



# Mid-Columbia Small Farms & Acreage Newsletter

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Dear Small Farmer and Landowner;

Welcome to the May/June Issue of the Small Farms and Acreage Newsletter. In this issue you will find a good general article about spraying fruit trees in Washington and Oregon and what is required. This is particularly important for folks with cherry and apple trees in the Mid-Columbia in Oregon. Both Oregon and Washington Extension Services have excellent resource materials on when and how to control tree fruit pests and these can be obtained by calling your local extension office.

- Issue 4-Farm Succession
- Issue 5-Taxes & Insurance Planning
- Issue 6-Marketing

We hope these articles will serve as good resources to our readers as you evaluate your agriculture enterprises. Should you have any questions about the information provided in these articles, please contact either the Wasco County Extension Office at 541-296-5494 or the Klickitat County Extension Office at 509-773-5817.

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

In the calendar of events section you will see numerous workshops and seminars on a variety of topics ranging from artisan cheese making, hydroponics, pre-harvest cherry tours, and caneberry, strawberry and blueberry open houses hosted at the OSU small fruits research station in Aurora, Oregon. We hope you will have the opportunity to take advantage of some of these excellent programs.

We also want to make our readers aware that we have completed our series of six farm management resource newsletters titled "Farm and Ranch Survival Kit" which are listed on the Mid-Columbia Small Farms website which can be found at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/smallfarms/RiskManagement.php> Resource newsletter topics available on the website include:

- Issue 1 –Business Planning
- Issue 2-Financial Planning
- Issue 3-Interpersonal Relations

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# Calendar of Events

## 2006

### May

**4-6 –“Lamb 509,”** a three-day short course on lamb at the farm, packing plant and retail. Boise-Caldwell. \$125. Limited registration. Information: bsettlage@uidaho.edu, scottj@uidaho.edu or (208) 414-0415.

**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.

**6 Spring Garden Fair,** Clackamas County Fairgrounds, on Hwy. 99E Canby. Opens 9 a.m. both days, until 5 p.m. Saturday and 4 p.m. Sunday. \$2 admission, free parking, free pH soil testing. Information: [www.ClackamasCountyMasterGardeners.org](http://www.ClackamasCountyMasterGardeners.org).

**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.

**11 NW Food Business Start-up,** Food Innovation Center, Portland, 1-4:30pm. See “Coming Events” section of this newsletter for more information.

**13 Cheesemaking class,** sponsored by Clark County Dairy Goat Association, CASEE Center, 11104 NE 149th St., Brush Prairie, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. \$15. Information: (360) 687-3259.

**13 Hydroponic farming seminar.** Tacoma. Register by May 6. Cost is \$35, covering materials and starter unit. Information: (503) 868-7679 OR [Info@MicrofarmSustainable.org](mailto:Info@MicrofarmSustainable.org)

**13 Build an Agriculture Marketing Plan,** Everett, WA. First workshop in 2 part workshop (2nd part-May 27). Advance registration required. Contact Linda Neunzig, WSU Extension Snohomish County, (3600 435-9304 or [neunzigl@wsu.edu](mailto:neunzigl@wsu.edu)

**18-20 Symposium on “Sustainable Agriculture, Communities, and Environments in the Pacific Northwest,”** to be held at WSU Tri-Cities. See: <http://www.tricity.wsu.edu/crs> for information.

**20 Home Orchard Society Fruit Thinning & Bagging Work Party,** HOS Arboretum, Oregon City, 9-3pm, Join members to help thin the fruits at the arboretum, ensuring a well-sized harvest for 2006 and good fruit set for 2007. We will also be doing some selected bagging of apples, to protect them from bugs and blemishes. Bring hand clippers and a sack lunch! For more information : <http://www.homeorchardsociety.org/events/>

**20-21 Farmstead and Artisan Cheesemaking,** Pt. Townsend Creamery, Port Townsend, WA. Cost, \$275.00. Information: 360-379-0895 or [info@mttownsendcreamery.com](mailto:info@mttownsendcreamery.com).

**23-24 Sustainable Rural Enterprises/Multi-Species Grazing Conference,** Ritzville, WA. More information in “Coming Events” section.

**24 Wasco County Crops Tour,** 7:30 am to 1 pm beginning at The Dalles Auction Yard, The Dalles. Topics to include undercutter demonstrations, new wheat varieties and micronutrient applications on small grains. Please see the “Coming Events” section of the newsletter for more information.

