



Mid-Columbia Small Farms & Acreage Newsletter

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November-December 2003

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Dear Small Farmer and Landowner,

Welcome to the November/December Issue of the Small Farms and Acreage Newsletter. In this issue as usual we have several very good feature articles along with numerous opportunities for additional education. One article of particular importance for those with oak trees is the article by Steve Castagnoli concerning Sudden Oak Disease which has the potential to be a very serious problem in Oregon.

There is also considerable information in this issue about USDA Farm Programs. There are many farm programs that can be useful for farmers or ranchers with small acreages or numbers of animals if they are involved in commercial production. For more information, please contact your local USDA Farm Services Agency.

I have also noted in this issue that the Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District is having their annual Tree and Shrub Sale. This event provides at low cost an opportunity for residents in this region to purchase both Deciduous and Evergreen Trees and Shrubs for wildlife plantings, erosion control or just beautification of your property. For more information concerning this year's tree sale, please contact the Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District at 541-298-8559 ext 3, or see

their web site at www.wasco.oacd.org. Note: tree orders are due January 29, 2004.

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.

Also 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 remain on the mailing list.

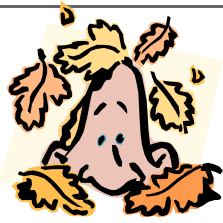
Sincerely,

Brian V. Tuck
Mid-Columbia Extension Agent



Calendar of Events

2003



November

- 1-2 Mid-Columbia Eats!**, a fund-raising food and kitchen show, at TRAC in Pasco. Regional restaurants invited to showcase menu items; wineries and breweries are invited to offer samples. "Fresh Chef" competition, cooking demonstrations, food presentations scheduled. To apply to participate, contact Peggy Hamilton, 509-946-5542; Phyllis Ferguson, 509-547-5306.
- 4 USDA Risk Management Agency and Agricultural Statistics Raspberry, Blackberry and Blueberry meeting**, Clark County USDA Service Center conference room, 11104 N.E. 149th St., Building C, Brush Prairie, WA, 9 a.m. Information: (509) 353-2147.
- 5 USDA Risk Management Agency and Agricultural Statistics Raspberry, Blackberry and Blueberry meeting**, North Willamette Research & Extension Center downstairs conference room, 15210 N.E. Miley Road, Aurora, Ore., 9 a.m. Information: 509-353-2147.
- 5 Central Washington Dairy Management Conference**, Snipes Mountain Restaurant, Sunnyside. Registration \$35 per person; additional registration from same sale farm/firm \$20 each. Registration after Nov. 1 will be \$50, with additional registrations \$25. Student registration \$15. Information: Washington State University Cooperative Ext., 509-574 1600. Mail registration to: Sunnyside Dairy Equipment & Supplies, 116 S.9th St., Sunnyside, WA 98944
- 5-7 53rd Annual Washington Weed Conference**, Yakima Convention Center, Yakima. Conference begins 9 a.m. Wednesday and concludes at noon Friday. Conference registration fee \$75 in advance and \$85 on site. Information and registration available online: www.weedconference.org or by calling WA State Weed Association office, (509) 547-5538.
- 6-8 Oregon Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention**, Eagle Crest Resort, Redmond. Convention registration: (503) 361-8941 ext. 10; hotel reservations (800) 682-4786.
- 6-8 Northwest Corner Beekeepers' Fall Conference**, Hood River, OR Information: 503 399-3675 or visit www.orsba.org/events.htm
- 7 Overcoming Barriers To Sustainable Forestry:** Critical issues, current findings and research. World Forestry Center, Portland, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. \$45 fee until Nov. 3, \$65 at door. Information contact Aimee at Western Forestry and Conservation Association, (503) 226-4562 or aimee@westernforestry.org, shallotman@yahoo.com or visit www.orsba.org for details.
- 7-8 Washington State Sheep Producers Annual State Convention**, Spokane DoubleTree. Information: Jim Acuff, (208) 777-3082. On the Internet: www.wssp.org.
- 7-9 Tilth Producers of Washington Annual Conference: Sound Farming: Listening to the Environment**, Lakeway Inn & Conference Center., Bellingham, WA Information: Nancy Allen, Tilth Producers, (206) 442-7620; web www.tilthproducers.org.
- 12-13 Two-day workshop to help regional berry growers and processors develop food safety programs to meet FDA mandatory requirement for HACCP for juice products.** To be held at Food Innovation Center, 1207 N.W. Naito Parkway, across from Albers Mill building. The \$100 fee covers refreshments, lunch, workshop materials. One-day registration \$50. Register by mail: Dept. of Food Science and Technology, OSU, Attn: Debby Yacas, 100 Wiegand Hall, OSU, Corvallis, OR 97331-6602 by fax, (541) 737-3131.
- 12-13 PNW Integrated Vegetation Management Conference**, Portland, OR. Call 503-226-4562 or e-mail brandy.reed@kingcd.org
- 15 2003 Small Farms School**, Clackamas Community College, Oregon City, Oregon. For more information contact Elizabeth Howley at ehowley@clackama.cc.

