

Central Oregon Agriculture

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 2

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The Central Oregon Hay Growers' Association

The Central Oregon Hay Growers' Association (COHGA) membership drive is happening now. Dues are \$100 annually. What do you get for that? Per member: \$30 to help run Oregon Hay and Forage Association; \$35 to local forage research; and \$35 to operating the local affiliate business. Locally, the COHGA board is partially funding forage research trials involving Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium, Sulfur, Selenium and Lime. They provide two \$1,000 scholarships for students to attend a college or a vocational trade school in some area of Ag related work, and they support the C.O. Forage Seminar and the Forage and Irrigation Field Day. They have a web site at www.hayfinder.org to help producers market their hay, along with a Facebook page.

The Oregon Hay and Forage Association puts out the hay directory and has a web site (www.oregonhaygrowers.com) to help producers market their hay. They sponsor the Oregon Hay King Contest and an OHFA Forage Seminar in the host county. The OHFA invests \$4,000 annually in the Oregon Forage and Livestock Research Endowment at OSU. They pay the National NIRS Consortium Dues for KBREC, Klamath Falls, to keep up with the latest quality calibrations. They also are providing an annual \$1,000 scholarship to an Oregon graduate student in forage related studies. Call 541-447-6228 or go to the www.hayfinder.org website for a membership application.

Mylen Bohle

Farmscaping for Beneficial Insects and Predators Workshop

March 20, 2018; 9:00 am to 3:30 pm
City of Redmond Public Works
243 E Antler Ave, Redmond

Beneficial insects and predators occur naturally in agricultural landscapes and provide valuable services to farms. Farmscaping can enhance this benefit.

Join this workshop to learn about:

- Local insects, pollinators and raptors, and their value
- Proper use of native plants for habitat enhancement
- Farmscaping with hedgerows, beetle banks and insectaries

This interactive workshop will be led by OSU researchers, local native plant and insect experts, and experienced farmers. We will focus on practical ways to put the concepts of integrated biological pest management and farmscaping into practice here in central Oregon. An on-farm field course will follow in June.

\$10 for individual or \$15 for two farm business partners. Please register by March 16. For registration and questions call 541-548-6088 or email clare.sullivan@oregonstate.edu <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes/small-farms>

Clare Sullivan

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This publication will be made available in accessible formats upon request. Please call (541) 447-6228 for information. If you have a physical disability that requires special considerations in order for you to attend an event, please notify the appropriate program contact, three (3) days prior to event date.

If you would rather get this newsletter ONLY by email, please contact your local Extension office (Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, or Warm Springs). We will be glad to switch you over to EMAIL. And then you will also receive the one page bi-weekly Ag e-News as well.

Central Oregon Agriculture is a bi-monthly newsletter produced by the Central Oregon Extension offices and the Central Oregon Agricultural Research Center (COARC). The intent of this newsletter is to extend agricultural research-based information, to solve problems, develop leadership and manage resources wisely. Please direct comments and changes to the mailing list of your local County office.

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◆ Kim Herber, Ag Newsletter Coordinator, (541) 447-6228

Central Oregon County Extension Offices

(all area codes are 541)

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Deschutes County Extension Service - Phone 548-6088,
3893 SW Airport Way, Redmond, OR 97756

Jefferson County Extension Service - Phone 475-7107,
850 Dogwood Lane., Madras, OR 97741

Warm Springs Indian Reservation - Phone 553-3238,
1110 Wasco St., PO Box 430, Warm Springs, OR 97761

Central Oregon Agricultural Research Center

◆ Carol Tollefson, Director, 475-7107

Madras Site - Phone 475-7107, 850 Dogwood Lane, 97741

Powell Butte Site - 8215 SW Hwy. 126, 97753

Extension Service & Experiment Station Web Sites

Crook County: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/crook>

Deschutes County: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes>

Jefferson County: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/jefferson>

Warm Springs: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/warmsprings>

Central Oregon Agricultural Research Center:

<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/coarc/index.php>

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◆ Carol Tollefson, 475-7107

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◆ Tracy Wilson, Soil Health and Plant Nutrition, 475-7107

The above individuals are devoted to extending agricultural information to producers. Many of the individuals, in addition to agriculture, have assignments in research, 4-H Youth, administration and community resource education.