### June

**5-7 Managing for Biodiversity in Pacific Northwest Forests: Strategies and Opportunities,** Red Lion on the River- Janzen Beach Hotel, Portland. Information: call (541) 737-2329 OR E-mail [forestry.outreach.education@oregonstate.edu](mailto:forestry.outreach.education@oregonstate.edu)

**6 Wasco County Pre-Harvest Cherry Tour.** For more information, please contact the Wasco County Extension Office at 1-541-296-5494.

**6-8 Managing for Biological Diversity in Northwest Forests: Strategies and Opportunities** workshop, Red Lion on the River, Portland. Coordinated by Oregon State University College of Forestry. Information: (541) 737-2329 or <http://outreach.cof.orst.edu/biodiversity/>

**14 OSU's Strawberry Open House** will be held at NWREC, Aurora starting at 1 PM. See OSU website for further details: <http://berrygrape.oregonstate.edu/news/events.htm>

## Calendar...continued

### 14-18 Hood River Classic Hunter/Jumper Horse

**Show**, Jensen Mills Meadow near Hood River.  
Information [www.hoodriverclassic.com](http://www.hoodriverclassic.com) or  
(541) 354-2009.

### 27 Orchard Bugs Twilight Meeting

Home Orchard Society Arboretum, Oregon City,  
5-8 p.m. For more information see their website at:  
<http://www.homeorchardsociety.org/events/>

### 29 OSU's Caneberry Open House

will be held at NWREC, Aurora starting at 2 PM. See OSU website for further details:  
<http://berrygrape.oregonstate.edu/news/events.htm>

## July

**12 OSU Blueberry Field Day** will be held at NWREC, Aurora from 1-5 PM. See website for further details:  
<http://berrygrape.oregonstate.edu/news/events.htm>

### 17-19 North American Lavender Conference

Sequim. Registration: (877) 681-3035, e-mail  
[info@lavenderconference.com](mailto:info@lavenderconference.com) or go to website  
[www.lavenderconference.com](http://www.lavenderconference.com).

### 28-30 SolWest Fair

Grant Co. Fairgrounds, John Day, Oregon. SolWest is an occasion for learning, networking, and supporting all types of renewable energy. Participants from around the western region and beyond come and learn about energy efficiency, solar and wind energy, alternatively fueled vehicles, and more. For more information see their website at:  
<http://www.solwest.org/>

## Coming Events

### 2006 Austin Family Business Program Conference

#### Family Business - Putting It in Practice May 9-10, 2006

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. The workshop 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](http://www.familybusinessonline.org/programs/workshop_calendar.aspx)

### New Educational Series Helps Entrepreneurs Create a Food Enterprise

The Food Innovation Center is offering an in-depth education series to help entrepreneurs start and run successful food businesses.

"The series expands the original half-day workshop to a comprehensive series that will provide detailed information and hands-on training to help those who are new to the food industry seriously evaluate their own food business opportunity," said Aaron Johnson, an Oregon State University food marketing specialist at the center.

The education series, "NW Food Business Start-up," begins on Thursday, May 11, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. at the Food Innovation Center, located at 1207 N.W. Naito Parkway in Portland. This first course will be an introduction to the food industry.

"In the second course, 'Creating a Food Business,' participants will explore marketing, research the business potential and determine the viability of their ideas before investing limited resources," Johnson explained. The course will also explore the world of food production and the regulatory process.

## Coming Events... continued

This second course is comprised of six sessions, each from 1 to 4:30 p.m., on May 25, June 8, June 22, July 13, July 27 and Aug. 10. Experts from OSU and the food industry will be available for one-on-one coaching throughout the class.

The fee for the introductory first course is \$100; the second course is \$950. To register online for the series, "NW Food Business Start-up," visit <http://oregonstate.edu/fic/nwfb>, or call the center at 503-872-6680. Space is limited. Online registration is preferred and has already begun.

The Food Innovation Center is a collaboration between OSU's Agricultural Experiment Station and the Oregon Department of Agriculture.



