Dear Small Farmer and Landowner;

Welcome to the September/October issue of the Small Farms and Acreage Newsletter. In this issue we have a several very good articles. One of particular importance to those who have rabbits is by David Stauth, concerning the very contagious rabbit disease Myxomatosis. Those who have rabbits are strongly urged to read this article and take appropriate measures to protect them. Those having additional questions about this disease should contact their local veterinarian.

A second article in this issue is by Mary Merrill, the new Columbia Gorge Community College Business/Agribusiness Development Counselor. One of the critical concerns in the Mid-Columbia for entrepreneurs has been where to go to get technical assistance. Mary brings a wealth of experience to this position. Those needing help with business and agribusiness development are strongly encouraged to contact her at (541) 298-3145.

A third article included in this month’s featured articles focuses on nuisance wildlife concerns. This article was developed in cooperation with Scott Ziegenhagen, of the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife in The Dalles, and myself in response to the numerous questions we receive each year concerning wildlife nuisance issues. The article includes information about both large and small animals, mice and gophers and snakes etc., looking at both control and management suggestions as well as sources of additional information. We hope this will be a useful resource for folks in the Mid-Columbia as they have wildlife nuisance questions.

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 receive this newsletter electronically, please make sure you let us know whenever you change your e-mail address so we can make sure you continue to receive it.

Sincerely,

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

2003

September
17-18  Mold In Buildings Conference (Prevention, Assessment and Resolution. Airport Holiday Inn, Portland. For more information call (503) 924-4094 ext. 18.

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 Display, Wintering-In, 10 am to 5pm, Bybee-Howell Pioneer Park, Sauvies Island, OR. For more information, contact Jim Cox 503-234-3559.

October
2-5  Portland Fall Home and Garden Show, Portland Expo Center, 2060 N. Marine Dr. (Take exit 306B off I-5.)

7-9  38th Annual Pacific Northwest Animal Nutrition Conference, Sheraton Airport Hotel, Portland. Information: (503) 226-2758; fax (503) 224-0947 or e-mail: haysmgmt@pipeline.com.

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 info call Pat Turner, 800-457-2804 (enter 1 and 1)

13-14 Washington State Family Farm Summit, Wenatchee Convention Center. Hosted by Wenatchee Valley College’s Institute for Rural Innovation and Stewardship. Information: 509) 682-6625; e-mail kmullinix@wvc.edu; (509-6620 or e-mail jheath@wvc.edu

November

15  2003 Small Farms School, Clackamas Community College, Oregon City, Oregon. For more information contact Elizabeth Howley at ehowley@clackama.cc.

Area Workshops and Seminars

All Welcome at Workshop for New County Residents

Everyone is invited to attend a workshop called “Living in the Country” to be held at the new Goldendale Grange on Sept. 13, from 10 AM to 3:30 PM. The purpose of this program is to introduce new, current and potential county residents to selected county agencies and resources, laws, regulations and traditions.

New rural residents are often unaware of issues such as animal care and control, noxious weeds, water issues, fencing, zoning, fire control, solid waste, roads, wildlife and so on. The goal of “Living in the Country” is to educate residents about issues that affect their rural lifestyles. In so doing, program sponsors hope to reduce the problems experienced by rural residents. The program’s sole purpose is education; it is not an effort to address any individual’s problems or work toward consensus on issues.

A free lunch will be provided by the Goldendale Grange. To register for this free program or for more information, contact WSU Klickitat County Cooperative Extension at 228 W. Main St. in Goldendale, or call 509-773-5817.