Often it is appropriate to mention brand names of some commercial products; however, they are used only for the purpose of information. Extension does not guarantee or warrant the standard of the product, or does it imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others.

Moving the Needle on Cheatgrass: Putting What We Know into Practice

2018 Webinar Series

Conversion of native rangelands to cheatgrass, and subsequent impacts on wild-fire regimes, are one of the most challenging threats to sagebrush ecosystems today. The widespread and complex nature of the problem and lack of clarity on effective management actions are often barriers to implementing meaningful treatments and practices to reduce risks. Although there is no silver bullet, combining cheatgrass reduction treatments with promotion or restoration of perennial vegetation in an integrated, adaptive management framework can move the needle toward maintenance and recovery of functioning ecosystems.

This webinar series will provide information on integrated management approaches using specific strategies and proven tools. *Brought to you by the Great Basin Fire Science Exchange, in partnership with the USDA/NRCS, Sage Grouse Initiative, BLM, ARS, and FS.* The attached links provide registration information for each of the webinars.

March 8—Cheatgrass control methods and their impacts on perennial grasses: A systematic review spanning 64 years (Tom Monaco, ARS)

April 4—Herbicides for cheatgrass: What works? (Richard Lee, BLM) <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2662086264877122562>

April 11—Grazing to maintain perennial grasses and reduce nonnative annuals (Kirk Davies, ARS) <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3599890518532921602>

April 25—Capitalizing on strategic opportunities: Examples from the field (Brian Mealor, UW and Mike Pellant, BLM-retired) <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/480113136137305602>

May 9—Ecologically-based invasive plant management: Lessons from the area-wide demonstration project (Roger Sheley, ARS) <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2542472593914940674>

Recordings will be available on the GBFSE YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/user/GBFireScience

For more information or questions, contact Génie Mont Blanc, 775-784-1107.

Tim Deboodt

Financial Assistance for Ranchers as part of Sage Grouse Initiative

Funding is now available to help Oregon ranchers bolster the health and vigor of their privately-owned rangelands while improving habitat for sage grouse and other wildlife.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications for financial assistance from eligible ranchers as part of the Sage Grouse Initiative, or SGI.

SGI offers financial incentive and science-based conservation planning to help ranchers perform conservation activities such as removing invasive juniper trees, treating invasive juniper trees, treating invasive annual grasses, developing grazing strategies, installing wildlife-friendly livestock watering structures, and more.

These types of conversation activities can provide multiple benefits to the land, such as improved water infiltration, reduced wildfire risk, enhanced wildlife habitat, improved rangeland health, and more.

The next application deadline for funding is March 16.

For more information and to apply, contact Chris Mundy, Crook/Deschutes County Conservationist at 541-699-3177 or chris.mundy@or.usda.gov.

Thank you to Sponsors of C.O. Forage Seminar

The OSU Extension Service and Central Oregon Hay Growers' Association very much thanks and appreciates the following sponsors for making the event a great success.

Proline Fabrication (\$500 Gift Certificate)

Peterson Car (\$500)

\$100 Sponsors

Ag West Supply	Bend Distillery	Carson Oil
C.O. Agronomy	Cascade Application	Cascade Pump & Irrigation
Cloud Farms	Columbia State Bank	Farm Credit Services
Helena Chemical, INC	High Desert Auto Supply	High Desert Organix
Hi-Tech Electric – Prineville	J&R Avila Farms	KBE – Redmond
Les Schwab Tires	McGinnis Ranch	Mid-Columbia Insurance
Mid-Columbia Producers/Bend Oil	Midstate Fertilizer	Miller Oil – Prineville
Newhouse	Pape' Machinery	Payne West Insurance
Pratum Co-op (CHS)	Swift Steel	Thompson Pump
Whitaker Farms	Wilbur Ellis, Co.	

