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Greetings:

There are opportunities coming up this spring for forage and livestock education in the Willamette Valley. Be sure to check the schedule of events listed below, and also the program descriptions in this newsletter. If you have any questions about the events please contact me either by phone or email.

Coming Events:

March 18 – Clackamas County Stockmen’s Association Quarterly Meeting, 7 pm at the North Clackamas Land Lab.

March 25 - Polk County Livestock Association Board Meeting, 7 pm, Polk County Fairgrounds.

April 3 - Livestock Workshop sponsored by Polk SWCD (more info will be coming)

April 7-8 - Oregon Forage and Grassland Council Conference, Corvallis

April 30 - Temple Grandin at Oregon State University

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Monday thru Wednesday
8 a.m.– 12 noon & 1–5 p.m.

Agriculture, Home Economics, 4-H Youth, Forestry, Community Development, Energy, and Extension Sea Grant programs. Oregon State University, United States Department of Agriculture, and Oregon counties cooperating. The Extension Service offers its programs and materials equally to all people.
Oregon Forage and Grassland Council

The Oregon Forage and Grassland Council (OFGC) will be holding their annual meeting and conference on April 7th and 8th at the Benton County Fairgrounds, Corvallis, Oregon. Oregon has formed an affiliate council of the American Forage and Grassland Council. There will be a Trade Show during this 1st Annual Conference.

Conference Details

- Benton County Fairgrounds, Corvallis
- Wed., April 7th (1:00 to 7:00/9:00 pm) & Thurs., April 8th (7:00 am to 5:00 pm)
- On-site Registration (cash or checks only)
  - $50 for OFGC members
  - $85 for OFGC non-members
  - (A good time to add your $35 OFGC membership)
- Pre-register by March 31st to get a $10 discount

**Wednesday, April 7**
1:00 pm  Welcome and OSU College of Ag Update - Dean Sonny Ramaswamy
1:30 pm  Endophyte and Endophyte Testing – Morrie Craig, OSU
2:15 pm  Grass Based Health: Turning the Food Pyramid Upside Down – Peter Ballerstedt, Philomath
3:00 pm  Selenium Fertilization of Pastures – Gene Pirelli, OSU
3:30 pm  Making a Profit on Forages – Michael Murphy, Ireland
5:00 pm  Trade Show and Social Hour
7:00 pm  Trade Show Adjourns
6:00 pm  – 9:00 pm  Optional Session:
  - Willamette Valley Pasture and Grazing Class Series – Woody Lane, Lane Livestock Services

**Thursday, April 8**
7:00 am  Continental Breakfast
7:30 am  OFGC Business Meeting – Interim President Chad Hale
9:00 am  Grass Dairying in Western Oregon – Michael Murphy, Ireland
10:00 am Selecting Cattle for Your Management and Goals – Bill Tucker, Past Pres, AFGC, Virginia
10:00 am Ammonia Emission: Why It Matters – Shabtai Bittman, Agriculture Canada, B.C.
10:45 am Politics, Money, and the Future of Forage - Agriculture Panel
  Woody Lane, Moderator
  (Russ Karow, Crop & Soil Science Dept.
  Jim Males, Animal and Range Science Dept.
  Bill Hoyt, Pres. Cattlemen’s Assoc.;
  Reed Anderson, Pres. Sheep Growers Assoc.
  Tom Johnson, Pres. Dairy Farmers Assoc.
  Scott Pierson, Pres. Hay and Forage Assoc.
  Matt Herb, Pres. Seed Grower’s League & Seed Trade Assoc.
  Bill Tucker, Past Pres. AFGC & Producer, Virginia)

12:15 pm Catered Lunch and Trade Show

1:30 pm Plant Available Nitrogen from Manures –
  Dan Sullivan, OSU

1:30 pm Poisonous Weeds in Pastures –
  Andy Hulting, OSU

2:15 pm Advanced Ideas for Manure Application –
  Shabtai Bittman, Agriculture Canada, B.C.

