



Oregon Small Farm News

Fall 2015

Oregon State University Small Farms Program

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Cover Photo:

OSU Organic Growers Club peppers
on the grill.

Oregon Small Farm News Layout by: Chrissy Lucas

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2016 OSU Small Farms Conference coming February 20th

Chris Blanchard Tackles Farm Profitability


Among the headlining speakers at the 2016 Small Farms Conference, is farmer and farm profitability consultant, Chris Blanchard (<http://www.purplepitchfork.com>). As the owner and operator of Rock Spring Farm, Chris raised twenty acres of vegetables, herbs, and greenhouse crops, marketed through a 200-member year-round CSA, food stores, and farmers markets. He now operates Purple Pitchfork, an educational organization dedicated to helping farmers and their farm businesses.



Chris is well-known for his Farmer to Farmer pod cast series (<http://farmertofarmerpodcast.com>). The pod casts get at the big ideas and practical details that go into making a farm work. They provide an honest look at everything from soil fertility and record-keeping to getting your crops to market without making yourself crazy.

Chris will be presenting a full day track on farm profitability. Topics include:

- What makes me money? Practical ways to track expenses and revenue to evaluate what crops are profitable.
- How should I sell? Evaluating market channels.
- Should I buy a tractor? Investment analysis for the small farm. This session will include background and a panel of farmers involved in the Oregon Cost Study Project operated by Oregon Tilth and the OSU Small Farms Program.

Chris is co-author of *Fearless Farm Finances: Farm Financial Management Demystified* a resource for new farmers, farmers new to financial management, and those wishing to increase their understanding. The book simplifies the concepts and techniques of successful farm financial management, from setting up data collection systems and designing a QuickBooks bookkeeping program to understanding standard financial statements such as the balance sheet and income statement. Ways to assess and increase profitability, including the use of standardized ratios, enterprise budgets and partial budgets, budgeting and monitoring, as well as assessing markets and pricing, are covered. Numerous examples from a diversity of working farms are used, as well as financial data from a fictional sample farm. 

Winter Farming Series offered in the Southern Willamette Valley

By: Amy Garrett, Small Farms Program, Oregon State University

Are you interested in exploring whether winter production would be a good addition to your farm business? There are several crops that can be harvested during the winter months in Oregon. This class series will cover the basics of winter production including season extension tips and tools, planting dates and varietal selection that you will need to get started in winter production. We'll also walk you through the process of keeping records to track production costs and analyzing whether winter production can be a profitable enterprise for your farm.

You'll have a chance to visit with farmers who are experienced with winter production to get perspectives from the field. Our goal is to support you with testing out winter production on your farm to determine whether it is a feasible enterprise for your operation.

Classes are spread out over a whole year and timed so that you can apply what you learn for your winter plantings in 2016.

Classes will meet at the Polk County Extension Office 289 E Ellendale Ave Suite 301, Dallas, OR 97338 and registration will open in November.

Winter Farming Tour - January 20, 2016

Visit two farms experienced in growing for winter markets - Oakhill Organics and 47th Avenue Farm

Class dates will be announced in November.

Winter Crop Planning & Marketing - February 2016

What are the marketing opportunities for winter crops? What crops can be planted and when? Marketing and crop planning go hand-in-hand when planning for profitability. Hear from a panel of local buyers about marketing opportunities for winter crops and learn about winter production basics including season

extension tools, planting dates, and varietal selection to grow for these markets.

Season Extension Structures - March 2016

What infrastructure is needed for winter production in Oregon? Learn about high tunnels, low tunnels, row cover, and other season extension structures for a variety of budgets as well as funding opportunities through the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program - Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative.

Recordkeeping for Profitability Analysis - July 2016

What records should you keep to determine whether winter farming can be a profitable enterprise on your farm? Having a solid market and good winter growing practices is a great start, but to determine whether winter farming will actually contribute to your bottom line, you'll want to start keeping records to capture the information you'll need to determine whether an enterprise is profitable. We'll go over the records that you'll need to keep this season so that you can analyze the profitability of winter crops on your farm.

Winter Farm Enterprise Profitability Analysis - January 2017

What prices should you charge for winter crops? How long can harvest take before it's not worthwhile? What yield do you need to break-even? Can you grow winter crops and make a profit?

Once you've had a chance to experiment with a few winter plantings and jotted down a few production records we'll work with you on analyzing the feasibility of winter production on your farm.

Contact Amy Garrett to determine if this class is right for you or call 541-766-3556. 

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

By: Rachel Suits, Small Farms Program, Oregon State University

Halomorpha halys, the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB), is a native species to Asia introduced on the east coast of the U.S. in the late 1990s. Now, it has spread to 43 states and as far north as two Canadian Provinces. The BMSB has piercing-sucking mouthparts with a straw-like stylet that suck plant juices. They feed on leaves and stems but prefer reproductive structures like fruits, pods, and seeds. Therefore, it is an agricultural pest to fruit, vegetable and grain crops. The BMSB is also a homeowner nuisance pest because it has overwintering habits to seek shelter in residents' homes, similar to boxelder bugs and lady beetles.

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug first appeared in the Portland area in 2004 and has now spread into most Oregon counties that lie along the I-5 and I-84 corridors.

The spread of BMSB is likely due to its ability to hitchhike on vehicles and cargo trains. Also contributing to BMSB's spread is the adults' great flying capabilities which aid in dispersal.

The BMSB is characterized by white bands on their antennae, smooth shoulders, and mottled brown coloration. Adults look similar to native stink bugs including predatory species like the rough stink bug, which makes it important to correctly identify the insect.

BMSBs and rough stink bugs have similar coloration and fall behaviors of seeking refuge indoors to overwinter. However, rough stink bugs differ because of their rough shoulders and solid antennae color.

