



Announcements

SEPTEMBER

12 & 13 Fiftieth Annual PNW Christmas Tree Association Tree Fair and Trade Show, Vancouver, WA, Vancouver Hilton.

The PNW Christmas Tree Assoc. is composed of grower, retailer, and supplier members from Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, and British Columbia. For more information, visit <http://www.nwtrees.com> or call 503-364-2942.



18 Mid-Columbia Agricultural Energy Efficiency Workshop.

Local farmers, growers, customer utilities, equipment manufacturers, trade allies, and local soil conservation districts are invited to attend this free workshop. Call Carol Harshman at 509-527-6215 or agseminar@bpa.gov for more information or to register.

23 Agroterrorism Course, Walla Walla Regional Airport, Blue Mountain Room, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

This training will help build detection strategies and prepare response teams to diagnose an intentional attack on our food supply, the agricultural environment and economy in local communities. For more information or to register online at <http://wifss.ucdavis.edu> or contact Maria Vicino at 530-757-5773 or mvicino@wifss.ucdavis.edu.

27- Experience 4-H! at Farmer's Market, Fourth and Main Streets, Walla Walla, WA, Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. See article page 4.

Updates

FAIR DRAWING WINNER

Congratulations to Marie Allen, winner of the WSU Extension free drawing at Walla Walla Fair & Frontier Days. Marie has won a free copy of "Weeds of the West" donated by the Walla Walla County Noxious Weed Board.



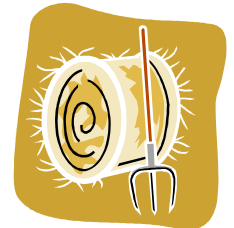
CRP HAY AND GRAZING UPDATE

The USDA recently released 24 million acres of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land for haying and grazing in drought stricken areas. A

temporary restraining order against grazing CRP lands was recently lifted.

Farmers who had signed up for the Critical Feed Use (CFU) Program by July 8 will be allowed to hay or graze CRP lands. Farmers who can prove they had spent \$4,500 or more with the expectation they would be allowed to participate in the program can also hay or graze CRP lands.

Now that haying and grazing on CRP lands can begin, livestock owners should be cautious if they are purchasing CRP hay. CRP land can contain poisonous plants and small trees. If purchasing hay from CRP land for livestock use, inspect the bales carefully for poisonous plants, and have the hay tested for nutritional quality. Grazing CRP lands is less of a concern as most livestock will avoid (unless very hungry) most poisonous plants and other weeds.



Contact your local FSA office for more information.

CROP INSURANCE SALES CLOSING DATES

2009 crop year final fall sales closing dates for Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) programs:

- **Canola/Rapeseed** – Sept. 2, 2008 (*Fall Planted*)
- **Onions** – September 2, 2008 (*Fall Planted types - Umatilla/Walla Walla counties only*)
- **Mint with Winter Coverage** – Sept. 30, 2008
- **Forage Production** – September 30, 2008 (*Klamath and Malheur counties, Oregon*)
- **Forage (Alfalfa) Seed Pilot** – September 30, 2008 (*in selected counties*)
- **Fall Planted Barley with Winter Coverage** – September 30, 2008 (*in selected counties*)
- **Wheat** – September 30, 2008

Producers should contact a local crop insurance agent for program details. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers throughout the U.S. or at the website address:

<http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>

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WSU EXTENSION
WALLA WALLA COUNTY
328 WEST POPLAR
WALLA WALLA, WA 99362

Postmaster send address changes to:
WSU EXTENSION
328 WEST POPLAR
WALLA WALLA, WA 99362

FIGHTING A WORLDWIDE WHEAT THREAT

Ug99 is a new rust fungus to which very few of the currently grown varieties of wheat are resistant. Ug99 emerged in Uganda and has already spread to Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, Yemen, and Iran.

Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists are collaborating with researchers across the country and around the world to find ways to deal with this massive threat to a global food staple. They are determining U.S. wheat and barley vulnerability to Ug99 and identifying new sources of genetic resistance. To support nationwide surveillance for Ug99, ARS has established "trap" plots of wheat along known wheat rust pathways throughout the United States.

ARS scientists plan to release the first wheat line with resistance to Ug99 this fall as a specialty wheat for the eastern United States. Wheat breeders will be able to use the new line along with others to develop new commercial varieties with high yield and Ug99 protection. ARS also plans to develop new sources of genetic resistance to rusts from three wild relatives of wheat and make it easier to introduce those genes into commercial wheat varieties.

