



Mid-Columbia Small Farms & Acreage Newsletter

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Volume 6, Issue 2

March-April 2006

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Dear Small Farmer and Landowner,

Welcome to the March/April Issue of the Small Farms and Acreage Newsletter. In this issue you will find an excellent article on Bird Flu by Dr. Susan Kerr, Klickitat County Extension Agent. Also as you look through this issue you will see several area farm management workshops that are coming up in March including Direct Marketing, Partial Budgeting, Analyzing Agricultural Investments, Evaluating Land Lease Agreements, Crop Profitability, and Machinery Cost Workshops. Also scheduled is the Hay Producers workshop to be held in Goldendale on March 14th. For more information concerning any of these workshops, please see the "Coming Events" section of this newsletter.

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



Calendar of Events

2006

March

- 4 Home Orchard Society Fruit and Berry Cutting (Scion) Exchange** from 10am to 4pm. at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds, in Canby, Oregon. Hundreds of FREE scion wood will be available, rootstock for sale, valuable written information about fruit trees & berries, fruit tree supplies for sale, and more. Talk with experienced fruit growers. For more information see website at: <http://www.homeorchardsociety.org/events/>
- 17-19 Northwest Horse Fair and Expo**, Linn County Fair and Expo Center, Albany.
Information: jjcloe@equinepromotions.net.
- 6 Farm Financial Mgt Education Workshops Series** from which will include: Partial Budgeting, Analyzing Agricultural Investments and Evaluating Land Lease Agreements. These will be held in Goldendale, WA. Please see the "Coming Events" section of this newsletter for more information.
- 7 Continuation of the Farm Financial Mgt. Education Series** which will include: Crop Profitability and Machinery Cost Workshops to be held in Goldendale WA. Please see the "Coming Events" section of this newsletter for more information.
- 8 May 24 – "Become a Small Farm Entrepreneur,"** 2-week course sponsored by Washington State University's Small Farms Program, the University of Idaho and Rural Roots. Course fee is \$200; classes are 5:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Columbia Basin College, Pasco, Wash.
Information: Vicki Contini at (509) 545-3511 or online at vcontini@co.franklin.wa.us.
- 9 Orchard and Winegrape Disease Strategies for 2006**, OSU experiment Station library, Central Point, noon. Information: (541) 776-7371.
- 9 SAIF Corporation's 11th annual Agriculture Safety Seminar Series**, in Spanish, OSU N. Willamette Extension Office, 15210 NE Miley Road, Aurora, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Free. Information: (503) 373-8000 or (800) 285-8525.
- 11 2006 Livestock and Cattlemen's Winterschool: Profit-Generating Strategies**, Skagit Valley College in Mount Vernon. 8:30 a.m. Registration, by March 1, is \$75 per individual, \$125 per couple, includes prime rib luncheon. Registration at the door will be \$10 more per individual and will not include the luncheon. Information and registration, call WSU/Skagit County Extension at (360) 428-4270. Registration forms are also available at <http://skagit.wsu.edu/>.
- 11 Farm Pond Management Workshop**, Oregon Garden, Silverton. 8:15 a.m. \$50. Registration and Information: outreach.forestry.oregonstate.edu/pond101/index.htm or (541) 737-2329 by March 6.
- 11 Eastern WA Family Forest Expo**, Auburn WA. For more info call 206-205-3132 or capps.wsu.edu/conferences/forestexpo/
- 13, 20, 27 Bee School** by Willamette Valley Beekeepers Association, Chemeketa Community College, Building 34, 7 p.m. \$25 includes materials and annual membership. No experience necessary. Information: (503) 399-3675 or (503) 364-3275, e-mail shallotman@yahoo.com or www.orsba.org.
- 14 8th Annual Small Fruit Grower's Workshop**, WSU Vancouver campus. See NW Grape and Berry Website for more information: <http://berrygrape.oregonstate.edu/news/events.htm>
- 14 Managing the Legal Risks of Farm Direct Marketing & Agritourism**, WSU Spokane County Extension Office. Please see "Coming Events" section of Newsletter for more information.
- 14 FREE program for Hay Producers**, 9 am-5 pm, Goldendale Grange, For more information contact WSU-Klickitat County Extension at 509-773-5817 or Klickitat@wsu.edu.
- 16 FREE Agricultural Marketing Program** 7-9 pm, Goldendale PUD (1300 S. Columbus Ave). Presented by Kelli Sanger, Washington State Department of Agriculture. For more information contact WSU-Klickitat County Extension at 509-773-5817 or Klickitat@wsu.edu.

