

Fall 2010

Oregon Small Farm News

Oregon State University Small Farms Program

MORLEY



Harvest war crops

THE WOMEN'S LAND ARMY OF THE U. S. CROP CORPS



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Cover Photo:

Harvest War Crops. A poster by the Women's Land Army of the U.S. Crop Corps used to recruit women workers during World War II.

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In This Issue:

Fighters on the Farm Front: Oregon's Emergency Farm Labor Service, 1943-1947	3
Getting Livestock Farms Ready for Winter	5
USDA-Inspected Poultry Processing in Scio, OR	8
Getting in the Tractor Seat, Some for the First Time	11
New Publication Helps Farmers Conserve Energy with Tractor Ballasting	12
Incubating New Farmers	13
Measuring Soil pH	15
New Rainwater Harvesting Manual for Pro and Novice Alike	16
Establishing Winter Cover Crops	17
Oregon Tilth Offers Organic Certification and Natural Resources Cross-Training Materials	21
Agricultural Exchange: The Experience of a Lifetime	22
Calendar	23

Fighters on the Farm Front: Oregon's Emergency Farm Labor Service, 1943-1947

Between 1940 and 1943, the number of farm workers in the United States decreased because of armed forces manpower requirements and competition with higher paying jobs in the defense industries. At the same time, farmers were asked to increase production as part of the management of World War II. By 1943, the harvest of the nation's food supply was in jeopardy.



An outdoor sign by the Marion County farm labor office prior to the 1945 bean harvest.

An online exhibit produced by the Oregon State

University Archives offers a succinct visual glimpse of efforts in Oregon to feed itself, the nation, its allies, and its armed forces. *Fighters on the Farm Front: Oregon's Emergency Farm Labor Service, 1943-1947* is at: <http://osulibrary.oregonstate.edu/archives/omeka/exhibits/show/fighters> This historic perspective is informative given our current renewed interest in food.

In April, 1943, the 78th U.S. Congress approved the Farm Labor Supply Appropriation Act, in order to “assist farmers in producing vital food by making labor available at the time and place it was most needed.” In Oregon, the Emergency Farm Labor Service was established by the Oregon State College Extension Service which coordinated labor recruitment, training and placement. Between 1943 and 1947, Oregon's Emergency Farm Labor Service assisted with over 900,000 placements on the state's farms, trained thousands of workers of all ages, and managed nine farm labor camps. Farm laborers included urban youth and women, active duty soldiers, white collar professionals, Japanese- Americans displaced by internment, African-Americans and Native Americans, migrant workers from Mexico and Jamaica, and even German prisoners of war.

International Laborers

Initial attempts to fill the void in farm labor with American women, children, and older individuals was not enough. To supplement these efforts, workers were recruited internationally. The largest population of international laborers was composed of Mexicans participating in the *Braceros* program.



Braceros harvesting cucumbers in Columbia County circa 1942.

Women's Land Army

Women of all ages and from a variety of backgrounds played an integral role in the success of the Emergency Farm Labor Service. Women who were recruited to work became part of a nationwide group known as the Women's Land Army (WLA). Most women worked on a "day haul" basis -- they lived at home and were transported to farms by personal cars, growers' trucks, or school buses. They hoed, weeded, thinned, and harvested crops of all kinds. Many supervised youth platoons, especially teachers out of school for the summer. A few worked year round, especially on poultry and dairy farms. Others worked in canneries or were leaders for recruiting other women. Nearly 135,000 placements of women were made in Oregon from 1943 through 1947.



Elsie Hill of Junction City driving a tractor at the Benton County Flax Grower's Cooperative plant near Monroe, Oregon, 1944.

Victory Farm Volunteers

Youth 11 to 17 years of age constituted one of the largest single groups in the Emergency Farm Labor Service work force. They were known as the Victory Farm Volunteers (VFV). Organized into platoons of twenty to fifty youth, each platoon was placed under the supervision of an adult, often a member of the Women's Land Army. During the program's four and a half years, over 270,000 youth placements were made on Oregon's farms and in its food processing facilities.

Japanese, African and Native Americans

African Americans, Japanese Americans, and Native Americans participated in the Emergency Farm Labor Service. Each minority group faced its own set of challenges to aid their country. After Japanese Americans were forced into internment camps, some areas hired evacuees for farm work. More than

1,000 Japanese Americans participated in the Emergency Farm Labor Service between 1943 and 1945. As Portland's shipyards closed after the war, African Americans participated in the Emergency Farm Labor Service. However, many farmers refused to hire African Americans and, as a result, segregated African American platoons were created. The Umatilla Tribe was heavily recruited by the farmers of Umatilla County. While a significant population of Native Americans were present throughout the Emergency Farm Labor Service's existence, there was a surge when Portland's shipyards began closing down.

Armed Services

During the Emergency Farm Labor Service's existence, active duty soldiers also contributed farm labor. Wounded soldiers would frequently work during their rehabilitation, especially those at the Camp Adair Naval Hospital. Other servicemen stationed at Camp Adair and throughout the state could volunteer to work on farms after their duty shifts or during their leave periods for additional wages. *Z*

In 1994, the Oregon State University Archives and the Oregon State Archives created the first online version of this exhibit developed by Dan Cantrall, Colene Voll and Larry Landis. Heavily influenced by the 1994 exhibit, Doug Schulte was primarily responsible for the creation of the current 2010 exhibit. The material here is edited from exhibit text and is used by permission.

Getting Livestock Farms Ready for Winter

By: Dr. Susan Kerr, WSU Klickitat County Extension Director

When you find yourself with a few spare moments this autumn, use this article as a guide to think about all the odds-and-ends tasks needed to get your farm and livestock ready for winter. Most of these tasks are much more enjoyable during sunny 60-degree weather than during the snowy, blowy, single-digit-degree days ahead.



Photo by Zanetta Hardy, stock.xchng.com

Fencing

Good fences make good neighbors--they keep animals safe and where they need to be. Check fence posts for frost heave, breaks and other damage; stabilize them now to avoid 3 AM calls about livestock at large.

Walk your entire fenceline and look for down wire, grounded-out areas, weed overgrowth, troublesome treelimb and other potential problems. If you post your property against trespassing or hunting, make sure signs are visible and numerous.

Pastures

Fall is an excellent time to perform essential pasture management tasks. Mowing mature plants will encourage late season growth of grasses, strengthening roots and nutrient supplies that will be needed in early spring. Harrowing will distribute manure nutrients; it also makes parasites more susceptible to sun and freezing temperatures. Weed control, either through grazing or chemical means, is worthwhile in the fall to reduce the number of annual weed seeds available in the spring and to reduce perennial weeds.

