



# Mid-Columbia Small Farms & Acreage Newsletter

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Dear Small Farmer and Landowner,

Welcome to the October – December Issue of the Small Farms and Acreage Newsletter. Due to unforeseen budget and time constraints we had to combine the Sept-Oct., and Nov-Dec., newsletters. We hope this will not cause any inconvenience to any of our readers. We truly appreciate your understanding during this time of change in our office. In this issue, we have a very interesting article written by WSU King County Extension Faculty about the how to save fuel costs on the farm and the use of biofuels and some great resources for additional information. This will be of real interest with the escalating fuel costs that we are all facing. I have also included a second article on Fall/Winter Pasture Management Tips to provide folks with some good ideas of how to maximize the productivity of their pastures and get them ready for the winter and next springs green up.

Also, as noted in the calendar of events section, there are lots of great programs coming up this fall in the region. We really encourage folks to take some time to look over the calendar of events section of the 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

Lastly, I have included an article concerning the proposed Wasco County 4-H and Extension Service District. This article provides a brief overview of the proposed service district and the types of programs that are currently provided by the Wasco County Extension Office. The proposed service district, if approved by Wasco County Voters in the November 7 2006 general election, would provide stable long-term funding for Wasco County Extension Programs.



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

# Calendar of Events

## 2006 October

### 12-14 Washington State Beekeepers Assoc.

**State Convention**, Best Western Lakeway Inn, Bellingham. Information: 425-527-4250  
[www.wasba.org](http://www.wasba.org)

### 12-14 Science Summit: The Human Impact,

sponsored by Columbia Gorge Community College, Columbia Gorge Discovery Center and Oregon State University. Please see "Coming Events" section of the newsletter for more detailed information.

### 14 Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation Fall Field Day & Open House, Mt Vernon, WA

9:00 AM- 3:00 PM, Classes on best fruit varieties harvest techniques, fruit preservation and storage, orchard mason bees, fertilizer and nutrition, home wine and cider production, fruit tasting. For more information please see their website at:

[www.wwfrf.org](http://www.wwfrf.org)

### 14-15 Home Orchard Society All About Fruit Show.

This is HOS's big annual event, and you don't want to miss it. Taste hundreds of varieties of apples, pears, and other fruit. Workshops, advice, order trees, and lots more. For more details:  
<http://www.homeorchardsociety.org/events/>

### 23-25 Agriculture and Water Quality in the

**Pacific Northwest Conference**, Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, Wash. Information:  
[www.agwaterqualitynw.org](http://www.agwaterqualitynw.org).

### 24-25 National Hay Forage Conference,

Spokane. Info and registration: 888-403-4778.

### 26 Pesticide Management in Tree Fruit:

**Maximizing Benefits, Minimizing Risks**, Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, The Dalles. 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Information: [isnap.oregonstate.edu](http://isnap.oregonstate.edu) or 541-737-2683.

### 26-29 Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers National Conference and Trade Show, San Jose,

CA. For more information see their website at:  
<http://www.ascfg.org/images/stories/sjbrochure.pdf>

### 27-29 WSU Extension Master Goat Farmer Clinic,

Puyallup. Information: 360-397-6060 ext. 7714  
or e-mail [garyf@wsu.edu](mailto:garyf@wsu.edu).

### 31 How to Establish and Grow a Living Spray and Wind Barrier Workshop.

Sponsored by Wy'East RC&D and Wasco Co. SWCD, USDA Service Center (2325 River Rd., The Dalles), 1-3pm. This workshop is part of a series aimed at educating producers on how to qualify/stay qualified for USDA farm programs. FREE.  
Registration: 541-296-6178, Ext. 3

## November

**2 Poultry Institute**, sponsored by WSU Avian Health and Safety Laboratory. Day long. Topics include Avian influenza and controlling the disease, biosecurity and vaccinations, egg production, brooding practices broiler chickens among others.

**2-4 Oregon Cattlemen's Association Annual  
Convention and Trade Show**, Eagle Crest Resort, Redmond. Information: 503-361-8941.

**3 Supply Chain Management for Sustainable  
Restaurant and Foodservice Operations  
Workshop**, Portland, OR. Call 800-824-2714 or visit [www.sustainuoregon.edu](http://www.sustainuoregon.edu)

**3-4 Washington State Sheep Producers' Annual  
Convention**, Yakima Red Lion Hotel, Yakima. Registration information: 509-968-9320 or e-mail [wssp@elltel.net](mailto:wssp@elltel.net).

**7 Making IPM Work for Your Farm: Practical  
Guidance on Decision-Making and Risk  
Reduction**, Yamhill County Extension Office. Information: [isnap.oregonstate.edu](http://isnap.oregonstate.edu) or 541-737-2683

**8-9 Integrated Pest and Nutrient Management  
Options: Practices and Tools to Protect Water  
Quality and Enhance Crop Yields Workshop**, Oregon State University, Corvallis. \$150  
Information: [isnap.oregonstate.edu](http://isnap.oregonstate.edu) or 541-737-2683

### 10 Farming for Food Quality, Red Lion at the Quay, Vancouver, WA

In conjunction with the Tilth Producers Annual Conference Co-sponsored by WSU CSANR, OSU, Washington Tilth and CF Fresh. Emphasis on factors that influence food quality, including crop genetics and production practices. For more information:  
<http://csanr.wsu.edu/calendar/details.asp?event=522>

## Calendar...continued

**10-12 The Future of Farming: Tilth Producers of Washington Annual Conference**, Red Lion at the Quay, Vancouver, WA Info: Contact Nancy Allen, 206-442-7620, or email: [nancy@tilthproducers.org](mailto:nancy@tilthproducers.org) or [www.tilthproducers.org/conference.htm](http://www.tilthproducers.org/conference.htm) Also see "Coming Events" section of this newsletter.

