



Announcements

JULY

19-20 Walla Walla Sweet Onion Festival, Walla Walla, Main Street, & Farmer's Market. Events include chef demonstrations, recipe contest, lots of food, sweet onion run, BBQ competition, children's museum, and Saturday night street dance. For more information, call 509-525-1031 or visit <http://www.sweetonions.org/festival/2008/>.

7 – AUG 1 Intensive Spanish Institute, Walla Walla Community College. Beginning and intermediate Spanish classes will be held July 7-18. Advanced beginning and advanced intermediate classes will be held July 21-Aug. 1. Classes are Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Students may earn WWCC transferable credits or clock hours.

To register or for more information, contact Cynthia Selde, WSU Learning Center, at 509-529-5959 or cselde@wsu.edu.



AUGUST

2-3 Walla Walla YMCA Peach Basket Classic, Walla Walla, Main Street. The YMCA Peach Basket Classic 3-on-3 basketball tournament draws teams from all over the Northwest. Entry forms for ages 6 and up will be available at Banner Bank and the YMCA. Registration deadline is July 24. Contact the YMCA at 509-525-8863 for details.

27-31 Walla Walla Fair & Frontier Days, "Building Today the Country Way" For more information, visit <http://www.wallawallafairgrounds.com/>. 2008

Fair Exhibitor's Handbooks and entry forms are available at the Walla Walla WSU Extension office.

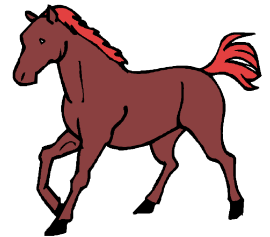
SEPTEMBER

6 Walla Walla Community Hospice Pond & Garden Tour, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., \$20. Tour ten unique gardens which incorporate ponds, creeks & other water features in the design. For more information, visit <http://www.wwhospice.org/> or call 509-525-5561.

Updates

GRANT TO HELP FIGHT EQUINE ANEMIA

Researchers at WSU College of Veterinary Medicine recently were awarded a \$1.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study the equine infectious anemia (EIA) virus. EIA is a blood-borne disease in horses, transmitted primarily by horseflies and deerflies. A horse that has tested positive for EIA must be quarantined for life or euthanized (USDA guidelines).



The EIA virus evades detection by the immune system because of its ability to constantly change and adapt. Because of similarities with other members of the lentivirus genus, EIA is a model disease that may provide clues to help fight similar infections in other species such as HIV in humans. For more information, visit the website <http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-vth/EquineNews/>

EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) has recently released a report on climate and global change. "The Effects of Climate Change on Agriculture, Land Resources, Water Resources, and Biodiversity in the United States." focuses on the next 25 to 50 years and provides practical information that will help land owners and resource managers make better decisions concerning climate change.

They conclude that climate change is already affecting U.S. water resources, agriculture, land resources, and biodiversity, and will continue to do so. Specific findings include:

- Grain and oilseed crops will mature more rapidly, but increasing temperatures will increase the risk of crop failures, particularly if precipitation decreases or becomes more variable.
- Higher temperatures will negatively affect livestock. Warmer winters will reduce mortality but this will be more than offset by greater mortality in hotter summers. Hotter temperatures will also result in reduced productivity of livestock and dairy animals.