Soil Testing

Soil testing is performed to learn if nutrients or soil amendments should be applied to achieve optimum production from land. Some nutrients such as nitrogen should only be applied when plants are actively

growing so harmful runoff of excess nitrogen can be avoided. Pasture plants will still actively grow in September and October and, depending on moisture and temperature, perhaps even into November. However, after plants become dormant, nitrogen fertilizers should not be applied until plants emerge from dormancy next spring. Fall is a good time to apply lime if soil pH is too low, however; lime takes a

long time to move through the soil profile and modify soil pH. Lime applied to acid soil in the fall will raise the pH to proper levels by spring. Soils in our area tend to be neutral or slightly basic, so lime may not even be indicated.

Water

Which would you rather do, a critical assessment of your water lines on a sunny fall afternoon or emergency patching at 1 AM on a freezing winter night? That's a no-brainer! Evaluate the ability of all components of your livestock watering system to withstand the coldest possible temperatures experienced in your area. For most of us, this will be -20°F; for others, it could be as low as -40°F. Pay particular attention to any sections that have been trouble in the past. Insulate pipes and consider installing frost-free faucets. Be sure to have a system that allows livestock access to unfrozen water 24/7--having to chop ice for water access makes livestock rely on you and your schedule, not



An unprotected pipe broken by winter temperatures. Photo from Wiki Commons

their needs. Have emergency supplies such as hair dryers and heat tape on hand for pipe thawing, but always use such items with direct supervision. Develop a plan for livestock watering in the event of frozen pipes. Consider leaving faucets dripping during cold snaps. Know how to turn off the water if pipes break.



Photo by Matthew Green, stock.xchng

Hay and Feed

If you have storage room, it is usually more economical to purchase a winter's worth of hay at one time. It can be difficult to find the type of hay you want in late winter and the cost can rise, depending on supply and demand. To know how much to purchase, you need to know livestock body weights, nutritional needs and average dry matter consumption. The numbers shown here are just guidelines; individual animal's needs may be higher or lower depending on issues such as shelter, health, work, body condition, age, pregnancy and many others.

Species	Dry matter intake as % of body weight
Beef cattle	1.5 - 3
Dairy cattle	2 - 3
Horse	1.5
Swine	Ad lib (growing)
Sheep	2 - 5
Goat	2 - 5

Calculate the pounds of hay needed per animal per day and multiply by the number of days to be fed during the winter, then by the number of animals of that class to be fed. In some areas, hay will only need to be fed for a few months; for others, hay may need to be fed nearly year-round. Although it is good to purchase too much instead of too little hay, try not to have great quantities of hay left over because the new year's crop will usually have higher protein and vitamin content than last year's stored hay. Feed (grain concentrates) are also more economical when bought

in bulk, but storage can be an issue. Keep stored feed dry, cool and protected from vermin. It should be well ventilated to prevent mold development. Again, calculate the amount needed per animal per day and multiply by the numbers of feeding days and head fed to determine amounts to purchase.

During cold weather, animals' maintenance nutritional requirements can increase substantially. Although roughage generates greater heat of digestion, there are limits to the physical capacity of animals' digestive tracts that limit their ability to meet increased needs through more roughage; in these cases, high energy concentrates should be slowly added to the ration for more calories during cold snaps. For some species (horses, goats), it is practical to use blankets to help keep animals warm.

Reproduction

Late summer is the time to do breeding soundness examinations (BSE) on fall-breeding species such as sheep and goats. Optimally, these examinations should be done 60 days before breeding starts so there is time to develop Plan B if a breeding ram or buck is found to be sterile or have sub-fertile. BSEs include physical examination, assessment of libido and semen analysis. If problems are found, sometimes improved nutrition or other treatment can bring scores up to acceptable levels. Always buy disease-free breeding males from reputable sources who will replace the animals and/or your money should the animal prove sub-fertile. Also always quarantine additions in isolation downwind and downstream from the herd for at least 30 days; feed and handle them after the rest of the herd.

Culling

Fall is a good time to cull animals from herds. Review your records to see which dams needed help birthing, which got through the fence most often, which had repeated health issues, which had attitude problems

and cull as needed to make your life easier. Conduct pregnancy checks if possible so you can cull and not feed open animals through the winter.

Mud Control

Your farm may be dry now, but remember slogging through all that mud last winter? Work with your local soil and water conservation district to control runoff, mud and waste water. Cost-share programs are often available. Adding gutters, sacrifice areas, geotextiles, gravel and tiles and revising livestock traffic flow can help reduce and control mud on your farm. Mud control in sacrifice areas used for prolonged feeding periods through the winter is essential--mud is not healthy for livestock or the environment.

Records

While you are spending more time inside, spend some time with your records; you and your accountant will be glad you did. Update animal health records, organize receipts, list expenses, summarize revenue to date and so on. Evaluate herd genetic progress and plan future breedings. Look for ways to reduce expenses and consider alternative marketing times, methods or channels.

Health

To prepare animals for the stress of winter, review vaccination and deworming programs with your veterinarian. Assess and record body condition scores of as many individuals as possible; re-assess at least monthly through the winter, grouping and feeding animals as needed to maintain healthy body condition. Remember, body condition scoring is a hands-on activity; it can't be done from afar, especially on animals with deceptively thick winter coats.

Shelter

Be sure ventilation is adequate if animals are housed so air is always fresh but no drafts exist. Also make sure shelters are safe and sturdy and will protect livestock from wind and precipitation. Make provisions for bedding so animals will stay clean and dry. Check the roof for leaks and repair as needed. Remove tree branches that may damage the shelter. Make



sure electric wiring is up to code. Use extra caution when using heat lamps—do not allow them to contact anything, especially wooden walls or bedding.

Emergencies

Finally, are you ready for an emergency on your farm? Flashlights, fire extinguishers, generators, first aid kits (both human and livestock), emergency numbers, signage and blankets are just a few of the items to have on hand to help see you through an emergency on your farm. Think through and develop a written plan of what you would do in the event of fire, flood, ice storm, prolonged deep freeze, wind storm or power outage. If you have four-footed animals depending on you, forewarned is indeed forearmed. *Z*

For more information

www.extension.org/pages/Small_Farm_Environmental_Issues_Articles
www.extension.org/pages/Extension_Disaster_Education_Network_Floods
<http://eden.lsu.edu/Topics/Hazards/SnowIce/Pages/default.aspx>

Natural Resources School

More than 40 classroom & field classes on Forestry Management, Agriculture/Small Farms, Special Forestry Management, Agriculture/Small Farms, Livestock, Ag Marketing, Special Forest Products/Christmas Trees, Sawing/Drying Wood, Wildlife, Landscape/Gardens, Pests and Invasives, Fisheries and Fishery Products, and General Community

The school is being held in Newport, Oregon at the Oregon Coast Community College on Saturday October 23rd, 2010. Cost is \$50 and online registration is available. Deadline for registering is October 15, 2010; no walk-ins allowed.

