



Mid-Columbia Small Farms & Acreage Newsletter

Washington State University

Klickitat Co. Ext. **Skamania Co. Ext.**
228 W. Main St. P.O. Box 790
Goldendale, WA 98620 Stevenson, WA 98648
(509) 773-5817 (509) 427-9427

Ce6620@coopext.cahe.wsu.edu
<http://skamania.wsu.edu/>

Oregon State University

Hood River Co. Ext. **Sherman Co. Ext.** **Wasco Co. Ext.**
2990 Experiment Sta. Dr. 409 Hood Street 400 E. Scenic Dr.
Hood River, OR 97031 PO Box 385 Suite 2.278
(541) 386-3343 Moro, OR 97039 The Dalles, OR 97058
 (541) 565-3230 (541) 296-5494

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/hoodriver>
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sherman>
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco>

Volume 5, Issue 4

July-August 2005

Inside this issue:

Calendar	2
Coming Events	4
Resources	6



Extension Service

Oregon State University and Washington State University Extension Services offer educational programs, activities, and materials—without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, disability, and disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran status—as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. OSU and WSU Extension Services are Equal Opportunity Employer.

Sign up for the Small Farms and Acreage Newsletter...Call 541-565-3230 or visit us on the web:
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/smallfarms/listings.html>

Dear Small Farmer and Landowner,

Welcome to the July/August Issue of the Small Farms and Acreage Newsletter. In this issue you will find information on a number of excellent workshops, tours and seminars throughout the region. One of the more interesting program is the Farwest Show in Portland which features some excellent seminars and an opportunity to view specialty crop and nursery production equipment. It is also a good opportunity see new trends in the nursery industry.

As a reminder, one program of particular interest that we hope you will consider is the Farm and Ranch Survival Kit Program. This is an innovative program developed by OSU and WSU Extension Services in the Mid-Columbia that provides small and large farmers alike with information about how to reduce the risks associated with owning and operating their farming businesses. Please take time to consider participation in this excellent program.

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,

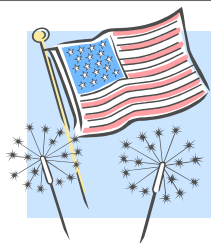
Brian V. Tuck
Mid-Columbia Extension Agent
Oregon State University
Wasco County



Photo by Josh Thompson,
Wasco County SWCD

Calendar of Events

2005 July



- 7 Blueberry Field Day**, Oregon State University/North Willamette Research and Extension Center, 15210 N.E. Miley Road, Aurora, 1-5 p.m.
- 7-8 Farmstead and Artisan Cheesemaking Workshop**, Liberty Bell High School, Winthrop. Registration \$75 per person and includes materials and lunch both days. Information: Mary Embleton, (206) 632-0606.
- 8 Timber Cruising and Forest Inventory Workshop** Wallowa County Fairgrounds Food Booth behind Cloverleaf Hall, 560 NW. 3rd St., Enterprise, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Class will include discussion of science and practice of forest measurements, then move to the field for hands-on practice. Bring lunch and be prepared for inclement weather. Cost: \$10; preregister: (541) 963-1010
- 9 Pack Goat Seminar**, sponsored by Fort Simcoe Herdsmen 4-H Club at the Agricultural Museum of Central Washington, 4508 Main St., Union Gap. Cost: \$20 per person or \$40 per family, with 4-H group discounts. Hamburger lunch will be provided. Registration at 8 a.m.; program from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Information: (509) 848-2108 or via e-mail fourstar@nwinfo.net.
- 9-10 Hood River Cherry Days**, Hood River Valley Fruit Loop. Information: (541) 386-7697 or www.hoodriverfruitloop.com
- 11 2005 Summer Organic Farm Walk**, Gibbs Organic Produce, Leavenworth 8 a.m.-noon. Beverages provided; bring a brown bag lunch. For driving directions: www.tilthproducers.org. Cost: \$10 for Tilth Producers members; \$15 for non-members. Pre-register by mailing check to Tilth Producers, P.O. Box 85056, Seattle, WA 98145. Information: Tilth Producers, (206) 442-7620 or e-mail nancy@tilthproducers.org.
- 14 NW Food Business 101 Workshop**, Food Innovation Center, Portland. Contact 503-872-6680 or web site at <http://fic.oregonstate.edu>. Please see Coming Events section for more information.
- 15-17 9th Annual Sequim WA Lavender Festival**. Contact 1-877-681-3035 or www.lavendarfestival.com
- 16 2005 Washington State Sheep Producers' Ram and Ewe Show and Sale**, Grant County Fairgrounds, Moses Lake. Event will feature Purebred Show, lamb luncheon, sheep sale. Show open to consignment by members. Health certificates available for out-of-state buyers. Information: Jim Acuff, (208) 777-3082. Sale catalog or information, contact Carrie Anthony, (509) 826-0535, e-mail wssp@televar.com or visit www.wssp.org.
- 17-18 All About Lavender Conference**, Sequim, WA. Contact 1-877-681-3035 or www.lavendarfestival.com
- 25 2005 Summer Organic Farm Walk**, Rama Farms, Bridgeport, 8 a.m.-noon. Beverages provided; bring a brown bag lunch. For driving directions: www.tilthproducers.org. Cost: \$10 for Tilth Producers members; \$15 for non-members. Pre-register by mailing check to Tilth Producers, P.O. Box 85056, Seattle, WA 98145. Information: (206) 442-7620 or e-mail nancy@tilthproducers.org.
- 26 Home Orchard Society (HOS) Compost Tea Twilight Meeting** 5-8pm – Home Orchard Society Arboretum. Join local compost tea entrepreneur Jim Tofler from Willamette Organics as we study up on the science of brewing aerobic compost teas for the home orchard. We will be using microscopes and dissolved oxygen meters to test a batch of tea brewed at the arboretum. Learn about the community of fungi, bacteria, and other microorganisms that play a role in creating this valuable tool in organic disease control and nutrient availability. Take home recipes for brewing your own batch, and where to find brewed tea in the Willamette Valley. See the HOS website at <http://www.homeorchardsociety.org/events/>

