



# Mid-Columbia Small Farms & Acreage Newsletter

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Dear Small Farmer and Landowner;

Welcome to the March-May Issue of the Mid-Columbia Small Farms and Acreage Newsletter. As I mentioned in the January-February Issue, this will be the last issue of this newsletter as we merge with the Oregon Small Farms News Newsletter. The intent is to provide better service to our Mid-Columbia Small Acreage Landowners.

What this means to you as a current subscriber to the Mid-Columbia Small Farms and Acreage Newsletter is that you will automatically start receiving the Oregon Small Farms Newsletter beginning with the June Issue.

As noted with this merger, we anticipate better small farms information support to you. As we go through this merger should you have any questions or concerns, we would encourage you to contact either the OSU Wasco County Extension Office at 541-296-5494 or the WSU Klickitat County Extension Office at 509-773-5817.

As always this issue is packed full of information on workshops, conferences and resource materials. I do want to make note of a few events of interest. The Wasco County Crops Tour is scheduled for May 22. There are several excellent business development workshops to be held in Wasco and Hood River Counties sponsored by the Columbia Gorge Community College Small Business Development

Center; and the Pesticide Use Reporting System Class to be held on May 2nd at the Columbia Gorge Community College. For more information about all these events, please see the Coming Events section of this newsletter for more information.

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.

Sincerely,

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

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION



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### Extension Service

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# Calendar of Events

## 2007 March

- 2-4 Permaculture Design Weekend**, Snohomish, WA. 7:00-9:00 PM Friday free public slide show followed by a two-day workshop. Hands-on training in permaculture approach to landscape design. Cost: \$150-\$200, sliding scale. For more information contact Donna Ray at 360-862-1505; or email: [donnalray1@netzero.net](mailto:donnalray1@netzero.net).
- 3 Ethanol Production Class**, Chemeketa College, 4000 Lancaster Ave., Salem, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Information: 503-399-5139.
- 5 Farmer-Chef Connection** Canby, OR  
[www.farmerchefconnection.org/Portland\\_FCC\\_2007.cfm](http://www.farmerchefconnection.org/Portland_FCC_2007.cfm)  
8:30am-4:00 pm, Clackamas County Fairgrounds. Day-long gathering designed to foster collaboration and direct marketing opportunities for local farmers, ranchers, chefs and retailers. Free registration via weblink above. Info: Andrew Haden at 503-467-0763; or [ahaden@ecotrust.org](mailto:ahaden@ecotrust.org).
- 5-7 Oregon Wine Industry Symposium**, Eugene  
Info: <http://www.oregonwine.org/symposium/>
- 6 Business for Boomers: Starting Your Own Business in Oregon**, 5:30-8:30 pm, Dufur School Business Education Room. Cost is \$49/person. To register call (541) 506-60 11. For more information see "Coming Events" section of this newsletter.
- 5-8 22nd Annual WSU Cheesemaking Short Course**, Pullman, WA. Information 509-335-4014 or [www.wsu.edu/creamery/education/education.htm](http://www.wsu.edu/creamery/education/education.htm)
- 10 Home Orchard Society Fruit and Berry Cutting (Scion) Exchange**, Alder Creek Middle School. Hundreds of FREE scion wood for grafting available. Rootstocks, plants, and much more. Talk with experts and get a custom grafted fruit tree. For more information see their website at: <http://www.homeorchardsociety.org/scion-exchange/>
- 10 Introduction to Permaculture**. Organic Education Center, Lake Oswego, OR. Engage in the exciting world of sustainable design! Learn the fundamentals, principles and ethics of Permaculture and how this "cultivated ecology" is enacting social and ecological change worldwide. 1-4 pm. (503) 638-0690; or email [oc@tilth.org](mailto:oc@tilth.org).
- 12-15 Governor's Occupational Safety and Health Conference**, Oregon Convention Center, Portland. Info: [www.dcbs.oregon.gov](http://www.dcbs.oregon.gov) or 503-947-7428.
- 13 Business for Booms: Starting Your Own Business in Oregon**, 5:30-8:30 pm, Wamic, Pine Hollow Fire Department. Cost is \$49/person. To register call (541) 506-6011. For more information see "Coming Events".
- 16 Food Packaging and Sustainable Alternatives and Energy Efficiency and Renewable Power**, Vancouver, WA. Information: 541-346-1609 or [nwhite@organicgrown.com](mailto:nwhite@organicgrown.com)
- 16-17 Sustain ability Workshop and Vendor Faire for the Northwest's Organic Produce Trade**, Hilton Hotel, Vancouver, W A. Info/Registration: [nwhite@organicgrown.com](mailto:nwhite@organicgrown.com) or 541-346-1609.
- 19-20 OSU Blueberry Growers Course** will be held at LaSells Stewart Center on OSU campus. For more information see their website at: [http://oregonstate.edu/conferences/OSUB\\_lueberryCourse2007/](http://oregonstate.edu/conferences/OSUB_lueberryCourse2007/)
- 24 Small Farm Expo 2007**, Fairgrounds, Enumclaw
- 24 Gardening for Maximum Nutrition**. Organic Education Center, Lake Oswego, OR. The nutrient content of your soil affects the nutritional quality of your food. This class will teach how to garden for maximum nutrition-from soil to supper. 1-4 pm. To register call the OEC at (503) 638-0690; or email [oc@tilth.org](mailto:oc@tilth.org).
- 30 Wasco County Business and Agriculture Hazardous Waste Collection**. Pre-registration is required by calling 1-800-228-2772.