Hydroponics Workshop Coming to the Mid-Columbia

Microfarm Sustainable Research and Education, in partnership with the OSU Extension Service and WSU Cooperative Extension, will offer a Hydroponic Enterprise Start-up Training workshop on September 27, at the Dallesport School in Dallesport, WA. The workshop will run from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. cost is $30 per person.
Registration deadline is September 20 and advance registration is required. Further information may be found at www.MicrofarmSustainable.org, or by emailing Info@MicrofarmSustainable.org, phoning 503-868-7679 or contacting Wasco or Klickitat County Extension.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Risk Management Agency will sponsor the workshop. Participants will learn the basics of hydroponic growing, developing business and marketing plans, risk management and how to build a low-cost, low-tech system for producing legal high-value crops. Participants will leave with a ready-to-use, low-tech hydroponic unit, an information package and resource list.

Hydroponics, or soil-less growing, has been used for centuries. The technology uses 90% less water than conventional agriculture. Canada, Israel, the Netherlands, and Australia have developed the production of hydroponic fruit, vegetables, and flowers into an industry worth over $4 billion annually. Each day the U.S. imports several hundred thousand pounds of hydroponically grown fruit, vegetables, and flowers.

Although the U.S. began hydroponic production during World War II to feed troops in the South Pacific, it never developed a commercial industry because of the availability of reasonably cheap and fertile soil. Now that good farmland and water are becoming increasingly scarce, hydroponics will gain importance to U.S. food production. Already, several corporations have realized the advantages of hydroponics. The largest existing U.S.-based operation is the 160 acre hydroponic tomato growing complex owned by ”Eurofresh” in Arizona.

Washington State Family Farm Summit

Washington State Family Farm Summit will be held October 13 & 14 at the Wenatchee Convention Center in Wenatchee, Washington. Join others who share a stake in family-based agriculture to take issue, take a stand, and take part in making a plan to direct the future of family farming.

Who should attend: farmers, rural business owners, community and religious leaders, agriculture and commodity organizations, policy makers, community members, and others who depend upon a vibrant agricultural sector for economic and social health.
Area Workshops and Seminars...continued

Keynote speakers include:
- John Ikerd, professor emeritus of Agricultural Economics at the University of Missouri-Columbia;
- William Heffnerman, Professor of Rural Sociology at the University of Missouri-Columbia; and
- Fred Kirschenmann, North Dakota farmer and Director of the Leopold Institute at Iowa State University.

Topics and discussions:
- Family-based agriculture's important role in local, regional, and national economies,
- how the current farm crisis evolved,
- strategies for successfully weathering the current situation, and
- developing a statement of consensus that can be used by policy makers, educational entities, and others when making decisions that affect family-based agriculture.

For more information contact Kent Mullinix at 509-682-6625-kmullinix@wvc.edu or Janet Heath 509-682-6620-jheath@wvc.edu

Resources

Web Pages

WSDA Small Farm and Direct Marketing Program. This is a new web site for WSDA and can be found at www.agr.wa.gov/Marketing/SmallFarm/default.htm

OrganicAgInfo On-line Database. This is an on-line database of research reports, farmer-to-farmer information, outreach publications etc. The database can be searched by keywords, region, crop or livestock type. The database can be found at: http://www.organicaginfo.org/

The Rodale Institute has developed an Organic Price Index (OPX). Access is free at http://www.newfarm.org/opx/index.shtml. OPX is a comparison of terminal market, other wholesale and selected large-scale retail prices for organic and conventional foods.

Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada provides a good source of information on organic production including research, market information and values of organic products. The web site can be found at http://www.organicagcentre.ca/

Sustainable Ag Research & Education Grants. These are small funds, up to $7,500 for a single producer and $15,000 for three or more growers grouping together on a project. Farmer/Rancher Grants, Marketing Systems Grants, and Organic Systems Grants available. Proposals are due October 1, 2003. http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/smallfarms/Resources/SARE_Grant.pdf

Publications

Invasive Weed Identification and Management, EC 1563. Cost if $5.00 per copy and available through any OSU Extension Office. OSU Extension and Experiment Station Communications also have a website at: http://eesc.oregonstate.edu where you can find additional OSU Publications.

Montana State University Nutrient Management Self-study course can be found at:www.montana.edu/wwwpb/pubs/mt4449.html This course is available at no-charge and is an excellent overview of nutrient management.

