

Oregon State University Extension Service
The Prompter / Rancher Review
 A Union, Baker and Wallowa County Farm and Ranch Newsletter



November 2005



Calendar of Events

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Extension Service

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Nov 16 | Grass Seed Cropping Systems for Sustainable Ag Annual Meeting. Linn Co. Fair and Expo Center, Albany, OR.
Contact: Kathryn Szabo (509) 335-4563 or szabo@wsu.edu |
| Nov 16-17 | PNW Vegetable Assoc. Conference and Trade Show. Red Lion Hotel, Pasco, WA. Info: www.pnva.org , 509-585-5460, or nolan@agmgt.com |
| Nov 30 - Dec 3 | PNW Grains Conference. Coeur d'Alene, ID. Contact: OWGL-Pendleton (541) 276-7330. |
| Nov 30 - Dec 2 | Hermiston Farm Fair. Hermiston Convention Center. |
| Dec 5 - 8 | Oregon Farm Bureau Annual Convention. Info: www.oregonfb.org |
| Dec 5 - 6 | Oregon Seed Growers League 2005 Annual Meeting. Doubletree Inn, Jantzen Beach, Portland. Contact: Lynne (phone: 541-995- 6079). |
| Dec 8 | Cherry Pruning Tour, The Dalles. See article. |
| Dec 13 | Union Co.—Private Applicator CORE video training |
| Dec 14 | Baker Co.-Private Pesticide Applicator CORE video training |
| Dec 14 | Wallowa Co.-Private Pesticide Applicator CORE video training |
| Jan 5 - 6 | Direct Seed Conference. Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, WA. Contact: Diana Smith (Phone: 208-883-3645 or Email: info@directseed.org |
| Jan 12-13 | Oregon Essential Oil Growers League Annual Meeting. Salishan Lodge, Gleneden Beach. Contact: Bryon Ostlund (503) 364-2944. |
| Jan 26-27 | Oregon Potato Conference. Portland, OR |
| Feb 1 | OSU Extension Service Crop Production Seminar for NE Oregon |
| | NE OR Private Pesticide Applicator General and Pre-Exam Training
Feb 6 - Baker Co. Feb 7 - Union Co. Feb 8 - Wallowa Co. |
| Feb 14 | iSNAP "Using Climate and Weather Information in IPM Decision Making" Workshop. Ag Service Center Conference Room, Island City |
| Feb 27-29 | Harvesting Clean Energy 2006 Conference. Spokane, WA.
Info: (360) 352-1763 ext. 104 or email at info@harvestcleanenergy.org |

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News and Other Information

New OSU Fertilizer Guides Now Available

A new series of OSU fertilizer guides are now available that address the nutrient requirements of non-irrigated cereal crops grown in north-central and eastern Oregon. The guides provide a methodical approach to determining nutrient needs based on 1) expected yield, 2) cereal class (soft white, club, hard, red), and 3) targeted protein levels. Examples within each guide provide users with an easy-to-follow approach to calculating fertilizer needs.

<u>Publication #</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Precipitation Zone*</u>
FG 80-E	Winter Wheat in Summer-Fallow Systems	Low
FG 81-E	Winter Wheat and Spring Grains in Continuous Cropping Systems	Low
FG 82-E	Winter Wheat in Summer-Fallow Systems	Intermediate
FG 83-E	Winter Wheat in Continuous Cropping Systems	Intermediate
FG 84-E	Winter Wheat in Continuous Cropping Systems	High

*Precipitation zones are based on average annual precipitation and are defined as follows: Low = less than 12 inches; Intermediate = 12 to 18 inches; High = more than 18 inches.

Fertilizer guides are available through your local OSU Extension office or online publications page at <http://eesc.oregonstate.edu/>

Wasco County Cherry Pruning Tour

The tour will start at 8:15 a.m. on December 8 with coffee and donuts at Dave Cooper's Orchard at 2270 Dry Hollow Road. Take Exit 85 off I-84. Cross the overpass, and then turn right at the stop sign. Go 50 yards and make a sharp left turn, driving uphill on Brewery Grade. After cresting the hill, you'll be on 9th Street for a very short way—turn right on Dry Hollow Road. Continue on Dry Hollow Road keeping right at the Y. Turn left into the driveway and follow the signs to the first stop.