Calendar...continued

- 17-19 Northwest Horse Fair and Expo**, Linn County Fair and Expo Center, Albany.
Information: jjcloe@equinepromotions.net.
- 18 Small Farm Expo**, King County Fairgrounds, Enumclaw. 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Free.
Information: (206) 205-3206, e-mail hacp@wsu.edu, or www.metrokc.gov/wsu-ce/farmexpo or
- 18, 25 and April 1. Lambing & Management School**, \$35 for Washington State Sheep Producers members, \$45 non-members. Information: wssp@elltel.net or (509) 968-9320.
- 22 Managing the Legal Risks of Farm Direct Marketing & Agritourism**, WSU Puyallup. Please see "Coming Events" section of Newsletter for more information.
- 25 2006 Clackamas County Extension Service Tree School**. Contact the OSU Clackamas County Extension office (503-655-8631) to add your name to the mailing list. Enrollment is limited.
- 25 High Desert Wool Growers' Fiber Market Day**, Crook County Fairgrounds in Prineville, 10-4; Free admission and parking.
Information: tumblecreekfarm@juno.com.
- 29-April 3 The Human Dimensions of Family and Farm Forestry Symposium**, Pullman WA.
For more information, see their website at: <http://www.familyforestrysymposium.wsu.edu/>
- 11-13 Safe Quality Food System Training**, WSU Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center, Wenatchee. Registration (online only) and information: <http://FoodProcessing.wsu.edu>.
- 15-16 Blossom Craft Show**, Hood River County Fairgrounds, Odell. Information: www.hoodriverfair.com or (541) 354-2865.
- 20-21 Selling Forest Products Course**, Richardson Hall, Oregon State University, Corvallis. Credits available. Information: <http://outreach.forestry.oregonstate.edu/sellingfp/>
- 20-22 Oregon Small Woodlands Association Annual Meeting and Field Tours**, World Forestry Center, Portland. Information: (503) 588-1813 or www.oswa.org.
- 21-23 . Small Farmers' Journal Draft Horse and Equipment Auction and Swap Meet**, Sisters Rodeo Grounds, 8 a.m. - dark. Free, parking \$3 a day or \$5 for the event. Info: (800) 876-2893.
- 22 Tree School East** for woodland owners and loggers, 22 classes, Eastern Oregon University, La Grande. 8 a.m. Information: (541) 963-1010. Registration deadline is April 17.
- 24-26 Fruit & Vegetable Processing Short Course**, OSU, Corvallis. See "Coming Events" section of newsletter for more information.
- 25-26 . Basic Food Microbiology Short Course**, Red Lion Hotel Yakima Center, 607 E. Yakima Ave., Yakima. (509) 248-5900. Register: www.FoodProcessing.wsu.edu.

April

- 3-8 Washington State Sheep Shearing School**, Parkers' Sheep Ranch, Moses Lake, for beginner and advanced shearers. Registration deadline March 17. Information: (509) 826-0535 or <http://grant-adams.wsu.edu> OR e-mail wssp@televar.com.
- 8 Cold Frame Construction class**, Clackamas Community College, Clairmont Room 117, 9 a.m. - noon. \$10. Info: (503) 657-6958 ext. 2246 <http://depts.clackamas.edu/hort/> .
- 8 Hydroponic Enterprise Start-Up Training**, 9-3 pm, Canby, Oregon. Cost - \$35 per person. For more info call 503-868-7679 or Info@MicrofarmSustainable.org

May

- 6 Garden Composting Class**, Clackamas Community College site south of Clairmont Hall. 9 - 11 a.m. free. No need to register in advance. Information <http://depts.clackamas.edu/hort/> (503) 657-6958 ext. 2246.
- 9-10 Austin Family Business Program Workshop on "Family Business – Putting It In Practice"**, OSU, Corvallis. See "Coming Events" section of this newsletter for more information.
- 23-24 Sustainable Rural Enterprises/Multi-Species Grazing Conference**, Ritzville, WA. More information in "Coming Events" section.

Coming Events

WSU Sponsors Upcoming Farm Financial Education Series

A series of farm financial workshops will be held at the Goldendale Middle School, 520 E. Collins St., Goldendale, on March 6 and 7. These programs will be valuable for commercial agriculture producers, hobbyists and prospective producers. All workshops are free and participants will receive free software. The first workshop, Partial Budgeting, will be held from 1 to 3 pm on March 6.

It will focus on making short-term agricultural financial decisions through proper analysis before commitment. The next workshop, Analyzing Agricultural Investments, will follow from 3 to 5pm, on March 6. In this workshop, participants will learn how to use the FINANCE computer software program to analyze potential long-term investments.