Adult female Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs lay eggs from spring until late summer. There are usually about 28 clear-blue eggs in a cluster, and the eggs are primarily laid on the underside leaves. The eggs

hatch in 4-6 days and the first instar larvae, which are typically red and black or white and black in color, stay around the egg mass feeding on bacteria left by the mother. Once the nymphs reach the second instar stage, they begin feeding on plant tissues including leaves, stems and fruit. As the nymphs continue to grow, they develop the same brown and black mottled coloration as the adults but lack fully developed wings.

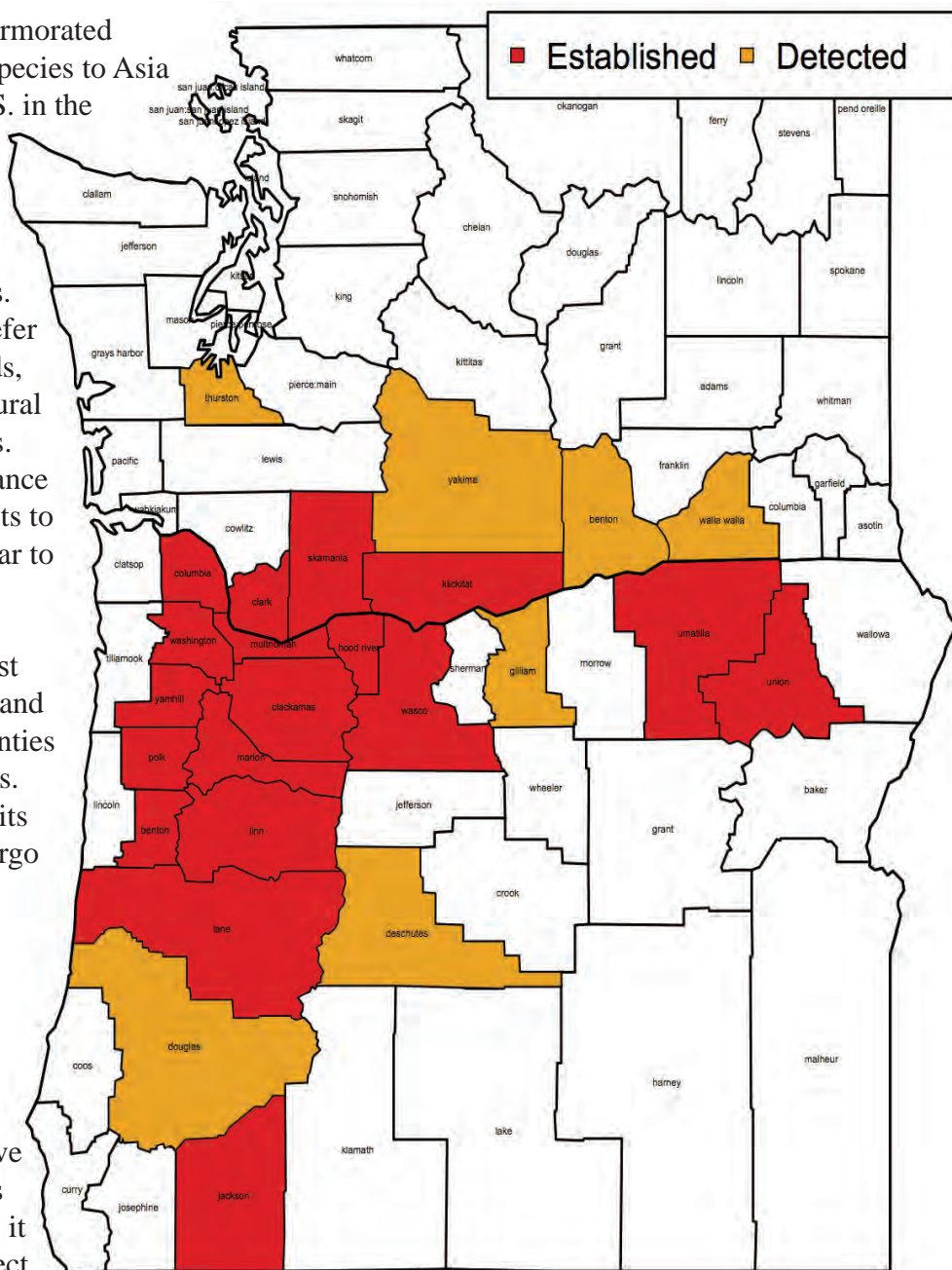


Figure 1: Map showing counties where BMSB are established or detected.
Image found at <http://horticulture.oregonstate.edu/content/2013-distribution-bmsb-or-wa>



Figure 2: From left to right, four nymphal stages of BMSB second through fifth instar; adult male, and adult female.
Photo by W. Hershberger.

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug is a polyphagous feeder that attacks more than 170 different plant species including agricultural crops like vegetables, legumes and tree fruits. The BMSB has piercing-sucking mouthparts which extract plant juices and sugars while leaving behind puncture holes. These puncture holes can then cause further damage like scarring and secondary infections. BMSBs can further contaminate and taint produce by releasing their chemical defense compound as they cling to fruits or vegetables during transport.

Because of BMSB's wide host range and high mobility, a whole-farm pest management approach is needed. Research is being conducted to investigate sustainable management strategies like biological control, habitat manipulation, trap crops and barriers.

Researchers are currently assessing natural enemy predation and parasitism. Results from an egg

parasitism and predator study show that egg parasitism is low and predation is primarily from the big-eyed bug and spined soldier bug. However, in the last year a parasitoid native to Asia, *Trissolcus japonicus*, was discovered in the United States and was found to use BMSB eggs as a host. Scientists are now further researching *Trissolcus japonicus* by studying the parasitoid's rates of parasitism both on BMSB and native stink bug egg masses.