Check the class schedule and registration options available online at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lincoln/natural-resources-school>

USDA-Inspected Poultry Processing in Scio, OR

By: Lauren Gwin, Oregon State University

Scio Poultry Processing, in Scio, will begin operating as a USDA inspected plant in early October. They will process chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys under inspection two days a week. Scio Poultry is the first USDA-inspected poultry processor in Oregon to focus exclusively on serving independent producers who market their own poultry, whether at farmers' markets, to restaurants, or wholesale to retailers. Scio's transition to USDA vastly expands processing – and marketing – options for our region's poultry producers.



Joe and Karen Schueller, standing in front of the Scio Poultry Processing office.
Photo provided by Lauren Gwin

Karen and Joe Schueller, owner-operators of Scio Poultry, say it was an easy decision to go USDA but a complicated path to get there: navigating all the county, state, and USDA regulations was a huge challenge, and finding help was often difficult.

“We sent in our application to the USDA last October and it took almost a whole year to get the paperwork completed and approved,” says Karen. “There were also numerous physical changes that needed to be made to the plant to accommodate the inspectors who will oversee the daily operation.”

“Many of the people that were in a position to help thought it was a folly,” says Joe. “Like Seward buying Alaska.”

Looking back, Joe says he would have raised more capital at the beginning. Many people who favored the project weren't willing to help finance it, primarily through pre-paid contracts, and the Schuellers did it almost all out-of-pocket. Three investors did step up, including Dan and Susie Wilson of SuDan Farms and Andy Westland of Harmony J.A.C.K. Farm. Jim Just donated expertise to sort through land-use regulations.

Support also came from neighbors who testified in favor of the project at the conditional use hearing without even being asked. Scio Poultry will process under USDA inspection on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and plan to add more inspected days as needed. They will also continue to do “custom” processing, under their state license, one day each week for growers not interested

in selling their birds as long as there is still enough demand for that service.

Right now they can handle 400 to 500 birds per day, but the Schuellers are working on adding more employees to increase production. Prices will be higher for USDA processing than for custom processing, due to the extra procedures and paperwork. Chickens are \$5.50, ducks and geese \$7.50, and turkeys are \$0.75/lb (dressed weight).

The Schuellers already raise and market bison, poultry, rabbits, and eggs – all antibiotic- and hormone-free – as Rainshadow El Rancho. Frustrated by the lack of processing options in Oregon, they decided to build their own state-licensed, custom-exempt facility. But producers who brought their birds to Scio could not sell them. That requires USDA inspection – or building your own state-licensed, custom-exempt facility. Some intrepid Oregon poultry producers have built their own facilities and operate under USDA's producer-grower 20,000 bird (per year) exemption. Kookoolan Farm, in Yamhill, Afton Field Farm, in Corvallis, and Norton Creek Farm near Blodgett are three great examples of



this: these farmers raise and market enough poultry to justify the expense of building such a facility.

But many smaller poultry producers, or those uninterested in doing the processing themselves, have been stymied. Unlike most other states, Oregon does not recognize the 1000 bird exemption, which typically allows on-farm, open-air processing for direct, on-farm sales to individual consumers. The state legislature is primed to change this during the 2011 session, though that will not address the needs of producers wanting to sell more than 1000 birds each year to a wider range of customers.

As consumer interest in locally-sourced poultry has grown in recent years, the Schuellers have seen rising demand for USDA-inspected poultry processing. Producers were clamoring loudly for it, and in 2009, Karen and Joe decided to take the plunge. Karen attended a HACCP training at OSU and spent months writing her required food safety plans, getting plant labels approved, and upgrading the plant to meet strict federal requirements.

Until Scio Poultry, only one USDA-inspected poultry processor in the state – Dayton Meats, in Dayton – would process poultry for independent producers doing their own marketing. The other USDA-inspected processors only handle their own, in-house product. Even Dayton has been limited in how many

independent producers it can serve. It is primarily a red meat plant, and its poultry line, added in 2009, primarily produces chicken for soups manufactured by Pacific Foods, the parent company.

Bob Dickson, Dayton’s manager, has anxiously awaited Scio Poultry’s transition to USDA and even provided the Schuellers with technical advice in meeting federal regulations. As the former manager and meat science instructor at OSU’s Clark Meat Center, Dickson was able and willing to help.

The federal poultry processing regulations include some exemptions for small-scale producers, explained here: http://www.extension.org/pages/Understanding_Poultry_Exemptions. In Oregon, the federal exemption most commonly used is “producer/grower – 20,000 bird limit,” which allows a poultry producer to process up to 20,000 birds per year in a facility that meets state sanitation requirements, without bird-by-bird inspection. However, that producer cannot process birds for another producer, even if the annual total is still under 20,000.

“We can’t handle all of the demand,” Dickson explains. “I want to send small-batch producers to Scio. And, more importantly, I want to see the resurgence of the small farms and businesses we lost in the last twenty years. Good development provides competition which provides small producers with options who they want to handle their product, which in turn provides the final consumer with more options and better product in the long run.”

Joe and Karen know full well that getting their grant of inspection is just the first step: now they have to establish a good working relationship with their USDA inspector to keep the plant running smoothly. “As someone pointed out to us,” Karen says, “work with the USDA is really just beginning for us now.” But they are energized and ready, buoyed by the demand they have already seen for their services.

“We have heard from many consumers that they are looking forward to purchasing



The Scio Poultry Processing facilities.
Photo provided by Lauren Gwin

locally grown poultry – there is definitely a movement for folks to want to know who is raising their food and how it is being raised.” But a lack of enough appropriate processing has been a limitation. Scio Poultry aims to fill that essential role in the local poultry supply chain.

“Our hope is that this will open local markets to many small growers and increase the quantity and quality of locally grown poultry,” says Karen. “So many farmers have told us they have been waiting for the news of our Grant of Inspection to begin raising birds since they were not able to sell them otherwise. It is our hope that Scio Poultry Processing will help all of us to succeed and prosper in the future.”

Plenty of hard work lies ahead, but the Schuellers deserve plenty of respect for persevering. “Some folks have said ‘They have been talking about that plant in Scio for years,’” Joe says. “Those folks should have been paying attention, because we were doing more than talking. I hope the other small growers appreciate the time, money and effort that went into it.”



Pesticide Applicator Training in Spanish

This is a 10 hour class in Spanish over two Friday mornings on Friday October 1st & 8th, 2010, LBCC Albany Campus CC-213.

Do you have an employee who has studied hard but still failed the ODA pesticide applicator license exam?

Do you have an employee who would like additional training in pesticide application and safety? Does this employee need extra coaching in math and calibration skills to pass the ODA pesticide applicator license exam?

This class is designed for your senior employee(s) and will:

- Provide basic review of the laws and institutions that regulate pesticides, pesticide labels, pest control methods, and pesticide safety.
- Promote safety on the job site with emphasis on personal as well as environmental health.
- Support those who may be interested in pursuing Pesticide Applicator Certification/License.
- Obtain recertification credits for those students who already have a certification/license.
- This training is geared for those working in: agriculture, nurseries, landscaping, exterminators, and other related fields.