FINANCE considers the profitability of a potential investment, taking into account the time difference that exists in the inflows and outflows of cash throughout the life of the investment. It also looks at the cash flow of the potential investment to determine if, under the projected loan arrangements, the investment will be able to cover its own cash flow requirements or if additional cash will be needed to supplement cash flow requirements until the loan is paid.

The next workshop, Evaluating Land Lease Agreements, will be presented from 7 to 9pm on March 6. This workshop teaches landowners and leasees how to look at land lease agreements to determine if leases are fair and profitable to both parties. Participants will learn how to evaluate their land lease agreements and will receive free copies of a land lease spreadsheet program.

The Crop Profitability Workshop will be held on March 7, from 8 to 11am. This workshop is designed primarily for tree fruit, berry, vineyard and other producers who make long-term cropping decisions. Participants will receive a free copy of the CPA computer program.

The final workshop will be held from 1 to 4pm, on March 7. It is called the Machinery Cost workshop. This workshop will teach participants how to calculate the cost to own and operated machinery on a

per acre, per hour and annual basis. Participants will also learn how to calculate a fair custom rate for different types of farm operations and will receive free copies of the MachCost and Custom computer programs.

There are no fees for these workshops, but please pre-register by March 3 to ensure sufficient materials. To register or for more information, call WSU-Klickitat County Extension at 509-773-5817 or e-mail klickitat@wsu.edu.

These workshops are offered as part of the Mid-Columbia Small Farms and Acreages program and the Western Center for Risk Management Education's "Farm and Ranch Survival Kit" program. Sponsors include WSU, Klickitat County, WSDA, USDA, OSU and WCRME.

WSU Extension programs and policies are consistent with federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, gender, national origin, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office. Persons with a disability requiring special accommodation while participating in Washington State University-Klickitat County Extension programs may call 509-773-5817 in advance of the program. If accommodation is not requested in advance, we cannot guarantee the availability of accommodation on-site.



WSU Extension to Sponsor Educational Program for Hay Producers

Anyone interested in growing hay, particularly dryland alfalfa, should plan to attend a workshop sponsored by WSU Extension on March 14, at the new Grange building at 228 E. Darland St. in Goldendale.

Registration will begin at 8 AM and refreshments will be offered. The program will begin at 8:30am with a presentation about **Biocontrol Agents for the Alfalfa Weevil** by Klickitat County Noxious Weed Control Board Director Marty Hudson. WSU Forage and Pasture Specialist Steve Fransen will follow with a presentation on **Growing High Quality Grass Hay**.

Coming Events... continued

Next will be a presentation called **The Economics of Nitrogen Rate and Timing Effect on Grass Hay and Pasture Yields** by OSU Area Extension Agronomist Mylen Bohle. The morning program will conclude with a presentation about the **Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program** by Kent Harris, USDA Farm Service Agency.

After a one-hour break for lunch on your own, Mylen Bohle will discuss **Alfalfa Seeding Rates**. WSU-Grant County Extension Educator John Kugler will follow with presentations about **New Seeding Establishment and Fertility** and **Weed Control in Alfalfa**. Next, WSU-Franklin County Extension Educator Tim Woodward will discuss **Roundup Ready Alfalfa and the Marketplace**, followed by John Kugler's presentation about **Autotoxicity in Alfalfa**. Tim

Woodward will return to discuss **The Alfalfa Weevil: Plans for a Resistant Variety and Cowpea Aphid, a New Insect in Washington**. Question and answer opportunities will be available.

An application has been submitted for three pesticide recertification credits. There is no fee for this program, but please pre-register by March 10 to ensure sufficient handouts. Call WSU-Klickitat County Extension at 509-773-5817 or e-mail klickitat@wsu.edu.

This program is free and open to the public. It is offered as part of the Mid-Columbia Small Farms and Acreages program and the Western Center for Risk Management Education's "Farm and Ranch Survival Kit" program. Sponsors include WSU, Klickitat County, WSDA, USDA, OSU and WCRME.

A Farm Pond Management Workshop

Saturday, March 11, 2006
Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR



About the Workshop

This workshop provides general information on pond construction, renovation and management.

Arrangements

The workshop will be held at the [Oregon Garden](#) in Silverton, Oregon, located at 879 W. Main Street, in the J. Frank Pavilion/Grand Hall. Parking is available on-site. Access to Oregon Garden is free with participation to the workshop. Participants are responsible for making their own lodging arrangements. For information on lodging in the area, contact the Silverton Area Chamber of Commerce at (503) 873-5615 or visit <http://www.silvertonchamber.org>

Who Should Attend

The workshop is intended for pond owners, anyone interested in designing and building their own pond, and those who distribute information on pond management, including OSU Extension agents and others.