The complete listing of the Montana State University Extension Service Publications can be accessed through their web site found at www.montana.edu/publications containing over 225 publications.
OSU Offers Publications on Taking Care of Streams. A new series of pamphlets helps homeowners, landowners, developers and recreation enthusiasts understand how they can make a difference to the health of streams throughout the Pacific Northwest. The pamphlet series, "Taking Care of Streams in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska" includes:

* A Homeowner’s Guide to Riparian Areas in Western Washington, Western Oregon, and Coastal Alaska (PNW 552);
* A Homeowner’s Guide to Riparian Areas in Eastern Washington, Eastern Oregon, and Idaho (PNW 557);
* A Landowner’s Guide to Riparian Areas in Western Washington, Western Oregon, and Coastal Alaska (PNW 558);
* A Landowner’s Guide to Riparian Areas in Eastern Washington, Eastern Oregon, and Idaho (PNW 559);
* A Guide to Riparian Areas in Rangelands (PNW 560);
* A Recreationist’s Guide to Riparian Areas (PNW 561);
* A Developer’s Guide to Riparian Areas (PNW 562).

The pamphlets are available through OSU Extension Offices for a small fee depending on number requested.

Timber Inventory of Woodlands
In order to manage a forest it is important to know its character, the Forest cover, the plants and animals it supports, their age, location, and condition, and the form and capability of the land itself. The purpose of an inventory is to acquaint you with the character of your woodland and help you to plan how best to protect, manage and use it. An inventory of your woodland is fundamental to determine a sustainable harvest of your forest products. Without it you will not able to do sustainable forest management.

http://www.swp.bc.ca/myw/html/05_Inventory.htm

Woodland Management Planning
Forest management is a long-term process. Desired forest conditions and outcomes can take many years to develop and you need to plan your actions long before you achieve your objectives. Proper planning helps make these management activities more efficient and helps you to avoid unnecessary costs and delays, as well as unnecessary steps, as you develop your woodland.

http://www.swp.bc.ca/myw/html/06_Planning.htm

Privateforests.org Library
The library for PrivateForest.org is provided by ConserveOnline.org, a comprehensive conservation resource, created and maintained by The Nature Conservancy in cooperation with its partners.

http://www.conserveonline.org/;internal&action=fs.library.action

PNW Forest Service Research Station Publications.
http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs.htm


Trees to Know in Oregon, EC 1450, Revised June 2003. Cost is $7.00 per copy and available through any OSU Extension Office.


Pacific Nothwest’s Least Wanted List: Invasive Weed Identification and Management, EC 1563, June 2003. Cost is $5.00 per copy and available through any OSU Extension Office.

Caring for New Feeder Pigs, FS 333, June 2003. Cost is $1.00 per copy and available through any OSU Extension Office.

Harvesting, Handling, and Storing Nuts from the Home Orchard, FS 146, Revised 2002. Cost is $1.00 per copy and available from any OSU Extension Office.

Agency Notes

Farm Services Agency

To find out more about any of the following programs, please contact your Farm Services Agency Office. FSA also provides program information through their newsletter which is available free of charge. Contact them to get on their mailing list.
Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Continues
To qualify for assistance under the CDP program, a 35% or greater crop production loss must have been caused by a weather-related condition for either 2001 or 2002. You may also qualify if you sustained a 20% or greater change in market value caused by weather-related conditions. One application will be used to request both production loss and quality loss assistance.

Livestock Assistance Program (LAP)
Signup Started: August 6, 2003
Ends: October 24, 2003
Livestock producers who suffered a grazing loss in either 2001 or 2002 due to drought, severe weather and other weather-related causes are eligible to apply. Eligible land must be physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster area (Wasco County qualified in both 2001 & 2002).

Eligible livestock include Beef, Dairy Cattle, Buffalo, Beefalo, Sheep, Goats, Swine and certain Equine animals.