Calendar of Events....continued

13-15 Washington Cattlemen's Association and Washington CattleWomen's Association Annual convention, trade show and Cattlemen's College, Campbell's Resort, Chelan, Wash. (509) 925-9877.

15 Small Farm School, Clackamas Community College. Workshop on horticulture enterprise opportunities, direct market options, community supported agriculture and growing on small acreages. 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., \$40 fee includes lunch. Information: Loretta Mills, (503) 657-6958, ext. 2246.

18 Innovation for survival of Northwest Forest Industry, a workshop, 8:50 a.m.-5 p.m., Allmendinger Center, WSU-Puyallup, WA \$75 fee before Nov. 12, \$95 at the door. Register with Western Forestry Association, 503-226-4562 or www.westernforestry.org.

19-20 Pacific Northwest Vegetable Association Convention and Trade Show, Red Lion Hotel, Pasco, Wash. Information: Sheri Nolan, (509) 585-5460 or visit www.pnva.org.

20-21 Washington State Grape Society 2003 Trade Show, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1201 Missouri Ave., Grandview, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 20, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Nov. 21. For more info/directions: www.grapesociety.org.



December

4-5 2003 Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research Annual Conference, Red Lion Hotel Columbia Center, Kennewick, WA Information: 4845 B S.W. Dresden Ave., Corvallis, OR 97333; 541-758-4043, e-mail pnwa@comcast.net or www.nwsmallfruits.org.

January

10 0th Annual Fiber Frenzy and Pygora Goat Show, Washington County Fair Complex (Main Exhibit Hall-South), 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Animals on display, vendors with handspun yarns, fibers, crafts. Spinning wheels and spinning demonstrations. Information or entry forms: Jan Becker, (503) 638-2489, e-mail applebrightfarm@worldnet.att.net; Susan Prechtel, 503-728-4157 e-mail susan@hidden-meadow-farm.com, or visit: www.hmrpygoras.com/fiberfrenzy.html.

15 Mid-Columbia Small Grains Sprayer Technology Workshop to be held in Sherman County, OR. More information will be coming out in the January/February issue of the Mid-Columbia Small Farms and Acreage Newsletter. Contact for this workshop is the Wasco County Extension Office at 541-296-5494 or <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/cerealcrops/ccnewsletterslisted.html>

19-21 90th annual Northwest Food Manufacturing and Packaging Exposition, Oregon Convention Center, Portland. Online registration: www.nwfpa.org. Full registration fee \$15 for all food processors. Information: (503) 327-2200 or visit www.nwfpa.org.

Are you seeding alfalfa or clover?

I have approximately 40 lbs of Alfalfa and Clover seed inoculant left over from our research plots that would be available to anyone free of charge who is planning on seeding either alfalfa or clover this fall or next spring. Those interested in the inoculant should contact me at the Wasco Co. Extension Office, 541-296-5494.



Area Workshops and Seminars

OSU TO OFFER FOOD BUSINESS COURSE IN PORTLAND

If you are interested in starting a food business, but not quite sure how to get started, prepare to spend the afternoon of Thursday, Nov. 6, at the Food Innovation Center in Portland.

Oregon State University and Washington State University will offer a course called "Northwest Food Business 101: Helping New Food Industry Entrants" November 6, 2003 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Food Innovation Center, located at 1207 N.W. Naito Parkway, near Union Station across the street from Albers Mill.