Fees and Registration

- The cost for the workshop is \$50.
- The cost for Oregon Aquaculture Association members is \$35.
- To participate in the workshop and also become a member of Oregon Aquaculture Association, the fee is: \$50 for student members, \$60 for associate members and \$135 for sustaining members.
- The fee(s) includes workshop handouts, lunch and refreshment breaks.
- The cost for an additional lunch for an accompanying person is \$11.
- **Please register online at:** <http://outreach.forestry.oregonstate.edu/pond101/>



Coming Events... continued

WSDA Ag Marketing Workshop Coming to Goldendale

If you are an agricultural producer with a product to sell, an upcoming workshop should be of interest to you. On March 16, Kelli Sanger from the Washington State Department of Agriculture's Small Farm and Direct Marketing Program will give a presentation in Goldendale at the PUD meeting room from 7 to 9 pm. The PUD building is located at 1313 S. Columbus Ave. Topics to be presented include direct marketing, marketing rules and regulations, local processing of meats and poultry, business planning and resources for small farms in Washington State. There will also be a question and answer period.

This program is free and open to the public. It is offered as part of the Mid-Columbia Small Farms and Acreages program and the Western Center for Risk Management Education's "Farm and Ranch Survival Kit" program. Sponsors include WSU, Klickitat County, WSDA, USDA, OSU and WCRME. For more information, call WSU-Klickitat County Extension at 509-773-5817 or e-mail klickitat@wsu.edu.

WORKSHOP: Managing the Legal Risks of Farm Direct Marketing & Agritourism

- Are you direct marketing your farm products to consumers?
- Do you have an agritourism enterprise that brings visitors to your farm or ranch?
- Do you know what risks you face and what steps you can take to manage them?
- How do insurance companies assess risk, and how do you ensure the right coverage at an affordable premium?

Come and get answers to these questions at a workshop presented by WSU Stevens County Extension and WSU's Small Farms Team:

- EASTSIDE: Tuesday, March 14, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., WSU Spokane County Extension office
- WESTSIDE: Wednesday, March 22, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., WSU Puyallup

The workshop will cover the six issue areas that direct marketers identified as most critical in listening sessions we held in December on both sides of the state. Participating in each session were 20 agricultural producers, a veteran insurance agent, and a representative from the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

Workshop topics include: 1) improving the accuracy of risk assessments, 2) risk management for agritourism enterprises, 3) identifying and managing risks when selling directly to consumers, 4) best practices for enhancing premise or product safety, 5) basic insurance concepts that can help agricultural producers negotiate the best coverage, and 6) options for managing risk through the formation of a corporation or other legal structure. An independent insurance agent will also be available to answer questions.

A complimentary lunch will be served. To RSVP or to get more details, please contact:

Al Kowitz, WSU Stevens County Extension
Phone: (509) 684-2588
Email: akowitz@wsu.edu

Public Invited to Observe Spring Lambing at OSU Sheep Center

New lambs will begin arriving at Oregon State University's Sheep Center early next month and the public is invited to view this annual rite of spring. More than 180 Polypay and Suffolk ewes are expected to give birth to several hundred lambs in the barn, located at 7565 N.W. Oak Creek Dr. in Corvallis, said Thomas Nichols, sheep center manager.

Each year, the sheep center draws thousands of school children and other visitors. Lambing tours will start on March 6 and run through March 25. The public can view the ewes and lambs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays, and weekends. The barn will be closed for academic activities March 10 and 17.

Small groups may go on self-guided tours. Groups of more than 12 visitors should first arrange an appointment by calling Helen Chesbrough at 541-737-4854, or by sending an e-mail to her at: helen.chesbrough@oregonstate.edu.



Coming Events... continued

To reach the center from downtown Corvallis, go west on Harrison Boulevard to the 53rd Street intersection. Continue west through the intersection on N.W. Oak Creek Road. A sign 1.8 miles from the intersection marks the road to the center. The one-lane road has turnouts to yield to oncoming traffic.

The ewes and lambs are part of ongoing research studies in animal health, breeding, feeding and grazing management conducted by the OSU Agricultural Experiment Station. The animals are also used in instructional programs in the OSU Animal Sciences Department and the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine.

People interested in purchasing orphan or "bummer" lambs can call 541-737-2903 and leave a message.

OSU Fruit & Vegetable Processing Shortcourse

Date: APRIL 24-26, 2006

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: 238 Wiegand Hall, OSU Campus, Corvallis, Oregon State University

Registration Fee: \$350/person

Theory and hands-on practice in...

- Basic food quality analysis – Brix, pH, TA, water activity, color, texture, etc.
 - Demonstration on the measurement of vitamin C, phenolic and antioxidant contents
 - Jam/Jelly making
 - Acidified vegetable processing – fermented, fresh and refrigerated pickles
- Fruit and vegetable drying – conventional, freeze, and infused drying

PLUS...

