Grain and Rain

The average price of soft white wheat in Portland for October was $6.00; club was $6.24 per bushel. Barley for the Portland market came in at $158.50 per ton. But as was last heard, the local coop is not shipping barges of barley, but truckloads and mainly to domestic markets.

The precipitation is looking very good. The Sherman Station in Moro reported receiving 1.31 inches in October. That’s .39 over the 100 year average for the month and gives us 3.92 inches total for the crop year or 2.51 inches over the norm. That is something. Wasco County reports an average of 1.47 inches for October. Antelope was the wettest spot, reporting 2.04 inches.

Recognizing Our Diamond Pioneers

It was mentioned in last month’s newsletter, but the local trio awarded the OSU Registry of Diamond Pioneers deserve a more formal recognition. The Registry of Diamond Pioneers was instituted by the College of Ag Sciences when the college celebrated its 75th anniversary, and since has recognized 930 folks who have done their part to either promote Oregon agriculture or just solidified their own little corner of the ag industry.
Diamond Pioneers...continued

Virgil Choate was noted for his many years in the banking sector and of his service to many ag related organizations and events. Dick Overman was cited for his long term dedication to the conservation of our natural resources, something he put in practice on his own farm and espoused throughout his involvement with the SWCD board. Henry Jaeger is a familiar face at livestock shows and conferences and has trained over 6500 artificial insemination technicians in his 40 years.

The three were inducted October 11 with a luncheon ceremony in Corvallis. Joining them was fellow inductee, Dr Betty Klepper, who many will remember for her work in wheat for the Ag Research Service.

We are very well represented on the Registry. Over the years, 42 persons with ties to the Mid-Columbia region have been honored. The list includes: Paul Alley, Don Bailey, Ed Bonham, David Childs, Chet Coats, Buck Coe, Glenn Cooper, Fritz Kramer, Virgil Ellet, Don Gomes, Bill Hulse, Larry Kaseberg, Marguerite Kaseberg, Paulen Kaseberg, Rex Kaseberg, Carl Kaser, Harold Kerr, Ernie Kuck, Everett Metzentine, Verne Miller, Al Nelson, Joe Peters, Dick Renken, Bill Rolfe, Orville Ruggles, Bob Scharf, Alda Scharf, John Shipley, Earl Smith, Del Smith, Jack Thienes, Catherine Thomas, Dewey Thomas, Don Thompson, Art Van Gilder, Marjorie Van Gilder, Frank von Borstel, Eldon Wagenblast, Dan Warnock and Tom Zinn.

That’s quite a trip down Memory Lane and all deserving. Congratulations again to our three newest inductees.

Previews of Coming Attractions

Lots of meetings to attend heading into the holiday season:

**Ag Haz Waste Clean-up**: Wednesday, Nov. 10, 10 am-2 pm, The Dalles Disposal. This is your last chance this year to dispose of unwanted/un-used ag chemicals including fertilizers and pesticides, solvents and cleaners, old fuel and other farm related hazardous materials. Need to pre-register by calling the contractor at 1-800-547-2436. First $400 worth of waste is free.

**Meet the Wheat Breeder Candidate**, Nov. 10, 12:30 pm to 2 pm, at the Senior center in Moro. Dr Ed Souza (presently of Ohio but 18 years at Idaho), will arrive to join folks for lunch and a brief discussion about his expectations for the wheat breeding position in Oregon, a spot previously held by Jim Peterson. Lunch is included. Meet Ed and ask a few questions. Open to all.

**SAIF Ag Seminars** will be offered twice in The Dalles at the Discovery Center, November 23 and repeats February 1, 2011, starting at 9:30 and ending at 2:30. Lunch is included and no charge for these popular seminars. Topics include: Learning from a loss, Fatal hazards, Welding safety, and Tractor safety and Compliance. Pre-register at 1-800-285-8525.

The Small Farm Programs in Klickitat and Wasco Counties have put together a series of workshops. All have a $5.00 pay at the door registration fee. Register by calling the Klickitat Co Extension at 509-773-5817.

Their menu includes:
- Nov 11. **Farm Business Incubator Tour**. Transportation from Hood River to sites in Portland.
- Nov. 13, 9 to noon. **Small Scale Poultry Production**, Centerville, WA
- Nov. 13, 1 to 4 pm. **Intensive Composting**, Centerville, WA
- Nov. 17, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. **Farmer’s Guide to Understanding PNW Weather**, Rock Creek Hegewald Center, Stevenson, WA
- Nov. 18, 10 am to noon. **Farmer’s Guide for Understanding PNW Weather**, Pine Grove Grange, Hood River.
- Nov. 20, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. **Rain Water Harvesting**, Underwood, WA
Dec. 4, 1 to 4 pm. Tree Fruit Pruning and Management, Maryhill, WA
Dec. 11, all day. Value Added Farm Products, The Dalles.