## Calendar...continued

### April

#### April 5-May 10 Quick Books 2006

Workshop will be on Thursdays from 6:30-9:00 pm at the Columbia Gorge Community College Hood River Campus, Hood River, OR. Tuition is \$234. Information/Registration: (541) 506-6011.

**14 Hay Quality and Assessment**, The Grange, Issaquah. Information: Janet Clarke at 206-205-3105, e-mail [janetclarke@metrokc.gov](mailto:janetclarke@metrokc.gov) or [www.king.wsu.edu/livestock/Calendar.htm](http://www.king.wsu.edu/livestock/Calendar.htm)

**14 Container Gardening**. Organic Education Center, Lake Oswego, OR. Landless city dweller dreaming of growing that farm fresh food? With containers and imagination you can grow a beautiful and productive garden anywhere! 1-4 pm. To register call the OEC at (503) 638-0690; or email [oc@tilth.org](mailto:oc@tilth.org).

**April 15-Oct. 15 - The Dalles Farmer's Market**, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Fridays, The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce, 404 W. Second St  
Information: Lorrie Fricke, Manager, 541-296-5800

**17 Franchising**, 5:30- 7:30 pm, Horse and Hound Pub, Hood River. For more information call Columbia Gorge Community College at 541-506-6121; to register contact 541-506-6011

**17 Austin Family Business Center "Ties to the Land: Keeping the Family Forests and Farms in the Family**, OSU Extension Service Office, Deschutes County Fairgrounds, Parking Lot D, 3893 SW Airport Way, Redmond, OR., from 8 am to noon. Cost is \$50 for the first person and \$10 per additional family member:  
<http://www.familybusinessonline.org/programs/workshop - calendar.aspx?# 124>

**20-22 Small Farmer's Journal Draft Horse & Horsedrawn Equipment Auction and Swap Meet** Sisters Rodeo Grounds. 8 a.m. till dark.  
Information: 800-876-2893 or [auction@smallfarmersjournal.com](mailto:auction@smallfarmersjournal.com).

**26 Family Forest Symposium "Beyond Sustainability - Enhancing Our Woodland Neighborhoods."** Hosted by OSW A State & Benton County SW A; The Officers Club, Conference, Hilton Portland & Executive Tower, Adair, Oregon public welcome. Contact OSWA 921 SW Sixth Ave., Portland, OR from 7:30 am to office to reserve place. Events include: OSWA State

Board Mtg., woodland tours of Benton County and the OSWA Annual Mtg. , Awards (top recruiters, Rigg'n slinger) and reception. Information: <http://www.oswa.org/Events.html>

**27 Family Forest Symposium**, La Sells Stewart Center, OSU Campus, Corvallis. Events include: OSWA Silent Auction (organized by Coos/Curry SWA), Exhibit Hall, door prizes, OSWA Hors d'oeuvres reception & OSW A and Family Forests of Oregon awards.

**28 Viticulture - Spring/Summer Practices**, Mount Vernon. See Coming Events Section for more info.

### May

#### 2 Pesticide Use Reporting (PURS) Help Class.

Are you looking for help filing your 2007 Pesticide Use Reporting System (PURS) reports? Attend the PURS Help class May 2nd at The Dalles. Bring your pesticide applications records and ODA staff will be on-hand from 6-9 p.m. to work on a computer with you to register and file 1 or 2 PURS reports. Further information will be posted soon on PURS website at: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODAIPEST/ Qurs index.shtml>.