- Forests in the interior West, the Southwest, and Alaska are already being affected by climate change with increases in the size and frequency of forest fires, insect outbreaks and tree mortality.
- Much of the United States has experienced higher precipitation and streamflow, with decreased drought severity and duration, over the 20th century. The West and Southwest, however, are notable exceptions, and increased drought conditions have occurred in these regions.
- Weeds grow more rapidly under elevated atmospheric CO₂ resulting in northward migration and decreased herbicide sensitivity.
- There is a trend toward reduced mountain snowpack and earlier spring snowmelt runoff in the Western United States.
- Horticultural crops (such as tomato, onion, and fruit) are more sensitive to climate change than grains and oilseed crops.
- Young forests on fertile soils will achieve higher productivity from elevated atmospheric CO₂ concentrations. Nitrogen deposition and warmer temperatures will increase productivity in other types of forests where water is available.
- Invasion by exotic grass species into arid lands will result from climate change, causing an increased fire frequency. Rivers and riparian systems in arid lands will be negatively impacted.
- A continuation of the trend toward increased water use efficiency could help mitigate the impacts of climate change on water resources.
- The growing season has increased by 10 to 14 days over the last 19 years across the temperate latitudes. Species' distributions have also shifted.
- The rapid rates of warming in the Arctic observed in recent decades, and projected for at least the next century, are dramatically reducing the snow and ice covers that provide denning and foraging habitat for polar bears.



incorporating climate change risks into National Forest Management Plans and is providing guidance to forest managers on how to respond and adapt to climate change. The Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Services Agency are encouraging actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sequestration through conservation programs. USDA's Risk Management Agency has prepared tools to manage drought risks and is conducting an assessment of the risks of climate change on the crop insurance program.

For the complete report, please visit:
http://www.usda.gov/oce/global_change/
<http://www.climate-science.gov/Library/sap/sap4-3/default.php> or <http://www.sap43.ucar.edu/>.

Source: USDA

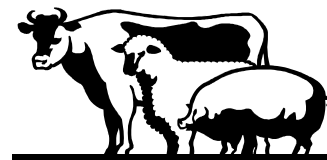
Farming & Livestock **PACIFIC NORTHWEST LIVESTOCK RISK PROTECTION PROGRAM**

The Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) program is available again for the 2009 crop year, beginning July 1, 2008 in all counties in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. LRP plans of insurance include Fed Cattle, Feeder Cattle, Lamb and Swine.

Current participation for the 2008 crop year (ending June 30, 2008) covers 117,059 head of livestock with \$17,740,380 in total coverage. To date, a total of \$108,530 in losses has been paid under the program in the Northwest.

LRP covers a change in price peril, protecting the policyholder against downward price risk during the insurance period. It does not cover any other peril (e.g., mortality, condemnation, physical damage, disease, individual marketing decisions, local price deviations, or any other cause of loss).

Cattle, swine and lamb producers are encouraged to contact a local livestock insurance agent to learn additional details. USDA



subsidizes 13 % of the LRP premium. A list of livestock crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers or at <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents>.

Source: Risk Management Agency, Spokane Regional Office

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USDA agencies are responding to the risks of climate change. For example, the Forest Service is

AMI UPDATES COOL WEB SITE

The American Meat Institute (AMI) is updating its country-of-origin labeling (COOL) Web site, www.countryoforiginlabel.org. Mandatory COOL is scheduled to go into effect Sept. 30.

The site includes information about who needs to label products; how to determine what meat products need a label; labeling categories; record-keeping requirements; international trade; and a support desk that links visitors to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and Agricultural Marketing Service experts who can help explain the details of the law.

CATTLE PRODUCERS SHOULD PREPARE FOR MANDATORY COOL

The Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) law is scheduled to take effect on September 30, 2008. Full implementation may affect some or all of the 2007 calf crop and certainly will affect the 2008 calf crop.

The proposed final rule states “Any person in the business of supplying a covered commodity to a retailer, whether directly or indirectly, must maintain records to establish and identify the immediate previous source (if applicable) and immediate subsequent recipient of a covered commodity, in such a way that identifies the product unique to that transaction by means of lot number or other unique identifier, for a period of one year from the date of the transaction.”

Producers should think about whether they have records that will meet these requirements, whether new records are needed and how those records must be organized and maintained to be available as required.

It is likely that many cow/calf producers already have the majority of records needed to prove the origin of the calves they sell although some reorganization of those records may be needed.



Stocker producers, however, face a greater challenge to be able to trace animals from a variety of purchasing sources to subsequent marketing groups after the commingling that is so typical and necessary for stocker production. Some sort of individual animal ID, although not mandated by this law, is likely to be the only feasible way for many stocker operations to be able to maintain records of animal origin.