"This is an introductory workshop for the novice designed to offer a basic overview for those who are contemplating or are actually starting a new food business," said Aaron Johnson,

food business strategies program leader at the Food Innovation Center, operated by OSU and the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Other benefits of participating in the workshop include an introduction to the Food Innovation Center and the people who work there, and exposure to other networking opportunities, Johnson said.

The workshop, which costs \$50, will address technical, regulatory and businesses issues. To sign up, call the Food Innovation Center at 503-872-6680, e-mail Johnson at aaron.johnson@oregonstate.edu, or register online at: <http://fic.oregonstate.edu/osu/NWFB/index.htm>.

Agricultural Safety Workshops Scheduled

SAIF Corporation's ninth annual agricultural safety seminar series for Oregon employers will be held in The Dalles and Hood River at various times from December 2003 through May 2004.

The **FREE** four-hour seminar is designed primarily for owners, operators, supervisors and foremen, but anyone working in the agricultural industry is welcome to attend. Small employers attending the seminar will meet the instructional requirement for House Bill 3019 that exempts small agricultural establishments from random OSHA inspections. SAIF has received two hours of pesticide re-certification credits from the Oregon Department of Agriculture for these sessions.

SAIF is pleased to have Kirk Lloyd, president of Risk Management Resources, Inc., join SAIF staff once again this year to talk about the most common types of tractor and spray equipment hazards. As an independent consultant with deep experience in agriculture, Lloyd specializes in the unique needs and challenges of the agricultural business community.

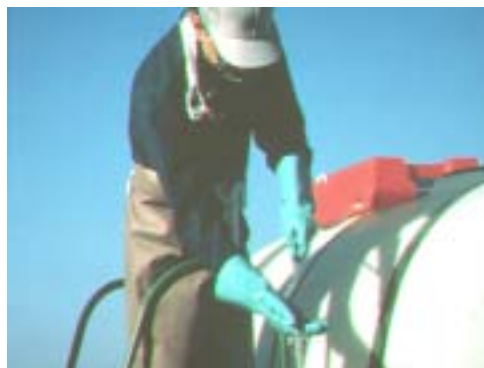
SAIF Loss Control Consultant and seven-year veteran with the agricultural safety seminars Christy Witzke will cover techniques that successful Oregon businesses use to reduce workplace injuries through hiring, training, accountability communication and retention practices.

Topics include:

- **Injury trends on Oregon agricultural operations.**
- **Tractor and Spraying Equipment Safety and Compliance.** Learn how to stay in compliance with OSHA tractor and spray equipment regulations and keep your employees safe and injury free.
- **The Search for Excellence:** Review best practices from last year's session and discuss additional techniques to reduce workplace injuries and increase productivity.

Early registration is required, as seating is limited. Participants will receive a registration confirmation letter with the address and facility location approximately one week prior to the seminar. For more information,

contact the SAIF Groups Division at 1-800-285-8525 or visit SAIF's Web site at www.saif.com.



Agriculture Seminar Registration

Name of Person(s) attending: _____

Business Name: _____

Business Address: _____

Business Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please pre-register by mail, E-mail, FAX or telephone:

Mail: Sunny Vancil
SAIF Groups Department
400 High Street SE
Salem, OR 97312-1000



E-mail: agseminar@saif.com

FAX: 503-584-9803

Telephone: 1-800-285-8525

SAIF CORPORATION

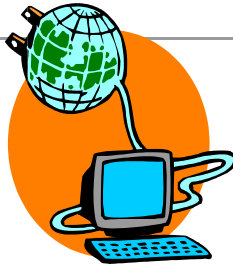
Location	Date	Day /Time	Facility/Address
The Dalles	December 5, 2003	Friday 9:30 – 2:00 Lunch Provided	Discovery Center Wasco County Historical Museum 5000 Discovery Drive The Dalles, OR 97058 Phone: 541-296-8600
Hood River	January 14, 2004	Wednesday 9:30 – 2:00 Lunch Provided	Hood River Best Western 1108 East Marina Way Hood River, OR 97031 Phone: 541-386-2200
The Dalles	February 11, 2004	Wednesday 9:30 – 2:00 Lunch Provided	Discovery Center Wasco County Historical Museum 5000 Discovery Drive The Dalles, OR 97058 Phone: 541-296-8600
The Dalles	February 12, 2004	Thursday 8:00 – noon SPANISH Continental Breakfast Provided	Discovery Center Wasco County Historical Museum 5000 Discovery Drive The Dalles, OR 97058 Phone: 541-296-8600
The Dalles	May 21, 2004	Friday 8:00 – noon SPANISH Continental Breakfast Provided	Discovery Center Wasco County Historical Museum 5000 Discovery Drive The Dalles, OR 97058 Phone: 541-296-8600