Hands-on lab and pilot plant activities

Personnel in production, manufacturing, engineering and product development associated with fruits and vegetables will benefit from this course. It is suitable for both entry level and more experienced individuals. You may be someone who is newly hired and want to learn about fruit and vegetable processing, or a more experienced professional who is seeking new ideas or approaches to improve and develop new products, or an

individual who wants to begin their own fruit and vegetable processing business.

You may register online at http://oregonstate.edu/dept/foodsci/extservices/ext_index.htm

If you need more information please contact:

Debby Yacas, Deborah.yacas@oregonstate.edu, or 800.823.2357

2006 Austin Family Business Program Conference *Family Business - Putting It in Practice*

Bring the entire family for one and a half days packed with intensive learning sessions, one-on-one meetings with family business experts, and interactive panel discussions that will increase the power and effectiveness of your family business. No matter what generation your family or privately-held business is in, this conference will help you develop "best practices" in areas such as managing boundaries between home and business, succession, governance, estate planning, growing the business, investments, and conflict resolution.

The conference will run from 8 am on Tuesday, May 9 through 12 noon on Wednesday, May 10. It will be held at the Oregon State University, CH2M HILL Alumni Center, Cascade Ballroom, 725 SW 26th St. Corvallis OR. Cost is \$495.00. For more information please see their website at: http://www.familybusinessonline.org/programs/workshop_calendar.aspx

Sustainable Rural Enterprises/ Multi-Species Grazing Conference

A conference and tour funded by the Sustainable Agriculture Research Education (SARE) program will be held May 23-24, 2006 in Ritzville, Washington at the La Quinta Inn with a field tour at Sprague Lake. The conference will feature speakers with experience in developing rural enterprises focused on sustainable livestock and resource management strategies.



Coming Events... continued

Registration is estimated at \$25 and will include two lunches and a pitchfork steak fry.

Dr. An Peichel, Tennessee State University, will set the tone as keynote speaker, discussing livestock grazing behavior in relation to invasive vegetation management, creating niche markets and enterprise development.

Rural Enterprise Producers including Dave Billingsley and Chuck Perry, Country Natural Beef; Joel Huesby, Thundering Hooves; Craig Madsen, Healing Hooves; and Julie and Dave Dashiell will discuss marketing, sustainability and the holistic nature of their operations. The conference will feature a Pitchfork steak fry prepared by the Adams County Cattlemen and social hour intended to encourage networking and sharing by other viable rural enterprise owners and legislative sharing by local elected officials. The planning team will display a project poster presentation created specifically for the International Society for Range Management meeting held in Vancouver, B.C. February

2006.

The field tour will take place at the Sprague Lake invasive vegetation field trials located at the Washington State Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) boat launch on the south shore of the lake. The tour will feature a field review of invasive vegetation management using goats, a discussion regarding the WDFW interpretive trail program, a review of USDA Farm Bill programs, and a historical perspective on land use of this area.

Several parameters were evaluated during the study. These parameters included Enterprise Evaluation, Forage Quality, Livestock Management and Treatment Effectiveness. The target species in the treatment areas include, knapweed, China lettuce, perennial pepperweed, Russian olive, bulrushes and other weedy forbs. The producer is evaluating the feasibility of adding additional enterprises such as hair sheep, cashmere fiber producing goats, and meat goats. For more information, please contact Andrea Mann, Big

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 1518, Forest Certification in North America

Authors: Eric Hansen, Rick Fletcher, Ben Cashore, and Constance McDermott Revised February 2006, \$3.00
<http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/EdMat/ec1518.pdf>

EC 1579, Living with Nuisance Wildlife, by OSU Wasco County Extension Agent Brian Tuck and ODFW Biologist Scott Ziegenhagen. New December 2005. \$1.50.

<http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/ec1579.pdf>

EC 1580, Townsend's Chipmunk. New January 2006. \$1.00. <http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/ec1580.pdf>

EM 8900, Irrigation Monitoring Using Soil Water Tension. New December 2005. \$1.50.

<http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/em8900.pdf>

EM 8901, Drip Irrigation Guide for Onion Growers in the Treasure Valley. New December 2005. \$1.50.

<http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/em8901.pdf>

EM 8902, Drip Irrigation Guide for Growers of Hybrid Poplar. New December 2005. \$1.50.

<http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/em8902.pdf>

FS 334-E, Using the Nitrogen Mineralization Soil Test to Predict Spring Fertilizer N Rate for Soft White Winter Wheat Grown in Western Oregon.

New January 2006. No charge.

