The 41st Annual Central Oregon Farm Fair will be VIRTUAL for 2021

March 4th, 2021
Register Here: https://beav.es/JpG

Virtual Meeting Agenda
• 8:30 - 10:30 Basin Water Report – Mike Britton, NUID & Jeremy Giffin, OWRD
• 10:30 -10:40 Screen Break
• 10:40 -11:10 Integrated Pest Management Research Update, Dr. John Spring, COAREC
• 11:10 -11:20 Screen Break
• 11:20 -11:50 Plant Pathology Research Update – Dr. Jeremiah Dung, COAREC
• 11:50 -12:00 Smoke Management Update
• 12:00 -12:15 SWCD Annual meeting
• 12:15 -12:30 Jefferson County Seed Growers Association Meeting

The 2021 Central Oregon Farm Fair & Trade show will focus on providing important updates to the agriculture community in an abbreviated, virtual format. We hope to see everyone in person for 2022. Thank you for your understanding.

The Central Oregon Farm Fair & Trade Show is sponsored by the Jefferson County Seed Growers and Oregon State University Extension Service.

Tracy Wilson

OSU FST Farm 2 Fork Fridays Webinar Series

Please join us for our 2021 Farm 2 Fork Fridays webinars, a monthly series that brings you stories about how our food systems work and the efforts behind the scenes to make them more sustainable. This series began January 15. The next webinar is March 19, 2021 from 12:00 – 12:45 pm. For more information and dates visit: FST Farm 2 Fork Webinar Series | College of Agricultural Sciences | Oregon State University

Mylen Bohle
USDA Extends General Signup for Conservation Reserve Program

USDA is extending the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Signup period, which had previously been announced as ending on February 12, 2021. This signup gives producers an opportunity to enroll land for the first time or re-enroll land under existing contracts expiring September 30, 2021.

Scott Duggan

Buying Bulls in 2021?

Check out the OSU Across-Breed EPD Calculator. Dr. David Bohnert has recently updated the OSU Calculator with the most recent Across-Breed EPD adjustment factors. The OSU Across-Breed EPD Calculator is a tool to help commercial cattlemen evaluate and compare sires of different breeds using adjustment factors generated from the MARC data. The program allows producers to compare sires on a basis that is familiar to them. For example, if the producer has historically purchased Limousin bulls, but has decided to purchase Charolais bulls, the program will allow the producer to generate EPD values for the Charolais bull that is equivalent to Limousin generated EPD values. The Excel based program, and instructions, are available for free download at: https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/beefcattle/epd-calculator/.

Scott Duggan

Managing Eastern Oregon Forests:
Build your forest management toolbox

This series of practical educational webinars will equip you with the background and techniques needed to manage forests for a wide range of objectives. Tailored to eastern Oregon forests, we’ll progress from foundational concepts to specific considerations for our region’s forest types. Brought to you by Oregon State University Extension Service, the My Blue Mountains Woodlands Partnership, the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership, and the Partnership for Forestry Education.

Each session includes approximately 90 minutes of web-based presentation, with opportunities to interact with the instructors to have your questions answered.

Course dates: Selected Thursday evenings, (6:00 p.m. to approximately 7:30 p.m.) beginning January 14, 2021.

Register once to participate in any or all of the sessions. Once registered you will receive information on how to connect through your personal computer, tablet, and/or smart phone. Register at: https://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes/events/managing-eastern-oregon-forests

Cost: Free

Thomas Stokely
**QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Suicide Prevention Training for Farmers & Ranchers**

The Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network has added additional dates to QPR Suicide Prevention Training for Farmers & Ranchers. The next training date is: March 16, 2021 from 9:00 am – 10:30 am.

QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) is an evidence-based suicide prevention program where participants are empowered to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Similar to CPR, QPR provides lifesaving knowledge and skills to help someone in crisis. QPR is for anyone 16 and older.

Who should be trained in QPR to prevent farmer and rancher suicide?

- Those who know, love and care for them....family and friends
- Medical providers, including dentists
- Bankers or financial counselors
- Veterinarians
- Farm equipment and supply outlets, pesticide/chemical salespersons

To register for this free training and find out more information click [here](#). Flyer may be located [here](#).

**Contact for questions and requests for accessibility-related accommodations:** Julie Leep
julie.leep@oregonstate.edu

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**Mob Grazing: Out Wintering in Scotland**

This is a recorded presentation that you can catch up on at your own schedule in case you were not able to watch it live a couple of weeks ago (like me).