Feedlots and packing plants will likewise need detailed records to maintain a complete chain of

identification through the marketing system, especially during meat fabrication when pieces of animals are commingled in boxes of beef.

For more information, visit the USDA Agricultural Marketing website <http://www.ams.usda.gov>

Source: Derrell S. Peel, OSU Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist

GRAIN MARKETING FOR PROFIT, NOT PRIDE

Raleigh Curtis, the manager of Mid-Columbia Producers, Inc., challenges farmers to judge whether their primary motive in marketing their grain is making a profit, or as Curtis asserted is often the case, feeling right, proud, or safe. In order to change from emotion driven to profit driven marketing Curtis recommends the following:



- Pay yourself a monthly wage. Use profits only for business growth or retirement investments. If your wage is too high the farm profits will be less, but you should keep the two items - profit and wages - distinct from each other and not use profits to raise your standard of living.
- Determine and know your cost of production. In accordance with your business goals, determine what return you want above your cost of production investment, e.g. 10%, 30%, etc., and develop your marketing strategy to achieve this price. A useful Excel spreadsheet may be downloaded from <http://www.spokane-county.wsu.edu/smallfarms/management.htm>.
- Keep track of depreciation and use it to your advantage. You should keep depreciation in the business and add it to operating capital instead of using it for living expenses, personal purchases, or farm equity. The University of Idaho *MachCost Program* (see *Resources*) enables you to calculate your equipment costs that include depreciation.
- Be a low-cost producer. Optimize your inputs to reap the maximum yields based on your best information. Take soil tests and use the information from them. Use fuel conserving farming systems.
- Equip yourself with knowledge about the market, government programs, and crop marketing insurance. A crop insurance calculator may be downloaded from the WSU Extension Spokane website (see address above) and used to determine whether crop revenue coverage at various levels may benefit you.

Know what motivates your behavior, make a plan for your future, and market your wheat at a price that moves you toward your goals.

Additional resources:

MachCost Program, University of Idaho. A program for calculating costs of operating machinery. See http://www.ag.uidaho.edu/aers/r_machcost_inst.htm *Grain Marketing is Simple, It's Just Not Easy*.

Usset, Ed. \$29.95 available at <http://www.cffm.umn.edu/simple/>

WSU Extension Farm Management website has several enterprise budgets you can download and compare at <http://www.farm-mgmt.wsu.edu/>

Source: Diana Roberts, WSU Extension; John Nelson, WSU Western Center for Risk Management Education.

4-H

TEEN RALLY

Any teen in 7th grade and above is invited to attend the 2008 SE District 4-H Teen Rally in Anatone, WA, October 24-26 at Fields Spring State Park.

You do not need to be a 4-H member to register. Teen Rally is an opportunity to meet new friends and participate in various workshops ranging from outdoor survival to leadership.



Registration forms are available at the Walla Walla County WSU Extension office at 328 West Poplar. For more information, call 509-524-2685 or email bbryce@wsu.edu

Master Gardeners

PLANT CLINICS & FARMER'S MARKET

Visit the Walla Walla Extension office on Tuesdays from 2:00-4:00 p.m. or Thursdays from 9:00 -11:00 a.m. or Farmer's Market on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bring in your home garden questions or problems or phone in and speak to a Master Gardener. Problem plant samples may be left at any time during office hours and a Master Gardener will look at the specimen during clinic hours and contact the home owner.

Home & Garden

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

"Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a strategy to prevent and suppress pests with minimum impact on human health, the environment and nontarget organisms." – *Steve Dreistadt, University of California*

Choose a combination of tactics to keep pest populations at an acceptable level.