**15-17 Food Product Short Course**, 8:00 - 5:00 Wiegand Hall, Oregon State University, Corvallis, [http://oregonstate.edu/dept/foodsci/extservices/foodprod\\_dev\\_regform.htm](http://oregonstate.edu/dept/foodsci/extservices/foodprod_dev_regform.htm) or e-mail Debby Yacas, [Deborah.yacas@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Deborah.yacas@oregonstate.edu), or 800.823.2357. Please see "Coming Events" section for more details.

**17-18 Oregon Tilth Fall Conference – Feeding The Future**, Salem Conference Center. [www.tilth.org](http://www.tilth.org), 503-378-0690 or e-mail [organic@tilth.org](mailto:organic@tilth.org) Please see "Coming Events" section of the newsletter for more detailed information.

**28 Developing Fair and Equitable Dryland Lease Arrangements Workshop**, Goldendale at the PUD building, 1313 S. Columbus Ave., 2 to 5 PM. Info: WSU-Klickitat County Extension at 509-773-5817 or [klickitat@wsu.edu](mailto:klickitat@wsu.edu). Please see "Coming Events" section of the newsletter for more details.

**30 Farm Succession and Estate Planning Workshop**, 6-9 pm, Columbia Gorge Community College, The Dalles, OR. \$10.00 per person. Registration options: <http://www.bizcenter.org/Document/7153/> or CGCC (506-6013) or Wasco County Extension Office at 541-296-5494. Please see "Coming Events" section of this newsletter for more detailed information.

### December

**6 Organics and Plant Pathogen Suppression Workshop**, 9 am to 4 pm, Brockey Center at South Seattle Community College, Seattle, WA. Info: [www.compostwashington.org](http://www.compostwashington.org). Please see "Coming Events" section of the newsletter for more details.

**6-8 Pacific Northwest Grains Conference**, Doubletree Inn, Lloyd Center, Portland. Information: [www.idahograin.org](http://www.idahograin.org) or call 800-598-6890.

### January

**14-17 Northwest Food Manufacturing and Packaging Expo**, Oregon Convention Center, Portland. Info: [www.nwfpa.org](http://www.nwfpa.org) or 503-327-2200.

**31-Feb 1 Northwest Ag Show**, Portland, Oregon.

## Coming Events

**Science Summit: The Human Impact**  
Columbia Gorge Community College, Columbia Gorge Discovery Center and Oregon State University are sponsoring a series of excellent and free workshops. For additional information 541-506-6043

☀**Thursday, October 12,**

**7:00 – 8:30 pm, CGCC Auditorium:**

Dr. Fred Prahl and Dr. Bob Collier (Professors of Chemical Oceanography, Oregon State University) will conduct a public presentation on the Columbia River and its estuary in which they will discuss the range of natural processes and human influences that impact physical, biological, and chemical change in the waters of this great Pacific Northwest resource. Human impact may include pollutants entering the Columbia from agricultural runoff, sewage, and Hanford. In discussion following the presentation, we can consider how to deal with these issues: What can we do as individuals? What can we do as businesses? What can we do as a community?

☀**Friday, October 13,**

**7:00 – 8:30 pm, CGCC Auditorium:**

Dr. Michael Harte (Professor and Director, Marine Resource Management Program, Oregon State University; Oregon Sea Grant Extension Specialist) and Dr. Bob Collier (Professor of Chemical Oceanography, Oregon State University) will address the issue of climate change, global warming and the Pacific Northwest. They will be looking at this topical issue from a local as well as global perspective and proposing answers to some of the more gritty questions surrounding it. For example, what are the "facts" that we know about global warming? Can we see it? What does it mean? Where will it lead? How does it affect us locally, as a nation, as a planet, as a human being?

## Coming Events...continued

### ☀ **Saturday, October 14,** **9:00 – 11:00 am, Columbia Gorge Discovery Center** **(meet on the front steps)**

On the final day of the summit, we have arranged for participants to take part in a native plant restoration field project at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center. Ken Karsmizki (Executive Director, Discovery Center) and Josh Thompson (Conservation Planner, Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District) will lead participants through a hands-on planting project in which we will learn something about invasive species, while learning how to reintroduce and foster native species. Project participants will have the opportunity to dig in and plant native plants that will be there for years to come. We ask that individuals register for the field project so that we can have the proper amount of tools and plants. Registered participants will receive lunch free of charge.

### **11:30 – 1:00 pm, Columbia Gorge Discovery Center** **(auditorium)**

Following the field project, we will have a discussion and visual presentation in the auditorium of the Discovery Center in which Ken Karsmizki and Josh Thompson will be joined by Jim Gores (Invasive Species and Wildlife Integrity Coordinator, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife). The presenters will discuss how invasive species, plant and animal, arrive in certain areas, what damage they can do, how can we help to limit their spread, and what actions are being taken by agencies to eradicate these problem plants and animals.

### **1:00 – 2:00 pm, Columbia Gorge Discovery Center** **(Basalt Rock Café)**

After the presentation, lunch (build your own taco bar) will be available in the Basalt Rock Café. Lunch is available for all (\$10.95 per person); however, it is *free* to those individuals who registered and participated in the morning's native plant restoration project.