Greg Mohnen, President, COHGA, and Mylen Bohle

CO Master Gardeners at COBA Home & Garden Show

The Central Oregon chapter of OSU Master Gardeners™ will offer free gardening advice at their booth at the Central Oregon Builders Association Home & Garden Show, May 4-6, 2018. Friday, May 4, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Saturday, May 5, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Sunday, May 6, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

In addition, OSU Master Gardeners will offer FREE gardening classes on Friday and Saturday as follows:

Friday, May 4:

10:30 AM – *Best Vegetables for Central Oregon* – Jan Even – get the inside scoop on the top vegetable varieties that grow well in Central Oregon!

11:45 AM – *Growing that Wonderful Fruit Called a Tomato!* –

JoAnne Abbott – learn what you need to know to get great tomato crops in our area.

1:00 PM – *How to Garden for Life!* – Pat Kolling – When aches and pains get in the way, learn from a retired physical therapist and master gardener about strategies you can use to keep your love of gardening going strong!

Saturday, May 5:

10:30 AM – *Waterwise Gardening* – Jan Even – When water is in short supply, learn how you can create a garden that uses less water but still maintains its beauty and charm.

11:45 AM – *It's Not Just About Honey Bees!* – Toni Stephan – Learn about our native bees and why they are important in our landscape and gardens.

1:00 PM – *Best Vegetables for Central Oregon* – Vicky Kemp – get the inside scoop on the top vegetable varieties that grow well in Central Oregon!

The class schedule will be printed in the Home & Garden Show guide available at the gate, and will also be published on our web site at gocomga.com/gardening-news.html.

The classes will be held in the Middle Sister Building, Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center.

Central Oregon Wine and Grape Growers Association

The Central Oregon Wine and Grape Growers Association is planning some events this growing season. Whether you are interested in growing wine or table grapes, whether you have 5 grape plants, or 15,000 grape plants, everyone is welcome. Their web site is at <http://www.centraloregonwine.com/>. Contact Kerry Damon, President, at 541-280-6243 to talk about membership or locations of the next meetings and upcoming educational events.

Mylen Bohle

OSU Ranch Roping Workshop

April 21-22, 2018

Pendleton Round-up Grounds, Pendleton, OR

Hands-on exhibition hosted by clinician Martin Black. Roping competition after the workshop on the 21st with Wade and Martin Black as judges.

Register at: www.extension.oregonstate.edu/umatilla/livestock-range

Sponsored by Resistol, Hamley & Co, Treasure Valley Community College

Veterinary Feed Directive Rules: How are we doing?

Over a year ago the rules for using medically important antibiotics for food animals changed. What has the impact been on herd/flock management? What has the impact been on antibiotic use on farms? Has herd/flock health changed as a result? What educational needs are there that need be addressed?

These are some of the questions that are being posed to food animal producers nationwide through a survey that has been developed to address the VFD regulation. Michigan State University Extension, in partnership with other land grant universities have created a survey tool and are looking for your assistance in completing it.

The survey is designed so that they can sort responses according to state and type animals produced. This will allow them to return the summarized information to those states who indicate that they are a partnering to help distribute the survey.

The online survey can be accessed through the following link:

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eY83E3DiinngljD.

At this time the survey will stay open until April and the goal is to receive 1000 responses by then. The information compiled from the survey responses will help us target the educational and programing needs of producers in our area and enhance our work as contributors to the agriculture industry.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this project, if you have any questions about the survey, please do not hesitate to contact:

Phil Durst
Michigan State University Extension
durstp@msu.edu
c: 989-387-5346

Scott Duggan

Forest Stewardship Series Workshops

Sharpen your knowledge and skills by attending one, or all of the upcoming Spring and Fall Forest Stewardship Series.

