve as on-farm advisors: John Caster (formerly of Chemeketa C.C.), Jon Farquharson (Blue Mountain C.C.) or Amos Bechtel (private ag consultant in Eastern Oregon). Local Extension agents will also be directly involved in workshop planning and instruction. The three Community Colleges previously mentioned will provide classroom space and registration.

The first seminar session has been scheduled for 1-4 pm at these three locations:

- Mid-Columbia / The Dalles, Nov. 12
- Northeast Oregon / Pendleton, Nov. 13
- Central Oregon / Redmond, Nov. 14

Registration is being requested by November 1 at the latest. Enrollment is limited to 12 families or farms per location. Contact Wasco County Extension Service at 541-296-5494 or Columbia Gorge Community College (541-296-6182, Ext. 3112 for more information. A brochure is available.
### Organic Production

Are you interested in organic production? If so, there are two meetings that you may want to consider attending. First, the Northwest Symposium on Organic and Bio-intensive Farming will be held in Yakima, WA on November 8. For more information, call David Granatstein at 509-663-8181 x 222 or visit the following website http://csanr.wsu.edu. Alternatively, you may contact Washington Tilth at (206) 442-7620 or visit their website at: http://www.tilthproducers.org/conference.htm.

The Oregon Tilth Annual Meeting will take place in Eugene, OR on December 7. For more information on that meeting, call 503-378-0690.

### Pacific Northwest Ag & Water Quality Conference

A two-day water quality conference bringing together agricultural, environmental, and government organizations from Oregon, Washington, and Idaho is scheduled for November 19-20, at the Yakima Conference Center.

The conference is designed to improve communication, build understanding, and foster cooperation in discussing issues relevant to agriculture and water quality. A variety of perspectives will be presented in a non-confrontational forum. The conference is expected to draw more than 300 people.

The conference will offer 15 sessions on a variety of topics, including irrigation management, pesticide issues, farm planning, riparian buffer zones, and the Klamath Basin water crisis. Speakers will also discuss new rules surrounding the federal Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and changes in permit requirements for Animal Feeding Operations and Confined Animal Feeding Operations. Featured speakers include Gus Hughbanks, Washington's state conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, as well as state agriculture directors Pat Takasugi of Idaho, Valoria Loveland of Washington, and assistant director Lisa Hanson of the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

The conference cost is $140 for those who pre-register and $185 for those who register at the door. The registration fee includes two lunches and one dinner.

Registration forms for the conference are available on the internet at www.agwaterqualitynw.org or by contacting Matt Haynes at the Oregon Department of Agriculture at (503) 986-6471.

### Tree Fruit

#### Foliar Nutrition Workshop

Dr. Tim Righetti will lead a workshop on the role of foliar nutrients in an overall orchard nutrition program. Most of you are familiar with Dr. Righetti. He is a professor in the Department of Horticulture at OSU. His research program has focused on many aspects of tree fruit nutrition, including foliar nutrition of pear. The workshop will be held at the Pine Grove Grange in Hood River on Wednesday, November 13 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. There will be no charge for the workshop. For more information about this program, call the OSU Extension office in Hood River at (541) 386-3343.

### CORE Pesticide Training

A CORE pesticide training session will be offered at the Pine Grove Grange on Tuesday, November 19. This will be an opportunity to learn about using the web based Pesticide Use Reporting System for submitting pesticide use reports to the ODA, the HRGSA Best Management Practices project, and accessing and using predictive models for orchard integrated pest management. Coffee and donuts will be provided at 8:00 AM courtesy of UAP. The training session will run from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. There is no charge for the training session. For more information call the OSU Extension Service Office in Hood River at (541) 386-3343.
Strike Gold at the Bank

A daylong workshop to help family business owners work with bankers will be held by Oregon State University's Austin Family Business Program in:
Portland -- Friday, November 15, 2002. To request a schedule, register, or for more information, contact the Austin Family Business Program at 800-859-7609 or 541-737-3326, or visit the website at: http://www.familybusinessonline.org.

The workshop "Business Profiles: How Banks Analyze Your Business," will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at OAME Cascade Plaza, 4134 N. Vancouver Ave., Portland. Cost is $50 per person. Materials, lunch and refreshments included.

Participants will see first-hand how bankers analyze businesses, the tools and techniques that bankers use and the danger signs bankers watch for, and what is needed to make a lending decision. Later in the day, participants will work in teams in a competition to try to save a troubled business.