A total of $250 million dollars is available for this program. LAP payments will be calculated on a per head basis and will be reduced by any amount already received under the Livestock Compensation Programs (LCP).

Please call to make an appointment for signup. When you come into the FSA office you should bring livestock numbers on hand in crop-year 2001 (4/1/01 to 10/31/01) and/or crop -year 2002 (4/1/02-10/31/02).

Livestock numbers needed are:

- Beef cattle: number of cows, bulls, and calves weighing more than 400 lbs for part or all for the grazing period.
- Sheep: number of ewes, rams, lambs (44 to 83 lbs) & lambs over 83 lbs.
- Horses & mules, except for horses used for recreation only.

Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP)
2004 Crop Year
To apply for coverage you must pay a service fee of $100 per crop per county up to $300 per county and $900 per producer if farming in more than one county. You must sign up in each county that you produce crops in, prior to the closing date for that crop.

If a disaster occurs, you must inform the Farm Service Agency of the loss within 15 days of the disaster event or when the loss becomes readily apparent. If you decide not to harvest your crop or destroy it, you MUST contact the Farm Service Agency or a loss adjuster prior to destruction of the crop. Failure to do so may result in loss of eligibility.

Sales Closing Dates to pay
2004 NAP Coverage Fees are:
Fall Planted Vegetable Seeds - September 2, 2003
Alfalfa and Grass Hay - October 1, 2003
Chestnuts - October 1, 2003
Garlic - October 1, 2003
Grass Hay - October 1, 2003
Herbs (mint) - October 1, 2003
Mixed Forage - October 1, 2003
Grazing - October 1, 2003
Young Fruit Trees - November 20, 2003
Blueberries - November 20, 2003
Grapes - November 20, 2003
Spring Onions - February 3, 2004
Mustard - March 15, 2004
Triticale (forage) - March 15, 2004

Paying your NAP service fee in a timely manner is essential if you want any level of protection against weather-related losses and production reports submitted to the FSA will allow you to base any losses on your own production levels.

Market Assistance Loans and Loan Deficiency Paymens (LDP)
Low interest, short-term loans are available as a marketing tool for eligible commodity crops. Eligible crops include: wheat, barley, oats, corn, mustard, canola, honey, or wool.

LDP payments are earned if the Posted-County-Price (PCP) falls below the county loan rate. Currently prices for major commodities are above the LDP level; however, before you lose beneficial interest in you crop you should check the PCP with the FSA Office. Once
Rabbit Disease Outbreak

The following is an article concerning the outbreak of the highly contagious rabbit disease Myxomatosis, by David Staath. This disease, which has shown up in Western Oregon, is of great concern for local rabbit producers, including 4-H and FFA members.

This summer the private and commercial rabbit growers of Western Oregon may be facing one of the periodic epidemics of myxomatosis. This is a disease with an extremely high mortality rate that shows up somewhat unpredictably in the European rabbits most commonly reared in Oregon.

A sudden outbreak of the disease in Linn and Benton counties in early July prompted the closure of rabbit shows at the county fairs in those two areas. But whatever combination of viral, population or climatic conditions caused these cases may also lead to more widespread outbreaks, according to experts in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Oregon State University.

Myxomatosis, which last caused major problems in the state more than a decade ago, is extremely infectious, is transmitted naturally by mosquitoes or other insects, can be spread from rabbit to rabbit by human handlers and has no cure. In Oregon there currently is no diagnostic test for live animals and no readily available vaccine.

"The last time we had a major outbreak in the 1980s this caused a horrible problem in the Willamette Valley and Southern Oregon," said Dr. Donald Mattson, an associate professor of veterinary medicine at OSU. "It can have a mortality rate higher than 90 percent in European rabbits."

There are a few primary precautions that rabbit owners can take to protect their animals, Mattson said. The most important would be mosquito netting, which may help protect against mosquito and other insect transmission. But animal handlers should be careful about use of such netting in very hot weather, since it may impair air flow in rabbit hutches. Beyond that, the best prevention is avoiding groups of other rabbits which may be infected, such as at rabbit shows or county fairs.