The cost for the two-morning classes is \$95 (includes materials). All participants will receive a certificate of completion. The ODA exams are at an additional cost of \$20 each. Please go to www.oregon.gov/ODA/PEST to sign up for tests and be specific about the test you want to take; or call (541) 917-4923. ODA exams are available on the LBCC Albany campus.

Test Dates

Friday, October 8th, 2010, 1:00pm-4:45pm

Vineyard Mountain Room CC-213

Friday, October 22nd, 1:00- 4:45 pm

Fireside Room CC-211

LBCC, Albany Campus, 6500 Pacific Blvd SW

Class size is limited; reserve your space at (541) 917-4923

For disability accommodations, call 917-4789.

Getting in the Tractor Seat, Some for the First Time

By: **Melissa Fery**, Oregon State University Small Farms Program

Scents of machinery oil and grease provided perfect ambiance in the farm shop building, where 21 Willamette Women’s Farm Network (WWFN) members and guests assembled for a field day, all about tractors. A tractor driving and safety class had been an identified need for many women farmers that participate in the network and in August, plans aligned and the field day went off without a hitch.

Tractor safety was the first topic of order. Gathered around in lawn chairs and sitting on seed bags in the shop, the group shared in a three hour discussion about farming accidents and why they occur, methods to create a safer work environment, an understanding of how tractors and equipment can be dangerous and proper operation procedures.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor’s national statistics, agriculture ranks first among all occupations in job related deaths, with the mining industry ranking second. Tractor related injuries account for 32% of all agriculture related fatalities. The most common causes of these accidents are operator attitude, unattended children near machinery, miscommunication, loose clothing, fatigue and rush, all of which can be prevented. To safely use tractors, three factors should be considered:



Photo provided by Melissa Fery

1. The operator having a safe attitude.
2. Being aware of the environment and having skills to handle manmade and naturally occurring hazards.
3. Knowledge of the equipment and understanding safe operating mechanisms and techniques.



Photo provided by Melissa Fery

After sufficiently adding enough fear to the group to encourage safe attitudes, the class moved outside to look at some tractors and implements.

One participant commented that “the class was enough to make me cautious, but not so much that I’m scared to get on my tractor.”

While walking around the machinery, discussion centered on start-up procedures, parts of the tractors and the differences between equipment models, specific areas of concern like power take off (PTO) and safety features like rollover protection systems (ROPS).

With confidence building or lacking, depending on each individual, it was time to get in the seat and handle the tractors. The driving portion of the field day was especially useful for those women who had never before operated a tractor and there were several.

Deborah Clark said, “I liked having the opportunity to drive the tractors, especially the front-end loader! I feel that when I’m able to purchase a tractor, I’ll have the confidence in driving it or at least know the kind of questions I should be asking.”

In small groups, participants rotated through three stations and had opportunity to drive three different types of tractors, including operating the front-end loader in a large pile of wood chips, maneuvering with a trailer and learning basics about a PTO operated mower.



Photo provided by Melissa Fery

In a follow-up survey of the class, the women participants were asked if the field day helped build confidence and knowledge of tractor safety and driving.

Sally Myers responded, “Absolutely! It (the information) was all put into practice immediately and I changed some of my behaviors around my equipment.”


“I now have a basic understanding of tractor operation and can feel much more confident looking at different tractors and figuring out how they will work... We saw a John Deere tractor for sale outside a house on our way home (from the class). We stopped and took a quick look and knew right away it was not the tractor for us, based upon the class,” says Marilyn Pershing.

Scottie Jones shared, “I think (the field day) drove home that the only way to get good at tractor work is to do it and do it and do it.” She also added that “I feel so much more confident now getting on our tractor and knowing what is and is not safe!”

Feedback was also received on what additional information and skill building is needed for the WWFN group relating to equipment. In the future there is interest in an advanced class demonstrating specific

operations such as tilling and loader work and a tractor maintenance class. Once these ladies got the feel for the horsepower, there’s no stopping them now.

Special thanks go to those who helped make the field day possible, instructors Betty Georgen and Michael Fery as well as the OSU Lewis-Brown Horticulture Research Farm and farm manager, Scott Robbins for providing space and equipment.

For more information about the mission of the Willamette Women’s Farm Network sponsored by the OSU Extension Service Small Farms program, contact Melissa Fery at Melissa.Fery@oregonstate.edu or (541) 766-3553. 

New Publication Helps Farmers Conserve Energy with Tractor Ballasting

Proper ballasting can help tractor operators conserve fuel and operate more efficiently. A new publication from Iowa State University Extension explains the mechanics of measuring ballast to ensure that tractor performance is not hindered by excessive or inadequate weight for the job at hand. Ballasting Tractors for Fuel Efficiency, PM 2089G, is available to download at: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM2089G.pdf>

Too much or too little ballast can adversely affect time spent in the field, tractor engine hours and fuel efficiency. Excessive ballast can dramatically increase rolling resistance, while insufficient ballast causes wheel slippage. Although many larger, modern tractors can display wheel slippage to the operator, this publication also addresses ballasting and tire inflation guidelines for older models, according to Hanna. Small increments of wheel slippage are not visible to the naked eye, and distributing ballast properly between the front and rear axles of the tractor ensures better performance and fuel efficiency. Monitoring tire inflation pressure according to changing weather conditions and soil surfaces is also important.



Incubating New Farmers

By: Maud Powell, Oregon State University Small Farms Program

The OSU Extension Small Farms team has identified new and beginning farmer education as a top priority of our program. One up and coming strategy for training new producers is the farm incubator model. Farm Incubators are programs that help launch new agricultural businesses through a combination of production and business education and subsidized, centralized land tenure.



The basic concept is that these programs host and train new farmers as they produce food, share equipment, develop their markets, and learn from mentor farmers, agricultural professionals and each other. Then, once their businesses are viable, the new producers move off the incubator farm and find their own land to farm. OSU Extension Small Farms has just received a Specialty Crops grant through the Oregon Department of Agriculture to pilot an incubator program at the Southern Oregon Research and Extension center in 2011.

Incubator programs around the country have demonstrated high rates of success in developing new farm businesses. Intervale, the most well-established farm incubator program in the U.S., is a non-profit organization that has managed 350 acres near Burlington, Vermont since 1988. Emerging farm businesses lease acreage from the non-profit, and receive business training and mentoring as they establish their new enterprises. Approximately 13 farm businesses have a total of 115 acres under production at Intervale. Participants move through 3 phases of the program: incubator (1-3 years), enterprise (3-5 years), and mentor (5+ years). The non-profit pays for 20% of the fees (land lease, equipment, and greenhouse/cooler space, utilities and water costs) for the farmers in the incubator phase. Incubators lease the land on a year to year basis and review their operation with Intervale

staff annually. After 3 years, they can continue farming and sharing resources as an enterprise farmer. Enterprise farmers pay 100% of the fees and are extended to a 2-year lease. By year five, most farmers have moved onto their own acreage, but some opt to stay on in the farm mentor

capacity. Intervale has created a dynamic, thriving agricultural community of new and established farmers through the incubator model.