**Catch the Rain and Use It.** This workshop, Nov 20 from 8:30 to noon, will teach you that an inch of rain on one square foot of roof can deliver over a half gallon of water. Multiple that out over a 1,000 square foot roof and you have 623 gallons that can be captured and released as needed. This workshop at the Underwood Community Center will teach you tricks for catching the water and storing it until you need it. Pre-register at 1-509-427-3931.

**Oregon/Idaho Grains Conference.** Dec. 1-3, Doubletree Lloyd Center, Portland. A shorter, grower oriented session for addressing current wheat issues. Formerly known as the Wheat conference, it is now open to all wheat, barley and oilseed crop producers.

**Oregon Cattlemen’s Association Convention and Trade Show.** Dec. 2-4. Bend at the Riverhouse. Improve your production and management knowledge and contribute to solutions in the industry.

**Wheat Production Intensive Short Course,** Dec. 13-14 in Corvallis. A great looking course that features wheat growth and development, variety selection, planting date and rate review, wheat quality and end uses, soil fertility and management, diseases and their management, insects and their management, weed management and herbicide resistance management. These sessions will be brief but cover a lot of info. Includes 5 pesticide credits. Registration of $350 includes parking, two meals and all class materials. Class size is limited so register before Nov. 15 by calling 541-737-6225. This class may be repeated next year in other Oregon locations. Makes a great early Christmas gift if you have a son/daughter coming home to farm.

**FFA Congrats**

The 83rd national FFA Conference finished Oct 23 in Indianapolis drawing a record 55,000 participants, nearly one of every 10 national members. Amazing. When I attended in 1970, we set a new record high of 20,000. Congratulations to this wonderful youth organization.

**Winter Skin Care**

*In honor of diversity, we’ve added a skin care column for our newsletter.*

Climatologists tell us that the PNW can expect to experience the second worst winter we’ve ever recorded. The cold can take a toll on one’s body so protecting your skin (our body’s first line of defense) is important. Good skin care can keep your skin healthy and you safe and comfortable.

**Keep cool:** Rather than turning up the thermostat, set it as low as possible and use layers of clothing, particularly cotton ones. Hotter air is drier air and the drier your skin becomes the more apt you are for dry, scaly, itchy legs. Outside, layers again are better than a single heavy coat and give you more freedom of movement.

**Shower less:** Hot showers wash away the natural oils that hold in moisture. Shower or bathe every other day and only wash the hot spots on the off days.

**Keep skin moist:** Use a moisturizer that can be used all over the body. Apply right after showering to keep the moisture trapped inside.

**Protect your hands:** If doing a lot of cooking or cleaning, wear rubber gloves. If working more outside, warm gloves can help keep the hands from drying out.

**Sun block:** Sunburn is not just a summer thing. A moisturizer with an SPF 15 rating will help save the face or other exposed body parts.
Winter Skin Care….continued

Stay dry: Wet weather can cause damp clothing upsetting the body’s natural barrier functions. Wet clothing can also chafe the skin so change out of wet clothing as soon as possible.

Drink water: You still need plenty of fluids during the cold, but hot water is just as good as cold. Hot tea and coffee are also good, but only if they are decaffeinated as caffeine is a diuretic that washes liquids out of the body. Same for alcohol: if you drink, be sure to drink extra water the next day to replenish the loss.

Follow these simple tips and you’ll winter better and have healthy glowing skin for spring work.

EPA versus ESA

At a recent seminar on 2, 4-D, it was clearly explained why you need to pay so much attention to your voting. The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) is the federal agency that writes all the rules for, tests and gives approval for all pesticides used in the country. Following label direction should protect you from any litigation for proper use, right?

Maybe not. We also are protected by the ESA (Endangered Species Act), the federal agency that tells us what we must do to protect species from our actions.

So two federal agencies working for the same people. Must be in agreement, right? Maybe not. As EPA tests each pesticide, it gives its blessing in the form of a blanket approval that covers all general situations coast to coast. The ESA on the other hand, gets down to management on a very specific issue on a very specific area. One is general and the other specific and as we know generalities rarely apply to a specific case.

It all started with the famous snail darter, a small fish about the size of a paper clip that halted the completion of the Tellico Dam on the Little Tennessee River. It was argued that completion of the project would alter the habitat of the tiny fish in a case that went clear to the Supreme Court. The Court ruling allowed the completion of the dam but only after adding 6 more years and over $100 million to the tab.

Since then, many have used the ESA rulings to challenge use of perfectly legal projects or products until it is proven that said project/product would not harm some species.

EPA has certainly been more sensitive but still may be challenged in a specific case in a small area.

Pesticide Class in January

Watch your January newsletter for details on the Pesticide Workshop in the Mid-Columbia. It will be held in Sherman County this year. We expect it to qualify for Core credits and assist those wishing to take the exams to become licensed.

If you need credits before the end of this year, check ODA’s website at:
http://oda.state.or.us/dbs/recert_classes/search.lasso

Happy Holidays

There will no December newsletter.

We wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday season with friends and family.