**8 Choosing a Health Insurance Plan for your Business**, from 5:30-7:30 pm at the Erin Glenn Winery, The Dalles, OR. Tuition is \$5/person. Sponsored by the Columbia Gorge Community College Small Business Development Center. Registration/information: (541) 506-6011.

**11-13 Native Plants & Permaculture**, Dexter, OR. [www.lostvalley.org/nature2007may](http://www.lostvalley.org/nature2007may) A gathering of plant enthusiasts to explore the use of native plants in permaculture systems. [chris@talkingleaves.org](mailto:chris@talkingleaves.org) or Contact Chris Roth, 541-937-2567 X 116.

**19-20 3rd Annual Northwest Lamboree**, Klickitat County Fairgrounds, Goldendale. Registration due by May 14. Information/Registration: 509-773-5817 [klickitat@wsu.edu](mailto:klickitat@wsu.edu) or [www.klickitatwsu.edu/4h.html](http://www.klickitatwsu.edu/4h.html).

**19-20 Hood River Pear and Wine Festival**, Hood River County Fairgrounds, near Odell. Information: [hrgsa2@gorge.net](mailto:hrgsa2@gorge.net) or 541-387-4769.

**22 2007 Austin Family Business Center Program** Conference3, Hilton Portland & Executive Tower, 921 SW Sixth Ave., Portland, from 7:30am-3pm. [http://www.familybusinessonline.org/programs/workshop\\_calendar.aspx?#124](http://www.familybusinessonline.org/programs/workshop_calendar.aspx?#124)

## New Central Oregon Livestock Extension Agent

I would like to introduce myself as the new Central Oregon Livestock Extension Agent for Crook, Jefferson and Deschutes Counties I will also be providing support for Wasco County Livestock Producers.

I was born and raised in Outlook, Montana. My family ranch is located on the Canadian border and 90 miles west of the North Dakota border. My family raises commercial cattle and dryland cereal crops. I received my B.S. in Biology from Montana State University in 1999 and my M.S. in Animal Science from Colorado State University in 2001. My experience and education has focused on beef cattle management. My graduate work entitled "Integrating Early Weaning and Sexed Semen into a Single Calf Heifer System to Increase Value of Non-replacement Heifers" allowed me to study replacement heifer development, synchronization protocols, backgrounding/finishing calves, carcass evaluation and economic analysis of an alternative management practice.

After graduate school my husband and I worked on my family ranch for two years. During this time we implemented A.I. using synchronization and back-grounded calves to 800 pounds. We then moved to Oregon to work on a commercial cattle ranch in Eagle Point. My husband Kelly, four-year old little boy, Brodie and I moved to Prineville in May, 2005. I worked at AmeriTitle as an escrow officer up until I accepted my position with OSU this month.

I am very excited to be working with Oregon State University and local producers. I have a true tie to and love for agriculture. I enjoy presenting practical application of new ideas and technologies to producers. I believe in looking at the large picture of production and making simple changes or adaptations to increase profitability and efficiency. I look forward to meeting local producers and encourage you to stop in any time.

*Barbi Riggs*

## Coming Events

### Business Classes Offered

Columbia Gorge Community College Small Business Development Center is offering the class **Business for Boomers: Starting Your Own Business in Oregon**, in three South Wasco County locations during March. The cost of the class is \$49, and is geared toward the Baby Boomer Generation; how to start the business you've always dreamed about. This class covers the basics of how to start and sustain a business.

Class locations and dates are:

Dufur - Tuesday, March 6, 5:30 - 8:30pm  
Dufur School Business Education Room

Wamic - Tuesday, March 13, 5:30 - 8:30pm  
Pine Hollow Fire Department

Other classes that are in the works include:

**Quick books 2006** - Thursdays, April 5 - May 10, 6:30-9:00 pm, at the Hood River Campus, Tuition \$234

**BizTalk - Choosing a Health Insurance Plan for your Business**, Tuesday, May 8, 5:30 - 7:30 pm, at Erin Glenn Winery in The Dalles, Tuition \$5.

Call the college at (541) 506-6011 to register.