The workshop is sponsored by U.S. Bank. Through innovative tools, hands-on learning opportunities and honest talk, the Austin Family Business Program has been helping to foster healthy family businesses since 1985. The program offers academic courses, workshops and seminars, and other tools to aid families in their business operations and planning.

Small Farm School
Horticultural farms of the urban fringe . . . healthy and growing

To be held Saturday November 16, 2002, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm at Clackamas Community College, 19600 S. Molalla Avenue, Oregon City.

With the right choice of crops, an out-going demeanor, and strong dose of business flair, your 5-20 acres of agricultural land can serve as a steady source of income. You will be able to capitalize on the proximity of a large urban base, next to protected ag land. Your own farm will be your sense of pride well into the future.

With the right choice of horticultural crops, you can achieve returns of more than $10,000 net per acre. Some crops are seasonal thus providing time out for life’s other activities as well. Agricultural labor is generally readily available for the bulk of the production chores.

Join us with other Washington and Oregon landowners as we explore the production and market potential for horticultural crops that have proven to be lucrative enterprises for either part-time or full-time operations. Topics to be covered include: Nursery Crops, Nursery Marketing, Food Production and Food Marketing.

For more information and a copy of the program agenda and registration form, please contact Michelle at 503 657-6958 ext 2246. Cost for the workshop is $40.00 per person, which includes materials and lunch. Registrations are due by November 11, 2002.

Risk Management and Enterprise Budgeting for Agri-Business

Risk management is an essential part of modern agribusiness. Although traditional forms of risk management such as crop insurance, forward contracts, futures and options are all popular and effective ways for farmers to deal with their own risk exposure, a more fundamental tool is diversification of enterprises.

Farmers and ranchers are constantly looking for alternative crops in order to diversify and perhaps increase their profits. Before you commit yourself to
Area Workshops and Seminars...........continued

full-scale production of a new enterprise, however, it’s important to “pencil out the prospects.” That means developing your own enterprise budget and looking at market feasibility.

When you’re ready to move beyond the basic methods of risk management and try marketing your products to a new audience, the ability to successfully analyze and develop those products and their markets can mean the difference between making and losing money in the long run.

In January of 2003 the OSU Extension Service, in cooperation with the Wasco County Extension Office, Columbia Gorge Community College and the USDA Risk Management Agency will offer a 3-class series on analyzing a new enterprise. Computerized tools will be used for enterprise budget analysis. Guidelines will be given for market feasibility assessment and development for new agricultural products, as well as on other risk management topics relevant to agricultural producers in the Columbia Basin. Participants will use case studies and optionally develop data from their own operations.

The classes will be offered on January 24, 31 and February 7 from 12:30 to 3:30 in the Computer Lab at Columbia Gorge Community College in The Dalles. Classes are open to all those who have an interest in farm and ranch risk management topics. However due to room size we must limit the class to the first twenty people. Cost is $10.00 per person.

Resources

Notes from The Wasco Farm Services Agency for Farmers in The Mid-Columbia.

Apple Market Loss Assistance Program (AMLAP III) for Washington and Oregon Producers

Final date to submit an application for the Apple Market Loss Assistance Program (AMLAP III) is November 8, 2002. An additional $94 Million has been approved for market assistance for the 2000 crop year.

To be eligible for AMLAP III, producers must:
- have produced, harvested and sold 2000-crop year apples
- not have received payments on the same crop from any other Federal program, except Crop Insurance
- submit an application for each apple operation by the signup deadline.

No late-filed applications may be accepted by FSA. After the signup period ends, the production for all eligible applications will be submitted to the National office, where a national payment factor will be determined. Applications may be filed at your Farm Service Agency Office.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)

Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam and Morrow Counties received a Secretarial Drought Disaster Declaration for the 2002 crop year. Note, for the other Mid-Columbia Counties (Klickitat County has filed for a Drought Disaster Declaration), please contact your local FSA Office to find out if the county has received a Drought Disaster Declaration. With the Disaster designation, livestock producers will qualify for assistance payments under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP). Signup for LCP direct payments are being accepted at the FSA Offices for Wasco and Sherman County producers. No application deadline has yet been announced for the program. Payments are calculated by multiplying the number of animals in each category times a preset dollar amount. The maximum payment limitation for the Livestock Compensation Program is $40,000 for each eligible person in a livestock operation.