## **Understanding Your Business** **Financial Statements**

Columbia Gorge Community College Small Business Development Center offers "Understanding Your Business Financial Statements" in Moro, Condon and Fossil. The workshops will be held at the following sites:

**\*Sherman County Senior Center** in Moro, Oregon, Monday, October 23rd, 1:30 - 3:30 pm. and Business Counseling from 9 am to noon

**\*Wheeler County Family Services Building**, 401 Fourth Street, Fossil, Oregon, Tuesday, October 24th, 9:30 to 11:30 am

**\*Condon's Twist and Shake**, (Formerly JB's Drive In), Condon, Oregon, Tuesday, October 24, 12:30—2:30 pm

Space is limited! Reserve your spot by calling 541-506-6011 Workshop registration fee: \$29 Checks and credit cards accepted at the door.

## **The Future of Farming**

Tilth Producers of Washington's Annual Conference, *The Future of Farming*, will be held Nov. 10-12, 2006 at the Red Lion at the Quay in Vancouver, Washington. The conference will build on three decades of efforts to transform agriculture in Washington State. Participants will present ideas, celebrate accomplishments and further strengthen the Tilth sustainable agriculture movement in the Pacific Northwest.

Friday's day-long Washington State University Symposium, *Farming for Food Quality*, will raise awareness of the agricultural factors that influence food quality, including crop genetics and production practices. Friday evening brings a no-host reception, dinner, and workshops on Water Law and the 2007 U.S. Farm Bill.

Saturday begins with a keynote address, *Bringing the Food Economy Home*, by Helena Norberg-Hodge, a leading analyst on the impact of the global economy on cultures and agriculture world wide. An interactive plenary session, *Creating a Regional Food System*, follows the keynote address on Saturday morning.

Workshops on Saturday afternoon and Sunday include: Organic Dairy Production, Decisions Facing Beginning Farmers, Creative Value Added Marketing, Agricultural Labor and Sustainability, Beekeeping, Disease Diagnosis, Soil Fertility, Choosing the Correct Varieties of Berries for Your Farm, Alternative Pest Management, Record Keeping for Greater Farm Profitability and Organic Certification, Organic Blueberry Production: The Good, The Bad and the Mummy, Seed Saving, Creating a Locally-Based Regional Food System, Managing the Liability and Risks of Direct Farm Marketing, Herbs in the Diversified Small Farm, Irrigation Fundamentals, Extending the Seasons: Structures and Plant Manipulation, Renewing the Food Traditions of Salmon Nation.  
Info: [www.tilthproducers.org](http://www.tilthproducers.org) OR 206 442-7620.

## Coming Events... continued

### Food Product Development

This short course provides attendees a "throughout" exercise in food product development with emphasis on the technical aspects of product development.

Participants will work from product concepts to processing in a pilot plant; from product ideal (based on provided raw materials), formulation, equipment, processing procedures, packaging design and labeling to hands-on pilot plant processing and quality analysis of the final products.

The course will be held November 15-17, 2006 from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm in room 238 Wiegand Hall, OSU Campus, Corvallis, Oregon State University. Cost for early registrants is \$300 if registered BY Nov. 1, 2006; Late - \$350 if registered AFTER Nov. 1, 2006

You may register online at [http://oregonstate.edu/dept/foodsci/extservices/foodprod\\_dev\\_regform.htm](http://oregonstate.edu/dept/foodsci/extservices/foodprod_dev_regform.htm)

For more information contact Debby Yacas, [Deborah.yacas@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Deborah.yacas@oregonstate.edu), or 800-823-2357

### NW Conference To Focus on Growth of Organic Production

Organic food production and sustainable production practices are at the forefront of innovation and are imperative to the health and success of our communities. Organic continues to be the fastest growing segment of the food industry with a growth rate of over 20% annually. Organic products are being made more readily available to consumers and the demand continues to skyrocket.

Oregon Tilth will be hosting their Annual Fall Conference in Salem, OR to discuss the issues surrounding this growth while also offering tools for consumers, producers and industry to continue to be successful as the industry grows. The conference, Feeding the Future, will be held Friday and Saturday November 17th and 18th at the Salem Conference Center in downtown Salem, OR.

This two day event will include informative workshops on diverse topics such as organic dairy production, direct marketing of organic products, urban organic gardening, nutritional value of organic foods, recent discoveries in molecular biology and more. The keynote speaker, Samuel Fromartz, will explore his business theories around the continued growth of a cultural movement, organic food.

Workshop presenters include many professionals involved in local and national food policy, diverse sustainable farming experts, regional leaders in organic production and university and private researchers.

The conference starts Friday November 17th at 9:00 am with all day symposiums and ending with organic wine tasting and awards dinner, Saturday November 18th starts with the Oregon Tilth Annual Meeting and keynote session followed by a full day of workshops and tabling fair.

For full program or registration information please visit <http://www.tilth.org/conference/index.html>

For more information or questions contact: Oregon Tilth Tel: (503) 378-0690 Fax: (503) 378-0809

Website: [www.tilth.org](http://www.tilth.org)

### Developing Fair Dryland Leases

Dryland agricultural producers are well aware of the fact that their profit margins are shrinking every year. However, their standard lease agreements have not reflected increased costs of production and decreased prices of products.

"Standard lease agreements are out of date and if tenant producers are going to survive, many of these lease agreements are going to have to be modified," said Herb Hinman, WSU Extension Farm Management Specialist. Dr. Hinman has developed a three-hour program for dryland producers and landowners to work together to create fair and equitable dryland lease agreements. Results from prior presentations in multiple counties indicate that for the first time in years, producers were able to negotiate significant changes in their lease arrangements.