2:15 pm Targeted Grazing for Weed Management –
  Bill & Sharon Hoyt, Pres., OCA

3:00 pm Developing Policy and the Realities of Making It Work –
  Bill Tucker, Virginia

5:00 pm Adjourn

Michael Murphy is one of Ireland’s most progressive and profitable dairy farmers - owning and investing in farms in Ireland, New Zealand, Chile, Argentina and Missouri. Many of these ventures are equity partnerships or companies with 15-20 shareholders. He is a director of seven companies, an investor in shares, property and venture capital across many countries. Michael and his wife Geraldine live in West Cork, Ireland.

Bill Tucker, including his wife Claudia, is the owner of Tucker Family Farms, a seventh generation family farming operation located in the heart of Virginia in Amherst County, in the foothills of the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Amherst, Virginia. Bill is the immediate Past President of the American Forage and Grassland Council. Since 1998, he has been the Director of Legislative Affairs for AFGC as well. He is the recipient of the 2000 Outstanding Commercial Cattleman Award from the Beef Improvement Federation and a member of the Grazinglands Conservation Initiative National Steering Committee. Controlled grazing and selection of cattle that fit and perform in the forage program are a key component of the operation. Tucker Family Farms runs 600 mother cows and has eight contract producers.

Registration is $50 for members and $85 for non-members. Membership dues are $35 for producers and $350 for associate/corporate membership. Preregistration date is March 31. To register, contact: Shelby Filley 541-672-4461 or shelby.filley@oregonstate.edu, or Chad Hale 541-401-0730 or chad.wfr@comcast.net.
**Temple Grandin to speak at Oregon State University**

Dr. Temple Grandin, world renowned for her work in livestock behavior and animal handling, will be coming to Oregon State University on Friday, April 30. She will speak at a lecture from 7:00-8:00 PM, on Animal Behavior and Animal Welfare. This will be held in Milam Auditorium on the OSU campus and is open to the public. For more information contact Gene Pirelli at gene.pirelli@oregonstate.edu

**Fertilizing with Selenium**

Many parts of the world, including Oregon, are known to have soils deficient in the essential micronutrient selenium (Se). This could lead to clinical signs of selenium deficiency in livestock. Severe selenium deficiency results in nutritional myopathy or "white muscle disease", whereas subclinical selenium deficiency causes muscular weakness of the newborn, immunosuppression, unthriftness, reduced weight gain, scours, infertility, abortion, and retained placenta.

Selenium can be injected or given in feed or salt-mineral mixes. Selenium supplemented by these methods is usually inorganic sodium selenite or selenate. One limitation of supplementing with inorganic selenium in salt or feed is the apparent short duration of storage in the animal. If selenium is removed from the diet, blood concentrations may become deficient if they were initially low. Seasonal grazing practices may result in limited access to selenium-containing salt-mineral mixes for extended periods of time, and therefore cattle or sheep may be deficient by the end of the grazing season.

One of the more successful methods has been the addition of selenium as sodium selenate to commercial fertilizer. Agronomic biofortification is defined as increasing the concentrations of elements such as selenium in edible portions of crop plants through the use of fertilizers. The potential for using selenium-containing fertilizers to increase crop concentrations and, thus, dietary selenium intakes, has been demonstrated in research work at Oregon State University where it has proven to be both effective and safe.

This research at OSU has cleared the way for selenium to be added to fertilizer mixes in Oregon. The commercial product, Selcote, can be added to fertilizer by any dealer in Oregon. Selcote is available from Sure Crop in Junction City, which is the licensed distributor for the selenium product. Your fertilizer dealer can order the product and add it to a fertilizer mix. Selcote is recommended to be applied at a rate of one pound per acre.

At this time selenium fertilization is only recommended for cattle and sheep pastures or hay. No research has been done with horses. More information on selenium fertilization can be found at:

[http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill/livestock-amp-forage](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill/livestock-amp-forage)

Click on “pastures” and “sheep” for selenium articles.