# The Dalles Farmers' Market April 20th thru October 19th At The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce

To reserve your space, please complete the bottom portion of this form and mail with your payment, to 404 West 2nd street, The Dalles, OR. 97058. Please make checks payable to The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce and make note on your check "Farmers' Market"

Farmers' Market is scheduled to run this year from April 13 thru October 12, on Fridays from 8am to 2pm, at The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce office located at 404 West 2nd Street, The Dalles. The cost is \$15 per vendor, per 10x10 space, per week. There will also be a community table available for small scale producers and gardeners, operated by students from the North Wasco County School District. The students will charge 20% of the value of the items sold for a maximum charge of \$15 per vendor. The funds will go to support youth programs.

Acceptable items for sale include fresh, processed and dried agricultural products, including fruits, vegetables, flowers, jams, jellies, etc. Vendor space is limited, therefore vendors who want to guarantee a space are required to reserve by no later than March 30th. Any space not reserved by March 30th will be available on a first come, first served basis. Those who will be selling items through the community table can sign up weekly.

For more information, please contact Lorrie Fricke, manager, at 541-296-5800.



The Dalles Farmers' Market is a collaborative effort between local producers, The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce, The Small Business Development Center, Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District, The Dalles Wahtonka High School, The Master Gardeners, the Oregon State University Extension Service, and the Wasco County Farm Bureau.

## **The Dalles Farmers' Market at The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE LIST PRODUCTS TO BE SOLD:**

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## Coming Events....continued

### **2007 3rd Annual Women & Agriculture Conference**

**March 23 - 24, 2007**

**East Wenatchee, Washington**

The 3rd Annual Statewide Women & Agriculture Conference, *Cultivating Our Reality*, will be held on March 23 - 24 in East Wenatchee, Washington. The conference is being conducted by Washington State University Extension to give women the tools and information they need to help their family farm operations and agri-businesses succeed. The conference begins with a social and networking event on Friday evening followed by a full-day of featured speakers and workshop sessions on Saturday. For conference program and registration information, visit the web site <http://www.ncw.wsu.edu> and click on Women & Agriculture Conference. WSU Extension is sponsoring the event in cooperation with the WSU Western Center for Risk Management Education, Chelan/Douglas County & Washington State Farm Bureau, Country Insurance & Financial Services and more than 40 other businesses, lenders and commodity groups.

The conference will address topics of interest to women and provide practical information for use in their personal and family lives and farm business operations. Jane Eckert, a nationally known speaker from the St. Louis area, will speak on "**Agri-tourism: A Reality That Grows on You!**" and "**Making Money Without Going Off Farm.**" In addition, there will be ten morning and afternoon breakout sessions on biotechnology, direct marketing, the farm bill, food liability, living life in balance, adding value to what you grow, farm labor issues, working with your lender and perspectives of Washington farm women. Valoria H. Loveland, Washington State Director of Agriculture has been invited to present the closing session.

The conference is open to the public. Those planning to attend need to register by March 16. The cost is \$20.00, lunch and snacks included. Registration fees postmarked after March 16 are \$30. For more information, contact WSU Extension at 509-745-8531.

WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Persons with a disability requiring special accommodations while participating in this program need to call WSU Extension at (509) 745-8531 at least 10 days before the program.

For more information, contact conference co-chairs, Margaret A. Viebrock, [viebrock@wsu.edu](mailto:viebrock@wsu.edu) and Ann Diede, [diede@wsu.edu](mailto:diede@wsu.edu).

### **Wasco County Crops Tour May 22, 2006**

The OSU Wasco County Extension Office in cooperation with the Wasco County SWCD, NRCS and FSA will be hosting this years Crops Tour to be held May 22nd from 8 am to 1 pm. The tour will begin at The Dalles Auction Yard at 8 am. Stops along the way will include opportunities to view field sprayer and fertilizer technology, alternative oil seed crops and a discussion with Randy Leonard, Portland City Councilmen and John Dallum, Wasco County Representative about upcoming legislation to support biofuels production in Oregon. Dr. Don Wysocki, OSU Extension Soil Specialist will discuss oil seed production practices and Lane Magill, Wasco County resident, will talk about his efforts to start a commercial oil seeds processing facility.

There is no cost for this tour. For more information, please contact the Wasco County Extension Office, 541-296-5494.



**Can you make money growing pears, cherries, apples, wine grapes, or any other crops in the Mid-Columbia region?  
Do you know how to develop an equitable crop lease arrangement for a mature orchard or vineyard, or to establish a new orchard or vineyard?**

- If you are going to enter or stay in the pear, cherry, or apple industry, what are some of the factors that you are going to have to consider?
- Do you truly understand your cost structure? Are blueberries and wine grapes alternatives that will increase future profitability?
- Can leasing an orchard increase profits to your operation?