LCP payment rates are:
- $31.50 per head for adult dairy cattle
- $18.00 per head for adult beef or buffalo
- $13.50 per head for replacement heifers or steers over 500 lbs
- $4.50 per head for adult sheep or goats.
Resources….Continued

All livestock must have been owned continuously for a minimum of 90 days and must have been in producer’s possession on June 1, 2002. Producers need not have participated in any other Federal programs to qualify for the Livestock Compensation program. To apply for assistance producers should: Contact the Farm Service Agency Office for Wasco or Sherman County. Bring a detailed inventory listing the number of eligible animals in each category. For additional information please contact your County FSA Office.

Emergency CRP Grazing Approved
Emergency haying or grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract acres has been authorized for both Oregon and Washington. CRP participants may use the contract acreage for their own livestock or it may be leased to other producers. Under a “compelling needs” provision, the option to graze or hay may be donated to another producer. When a CRP participant agrees not to charge a fee to a livestock producer in need of hay or grazing, no payment reduction would be assessed to the CRP contract participant. Emergency authorization is effective immediately and will be available through November 30, 2002.

BEFORE haying or grazing begins, CRP participants must:
- Request approval to hay or graze eligible CRP acreage
- Obtain a modified Conservation Plan from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Agree to leave at least 25% of each field ungrazed for wildlife
- Be assessed a payment reduction equal to the number of CRP acres hayed or grazed times 25% of the annual rental payment.
- RECEIVE “Notification of Approval”, in writing, from the County Committee before haying or grazing begins.

If you are interested in using your CRP acreage for haying or grazing, please contact the Farm Service Agency Office.

2002 Crop Insurance or Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program?
The sales closing date for 2003 Federal crop insurance is November 21, 2002 for cherries, apples, pears, peaches, and grapes in Oregon and Washington. Federal crop insurance is available for fruit crops that have produced at least a minimum level of production for the crop.

New blocks that have not yet met minimum production levels may be eligible for coverage under the new Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). The final date to sign-up and pay the fee for 2003 NAP is November 21, 2002.

Special note: Producers must report losses, for either NAP or crop insurance, within 15 days of a disaster event or when the loss is readily apparent. Failure to timely report could make the crop ineligible for assistance.

Funding Resources
Private Stewardship Grants Program. Offered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
The Private Stewardship Program provides grants and other assistance to individuals and groups engaged in local, private, and voluntary conservation efforts that benefit federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, or other at-risk species. The PSGP supports on-the-ground conservation actions. Deadline for submitting a proposal is December 2nd, 2002. For more info: http://endangered.fws.gov/grants/private_stewardship.html

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.
Offered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. 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. Landowners should contact their local NRCS office to apply.
For more information on the program: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2002/
Resources….. continued

Web Pages

WSU Natural Resources Extension Washington State University website offering information on forests and forest management, wildlife, and agriculture. Provides lists of extension agents by county, assistance provided to landowners, excellent publications, and other information for land managers.
http://ext.nrs.wsu.edu/


Desktop Mapping Information for Novice Map Makers. If you are looking for a quick start to making maps with your Windows PC, this site is for you. Explore cartography for land management with free data and software on the Internet.
http://www.digitalgrove.net/

http://my.execpc.com/~tmbrgrn//page18.html

Publications

Fire and Silvopasture. This publication can be found at: http://frontier.unl.edu/nac/ia/fall02/fall02.pdf

Washington's Forest Products Industry: Current Conditions and Forecast 2002. This publication can be found at: http://ext.nrs.wsu.edu/publications/forestry/logreportsmills.htm

Income Opportunities in Special Forest Products—Self-Help Suggestions for Rural Entrepreneurs. For many rural areas, the path to sustainable economic development will include innovative approaches to natural resource conservation, management, and utilization. This publication describes special forest products that represent opportunities for rural entrepreneurs to supplement their incomes. The types of products discussed in this publication include aromatics, berries and wild fruits, cones and seeds, forest botanicals, honey, mushrooms, nuts, syrup, and weaving and dyeing materials. This publication can be found at: http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/documnts/usda/agib666/agib666.htm

Farming Alternatives: A Guide to Evaluating the Feasibility of New Farm-Based Enterprises. NRAES-32. This Cornell publication can be ordered at www.cce.cornell.edu/publications/agriculture.cfm


