

# RANCH REVIEW

A Baker, Union and Wallowa County Farm and Ranch Newsletter

Baker County Extension Service | 2600 East St, Baker City, OR 97814 | 541-523-6418

Summer 2023

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Ranch Review Newsletter

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## OSU Baker/Union County Livestock/Range Forages

We welcome William Price as our new Extension Livestock & Range Field Faculty serving Baker and Union Counties. Will has been here for a year but since this is the first Ranch Review newsletter to be mailed out since before covid, it's a good time to do an introduction.

Originally from Ontario, he is excited to continue working with livestock producers and other stakeholders to the benefit of Eastern Oregon. Will holds a Master's degree in Natural Resources from the University of Idaho and a Bachelor's degree in Rangeland Ecology and Management from Utah State University. He has worked with livestock producers and Extension professionals in Oregon, Idaho, Utah, and North Dakota. Since 2019 Will has worked with OSU Extension, livestock producers, and the Bureau of Land Management to conduct applied rangeland management research in Malheur County.



## Statewide Survey for Cereal Leaf Beetle Biocontrol Underway

In the spring/summer of 2023, Dr. Navneet Kaur and Darrin L. Walenta will conduct a field survey to determine if the successful biocontrol program for the cereal leaf beetle in PNW cereal production systems is still providing effective control. The introduced larval parasitoid wasp (*Tetrastichus Julis*) was released in the early to mid-2000s and successfully established in many areas around the PNW including northeastern Oregon. Traditional control of CLB with insecticide has decreased significantly since *T. julis* establishment. We would appreciate it greatly if you would please fill out this very short survey (use QR code or the link below) and also let us know if you are willing to cooperate in the field survey effort by letting us collect CLB larvae from any of your infested fields so we can evaluate *T.*



Figure 1. Cereal leaf beetle adult



Figure 2. Cereal leaf beetle larvae and *Tetrastichus julis*

*julis* parasitism rates. The online survey can be accessed at [https://survey.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6Yw0jEuzgS5zpVs](https://survey.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6Yw0jEuzgS5zpVs) or via the following QR code.



## FUNDS AVAILABLE!

**BAKER COUNTY TAYLOR GRAZING BOARD  
IS OFFERING COST SHARE FUNDS FOR  
RANGELAND IMPROVEMENTS**

Application and information is available at:

[https://www.bakercounty.org/pages/pdfs/Baker\\_County\\_Taylor\\_Grazing\\_Association\\_Board\\_Cost\\_Share\\_Application.pdf](https://www.bakercounty.org/pages/pdfs/Baker_County_Taylor_Grazing_Association_Board_Cost_Share_Application.pdf)



**BAKER COUNTY WOLF DEPREDATION  
COMPENSATION BOARD IS OFFERING  
RANGE RIDING COMPENSATION**

Application and information is available at:

[https://www.bakercounty.org/commissioners/Rage\\_Rider\\_Application.pdf](https://www.bakercounty.org/commissioners/Rage_Rider_Application.pdf)



**DEADLINE August 25, 2023**

### **Research Update - Dormant Season Grazing to Reduce Invasive Annual Grasses on Rangelands**

**Will Price, OSU Extension Service - Baker and Union Counties**

OSU Extension faculty in Baker, Harney, and Malheur Counties are studying the potential to use cattle grazing during the fall and winter months to reduce invasive annual grasses on rangelands. By reducing these annual grasses managers can reduce the risk of wildfire and promote perennial grasses, increasing the quality and quantity of forage available for cattle.

Traditionally, targeted grazing of annual grasses is done in the spring, however, repeated heavy use may have also harm desired species. The current research is utilizing grazing during the fall and winter when perennial species are dormant and grazing is unlikely to have a negative impact. Grazing treatments included in the study are traditional summer use, dormant season use during the fall and winter, traditional summer plus dormant season grazing, and no grazing.

The study began in the fall of 2018 on rangelands managed by the Vale District Bureau of Land Management. Also partnered on the project are University of Idaho Extension, Boise State University, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, and USDA Agricultural Research Service – Burns.

While the results so far are preliminary, it appears that dormant season grazing in addition to traditional summer use may have a positive effect on perennial grasses compared to grazing exclusion.