"For rabbits, this is a very deadly disease," said Dr. Beth Valentine, an associate professor of veterinary medicine at OSU. "From the point of view of a rabbit owner, the best place for these animals is behind mosquito netting, at home, until the worst of the mosquito season passes later this fall. People who own rabbits in Western Oregon should be very cautious until this problem has passed."

Myxomatosis is caused by a poxvirus that has a natural reservoir, perhaps among brush rabbits, the OSU experts say. It is far less deadly to wild rabbits, although they too can be affected. Exactly what triggers the periodic outbreaks among domesticated rabbits is less clear. It may be some combination of immunity levels in wild populations, heat stress, other weather conditions, mosquito populations and other factors.

The disease is also not easily diagnosed, and might be misdiagnosed by veterinary doctors who see it infrequently. Symptoms can include high fever, loss of appetite, swelling of mucus membranes or sluggishness. The underlying cause of mortality is a profound suppression of the animal's immune system, making them vulnerable to a host of other health problems. Skin nodules called "myxomas" may appear in some cases. But at times an animal has appeared fairly healthy and been dead the next day.

There is no treatment other than supportive care for secondary infections, veterinary doctors say, and no vaccine is readily available. Experts are now getting information on vaccines that have been used with some success outside the U.S., but in any case it would probably be too late for a vaccine to provide any protection this summer, OSU doctors said.
Some of the facts known about myxomatosis include:

- Myxomatosis first was described in Uruguay in 1898, and spread northward from there into Mexico and California, where the "California" strain of the virus evolved, which often has a high mortality but fewer overt symptoms than some other strains.

- All domesticated rabbits in the U.S. are highly susceptible to the virus, but humans are not.

- Mosquitoes, fleas, mites and biting flies may all help transmit the virus, and it may also be carried in the air for unknown distances.

- In rabbit colonies, mechanical transmission of the virus is observed, often by human caretakers or even the judge at a rabbit show.

- If a rabbit is exposed to an infected rabbit, it should be quarantined for 14 days and assumed to be infected during that period.

It's unknown exactly how severe this year's epidemic may become and how far it will spread, the OSU experts say, although history suggests it may not move much beyond Western Oregon. In the interests of monitoring the spread of the disease, anyone who owns a rabbit that dies from an unknown cause should consider contacting their local veterinarian or arranging for a necropsy by the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at OSU, at (541) 737-3261. There will be a fee for the necropsy. It's probable that the disease has already caused many more deaths than have so far been confirmed because it cannot be specifically diagnosed in live animals and few people arrange for necropsies.

More detailed information on myxomatosis will also soon be posted on the web site of the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine, at www.vet.oregonstate.edu

Dr. Brad LeaMaster, the state veterinarian, is collaborating with the OSU veterinary experts on the monitoring and management of this disease.

"We'll try to monitor the spread of this disease as carefully as we can and keep fair officials and the public advised of any developments," LeaMaster said. "At this point we're allowing officials in local areas to make decisions about closing down such things as rabbit shows at county fairs."

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**Mid-Columbia Business/Agribusiness Development Resources**

**Technical Support – Mary Merrill**

The Mid-Columbia is very fortunate to now have the business/agribusiness development expertise of Mary Merrill. Mary has joined the team of experienced Business Counselors at Columbia Gorge Community College’s BizCenter. She comes to the region with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management Technology from Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho. Mary is a recipient of the Astoria/Warrenton Chamber of Commerce President’s Award for Outstanding Service to the business community. She graduated from Colegio San Felipe in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, where she learned to speak Spanish.

Mary was deputized by the Oregon Economic and Community Development International Trade Office for her volunteer efforts chairing the International Trade Committee of the Astoria/Warrenton Chamber of Commerce. During her time in Astoria, she coordinated International Trade round table discussions to improve the business environment and expand the markets of local businesses. She created the International Trade Summit where 100 local businesses assembled to hear from the trade experts, including freight forwarders, bankers, customs and immigration officials.