### **The Workshop**

These questions and others will be discussed during a computer workshop for **Crop Profitability Analysis (CPA)** and **Equitable Crop Lease (ECL)**. This is a hands-on computer workshop which could allow you to explore ideas for changing your business to increase profits using the **Crop Profitability Analysis** and **Equitable Crop Lease** software programs.

Presenters:

- **Clark Seavert**, Agricultural Economist, Oregon State University - North Willamette Research and Extension Center (NWREC), Aurora.
- **Jenny Freeborn**, Faculty Research Assistant, OSU – NWREC and the Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research and Extension Center (MCAREC), Aurora and Hood River.

This educational program is brought to you by Oregon State University Extension Service and Columbia Gorge Community College at two locations and dates:

**March 9, 2007**

**Columbia Gorge Community College – The Dalles  
Building 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Room 1334**

**1:00 to 4:00**

and

**March 15, 2007**

**Columbia Gorge Community College – Hood River Center 1616 Industrial, Hood River,  
Technology Center Room 310 9:00 to 1:00**

Participants can register for the Crop Profitability Analysis (CPA) and the Equitable Crop Lease (ECL) workshops by calling the **Hood River County Extension Office (541) 386-3343**, **Wasco County Office (541) 296-5494**, or the **Experiment Station (541) 386-2030 x10**. Seating is limited and early registration is encouraged.

## Coming Events....continued

### Get Rid of Your Unwanted Chemicals

Have containers of outdated agricultural chemicals sitting alongside your barn or in a storage building? Or other hazardous items you no longer use or need? Now is the time to get rid of them – at no cost to you. A special hazardous waste collection event, targeted to the agricultural and small business communities will be held on Friday, March 30, 2007. The first \$400 of disposal fees for each participant will be free.

To set an appointment, call Mike O'Donnell at 1-800-228-7872. Be prepared to give him an estimate of how much and what you intend to bring on March 30. He can answer any questions and let you know if your waste might exceed the \$400 cost-share. Pre-registering is required so we can schedule participants and have the proper collection and storage containers on hand.

The event will be held at Tri-County Hazardous Waste facility at The Dalles Disposal, 1317 W 1<sup>st</sup>, The Dalles, from 9:00 until 2:00. This special collection is sponsored by the Tri-County Hazardous Waste Program and is funded by a landfill surcharge. It is open to all residents of Wasco Sherman and Hood River Counties. An additional event will be held on Friday, October 12 at Hood River Garbage in Hood River. If you have questions about the Tri-County Program, call Pat Bozanich, Program Coordinator, 541-506-2636.

**Appointments are filling fast, so call today!**

### 3rd Annual Northwest Lamboree

If you are interested in sheep, be sure to mark May 19-20 on your calendar and plan to attend the Third Annual Northwest Lamboree at the Klickitat County Fairgrounds in Goldendale, W A.

Beginning and advanced showmen and producers alike will all gain new knowledge and skills from this popular event. Breeders, judges, producers, showmen and Extension educators from throughout the Northwest will lead practical, hands-on workshops for participants. Topics will include selection, judging, fitting, showing, nutrition, health, quality assurance and fiber arts. A wide variety of fun and engaging optional activities will be available once again as well.

Registration is due by May 14 and is \$25 per person or \$20 per person for a family of three or more. Registration includes four excellent meals and an educational packet. To obtain a registration form or for more information, contact WSU-Klickitat County Extension at 509-773-5817 or [klickitat@wsu.edu](mailto:klickitat@wsu.edu). The registration form is also available for downloading from [www.klickitat.wsu.edu/4h.html](http://www.klickitat.wsu.edu/4h.html).

RV camping is available on site for \$16 per day and dry camping is free. To make camping arrangements, contact Anita at 509-773-3900 or 800-583-8074 or [AnitaC@co.klickitat.wa.us](mailto:AnitaC@co.klickitat.wa.us).

## Resources

### Funds

#### Below-Market Loans to Beginning Farmer/Ranchers in Washington

The Washington State Housing Finance Commission in partnership with Northwest Farm Credit Services is offering low-interest loans to beginning farmers and ranchers. The loans may be used to purchase land and

improvements (up to \$250,000), purchase of new, depreciable equipment (up to \$125,000), and used depreciable equipment (up to \$62,500). Borrowers must directly manage and work the farm/ranch, but off-farm income is okay. Contact Tia Peycheff about the program at: (206) 287-4416 or (800) 767-4663 (toll free within state), or email [tia.peycheff@wshfc.org](mailto:tia.peycheff@wshfc.org). A printable form can be downloaded by touching the link above to: <http://www.wshfc.org/FannRanch/index.htm>.