Calendar...continued

27 Association of Speciality Cut Flower Growers Association Northwest Regional Meeting, J. Foss Garden Flowers, Chehalis, Washington. Contact Pat Zweifel (503) 815-3762 OR sales@flowersbulbs.com or <http://www.ascfg.org/2005northwestrm.pdf>

29-31 Solwest Energy Fair, Grant County Fairgrounds, John Day, Oregon. For more information: <http://www.solwest.org/>

August



6 Home Orchard Society (HOS) Budding Workshop, 9am-12pm Budding is another grafting technique than can be used in the summer. It is especially useful for stone fruits, with a higher success than other grafting techniques. Bring a grafting knife or sharp blade, and pruning shears. Participants take away a newly budded tree. Cost is \$4 per tree budded tree. See the HOS website at <http://www.homeorchardsociety.org/events/> for more info.

8 2005 Summer Organic Farm Walk, Terry's Berries, Tacoma, 8 a.m.-noon. Beverages provided; bring a brown bag lunch. For driving directions: www.tilthproducers.org. Cost: \$10 for Tilth Producers members; \$15 for non-members. Pre-register by mailing check to Tilth Producers, P.O. Box 85056, Seattle, WA 98145. Information: Tilth Producers, (206) 442-7620 or e-mail nancy@tilthproducers.org.

16 Goats & Cattle Used for Invasive Vegetation Field Tour, West Richland, WA. Contact 509-754-2463 ext 115.

17 WSU Small Farms Field Day, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. WSU Puyallup Research & Extension Center, 7612 Pioneer Way East, Puyallup. Topics: Pastured Poultry; Soil Physical Quality & Soil Biology in Organic Systems; Interseeded Cover Crops; Habitat Enhancement for Beneficial Insects; Movable Fencing Options. **Contact:** Andy Bary (253) 445-4588 bary@wsu.edu or www.puyallup.wsu.edu/soilmgmt/

20-21 - Gravenstein Apple Days, Hood River Valley Fruit Loop. Information: (541) 386-7697 OR www.hoodriverfruitloop.com

22 - 2005 Summer Organic Farm Walk, Alvarez Farm, Mabton, 8 a.m.-noon. Beverages provided; bring a brown bag lunch. For driving directions: www.tilthproducers.org. Cost: \$10 for Tilth Producers members; \$15 for non-members. Pre-register by mailing check to Tilth Producers, P.O. Box 85056, Seattle, WA 98145. Call Tilth Producers at (206) 442-7620 or e-mail nancy@tilthproducers.org.

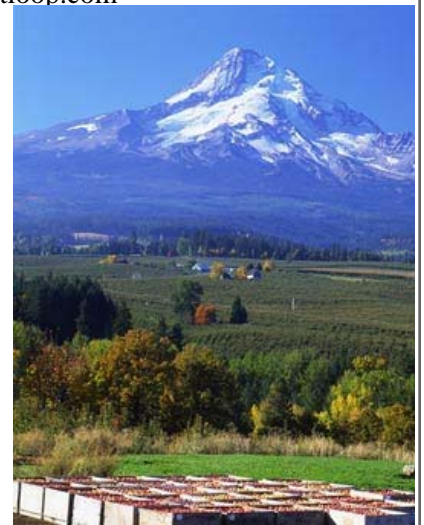
25-27 Farwest Show, Portland. Green industry trade show featuring more than 450 growers, nursery tours and 50 hours of seminars. Information/Registration: (800) 342-6401 OR www.farwestshow.com

September

15-17 2005 OAN Convention, which carries the theme "Roots: Foundation of the Future," The Inn of the Seventh Mountain, Bend. Contact (800) 342-6401 for registration information.