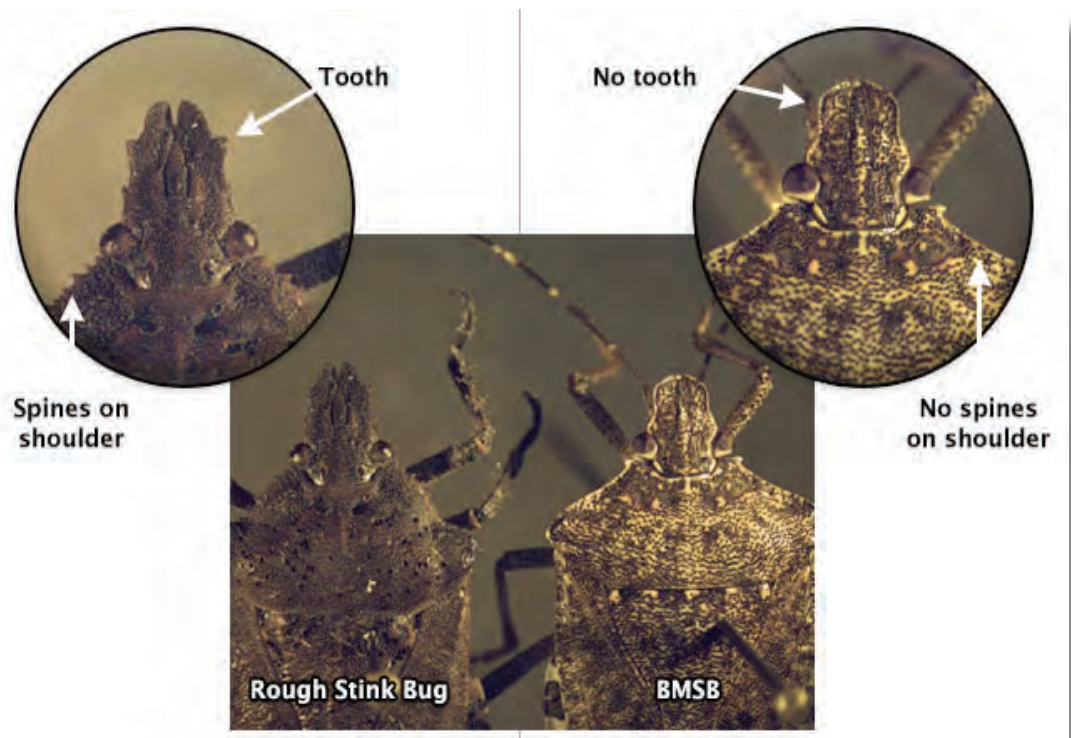


Figure 3: Rough Stink Bug and BMSB characteristic differences.
Photos by Brent short, USDA ARS AFRS

In addition to biological controls, researchers are studying habitat manipulation to further help organic farmers combat BMSB. They are looking at BMSB movement patterns in mixed environments, including wild and cultivated hosts, in order to discover potential aggregation hot spots throughout the season. Identifying movement patterns may help farmers target the location of trap crops or manipulate the habitat unfavorably for the insect. Further research is needed to understand the behavior and host plant selection of BMSB.

Cultural controls like barriers and trap crops can help small farmers protect their crops if the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug becomes a problem. First, consistent monitoring and correct identification are necessary starting tools to prevent big outbreaks. Once the BMSB has been detected and correctly identified, the best line of defense is to prevent the insect from feeding on host plants by using barriers such as row covers, sticky traps around tree trunks or bagging fruit in small orchards. In vegetable production, researchers are studying trap crops like sunflowers and sorghum. These types of trap crops can be used to attract BMSB populations, therefore keeping them away from and out of cash crops. A preliminary trap crop study conducted in Sacramento found BMSB in high numbers on taller sunflowers. If trap crops are used, Anne Neilson from Rutgers University suggests planting them at least six feet away from the cash crop in order to minimize




Figure 4: BMSB injury on pears showing scars and secondary infection.
Photo by Peter Shearer

insect migration between crops and to allow air flow. Additional studies are underway to continue assessing the prospect of using trap crops as a management tool.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs are not easily managed using chemical controls because they are already showing signs of resistance to pesticides. However, BMSB are repelled by essential oils like spearmint, lemongrass, clove and ylang-ylang. The challenge with essential oils is that they volatilize quickly, which reduces ongoing protection. Further investigations are needed to look at both conventional and organic chemicals, although BMSB does not readily respond to chemical controls.

This pest has the potential to be devastating and scientists are learning more about its behaviors in order to suggest the best pest management strategies in combating the BMSB. Currently, monitoring and correct identification are valuable tools in assessing infestations. Excluding the pest from agricultural

hosts provides the best pest management tool, so far. Biological control looks promising in the future, but more research is needed to evaluate its impact on BMSB populations. 

Resources

- stopbmsb.org
- Brown Marmorated Stink Bug in Oregon: <http://horticulture.oregonstate.edu/group/brown-marmorated-stink-bug-oregon>
- Quarles, W. 2014. IPM for the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug. IPM Practitioner 34(3/4): 1-8.



The First FSMA Rule is Finalized


By: Lauren Gwin, Center for Small Farms & Community Food Systems

On September 10, the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released the final version of the “Preventive Controls for Human Food” rule, which applies to facilities that process and manufacture food for human consumption. This rule and the Produce Rule are the two FSMA rules we have been tracking closely for their potential implications for sustainable agriculture, small- and mid-sized farms, and local food systems. FDA will publish the final Produce Rule by the end of October.