# 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>

#### **EM 8328-E, 2007 Hazelnut Pest Management Guide for the Willamette Valley**

Revised January 2007, 9 pages, no charge (available online and from Yamhill County Extension office)

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/em/em8328-e>

#### **EM 8329-E, 2007 Cherry Pest Management Guide for the Willamette Valley**

Revised January 2007, 12 pages, no charge (available online and from Yamhill County Extension office)

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/em/em8329-e>

#### **EM 8362-E, 2007 Prune and Plum Pest Management Guide for the Willamette Valley**

Revised January 2007, 8 pages, no charge (available online and from Yamhill County Extension office)

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/em/em8362-e>

#### **EM 8418-E, 2007 Apple Pest Management Guide for the Willamette Valley**

Revised January 2007, 11 pages, no charge (available online and from Yamhill County Extension office)

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/em/em8418-e>

#### **EM 8419-E, 2007 Peach Pest Management Guide for the Willamette Valley**

Revised January 2007, 11 pages, no charge (available online and from Yamhill County Extension office)

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/em/em8419-e>

#### **EM 8420-e, 2007 Pear Pest Management Guide for the Willamette Valley**

Revised January 2007, 13 pages, no charge (available online and from Yamhill County Extension office)

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/em/em8420-e>

#### **EM 8421-E, 2007 Walnut Pest Management Guide for the Willamette Valley**

Revised January 2007, 6 pages, no charge (available online and from Yamhill County Extension office)

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/em/em8421-e>

#### **FS 335, Managing Nitrogen for Yield and Protein in Hard Wheat**

New January 2007, 2 pages, \$1.00

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/fs/fs335.pdf>

#### **EC 1119, Incentive Programs for Resource Management and Conservation**

Reprinted January 2007, 4 pages, \$2.50

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1119.pdf>

## Other Publications

### ATTRA Publications

#### Biorationals: Ecological Pest Management Database

ATTRA has created a new, online pest management tool for farmers. This database highlights reduced-risk materials that can be integrated with ecological pest management strategies. The database may be searched by pest category, pest name, pesticide trade name, or active ingredient. This database can be found at: [http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/biorationals/biorationals\\_main\\_srch.php](http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/biorationals/biorationals_main_srch.php)

#### **Strawberries: Organic Production**

This publication updated in 2007 provides an overview of organic strawberry production methods. It also covers integrated pest management and weed control techniques that can reduce pesticide use in strawberry production. Included are discussions of weeds, pests, diseases, greenhouse production, plasticulture, fertility, economics, and marketing. Lists are provided of further resources, both electronic and in print. This publication can be found at: <http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/strawberry.pdf>

#### **National Organic Program Compliance Checklist for Handlers**

This Checklist released in 2007 assists in assessing the compliance of your handling or processing operation with National Organic Program Standards. The Checklist is divided into eight sections. Sections 2

## Resources... continued

through 7 correspond to the six categories of information required in the Organic Production and Handling System Plan, including Practices and Procedures, Inputs, Monitoring, Recordkeeping, and Commingling and Contamination. This publication can be found at: [http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/organic\\_handlers.pdf](http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/organic_handlers.pdf)

### **Pastures: Going Organic**

This new 2007 publication is an introduction to regulations related to organic pasture and rangeland in the United States. Organically certified land is described under The National Organic Program, including activities and materials that are allowed or prohibited. Fertility, weed, and insect pest management issues are briefly addressed. Organic integrity is discussed, including records required to demonstrate compliance with the National Organic Standards. References and resources follow the narrative. This publication can be found at: [http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/pastures\\_organic.pdf](http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/pastures_organic.pdf)

### **Cattle Production: Considerations for Pasture-Based Beef and Dairy Producers**

Market demand is rapidly increasing for sustainably-raised beef and dairy products. Pasture or grass-based livestock production is inherently sustainable as this production system relies on biodiversity and ecological complexity to maintain production without the use of costly inputs. Cattle producers are beginning to recognize that intensively-managed rotational grazing (also called management-intensive grazing or planned grazing) can lower production costs, reduce animal stress, and boost the animal's immune system. This new 2007 publication highlights these and other practices producers are using to provide customers with nutritious

food from sustainable farms and ranches. This publication can be found at: <http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/cattleprod.pdf>