During these classes you will:

- Learn about Central Oregon's ecosystems, from juniper woodlands and sagebrush steppe, to dry and mixed conifer forests, aspen woodlands, and stream habitats.
- Meet and learn from the state's forestry, water, fire, fish and wildlife experts.
- Gain knowledge and skills you can use to manage your property according to your unique objectives.

This unique opportunity combines at-home readings and assignments, and hands-on learning in the field. Sessions are spaced out so that you have time to practice what you have learned on your own property. If you are interested in becoming a Master Woodland Manager, you will need to participate in all classes of both the Spring and Falls Series.

SPRING FOREST STEWARDSHIP SERIES

Wednesday, April 11, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the Redmond Library: Tree and Shrub ID, Online Resources, and An Introduction to Central Oregon's Forests

Saturday, May 12, 8 am to 4 pm at the Prineville Library: Upland Forest Ecology and Management: Making Decisions Based on Your Goals (Class and Field Session)

Saturday, June 9, 8 am to 4 pm at the Oregon Department of Forestry Office, Sisters: Watershed and Stream Ecology and Management (Class and Field Session)

Each class is \$15.00, take all 3 spring classes for \$35.00. RSVP 2 weeks before each class. Click [here](#) for flyer and registration form. Questions, call 541-548-6088 or email nicole.strong@oregonstate.edu

Scholarships are available upon request.

More details and resources will be sent once you register.

Nicole Strong

2017 Oregon Hay Directory Available

The 2017 Oregon Hay Directory is available. The hay directory is published by the Oregon Hay and Forage Association (Ph: 541-447-6228). The hay directories are sent out to most all of the dairies and some feed stores in Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and northern California, as well as to OHFA producer and industry members. Directories are available at Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson County Extension offices.

Mysten Bohle

Irrigation System Upgrades and Cost Share Assistance

The producers who came to the C.O. Forage Seminar in 2016 and the Irrigation Seminars in Burns and Christmas Valley in 2017, heard many presentations on irrigation management. For those producers with pivots and linears, there was some interesting information presented on Low Elevation Sprinkler Application (LESA) and Low Energy n Precision Application (LEPA) and Precision Mobile Drip Irrigation (PMDI). Producers need to check to see if changing to this new system isn't something they should be looking at trying. Maybe at first, try it on a tower or two, before switching over all of their towers, once producers are convinced it will be a good hardware change for their operation. There are reports of water use efficiency well above 90%, up to 97 and 98% water use efficiency!. There are reports of 98% water use efficiency using LEPA or PMDI type systems. *Check out these and other new irrigation Technologies with your local irrigation company.*

There are cost-share programs for improving water and energy use efficiency (change out worn nozzles and leaky gaskets) including maintenance for wheel and hand line type systems as well. You can check to see if upgrading to a VFD pump would improve your system and lower your power bill, or not.

There are system upgrades and cost share programs available in central Oregon. You can get free energy assistance and irrigation audits completed on your farm or ranch through CEC (WY'East) or Pacific Power (Energy Trust of Oregon). You can contact your local power companies that are participating, or contact the following people, depending upon your power company for more information, help, and cost share dollars, or other irrigation needs.

Central Electric Co-operative: Robert Wallace, Executive Director/Oregon RC&D Energy Program Manager, Wy'East Resource Conservation and Development, Cell: 541-815-5503 or email Robert@Wyeast-RCD.org.

Pacific Power: Ulrike Mengelberg, *Outreach Manager for Industry+ Agriculture*, with Energy Trust of Oregon. Ph: 971.244.8193 Direct, or cell: 503-956-1568 or email ulrikemengelberg@cascadeenergy.com or their website at www.energytrust.org.