Resources

Web Pages

Often folks have questions concerning open range and Livestock Districts in Oregon. The following is the **Oregon Dept. of Agriculture web site** that provides some very useful information concerning this subject.

http://www.oda.state.or.us/ahid/livestock_id/openClosed_range.html



Publications

Common Poultry Diseases

<http://www.msstate.edu/dept/poultry/dislist.htm>



Merck Veterinary Manual

<http://www.merckvetmanual.com/mvm/index.jsp>

Commercial Vegetable Production Guides

<http://oregonstate.edu/Dept/NWREC/vegindex.html>

Sheep Management Calendar

<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/animal-sciences/shpmgmt.htm>

Beef Production for Small Farms

<http://eesc.orst.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/EC1514.pdf>

Calving School Handbook

<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/animal-sciences/cschhand.pdf>

What I Can Do With My Small Farm

<http://eesc.orst.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/EC1529.pdf>
This publication walks folks through a decision-making process assessing the physical resources of the farm along with financial and family resources. This is a good place to start.

Using Strip Tillage in Vegetable Production Systems

In Western Oregon, EM 8824, February 2003. Cost is \$2.50 per copy and is available through any OSU Extension Office.

Profitable Pork: Strategies for Hog Producers.

Available through the USDA Sustainable Agriculture Network by calling 301-504-5230 or on their web site at www.sare.org/bulletin/hogs

Profitable Poultry: Raising Birds on Pasture.

Available through the USDA Sustainable Agriculture Network by calling 301-504-5230 or on their web site at www.sare.org/bulletin/poultry

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

Producer' Guide to Reducing Microbial Contamination of Fresh Produce

A3701. This publication can be obtained through the Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Service by calling 608-262-3346 or their web site at www.uwex.edu/ces/pubs/.

Meeting the Diverse Needs of Limited-Resource Producers.

Available through the USDA Sustainable Agriculture Network by calling 301-504-5230 or on their web site at www.sare.org/bulletin/limited-resource OSU Extension Office.

Keeping in Touch/Agency Notes

Wasco County Soil & Water Conservation District



2004 Tree Sale

The annual Wasco County Tree and Shrub Sale is in full swing and orders are now being taken. You can obtain order blanks by either calling the Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District at 541-2988559 ext 3, or by going to their web site at www.wasco.oacd.org

Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District

Grants Available for Low Cost Watershed Projects

The Hood River Small Grant Team, a partnership of the Hood River Watershed Group, the Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, is now accepting applications for watershed restoration projects in Hood River County. The Hood River Small Grant Team had \$20,000 to award to low cost projects through December 31, 2003. The maximum amount for a single grant is \$10,000 and there is a 25% match requirement.

Resources.... continued

Using the Hood River Watershed Assessment and other reference documents, the team has established the following natural resource priorities:

- Fish passage barriers
- Water quality
- Water quantity
- Habitat structure

Projects types eligible for funding include:

- Fish screening and passage
- Riparian livestock fencing
- Off-stream livestock watering facilities
- Pesticide/chemical management
- Manure storage and management
- Planting riparian vegetation
- Road/trail erosion management
- Irrigation system efficiencies
- Restore instream structure

If you have a potential project, or want information or an application, contact Hood River SWCD Manager Anne Saxby at 386-6719. Once an application is received it will be evaluated by the Small Grant Team and a Technical Advisory Committee made up of representatives from a number of natural resource agencies. Applications will be processed within 30 days, and OWEB will award the contract within 20 days of receipt from the Small Grant Team.

Funding for these grants is made available by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) through Ballot Measure 66, approved by voters in 1998. Measure 66 specified that 15 percent of lottery proceeds be used for watershed enhancement and maintenance of state parks. OWEB uses this funding to support voluntary efforts to improve water quality, water quantity and the recovery of listed fish species. For more information on OWEB or any of its programs, visit www.oweb.state.or.us.



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.