Locally, the Developing Fair and Equitable Dryland Lease Arrangements workshop will be held in Goldendale at the PUD building, 1313 S. Columbus Ave., on Nov. 28, 2 to 5 PM. This program will be free and open to the public; no pre-registration is required. Light refreshments will be available.

For more information about the workshop, contact WSU-Klickitat County Extension at 509-773-5817 or [klickitat@wsu.edu](mailto:klickitat@wsu.edu). Special accommodation for disability needs to be requested in advance.

## Coming Events...continued

### Farm Succession and Estate Planning Workshops Scheduled

A workshop designed to help area farm families write succession plans and do estate planning will be held on Nov. 30 at Columbia Gorge Community College in The Dalles, OR. The program will be held on the third floor of Building 2, in the auditorium. Registration will open at 5:30 PM and the program will be held from 6 to 9 PM. Sandwiches and other refreshments will be available.

The program is sponsored by the Western Center for Risk Management Education (WCRME), Columbia Gorge Community College Small Business Development Center and OSU/WSU Extension. It will consist of two three-hour sessions offered a month apart at the same location. Topics for the first session will include the reasons for developing a farm succession plan, consequences of not having a plan, ways to communicate successfully with all family members, what professional input is needed, an overview of relevant state laws and sharing of local resources. Topics for the second session include understanding estate laws, holding a successful family meeting and getting through hurdles that arise in the process.

“The average age of farmers across eastern Washington and Oregon is 54 and many don’t have written farm succession plans,” said Diana Roberts, an agronomist for WSU Extension and director of this WCRME-sponsored farm succession planning program. “We know that estate planning is a daunting process for families,” said Roberts. “Each family committed to developing a farm succession plan will receive the help of a trained coach who will work with them over the next year and will help them stay on task to complete the plan.”

This workshop is one of a series being offered across eastern Washington and Oregon this fall and winter by Washington State University Extension and the Oregon State University Extension Service. For those who are interested in but unable to attend the workshop in The Dalles, here are the dates and locations of the other workshops (note: registration costs and details will vary at each site):

Nov. 2 -- Spokane County Extension Education Ctr.  
 Nov. 29 -- Walla Walla Regional Airport  
 Nov. 30 -- Hermiston Farm Fair  
 Dec. 13 -- Ritzville Wheat Foundation Building

Dec. 14 -- Wenatchee

Registration for the program in The Dalles, OR is \$10 per person and is due by Nov. 27. You may register using a credit card by calling Columbia Gorge Community College at 541-506-6011 or mailing a check made out to CGCC to 400 E. Scenic Dr., The Dalles, OR, 97058. The class registration number is 1073526. For more information about the workshop, contact WSU-Klickitat County Extension at 509-773-5817 or [klickitat@wsu.edu](mailto:klickitat@wsu.edu) or OSU-Wasco County Extension Service at 541-296-5494 or [Brian.Tuck@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Brian.Tuck@oregonstate.edu).

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 or 541-296-5494 in advance of the program. If accommodation is not requested in advance, we cannot guarantee the availability of accommodation on-site.

### Organics and Plant Pathogen Suppression

The Organics and Plant Pathogen Suppression Workshop will be held December 6, 2006, 9 am-4pm, at Brockey Conference Center at South Seattle Community College

Featured speaker is Dr. Harry Hoitink, Professor Emeritus at Ohio State University, a nationally recognized expert in the field of plant pathology and disease suppression. Dr. Hoitink will be providing two keynote presentations; one on compost process controls and their effect on beneficial microbial activity and product quality and another on production composts that provide consistent broad-spectrum plant disease suppressive properties. Additional presentations by Rita Hummel and Andy Bary from WSU on their Urban Compost in the Landscape Project and presentations on disease suppression in agriculture.

This event is an exceptional learning opportunity for composters, horticulturalists, orchardists, organic farmers or anyone utilizing organics in sustainable agricultural programs. For more information:

# 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 1582, Timber Harvesting Options for Woodland Owners** New August 2006, 8 pages, \$2.50  
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1582.pdf>

**EM 8914-E, 'Sacajawea' Hazelnut** (OSU 540.130) Available only online New July 2006, 3 pages, no charge  
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/em/em8914-e.pdf>

**EM 8913-E, Feed Management as a Tool for Balancing Nutrients on Dairies and Other Livestock Operations** New July 2006, 4 pages, no charge  
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/em/em8913-e.pdf>

**PNW 589-E, Iron in Drinking Water** New June 2006, 4 pages, no charge  
<http://info.ag.uidaho.edu/pdf/pnw/pnw589.pdf>

**EM 8898, Integrated Pest Management Resource Guide** New June 2006, 44 pages, \$5.00  
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/em/em8898.pdf>

**EC 1551-E, Stop Germs: Wash Your Hands** Available only online. Reprinted June 2006, 4 pages, no charge  
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1551-e.pdf>

**EC 1551-S-E, Stop Germs: Wash Your Hands--Spanish translation** Available only online. New June 2006, 4 pages, no charge  
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1551-s-e.pdf>

**EC 1552-E, Stop Germs: Kitchen Clean-Up** Available only online. Reprinted June 2006, 4 pages, no charge  
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1552-e.pdf>

**EC 1552-S-E, Stop Germs: Kitchen Clean-Up--Spanish translation** Available only online. New June 2006, 4 pages, no charge  
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1552-s-e.pdf>

**EC 1553-E Stop Germs: Kitchen Mistakes** Available only online. Reprinted June 2006, 4 pages, no charge  
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1553-e.pdf>

**EC 1554-S-E, Stop Germs: Kitchen Mistakes--Spanish translation** Available only online. New June 2006, 4 pages, no charge  
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1553-s-e.pdf>