Other Resources:

+USDA – Rural Development REAP (Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy – Grants and Loan Guarantees)

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency> and <http://farmenergy.org/>

+Oregon Dept. of Energy – Tax Credits – Small Premium Projects (VFD < 125 HP & Sprinkler Hardware, project up to \$20k) <http://www.oregon.gov/energy/BUSINESS/Incentives/Pages/EIP-SPP.aspx>

+NRCS – CSP – Conservation Stewardship Program currently taking applications until March 31st. Several Irrigation related enhancements that can be selected under this program.

- <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/or/programs/financial/csp/?cid=stelprdb1239749>

- Conservation Activities or Practices/Enhancements available <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/or/programs/financial/csp/?cid=nrcseprd492010>

+Jefferson SWCD has OWEB Small Grants – Irrigation Projects are eligible for a grant up to \$10k. (May also be available @ Crook & Deschutes SWCD, check with Staff)

- Contact : Debbe Chadwick, Jefferson County SWCD, Ph:541-923-4358 X 101, www.jeffswcd.org

+Central Oregon Irrigation District offers small grants for small acreage irrigation system improvements.

+ Numerous producers have already taken advantage of these programs.

Mylon Bohle

Roundup on RR Alfalfa

If you have Roundup Ready Alfalfa fields, you may or may not have noticed a stunting, yellowing, Shepherds crook neck effect on some stems, etc. that has occurred, after applying Roundup and then followed by a frost event. The effect seems to occur when a frost occurs after application. Yield decreases have been documented in northern California and central Oregon from zero loss to up to 1.0 ton /acre loss. There seems to be less stunting when alfalfa is sprayed at 2 inches or less. The taller the alfalfa when sprayed, up to 8 inches tall, trials suggest that there is more of a chance there could be a yield loss. So if you can apply earlier, rather than later you stand a better chance of seeing no yield drag. Locally at Christmas Valley in 2016, we found no yield drag when sprayed at 4 inches, but did get a 0.3 yield reduction when applying to 8-inch tall alfalfa .

You will still want to maintain a herbicide rotation program even though you have Roundup Ready Alfalfa, and or still apply Roundup to control your weeds even though you think you might take a yield hit if a frost is imminent. Clean alfalfa always sells better than weedy alfalfa. Tests are being run in controlled greenhouse and growth chamber tests to try and figure out what is going on. (This is based on Steve Orloff's, of Siskiyou County Extension in CA, and his 2015 and 2016 trial work in Northern CA, and a trial I cooperated with him on, Northeast of Christmas Valley in 2016)