At the request of chamber members, Mary visited the Tokyo Business Support Center and conference facilities provided by the Japan Export Trade Organization (JETRO) for businesses interested in exporting to Japan. She conducted market research for housing stock, visited a lumber mill in Matsue, Japan, and test marketed a dried salmon product for local Astoria businesses.

The BizCenter at Columbia Gorge Community College will be presenting a number of workshops and courses related to successful business practices. Watch the paper for announcements of courses and workshops for business professionals.
Mary Merrill will be available at the Hood River Chamber of Commerce for small business management counseling from 9 a.m. to noon on Thursday mornings beginning July 31 by appointment. This service is provided through Columbia Gorge Community College, the Small Business Development Center, the SBA, the Oregon Economic and Community Development and the Hood River Chamber of Commerce. Business counseling services are provided at no charge to the business.

The Small Business Management Program, an in-depth program to help businesses develop successful business plans will begin in September. Structured in a supportive, non-threatening classroom environment, participants will work together to improve their businesses. This program will continue once a month for 10 months and will include up to 3 hours per month of on-site business counseling. The program will focus on use of technology to improve business. Time and place will be determined by the location of the enrolled business owners and their time preferences. The program is limited to 15 participants per year.

Small business professionals are encouraged to apply for the Small Business Management Program early. Mary is known for her exuberant energy and fun in the classroom. Come join us as we help build some of the best businesses in America. The registration fee is $507. Call 541-298-3145 for registration information.

Business Incubator—Commercial Kitchen
- Licensed by Oregon Department of Agriculture for Commercial Food Processing & Bakery
- 2,000 square foot food production facility, specifically designed to help entrepreneurs.
- Fully equipped with Blodgett convection ovens, Hobart mixers, Robot Coupe foot processor, 60-gallon cooker/mixer.
- Refrigerators, freezers, walk-in cooler, and dry storage.
- Food preparation, processing, sanitizing.
- Packaging area includes bottle filler, weight-pack, labeling and shrink-wrap machines.
- Facility available to rent to specialty food processors and caterers.
- Demonstration area, meeting & banquet room.
- Creating local value-added agriculture opportunities
- Business incubator services provided by Columbia Gorge Community College Small Business Development Center
- Part of the college campus with classes, teachers, & technical assistance available to kitchen tenants.
- Low cost of $10 per hour.
- For more information, call 541-298-3118.

Business Incubator - Services
The Small Business Development Center’s incubator is a flexible environment where new and existing companies take advantage of inexpensive processing space and professional business counseling services.

- The goal of the incubator is to stimulate small business growth in the Mid-Columbia region with programs, business counseling, and management services to help you reduce expenses and increase profits.
- Staff assistance in areas of management, financing, and marketing is one key to our clients’ success. Another benefit is access to other entrepreneurs and to regional experts. Sharing common interests and problems often bring about common solutions.
- The commercial kitchen/incubator is an on-site production center with the latest equipment for catering, commercial food preparation, processing, baking and packaging.
- The goal is to help build the best-run businesses in America by providing the services of the Columbia Gorge Community College Small Business Development Center.

You need the services of the Commercial Kitchen if…
- You have a food product to market but no place to produce it.
- You need access to a licensed commercial kitchen facility.
- You require modern kitchen equipment to make your product.
- You can benefit from expert advice in marketing, management and financing.

Partners
- North Central Oregon Regional Strategies
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
- OR Economic Development Department
- Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

Helping Build the Best Run Businesses in America

Call 541-298-3118
Tame Your Nuisance Wildlife

By: Scott Ziegenhagen, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and Brian Tuck, OSU Wasco County Extension

Skunks, opossum, raccoons, coyotes, even deer and elk are all at times prominent members of the “nuisance” family of wildlife. Sure, any kind of wildlife can fit this classification from rattlesnakes to woodpeckers to busy little beavers, but often times their presence can be managed, if not avoided all together.