<http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/edmat/fs334-e.pdf>

PNW 580, Field Bindweed, University of Idaho, \$3.75.
<http://info.ag.uidaho.edu/pdf/pnw/pnw0580.pdf>



Resources... continued

Other Publications

Wind-Powered Electric Systems for Homes, Farms, and Ranches: Resources (Summary). ATTRA publication and can be found at:
<http://www.attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/wind.html>

The WA Yakima County Extension Office lists useful **tree-fruit publications** and can be found at:
<http://treefruit.yakima.wsu.edu/>



Web Pages

The **January 2006** edition of eNews is now available online at the following address:

<http://srdc.msstate.edu/ecommerce/newsletter/jan06.htm>

Part of the national Rural E-Commerce Extension Initiative, eNews is an electronic newsletter produced bi-monthly by the Southern Rural Development Center.

Most of the presentations from the **Organic Grain Production workshop**, held Dec 14 in Spokane WA, are now available on our website. Go to <http://www.spokane-county.wsu.edu/> and click on the yellow Ag logo, then go to the Organic button on the left side. They are organized under 2004 and 2005 workshops.

<http://ecat.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

This is supposed to **calculate the relative fuel costs for different farming operations and tillage systems**, based on Zip code. But it was still on vacation today.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/CostsAndReturns/testpick.htm>

Go to this USDA website to see **2004 estimates of cost of wheat production**. In the 2nd box down you can choose commodity and region - the PNW is considered part of the "Fruitful Rim"!!

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/>

Announcing the most current issue of the **WSU Sustaining the Pacific Northwest - Food, Farm, & Natural Resource Systems** quarterly electronic newsletter., Sustaining the Pacific Northwest provides a discussion forum for people working towards community-based sustainable food, farm, and natural resource systems using interdisciplinary oriented research and practitioner knowledge. This issue can be viewed or downloaded from <http://csanr.wsu.edu/whatsnew/SPNW-v3-n4.pdf>. Due to the number of graphs and tables in the two main articles, the current issue is 1.6 MB in size. For those on dial-up service, it would likely be best to download to look at the newsletter. Go to <http://csanr.wsu.edu/InfoSources/#newsletter>, put your cursor on this issue, right click, and choose "Save Target As" to a folder on you pc. Then you can open it off your pc.

Financial Resources

Assistance Available for Small Acreage and Part-time Farmers covered by Oregon Water Quality Laws:

Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) offers technical and financial assistance to small-acreage and part-time farmers to help them comply with State laws protecting water quality in creeks and rivers. Wasco County SWCD is a non-regulatory agency that helps landowners inspect their own land to determine if a liability exists and to address it before it comes to the attention of a regulatory agency, such as Oregon Department of Agriculture or the Department of Environmental Quality.

Many part-time farmers may not be fully aware of State water quality rules, and may be in violation without realizing it. Oregon Department of Agriculture enforces the Lower Deschutes Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Rules to protect water quality from agricultural impacts. Small operations and part-time farmers are covered by these rules. There are four main prohibited conditions to avoid on your land:

(1) Soil Erosion From Pastures, Barnyards or Croplands that contributes sediment to the streams; this erosion may be subtle, as with sheet and rill erosion, or highly visible, as with gully erosion.

(2) Streambank Erosion: Active streambank erosion and stream channel modification beyond what naturally occurs is not allowed.

Coming Events... continued

(3) Placement, Delivery or Sloughing of Wastes: Not only is dumping of pollutants (manure, chemicals, dirt, oil...) into a creek illegal, but so is placement of such pollutants near to the banks or in a draw so that a danger exists of them getting washed or accidentally moved into the creek.

(4) Streamside Vegetation: Adequate streamside vegetation (such as trees and shrubs) for streambank stability and shading, consistent with site capability, must be allowed to grow. Activities that remove that vegetation or preclude its growth are illegal.

Many small pasture owners impact the banks of Wasco County creeks, such as Eightmile Creek and Mill Creek. Some of these pastures are highly visible from county roads. Some small acreage livestock owners should consider that they might be in violation of the water quality rules if they have a stream running through their pasture or barnyard either part or all of the year, and particularly if their stock have direct access to the stream. These landowners could be liable for fines if a passing motorist reported them to ODA. In many cases, the landowner might only need some stream fencing and off-stream stock water to come into compliance.

Wasco County SWCD administers the **Lower Deschutes Small Grant Program** on behalf of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. This program provides a grant for 50% of the total cost of the project up to \$10,000 to improve water quality and address other natural resource concerns on private lands in Wasco County. For instance, in 2002, the Small Grant Program provided \$6,665 to a landowner in the Fifteenmile Watershed to fence off his seasonal draw and install a watering trough with an electric pump several hundred yards away.