1. Check your plants often for signs and symptoms of pest damage. Be sure to inspect the undersides of leaves and the inner parts of plant canopies. Occasionally, check your plants at night with a flashlight.
2. Identify the pest. Most home garden plant problems are due to a nonliving factor such as poor growing conditions, temperature extremes, poor water management, soil compaction, or mechanical injury. Rule out these problems first. If you find a pest, make sure it is the one that is doing the damage.
3. Decide how much plant injury you and your plant can tolerate. The amount of time, energy, and money you are willing to invest in pest management should also be considered.
4. Develop a pest management strategy:



Cultural methods

- Choose resistant or tolerant plant varieties
- Put plants where they will grow well. Consider neighboring plants; soil pH, moisture, and drainage; and exposure to sun and wind when selecting a planting site.
- Start with healthy transplants.
- Keep plants healthy with adequate irrigation and appropriate fertilization, if any.
- Keep your garden clean. Pick up plant debris, prune out diseased and dead branches, and keep your garden as weed-free as possible.
- Rotate annual plants. By growing different plants in different places each year, you deprive pests of their hosts.

Physical methods

- Hand pick pests when possible.
- Dislodge pests with a forceful stream of water.
- Prune out diseased plant parts. Regular pruning improves air circulation which decreases foliage diseases.
- Use barriers such as row covers and plant collars to physically shield plants.
- Traps can help reduce some pest populations.

Biological methods



- Protect beneficial insects. Encourage pollinators with a wide variety of blooming plants. Groundcovers and coarse mulches provide hiding places for predators such as ground beetles and spiders.

- *Bacillus thuringiensis* (*B.t.*) is a bacterium that contains a toxin that poisons some insects but is nontoxic to humans, plants, animals, and the environment.
- Parasitic nematodes kill certain soil-dwelling insects.
- Water features, plants that provide food and cover, grassy areas, and bird feeders attract predators such as birds, bats, snakes, frogs, and toads.



Chemical methods

Consider chemical controls only if other techniques do not result in adequate pest control. If you must use pesticides:

- **Read & Follow Label Instructions.**
 - Choose the least toxic chemical.
 - Choose the chemical most specific to the pest.
 - Spot spray only infested plants.
 - Do not spray plants in bloom
5. Evaluate the results of your pest program by continuing to monitor your plants carefully.

Well-researched pest management choices will reward you, the environment, and the beneficial organisms with which you share your garden.

Source: Sustainable Gardening (EM8742) 1999

COMMON PESTICIDE ERRORS

Pesticide use raises concerns about human safety, toxicity to nontarget organisms, runoff, leaching, disposal problems, and possible environmental residue. Before buying a pesticide, read the label to find out whether the host plant and pest are listed and if you have a choice of products, choose the least hazardous.



Improper pest or disease identification resulting in incorrect pesticide selection. There are many chemicals on the market today and most are specifically useful for a certain set of problems. Your local Extension office can often help you identify the problem correctly and suggest management options.

Incorrect pesticide dosage. If a little is good, a lot is NOT better. Please read the labels and follow the directions. Do not intentionally use more product than what the label indicates. In many

cases you are only wasting the product because it is at its maximum efficiency at the labeled rate. Increasing the rate can actually reduce your control and usually causes plant damage.



Don't combine chemicals unless there are explicit instructions on the label to do so. Clean, well-labeled spray equipment can prevent accidental plant damage. Separate sprayers should be used for herbicides and insecticides to prevent accidental damage.

Be sure your application equipment is calibrated to deliver a known volume.

Improper application timing. Disease or insect pests are most active when weather conditions are favorable and the target plant is most susceptible. Monitor plants closely to avoid making the initial application too late and to determine if follow-up applications may be needed.

Generally, herbicides are most effective on small, early stages of weed growth. Many insecticides are effective on insect larvae or nymphs, but not on adults. Some pesticides must be applied prior to infection.

Pesticide does not reach target pest. The pest may be in a difficult-to-reach location on the underside of leaves, under bark or soil, or within stems or fruits. After application, some pesticides need to be watered in for best results but water in the wrong amount or at the wrong time may make herbicides ineffective. Follow instructions on the product label.