Lets start with the easiest fixes. Ninety percent of the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife’s (ODFW) calls dealing with raccoons, skunks, opossum, even bear, can be solved by eliminating one thing from the general area, “food”. The biggest culprits are dog and cat food left outside either at yours or the neighbor’s house. The next most common food source is unsecured garbage and compost piles. If you check around you may even find someone who is specifically feeding the wildlife. Eliminating the food source will usually get rid of even the most chronic problems. The next easiest fix is to block all access under decks, outbuildings, and your house, as these are all preferred nesting/resting places for nuisance wildlife. If none of this works, you can contract with private “critter getter” businesses to come and trap the offending animals for you. If you’re more adventurous you can rent, buy, or build your own live trap, obtain a permit from ODFW, and trap the animals yourself. You do not need a permit to trap opossum or fox squirrel.

Some animals can be relocated, but that generally is not the best option. Animals relocated into unfamiliar territory, especially those used to urban sources of food and shelter, usually find wild-lands unsuited to their behavioral patterns. Consequently, most relocated animals either starve to death or are taken by predators. Relocated animals could also cause disease outbreaks and/or the spread of non-native species (example: opossum, fox squirrel, and starlings). All non-native animals must not be relocated. The recommended method for dealing with any surplus urban wildlife is humane euthanasia.

Deer and elk can also be classified as damage causing wildlife. There are again some quick fixes for these animals, but not as many. You can grow landscape plants that are unpalatable, or get some smell and taste deterrent sprays that can help. Some people have had success with hanging scented soaps, human hair, and diesel soaked rags on or near plants they wanted to protect. More tempting crops such as gardens, alfalfa, vine, and orchard plants located in areas that are close to wild-land deer or elk habitat will likely require permanent eight-foot fences for protection. Sustaining or increasing hunting opportunities on your property can help reduce local damage caused by deer or elk populations. If you own 40 contiguous acres or more you can sign up for the Landowner Preference Program (see page 21 of the 2003 Oregon Big Game Regulations) and be guaranteed that not less than two of your friends or family draw antlerless deer/elk tags for your property. ODFW can also issue kill permits for chronic problems that can’t seem to be solved by other means. The landowner or their agent can harvest the offending animals under the issued kill permits, field dress, skin, and deliver the carcass to a meat processing business. The meat is then processed and distributed by charitable organizations such as the Salvation Army. Some game meat may also go to individuals who have a medical need for lean meat.

Coyotes, bobcat, bear, and cougar can also be considered as damage causing wildlife when it comes to loss of livestock and pets. If you are protecting people, livestock, or pets that are in imminent danger from a large predator, the predator can be shot. If a bobcat, cougar, or bear are taken under these circumstances, the incident must be reported to ODFW or the Oregon State Police immediately. Coyotes are not protected and therefore require no reporting. Please remember, as with any use of firearms, you have to be outside city limits, use due caution, and fire only in a known safe direction. Hunting may be an effective means to solve this type of damage also. Chances are you know someone who knows someone who would like the opportunity to harvest coyote, cougar, or bear on your property. In extreme cases, ODFW can authorize the use of dogs (usually Wildlife Services agent under USDA-APHIS) to catch an offending cougar or bear.
If you come across injured or abandoned wildlife, in most cases, it is best to let nature take its course and not to disturb the animal in question. First, it must be determined without a reasonable doubt that the animal is orphaned or injured to the point that it will not survive on its own. If the animal is considered to be native to the area and not part of an over abundant population, or is State or Federally recognized as a species of concern, it could be a candidate for rehabilitation. There are private licensed rehabilitators that can work with most kinds of animals if their facilities have the space available. If you can be certain that the animal is suffering from a soon to be fatal wound you can, as humanely as possible, put it out of its misery. This is legal for concerned citizens to do, just make sure that you immediately inform local ODFW or Oregon State Police personnel of the circumstances involved. You may not take the animal into your possession.