### **Build an Agriculture Marketing Plan**—*A WSU Extension Workshop*

Washington State University Extension has developed a two-day workshop aimed at developing and delivering an agricultural-based marketing plan to those attending. At the conclusion of the workshop each registrant will have the opportunity to take what they have learned and formulate their own Farm Marketing Plan and then be given a one-on-one consultation session with a marketing professional.

Sessions will be held Saturday, May 13 and Saturday, May 27 at the Everett Train Station, 3201 Smith Ave Everett, WA 98201. Advance registration is required. The fee for the two-day workshop and individual consulting session is \$50.00. To register contact: Linda Neunzig, WSU Extension Snohomish County, (360) 435-9304 or [neunzigl@wsu.edu](mailto:neunzigl@wsu.edu).

The specifics covered in the workshop will include promoting the farm as a business and building successful marketing strategies. Professionals will present options for creating a logo, making newsletters and brochures, using the media to promote a farm business and pricing strategies.

Following the presentations each attendee will create a marketing plan for their farm or their specific product. These plans will be reviewed by marketing professionals in one-on-one sessions where attendees will receive immediate feedback to their Farm Marketing Plan.

This program is a cooperative effort of Risk Management Agency, western Centers for Risk Management and WSU, Snohomish County Extension.

### **Wasco County Crops Tour**

Wasco County Oregon State University Extension Service, Soil and Water Conservation District, The Natural Resource and Conservation Service, Mid-Columbia Producers and Morrow County Grain Growers are hosting the 2006 Wasco County Crops Tour scheduled for Wednesday May 24, 2006 from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tour participants are asked to meet at The Dalles Auction yard on Highway 197, at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, to caravan out to the Pete Kelly Ranch.

This year's tour will include three stops. The first stop will be a field demonstration of two different undercutters, which are used to reduce soil moisture loss and weed control in small grains. In addition to field demonstrations of the undercutters, there will be discussions of soil moisture conservation by Dr Don Wysocki, OSU Soil Scientist, and Dr Bill Schillinger, WSU Agronomist, and a grower perspective in the use of undercutters in wheat production by Larry Coppock, Umatilla County Small Grains Producer. The second stop will be to view a field of ORSS1757, at the Clausen Ranch, OSU's new super soft wheat variety with a discussion by Raleigh Curtis, Mid-Columbia Producers Cooperative Manager about their marketing program for this variety. The third stop will be at Paul Shanno's to view his micronutrient trials on winter wheat.

For more information call Wasco County Extension at 541-296-5494 or the Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District at 541-298-8559 extension 3.

# 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 1151, Taxes and Assessments on Oregon Forestland and Timber**, revised March 2006, 24 pages, \$4.00 Authors: Norm Elwood and Chal Landgren  
<http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/EdMat/ec1151.pdf>

**EM 8905-E, Managing Manganese Deficiency in Nursery Production of Red Maple**, new March 2006, 8 pages, no charge (available online and from North Willamette Research & Extension Center, 503-678-1264, ext 46) Author: James Altland  
<http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/EdMat/em8905-e.pdf>

**EM 8907, Growing Walnuts in Oregon**, new March 2006, 8 pages, \$1.50 Author: Jeff Olsen  
<http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/EdMat/EM8907.pdf>

**EM 8777E-05, Results of Vegetable Variety Trials--2005**, revised March 2006, 60 pages, no charge (available only online)  
Authors: Peter Boches, Deborah Kean, Paul Kusolwa, and Jim Myers <http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/EdMat/em8777E-05.pdf>

**SR 790-05, 2005 Oregon County and State Agricultural Estimates**, revised April 2006, 16 pages, no charge (available online and from OSU Ag and Resource Economics, 541-737-2942, Author: Larry Burt  
<http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/agcomwebfile/EdMat/sr790-05.pdf>

## Other Publications

### ATTRA Publications

**Adding Value to Farm Products: An Overview:** This publication updated in 2006 discusses the concept of adding value to farm products, the differences between creating and capturing value, and the implications for value-added enterprises. It describes some different approaches to adding value, including starting a food processing business, with a brief look at nonfood

products. Resources to learn more about value-added agriculture and planning a value-added enterprise are included. Publication can be found at: [http://attra.ncat.org/calendar/new\\_pubs.php/2006/04/13/adding\\_value\\_to\\_farm\\_products\\_an\\_overvie](http://attra.ncat.org/calendar/new_pubs.php/2006/04/13/adding_value_to_farm_products_an_overvie)