The OSU Small Farms Center is working with the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to digest the Preventive Controls rule. On September 11, NSAC issued a statement [<http://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/release-fda-facilities-rule/>] stating that FDA had clearly listened to the sustainable agriculture community on many points raised during the two comment periods.

The rule, said NSAC Policy Specialist Sophia Kruszewski, “provides several important modifications

to avoid ensnaring farms and local food markets in ill-fitting rules designed for large-scale industrial food facilities.” In particular, FDA revised the definition of a “farm” so that more regular farm activities are included and won’t trigger the “facility” definition, making the farm subject to the Preventive Controls rule.

A top priority for us at the Small Farms Center is to learn whether the PC Rule will affect Oregon’s innovative “cottage food” laws, especially the Farm Direct exemption. This exemption allows farmers to make small amounts of low-risk value added foods and sell them direct to consumers. Because home residences are not required to register as facilities, and most farmers using the Farm Direct exemption are making products in home residences, we tentatively believe the PC Rule will not apply. However, we will work with NSAC and ODA to clarify this and report back in the next Oregon Small Farm News. 

Internship Program Teaches Realities of Farming

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

As Rogue Farm Corps 'FarmsNext', a full season farm internship program has expanded to reach new regions of Oregon, OSU Extension Small Farms faculty are supporting these efforts by teaching classes and participating on planning committees. With continued interest from people interested in learning how to farm and in time start their own farm business, a hands-on internship is an invaluable way to learn the realities of farming.

The South Willamette Valley chapter, which is completing their second growing season, had seven interns on four hosts farms this year. "The interns attended seventeen classes covering topics from soil science to seed saving, rotational grazing to poultry processing," says Katy Giombolini, the chapter coordinator. "They also convened once a month for social potlucks and discussions on different topics like starting your farm and continuing farm education."

Teagan Moran who interned on Ruby and Amber's Organic Oasis in Dorena, Oregon this season shares that "The farm internship has provided exposure to farming as a way of life, not just as a "job". This means access to all of the beautiful and messy parts of farming - farming in relationship, farming and living on the same site, farming with other jobs, farming for the love and for the profit (or lack thereof), it's access to the emotional,



Teagan and Justin Moran, interns, at Ruby and Amber's Organic Oasis start a new pumpkin patch agritourism venture on their host farm this Fall.

Photo provided by Melissa Fery

physical and even spiritual side of farming. For my husband, Justin, and I, this internship has solidified our decision to enter farming as a way of life and we understand the complexities of that decision."

FarmsNext combines hands-on training and skill-based education in sustainable agriculture. The program boasts that while living on commercial family farms and ranches, interns will receive up to 1500 hours of field training with a mentor farmer and have time for farm-based independent study. With




Going beyond growing and marketing, Justin Moran shares about raising poultry on a farm field trip for second graders last Spring.

Photo provided by Melissa Fery

chapters now in the South Willamette Valley, Southern Oregon, Central Oregon and in the Portland area, there are more opportunities for involvement.

“The stories we have heard provide access to information not found in books. One of the greatest benefits has been the networking opportunities, access to farmers in the heart of the season and stepping into a community that will provide lasting inspiration and ultimately support as we carry on the farming path,” says Teagan.

If you have an established farm business and have a passion to teach and work with the next generation of farmers, consider learning more about being a host for the 2016 growing season. Rogue Farm Corps is now accepting applications for host farms. If you are someone interested in living and breathing farm life, applications for internships will be available in early November. The internship program begins each year in March-April and ends between October and November. For more information about FarmsNext or FarmsNOW, an apprenticeship program designed for those seeking mastery in the art and business of farming, go to <http://roguefarmcorps.org> 

Save the Date!

2016 OSU Small Farms Conference February 20th



This year's line up includes full day tracks on:

Farm Profitability
Cut Flower Production
Pastures and Hay
and more...

Sessions include:

Tea Production
Timing Vegetable Plantings Using Degree Day Modeling
Organic Certification
Farm Crew Training and Management
Sessions in Spanish
and more...

Lunch from local farms—the best conference lunch around

Registration will open in December 2015
<http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu>

For updates on the Small Farms Conference and other up to the minute news, like us on Facebook--<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oregon-State-University-Small-Farms-Program/174466132601811?sk=wall>

Southern Oregon Seed Growers Association Launches Education Network

By: Maud Powell, Small Farms Program, Oregon State University

Southern Oregon has long been considered an excellent region for seed production. Long, hot summers with little rainfall allow seeds to fully ripen and dry. Additionally, Southern Oregon has many narrow valleys with varying topography that provide good isolation for crops that pollinate by wind or insect. In 2013, a group of seed farmers started the Southern Oregon Seed Growers Association (SOSGA), with the support and facilitation of the OSU Small Farms program in an effort to increase the amount of seed being grown in the Rogue Valley. Initially, the group's main function was to develop a seed-pinning map to ensure adequate isolation between growers. Subsequently, the group decided to offer educational and networking opportunities for existing and prospective seed growers.

In 2014, SOSGA received a Western SARE grant to conduct bi-monthly educational programs for farmers interested in seed production. Since June 2015, SOSGA and OSU Small Farms have hosted three events. In June, buyers from three seed companies, High Mowing Organic Seeds, Uprising Seeds, and Adaptive Seeds, toured six seed farms in the Rogue Valley and gave a panel presentation on the basics of contracting with seed companies. The farm tour informed the buyers about the particular challenges and opportunities of growing seed in Southern Oregon. Over fifty people attended the panel discussion, which covered topics including how to approach seed companies to obtain



Wolf Gulch Farm's Tom Powell shows SOSGA field day participants his flowering New York Early onion seed crop.
Photo provided by Maud Powell


contracts; what to do in case of crop failure; and different payment schemes for seed contracts.