The morning tour will be conducted in English. The tour will be repeated in Spanish in the afternoon, beginning at 1:15. Everyone is invited to either or both tours. Tour will include:

Central Leader Regina/G5 & 6

Central Leader Attika/G6

Modified Spanish Bush (KGB)

Sweetheart/Mazzard—2nd and 8th leaf

Steep Leader Skeena/G6—6th leaf

Contact Wasco Co. OSU Extension office at 541-296-5494 for more details. Several new cherry variety/training system articles are posted online at

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/wasco>. The articles will be helpful as you make production system decisions for the future.

Workshops, Seminars, and Training Events

Using Climate and Weather Information in IPM Decision Making

January 18, 2006 in Pocatello, ID

February 15, 2006 in Toppenish, WA

February 14, 2006 in LaGrande, OR (10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.)



Come and learn how weather information can be more fully utilized to improve application efficiency and product efficacy, reduce environmental impacts and increase farm profits. Target audience includes growers and agricultural professionals, including pesticide applicators, CCAs and consultants. Pesticide Recertification and CCA credits will be available. The workshops will also focus on:

- Weather impacts on pest biology and drift potential
- Practical techniques to reduce pesticide drift
- Design considerations for edge-of-field buffers that reduce pesticide loss and aid biological control
- Online pest models and resources to support pest management

What is iSNAP?

This project provides you the opportunity to get the latest information on emerging nutrient and pest management alternatives that meet today's need for low-cost, effective, environmentally-friendly land management. We offer training workshops and a website with links to the latest technical information. The project objective is to help you evaluate what pest and nutrient management tools are effective in enhancing productivity and protecting the environment. Mary Staben, the project leader at Oregon State University, coordinates a team of technical specialists that are active in extending new technology and responding to emerging issues. The team includes expertise from across the Pacific Northwest in:

- Availability and release of N and P from organic materials
- Soil and tissue testing to develop accurate nutrient recommendations
- Pesticide toxicity and environmental fate
- Integrated pest management practices to conserve natural enemies
- Weather modeling and pest biology

For more information visit isnap.oregonstate.edu or contact **Mary Staben** at Oregon State University, 541-737-2683, mary.staben@oregonstate.edu

The **iSNAP Education Project** is a collaborative effort of Washington State University, Oregon State University, University of Idaho, US Environmental Protection Agency and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Funding is provided by the National Integrated Water Quality Program and Western Region IPM Center.

Workshops, Seminars, and Training Events

Private Pesticide Applicator CORE Training in December 2005

Private pesticide applicators in Union, Baker, and Wallowa Counties who need CORE training will have an opportunity to do so at one of the following free video training sessions:

- December 13 Union County—OSU Extension Service office (Agriculture Service Center Conference Room) at 10507 North McAlister Road, Island City. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Call 963-1010 to register. ***Session will continue through noon so bring your own lunch!***
- December 14 Baker County—OSU Extension Service office at 2610 Grove Street, Baker City. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Call 523-6418 to register. ***Session will continue through noon so bring your own lunch!***
- December 14 Wallowa County—OSU Extension Service office (Clover Leaf Hall) at 668 NW 1st, Enterprise. Call 426-3143 to register. ***Session will continue through noon so bring your own lunch!***

You will need to register prior to the date of the training session by calling your local OSU Extension Service office. Licensed private pesticide applicators will receive 4 CORE re-certification credits for the session. If you need GENERAL re-certification credits and have not participated in this video training session more than once during your 5 year re-certification period you will receive 4 general re-certification credits. **Please note that all licensed applicators may not participate in the video training session more than twice during a 5 year re-certification period.** Also, you may not participate in more than one of the scheduled video training sessions offered in December 2005.

OR-OSHA Training Opportunities: Pesticide Re-certification and HB 3019 Training

OR-OSHA workshops are held annually throughout a variety of locations in the state and some classes are offered online. Currently, there are two online training courses available which offer Oregon Pesticide Applicator and Consultant re-certification credits:

OR-OSHA 203: Introduction to Personal Protective Equipment

OR-OSHA 205: The Hazard Communication Program (HAZCOM)

Online courses and locations for all ag-related workshops which meet the annual 4-hour instruction requirement of HB 3019 for agriculture safety rules and procedures can be accessed at <http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/osh/education.html> or you may call OR-OSHA at (800) 922-2689.