For more information, visit <http://www.ars.usda.gov> and search Ug99.

WEST NILE VIRUS FOUND

According to WSDA, the first cases of West Nile virus in Washington State have been found. West Nile virus (WNV) has been confirmed in five horses: one in Moses Lake, one in Prosser area, and three in Yakima. No human cases have been reported.

Horses that contract WNV may show signs such as loss of coordination, loss of appetite, confusion, fever, stiffness and muscle weakness, particularly in the hindquarters. Many horses and other animals contracting WNV do not become ill and show no symptoms at all. About one-third of horses that do become ill die.

"The best way to protect a horse from West Nile infection is vaccination," says Dr. Leonard Eldridge, state veterinarian. "Horse owners with concerns should contact their veterinarian for information on vaccines and annual booster shots." Eldridge also recommends that horse owners take measures to reduce mosquito populations by removing standing water from yards and barns and changing water in troughs or bird baths that could be a source of mosquito breeding.



West Nile virus is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito and can infect people, horses, many types of birds, and other animals. Humans cannot contract WNV through contact with an infected horse. Infected horses do not spread the disease to other horses or animals. Mosquitoes become carriers when they feed on an infected bird.

In humans, symptoms include fever, headache, body aches, rash, and swollen lymph glands. A more serious form of WNV disease produces symptoms such as neck stiffness, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, and paralysis. The very young and the elderly are most susceptible to the more serious form of WNV illness.

For more WNV information, visit:

Department of Health: www.doh.wa.gov/WNV
Washington State University: www.wnv.wsu.edu

Source: Department of Agriculture: www.agr.wa.gov.
Go to the Animal Health section after clicking on "Food and Animals."

Farming & Livestock

2008 WSU VARIETY TESTING DATA

The WSU Extension Uniform Cereal Variety Testing Program provides growers and the agribusiness industry with information on the adaptation and performance of winter and spring wheat and barley varieties across the different climatic regions of eastern Washington.

Walla Walla Spring Wheat

2008 Spring Wheat yield data from the WSU Variety Testing nursery at the Walla Walla, WA location averaged 42.7, 40.7, and 40.0 bu/ac for soft white spring, hard white spring and hard red spring wheat, respectively. The 2008 spring wheat yields at Walla Walla were below the previous historical 3-year average at this location by (2.3%), (24.2%), and (19.0%) for soft white spring, hard white spring, and hard red spring, respectively. This nursery was located about 1 mile West of Prescott, WA on SR 125 (A. Ford farm).



Average TEST WEIGHT values ranged across market classes from 57.8 lb/bu to 61.7 lb/bu.

GRAIN PROTEIN values averaged 12.5%, 14.5% and 16.4% for soft white, hard white and hard red spring market classes, respectively.

Walla Walla Spring Barley

2008 Spring Barley yield data from the WSU Variety Testing nursery at the Walla Walla, WA

location averaged 2578.9 lbs/ac that was about 13% below last years yield average at this location. This nursery is located about 1 mile West of Prescott, WA on SR 125 (A. Ford farm).

Four hull-less, waxy barleys were included in the trial (01WA-13860.5 (WSU), WA 9820-98 (WSU), MERESSE (Westbred, LLC) and MERLIN (Westbred, LLC). TEST WEIGHT average values were 48.1 lbs/bu.

To see complete data, visit the Uniform Cereal Variety Testing Program at <http://variety.wsu.edu>



NITRATE POISONING IN LIVESTOCK

Producers should have drought-stressed crops tested for nitrate before using them as forage for livestock.

Ruminant animals, such as cattle and sheep, are susceptible to nitrate poisoning because their digestive process converts nitrate to nitrite, which in turn is converted to ammonia. Horses are generally more tolerant of nitrate. Nitrate poisoning is considered to be very rare in horses and is more likely to be associated with exposure to a fertilizer spill than with grazing forages.

Acute poisoning usually occurs from a half hour to four hours after consuming toxic levels of nitrate. The onset of symptoms is rapid. Those symptoms include:

- Bluish/brown mucous membranes
- Rapid/difficult or noisy breathing
- Rapid pulse (150-plus beats per minute)
- Salivation, bloat, tremors, staggering
- Dark “chocolate-colored” blood
- Weakness, coma, death

Pregnant females that survive nitrate poisoning may abort because of a lack of oxygen to the fetus. Abortions generally occur approximately 10 to 14 days following exposure to nitrates.