In late July, thirty-five people attended a field day on the production and harvest of biennial seed crops. Biennial seed crops include kale, parsnips, onions and leeks, and can be challenging to grow as they require more time in the ground. Tour participants visited Wandering Fields and Wolf Gulch Farm, both in the Little Applegate

Valley and both veteran producers of biennial seed crops.

In September, twenty-five people visited Chickadee Farm in Talent for a field day on processing and cleaning seeds. Farmer Sebastian Aguilar demonstrated a variety of different pieces of seed cleaning equipment, including screens, fans and several types of threshers.

In February 2016, corn seed breeder Professor Bill Tracy from the University of Wisconsin will address Southern Oregon seed growers. Other seed field days have yet to be scheduled.

SOSGA field days provide producers with excellent opportunities to learn more about the potential for seed production in the Rogue Valley as well as to network with other people. Field days are always followed by a potluck meal and discussion. For more information, contact Maud Powell: maud.powell@oregonstate.edu. 

Exploring the Small Farm Dream

Are you considering launching a small farm enterprise, but are not sure where to start? Whether you are dreaming of raising sheep, growing berries, or selling heirloom vegetables, this class series will give you the tools to start making that dream come true.

In this three-session course you will learn about current trends in small-scale agriculture, explore goals for your farm business, assess personal and financial resources, conduct preliminary market research, and develop an action plan to guide your next steps.

What to expect:

- Creative exercises, research, and class discussions that will help you assess your skills and resources.
- Interview with local farm-business owner that will assist you in deciding how to carry your dream forward.
- An opportunity to make connections with others interested in starting new farm enterprises.

Who should attend?

If you are exploring the idea of starting a farm business, this course is designed for you. This includes people thinking about full-time farming, farming part-time while continuing other employment, changing careers to start a farm, and/or developing an existing but informal farming pastime into a more serious business activity.

Dates, times and locations:

This class series will be offered in two locations.

Thursdays, January 14, 21, and 28, 2016

6:00-8:30 pm Linn County Extension Service office in Tangent.

5:30-8:00 pm Douglas County Extension Service office in Roseburg.

Fee:

\$60 for one individual; \$75 for two farm business partners.

Fee includes worksheets and handouts, 7.5 hours of detailed instruction and class exercises led by Extension Faculty and successful local farmers, and refreshments at each session.

To register:

To register for the Linn County series go to: <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/south-valley/events> or contact Chrissy Lucas at 541-766-3556

To register for the Douglas County series please call the Douglas County Extension Service at: 541-672-4461

New Pest of Brassicas in Oregon: Cabbage Whitefly

By: Heather Stoven, Small Farms Program, Oregon State University

Two new species of whitefly have been found in Oregon recently which you may want to keep an eye out for: the ash whitefly and the cabbage whitefly. Ash whitefly has a broad host range, and is a potential pest of ornamental crops, fruit trees and native plants. See this site for more information: http://oregonstate.edu/dept/nurspest/Ash_whitefly.html. Here

we discuss cabbage whitefly (*Aleyrodes proletella*), a potential pest for vegetable growers.

The cabbage whitefly was first found in Oregon in a Portland backyard garden in 2014. It is native to Europe, but has been found in many countries throughout the world, and has been established in the Eastern United States since 1993 and California since 2001. It has a wide host range, but its preferred hosts are cabbage, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, broccoli,




Figure 1. Cabbage whitefly adults and nymphs on a Brussels sprout leaf at the Clackamas Community College Student Farm. Photo by Nick Andrews

and kale. Now that it has arrived, it is likely to stay and gradually become more common.

Adult cabbage whiteflies are about 1/16" long, white, and have two pale gray blotches on each wing. This pest leaves circular waxy areas on the undersides of leaves. Crop quality is reduced via the occurrence of the waxy deposits along with the presence of eggs, nymphs and sooty mold.

Eggs are laid in a circle or semicircle pattern on the underside of leaves and hatch in about 12 days. There are three scale-like nymphal stages followed by a pupal stage, all of which are immobile. Adults overwinter on the undersides of leaves. This pest has multiple generations per year.

Although little information about the management of this pest exists for Oregon, information on control of whiteflies in general may be of some use. Adult whitefly can be monitored with yellow sticky cards placed in the field. Whiteflies generally have many natural enemies and encouraging predators and parasites in the field can be helpful. Whiteflies can be difficult to control with insecticides, as the eggs, nymphal and pupal stages are often unaffected by chemical sprays. Repeated applications directed at the undersides of the leaves are often needed to control emerging adults. Insecticidal soaps or oils applied

when temperatures are below 90°F can provide some control without disrupting natural enemy populations. Practicing good sanitation can also be helpful by removing old vegetation from the field, therefore reducing overwintering locations for this pest. 

For further information:

- To submit photos to ODA for identification: <https://data.oda.state.or.us/fmi/webd#Websubmissions>
- ODA cabbage whitefly alert: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/shared/Documents/Publications/IPPM/Cabbage-WhiteflyAlert.pdf>
- General whitefly management information for brassicas: <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r108301411.html>
- Other general whitefly management information: <http://insect.pnwhandbooks.org/vegetable/vegetable-pests/hosts-and-pests/pepper-whitefly>



Figure 2. Cabbage whitefly infestation on Brussels sprout at Clackamas Community College Student Farm.
Photo by Nick Andrews.

4th Annual Small Farm School Recap

By: Heidi Noordijk, Small Farms Program, Oregon State University

Eager learners, knowledgeable instructors, patient livestock and sunny skies were the key ingredients to a successful day for small farmers in Clackamas County.