[Mob_grazing: outwintering (soilassociation.org)](#)

There is another [Mob Grazing Q&A on Thursday 4 March](#) about outwintering to reduce inputs, with the following farmers speaking about what their mob grazing practices:

- Andrew and Robert Brewster of Easter Denoon Farm, Angus
- Johnnie Balfour of Balbirnie Home Farms, Fife
- Lynn Cassels and Sandra Baer of Lynbreck Croft, Grantown on Spey

If you register, even though the time does not work for you, I believe they will send you the recorded presentation to watch on your schedule.

Mylen Bohle

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**Principles of Vineyard Management Course**

[Patty Skinkis](#), professor and Viticulture Extension Specialist in the Department of Horticulture at Oregon State University, is offering an online course to the industry and public who wish to learn about wine-grape growing. The course is offered live online with recordings available for all lectures. The course runs from March 30-June 3. Registration is open until March 29, but early registration rates end Feb. 26. [Click for more information](#)

Mylen Bohle

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Photo credit: Lynn Ketchum. © 2010 Oregon State University
Sheep and Goat Producers Invited to Participate in Needs Assessment

The South Dakota State University Extension Small Ruminant Team is seeking input from sheep and goat producers across the United States to identify producer interests and enhance future Extension efforts. Responses will be compiled into a Sheep and Goat Producers Needs Assessment.

The survey is voluntary, confidential and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. Alternatively, printed surveys can be sent by mail upon request.

For more information or questions please contact Kelly Froehlich by email or 608.688.5165; Jaelyn Quintana, SDSU Extension Sheep Field Specialist by email or 605.394.1722; or Heidi Carroll, SDSU Extension Livestock Stewardship Field Specialist and Beef Quality Assurance Coordinator by email or 605.688.6623.

Scott Duggan

OSU Farmer and Rancher Needs Survey

OSU Extension, in partnership with the High Desert Food and Farm Alliance, needs your help completing a brief survey. The survey results will help determine the educational needs of farmers and ranchers in Central Oregon. We appreciate your time and efforts.

Farmer Survey
Rancher Survey

Scott Duggan

Economic Value of Insect Pollinators Higher than Previously Thought

Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh and Penn State say the economic value of insect pollinators is much higher than previously thought, amounting to $34 billion in the U.S. in 2012. This work also highlighted regions where local land-use practices are supporting both agriculture and healthy pollinator populations that could serve as models.

Scott Duggan

Beavers in Our Landscape Webinar

On March 10, Wednesday, from 12 pm to 1:30 pm, Beaver Works Oregon invites you to learn more about beavers in the high desert. This webinar is developed for landowners, natural resource managers and anyone curious about beavers in our high desert landscapes. Presentation and discussion by Beaver Works Oregon and Skuyler Herzog, Ph.D. Hydrologist. To learn more, visit: https://beaverworks.org/beavers-in-our-landscape-webinar-2021/

Reese Mercer, Program Director, Beaver Works Oregon

Myth Busting Common Beliefs About Cover Crops

Rob Myers, Director of the Center for Regenerative Agriculture at University of Missouri, and Jerry Hall, Director of Research for GO SEED, bust eight of the most common cover crop myths.

1. There will be interference with cash crop production
2. Cash crop yields will take a hit
3. Water availability will be reduced for the subsequent crop
4. New pests will be introduced
5. Soil Temperatures will remain too cold
6. Pollinators will be fed
7. Seed is too expensive
8. They are the “silver bullet”

Check out this interesting article at: Morning Ag Clips (Feb. 17, 2021) Myth-busting 8 common beliefs about cover crops | Morning Ag Clips

Myleen Bohle
Alfalfa U Series

The team at *High Plains Journal*, along with Alforex Seeds and John Deere, are committed to bringing education to alfalfa growers through the popular Alfalfa U series of seminars. This year has brought a great opportunity to share the outstanding speakers lined up across the West and High Plains to every alfalfa grower, regardless of their geographic location. We’re bringing the U to you.

The free Alfalfa U will be offered virtually, across 4 different dates, with speakers and topics targeted to alfalfa growers across the West and High Plains. The series kicks off **Feb. 16, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Mountain Time**. Speakers and topics will include:

- Marisol Berti, North Dakota State University, “Why is Potassium so Important in Alfalfa? Part 1”
- Joe Brumer, Colorado State University, “Strategies for Growing Alfalfa With Less Water”
- Stephen Koontz, Colorado State University, “Feed Market Outlook for 2021 and What Alfalfa Growers Should Keep in Mind for the New Year.”