The majority of nitrate poisoning cases in the West occur with drought-stressed oats, corn and barley. However, a number of other plants also can accumulate nitrate, including wheat, sudangrass, sorghum-sudan hybrids and pearl millet. Some of the weeds that are high nitrate accumulators are pigweed, kochia and Russian thistle.

Nitrate accumulation is influenced by various factors, such as moisture and soil conditions and the type of plant. Plant parts closest to the ground

contain the highest concentrations of nitrates. Leaves contain less than stalks or stems, while the seed and flower usually contain little or no nitrate.

Not all drought conditions cause high nitrate levels in plants. Some moisture must be present in the soil for the plant to absorb and accumulate nitrate. If the major supply of nitrates for the plant is in dry surface soil, the roots will absorb very little nitrate. In plants that survive drought conditions, nitrates are often high for several days following the first rain.

The best way to prevent nitrate poisoning is controlling the type and quantity of forage. Avoid forages with potentially toxic levels or at least dilute them with feeds low in nitrate. When grazing, feed dry roughage first to reduce the amount of affected plants that hungry animals ingest. While difficult to do with drought-stressed forages, raising the cutter bar above 6 inches can reduce nitrate content of forages. Research has shown that the lower 6 inches off the stem contains more nitrate than the top part of the plant.

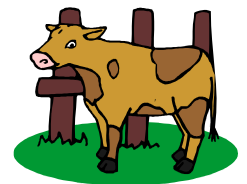
Laboratory analysis can be performed on suspected plants. Contact your veterinarian or the Walla Walla County Extension office if you need assistance in determining the correct ratios of high and low nitrate forages to blend to develop a ration for a particular class of livestock.

Nitrate poisoning has also been reported when tanks used to haul fertilizer subsequently are used to haul water to livestock, so tanks should be cleaned thoroughly before hauling water to livestock.

For more information, see Extension publication V-839, “Nitrate Poisoning in Livestock,” at www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs.

MARKET PRECONDITIONED CALVES

“Calves that have been through a proven, third-party certified preconditioning program can bring producers significant bonuses on sale day,” says Dr. Van Ricketts, Director of Corporate Accounts, Merial. “But producers may leave a lot of money on the table if they don’t take the steps to market their cattle properly.”



Preconditioned calves can mean different things to different people. For some, it means calves have received one round of vaccinations; for others, it means calves have gone through rigorous health protocols, such as multiple vaccinations,

de-worming, weaning, and other best management practices.



Data gathered and analyzed by Iowa State University Extension shows that the market value for calves with third-party certification claims that also were weaned for at least 30 days received premiums of \$6.15 per

hundredweight over the base. Calves with uncertified claims of vaccinations and at least 30 days weaning received \$3.40 per hundredweight over the base. Calves with only a vaccination claim received \$2.42 over the base.

“If a producer has followed a nationally recognized, veterinarian-certified preconditioning program, it’s in that producer’s best interest to market calves to buyers who understand the value of the program,” Dr. Ricketts says. He recommends taking the following measures:

- Sell at advertised specialty sales featuring calves managed in a similar fashion as these sales attract buyers who recognize the value of the program used.
- If a specialty sale isn’t available, make sure the auctioneer and buyers are aware of program features such as veterinarian certification.
- Don’t forget to outline protocols when selling private-treaty, because healthy calves that perform are valuable to all buyers.
- If selling to a repeat customer, leverage past successes in feed yard performance to command larger premiums.

Steven Flehmer, manager of livestock operations at Flehmer Land & Cattle, certifies all his calves and has seen benefits on many levels. “The program helps us maintain health on-farm, adds value and builds a reputation for our cattle,” Flehmer says.

PINKEYE CAUSES DISCOMFORT IN COWS


Pinkeye infections cause significant discomfort for livestock and can lead to blindness if left untreated. Cows with the disease often reduce feed intake and search out shady areas due to sun sensitivity of the affected eye.