Animals that ODFW does not have jurisdiction over are livestock, stray pets, already dead animals, or migratory birds, which includes, waterfowl and most songbirds. Your county Animal Control Officer deals with pet issues, the Oregon Department of Agriculture deals with livestock, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services deals with migratory birds. If you find dead wildlife on your property, you can double bag it and put it in your trash, as most garbage services will take animals bagged in this manner. If there is a larger animal that is impeding traffic on a public roadway under county or state jurisdiction, they may be able to send someone out to remove the animal. If you have a larger animal dead on your property, and you have a place to bury it or just pull it down wind from your house, that is going to be your best option. You can also spread lime on the carcass to assist decomposition and reduce odor.
As with any situation dealing with wild animals, there are an infinite number of problems and solutions, so here is a quick flow chart that may help you figure out whom you can contact for help or advice.

**Technical Resources**
(Note, numbers and websites deal primarily with Oregon wildlife agencies.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem Animal</th>
<th>Contact Agency</th>
<th>Initial Contact Phone #</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wild, free-ranging big game species Deer, Elk, Antelope, Bighorn Sheep, Bear, Cougar, Bobcat</td>
<td>OR Dept. of Fish &amp; Wildlife (ODFW) <a href="http://www.dfw.state.or.us">www.dfw.state.or.us</a></td>
<td>503-947-6286 Or check phone book for local office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coyotes, Cougar, Bear, Beaver</td>
<td>USDA-APHIS: Wildlife Services <a href="http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws">www.aphis.usda.gov/ws</a> With ODFW</td>
<td>See if your county sponsors a Wildlife Services agent 503-326-2346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raccoon, Beavere, Fox, River Otter, Badger, Rabbit, Chipmunk, Squirrel, Skunks, Opossums, Reptiles, Amphibians</td>
<td>ODFW: With contact numbers for private Animal control business or permit to trap yourself</td>
<td>503-947-6286 Or check phone book for local office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gophers, moles, field mice in crops and around homes and farmsteads</td>
<td>OSU or WSU Extension Office</td>
<td>Check phone book for local office #</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upland Birds: Quail, Chukar, Huns, Pheasant, Grouse, Wild Turkeys</td>
<td>ODFW</td>
<td>503-947-6286 Or check phone book for local office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock: Cattle, Domestic Sheep, Horses, Chickens, Pigs, etc.</td>
<td>OR Department of Agriculture Brand Inspector <a href="http://www.oda.state.or.us">www.oda.state.or.us</a></td>
<td>503-986-4681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic pets: Dogs, Cats, etc.</td>
<td>County Animal Control Officer</td>
<td>By county: local phone book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injured or orphaned wildlife</td>
<td>Wildlife Rescue of the Gorge: Klickitat Co. Rowena Wildlife Clinic Wasco, Sherman and Hood River County</td>
<td>509-538-538-2308 541-478-2584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland Audubon Society: <a href="http://www.audubonportland.org">www.audubonportland.org</a></td>
<td>503-292-0304</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional Resources

The WSU Klickitat County Extension Office and the Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District have plans to build nesting boxes for owls and perches for raptors. The WSU Klickitat County Extension Office phone number is (509) 773-5718 and the Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District phone number is (541) 298-8559 ext. 3. WSU also has a number of good wildlife management publications and you can access them through their web site at: http://cru84.cahe.wsu.edu/cgi-bin/pubs/index.html

OSU Extension Service has a number of publications relating to identification and control of voles (field mice), gophers and moles as well as publications relating to reducing deer damage through repellents and fencing. You can also access OSU Publications through their web site at: http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/

There is also an excellent web site put out by the University of Nebraska titled “The Internet Center for Wildlife Damage Management” that has a host of publications and hints on handling wildlife damage issues. The web site can be found at http://wildlifedamage.unl.edu/

Those wanting to rent or buy live animal traps can often find them at local feed stores. They are currently available in The Dalles.

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

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 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.