**Nematodes: Alternative Controls.** This publication updated in 2006 provides general information on the tiny worm-like organisms called nematodes. It contains detailed descriptions of the genera of nematodes that attack plants, as well as various methods to diagnose, discourage, and manage plant parasitic nematodes in a least toxic, sustainable manner. Publication can be found at: [http://attra.ncat.org/calendar/new\\_pubs.php/2006/04/11/nematodes\\_alternative\\_controls](http://attra.ncat.org/calendar/new_pubs.php/2006/04/11/nematodes_alternative_controls)

**Measuring and Conserving Irrigation Water.** This new publication describes how to find the net water application rate for any irrigation system. It further explains how to calculate the number of hours the system should be operated, describes several ways to measure flowing water in an open channel or pipeline, and offers suggestions for irrigating with limited water supplies. Publication can be found at: [http://attra.ncat.org/calendar/new\\_pubs.php/2006/04/04/measuring\\_and\\_conserving\\_irrigation\\_wate](http://attra.ncat.org/calendar/new_pubs.php/2006/04/04/measuring_and_conserving_irrigation_wate)

**Soil Moisture Monitoring: Low-Cost Tools and Methods.** Irrigators who monitor soil moisture levels in the field greatly increase their ability to conserve water and energy, optimize crop yields, and avoid soil erosion and water pollution. This new 2006 publication explains how soils hold water and surveys some low-cost soil moisture monitoring tools and methods, including a new generation of sophisticated and user-friendly electronic devices. Publication can be found at: [http://attra.ncat.org/calendar/new\\_pubs.php/2006/04/04/soil\\_moisture\\_monitoring\\_low\\_cost\\_tools\\_](http://attra.ncat.org/calendar/new_pubs.php/2006/04/04/soil_moisture_monitoring_low_cost_tools_)

**Cole Crops and Other Brassicas: Organic Production.** Cole crops and other brassicas are grown throughout the U.S. These crops are an excellent choice for many organic farmers because of the variety of crops in this family, their nutritional qualities, health benefits, compatibility in planting rotations, and pest-suppressive qualities. This new 2006 publication covers soils, fertility, planting, irrigation, pest management, harvesting and marketing for cole crops. Publication can be found at: [http://attra.ncat.org/calendar/new\\_pubs.php/2006/03/11/](http://attra.ncat.org/calendar/new_pubs.php/2006/03/11/)



## Resources... continued

### **WSU Publications**

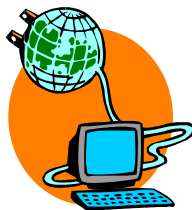
**New Alternative Fruit Crops for Western Washington.** Many of the alternative fruit crops presented in this bulletin were initially tested for suitability to the home grower. There are several questions to be answered when looking for new crops that have the potential to be profitable; this bulletin will help answer some of those questions. To download this bulletin for free or purchase a hard copy at <http://cru84.cahe.wsu.edu/cgi-bin/pubs/EB2002.html>

### **USDA SARE**

The Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) announces the release of "Manage Insects on Your Farm: A Guide to Ecological Strategies," a primer designed to help farmers improve their farms natural defenses against insect pests. Download a complete copy of "Manage Insects on Your Farm" at [www.sare.org/publications/insect.htm](http://www.sare.org/publications/insect.htm) for free. To order print copies visit [www.sare.org/WebStore](http://www.sare.org/WebStore), or call 301.374.9696.

### **Web Pages**

The OSU Wasco County and WSU Klickitat County Extension Offices have completed their series of six farm management resource newsletters titled "**Farm and Ranch Survival Kit**" which are listed on the Mid-Columbia Small Farms website which can be found at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco/smallfarms/RiskManagement.php>



Resource newsletter topics available on the website include:

- ✦ [Issue 1 - Business Planning](#)
- ✦ [Issue 2 - Financial Planning](#)
- ✦ [Issue 3 - Interpersonal Relations](#)
- ✦ [Issue 4 - Farm Succession](#)
- ✦ [Issue 5 - Taxes & Insurance Planning](#)
- [Issue 6 - Marketing](#)

For more information concerning the newsletters please contact either the Wasco County Extension Office at 541-296-5494 or the Klickitat County Extension Office at 509-773-5817.