Calves are highly susceptible to the disease, and infections prior to weaning can have a significant impact on a producer’s bottom line. One study determined that pinkeye infections reduced weaning weights of bull calves by 36 pounds and heifer calves by 40 pounds. Producers also may

see discounts in the sale ring for calves with scarred corneas, often termed “blue eyes.”

Pinkeye is highly contagious and is easily spread by face flies that hop from animal to animal, feeding on eye secretions. The flies carry the bacteria with them and can cause eye irritations that further open an animal to infection. Other eye irritants, such as dust, pollen and grass seeds, also can result in a greater risk of infection.

Help reduce the risk of a pinkeye outbreak:

- Control face flies with insecticide-treated ear tags, dusters or endectocides. 
- Mow pastures as grasses reach maturity to reduce eye-irritating seeds and foliage. Mowing also reduces contact with plant material contaminated with tears of affected calves.
- Provide shade to protect against direct exposure to sunlight. Providing multiple shaded areas is preferable because overcrowding in shaded areas can increase transmission of the disease.
- When combining young animals of unknown origin and health, treating with a long-acting oxytetracycline can help head off potential infection, providing calves with protection for several days.

If an infection does occur, quick treatment can help reduce the infected animal’s discomfort, curtail losses and help reduce the risk of spreading the disease to the rest of the herd.

Remove infected cattle from the general population as soon as you spot them and treat immediately. Pinkeye can be controlled relatively easily with antibiotics. Contact your veterinarian concerning treatment and prevention.

4-H



EXPERIENCE 4-H! AT FARMER’S MARKET

Find out what 4-H is all about. Various 4-H club representatives will be on hand so that you can talk to 4-H members about their experiences in 4-H. Find out what club projects are available and how you can learn life skills with hands-on activities. 4-H is fun and includes individual project work, public presentations, community service, leadership, teamwork, and social events.

Adult volunteers are needed to assist youth in developing their project skills. 4-H provides leaders with training and leadership materials to help guide youth through their 4-H projects. Positive youth-adult partnerships provide a safe environment, physically and emotionally. Caring adults act as advisors, guides, and mentors.

Come join in the fun at Farmer's Market, Saturday, Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

WSU Master Gardeners are university-trained volunteers who serve as educators in their communities. Classes are held at WSU Tri-Cities in Richland on Tuesday afternoons for sixteen weeks. Topics include plant science, soils, sustainable gardening, integrated pest management, pesticides, weed management, lawns, vegetable gardening, tree fruits, ornamentals, pruning, and plant problem diagnosis.

In return for their training, new Master Gardeners are required to complete 50 hours of volunteer service to the Master Gardener Program between the months of January and October.



For more information or to pick up an application, contact the WSU Extension office at 328 West Poplar in Walla Walla, 509-524-2685 or meagon@wsu.edu.

Home & Garden

BASIC CHORE CHECKLIST FOR FALL

Fall Lawn Care

- Fall is a great time for new grass seed to take root, so consider reseeding bare or thin areas.

- If you only fertilize your lawn once a year, fall is the best time. Use a low nitrogen fertilizer to encourage root growth.
- Rake leaves and debris off your lawn.
- Cut your lawn one last time after it has stopped growing, but before the first snow.

In the Garden

- Hanging branches, rotten wood, cracks or splits in trunks, leaves that turn an unusual color or fall prematurely and trees that were previously topped or heavily pruned may be hazardous. Call a professional tree service for work in large or dangerous trees.
- Compost fall lawn cuttings and leaves for next year's garden.
- Remove dead vegetables and plants from the garden and yard. If disease is apparent, destroy or place them in a garbage container to reduce chances of infestation next year.
- Plant bulbs in fall for spring and summer color.
- Consider adding mulch to protect valuable plants and perennials.
- Deep water shrubs and bushes, before heavy frost arrives, to provide moisture and soil protection for the winter months.



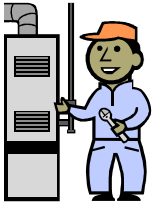
Outside the House

- Remove all debris from your house rain gutters so that water can drain properly.
- Repair broken stairs and banisters.
- Inspect your roof for damaged or loose shingles; gaps in the flashing where the roofing and siding meet vents and flues; and damaged mortar around the chimney. Call a professional to repair any damage.
- Look for cracks and loose or crumbling mortar on exterior house walls. Wood trim and siding can suffer from deteriorating paint or become loose. Windowsills may be cracked, split, or decayed.
- Check the foundation for areas where water may puddle.
- Detach garden hoses and shut off water supply to outdoor water faucets.