Workshops, Seminars, and Training Events

NE Oregon Private Pesticide Applicator General and Pre-Exam Training

Session to be held in February 2006

If you can answer “yes” to any of the following questions, plan on attending one of the free NE Oregon trainings sessions conducted by your local OSU Extension Service.

Need to take an exam for a Private Pesticide Applicator license?

Need to take a Laws and Safety exam for either a Public or Commercial license?

Need general pesticide applicator re-certification credit?

Each session will take place from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A short 30-minute lunch break (on your own) will take place from noon until 12:30 so we encourage you to bring your own lunch and stay on-site to work on calibration/math problems! Four Oregon re-certification credits are anticipated for the training session. **Register** for one of the training sessions at your local OSU Extension Service office **no later than February 5, 2006!** Dates for the 2006 sessions are:

- February 6 Baker County—OSU Extension Service Conference Room, Baker City.
Contact: Cory Parsons, OSU Extension Service—Baker Co.
2610 Grove Street, Baker City, OR 97814
Phone: 523-6418
- February 7 Union County—Agriculture Service Center Conference Room, Island City.
Contact: Darrin L. Walenta, OSU Extension Service-Union Co.
10507 North McAlister Road, La Grande, OR
Phone: 963-1010
- February 8 Wallowa County-Cloverleaf Hall, Enterprise.
Contact: John Williams, OSU Extension Service-Wallowa Co.
668 NW 1st Street, Enterprise, OR. 97828
Phone: 426-3143

The training session is not intended to be a complete review of all materials needed to take either a Private Pesticide Applicator or Laws and Safety exam, however, many important topics pertinent to all pesticide applicators will be covered. We encourage self-study of the “Oregon Pesticide Safety Education Manual—EM 8850” prior to the training session. Copies of EM 8850 (revised January 2004) are available at your local OSU Extension Service office for \$22.50. Licensed applicators may not attend more than one of the 2006 NE Oregon training sessions.

News and Other Information

Call 963-4040 Before You Burn in the Fall or Spring!!

The time from early fall to late spring offers many opportunities to clean-up around the homestead, remove weeds from barrow pits/fences, prepare fields for planting, get rid of brush piles, leaves, etc., however, environmental conditions suitable for adequate smoke dispersal from such burn events do not occur every day. Burn events conducted during adverse conditions can lead to unhealthy air quality levels that may affect you, your neighbor, or nearby communities.

In order to help you make the most informed decision whether to burn or not burn on a particular day, the Union County Call-In Center was established to provide daily burn or no-burn forecasts and to be used in conjunction with local fire district burn regulations. The forecasts are recorded daily by the La Grande Fire District and are based upon local weather data and air quality levels. The process is simple, takes very little time, and costs you nothing! All you have to do is call **963-4040** to hear the recorded message as to whether or not it is a burn or no-burn day.

The Call-In Center is designed for use by all Union County residents, ranchers, growers, local fire district officials, smoke management officials, woodland owners, and others during the fall, winter, and spring seasons when the field burn season is not in effect. The automated call-in system provides easy access to:

- Daily Burn Forecasts
- Direct access to your local fire district for permits and additional burn regulations.
- Union County Field Burn Program (July 15 - September 30)
- La Grande Wood Stove Program
- Forest Slash-pile Burning
- Complaint Registration

If you need more Union County Smoke Management information, visit the Union County web site at <http://www.union-county.org> and click on "Departments" then "Smoke Management". Oregon DEQ air quality readings for La Grande can be accessed directly from the Union County web site. For more complete explanation of the air quality index data, click on OR-DEQ "Programs", then click "Air Quality Division", and then click "Air Quality Index". Alternatively, go directly to the OR-DEQ website at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/aq/api/index.asp>.