The virtual Alfalfa U will consist of a series of four-morning sessions—Feb. 16, Feb. 18, March 4, and March 11—each one packed with experts to help farmers improve their bottom lines. Other mornings will feature topics such as: Fall army cutworm and alfalfa weevil control; budgeting for alfalfa steamers; implications of salinity stress in alfalfa; and more.

And for the first time ever, this year *High Plains Journal* is bringing farmers from across the West and High Plains together for the popular Farmer Panel in the NEW **Tailgate Talk Session, March 11, starting at 10 a.m. Central Time.**

The hallmark of Alfalfa U is providing farmers an opportunity to pick up practical knowledge they can implement on their own alfalfa farms to boost productivity, profitability and efficiency. And this year, because all of the education will be available online, alfalfa growers finally have a chance to learn from speakers outside of their immediate region that they otherwise might have missed in-person. We’ll also be featuring a segment with valuable information from our sponsors, Alforex Seeds and John Deere during this webinar.

The full schedule for all four virtual Alfalfa U sessions will be posted at [www.hpj.com/alfalfa](http://www.hpj.com/alfalfa). Alfalfa U registration is free at [www.hpj.com/alfalfa](http://www.hpj.com/alfalfa). Registered attendees will receive an email with long-in information for all four webinars, and email reminders before each day’s program kicks off. Registrants will also receive an 8-week subscription to *High Plains Journal*. This Alfalfa U webinar is sponsored by *High Plains Journal*, Alforex Seeds, John Deere, and Staheli West.

Contact: Kylie Reiss, Events Manager, kreiss@hpj.com

Mylen Bohle

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**COVID-19 PPE Available to Agricultural Producers and Farmworkers**

The Extension offices in Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties have KN95 masks and hand sanitizer still available at no cost for any agricultural producers and farmworkers that need these supplies. In addition to the PPE supplies, the Extension offices also have high-speed hand-washing posters, in English and Spanish, designed by OSU Extension Family and Community Health faculty that illustrates how groups of people can properly wash their hands in five minutes or less.

**Locations in Central Oregon to pick up PPE:**

**Crook County Extension Office**
498 SE Lynn Blvd
Prineville, OR 97754
Phone: 541-447-6228

**Deschutes County Extension Office**
3893 Se Airport Way
Redmond, OR 97756
Phone: 541-548-6088

**Central Oregon Agricultural Research and Extension Center**
850 NW Dogwood Ln
Madras, OR 97741
Phone: 541-475-7107

Tracy Wilson
Professional and Continuing Education Winter Courses

We have a number of courses starting in the new year to help you advance your career. Many of these courses fill up well ahead of time, so make sure you don’t miss out!

Our classes can help you train in the critical fields of e-learning, permaculture design, writing and more! And all of these courses allow you to train with OSU expert instructors in a convenient online format.

We also have a number of popular publications from the OSU Extension Catalog. You can learn about growing table grapes, starting a distilled spirits business, opening a farm stand and more.

Courses into Spring:

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<tr>
<th>Beer Quality and Analysis</th>
<th>Starting a Distilled Spirit Business</th>
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<td>Starts May 17</td>
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Free resources from OSU Extension Catalog:

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<tr>
<th>Growing Table Grapes</th>
<th>Starting a Distilled Spirit Business</th>
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<td>Quinoa in the Willamette Valley</td>
<td>Tribes and Climate Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is Starting a Farm Stand Right for You?</td>
<td>Survival Basics: Stress Less</td>
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Mylen Bohle

Artificial Insemination Training School

Equip yourself to maximize your herd’s genetic potential while taking control of your own A.I. breeding program. Learn how to establish a breeding program that is tailor-made for you and your herd.

Our goal is to teach you a working understanding of dairy and beef cattle breeding, heat detection, and other herd management practices. The more knowledge you acquire the better equipped you will be to meet your herd breeding goals.

Dates: March 30 – April 2, 2021.
Times: 1:30-5:00 PM March 30
     9:00-5:00 pm March 31-April 1
     9:00-1:00 PM April 2

Classroom Instruction will be held at the Owyhee County Community Building, 420 w. Nevada Ave., Homedale, ID; live animal practice will be at local dairies.

Cost: $350.00 for entire school or $150 for “tune-up” session.