FEATURE ARTICLES

Weather Overview

Steve Castagnoli
Extension Agent, Hood River County

Late-September and October often bring some of the best weather in the Gorge, with warm dry sunny days and cool nights prevailing. This time of year can also bring rain and generally cooler temperatures, giving us a preview of coming weather attractions. Weather forecasts and weather trends can be considered on several different time scales. Weather records for Oregon date back about 100 years. According to State Climatologist George Taylor, there have been oscillating cycles of wet and dry periods during that 100 year span that last 20 to 25 years. From 1975 to 1994, Oregon experienced a period with dryer than average weather. This was followed by several wetter than average years. These events, and several other climatic indicators, led Taylor to speculate in 1999 that we were entering another wet cycle.
Feature Articles ...continued

In the Hood River Basin, we ended the 2001-2002 winter with above average precipitation and a snowpack that was 164 percent of average. That was good news following the 2000-2001 water year which was one of the driest on record in the Hood River Basin. Areas east of Hood River were not so fortunate.

The spring seemed relatively cool and wet even though the monthly averages for temperature and precipitation were not far off from the long-term averages. This weather pattern prevailed late spring, July, August, and September, however, were all dryer than average, and October has been dry as well. Hopefully, this is not the beginning of another prolonged dry spell. Climatologists rely on several indices to monitor the development of conditions that they believe control global weather events in the medium range future (three to six months). These include various indicators of oceanic and atmospheric conditions. Climatologists have been tracking the recent development of El Niño conditions in the equatorial and tropical regions of the Pacific Ocean. For the Pacific Northwest, El Niño conditions usually result in warmer and dryer weather than average.

Apparently, weak to moderate El Niño conditions have developed since last March. Various models are used to predict if these conditions have peaked, or will intensify, and how long they will persist. As might be expected, there is a fair amount of discrepancy among these models. Based on all of the available evidence, George Taylor believes that the El Niño has peaked and will decline over the course of the next few months.

Taylor recently issued the Oregon Climate Service (OCS) fall and winter forecast for 2002 and 2003. He expects about average temperatures during the October through December time frame, with above-normal precipitation west of the Cascades and below-normal amounts east of the Cascades. Taylor is predicting cooler temperatures and above average precipitation for January through March. He also suggests there is a good chance of at least one severe cold event during the winter.

The OCS serves as the state repository for weather and climate information and is located on the Oregon State University campus in Corvallis. The OCS collects, manages, and maintains Oregon weather and climate data; makes this information available to the public, both inside and outside the state. It provides the people of Oregon with information on current and emerging climate issues, and performs independent research related to weather and climate issues. The OCS Website (http://ocs.orst.edu/) is a great resource for weather and climate information, providing access to detailed National Weather Service forecasts for each region of Oregon.

CAFO Regulations Affect Livestock Operations of All Sizes

R.R. Mills¹, J. Williams², J.B. Carr³, W.P. Broderick⁴, and D.D. Knutson⁵

Oregon State University Extension Service
¹Umatilla & Union Counties, ²Wallowa County, ³Baker County, ⁴Morrow County and ⁵Malheur County

(Editors note: This is the first 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.)

Background - For the past 20 years, only large scale feedlots, dairies, and other large confinement livestock operations were affected by Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) regulations. However, the federal Clean Water Act of 1972 prohibits the discharge of animal waste into the waters of the United States, regardless of the size of the operation.

In the past, enforcement of the CAFO Clean Water Act regulations was delegated to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in the state of Oregon and the Department of Ecology (DOE) in the state of Washington. In recent years the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been conducting their own inspections of CAFO operations because they felt our state regulations were not meeting the requirements of the federal Clean Water Act. Some
of these EPA inspections have resulted in significant civil penalties (fines) for livestock operators.

**Changes in CAFO regulations** - As a result of these EPA CAFO inspections, the Oregon Legislature passed HB2156 during the 2001 Legislative Session. HB2156 made two important changes in Oregon CAFO regulations. First, it changed Oregon law so that future state CAFO regulations will be made by administrative rule and they will be equivalent to federal regulation. Secondly, it delegated authority for the enforcement of CAFO regulations to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). These new Oregon CAFO regulations have been drafted and are currently under review. CAFO regulation education programs are scheduled throughout eastern Oregon this fall. Contact your local Extension office for the meeting nearest you. The official hearings on the new regulations will be held on November 7, 9:00 AM in Redmond (during the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association Annual Convention), November 13, 7:00 PM in Tillamook, and November 14, 1:00 PM in Salem. Written and/or oral comments can be submitted at any of these hearings or in writing directly to ODA (Oregon Department of Agriculture, Attn: Lynda Horst, 635 Capitol Street NE, Salem, OR 97301-2532) by November 15. A copy of the new proposed regulations can be obtained from ODA at the same address or at www.oda.state.or.us/nrd/cafo/caforules.html.