Another program that might be of interest is the **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program**, which pays an annual rental fee for lands along creeks that are set aside for protection of water quality and streamside vegetation. Small pasture owners in Wasco County are encouraged to call Wasco County SWCD at (541) 296-6178 x3 for more information and for a free and friendly on-farm consultation. Similar services are available from local conservation districts throughout Oregon.

Feature Articles

Why is Everyone Squawking about the Bird Flu?

by *Susan R. Kerr*,
WSU Klickitat County Extension Educator

*"I had a little bird, its name was Enza.
 I opened the window, and in-flu-enza."*

That little ditty was popular among children and gravediggers in the U.S. as a pandemic of influenza circled the globe in 1918. Concerns about this scenario repeating itself are fueling international efforts to prevent and/or respond to a worldwide outbreak of Avian Influenza (AI) in humans. To understand these concerns, let's start this discussion about AI from scratch (pardon the paltry poultry pun!).

Background

AI is a very contagious disease of all birds. It is caused by a type A influenza virus; numerous strains of this

virus exist and they vary in their ability to cause illness. The virus resides in wild bird populations and some strains cause severe illness in chickens, turkeys and other domestic birds. Outbreaks are occurring at any given time somewhere in the world, even in the U.S. However, in 1997, something new happened: a bird in Hong Kong transmitted the disease to a human. Since then, about 90 humans are believed to have died from contracting the "H5NI" strain of the AI virus.

An uninformed person might say "Ninety people? That's not many. More people than that die in the U.S. in traffic accidents every day. Besides, that all happened somewhere in Europe or Asia. Why should I care?"

First of all, this disease is a big deal to everyone who contracted it and to their surviving family members. Secondly, if the AI virus gains the ability to be transmitted directly between humans, you may be one of the millions of people around the globe to learn more about this new virus than you ever wanted to know. Data

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reported in *Science Magazine* points to the possibility of a bird flu origin to the 1918 human influenza pandemic that killed an estimated 20 to 50 million people worldwide.

AI in Humans

There are many different subtypes of the type A influenza virus. These subtypes are classified according to their surface proteins; "H5N1" is the name of one virus subtype. Most human cases of AI have resulted from contact with infected poultry or contaminated surfaces. The spread of AI from one ill person to another is rare and has not been reported to spread beyond one person.

Symptoms of AI in humans are typical flu-like complaints (sore throat, muscle aches, fever, cough) but illness can progress to eye infections, pneumonia and life-threatening complications.

H5N1 has been responsible for most of the cases of disease and death from AI in humans. In the Asian and European outbreaks, more than fifty percent of those infected have died. Most victims were children and young adults.

What's a Pandemic?

A pandemic happens when a new disease-causing agent emerges against which humans do not have immunity. A human influenza pandemic could occur if a new influenza virus emerges and starts spreading easily among people, such as by sneezing or coughing. The influenza virus is constantly mutating and evolving, hence the concern over AI: will a strain evolve that can spread easily between humans?

Treatment and Prevention for Humans

As you can imagine, scientists are working feverishly to develop a vaccine to protect humans from AI. A vaccine that is effective against the current H5N1 strain has been developed, but because a pandemic influenza strain has not yet evolved, no vaccine against it can be created yet. Stockpiles of anti-viral medications are being stored because in the event of a pandemic outbreak, there will be a large delay in the mass production of an effective vaccine.

Points of Consolation

- There are many strains of bird flu and many of them cause little or no harm to birds. AI is not new to our country; the USDA deals with outbreaks regularly

and has well-established protocols in place for AI detection and eradication.

- The U.S. has experienced three outbreaks with a serious AI virus, yet no cases of human illness resulted.
- The U.S. Department of the Interior regularly conducts surveillance of wild migratory birds. To date, 1,000 birds have been tested this year and 59 were positive for AI, none with a serious virus type.
- Americans typically have much less intimate contact with poultry than do citizens in the countries where human cases of AI have occurred.
- Properly-cooked poultry poses no bird flu threat to human health, so routine food safety steps are simple and effective insurance measures.

Monitoring

Due to international human travel, the Pacific Northwest is considered a gateway to Asia. Also, our large population of wild waterfowl and other birds carry the AI virus and can spread it to domestic birds. Large and small flock owners alike can help monitor for AI by observing their birds for the signs of illness listed below.