### **Newsletters**

Here is the latest issue of **Northwest Gardeners<sup>1</sup> eNews**, an online newsletter from OSU Extension and Experiment Station Communications. This month, they have included plenty of information about short season vegetable gardening, with links to OSU Extension Service publications that your clients can download or order. Next month, they are featuring native plant gardening.

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

**Central Washington Round-Up.** WSU Extension's Central Washington Animal Agriculture Team has published the first issue of a quarterly electronic newsletter, the focused on food animal agriculture. The quarterly newsletter can be accessed at the Team website (<http://animal.wsu.edu>).

Latest Issue of the University of Wyoming "**Enterprising Rural Families** is now available at: <http://eruralfamilies.org/>

### **Financial Resources**

#### **Western SARE Announces 2007 Request for Applications**

Applications for grants in sustainable agriculture are now being accepted by the Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program. More than \$2 million will be disbursed early next year in this latest round of competitive grants in the categories Research and Education, Professional Development, Farmer/Rancher, Professional + Producer and Graduate Student.

Requests for applications and grant deadlines are available on the Western SARE website at <http://wsare.usu.edu>, by calling (435) 797-2257 or by emailing [wsare@ext.usu.edu](mailto:wsare@ext.usu.edu).

The grants explore, develop and promote some aspect of agricultural sustainability, which embraces profitable farms and ranches, a healthy environment and strong families and communities.

## Feature Articles

### Washington and Oregon State Laws Protect Tree Fruits

By: *Susan Kerr, Klickitat County Extension Agent*  
*Brian Tuck, Wasco County Extension Agent*

#### Washington State Laws

The Klickitat County Horticultural Pest and Disease Control Board informs and/or reminds all county residents that our county's commercial fruit growers need your cooperation to control destructive horticultural pests and diseases. Washington State law requires landowners to control destructive pests and diseases of fruit trees and host ornamentals on their property.

Many pests and diseases can devastate fruit trees. Two examples are Apple Maggot and Codling Moth. Apple Maggot makes apples inedible. Unsprayed trees pose a very serious threat to neighboring trees. The primary hosts for Apple Maggots are hawthorn and apple trees, but Apple Maggots can be found in crab apples, plums, apricots, pears, cherries and rose hips. A female Codling Moth can lay over 100 eggs on foliage or fruit. After worms hatch, they eat into the fruit and destroy it. Other pests and diseases of concern include Cherry Fruit Fly, San Jose Scale, Pear Psylla, Pandemis and Fire Blight.

The only sure way to control pests and diseases on fruit trees is to spray them with insecticides and other products. This usually requires one early spray plus many more sprays, depending on what products are used. If tree owners do not have the equipment to do this, they will need to hire a reputable pest control spray service. Tree or fruit removal is another option.

If fruit tree owners do not control fruit tree pests and diseases on their trees, these pests can spread to neighbors' trees and commercial orchards where they can cause serious economic damage. If this occurs, the other tree owner or grower can lodge a complaint with the Klickitat County Horticultural Pest and Disease Board. If it is determined that a landowner is not controlling pests or diseases on their fruit trees, the landowner will be asked to do so by a representative of the Board. If necessary, a commercial pesticide applicator can be hired by the Board to spray the trees at the landowner's expense. According to RCWs, a lien may be placed on the property to ensure payment for the service.

To start a pest control program, obtain information on pesticides and spray timing from WSU Extension-Klickitat County and spray on a regular schedule. Another option is to remove existing fruit trees and not plant new trees.

Before landowners plant new fruit trees or if they have existing fruit trees on their property, they should understand and accept the legal responsibilities that accompany this ownership. Owners of fruit trees and host ornamentals must be able to give these plants the legally-mandated attention needed throughout the year. For more information on Apple Maggot see WSU Extension Bulletin 1928, "Protecting Backyard Apple Trees from Apple Maggot," available on-line at <http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb1928/EB1928.pdf> or from WSU-Klickitat County Extension, 228 W. Main St., MS-CH-12, Goldendale, WA 98620, 509-773-5817. For more information on caring for fruit trees, visit <http://treefruit.yakima.wsu.edu> or [www.ncw.wsu.edu/treefruit/index.html](http://www.ncw.wsu.edu/treefruit/index.html) or <http://pep.wsu.edu/hortsense>. For more information on Washington State Pest Boards, see Chapter RCW 15.09, Horticultural Pest and Disease Board, at [www.leg.wa.gov/rcw/index.cfm?fuseaction=chapter&chapter=15.09](http://www.leg.wa.gov/rcw/index.cfm?fuseaction=chapter&chapter=15.09).