## Newsletters

The latest issue of the Oregon Small Farms News Newsletter can be found at:

<http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/newsletter/Small%20Farm%20News%20Nov22.pdf>

The current issue of e-News for Northwest Gardeners is "hot" off the press. <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/enews/>

The latest Issue of the University of Wyoming "Enterprising Rural Families" can be found at: <http://erurfamilies.org/>

The latest issue of the **Central Washington Round-up**, is now available at <http://animalag.wsu.edu>, under the current news section of the home page. This electronic newsletter is published by the Central Washington Animal Agriculture Team, comprised of Washington State University Extension educators in the fields of animal science, range management, agronomy, and entomology.

## Websites

**OSU Organic Website** can be found at: <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/hort/faculty/stone/OrganicAgPrograms/index.html>. The site provides some excellent organic production technical resources including information about upcoming workshops.

## Feature Articles

### **Length of Calving Season Can Affect Your Bottom Dollar**

*By: Barbi Riggs*

*OSU Crook County Extension Agent*

Cow-calf producers keep a close watch on margins. Producers try to whittle away at input costs where possible, but, not always can these minor adjustments make a big impact. However, there is a tool that some producers have not used yet that can significantly increase income and save labor. The length of the

calving season can be managed to produce more pounds of calf at weaning and therefore increase profit.

Weaning of calves is typically done at a given date regardless of weight or age of the calves. Young calves wean at lighter weight than older calves simply due to age. For example, a calving season of 180 days results in calves that may have weaning weights anywhere from 320 pounds to 560 pounds and ages of 4 months to 8 months of age. Let's assume that the average weight for this set of calves is 480 pounds. Total weaning weight for 100 hd of calves is 48,000 pounds. Now,

## Feature Articles...continued

let's assume that this same set of cows calve in 60 days rather than 180 days. Weight for these calves range from 500-560 pounds and let's say the average is 542 pounds. Total weaning weight for the 100 hd of calves is 54,200 pounds. The difference in weight is 6,200 pounds or equivalent to selling 11 more calves OR an extra 62 pounds per calf if breeding season is shortened. Another way to look at this, in the shortened breeding season, the producer could experience 7% reduction in weaning weights or calf crop to have the equivalent income as the lengthened calving period. Assume calves are selling around \$100.00 per cwt, this translates into an increase of \$62.00 per calf. The results of a similar scenario in regards to potential income will vary slightly dependent upon price of calves. Lighter calves do bring more money per pound however, it has been estimated that a uniform calf crop that is similar in appearance can optimistically yield a premium of \$50-\$70 per head, further supporting economic benefit to shorter calving seasons.

Shortening the calving season has other benefits as well. Calving season of 60 days means fewer nights watching cows and fewer days tagging calves. Calf loss due to negligence or lack of recognition of dystocia problems is less apt to occur. My experience is that the last few cows to calve have a tendency to not be watched as closely because focus is on other projects such as seeding crops or fertilizing pastures. By shortening the calving season we are less likely to be distracted. Having a calving season of 45-60 days will result in a more reproductively sound herd. The females that do not breed back within this structure will eventually fall out of the herd leaving only the most reproductively sound females and will propagate reproductively sound replacement heifers.

How do we accomplish a tighter calving season? The strategy will depend upon how spread out your current calving season is and the number of cows in your herd. If you are currently calving year-round, it may take a few years to achieve a 60 day calving season without too much loss of revenue. However, the first line of attack should always be with your replacement heifers. A producer should pick his target dates for calving and plan appropriately for the replacement heifers. Be sure to breed the heifers 3-4 weeks prior to the mature cows in order to allow the growing heifer ample time to recover from calving/lactation before the next breeding season. Breeding/calving dates can be moved by

scheduling bull exposure and removal and/or incorporating estrous synchronization. Synchronization can be used to achieve a tighter calving season more rapidly than scheduling bull exposure alone. This is a process in which hormones are injected into the cow in order to trigger physiological responses that will induce expression of estrus at approximately the same time. There are several different synchronization protocols that can accomplish a tighter calving season. Producers should work with a beef cow specialist to choose the most economic and efficient protocol that will fit the goals of the operation. Synchronization can cost \$5.10 per cow or more and will require at least 2 times through the chute. Other considerations for synchronization include providing adequate bull power for natural service or implementation artificial insemination. Synchronization is the most powerful tool available to accomplish a tight calving season in the least amount of time. Many producers have used this to go from 120 day season to 60 day season in just one year.