Another farm incubator program, the Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA), focuses on supporting minority farmers. ALBA, which is located in the Salinas Valley of California, starts their incubator program with a 6-month intensive training on sustainable production methods taught in Spanish. Once the program is completed, participants graduate onto their own ½ acre parcels, which they can lease for up to 3 years. Participants are able to develop markets and production systems with the support of the program before venturing onto their own farms.

The OSU Extension Small Farms team in Southern Oregon has studied these models for the past several years and developed partnerships with other local organizations in the hopes of beginning a similar program in our region. One of our partners, THRIVE, received federal and state funding to begin the project last winter. As we began reaching out to potential participants, however; we realized that most prospective farmers in Southern Oregon already have access to their own or leased property. The model of providing parcels of land to new farmers does not meet current local needs. Instead this year, we offered a season-long series of advanced business and

production classes for a cohort of nine new farmers. Thrive has provided them with access to a new on-line market, Rogue Valley Local Foods. In addition, funds received by Thrive are paying these new farmers to provide excess farm products to local food banks.

The ODA recently became interested in the farm incubator model and has directed funds toward OSU Extension to create such a program. Next spring, the Small Farms team in Southern Oregon will break ground at the Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center and develop a one-acre incubator farm. During its first year, the acre will be used to teach and demonstrate basic farming techniques and provide perspective farmers with opportunities to practice farming. While new farmers will not be incubating their own businesses during this first year, they will get a chance to learn important farming skills and work closely with the farm manager. Based on the successes and challenges of this first year as well as

the availability of funding to continue the project, we may expand the acre and offer plots to individual farm businesses in future years.

OSU Extension Small Farms continues to find and create innovative models for training new farmers. Our approach has been to include more hands on experience and practical business and marketing support than traditional classroom-based education. We look forward to piloting a farm incubator program, and hope to create a model that can be replicated around the state in the future. *Z*



SAVE THE DATE

February 26, 2011

**Oregon State University
Extension Service**

Small Farms Conference

LaSells Stewart Center - Corvallis, Oregon



**Oregon State
UNIVERSITY**

OSU

**Extension
Service**



Measuring Soil pH

By: Sam Angima, Oregon State University Small Farms Program

As the summer season winds down, it is time again to start planning for next year's crop. One of the areas to do inventory is soil fertility. Soil pH is one factor that gauges your plant nutrition status. A single soil test may cost over \$100, however, soil pH alone may be less costly. Even though the test is inexpensive and can be performed rapidly, many questions are asked about kits, dyes, and portable meters for measuring soil pH.

Many choices for in-field measurement of soil pH are available. The values provided by in-field analyses should be used only as an estimation of soil pH. If an in-field measurement indicates soil pH might be above or below the range given for a crop, send a sample to a laboratory for confirmation.

In a national study comparing four in-field soil pH determination methods by University of Arkansas, the hand-held pH meter produced results closest to the average from 82 laboratories while the pH probe provided the same soil pH for three sample groups tested (Table 1). Results from the color kit were intermediate between the pH probe and hand-held meter.

The accuracy of the hand-held meters is offset by cost and complicated operation. The hand-held meter is a portable version of a laboratory meter and must have the same care and calibration with buffer solutions before each use. Fresh and accurate buffer solutions are needed for each time the hand-held pH meter is calibrated. The accuracy of the hand-held meter is dependent on the operator's care and condition of the electrode. A hand-held meter kept in a truck with a dried electrode cannot be expected to perform adequately. Improper storage and treatment of an electrode will not only produce poor results but require replacement before the meter will again perform to standard.

Results from Table 1 show that the soil probe was unable to distinguish between samples with more than a 2.0 pH unit difference, making it

unacceptable for use for

estimating soil pH in the field.

However, the color kit used in this study came with a whole unit (1.0) graduated scale. A smaller graduation pH scale of 0.5 units is necessary in many cropping situations. Sometimes 0.1 – 0.2 unit differences are critical when determining pH given the high cost of lime in Oregon. Solutions used in color kits usually degrade with time and heat. Care is needed to insure the solutions have not degraded. This method can be effective when used to determine which samples will need to be sent to a laboratory for further testing.

Another used method not utilized in this study is pH strip papers impregnated with pH sensitive dyes. Accuracy of pH strips is similar to the color kit and would prove to have nearly similar challenges other than the absence of solutions in pH strips. As with all in-field pH test methods, periodic lab testing is recommended to ensure accuracy with this method.



Method of pH Measurement	Soil 1	Soil 2	Soil 3
Laboratory Average	7.9	6.3	5.6
Hand-held pH meter	7.7	6.3	5.5
Color Kit	8.0	6.5	5.5
pH probe	6.0	6.0	6.0

Table 1. Soil pH comparison of three in-field methods with the average soil pH from 82 laboratories participating in a quality control program.

It is also important to know how the soil lab you use determines soil pH. This is because comparison of results requires same methodology for measuring pH primarily the amount of water mixed with soil. Three common methods for soil pH determination

are used by laboratories in the western United States—saturated paste, 1:1 and 1:2 ratio of soil to water. It has been shown that soil pH increases slightly for acidic soils as soil to water ratio increases. Soil pH by saturated paste will be slightly lower than 1:1, which will be slightly lower than 1:2 soil-water ratio. The differences between water measurements will be smaller though at about 0.1 – 0.2 pH units.



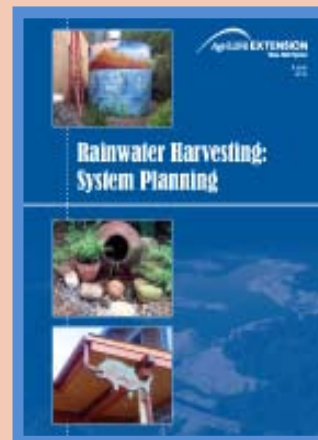
Also the time of the year or season when you determine soil pH affect outcome of the results. The highest soil pH is measured in late winter and early spring, prior to fertilizer application. Also pH is high during periods of increased microbial activity and in drier soil. The lowest soil pH (greatest acidity) occurs west of the Cascades near the end of the growing season but prior to the onset of winter rain. In Eastern Oregon the lowest soil pH usually occurs after fertilization in the spring and early summer on irrigated fields. Soil pH can change more than one unit from spring to fall in sandier soils. A common range for seasonal pH change is from 0.3 to 0.5 units higher in spring than during the growing season. The seasonal variation of soil pH west of the Cascades is associated with wetting and drying cycles. Soil pH decreases in the late spring and summer as the salt content of the soil increases.