#### Oregon State Laws

In Oregon, cherry and apple trees are required to be sprayed for pests in certain counties (consult your local OSU Extension Offices to see if your county requires you to spray your trees). In Wasco and Hood River Counties, if you own a cherry tree you are required to spray for cherry fruit fly once it comes into production. Spraying begins in the spring once notification of hatch is announced in the local newspapers and continue spraying until fruit is harvested from the tree.

Spraying in Oregon is also required for Apple Maggot on apple trees in Hood River and Wasco Counties again once they come into production.

For more information concerning spraying your cherry and apple trees and recommended insecticides, please contact your local OSU Extension Office.

## Feature Articles...continued

### CWAAT e-newsletter April 2006

*The following are two articles of concern for area livestock producers as we move into the spring*

#### **Selected Livestock Spring Health Concerns - Coccidiosis**

This parasitic disease can happen year round, but it mostly affects young animals and these are usually born in the spring. Coccidia organisms are species specific, which means that they don't spread between pigs and cattle, for example. They are also extremely hardy, which means that once a premise experiences a case of coccidiosis, the premise should be considered perpetually infected.

Signs of coccidiosis vary between species. Typical signs include poor growth, rough hair coat, pot-bellied appearance, failure to thrive, loose to bloody stool and even death. Diagnosis is by fecal sample analysis.

Animals can be affected from about one to 12 months but most typically those that show signs of illness are animals about weaning age. Affected animals may be permanently stunted and become poor do-ers. Coccidiosis is rare in adults due to immunity that eventually develops.

Coccidia are protozoa and are not killed by routine dewormers. Clinically ill animals need to receive treatment either through a water source or by oral drenching for several days in a row. The good news is that this disease can be prevented. Medications can be added to grain mixes, salt source or minerals to provide a low-level of coccidiosis prevention during the period of concern. Good manure management and sanitation practices also have a place in control of coccidiosis. NOTE: Do not feed medications with coccidiosis preventative medication (e.g. monensin) to any members of the horse or poultry families.

For more information:

<http://osuextra.okstate.edu/pdfs/F-9129web.pdf>  
<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/LVSTK2/MF2209.PDF>

#### **Selected Livestock Spring Health Concerns Grass Tetany**

Grass tetany or grass staggers is another common springtime disease of livestock, especially cattle. The cause is debatable. For simplicity, this condition will be described here as low blood levels of magnesium in affected animals due to low levels or low availability of magnesium in feed or poor absorption by the animal.

Lush spring growth may have low magnesium content and therefore be associated with this disease. However, grass tetany can occur if cattle are ingesting too much potassium, are deficient in salt or the diet is changed rapidly from hay to lush pasture.

Animals with abnormally-low blood magnesium levels may appear fine until stressed by calving, movement or transportation. Mildly affected animals will twitch their face and ears, carry their tail up, walk with a stiff "goosestep" and act more wary or wild than usual. As the condition worsens, animals become more excited. They may bellow, stagger and appear blind. Without treatment, affected animals go down and begin a repetitive, stiff-legged paddling motion with all four legs. Death is likely without prompt treatment and down animals may do serious secondary injury to themselves. Indeed, most livestock producers realize they have an "outbreak" of grass tetany when they find dead animals that have paddled into the dirt before they died.

Treatment consists of intravenous magnesium preparations. Due to potentially-fatal cardiac complications, treatment should be administered by a veterinarian. Restraint is critical because unlike the near-coma induced by milk fever, grass tetany cows can be hyperexcitable and dangerous.

To prevent grass tetany, supplement winter hay and early spring pasture with magnesium oxide in salt, mineral or grain mixes. Make sure that every animal ingests about two ounces of magnesium oxide each day. Molasses magnesium blocks are specifically made to prevent grass tetany; they are handy but expensive. Also feed hay before animals are let out on lush spring pastures to transition them over to pasture slowly.

For more information:

<http://www.caf.wvu.edu/~forage/3216.htm>  
<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/lvstk2/MF976.PDF>  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/DS137>  
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