***Don't Forget, Call Before You Burn in
Spring or Fall!***

963-4040

Union Co. Smoke Management Call-In Center

News and Other Information

New Livestock Extension Agent Arrives in Baker-Union County

Hello North Eastern Oregon, my name is Cory Parsons. I am the newest addition to OSU Extension faculty in Baker County. I am located in the Baker County Extension office and will be serving both Baker and Union counties. I will be focusing on Livestock Production and Natural Resource Management as well as fulfilling the Staff Chair responsibilities. I will also be working and helping out with water quality issues as they pertain to livestock grazing and confined feeding operations.

My background

I was raised in Eastern Idaho, in the beautiful Teton Mountains. My folks owned and operated a commercial cow/calf operation, and also operated a small, 100 head dairy. We were fairly self sufficient, raising our own crops (alfalfa, grass hay and barley) that we later used during the winter feeding months.

I have always wanted to be involved in Agriculture, but was not quite sure where. After high school I attended Ricks College in Rexburg, Idaho for 2 years, studying Natural Resource Management. After Ricks, I transferred to the University of Idaho, majoring in Livestock/Range Management, in the Animal Science Department, College of Ag. I always believed that livestock management and range management naturally went together. While at the U of I, I worked as the Assistant Beef herd manager on campus for 3 years.

While at the U of I, I completed my Masters of Science in Animal Science. I worked with Dr. Pat Momont (U of I) and Dr. Timothy DelCurto (OSU) looking at timing of grazing in mountain riparian areas at OSU's Hall Ranch located outside of Union, Oregon. After graduation I took a job with OSU as the Central Oregon Livestock and Water Quality Extension Specialist where I have been for the last 5 years.

My family, Danielle, Dakota (9), Nicole (6), Garrett (4) and Paige (2) and myself are excited and happy to be moving to North Eastern Oregon and are looking forward to meeting and working with all of you. If there is anything I can help you with, big or small, please feel free to call and ask for help. Looking forward to meeting you all

Cory T. Parsons

OSU-Crop and Soil Science Dept. Offers New Alumni Newsletter

The first edition of the OSU-CSS "News and Views" newsletter was recently released. The goal of the newsletter is to provide brief updates of departmental events and activities to CSS alumni and friends and, also, facilitate communication with each other.

If you would like to receive the newsletter in electronic form, please go to the CSS website at <http://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/alumni/register> to sign up. If you would like to receive a hardcopy version, contact Barb Reed at 541-737-5854.

Impact of Rising Diesel Prices on Machinery Costs - Mary Corp, Umatilla Co.

Agricultural producers are facing the highest price of diesel they have ever seen. Gas prices have fallen recently to levels at or slightly below pre Hurricane Katrina and Rita while diesel prices have remained high. Forecasts from the Energy Information Administration (<http://eia.doe.gov/>) have diesel prices continuing to increase before dropping slightly but remaining at historically high levels throughout the remainder of 2005 and in 2006.

Many people across agriculture are asking the question, "How do these high diesel prices impact machinery and whole-farm costs?" In the long run, higher production costs will lead to either higher prices for commodities or a lowering of land costs according to Kevin Dhuyvetter, Kansas State University Ag Economist. He suggests in his recent analysis that market forces will make adjustments to account for these higher prices. However, in the short run, higher costs will likely be reflected in a direct reduction in net income because producers have limited changes they can make.

One way to look at the impact of fuel prices is to consider the fuel required per acre for a particular operation (i.e., the number of gallons of fuel that are consumed) and multiply that number by the increase in the price of fuel. See examples of various typical field operations in Table 1. Notice that three different drills range in fuel use in gallons/acre from 0.45 to 0.81, while a ground boom sprayer being pulled by a 60 hp tractor uses 0.10 gal/ac. The fuel price columns show the increased costs producers are facing in the short term depending on the level of price increase.