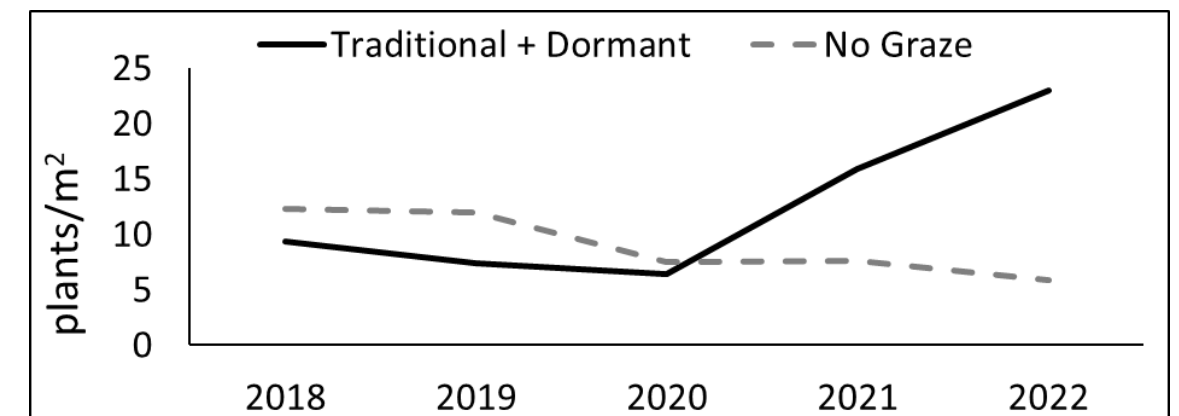


Figure 1: Density of perennial grasses in the Traditional + Dormant Season treatment and the No Graze treatment from 2018 – 2022.

In addition to the vegetation response study, researchers are also looking at cattle behavior and performance during the dormant season grazing period, as well as developing tools to use remote sensing technologies for adaptive grazing management throughout the year.

This work has been supported by USDA-NIFA, Oregon Beef Council, the National Public Lands Council, and OR-WA Bureau of Land Management.



## New Producer Grant

### Creating opportunities for new producers.

At AgWest Farm Credit, we recognize that a lack of start-up funds can be challenging for many new producers. This grant opportunity celebrates the ingenuity and passion of new producers and helps them bring dreams to fruition. This program was developed for those who have a vision for their operation but lack the funds to put their plans into action.

### Available funds

Successful applicants will receive a one-time \$15,000 grant to support their operation's growth.

### Eligibility

Eligible applicants need to meet the following requirements:

- Be a full or part-time agriculturalist who has two years or less of operational experience or has plans to start their operation within two years of the grant application date.
- Have an operation located within AgWest Farm Credit's territory.
- *Not be a current AgWest customer.*

### Application process

To apply, the applicant must complete the following:

- Review the Strategic Business Planning guide on AgWestFC.com.
- View three recorded webinars on AgWestFC.com covering financial statement basics.
- Submit a business plan and cash flow budget (educational video and template available).
- Submit a one-page essay sharing the applicant's relevant agricultural experience, addressing how funds received through this grant will be used to achieve the applicant's goals, and explaining how their operation will benefit their local community or help them achieve their operational aspirations.

### Award process

Applicants will be evaluated on a five-point scale covering four components: application, business plan, cash flow budget and essay. Grant recipients will be notified of their award in late September.

### Deadline to apply:

August 31. Recipients will be notified by September 29 and invited to an awards ceremony to celebrate their achievements in late fall.

Questions?  
Email: [AgVision@AgWestFC.com](mailto:AgVision@AgWestFC.com).

Ready to apply?  
Get started by scanning  
the QR code below.



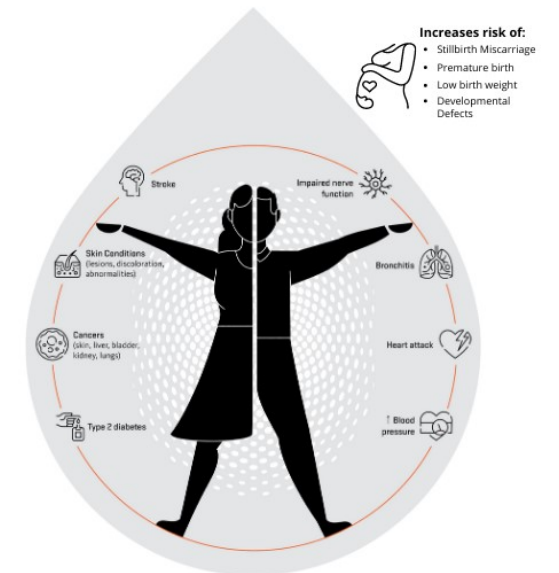
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## OSU College of Public Health and Human Services Well Water Program Offers No-Cost Domestic Well Testing - "The Be Well Study"

If you get your drinking water from a well you can get a free water test. The goal of the study is to learn about chemical contaminants in well water, the health of those who drink well water, and how wells are maintained. To participate, you will complete a 30-60 minute survey, receive and return a well water test kit, and then receive your well water test results with a guided explanation. If you are interested in participating, please visit <https://wellwater.oregonstate.edu/bewellstudy> for more information.

### Arsenic Health Effects



## NE Oregon Canola Stop 'n' Talk to be held in the Grande Ronde Valley, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm

The PNW Canola Association and OSU Extension Service will co-host another canola stop 'n' talk in the Grande Ronde Valley on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Canola production is on the rise across the PNW including **NE Oregon**.

The stop 'n' talk tours are a great opportunity to have an informal discussion to answer any questions you have about production, marketing, and sharing knowledge from previous canola production seasons.

Stay tuned for more details! If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Karen Sowers at [pnwcanola@gmail.com](mailto:pnwcanola@gmail.com) or visit the events calendar at <https://pnwcanola.org/calendar> to see dates/locations of all other canola outreach events in the region. Growers, ag service providers, seed company representatives, and anyone interested in canola production are invited to attend! Please note this event is being offered as a NE Oregon regional event.