17 Hydroponic Enterprise Start-Up Training Seminar, Salem, Oregon. For more information 503-868-7679 OR Info@MicrofarmSustainable.org

17-18 - Celebration of Pears, Hood River Valley Fruit Loop. Information: 541- 386-7697 OR www.hoodriverfruitloop.com



Coming Events

Farm and Ranch Survival Kit Helps Farmers and Ranchers Reduce Risk

Keeping families farming and creating a hopeful future is the goal of an innovative new program available through WSU and OSU Extension. "The WSU/OSU Farm and Ranch Survival Kit" is a free home study course available to area farmers and ranchers. It is designed to help farm families reduce the risks associated with owning and operating their farm business.

"This program is geared for farm and ranch managers who wish to take control over their lives. Sponsored in part by the Western Center for Risk Management, the course gives participants the skills to solve everyday challenges that arise from farming and ranching in today's dynamic environment.

This program is a home study course so participants can learn at their leisure without having to attend outside meetings or classes. Registered farmers will receive six bi-monthly installments of "The Farm and Ranch Survival Kit" delivered via mail or e-mail. Each issue will have 8 pages of practical, useful information in an easy to read format. Participants will also receive a three ring binder to compile and organize the complete kit for future reference. Additionally, those who have internet access may utilize the Small Farm website to view additional resources and download updates on timely subjects. As part of the program, WSU and OSU will sponsor concentrated workshops that provide more in-depth learning on specific topics.

Each installment of the newsletter will focus on one or two topics. Examples include how to add new enterprises to your farm and profits to your bottom line, finding your customers and getting the good word out about your products, counting pennies so it makes good cents, how to pass the baton to your kids who want to farm, getting along with each other when business is the name of the game and creating a success road map for your farm and ranch future.

"The Farm and Ranch Survival Kit" is available free to a limited number of participants on a first come, first serve basis. To register contact WSU Extension-Klickitat County, 228 W. Main St., Goldendale, WA 98620 Phone: (509)773-5817 E-mail: ce6620@coopext.wsu.edu or OSU Extension Service, 400 East Scenic Dr., #2.278, The Dalles, Oregon 97058 Phone: (541)296-5494 Brian.Tuck@oregonstate.edu.



Northwest Food Business 101

Entrepreneurs wanting to start or expand a food-related business can learn more about food enterprises at "Northwest Food Business 101." The half-day workshop offers resources and information on turning an idea into a food-based business.

"Northwest Food Business 101" will be held Thursday, July 14, 2005 from 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Food Innovation Center. **Registration deadline is July 12, 2005.** The fee for the half-day course is \$50 per person, which includes a resource workbook, light refreshments, and a tour of the Center. The Food Innovation Center, a collaborative program of Oregon State University and the Oregon Department of Agriculture, is located near Portland's Pearl District at 1207 N.W. Naito Parkway. Free parking is available.

"'NW Food Business 101' offers an overview of the elements in a useful food business plan and highlights some of the technical, product development, production, legal, and marketing issues that affect new enterprises in the food industry," according to Aaron Johnson, Food Business Strategy Specialist at the Food Innovation Center. "The program was developed by the Food Innovation Center's Business Development team in conjunction with WSU Cooperative Extension."

For more information, or to register online, visit the Food Innovation Center website at <http://fic.oregonstate.edu/>, call (503) 872-6680, or e-mail NWFB@oregonstate.edu [<mailto:Northwest.FoodBusiness101@oregonstate.edu>](mailto:Northwest.FoodBusiness101@oregonstate.edu) Because of the popularity of the program and limitations on seating, prospective participants are asked to register in advance.

The Food Innovation Center is a unique resource for new food businesses and the only urban-based Agricultural Experiment Station in the United States. It offers analytical laboratory testing, sensory and consumer testing, product development, market research, packaging guidance, shelf-life studies, marketing and business development guidance, and export assistance.

Coming Events....continued

Organic Seed Alliance's July Farmer Field Days

"Producing Organic Vegetable Seed"

These field days are part of a WSARE-funded, farmer-led education project, "Producing Organic Vegetable Seed". The project aims to assist farmers in the production of high-quality, commercial, organic seed. The project will include field days, production manuals, winter workshops and a mentor program. These resources will provide farmers with an array of skills including the ability to integrate seed crops into diverse farming operations. Farmers may gain additional benefit of producing seed for on-farm use and being introduced to the fundamentals of plant improvement.