**EC 1200, Forestry Issues and Public Policy: An Action Guide for Woodland Owners**  
 Authors: Max Bennett, Paul Adams, Norm Elwood  
 Revised August 2006, 16 pages, \$3.00 <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1200.pdf>

**EC 1583, The Wildlife Garden: Chickadee (Poecile atricapilla)** New September 2006, 4 pages, \$1.00  
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1583.pdf>

**EC 1584, The Wildlife Garden: Little Brown Bat (Myotis lucifugus)**  
 New September 2006, 4 pages, \$1.00  
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1584.pdf>

**EM 8745, Backyard Woodlands: Caring for Trees, Forests, Water, and Wildlife on Small Forested Acreage** Preview only online. .Revised August 2006, 557 pages, \$54.00 <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/em/em8745.pdf>

### ATTRA Publications

#### **Meat Goats: Sustainable Production**

This publication updated in 2006 offers information specific to the rapidly growing field of meat goat production, and should be read in conjunction with the companion publication, **Goats: Sustainable Production Overview**. This document discusses topics including selection, breeds, marketing, feeding, profitability and other topics. It includes sample budgets, case studies, and many further resources. This publication can be found at: <http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/meatgoat.pdf>

## Resources... continued

### **Ethanol Opportunities and Questions**

Ethanol is a valuable alternative to petroleum-based transportation fuels. This publication offers a brief and non-technical description of how ethanol is made, explains some of its uses and advantages, discusses several common questions about ethanol, and offers suggestions for further reading. Ethanol can provide significant environmental benefits, can be produced sustainably from renewable sources, and lends itself to local and regional production. Emerging technologies that produce ethanol from cellulosic feedstocks are discussed, as well as economic opportunities for American farmers and rural communities. References and resource listings follow the narrative. This publication can be found at: <http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/ethanol.pdf>

### **Energy Saving Tips for Irrigators**

This new 2006 publication describes ways that irrigators can save energy to reduce irrigation costs. It describes recommended irrigation system installations, explains how utilities charge their irrigation customers for electricity and describes common causes of wasted energy, as well as common energy-saving hardware improvements. It also includes a do-it-yourself method to estimate the efficiency of electrically powered irrigation systems. A listing of resources follows the narrative. This publication can be found at: [http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/energytips\\_irrig.pdf](http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/energytips_irrig.pdf)

### **Maintaining Irrigation Pumps, Motors, and Engines**

This new 2006 publication explains how to maintain irrigation pumps, motors, and engines for peak efficiency. The publication includes descriptions and diagrams of recommended installations, checklists for maintenance tasks, and a troubleshooting guide. Each system component is treated separately and maintenance tasks are broken down by how frequently they need to be done. This publication can be found at: [http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/maintaining\\_pumps.pdf](http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/maintaining_pumps.pdf)

### **Organic Allium Production**

Alliums are a cool-season crop grown in most regions of the U.S. This publication updated in 2006 addresses commercial culinary alliums, except garlic. A brief history of the onion is presented and some of the major varieties, growing regions, and types of bulbs are presented. Marketing and economic considerations of the varieties of dehydrator and fresh bulb onions are also discussed. Production and processing issues are briefly

reviewed, as are crops such as shallots and leeks. Soils, climate, and planting considerations are also discussed. Weed management and an overview of major pests and their control are also presented. Post-harvest handling and storage issues are mentioned along with a brief review of current research. This publication can be found at: <http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/allium.pdf>

### **Beef Marketing Alternatives**

This publication updated in 2006 explores marketing alternatives for small-scale cattle ranchers who would like to add value to the beef they produce. Part One discusses methods to add value within the conventional marketing system, including retained ownership and cooperative marketing. Part Two introduces alternative marketing strategies, including niche markets for “natural,” lean, and organic beef. Production considerations for pasture-finished beef are given special attention. A section on direct marketing focuses on connecting with consumers and developing a product. Processing and legal issues are also covered. This publication also provides information on developing prices for retail beef based on wholesale prices and desired mark-up, and for determining carcass value. A list of resources provides suggestions for further reading, contact information for several producers and marketers of “alternative” beef, and Web pages of interest. This publication can be found at: <http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/altbeef.pdf>

### **Aquaponics—Integration of Hydroponics with Aquaculture**

Aquaponics is a bio-integrated system that links recirculating aquaculture with hydroponic vegetable, flower, and/or herb production. Recent advances by researchers and growers alike have turned aquaponics into a working model of sustainable food production. This publication updated in 2006 provides an introduction to aquaponics with brief profiles of working units around the country. An extensive list of resources point the reader to print and Web-based educational materials for further technical assistance. This publication can be found at: <http://www.attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/aquaponic.pdf>

### **Poultry: Equipment for Alternative Production**

This new 2006 publication describes some of the basic equipment needed for small-scale chicken flocks, especially flocks on range. Major topics are addressed in detail, including watering and feeding equipment, fencing considerations, and roosting and nesting boxes.

