OSU Hires a Statewide Hemp Specialist—Welcome Govinda Shrestha

I am pleased to announce the selection of Dr. Govinda Shrestha as our new statewide hemp Extension specialist after a national search. Dr. Shrestha started June 1, 2021 and is based at the OSU Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center – Central Point. Dr. Shrestha will be providing consultation and leadership for educational programming to hemp growers and processors and other supply chain participants in Oregon. He will work closely with the Global Hemp Innovation Center (GHIC) and would also assume leadership of the hemp working group.

Dr. Shrestha has a PhD in Agroecology and Masters in Agrobiology and before taking on this position, worked as a postdoc at the OSU Hermiston Agricultural Research & Extension Center. Previously he worked in Montana as a postdoc at the Western Triangle Ag Research Center. As a child, Govinda grew up on a hemp farm in Nepal.

Dr. Jay Noller, Director of GHIC welcomed Dr. Shrestha to this position and had this to say: “Dr. Shrestha will be directly supported by OSU’s Global Hemp Innovation Center to provide extension and outreach during the peak outdoor growing season statewide across Oregon. His location and year-round center of activity in Jackson County, and immediately adjacent counties, allows for local interactions with one-half of all hemp growers and growing sites in the state”. Dr. Shrestha is supported by funds from GHIC and the College of Agricultural Sciences.

Sam Angima , Associate Dean – Extension, Professor, Dept. of Crop and Soil Science
Central Oregon Agriculture is a bi-monthly newsletter produced by the Central Oregon Extension offices and the Central Oregon Agricultural and Extension Research Center (COAREC). 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.

◊ Mylen Bohle, Editor, (541) 447-6228
◊ Carol Evoniuk, Ag Newsletter Coordinator, (541) 447-6228

Central Oregon County Extension Offices
(all area codes are 541)
Crook County Extension Service - Phone 447-6228,
498 SE Lynn Blvd. Prineville, OR 97754
Deschutes County Extension Service - Phone 548-6088,
3800 SW Airport Way Bldg. #4, Redmond, OR 97756
Jefferson County Extension Service - Phone 475-7107,
850 Dogwood Lane., Madras, OR. 97741
Warm Springs Confederated Tribes- Phone 553-3238,
1110 Wasco St., PO Box 430, Warm Springs, OR. 97761

Central Oregon Agricultural Research and Extension Center (COAREC)
850 Dogwood Lane, Madras 97741

◊ Carol Tollefson, Director, 475-7107

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: https://extension.oregonstate.edu/warmsprings
Central Oregon Agricultural Research Extension Center: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/dep/coarc/index.php

Central Oregon Agricultural Extension Service Staff
◊ Nicole Strong, Regional Director, 829-1270
◊ Mylen Bohle, Crops, Cereals, Hay, Pasture, Irrigation, Soil, Fertility, 447-6228
◊ Ariel Cowan, Wildland Fire, 548-6088
◊ Amy Jo Detweiler, Horticulture, 548-6088
◊ Scott Duggan, Livestock, 447-6228
◊ Jeremiah Dung, Plant Pathology, 475-7107
◊ Glenda Hyde, FCH, Master Food Preservation, 548-6088
◊ John Spring, IPM & Weeds, 475-7107
◊ Thomas Stokely, Forestry, 548-6088
◊ Toni Stephan, Horticulture and Small Farms Instructor, 548-6088
◊ Clare Sullivan, Small Farms/Specialty Crops, 548-6088
◊ Carol Tollefson, 475-7107
◊ Heike Williams, Bees & Pollinators, 475-7107
◊ Tracy Wilson, Ag Literacy Coordinator, 475-7107

Websites
OSU Ag Information https://extension.oregonstate.edu
Oregon’s Ag Progress https://oap.oregonstate.edu
OSU Extension Publications Catalog https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu

Growing Oregon Gardeners: Level Up Series

Take your gardening knowledge to the next level with timely topics from gardening in a changing climate to techniques to extend your season. This monthly zoom series offers education for the experienced gardener led by OSU horticulture experts from across the state.

This series is open to the public, and OSU Extension Master Gardener volunteers receive one Continuing Education Credit for each class taken. You can take one, or take all. Cost is free.

The webinars will be broadcast via Zoom, the second Tuesday of the month, at 3pm, January through November, 2021. Register and/or view a recorded webinar visit Growing Oregon Gardeners: Level Up Series. Registration is opened 3 months prior to the event.

Amy Jo Detweiler

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.

The next webinar, Insights into Scaling Artisan Cheese - Why gold medal creameries go belly up while Elsa and Anna string cheese sells in 20,000 stores nationwide, July 16, 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.

Mylene Bohle

Pipestone Sheep for Profit School is July 7-10

The Sheep for Profit School is a professional management and business school for the sheep industry. The purpose of the school is to help producers improve their sheep management skills, increase profitability and form relationships in the business.

Visit https://www.mnwest.edu/programs-courses/training-management/lamb-and-wool for registration information and a course schedule. For more information, contact the Pipestone Lamb and Wool Management Program, Minnesota West Community and Technical College, PO Box 250, Pipestone, MN 56164, 800-658-2330 or melinda.lamote@mnwest.edu.