Flyer

For more information:
Idaho: Scott Jensen, UI Owyhee County Extension Educator 896-4104; scottj@uidaho.edu or
Oregon: Sergio Arispe, OSU Livestock & Range Extension Agent-Malheur County 541-881-1417; sergio.arispe@oregonstate.edu

Scott Duggan

Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting

The Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District will hold their 2020 Annual Meeting at the Jefferson County Farm Fair on Thursday, March 4th, 2021 at 12:00PM. The Farm Fair will be held virtually. Check out the Farm Fair schedule at http://jeffcoseed.com/farm-fair. To register, go to this link: https://beav.es/JpG

Please contact the Jefferson County SWCD for further information at 541.699.3170.

Staci Merkt, Jefferson County SWCD
Remote Delivery Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course

Oregon Department of Agriculture is pleased to offer the Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training remotely. Remote classes are a temporary option developed by the PSA to serve growers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The classes have limited seating and is offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you are interested in attending the course, please register soon. If you are unable to get a seat, please join the waitlists, and to be notified of future course offerings.

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Remote Delivery Requirements

- Participants must have a computer or mobile device with two-way video and audio capabilities (a webcam).
- Access to strong internet connectivity - at least receiving 2.5 and sending 3.0 Mbps. Internet speeds can be tested at SpeedTest.

Participant attendance and engagement will be monitored regularly by instructors. In order to successfully complete the training, which is required by the FSMA Produce Safety Rule, and to receive the certificate of completion for the course, participants must be actively engaged and in attendance for all modules.

Who should attend?

Produce growers, buyers, and anyone interested in learning about:
- Best food safety practices for growing, harvesting, handling, and packing produce
- Key requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule
- Foundations of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs)
- Co-management of natural resources and food safety

Even if your farm or operation isn't covered by the rule (use our online tool to check here) this low-cost, up-to-the-minute training is a great opportunity for anyone growing, harvesting, handling or packing covered produce.

What to expect

Trainers will spend the course time covering information from the following modules:
- Introduction to produce safety
- Worker health, hygiene, and training
- Soil amendments
- Wildlife, domesticated animals, and land use
- Agricultural water testing and analysis
- Post-harvest handling and sanitation
- How to develop a farm food safety plan

Benefits of attending

In addition to the certificate of completion ($35 value) and the Grower Training Manual ($50 value), individuals who participate in a certified PSA Grower Training course are expected to gain a basic understanding of:
- Microorganisms relevant to produce safety and where they may be found on the farm
- How to identify microbial risks, practices that reduce risks, and how to begin implementing produce safety practices on the farm
- Components of a farm food safety plan and how to begin writing one
- Requirements in the FSMA Produce Safety Rule and how to align your operation with them

Contact Brittany Mills at bmills@oda.state.or.us or 971-218-1409.

Mylen Bohle
**Residential Irrigation Basics**

Learn to design, construct, repair and troubleshoot residential irrigation systems. This class covers basic hydraulic theory, how to obtain site information, determine irrigation requirements and water supply, select sprinklers and spacing ranges, and calculate pressure requirements. Approved for 8 hours of continuing education by the Oregon Landscape Contractor’s Board (LCB).

*Instructor: Molly McDowell Dunston*

**Thursdays, Mar. 4 to Mar. 25 (4 sessions)**
6:00–8:00 pm (PT) - Online ZOOM - $129

Registration is recommended by 2/16 to allow time to pick-up materials before first session.

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**Drip Irrigation Basics**

Landscape professionals and homeowners can learn about drip and low volume irrigation, including the basics of how a typical irrigation system works, and steps to convert a traditional sprinkler zone into a drip zone. Explore the selection of low-volume emission devices and the benefits of using each in different drip irrigation applications. Covers how to reduce pressures, filtration for drip zones, sizing emitters, programming run times, and how to troubleshoot common problems. Whether you are thinking of performing your own drip retrofit or you work in the industry, this class is sure to expand your knowledge on drip irrigation and retrofitting systems. Approved for 4 hours of continuing education by the Oregon Landscape Contractor’s Board (LCB). *Instructor: Molly McDowell Dunston*

**Tuesday, Apr. 13 & Thursday, Apr. 15**
6:00–8:00 pm (PT) - Online ZOOM - $89

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<td>Remote Delivery Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course (see article)</td>
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<td>Oregon Small Farms Conference. Corvallis. <a href="http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/">Cancelled</a></td>
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