Farm Loan Programs

NEW LAND CONTRACT GUARANTEE HELPS SELLERS AND BUYERS

(Tualatin, OR - September 30, 2003) - The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has begun accepting applications under a new pilot program aimed at helping beginning farmers and ranchers buy farmland. According to Larry Frey, FSA's State Executive Director for Oregon, the pilot program created by the 2002 Farm Bill is only available in Oregon and five other States.

"Land owners are sometimes reluctant to sell their farms on a land sale contract to beginning farmers for fear that payments might be missed, or not made on time," said Frey. "This pilot guarantee program will take some of the risk out of selling land on contract to new farmers."

According to Frey, sellers that want to sell their farm or ranch land to a beginning farmer on a land sale contract can apply to have up to two contract installments guaranteed by FSA. "The idea is that by lessening the risk to the seller, sellers will be more apt to sell their land to the next generation of beginning farmers." Frey said the pilot phase of this program will test this premise, and will help determine whether this is a viable approach for helping facilitate the transfer of farmland to beginning farmers and ranchers.

Initially, the pilot program is only available in six States: Oregon, Indiana, Iowa, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Up to five land sale contracts can be guaranteed in each state each fiscal year of the pilot phase of the program. The pilot program is authorized to operate through Fiscal Year 2007.

Lynn Voigt, FSA's Farm Loan Chief for Oregon, said that the program is structured to provide the seller a guarantee of up to two annual installments on the land sale contract over the first 10 years of the contract. "If a contract installment is missed or is late by 30 days during the guarantee period, the Agency will pay the seller the amount due," Voigt said. "The maximum amount that can be paid under the guarantee is the dollar

Resources..... continued

amount of two equal amortized annual installments, plus real estate taxes and insurance." Under the program, the purchase price of the property cannot exceed \$500,000 and the buyer must provide a cash down payment of at least 5 percent.

To qualify as a beginning farmer or rancher under the program, Voigt said that buyers must have materially participated in the management of a farm or ranch for at least 3 years, but cannot have farmed or ranched for more than 10 years. If the buyer already owns farmland, the buyer can still qualify as a beginning farmer if the size of the farm or ranch the buyer already owns is less than 30 percent of the average farm size for the County.

"This is a great program that offers opportunities for beginning farmers and the retiring generation alike," explained Frey. "It helps assure an uninterrupted flow of contract income for the retiring generation, while at the same time providing incentives for the transfer of farm assets to the next generation of farm owners."

Persons wanting to learn more about FSA's new Beginning Farmer Land Sale contract Guarantee Program should contact their nearest FSA County office. FSA County Offices are listed in the government pages of the telephone directory under the Department of Agriculture. General information is also available on the Agency's website at www.fsa.usda.gov. Simply click on the "Farm Loans" link, and then the "What's New" link.

USDA 2003 Counter-Cyclical Payments

Projected counter-cyclical (CC) payment rates for 2003 crops have been announced. Advance payments will be issued if they were requested at the time of sign up on the 2003 contract. The first payment is to be issued by 10/31 for those that have requested the first advance. The projected payment for the following crops are:

If you initially selected "NO" for the first advance CC

	Total Projected	1st Advance 35%
Wheat	\$0.09 / bushel	\$0.0315 / bushel
Corn	\$0.22 / bushel	\$0.077 / bushel

payment you may come into the FSA before 10/31 and

request the change to "Yes". If you don't revise your selection you may come in before the February 2004 (2nd CC advance) and you may request 35 or 70% of the projected payment. If you do not revise your selection the final 2003 CC payment will be issued in July.

Please call ahead for an appointment.

2004 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Sign Up

Sign up for the 2004 DCP began Oct. 1, 2003 and will continue through 6/1/04. Contact the county office staff to schedule an appointment to enroll your farm. When updating the 2004 contract, you may elect to receive your advance **direct (50%)** payment any time from December 2003 through September 2004. The final direct payment will be issue in October 2004.

2001-2002 Crop Disaster Program

The county office staff continues to accept applications under the Crop Disaster Program. A final application date has not been announced, but do not delay. Come in and apply today. Please call for an appointment so we can tell you what you need to bring with you when you file.

To be eligible, a unit must have suffered a production loss of at least 35 percent in one of the years **2001 or 2002**. The program also includes compensation for quality losses for some crops.

Note: If you have filed your application and have not been contacted, please be patient. The staff is working on the applications diligently and we hope to review all folders and process your payments soon.