Organic Spinach Seed Production Field Day

Nash's Organic Produce •
Sequim, Washington
July 21, 2005 • 9am-4pm



The field day will begin with a brief review of the March field day including basic field prep, planting, cultivation and maintenance for spinach seed crops. Topics to be covered at the July event include:

- Disease (plant and seed borne) identification, prevention, treatment
- Roguing at reproductive stage
- Gauging maturity
- Harvest - machine/hand screens
- Cleaning, conditioning and storage
- Crop yield and quality assessments

Presentations by Scott Chichester (Nash's Organic Produce), Lindsey du Toit (Washington State University, Mount Vernon), John Navazio and Matthew Dillon (Organic Seed Alliance)

Organic Green Bean Seed Production Field Day

Bryant Ranch • Shoshone, Idaho
July 27, 2005 • 10am-4pm



The following topics will be covered:

- Commercial seed production - initial cultivation, planting, maintenance
- Stock seed production
- Varietal evaluation - a look at varieties screened for organics
- Breeding and varietal maintenance - history of green bean genetics, genetic resistance to disease, off-types, and rouging
- Idaho Foundation Seed Program - history and Services

There will be a second field day in September with information on gauging seed maturity, harvesting, cleaning, and conditioning.

Presenters include: Fred Brossy (Bryant Ranch), Mike Heath (M&M Heath Farms), Jim Meyers (Oregon State University), Kathy Stewart Williams (Idaho Foundation Seed Program), John Navazio and Woody Deryckx (Organic Seed Alliance).

\$10 fee for lunch. Preregistration is required. Class size limited. For more info about this project or to register for a field day please contact Organic Seed Alliance at 360/385-7192 OR info@seedalliance.org www.seedalliance.org

Resources

Publications

OSU Extension Publications

The following are new publications from Oregon State University. Please see the OSU Web Site at for more information on these and other publications at: <http://eesc.oregonstate.edu>

EC 1450, Trees to Know in Oregon

Preview document of a full-color, field guide that includes native conifer and hardwood species, common horticultural trees and shrubs, and a section on Oregon's forests. Revised April 2005, 152 pages, \$12.00 <http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/EC1450.pdf>

EC 1571, The Wildlife Garden: Western Bluebird:

Sialia mexicana. May 2005, 4 pages, \$1.00. <http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/ec1571.pdf>

EM 8889, Blueberry Gall Midge: A Possible New Pest in the Northwest (Identification, Life Cycle, and Plant Injury). May 2005, 4 pages, \$2.00

<http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/em8889.pdf>

FG 36-E, Tall Fescue Grown for Seed: Western Oregon--West of Cascades Fertilizer Guide . Revised May 2005, 3 pages, no charge (available only online) <http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/fg36-e.pdf>

FG 46-E, Perennial Ryegrass Grown for Seed: Western Oregon--West of Cascades Fertilizer Guide. Revised May 2005, 3 pages, no charge (available only online)

<http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/fg46-e.pdf>

PNW 578 , Nitrogen Management for Hard Wheat Protein Enhancement (by University of Idaho). April 2005, 16 pages, \$2.50 <http://info.ag.uidaho.edu/PDF/PNW/PNW0578.pdf>

Other Publications

CASFS Sustainable Agriculture Instructional Resources Web-page. Growing interest in sustainable agriculture has generated a wealth of educational materials on the many social, environmental, and agronomic topics related to this expanding field.

The website can be found at: <http://zzyx.ucsc.edu/casfs/index.html> see "Instructional Resources" for more information.

2005 SARE Highlights, a new 16-page publication available from the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, features a dozen practical, profit-enhancing ideas that have been researched and tested at universities and on farms and ranches. Preview or download the entire publication at <http://www.sare.org/highlights/>.

Web Pages

Price Premiums Hold on as U.S. Organic Produce Market Expands Outlook Report No. (VGS30801) 22 pp, May 2005 explores the growing organic market. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Organic>

Organic Farmgate and Wholesale Prices . This data set provides farmgate and wholesale prices for select organic and conventional produce items for the Boston and San Francisco markets. Prices are based on those reported by USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Market News reports for 1995-2004 (wholesale prices), Organic Food Business News for 2000-04 (organic farmgate prices), and USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service as reported in ERS Vegetables and Melons Yearbook (conventional farmgate prices).

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/OrganicPrices/>

Newsletters

Here is the latest issue of Northwest Gardeners¹ eNews, an online newsletter from OSU Extension and Experiment Station Communications.

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/>

Listserve

Washington State has recently formed a statewide Microenterprise Association. They have established an email group at WAMicroenterprise-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Locally contact JR Sloan at jrsloan3@hotmail.com for more information.

Funding

The FY 2006 RFA for the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program is now posted on their website at http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/sbir_rfa.html. The closing date for submitting Phase I grant applications is September 1, 2005. One of the biggest differences this year is that the agricultural part of Rural and Community Development has been split off as a new topic area that is called Small and Mid-Size Farms. This topic area will be focused on developing new technologies to promote the sustainability and profitability of small and mid-size farms and ranches.