Remember that tight breeding season means tight calving season. Although you have less time to watch cows, intensity of calving can be great particularly when synchronization was utilized. Timing of the calving season will be crucial to calf survival, specifically in cold climates where a storm event can have a large impact. Management of a short breeding/calving season will be successful only if the producer is firm with the dates. Bulls must be turned in with the cows on the appropriate date and must be pulled at the appropriate date regardless of other obligation the rancher may. Cows that do not breed and calve within the set season must be culled without exception. Shortening the calving season is a cost effective program that can increase profit and reproductive performance of the herd with little to no extra input costs.

For more information on calving seasons or synchronization please contact Barbi Riggs at Crook County Extension Services at 541-447-6228.



## Spring Pasture Management Tips

**By Brian Tuck – OSU Wasco County  
Dryland and Irrigated Field Crops Agent**

As the weather starts to warm up and pastures begin grow, how you manage your pasture in the spring can make all the difference in forage quality, animal growth and weed control problems.

### Pasture Fertility Management

Healthy pastures need good fertility management to maximize production and animal health. Most dryland pastures in the Mid-Columbia are a mix of annual and perennials grasses, which if the soil is healthy generally only need annual applications of Nitrogen in the spring and fall. But those with pastures in the wetter regions of the Mid-Columbia or who have irrigation often have alfalfa or clovers in the mix will need additional applications of Phosphorus, Potassium and Sulfur. Because soils vary greatly in the region, the need to know which and how much of a nutrient to apply each year is **Very Important** and this can be accomplished through soil testing every 2-3 years. Information concerning soil sampling techniques and where to send samples can be obtained from any OSU or WSU Extension Office.

### Pasture Use – How Much Forage Can Be Removed and Not Hurt the Pasture

The Rule of Thumb for grazing is **Take Half And Leave Half** and not graze pastures below three inches in height. Research and practical experience have shown that removing more than 50-percent of the grass or grazing below three inches in one grazing period is very damaging to pastures and will reduce long-term plant health. To determine actual use, it is beneficial to have a small area excluded from grazing to use as an indicator. It is important to remember, you are looking for 50-percent removal by volume not by height. Studies have shown that when over 50-percent of the grass is removed, 50-percent or more of the root growth is stopped. Table 1 shows how grass removal effects plant root growth which directly effects leaf re-growth following grazing.

Table 1.

Percent of Grass Plant Removed	Percent of Root Growth Stopped
10%	0%
20%	0%
30%	0%
40%	0%
50%	2-4%
60%	60%
70%	78%
80%	100%
90%	100%

## How Much Does An Animal Eat

As a part of knowing how much pasture you can remove, it is important to know how much forage an animal needs to be healthy. This will help to balance the numbers of animals you can put on your pasture with the amount of forage available to avoid over use. The following table illustrates how much forage typical grazing animals will need in a month.

Table 2. Forage Requirement for Livestock.

Grazing Animal	Forage needed (Dry Matter) in lbs/month*
1 Cow (1000 lbs weight)	800
1 Horse	1000
1 Sheep	200
1 Llama	300
1 Goat	200

\*These weights are for actual consumption; when feeding hay, include 10% more to account for waste.

### Weed Identification and Control

Last but not least is weed control. Good pasture management will keep plants vigorous, healthy and competitive, which will reduce the ability of weeds to become established or compete. The following are some very good resources to help identify pasture weeds suggestions for control:

\***Weeds of the West.** This is an excellent resource book that provides very good photos of weeds found in our area and information on how they grow. It can be ordered through any OSU Extension Office or local bookstore.

\***Northwest Weeds** by Ronald Taylor. This is a smaller version of Weeds of the West. Again a very good resource for small farmers and can be ordered through any local bookstore.

\***The Field Guide to Plants Poisonous to Livestock: Western US** by Shirley A. Weathers. This is a good resource in identifying poisonous plants in your irrigated or dryland pasture and ordered through a local bookstore.

\***OSU has a large number of individual Weed Publications** covering a host of weeds including Russian Thistle, Puncturevine and various Knapweeds to name a few. Again, they can be ordered through any OSU Extension Office or from their web site at <http://eesc.orst.edu>. These publications have excellent photos and information on identification and control.

Those with questions concerning pasture management are encouraged to contact the Wasco County Extension Office at 541-296-5494.