If you have not determined your soil pH in the last three years, this will be a good time to do so using any method available to you. If you find that the results are not within the range of the crops you would like to grow next year, have the soil tested in the lab early so you can make amendments/additions necessary to ensure better medium for crop growth. *z*

[Article credits: Don Horneck and John Hart, OSU Extension]

New Rainwater Harvesting Manual for Pro & Novice Alike

Rainwater Harvesting: System Planning is 206 pages full of the how-to's, whys and best management practices associated with planning and installing rainwater catchment systems of all sizes. The manual is designed to assist designers and installers of rainwater collection systems in properly planning, sizing, installing and using rainwater for inside and outside use.



Published by Texas A&M University, the manual is among the first of its kind. It offers the technical information needed by the professional, but is also useful for the do-it-yourselfer needing guidance to install a small system. The 17-chapter spiral-bound manual has color photos, diagrams and extensive appendices including tables and figures, uniform plumbing code, references and answers to study exercises found in several of the book's chapters.

The manual retails for \$48.50 per copy with a wholesale price for orders of 20 or more of \$35 each.

Order at: https://agriflifebookstore.org/publications_details.cfm?whichpublication=2793

Establishing Winter Cover Crops

By: Nick Andrews, Oregon State University Small Farms Program

In theory cover crops can protect soil from erosion, improve soil tilth, supply nitrogen (N), reduce weeds, provide nectar and pollen for beneficial insects, increase the winter survival of mycorrhiza, help to manage soil-borne diseases, and provide other benefits. In practice, it's often difficult to establish cover crops in commercial rotations well enough to produce enough ground cover and biomass to realize these potential benefits. The OSU Organic Fertilizer and Cover Crop Calculator (see resources) enables you to estimate the cost and N contribution of cover crops on your farm. This article is based on experience in vegetable rotations but can inform other cropping systems.

Choosing species

Seed is normally the biggest expense in cover cropping. It is tempting to save money by reducing

seed rates, especially with legumes, but it is worth using plenty of seed to ensure a good stand. Cheap low quality seed can be problematic especially if they introduce new weeds. Make sure the label has a low weed seed and inert count. Quick establishment of a thick ground cover will compete more effectively with weeds and protect soil aggregates better than a sparse stand. It will also develop more biomass to build organic matter and contribute N. Some small seeded cover crops like clovers and phacelia may seem expensive by the pound, but because of low seeding rates, the cost per acre is often reasonable. Legumes supply plant-available N (PAN) when they decompose, but typically do not supply as much dry matter as grasses. Grasses often establish more quickly in the fall and help reduce erosion and improve soil tilth, but they do not supply plant-available N to the following crop. Legumes and many

Species	Hardy to zone ¹	Seed rate ² lbs/A and (depth)	Dry matter (lb/A/yr) ³	Shade tolerance ⁴	Bears traffic ⁴	Habit ⁵
Non-legumes						
Annual ryegrass	6	15-30 (0-1/2")	2-9,000	4	5	U
Barley	7	80-125 (3/4-2")	3-10,000	3	3	U
Winter Oats	8	110-140 (1/2-2")	2-10,000	2	3	U
Cereal Rye	3	90-160 (3/4-2")	3-10,000	4	4	U
Winter Wheat	4	60-150 (1/2-1 1/2")	3-7,000	3	3	U
Phacelia	8-9	5-8 (0-1/2")	3-5,000	2	1	U
Legumes						
Berseem clover	7	15-20 (1/4-1/2")	6-10,000	4	2	U/SU
Crimson clover	7	22-30 (0-1/2")	3-5,500	4	2	U/SU
Fava beans	8	100-300 (1-3")	4-9,000	3	1	U
Field peas	7	90-100 (1 1/2-3")	4-5,000	1	2	C
Hairy vetch	4	25-40 (1/2-1 1/2")	2-5,000	3	1	C
Red clover	4	15-20 (0-1/2")	2-5,000	4	3	U
Subterranean clover	7	20-30 (0-1/2")	3-8,500	4	4	P/SP
Sweetclovers	4	15-20 (0-1")	3-5,000	2	3	U
Lana & common vetch	7	50-80 (1/2-1")	4-8,000	3	2	SP/C

Table 1. Characteristics of some cover crop species. Adapted from Managing Cover Crops Profitably. ¹USDA hardiness zones are shown, higher numbers have warmer average annual low temperatures, Western Oregon is in zone 8, Eastern Oregon is in zones 5 and 6. ²Seeding rates are estimated for broadcast seeding of single species, rates can be slightly reduced when drilling, many small seeded cover crops (i.e. clovers) can establish well when left on the surface and worked in by irrigation alone. ³ Assuming modest to strong stands incorporated at late vegetative to early reproductive growth stage. ⁴ 1 = poor, 2 = fair, 3 = good, 4 = very good, 5 = excellent. 4 C=climbing, U=upright, P=prostrate, SP=semi-prostrate, SU=semi-upright

other flowering broadleaf plants provide pollen and nectar as a food source for beneficial insects (i.e. pollinators and natural enemies) in the spring if they are allowed to go to flower.

Mustard (*Brassica* species) cover crops do not fix nitrogen, but they may have pest management benefits. McGuire (2003) reports that white mustard cover crops can reduce *Verticillium dahliae* incidence in potato-wheat rotations while also increasing water infiltration rates in soil. Steve Fransen (Washington State University) explained that they grow deep tap roots which break up soil hard pan layers, grow a large amount of leaves and biomass for green manure. A disadvantage is they can have high seed dormancy so you can have volunteers long after you may not want them. Also beware of increasing *Brassic*as in your rotation if you already have enough to create a risk of club root. If you are near a vegetable *Brassica* seed producer, make sure pollen from your cover crop doesn't contaminate their seed crop.

Most experienced organic farmers I work with use mixed stands of legumes and non-legumes (often a grass) to combine the benefits of both types of plant, many non-organic farmers prefer to use grass species. Synthetic N fertilizer is cheaper than organic fertilizer so the relative economic benefit of reducing fertilizer rates by including legumes is smaller in conventional systems. If your goal is to supply N to the following crop, legumes must be well represented in the stand. A pure stand of non-legumes can immobilize N in the short term when it decomposes. If legumes make up about 15-25% of the biomass, they will prevent N immobilization as the cover crop decomposes, but in order to supply large amounts of plant-available N, a cover crop stand should consist of 50% or more legume biomass. Another advertisement, the OSU Organic Fertilizer & Cover Crop Calculator can help you estimate N-contributions from your cover crop stands.

Grasses often establish quickly in the fall and can out-compete legumes. After some trial and error I reduce non-legume seed rates to about 20-40% of the single species seed rates listed in table 1, and leave legume seed rates at 80-90% of normal in mixed stands.