Marketing Assistance Loans, LDPs

Marketing assistance loans and loan deficiency payments (LDP's) can mean the difference between a good year and a not-so-good year. Market assistance loans may be farmstored (producer certified or FSA measured) or warehouse loan. Current interest rate is 2.25%. This is a tool that you can use before you sell your grain, to pay off higher interest operating loans.

To be eligible for loans and LDPs, you must comply with conservation and wetland protection

Resources..... continued

requirements; report your cropland acreage on the farm; have beneficial interest in the commodity on the date the loan or LDP is requested and, in the case of a loan, retain beneficial interest while the loan is outstanding; and ensure that the commodity meets CCC minimum grade and quality standards. The final date to request a 2003 crop market assistance loan or an LDP is 3/31/04.

Beneficial interest means you retain the ability to make decisions about the commodity; are responsible for loss or damage to the commodity; and have title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan or LDP—even if you regain beneficial interest.

For commodities to be eligible for loans or LDPs, they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC.

You do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program to be eligible for loans or LDPs.

Livestock Assistance Program (LAP)

(Wasco County)

Signup for 2001 or 2002 LAP has been extended to 11/21/03. After all applications have been processed a national factor will be determined and payments will be issued.

Producers are eligible for LAP even though they may have received a payment under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP). When you come in for your appointment the following items will be requested:

- Livestock inventory for the grazing period of 4/1 through 10/31 for both 2001 and 2002
- If the livestock are jointly owned each person must apply for their own share
- If pasture is leased please provide a copy of the lease.



Feature Articles

Wasco County Extension Office Makes Changes

The following is a quick update of happenings at the Oregon State University Wasco County Extension Office.

Due to budget reductions, we have had to reduce secretarial staff support. Secretaries will be able to assist you Monday through Thursday 8 AM to 5 PM. Extension Agents will continue to work five days a week. On Fridays, the office may or may not be open all day, depending on agent's schedules. If you need agent support on Fridays, please make prior arrangements by calling 541-296-5494 to make sure the office will be open. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

The Wasco County Extension staff has adopted a new office administrative structure, which divides up the office administrative duties among the four Extension Agents. The following is a review of each Extension agents program and administrative responsibilities:

*Fern Wilcox – Family Community Development Agent (FCD) for Wasco and Sherman Counties. Administrative duties include all personnel and office policy issues.

*Tonya Aitkin – 4-H Agent for Wasco County. Administrative duties include supervision of office secretarial support staff.

*Lynn Long - Stone Fruits Horticulture Agent for Wasco and Hood River Counties. Administrative duties include Extension agent evaluations.

Feature Articles ... continued

*Brian Tuck - Dryland and Irrigated Field Crops Agent for Wasco County. Administrative duties include the Extension office budget.

The Wasco County Extension Support Staff includes:

*Kim McCullough – Extension Office Coordinator. Kim is responsible for fiscal management and secretarial support for Fern, Lynn and Brian.

*Jo Smith – 4-H Secretary. Jo provides program management support for the county 4-H program.

*Rosa Guevara-Ayala – OFNEP (Oregon Food and Nutrition Education Program) Program assistant to Fern Wilcox to providing Nutrition education programming to Hispanic audiences.

We truly appreciate the patience of Wasco County residents as we make adjustments in our office hours and administrative structure. Our focus is to provide the highest quality service possible. If you have any suggestions or comments please call us at 296-5494.

Integrated Strategies For Goatgrass Control

*By: Dusty Eddy, Wasco Co., NRCS
Brian Tuck, Wasco Co. Extension Agent*

Recently, there have been more and more complaints about goatgrass control in the small grains growing areas of Wasco Co. Due to the continued drought situation and move towards annual cropping, coupled with an increase in direct seeding, goatgrass has become a serious problem that needs a long term solution. This long-term solution must consider the effects on the environment.

To help growers develop a long term management plan to deal with goatgrass, the following are recommendations supported by research from OSU/WSU.

Basics-

1. Prevent infestations through planting clean seed and equipment sanitation. Clean equipment before moving out of infested areas or into clean areas. Tarp wheat trucks. Don't drive through infested areas.
2. Prevent seed set by spraying out worst areas in crop or mowing. Spray out field borders and field roads and roadsides. It may take repeated applications.