## Resources... continued

References and resources are embedded in the narrative. This publication can be found at: [http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/poultry\\_equipment.pdf](http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/poultry_equipment.pdf)

### **Meat Goats: Sustainable Production**

This publication updated in 2006 offers information specific to the rapidly growing field of meat goat production, and should be read in conjunction with the companion publication, *Goats: Sustainable Production Overview*. This document discusses topics including selection, breeds, marketing, feeding, profitability and other topics. It includes sample budgets, case studies, and many further resources. This publication can be found at: <http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/meatgoat.pdf>

### **Lavender Production, Products, Markets, and Entertainment Farms**

This publication updated in 2006 is intended for a beginning lavender grower with some horticultural experience. The publication discusses geographic and climatic considerations for lavender, soil preparation and cultivation techniques, lavender propagation materials, and field production. The publication also addresses lavender essential oils, evaluation of the bulk distillation industry, direct marketing of a variety of lavender products, and the potential for lavender agri-tourism. This publication also surveys clusters of lavender farms in Texas, California, and Washington, the lavender entertainment industry, and on-farm lavender product sales. Newly expanded lists of U.S. lavender farms and Web sites are also offered, as well as a list of other resources. This publication can be found at: <http://www.attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/lavender.pdf>

### **USDA**

USDA Rural Development is pleased to announce that "**Financing Your Business in Oregon**" is now available in Spanish. The guide, developed by USDA Rural Development-Oregon, is designed for both existing & prospective rural business people. It outlines the many local, state, and federal programs available to help plan, develop, and finance a business in Oregon. The guide includes internet links and contact information for these programs. The guide is available in English at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/or/fybizOR.pdf>  
The guide is available in Spanish at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/or/fybizOResp.pdf>

### **Books**

**Organic Dairy Farming: A Resource for Farmers** is available from Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service. Books can be ordered via their website at [www.mosesorganic.org](http://www.mosesorganic.org) or by calling 715-772-3153. Cost is \$14.95 per copy plus shipping.

### **Newsletters**

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://eruralfamilies.org/>

The current issue of "**Woodland Notes**" by Mike Bondi, Clackamas County Extension Forestry Agent can be found at : <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/clackamas/forestry/ForestryChristmasTrees.php>

The latest issue of **Sustaining the Pacific Northwest - Food, Farm, & Natural Resource Systems** quarterly electronic newsletter, jointly sponsored by the WSU Small Farms Team, WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, the WSU Small Farms program, and the WSU Water Quality Management Team. 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/>.

### **Websites**

The Umatilla County Extension Office has just developed a new **grape production website** for the Columbia Basin. The site has a number of good links to useful information for those interested in grape production. The website can be found at: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/umatilla/mf/Fruits/Grapes.php>

The **USDA Sustainable Agriculture Education program** had their national meeting August 15-17, 2006 and has posted the presentations on their website which can be found at: <http://www.sare2006.org/presentations1.html> Presentation topics range from production issues to marketing.

## Resources... continued

**WSU Grape Website.** Has good resources for those interested in grape production and can be found at: <http://fruit.wsu.edu/Grapeweb/grapeweb.htm>

**Hay Market Information.** Central Oregon (and other areas) weekly hay price information is available online at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ml%5Fgr313.txt>

**Vegetable Production and Marketing Resources from WSU** Vegetable farmers may be interested in this group of university faculty and staff who specialize in vegetable crops. The group's website provides useful information regarding pest issues, field days and workshops/conferences.

**The new PNW Vegetable Extension Group** (PNW-VEG) is comprised of the former WSU Vegetable Pathology Team members, as well as Oregon State University and University of Idaho faculty and staff who work with disease and pest management and production issues on vegetable crops. The team has recently revised its website, [http://mtvernon.wsu.edu/path\\_team/vegpath\\_team.htm](http://mtvernon.wsu.edu/path_team/vegpath_team.htm).

Meet the **PNW-VEG members** at [http://mtvernon.wsu.edu/path\\_team/meet\\_team.htm](http://mtvernon.wsu.edu/path_team/meet_team.htm).

**A schedule of current vegetable events** throughout the PNW region can be found at [http://mtvernon.wsu.edu/path\\_team/current\\_calendar.htm](http://mtvernon.wsu.edu/path_team/current_calendar.htm).

**A team newsletter**, published two to four times each growing season, can be viewed at [http://mtvernon.wsu.edu/path\\_team/newsletterArchives.htm](http://mtvernon.wsu.edu/path_team/newsletterArchives.htm). Each newsletter typically features a current disease or pest issue, as well as information on vegetable resources.

**Internet links to resources for common vegetable issues** can be found at [http://mtvernon.wsu.edu/path\\_team/VegCropResources.htm](http://mtvernon.wsu.edu/path_team/VegCropResources.htm). This page includes links to regional diagnostic labs, disease forecast systems, nematode identification services, weather databases, pesticide information centers/services, and pest identification sites.

**Photos of common diseases of vegetables** in the PNW region are featured at [http://mtvernon.wsu.edu/path\\_team/diseasegallery.htm](http://mtvernon.wsu.edu/path_team/diseasegallery.htm).

Also included are links to websites that present disease management options. The photo gallery will be updated regularly as new images and information are received, including vegetable pest and other production problems.

## Save Big on the Farm by Conserving Fuel

*By Todd Murry, WSU King County  
Kim Lyons WSU Energy Program*

One of the best ways to deal with rising gas prices is to conserve fuel on your farm. As with all savings, some simple changes can add up over time. Below are tips on reducing fuel consumption and on adopting alternative fuels. By incorporating these changes into your routine, you will use less fuel and save money!

- **Avoid unnecessary driving.** Use cell phones or other convenient technologies to answer emergencies and solve problems in the field.
- **Slow down your pace.** Rapid acceleration and braking reduces your vehicle's gas efficiency.
- **Choose the right vehicle for the right job.** Use smaller vehicles such as ATVs, motorcycles or bicycles for smaller chores that don't require the hauling power of a truck or tractor.