In bare fields I have had consistently good results by combining a cereal with a climbing legume (i.e. vetch). The vetch uses the grass stems as scaffolding and captures more light.

Time of seeding

September is the usually the best time to establish winter cover crops in a bare field in Western Oregon. If seeded too soon (July or August) winter annual cover crops may either go to seed before they can easily be tilled under in the spring, or require more irrigation than is convenient. The risk of planting too late is that the cover crops won't get established in time to utilize fall heat units. If the cover crops are very small they won't protect soil during the winter rains and they can be easily killed in waterlogged soil.

Steve Fransen (Washington State University) reports that some marginally winter hardy cover crops like phacelia (in my experience) or fava beans actually do well when planted as late as mid October (see table 1). I'm not the first to notice that when they are planted late and only grow to 2-4" by the time cold weather hits in December, they seem to survive hard freezes better than larger plants. Josh Volk (<http://www.slowhandfarm.com/Welcome.html>) has observed that planting cover crops in September can also provide better weed control because summer weed seed germination has slowed down and winter annual seed germination has not yet hit full stride. Late summer weeds that do germinate after seeding the cover crop will be killed by the first hard frost, and winter annuals will often be outcompeted by the established cover crop. Alec McErlich (Earthbound Farm) has observed the same thing in the Columbia Basin.

If a field is bare in July or August after a short season crop, at least two strategies are available. Consider using a quick summer crop like buckwheat, sudex (a sorghum x sudhan grass hybrid) and, or a summer legume like forage soybeans followed by a standard winter cover crop or cash crop. Steve Fransen (WSU) recommends short season forage soybean varieties of type 00, 0 or 1 for quick biomass development. Buckwheat normally needs some irrigation in Oregon to produce good biomass because in a dry unirrigated field in the summer buckwheat will go to seed before



Kristin Pool interseeds cover crops into Jim Bronec's Butternut squash in early August 2010.
Photos provided by Nick Andrews

producing much biomass. Another alternative is to use short-lived perennials that are easy to kill the following spring. I've used red clover and perennial ryegrass to good effect.

Interseeding
The elephant in the room

points out that many of our favorite vegetables are still in the field in September. I wouldn't expect anyone to disc in a beautiful crop of tomatoes, eggplants, corn, squash, or peppers in early September in order to plant a cover crop. Some innovative farmers including Jim Bronec (Praying Mantis Farm) have figured out how to interseed vegetables with cover crops. Jim normally broadcasts about 20-25lbs/A of red clover seed into his winter squash crop in mid to late July just before the squash vines cover the field when he's doing his last weed cultivation.

The red clover germinates and gets established before harvest in November; thick in some spots and scrawny in others. During harvest Jim tries to minimize traffic on the clover, but the reality is that a winter squash field gets pretty muddy. Nevertheless, the red clover often survives quite well



Kenland red clover at Bronec's farm was thick in some spots like this photo and thinner in others by late October (2006).
Photo provided by Nick Andrews



Hannah McDonald interseeds cover crops into Ralph Locke's eggplants in late August 2010.
Photos provided by Nick Andrews

and rebounds to protect the soil over the winter and provide either a high N cover crop or a seed crop the following year.

This year at the North Willamette Research & Extension Center in Aurora (<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC/>) and at collaborating farms, we are interseeding several different cover crop species into winter squash, popcorn, eggplants and peppers. We are also trying about 15 different cover crop species on bare ground to observe their growth habit and phenology. Our interseeding trials were seeded during August this year because crops needed weeding later than normal after the late start to summer this

year. Typically some of these trials would have been seeded in July. At the time of writing, fall also seems to be getting an early start. We are just beginning these trials so I don't have much experience with interseeding yet. I currently assume that a cover crop well adapted to interseeding should tolerate shade and traffic well, and not have a climbing growth habit



By early April (2007) the red clover was thick and about 12" tall across the field, if incorporated then it would have supplied about 60lbs PAN/A, Jim grew it out as a seed crop.
Photo provided by Nick Andrews


(see table 1). It is sometimes useful that smaller seeded cover crops (as indicated by low per acre seed rates) will still usually establish well even if it is difficult to properly incorporate the seed in a cash crop canopy that has become too tall or thick to drive through. Small seeded crops establish better when left near the surface.

Seeding method and irrigation

Seed drills provide excellent percent germination because seed depth and uniformity can be controlled more accurately. Therefore, recommended seed rates are often higher for broadcast seeders (see Managing Cover Crops Profitably under resources). Seed drills work very well in one pass but not all farms have seed drills and they are not easily adapted to interseeding. When using a broadcast seeder try to ensure good seed to soil contact with light cultivation and/or a ring roller. Irrigation can help work seed into the soil when mechanical seed incorporation is impractical (i.e. late interseeding).

Experienced farmers often try to time cover crop seeding just before fall rains to minimize the need for irrigation. However, we sometimes have dry weather through mid October (not this year). Although irrigation creates more work and can cost

about \$25/acre, be sure to irrigate your cover crops when seeding into dry soil. One common weather pattern to watch for is having enough moisture for seeds to germinate followed by warm windy weather to kill seedlings.

I hope these comments help you to adapt cover crops to your situation. Please feel free to contact me at nick.andrews@oregonstate.edu or (503) 678-1264 x149 to discuss our ongoing trials or your cover cropping practices. 

Cover Cropping Resources

OSU Organic Fertilizer and Cover Crop Calculator

<http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/calculator>

eOrganic cover crop group

<http://eorganic.info/>

UC/SAREP Cover Crop Database

<http://www.sarep.ucdavis.edu/ccrop/>

Managing Cover Crops Profitably

<http://www.sare.org/publications/covercrops/covercrops.pdf>

Midwest Cover Crops Council

<http://www.mccc.msu.edu/index.htm>

McGuire, A (2003). Mustard Green Manures Replace Fumigant and Improve Infiltration in Potato Cropping System. Published online at the Plant Management Network

<http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/pub/cm/research/2003/mustard/>

Oregon Tilth Offers Organic Certification and Natural Resources Cross-Training Materials

Website provides instructional materials and educational resources to encourage locally adapted cross-training courses and align efforts of conservation and organic professionals working with private landowners.



With grant funding support from the Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (WSARE) Professional Development Program, Oregon Tilth partnered with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other regional partners to deliver training sessions and tools to an audience of organic and conservation professionals. The training materials for the cross training series are now available on Oregon Tilth's website at <http://tilth.org/education-research/nrcs>

“With this website, we’ve made available instructional materials and educational resources to align efforts of conservation and organic professionals as well as to encourage others to offer similar trainings,” said Chris Schreiner, Oregon Tilth’s Executive Director.

The project planning team developed training curricula that can be replicated in other regions for future training sessions. Materials developed include a multi-day training agenda, involving in-class presentations, group discussion activities, pre- and post-tests, and site-specific, inquiry-based field activities.