3. When harvesting reduce the air on combine and cut low to remove seed from field. Do not spread straw and chaff, remove from field if possible. Don't throw infested straw or chaff into field borders or onto roadsides. Or harvest around worst areas and spot burn in fall.

Crops and Rotation-

1. Increase crop competition by
 - a. use of high quality, large, treated seed ,
 - b. 10% higher planting rates,
 - c. plant earlier,
 - d. fertilize according to soil tests, avoid over fertilizing.
 - e. place fertilizer with and/or below seed
 - f. use narrower row spacings.
2. Grow at least two consecutive spring grain crops if possible, for severe infestations. Include spring grain in the long term rotations to minimize severe infestations. This is probably the most important strategy according to research. **(make sure to not plant too early, try and get some spring emergence of JGG before seeding spring wheat)**
3. Grow a broadleaf crop in which grassy weeds can be controlled with labeled herbicides. In your area, if this is not possible, chemical fallow worst areas. **(monitor fallow areas to prevent JGG seed production in the field AND around field margins).**
4. The use of herbicide resistant winter wheat has been shown to be very effective in heavily infested areas. The stewardship program for the herbicide resistant wheat must be followed.
5. As last resort, spot burn in fall when fire will be slow and hot to destroy as much seed as possible. **(EQIP cost will have to be deferred on these areas if significant)**. Research has shown that burning by itself is not a final solution. Burning must be a part of an overall integrated management plan **(including crop rotation, competitive wheat crops, and herbicide-resistant wheat)**. Burning not only reduces long term soil quality, but also represents a potential air quality concern..

**Helping Build the Best Run Businesses
in America**

Call 541-298-3118

Feature Articles...continued

6. Cows will spread the goatgrass to uninfested areas. Research indicates that up to 75% of the goatgrass passing through the cow is still viable.

References:

- 2001 Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center Annual Report page 56, Integrated Management of Jointed Goatgrass in Winter Wheat, by Dr. Dan Ball and Dr. Frank Young (contact either Dusty Eddy or Brian Tuck for copies)
- Dan Ball's Weed Research website <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/weeds/home.html>
- PNW STEEP <http://pnwsteep.wsu.edu/>
- National Jointed Goatgrass Research <http://www.jointedgoatgrass.org/>

Sudden Oak Disease

Steve Castagnoli

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When sudden oak death (SOD) was discovered in Oregon in 2001, the disease was widespread in California but limited in occurrence in Oregon to an isolated area in Curry County. Since the detection of SOD there, state

and federal natural resource agencies and Oregon State University Researchers have been working cooperatively to accomplish four goals: contain the infected area in Curry County, eradicate the disease from that area, learn more about the disease, its biology, and how it spreads, and prevent the reintroduction of the disease into the state.

According to officials at the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), the eradication efforts in Curry County are making good progress. They have apparently prevented spread outside of the initially infected area and reduced the extent of that infection substantially. In Washington, SOD made what government and industry officials hope was only a temporary appearance in the state during June of 2003.

A shipment of plants from outside the state was found to be infected with SOD. The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) believes that occurrence was contained and eliminated.

SOD is, however, still a hot topic in Oregon and Washington because of the constant threat of reintroducing it from outside state boundaries and the potentially devastating impact on the region's woodland and forest ecosystems and timber, nursery, and Christmas tree industries.

Thought to have originated in Europe, the disease was first discovered in the U.S. in 1995 in California where it continues to change the face of woodlands, forests, and landscapes. It seems to have the potential to do the same in Oregon and Washington. The disease is known as Sudden Oak Death because it was first discovered on dead tanoak trees, a species that is closely related to true oaks. It also affects many species of true oak and a growing list of native and ornamental shrub and tree species. Oregon oak, the type of oak found in the Mid-Columbia region, belongs to a group of oaks that appears to be resistant to SOD.

Besides having lethal effects on certain oak species, a partial list of tree and shrub species on which the disease has sub-lethal effects includes bigleaf maple, California honeysuckle, Pacific madrone, manzanita, wild and cultivated rhododendron, California buckeye, Oregon myrtle, California coffeeberry, and toyon. Recently, Douglas fir and coast redwood have been added to the list of native species susceptible to the disease. Additionally, numerous ornamental shrub and tree species are capable of harboring the disease creating the potential for spread.