- **Match the capacity of your tractor to the job.** Using a large tractor for a small job can waste fuel; likewise, pulling a heavy load with a small tractor is also inefficient.
- **Reduce how often you till and consider trying no-till techniques.** Tilling, especially on compacted soils, requires larger amounts of fuel from your tractors.
- **Share distribution costs with your neighbors.** Establish a truck share with neighboring farms that sell at the same markets to reduce fuel costs and vehicle wear and tear.
- **Mulch in high traffic areas.** Reduce the time you spend mowing and prevent soil compaction by mulching with bark chips in heavily used areas.
- **Maintain your small engines, generators and tractors.** Check regularly for leaks, smoke and other signs of improper fuel combustion. Regularly check and replace air and fuel filters.

## Conserving Fuel... continued

- **Clean your tractor's fuel injectors regularly.** Clogged injectors cause fuel to combust inefficiently.
  - **Keep tire pressure at the lowest recommended level.** Tires supporting a full load should bulge out. Over- and under-inflated tires wear sooner and cause engines to work harder.
  - **Avoid using new tires.** New tractor tires with long lugs work great in wet soils. However, on flat, dry soils new tires are less efficient in providing power on the ground and require more fuel for a given job. Use tractors with new tires on rainy days and in muddy conditions.
  - **Balance your tractor's towing weight to reflect typical conditions, not worst case scenarios.** Overballasting your tractor can result in premature engine wear, burn more fuel and cause your tractor to respond sluggishly.
  - **Limit engine idling time.** It is more efficient to restart your engine than to let it idle for extended periods of time. Idling typically consumes about 1 gallon of diesel fuel per hour.
  - **Gear up and throttle down when you are not hauling weight.** For applications requiring less than 65-70% of full engine power, it is best to slow down the engine rpm and shift to a higher gear to maintain engine speed. This will reduce the amount of fuel used.
- Avoid using winter fuels during the summer season.** Winter fuels are refined to be lighter and more viscous, but they contain about 3% less energy.

### Biodiesel Fuels

Using alternative fuels, such as biodiesel, are becoming a very viable option for farmers interested in reducing their reliance on petroleum. Below are a few considerations to make when transitioning to a new fuel.

- Use fuels that meet American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) international standards to ensure fuel quality and engine performance. The standard for biodiesel is ASTM D6751.
- Biodiesel blends can be burned in existing engines with little or no modifications. However, biodiesel is a solvent, and overtime, will degrade seals, gaskets and fuel lines made of natural rubber. Vehicles older than 1994 may need to replace these parts with synthetic materials such as Vitron®.
- Biodiesel does not void engine warranties. Engine manufacturers warrant for parts and assembly of their engines, and do not warrant their engines for specific fuels. The fuel supplier is responsible for fuel-caused

engine problems, so it is important to work with reputable suppliers whose products meet ASTM specifications. For more information on engine warranties, visit: ([http://www.biodiesel.org/resources/fuelfactsheets/standards\\_and\\_warranties.shtm](http://www.biodiesel.org/resources/fuelfactsheets/standards_and_warranties.shtm)).

- Biodiesel is a strong solvent and will clean out fuel tank sediments during initial use. These sediments can plug the fuel filter, so it is important to inspect your filters and replace them as needed. Cleaning fuel tanks prior to using biodiesel will help to minimize this problem.

Biodiesel can gel at cold temperatures. Fuel blends and additives can control this, so it is important to make sure that your fuel supplier is aware of your operating conditions.

For more information on saving fuel around the farm, visit:

- Alberta's AgTech Innovator [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/newslett.nsf/all/agin147](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/newslett.nsf/all/agin147)
- Colorado State's Selecting a Fuel Efficient Tractor <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/farmmgmt/05007.html>
- Energy Ideas Clearinghouse <http://www.energyideas.org/>
- University of Kentucky's Extension: Fuel Saving Tips [http://ces.ca.uky.edu/lyon/anr/fuel\\_saving\\_tips.htm](http://ces.ca.uky.edu/lyon/anr/fuel_saving_tips.htm)
- University of Minnesota Engineering Notes: Fuel Saving Ideas for Farmers <http://www.bae.umn.edu/extens/ennotes/enspr00/fuelsaving.htm>
- WSU Extension Energy Program <http://www.energy.wsu.edu/>
- WSU Climate Friendly Farming <http://cff.wsu.edu>

**For more information on using biodiesel, visit:**

- Biodiesel Handling and Use Guidelines – US Dept of Energy <http://www.nrel.gov/vehiclesandfuels/nbf/pdf/39451.pdf>
- National Biodiesel Board <http://www.biodiesel.org/>

## Feature Articles... continued

- University of Idaho Biodiesel Fuel Education Program <http://www.uidaho.edu/bioenergy/index.html>
- WSU Energy Program <http://www.energy.wsu.edu/projects/renewables/>
- WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources <http://triplebio.wsu.edu/Research/index.html#biofuels>

### Fall and Winter

#### Pasture Management Tips

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

Edited June 2006 – Willi Evans-Galloway

As summer begins to wind down and temperatures begin to cool our thoughts turn to fall. This is also the time to consider things you can do to maximize forage yields and quality and reduce weed control problems this fall and next spring.

#### Pasture Fertility Management

Healthy pastures need good fertility management to maximize forage production and animal health. Fall is a good time for an application of fertilizer to enhance fall and next springs growth. This will also help pasture plants put on the needed leaf and root growth to help them to produce high quality fall feed and go into winter healthy and be ready for the spring. As a part of this, it is very important to know what are your soil fertility needs. It is critical to run a soil test every 2-3 years to make sure you are putting on what your plants need to maximize growth and if you need to adjust your soil ph with lime especially where pastures are irrigated or if folks are located in higher precipitation areas. There are a number soil testing laboratories in the region that can test your soil and the costs are very reasonable. For more information about available laboratories and how to take soil samples please contact your local extension office.