In 2009, the Organic Conservation Cross-Training Series was delivered to help in-the-field conservation planners and organic certification professionals correlate the requirements of organic certification with those of traditional conservation practices and Farm Bill programs. The Organic Conservation Cross-Training brought organic professionals and natural resource specialists together to:

- Learn how traditional conservation practices can benefit organic systems,
- Advance solutions that shape conservation practices to organic operations, and
- Increase the scope of conservation assistance available to organic producers.

Four sessions were held, two in Oregon and two in Washington. Each session focused on a different type of organic cropping system – dairy, grain, tree fruit and annual vegetable. Topics covered soil quality, nutrient management, wildlife habitat as well as insect, weed and disease management.

The training sessions were attended by a variety of professionals in natural resources and the organic industry from Oregon, Washington and Idaho, including:

- Organic certification professionals
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation planners
- Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) planners & district managers
- Other government agency natural resource professionals

The training sessions received positive evaluation results from participants. The highest ranked components included group interactions and discussions, organic farm tours and field activities, organic producer panels and presentations by university faculty on the research and science underlying organic management practices. Over eighty percent of participants indicated they would definitely apply the new information and resources they learned at the training, and the remaining participants said they were likely to do so.

“The cross training series helped break down some barriers to cooperating and bridge the knowledge gap between organic and conservation professionals,” Schreiner said. “I hope others use the resources we’re sharing on the website to build upon this important work.”

Agricultural Exchange: The experience of a lifetime

By: Lori Anderson, Experience International

"Our involvement has been very positive. Trainees have been outstanding individuals, personally and professionally." Scott Williams, Kiona Vineyards



Host Eron Drew and J-1 trainee Martin Echeverria from Ecuador.

Martin Echeverria Avellan, from Quito, Ecuador, picked up a rake and hoe and went to work at 6 a.m. each morning during the spring, summer, and fall of 2007 on a small organic farm near

Leavenworth, WA. He arrived in the U.S. in May of that year, sponsored on a J-1 visa by Experience International. Brought together by a mutual commitment to organic farming, he worked side by side with his host, sometimes sharing meals, and frequently exchanging ideas about the future of organic agriculture. By the time Martin departed in October, there were tears in both his and his American host's eyes. Of Martin, his host Eron Drew says, "he is an excellent worker, with great initiative and problem-solving skills." The technical farm exchange was productive for both parties, and the friendship that resulted was a treasure that would last a lifetime.

The exchange was possible because of the J-1 Training & Exchange Program established by the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961. The "J" visa was established to enable nonimmigrant foreign nationals to legally enter the United States for participation in educational and cultural activities. To implement this program, the U.S. Department of State (DOS) designated a limited number of organizations, such as Experience International (Everson, WA) to sponsor J-1 trainees and interns to the U.S. for practical training and work experiences in specified fields. Experience International is designated to sponsor qualified trainees and interns in fields related to agriculture, horticulture, forestry, fisheries, conservation and natural resources.

If you own or operate an agricultural business – be it fruit orchard, vegetable farm, dairy, nursery, winery, or other - you may be eligible to host an intern or trainee. The qualifications are minimal, the benefits limitless.

As a U.S. Host, you provide a quality program that incorporates the trainee/intern into your farm or business operation. Trainees come with academic degrees (interns are current students of agriculture) and experience, are motivated to work hard and meet challenges, and expect to be given responsibility. They are expected to work fulltime and get involved in your daily activities, projects, and ongoing operation. They learn by doing, improve their English, and experience the United States under your tutelage. Their primary commitment is to you, the host.

A few of the things you'll need to sponsor a trainee or intern are:

- Fill out some initial paperwork for EI
- Work with EI to develop a training plan
- Provide the trainee or intern with either minimum wage or housing plus a stipend
- Provide workmen's compensation insurance
- Program fee of \$85 per month of training to Experience International
- Have an interest in other cultures and a desire to mentor and exchange information within your field of agriculture.

Experience International provides support throughout the program to you and the trainee or intern. We are invested in assuring a positive and productive experience, and provide:

- J1 visa administration and support
- Screening and selection process includes working with our overseas program partners to ensure quality applicants with verified English speaking skills, an interview process via phone and email, and placements tailored to the host's interests and needs.
- An arrival orientation for the trainees and interns upon arriving in the U.S.
- Information for hosts on tax withholding.
- Assistance with development of training plans
- Site visits and/or check-ins by EI staff.
- Summer program retreats
- Newsletters and host updates

Martin and host now farm on opposite sides of the equator, but undoubtedly their planting and harvesting turns up many fond memories along with the soil each year.

Calendar

October

2 - "Get yer Goat" Education

Day 8am - 5 pm

Everything goat-related from cheese-making to parasite management, vet care to breeding, sales to ADGA registration, hoof care demonstrations to variety selection and MORE!

OSU Extension Jackson County Auditorium, 569 Hanley Rd., Central Point, OR. For more information contact Paula Burkhalter at 541-776-7371 or paula.burkhalter@oregonstate.edu **\$35 adult or \$20 youth.**

23 - Natural Resources School

This one day school will offer over 40 different subjects/topics summarized in the following categories: Forestry Management, Agriculture/Small Farms, Special Forest Products/Christmas Trees, Sawing/Drying Wood, Wildlife, Landscape/Gardens, Pests and Invasives, Fisheries and Fishery Products, and General Community Topics. Oregon Coast Community College, 400 SE College Way, Newport, OR. For more information contact Sam Angima at 541-574-6537 or sam.angima@oregonstate.edu **\$50.**

23 - Horse Health Seminar

Smart Horse Stewardship Certification Program
Topics: Preventative health care,

emergency health care, the senior horse, digestion, feed processing, low carbohydrate hay, hoof care, and much more! Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District, 573 Parsons Dr, Medford, OR. 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM. Pre-registration is required. For more information contact Julia Pedersen at 541-776-7371 or Julia.Pedersen@oregonstate.edu. **\$6 for Smart Horse Program Enrollees \$10 for non-enrolled.**

November

6 - Ties to the Land for Farms & Forests

This workshop will teach you how to form "ties to the land" that will cross the generations of ownership. During this first session we will examine how you can form a strategy to win the intergenerational land transfer battle. Forestry Club Cabin, near Peavy Arboretum on McDonald Forest, Corvallis, OR. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. For more information contact Liz McGovern At 541-766-6750 or elizabeth.mcgovern@oregonstate.edu **\$50 per family**

Visit <http://smallfarms.oregonstate> for more upcoming events!



Want to add your event to our calendar then please submit your information at <http://calendar.oregonstate.edu/advanced/list/extension-smallfarms/> "Click the Submit an event button." Events have to be approved and will not immediately post. If you have questions please contact Chrissy Lucas at Chrissy.Lucas@oregonstate.edu or 541-766-3556