Mylon Bohle

Calendar

March

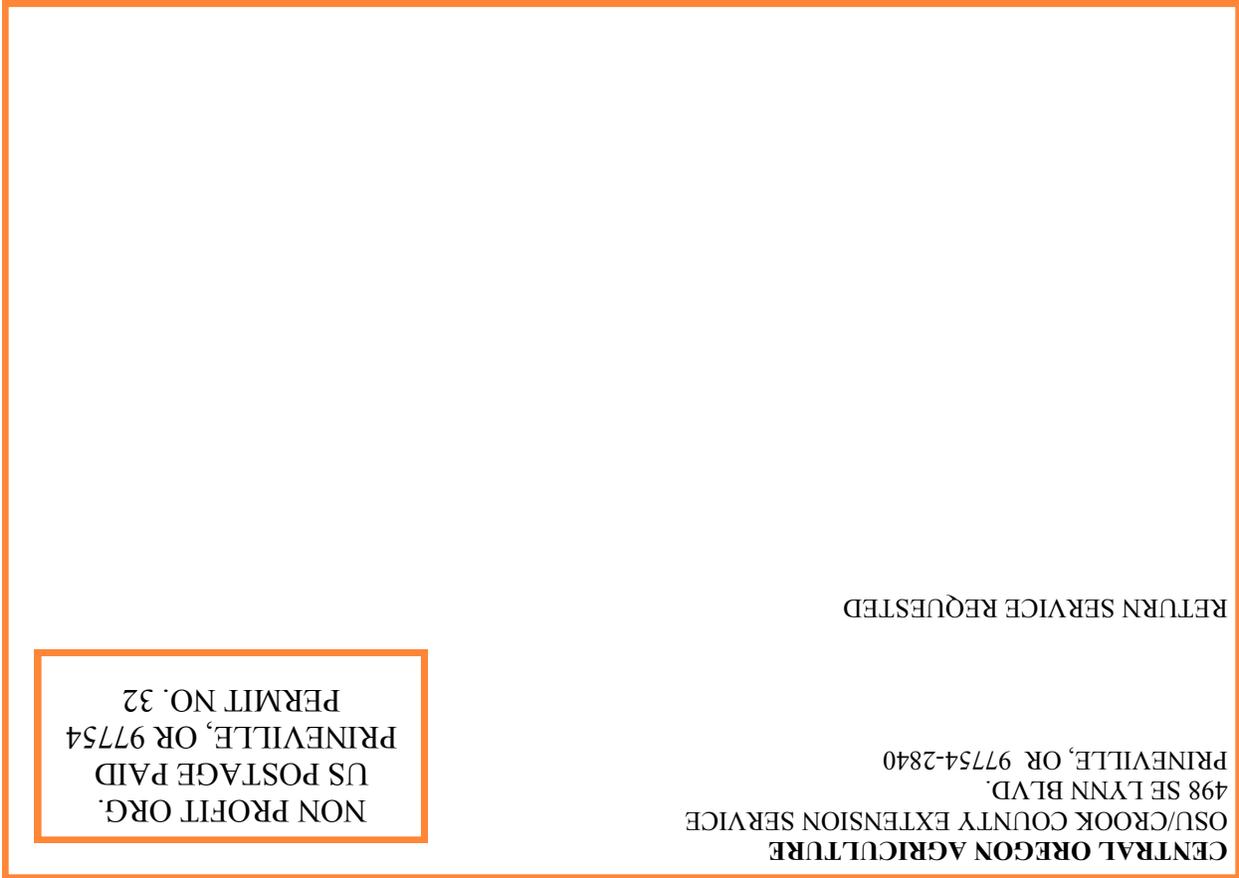
- 10 Living on a Few Acres Conference, Redmond, Oregon
- 14-15 Cascade East Vegetation Management Conference, Deschutes County Fairgrounds, Redmond, Oregon
- 20 [Farmscaping for Beneficial Insects and Predators Workshop, Redmond, Oregon](#)
- 21 [Exploring the Small Farm Dream Workshop, Deschutes County Extension , Redmond, Oregon](#)
- 28 [Exploring the Small Farm Dream Workshop, Deschutes County Extension , Redmond, Oregon](#)
- 31 Northwest Bison Association Spring Meeting, Stangel Bison Ranch, Enterprise, O.
www.nwbisonassociation.com

April

- 4 [Exploring the Small Farm Dream Workshop, Deschutes County Extension , Redmond, Oregon](#)
- 5 Herbicides for Cheatgrass Webinar (see article)
- 11 Spring Forest Stewardship Series Workshop, Redmond, Oregon (see article)
- 11 Grazing to Maintain Perennial Grasses Webinar (see article)
- 21-22 OSU Ranch Roping Workshop, Pendleton, Oregon (see article)
- 25 Capitalizing on Strategic Opportunities Webinar (see article)

May

- 4-6 Central Oregon Builders Assoc Home & Garden Show, Redmond, Oregon
- 9 Ecologically-based Invasive Plant Management Webinar (see article)
- 12 Spring Forest Stewardship Series Workshop, Prineville, Oregon (see article)
- TBA Deschutes SWCD, NRCS, and OSU Extension Service Pasture Field Day
- TBA COHGA Irrigation and Forage Field Day



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