The 4th Annual Small Farm School had a record setting attendance of over 250 participants. Commercial farmers, small acreage landowners, students and agricultural professionals came together on Saturday, September 12 to build on their farm skills and knowledge. Workshops took place at Clackamas Community College in Oregon City and also at the Clackamas County Event Center in Canby. This day celebrated the tremendous innovation happening on small farms in the region and the diversity of small farms, as well as the burgeoning interest in local sustainably produced food. Small Farm School is presented by OSU Extension in partnership with the Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District and Clackamas Community College.



Figure 1. "Wonderful to see the sheep and do hands-on body condition scores." Comment from a Sheep Basic Care and Management Class participant.
Photo provided by Heidi Noordijk

There were 27 field and classroom workshops offered over four concurrent sessions. Extension faculty, community college instructors, conservation specialists, farmers, authors and other agricultural professionals led workshops.

Morning classes on sheep basic care, on-farm veterinary care, horse health, and tractor safety and operation were held at the Clackamas Event Center.



Figure 2. Veterinarian Jen Willey demonstrating on-farm vet care practices.
Photo provided by Heidi Noordijk

There was much more room for the animals and tractors at this location.

Clairmont Hall and the surrounding area of Clackamas Community College was the main site for the program. The area was all abuzz with classes on beekeeping, farming with native beneficial insects and vegetable insect management. The most popular workshops were beginning farmer classes on Starting your whole farm plan and Assessing your farm resources along with workshops on soil, irrigation management, rotational grazing and pasture management. Participants found the workshops “informative and full of practical information”. One of the goals of Small Farm School is to send people away with new ideas to implement on their farms. An attendee from Amy Garret’s Dryland Vegetable Farming Class commented said, “It will be interesting to experiment with my soil and see if I can get some crops thriving with dry farming.”


Exhibitors were available to show their wares and offer services to farmers. During the lunch break there were 8 Ask an Expert tables to allow one-on-one discussions on farm financing, water rights, organic certification, farm real estate, conservation practices, CSA information and beekeeping. Lunch focused on locally sourced produce and allowed time for further discussions. 



Figure 3. Dean Moberg from the NRCS discusses ways to measure soil moisture. Photo provided by Heidi Noordijk.



Figure 4. Compost class participants estimate moisture levels of finished compost. Photo provided by Heidi Noordijk.

A special thanks to Clackamas Community College and Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District and other community partners for putting together a successful program. Thanks also to conference sponsors: Coastal Farm and Ranch, OBC Northwest, Organically Grown Company and Portland Nursery.

Mark you calendars for Thursday, September 20, 2016 and join the Small Farm School fun next year.

Information Snapshot: SB/HB 341 - Limited Liability for Agritourism Providers

By: Mary Stewart, OSU Marion County Extension Service, Mary.Stewart@oregonstate.edu
Adapted from a fact sheet developed by Ivan Maluski, Friends of Family Farmers.

Agritourism offers farmers and ranchers additional income and marketing opportunities for their crops, and it offers non-farmers the opportunity to appreciate and invest in Oregon's agricultural bounty. **Events** "related to and supportive of agriculture" including harvest festivals and farm-to-table dinners, **direct-market opportunities** such as farm stands, beef shares and U-picks, **educational activities** including farm tours, "how-to" classes and overnight **farm stays**, to **recreational** use of natural resources on farmland for fishing, hunting, birding and hiking.

The Evolution of the Bill

After a two-session process, bills SB/HB 341—Limited Liability for Agritourism Providers were signed into law on June 22, 2015. Impetus for the bill grew from the 2012 and 2013 Oregon Agritourism Summits I and II, organized by Melissa Fery - OSU Extension Small Farms program and Scottie Jones - Leaping Lamb Farms and Farm Stay U.S., with partners Kathi Jaworski for Travel Oregon, Mary Stewart - MARStewart Group and a Susan Labozetta, an agritourism consultant from Grants Pass. Bill Cross, the lobbyist for Oregon Destination Marketing Association, wrote and submitted the first version of the bill.

When the bill did not make it out of committee, a legislative workgroup discussed and refined the bill during the summer and fall of 2014. The workgroup included representatives from Oregon Farm Bureau, Friends of Family Farmers, Clackamas County Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Corvallis Visitors Association, Country Financial Insurance, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Trial Lawyers, MARStewart Group/Oregon Farm Loop and three agritourism farms: Barb Iverson – Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm, Scottie Jones – Leaping Lamb farms and Farm Stay U.S. and John Zielinski – E.Z. Orchards.

During the 2015 legislative session, a revised bill was submitted and moved through meetings with

legislators, hearings and work sessions. After an amendment and additional discussions, the Oregon Trial Lawyers softened on their position in opposition and the bill passed both the Senate and House. Oregon becomes the 21st state with Limited Liability for Agritourism.

How Does Limited Liability Support Agritourism Providers?

It is often difficult for agritourism farms to find liability insurance for activities because of the risks (perceived and real) of inviting the public on to a farm.


SB/HB 341 will assist agritourism providers who post warning notices required by the bill by limiting their liability for injury or death resulting from the agritourism activity and risks inherent to farms and ranches, such as uneven or slippery ground.

Exceptions to Limited Liability under this Law

Under the bill, agritourism providers would not be protected from liability for injury or death if:

- Caused by willful or wanton acts or omissions by the agritourism provider;
- Caused intentionally;
- Due to failure to inspect equipment provided to participants;
- Due to failure to inspect property for potential hazards and warn participants;
- Provider fails to post conspicuous warning notices required by the bill;
- Provider fails to obtain proper approvals for the activities.

Oregon's Similar Law for Equine Activities

Oregon's Equine limited liability law, ORS 30.687 – 67, provides that equine activity sponsors and equine professionals cannot be held liable for injury or death arising from an equine activity (e.g. riding horses) as long as signs are posted and other steps are taken, similar to provisions in SB/HB 341. 