Scott Duggan
Celebrating National Forage Week

*Forages - Defining Sustainability Before It Was Cool*
Kim Mullenix, Ph.D., Extension Beef Specialist/Associate Professor, Auburn University

Forage systems provide the basis for livestock production systems in the United States. In fact, the reach of forages is so extensive, they are located in almost every county within every state in the nation! Today, the forage-livestock industry is often under fire and deemed as a negative contributor to the environment. This couldn’t be farther from the truth. In fact, forages define sustainability through their positive contributions to society, agricultural production, and economics in America.

**Forages are used to convert cellulose to high-quality milk and protein for consumers.**
Did you know that forages are largely grown in areas where other human-edible crops are not productive? Instead of being a resource that we cannot use, grazing livestock can convert forages into high-quality milk or protein for human consumption. Livestock also recycle nutrients back to the pasture which can help with forage regrowth and promote healthy soils. It is a system that gives back and keeps going with management.

**Forages are used for conservation.**
Forages promote soil health by providing ground cover, reducing erosion, improving water infiltration and retention, and help with nutrient cycling.

**Forages are used for beautification.**
Forages are often used as part of roadside cover mixes, add beauty and diversity to the landscape, and provide aesthetic value as part of the landscape of American agriculture.

**Forages are used for wildlife habitat and recreation.**
Healthy forage systems promote habitat for many types of wildlife. Many farms enjoy the benefits of diverse wildlife and utilize this for recreational hunting. Forages also provide the landscape for time spent together with family checking on animals, waterers, and pasture production. In many ways, forages reconnect us with the most important things in life.

**Reconnect with agriculture during National Forage Week.**
This year for National Forage Week, take a drive out of town and spend some time just viewing the landscape. Think about how YOU are connected to forage agriculture. Remember that forage-based agriculture provides high-quality products for consumers, and the farmer who dedicates their time to provide a better livelihood for all.

As the leader and voice of economically and environmentally sound forage focused agriculture, AFGC understands the impact of forages on the world. Share your experience with forages and how they impact you as part of National Forage Week during June 20-26, 2021! Use the hashtag #NationalForageWeek on social media to share your story. Help AFGC spread the word about forages by following our Facebook page and sharing our posts during the week!

Mylen Bohle

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*Cattle Industry Convention & NCBA Trade Show – August 10-12, 2021*

CattleCon21 is the event for anyone in the cattle business! The Cattle Industry Convention & NCBA Trade Show is agriculture’s premier event where the industry comes together to get down to business for the cattle industry. This year the convention will be held in Nashville, Tennessee.

Registration & Housing is now open. Register before July 5th for Super Registration Price or before July 23rd for our Early Registration Price. Registration can be done either online at [https://convention.ncba.org/](https://convention.ncba.org/) or by mail. To request a printable registration form, email meetings@beef.org or call 303-694-0305. For more information about Registration & Housing, dial in to [https://convention.ncba.org/](https://convention.ncba.org/)

Scott Duggan
USDA to Invest $41.8 Million in Conservation Assistance for Producers in Drought-Impacted States (Arizona, California, Colorado and Oregon)

WASHINGTON, June 9, 2021 – In response to historic drought conditions, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is offering $41.8 million through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to help agricultural producers in Arizona, California, Colorado and Oregon alleviate the immediate impacts of drought and other natural resource challenges on working lands. USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will make available this funding through Conservation Incentive Contracts, a new option available through EQIP. Signup for this targeted funding begins today, and NRCS will accept applications through July 9, 2021.

Through EQIP, NRCS offers conservation practices that help producers recover from the impacts of drought as well as build resiliency. These practices provide other key benefits, including mitigating impacts from climate change as well as preventing and recovering from wildfire.

“As ongoing drought conditions in the West continue to worsen, we knew we needed to increase our support to farmers and ranchers in dealing with drought and prepare for the challenges of tomorrow,” said NRCS Chief Terry Cosby. “EQIP is our flagship conservation program, and with the expanded benefits the Conservation Incentive Contracts offer, it enables producers to deploy conservation activities that strengthen existing efforts on their land to help during times of drought. Additionally, by targeting this program in several states, we can make any needed adjustments before rolling out Conservation Incentive Contracts nationwide in fiscal year 2022.”

Find the full press release here!

Jessica Carlton, Legislative Affairs Specialist
Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Engagement
Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC)- Business Center
United States Department of Agriculture
Cell: 202-880-2591 Jessica.Carlton@usda.gov

Tax Considerations for Weather Related Sales of Livestock

There are two provisions in tax law that attempt to cushion producers from the consequences of adverse weather-related livestock sales. Under the first provision, livestock held for draft, breeding, or dairy purposes and sold due to adverse weather are provided a two-year reinvestment period. This replacement period can be extended if weather conditions persist for more than three years. The second provision, which applies to all livestock (other than poultry), allows cash basis taxpayers whose primary trade or business is farming to defer receipt from sales in excess of normal business practices due to weather-related conditions that result in a disaster declaration area. Both provisions apply only to those sales that are in excess of “normal sales” for the producer. The two tax provisions for weather-related sales of livestock have slightly different requirements, so producers should evaluate their circumstances to see which would be of greater tax benefit. For more information contact Northwest Farm Credit Services at: https://www.northwestfcs.com/ or the Rural Tax Education website http://www.ruraltax.org/.

Scott Duggan

Calendar

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OSU Crook County Extension
498 SE Lynn Blvd
Prineville, OR 97754
Phone: (541) 447-6228