Unfavorable environmental conditions. Most pesticides should not be applied just prior to or during rainfall. High temperatures, lack of moisture, and both acid and alkaline soil pH affect weed resistance. Wind can cause pesticides to drift from their target sites and can result in unintended damage.

Poor pesticide condition. The age of the pesticide, moisture, and temperature extremes are the most common factors that may render a pesticide ineffective.

Failure to keep records. Record what was used on what plant at what dose and when. If something goes wrong and the plant is damaged or the pest was not controlled, you can review your actions and decide what to change.

Family Living

SUMMER SUN SAFETY

Whether you are going camping, going to the beach or simply heading out for little league games, remember sun safety. The American Cancer Society finds that skin cancer is the most common form of cancer and the sun's rays can have a negative affect not only on skin but on the immune system and eyesight as well.



The American Academy of Pediatrics came out with several important guidelines for sun safety that are easy to follow and simple to do.

Plan ahead

- Plan outdoor activities in the mornings or late afternoons to avoid the sun's strongest rays, which happen between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- If you plan to be outside, make sure you put on sunscreen one half hour before going out, so it has time to work on the skin.
- Dress yourself and your family in clothes that protect against the sun. Hold the clothes up to the light to make sure they are made of tightly woven fabrics that will keep out the sun's rays. Dress babies in light, long sleeved clothes.
- Hats and sunglasses help keep the sun out of people's eyes. Check that the hat shades the ears and neck, too.
- If your child goes to daycare, summer school or camp, remember to pack a bottle of sunscreen in his or her bag every day.

Protect your family

- Always use sunscreen with an SPF of over 15. Look for the words "broad-spectrum" on the label. Broad spectrum sunscreen protects against both UVA and UVB rays.
- Put on sunscreen again after swimming, sweating or toweling off. Remember to do this even if you use waterproof sunscreen.
- Reapply sunscreen every two hours.
- Use sunscreen even on cloudy days.
- Zinc Oxide is a safe sun block that can be applied to the nose, cheeks and shoulders to give extra protection.



- Babies less than six months old should never be in direct sunlight. Keep them in the shade under trees, in strollers or under shelters.

Source: Marilyn Preston, University of Missouri Extension

SAFE PICNICS AND LUNCHES

Bacteria grow and multiply rapidly in the danger zone between 40° F and 140° F (out of the refrigerator or before food begins to cook). So, food transported without an ice source or left out in the sun at a picnic won't stay safe for long.

Perishable Foods

Keep cold foods cold and hot foods hot. Don't leave at room temperature for more than two hours.

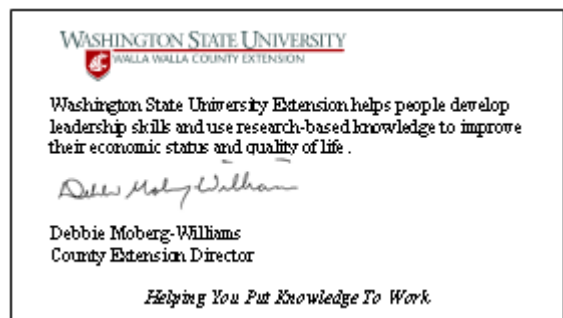
- Meat, fish or poultry
- Lunchmeat (cold cuts)
- Hard-cooked or deviled eggs
- Cream cheese or cottage cheese
- Salads (potato, macaroni, tuna or egg)
- Cream, pudding, or custard pies
- Milk or yogurt

Safer Foods

- Peanut butter
- Raw fruit
- Raw vegetables like carrot and celery sticks**
- Pickles and olives
- Hard cheese**
- Fruit Juice, soft drinks, lemonade
- Cookies, bread, crackers
- Pretzels, popcorn or chips
- Unopened canned foods

**These should be refrigerated after 3-4 hours.

Source: Barbara Willenberg, former Associate State Nutrition Specialist and Jo Britt-Rankin, State Nutrition Specialist



Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.