What's So Funny?

By: Dr. Susan Kerr, WSU NW Regional Livestock and Dairy Extension Specialist

I recently attended a professional development conference with colleagues from all over the U.S. In addition to presentations, exhibits, discussion groups, committee work, and educational poster sessions, attendees could select from a variety of tours to farms and other sites of agricultural interest. I chose to go on a sustainable agriculture tour that featured family farms with diversified agricultural enterprises.

As you can imagine, the tour was engaging, educational and enjoyable--until a little throw-away comment from a poultry and livestock producer, that is. This tour took place in a state affected quite heavily by the recent Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak. The farmer told us his farm was located in the disease surveillance zone and just ¼ mile from the quarantine zone (Figure 1). "If we were within the quarantine zone, I have other farms outside the zone I could have moved my birds to." He laughed. Most of the people on the tour laughed along with him.

This laughter was very disheartening to hear. Outbreaks of highly-contagious infectious diseases of animals or people are no laughing matter. They cause pain, suffering, death, economic hardship and social upheaval, some of which is preventable by prompt and conscientious human intervention. According to the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the ongoing outbreak of HPAI is responsible for the loss (death, early slaughter, or euthanasia for disease control; see Photo 1) of more than 48,091,293 chickens and turkeys throughout the U.S. from mid-

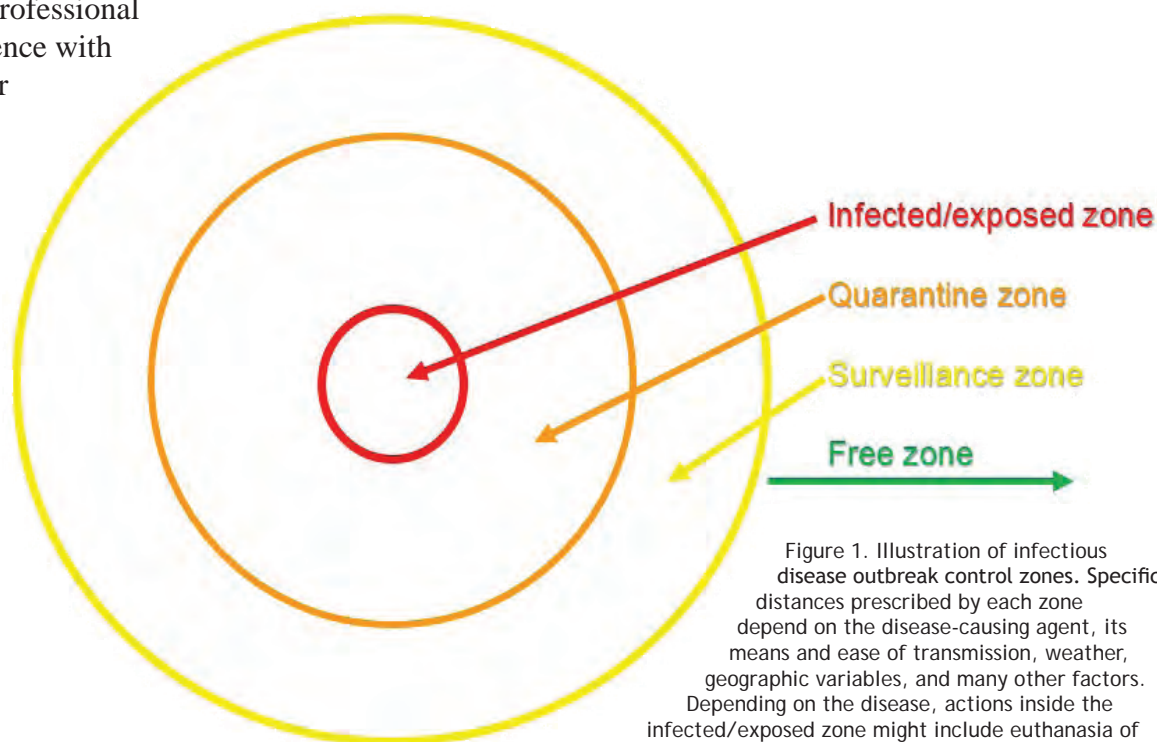


Figure 1. Illustration of infectious disease outbreak control zones. Specific distances prescribed by each zone depend on the disease-causing agent, its means and ease of transmission, weather, geographic variables, and many other factors. Depending on the disease, actions inside the infected/exposed zone might include euthanasia of all affected and exposed members of given specie(s) or just stop movement orders with close monitoring. Vaccination zones may be added to either contain a disease or protect animals from it. Simplified from USDA APHIS resource.

December 2014 to mid-June 2015.¹ There have been 223 detections—20 in backyard flocks and 203 in commercial flocks.¹ In WA and OR, all affected flocks have been backyard flocks. In Iowa alone, the HPAI outbreak is blamed for the loss of 8,500 jobs and \$427M in taxes and income.² Unlike poultry producers, American consumers are not experiencing the *billions* of reduced income from lost export markets, but have certainly noticed substantially-increased prices of retail poultry and eggs, which is predicted to last for up to three years.²

Back to the laughing farmer: so what's the big deal? What harm can moving a few animals around during a disease outbreak cause? Moving animals during an outbreak—especially between control zones—delays disease diagnosis, interferes with identification of infected premises, subverts efforts to contain the disease, spreads the disease to more animals, and ultimately increases the economic impact of the outbreak. A 2011 economic analysis of the effects of



No laughing matter: mortalities in Iowa laying hen house. Photo taken through impervious plastic protective covering
Courtesy Mark Hutchinson, U. of Maine Extension.