Sub-lethal effects include a range of less severe disease symptoms such as leaf spots or twig blights. Many other pests or diseases cause SOD-like symptoms on most SOD affected plants. It is nearly impossible, therefore, to diagnose the disease solely based on field observations. Positive identification requires laboratory culturing or testing.

Since the detection in Curry County, no new occurrences attributable to natural spread have been detected in Oregon. SOD has been in the news recently, however, because of detection on ornamental nursery plants imported into the state (from the same source of the infected plants in Washington). This introduction occurred despite the existence of federal and state

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quarantines that control interstate and intrastate movement of potentially infected plant products. Because of repeated incidents of this kind, government and industry officials in Oregon decided that additional measures were necessary.

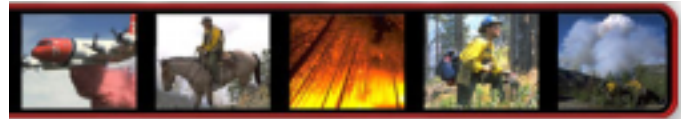
A new emergency rule went into effect in August 2003 that requires all recipients of tree and shrub nursery stock imported into Oregon from all out-of-state sources to notify the ODA for possible inspection of the plants. The new rule specifies that nurseries and retailers must contact ODA no later than two days following arrival of the shipment. ODA will respond within one business day following notification if the nursery stock needs to be held for inspection. In the mean time, the imported tree and shrub nursery stock must not be sold or distributed to untraceable buyers, such as final consumers, for one business day after notifying ODA. The new rule is designed to locate any new introductions of SOD before infected plants reach other nurseries or consumers. This seems to be a logical approach because ODA officials believe that the previous introductions of infected nursery stock came from out-of-state nurseries and were not part of an established infestation of sudden oak death in Oregon.

There is still much to learn about the origin, spread, and ultimate impact of SOD. Nobody is sure how or why this disease emerged where and when it did. It is clear that the effects have far reaching implications for forest and woodland resources, as well as the commercial nursery and landscape industries, in Oregon and Washington. Everyone can help prevent the spread of this disease by complying with the quarantines and new emergency rule. These include restrictions on the movement of nursery and forest products, including firewood, from any infested areas including parts of Curry County and much of California. For details on these restrictions contact the ODA Plant Division (503-986-4762), or WSDA (360-902-1800).

In Oregon, plants suspected of having SOD should be reported to the Oregon Department of Agriculture Invasive Species Hotline (1-866-INVADER).

In Washington, contact the WSDA.

For more information on SOD in Oregon and elsewhere, visit the Oregon Department of Agriculture website at <http://www.oda.state.or.us/>.



Columbia Gorge Wildfire Project

By: *Ole Helgerson,*

WSU/Skamania County Forestry Agent

The four counties in the heart of the Columbia River Gorge, Skamania, Klickitat, Hood River and Wasco Counties lie in high wildfire risk areas due to high fuel loads, increasing numbers of rural-urban interface dwellers and warm, dry windy weather. This project was designed to accomplish three tasks; survey wildland urban interface dwellings as to wildfire risk, assist rural fire districts in building their capacity to fight wildfire and educate rural dwellers in how to protect their homes.

The project was initiated under the leadership of Peter Mackwell as Wildfire Coordinator and is now under the leadership of Andrew Lembrick. Funded by the USDA Fish and Wildlife Service it is coordinated by representatives from Washington Department of Natural Resources, Oregon Department of Forestry, the USDA Forest Service and local volunteer fire districts and counties.

The survey data is being recorded in a GIS format that will allow emergency planners and responders to better identify hazardous areas. Surveys have been initiated in all four counties with county crews augmenting the WSU crews in Hood River and Wasco Counties

A web page listing grant funding sources and close communication with volunteer fire districts is helping rural fire fighters remedy equipment and training needs.

Under interface dweller education, seven education programs have been delivered and evaluations demonstrate that participants increased knowledge and demonstrated intent to clean up their properties making them less susceptible to wildfire. About 1000 "Living with Fire" brochures have been distributed to area residents.

For more information on this project or on how to make your rural dwelling more resistant to wildfire or for a copy of the "Living with Fire" brochure, contact Andrew Lembrick, 509-427-4130



Riparian Fencing

Photo Courtesy of Josh Thompson, Wasco Co. SWCD

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