The fall is a good time to provide some additional nitrogen to help with fall green up. The fall and winter months in general are also a good time to apply Phosphorus, Potassium and Sulfur, which are nutrients that tie up tightly to soil particles (less hazard to cause ground water contamination) and take a longer time to become available to the plant as compared to Nitrogen. During the fall and winter months the rain and snow will help to move broadcasted nutrients into the soil so they will be available for next spring. Applications of lime for those with low pH problems is also suggested at this time of the year for the same reasons.

Note, winter applications of Nitrogen are **not recommended** as Nitrogen is **very** mobile and does not tie up well to soil particles and can move easily into the groundwater and cause contamination. It should be stressed that if there is potential for surface water runoff such as with hillside or severely compacted pastures etc., broadcast applications of any nutrient have the potential for causing surface water contamination, so extreme care must be exercised as to when and how applications are made.

#### Pasture Seeding

The fall is also a good time to consider overseeding your pastures to improve forage quality and reduce weed competition. Depending on whether the pasture is irrigated or dryland will determine what forage species you should use. Local farm stores in the area carry pasture seed mixes that work well for our area. You can also contact you local extension office or you local soil and water conservation district office for pasture variety recommendations.

Of particular importance when considering overseeding in the fall is timing. It is very important to get the seedlings established before it gets too cold. It is generally not recommended to seed later than early October at the latest. The later you seed the less likely the seedlings will be hardy enough to overwinter in an average year. This is particularly challenging for those without irrigation. If we do have a dry fall and rains come late, it is better to hold off seeding until spring to better insure a successful stand.

#### 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 is very damaging to pastures and will reduce long-term plant health. Excessive grazing in the winter makes pasture plants more vulnerable to winter damage, disease and reduces spring re-growth.

## Pasture Management... continued

### Impact of Grass Removal on Root Growth

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

A second point with livestock in winter is soil compaction and plant damage. I have seen pastures destroyed by allowing livestock to stay out on the pastures during the winter when the soil is saturated. Animal hooves can destroy plants by cutting roots and crushing the plants, which reduce plant vigor and open up spaces for weeds to become established. Hoof pressure will also cause significant compaction, which will reduce root growth and water infiltration, which increases the potential for soil erosion and water contamination and takes years to repair. To avoid this problem it is better to bring the animals into the barn and corral area for the winter.

A good publication relating to mud, pastures and horses is "Managing Small-Acreage Horse Farms" This publication focuses on how to manage horses during the winter months. This publication can be obtained by going to the OSU web site at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/eesc/>. It can also be obtained by contacting the Wasco County Extension Office at 541-296-5494.

### How Much Does An Animal Eat

Now that you know not to keep your animals out on your pastures when the soils are wet. The need then is to know how much hay you need to have on hand to keep your animals healthy. The following table provides a guideline about how much feed different species require on a monthly basis.

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

### Weed Identification and Control

This is also a good time to map out and flag weed problems for control next spring. Most of the more important broadleaf weeds in the area such as the Knapweeds, Yellow Starthistle and Bull Thistle etc., start out as small rosettes in the spring, which is when they are most easily controlled whether you use herbicides or by hand. For those who are having trouble identifying what weeds they have in their pastures, the Wasco County Extension Office has a number of good resources available and include:

\***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://extension.oregonstate.edu/eesc/>. These publications have excellent photos and information on identification and control.

# 4-H & Extension Service District Election November 7th

## **Background**

You may have already heard that the Wasco County Extension Service is seeking to form a 4-H and Extension Service District on the November ballot. What exactly does this mean? Wasco County is not in a financial position to continue to fund non-mandated services, which includes Wasco County Extension. Thus the Extension Service is requesting the formation of a service district with the establishment of a permanent property tax rate of up to \$.25 per thousand of assessed value. This will ensure stable funding and the continuation of services to Wasco County residents.

## **How Extension Works In Wasco County**

Extension Service support is provided through an agreement between Wasco County and OSU. Under this agreement Wasco County currently provides approximately 25% of the total costs for extension services in Wasco County through general fund dollars. The remaining 75% (over \$450,000 annually) comes from state and federal funds. In the agreement, Wasco County **only** pays for general operating expenses including office secretarial and support staff, rent, supplies, phone and other general operating expenses.

## **Examples of services provided by 4-H & Extension Service District:**

### **Family Development**

- Youth and Adult Nutrition Education
- Senior Caregiving Seminars
- Financial Literacy and Debtor Education
- Strong Women Classes
- Parenting Education

### **4-H & Youth Development**

- Traditional 4-H Clubs, (currently 39 Clubs County-Wide)
- Wasco County 4-H Fair
- School Enrichment and After-School Programs in partnership with local elementary schools
- Youth leadership development opportunities
- Nutrition Education, Babysitting Classes and Summer Camps
- Latino outreach

### **Agriculture**

- Support for the \$90 million Agriculture Industry in Wasco County
- Soil Conservation and Water Quality Education
- Cherry, Cereal and Alternative Crop Research and Education
- Biofuel Crops Research
- Pesticide Safety and Reduction Education
- Small Farms Education
- Agriculture Based Business Development and Education
- Farm and Woodland Management

### **Master Gardeners**

- Volunteers (currently 65 Wasco County Master Gardeners) trained by OSU who then share their knowledge throughout the County
- County-wide Plant Clinics that offer soil testing and plant problem diagnosis.
- School enrichment programs in County elementary schools in The Dalles, Mosier, Dufur and Maupin
- Junior Master Gardener program