Table 1. Fuel consumption and diesel price impact for various field operations

Operation	Diesel Use Gal/Ac	Fuel price increase, \$/gal				
		\$0.35	\$0.45	\$0.55	\$0.75	\$0.95
Increase in operation cost, \$/ac						
Chisel plow, 37 ft.	0.60	\$0.21	\$0.27	\$0.33	\$0.45	\$0.57
Moldboard plow, 8 bottom	1.29	\$0.45	\$0.58	\$0.71	\$0.97	\$1.23
Field cultivator, 47 ft	0.32	\$0.11	\$0.14	\$0.18	\$0.24	\$0.30
V-Ripper 25" O.C., 18 ft	0.99	\$0.35	\$0.45	\$0.54	\$0.74	\$0.94
Drill, Presswheel, 30 ft	0.64	\$0.22	\$0.29	\$0.35	\$0.48	\$0.61
Drill, Air seeder w/cart, 52 ft	0.45	\$0.16	\$0.20	\$0.25	\$0.34	\$0.43
Drill, No-till, 30 ft	0.81	\$0.28	\$0.36	\$0.45	\$0.61	\$0.77
Sprayer, Boom, 50 ft	0.10	\$0.04	\$0.05	\$0.06	\$0.08	\$0.10
Combine, 30ft	1.31	\$0.46	\$0.59	\$0.72	\$0.98	\$1.24

Source: Lazarus and Selley, University of Minnesota, August 26, 2005

In the long run, if producers anticipate fuel prices will remain high, they will be faced with making management changes that will lower their costs (e.g., negotiate lower rents, reduce tillage, purchase machinery that is more fuel efficient per unit of use, etc.).

NRCS Conservation Security Program—2006 Upper Grande Ronde

Private land managers in three selected watersheds within Oregon will have the opportunity to participate in USDA's Conservation Security Program (CSP) in 2006, according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service. CSP is a voluntary program that financially rewards private land managers who are actively conserving natural resources on their land.

"Private landowners and managers in Oregon have been protecting our soil and water resources for years," says NRCS State Conservationist Bob Graham. "Now they will be rewarded for that stewardship, and will become the models for future CSP participants. It's a bright new day for conservation and I'm delighted we're a part of this sign-up."

CSP isn't limited by land use or size. It is based on rewarding outstanding conservation stewards, whether you are a beef producer, grain grower, horse operator, rancher, grass seed grower or any of a number of other producers. The common thread is your commitment to conservation.

The Upper Grande Ronde watershed was selected, which includes cropland, pastureland, rangeland, and forestland. The other two Oregon watersheds that have been selected to participate in this program for 2006 are the McKenzie Watershed and the Upper Klamath Lake Watershed. Over the next several years, all private land managers in Oregon will have the opportunity to apply for CSP as their watershed is selected for a signup.

If the majority of your land is inside the boundaries of the Upper Grande Ronde Watershed, you have met the first eligibility criteria for CSP. Signup dates for the program have not yet been announced, but you can begin preparing by checking out <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov>. On the site, you can find additional information about the selected watersheds, maps, eligibility requirements and the signup process.

Once you've determined you're in a watershed, you can begin preparing by taking the following steps:

- Complete the CSP Self-Assessment Workbook (available at <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov> or at your local NRCS field office)
- Gather records to document your past conservation work. These records may include:
 - A map of your farm including soils information
 - Records that show how you manage your crop. This may include
 - pesticide applications,
 - irrigation or other water use,
 - planting/harvesting dates,
 - weed management,
 - pest management,
 - fertilizers applied, etc.
 - Records of work you've completed to benefit wildlife. This may include planting field border areas to permanent vegetation, managing water use to match with wildlife needs, or building areas that encourage bird nesting
- Visit your local USDA Service Center to receive a USDA Identification Number
- Watch for CSP program updates. Shortly, NRCS will announce:
 - CSP signup dates
 - CSP informational meeting and workshop dates
 - Any additional eligibility requirements for CSP

Contact:

Tom Smith, 541-426-4521 ext. 101
Greg Kuehl, 541-963-4178 ext. 107
Mike Burton, 541-963-4178 ext. 108

The Prompter/Rancher Review – A Union, Baker, and Wallowa Co. Farm and Ranch Newsletter Subscription Form

The free newsletter is distributed bimonthly (except July and August). If you would like to subscribe, please fill out the following form and mail to:

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* Note: The electronic version of the newsletter will be sent via email as a PDF file. Adobe Acrobat Reader is required in order to open the attachment. You can download this program free from the internet; simply log on to www.adobe.com, then go to support and click on "download Acrobat Reader".



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