Funds are available for testing for bird flu antibodies in eggs. Poultry owners can send six to twelve eggs from each chicken, waterfowl or turkey flock for testing. Place eggs in an egg carton and place the carton in a small box. Place crumpled newspaper around the egg cartons to protect eggs during transit. Eggs from a few producers can be placed in the same box but identify each producer's eggs separately with the name, address and telephone number of the poultry producer. Ship to Dr. A. Singh Dhillon, Avian Health & Food Safety Laboratory (AHFSL), Washington State University, 7613 Pioneer Way East Puyallup, WA 98371. Call Federal Express at 800-238-5355 and use the AHFSL Federal Express #2165-3465-4 when shipping eggs; Federal Express will pick up eggs at no cost to you. Test results will be mailed to you upon request. If you have questions, call 253-445-4536 or e-mail asdhillon@wsu.edu.

Oregon has active surveillance for AI in most commercial flocks. Other monitoring is carried out on birds submitted for necropsy to the OSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. Veterinarians from ODA and USDA investigate relevant bird deaths.

Feature Articles...continued

Signs of Illness in Birds

- Sudden increase in deaths
- Sneezing, open-mouth breathing, gasping for air, coughing, oral/nasal discharge
- Green, watery diarrhea
- Lack of energy
- Poor appetite
- Thin-shelled, misshapen eggs or drop in egg production
- Swelling around the eyes, neck, head, comb, wattles and hocks
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs
- Weakness or incoordination

Farm Biosecurity and Sanitation

- Limit traffic onto your property
- Limit others' contact with your birds
- Disinfect your shoes, clothes, egg trays, flats, tires, equipment and tools regularly, especially after contact with other flocks
- Wash your hands thoroughly
- Do not use others' equipment, cages, tools or supplies
- Know the signs of infectious illnesses in birds
- Report sick birds to your Extension agent, veterinarian, state veterinarian or USDA at 866-536-7593.

Planning for Any Emergency

During an emergency that will cause you an extended stay at home, it will be important for you to have extra supplies on hand. Planning and preparing for such a situation will be useful in the event of personal illness, epidemics, pandemics, power outages and natural disasters. The "Pandemic Flu Planning Checklist for Individuals and Families" from www.pandemicflu.gov offers practical ways to prevent and/or prepare for emergencies:

- Teach children to wash hands frequently with soap and water and cover coughs and sneezes with tissues; model correct behavior.
- Teach children to stay away from others as much as possible when sick.
- Stay home from work and school when sick.
- Cook food properly and follow all food safety recommendations.
- Store a supply of water and food.
- Have nonprescription medications and health supplies on hand.

- Ask your doctor and insurance company if you can obtain an extra refill of prescription medications.
- Develop a plan to care for each family member if he/she becomes ill.
- Volunteer to prepare for and assist with local emergency response efforts.

Examples of medical, health and emergency supplies

- Prescribed medications
- Health monitoring devices (for blood sugar, blood pressure, etc.)
- Soap and water or alcohol-based hand wash
- Medicines for fever, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen
- Thermometer
- Anti-diarrhea medications
- Vitamins
- Fluids with electrolytes
- Cleansing agents/soaps
- Flashlights
- Batteries
- Portable radio
- Manual can opener
- Garbage bags
- Tissues, toilet paper, disposable diapers, feminine hygiene products

Examples of food and non-perishables

- Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, vegetables and soups
- Protein or fruit bars
- Dry cereal or granola
- Peanut butter or nuts
- Dried fruit
- Crackers
- Powdered milk
- Canned juices
- Bottled water
- Canned or jarred baby food and formula
- Pet food

**Report sick birds
to the USDA's "Biosecurity for the
Birds" campaign at 866-536-7593.**

Feature Articles... continued

“At the moment, the H5N1 influenza virus is mainly a threat to birds. The virus can infect and kill other animals but only if they have close contact with infected birds. The big concern is that it will gain the ability to pass easily from person to person, possibly by exchanging genes with an ordinary flu virus in the body of some unlucky person infected with both. That has not happened yet, and until it does, there can be no pandemic.” --

Dr. Andrew Weil, Time Magazine, Jan. 23, 2006.



For more information:

- www.pandemicflu.gov
- www.usda.gov
- www.avianinfluenzainfo.com/
- www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/
- www.osha.gov/dsg/guidance/avian-flu.html
- www.oregon.gov/ODA/AHID/animal_health/ai.shtml
- www.nationalchickencouncil.com/avianInf/index.cfm
- www.cdc.gov/flu/avian
- www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/avian_influenza/index.html
- http://wdfw.wa.gov/factshts/avian_flu.htm
- www.doh.wa.gov/panflu/
- www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/birdbiosecurity/

The information above was compiled from various sources including:

- <http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/Diseases/AvianInfluenza>
- <http://pandemicflu.gov/general/>
- <http://pandemicflu.gov/plan/pdf/guide.pdf>
- <http://www.who.int/en/>
- WSU Extension-Kittitas County Range & Livestock Newsletter, January 2006
- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Time magazine
- Science Magazine



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