Inside the House

- Check your home insulation. Your attic should be no more than 5-10 degrees warmer than the outside air to prevent ice buildup on your roof.
- Insulate any water pipes that are exposed to freezing cold.

- Check faucets for leaks and repair any you find. Replace washers if necessary. Locate the main shut off for your water in case of emergency.
- Be sure to maintain your furnace, fireplace, water heater, space heater, and wood-burning stove and have your heating system serviced every year. Check smoke and fire alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and change your heating and air conditioning filters regularly.
- Check weather stripping and caulking around windows and doors and replace or repair as needed. Caulking helps keep your house weather-tight, lowers your heating and cooling bills, and helps keep out insects and rodents.
- Look for chipped or peeling paint around window frames and trim. Repair broken glass and loose or missing putty.
- Clean and vacuum dust from vents, baseboard heaters, and cold-air returns. Dust build-up in ducts is a major cause of indoor pollutants.



Family Living

EAT RIGHT WHEN MONEY IS TIGHT

USDA tips to help stretch your food dollars:

Before Shopping

- Make a shopping list.
- Plan your meals to help put leftovers to good use.
- Look for coupons, sales and store specials.
- Sign up for the store discount card.

During Shopping

- Don't shop when you are hungry.
- Try store brands. They usually cost less.
- Compare products for the best deal.
- Check sell by dates. Buy the freshest food possible. It lasts longer.

After Shopping

- Store food right away to preserve freshness.
- Freeze food to prevent spoiling.
- Divide foods into small portions for children and elderly to prevent waste.
- Use foods with the earliest expiration dates first.

Best Buys for Cost and Nutrition

Fruits & Vegetables

- Buy fresh fruits in season, when they cost less.
- Frozen and canned fruits are a smart choice all year round.
- Buy large bags of frozen vegetables. Seal tightly in the freezer between uses.
- Avoid pre-bagged salad mixes. They are usually more expensive and spoil faster.

Low-Fat Milk Products

- Buy fresh milk in the largest size that can be used before spoiling as larger containers cost less.
- Ultra-pasteurized milk has a longer expiration date and won't spoil as fast.

Meat and Beans

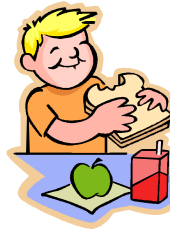
- Chuck or bottom round roast has less fat and is cheaper than sirloin.
- Dried beans and peas are a good source of protein and fiber. They last a long time without spoiling.
- Buy meat on sale for big savings.
- Buy meat in large bulk packages to save money. Freeze portions you might not use right away.

Breads and Grains

- Day old bread costs less but is still nutritious.
- Buy regular rice, oatmeal and grits instead of instant to save on money, sugar and calories.

For over 100 low cost, nutritious and delicious recipes, visit <http://recipefinder.nal.usda.gov>

PACK HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCHES



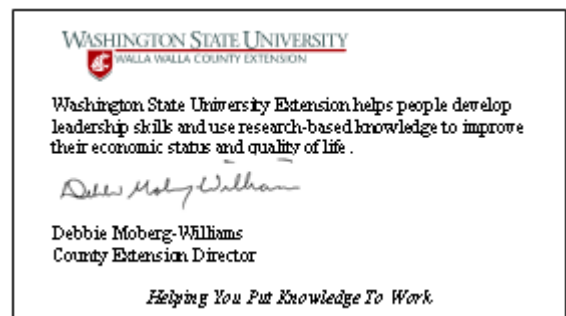
What a child eats impacts their learning and behavior, as well as growth and development. Lunch should include a good source of protein, a good source of calcium, grains and a fruit or a vegetable.

Let children help make the decision about what goes in their lunch so that your child will not want to trade their foods with friends.

Some examples of healthy lunches to try:

- lean ham sandwich on a bagel with low fat cream cheese, grated carrots, and a slice of pineapple.
- pasta salad with cheese chunks, fresh vegetables, grapes, and sunflower seeds.
- lean turkey on whole wheat bread with lettuce and tomato, an apple and a carton of milk.
- peanut butter on mini rice cakes, string cheese, baby carrots and a box of 100 percent fruit juice.

Source: University of Missouri Extension



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