In addition to the new Oregon CAFO regulations, EPA is under federal court order to review (and revise) the federal CAFO regulations by December 15, 2002. It’s possible and likely that Oregon will need to revise its new regulations, once its know what is included or changed in the new federal CAFO regulations.

**What is a violation of CAFO regulations?** - Since both the state and federal CAFO regulations are under revision, a discussion of violations will need to be in general terms. The reader also needs to understand what constitutes a violation may change somewhat with the revision of the regulations. However, in general terms we know some actions that will result in a violation. First, when livestock are held in confinement, direct access to the waters of the state (creeks, rivers, lakes, irrigation ditches, etc) is a violation. Confinement is defined as 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. Secondly, a discharge of animal waste from a confinement facility (see definition above) into the waters of the state (creeks, rivers, lakes, irrigation ditches, etc) is also a violation. After the new state and federal regulations are in place more specific examples of violations will be available.

**What does this mean for small farm livestock operations?** - Under most circumstances small farm livestock operations will not be required to obtain a CAFO permit. However, even though an operation may have few livestock, discharging any amount of animal waste (zero tolerance) into the waters of the state is a violation of state and federal CAFO regulations. CAFO regulators will not likely inspect small farms unless a third-party complaint has been filed on your operation. A small farm operation may have only a few livestock, for example few horses, but if 10-15 neighbors in the same watershed also have a few livestock, collectively you and your neighbors have at least the same potential to pollute the waters of the state as a large livestock operation. Although it will be the large livestock operations that will be required to obtain a CAFO permit and will be inspected for compliance on an annual basis, the new CAFO regulations will require small farm livestock operators to do their part to sustain and/or improve water quality.

(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.)
Oregon Pesticide Use Reporting System

With administrative rules finalized in December 2001, Oregon’s Pesticide Use Reporting Law was implemented January 1, 2002. A temporary reporting system is online and currently accepts user registration information and pesticide use reports. The reports for calendar year 2002 are not due until January 31, 2002.

Here is a quick summary of the administrative rules adopted for the Pesticide Use Reporting System (PURS):

“Pesticide User” means any person who uses or applies a pesticide in the course of business or any other for-profit enterprise, or for a governmental entity, or in a location that is intended for public use or access.

A farming operation with $1000 in gross agricultural sales is considered a for-profit enterprise for the purpose of pesticide use reporting.

Small woodland owners who fall under the jurisdiction of any portion of the Oregon Forest Practices Act is considered a for-profit enterprise for the purpose of pesticide use reporting.

All pesticide products applied by each pesticide user are to be reported at least once yearly to the Department of Agriculture. All pesticide use in a given calendar year must be reported no later than January 31 of the following calendar year. Pesticide use may be reported on a more frequent basis if so desired.

The information to be reported includes: identification of the pesticide user; name of the specific pesticide product used; date of use; amount used; description of the type of site where the pesticide was used; purpose of pesticide use; and, location of pesticide use.

For uses made to agricultural sites, the location of use is to be reported by township, range, and section. If the use site encompasses more than one section, then the section in which the majority of the use occurred should be reported. For uses made to urban or general type sites that are not publicly owned, the location is to be reported by zip code. For uses made for or by a public or government body on public property (including schools and parks), the location is to be reported by address.

The administrative rules go into far greater detail and describe several options for aggregating information. To review the administrative rules visit the Department’s website at http://oda.state.or.us/purs or contact the Pesticides Division at 503-986-4635 to obtain a copy.

Additionally, the Department has developed worksheets to assist pesticide users in maintaining required information for reporting into PURS. These worksheets are intended to help the pesticide use organize the required information and may reduce the time required to enter PURS reports. Copies of the worksheets may be printed from the website or obtained from the Pesticides Division. Users are advised to check the website periodically for updated news and information, or contact the Pesticides Division.

Mid-Columbia Small Farms and Acreage’s Newsletter Subscription Form

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