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in California estimated that after a three-week delay in detection, *every added hour of delay* would result in 2,000 more animals having to be slaughtered for disease containment and \$565 million more in financial losses³ for farmers, farm workers, local businesses, etc. *Every hour.*

Like Yogi Berra said, you can observe a lot by watching. Here in the U.S., we watched with great sadness as the U.K. suffered through a devastating outbreak of FMD in 2001. We are no smarter than amoebae if we are unable to learn from that horrific event. Early detection, early diagnosis, and early containment are the best hope for minimizing the impact of a high-impact contagious disease. A three-day delay in issuing a “stop movement” order in the U.K. during the FMD outbreak is cited as the cause of 2026 premises being involved (and depopulated of animals) vs. the estimated 977 premises that would have been involved if a stop movement decree was issued on the day of FMD diagnosis.⁴ That’s a difference of a lot of preventable suffering and

hardship, including 80 farmer suicides attributed to the FMD outbreak and its aftermath.

Instead of moving animals to be one step ahead of a quarantine line, what is a responsible farmer to do in the event of a disease outbreak, or even better, before?

- **Get educated and stay informed:** what diseases should you be concerned about and what are their signs?
- **Monitor animals closely**—early detection of contagious disease is the best hope of control
- **Practice scrupulous biosecurity actions.** These will serve you well during a foreign animal disease outbreak as well as domestic diseases such as equine influenza, Johne’s disease, Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea, canine parvovirus, winter dysentery and so many more
- **Abide by all official disease-control measures** in effect during an outbreak

- **If you see something, say something.** Call your veterinarian and/or state animal health officials if you see signs of illness that concern you.

FMD example: if you see a blister on a cow's tongue or the coronary band of a sheep or see a goat drooling for no reason, call your veterinarian and talk it over. Don't hide the animal away in a back shed and hope everything blows over in a few days. If one animal is displaying signs of FMD, all the others have already been exposed and you are delaying diagnosis of the problem and creating a bigger depopulation zone. The result will be the same for the infected premises in the long run with millions in collateral damage and suffering that could have been prevented by doing the right thing right away. Not only would you hurt yourself with this delay, you would hurt friends, neighbors, and the entire community by not acting quickly.

Despite retail food price increases in the last several years, consumers in the U.S. still enjoy food availability, variety, quality, and safety at prices most other "developed" countries can only dream of obtaining. Outbreaks of economically-significant diseases such as HPAI, FMD, Classical Swine Fever and other foreign animal diseases would threaten U.S. food security, affect the cost of food, and potentially disrupt transportation and travel corridors throughout the country. In the event of such an outbreak, early detection and close adherence to disease control measures are critical to minimizing the outbreak's effects.

Subverting disease control strategies is fundamentally un-funny. 

References and Resources

¹USDA APHIS Update on Avian Influenza Findings: Poultry Findings Confirmed by USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratories. 2015. <http://tinyurl.com/q8zytfg>.

²Decision Innovation Solutions. 2015. Economic Impact of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) on Poultry in Iowa. Case study commissioned by Iowa Farm Bureau. www.decision-innovation.com/images/docs/Economic-Impact-of-Avian-nfluenza-on-Poultry-in-Iowa.pdf.

³Carpenter, T.E., J.M. O'Brien, A.D. Hagerman, and B.A. McCarl. 2011. Epidemic and Economic Impacts of Delayed Detection of Foot-And-Mouth Disease: A Case Study of a Simulated Outbreak in California. *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation*, 23(1), 26-33. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/104063871102300104>

⁴Haydon D.T., M. Chase-Topping, D.J. Shaw, et al. 2003. The construction and analysis of epidemic trees with reference to the 2001 UK foot-and-mouth disease outbreak. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 270(1511), 121–127. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2002.2191>

⁵USDA APHIS Veterinary Services Preparedness and Incident Coordination. 2013. Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Response: Ready Reference Guide—Zones, Areas, and Premises in an FAD Outbreak. www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergency_management/downloads/premises_and_zones.pdf.

USGS Tool Predicts Pesticides in Streams and Rivers

The US Geological Survey has developed a new interactive mapping tool (<http://cida.usgs.gov/warp/home>) that provides predicted concentrations for 108 pesticides in streams and rivers across the U.S. and identifies which streams are most likely to exceed water-quality guidelines for human health or aquatic life.

The online mapping tool is based on a USGS statistical model — referred to as Watershed Regression for Pesticides (or "WARP") — which provides key statistics for thousands of streams, including the probability that a pesticide may exceed a water-quality benchmark and the reliability of each prediction.

The WARP model estimates concentrations using information on the physical and chemical properties of pesticides, agricultural pesticide use, soil characteristics, hydrology, and climate.

The model used by the mapping tool is based on data from USGS monitoring of pesticides in streams across the Nation since 1992 as part of the National Water-Quality Assessment (<http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa>) (NAWQA) Program. Since 1991, NAWQA has been a primary source of nationally consistent data and information on the quality of the Nation's streams and groundwater. Objective and nationally consistent water-quality data and models provide answers to where, when, and why U.S. water quality is degraded and what can be done to improve it for human and ecosystem needs.

Highlights from Closing the Hunger Gap

Congratulations to the Oregon Food Bank's Community Food Systems team for hosting the highly successful "Closing the Hunger Gap" national conference last month in Portland. Our OSU Small Farms Center was there, co-leading a session on opportunities for universities to support community food systems work. Other sessions explicitly discussed the role of local food, local farmers, and sustainable agriculture in ending hunger.

OFB shared with us the following Conference highlights:

- 480+ attendees, from 273 organizations, 40 states, DC, and 3 Canadian Provinces.
- Developed a Race & Equity Statement for the CTHG Network to sign-on to: Racial injustice and privilege are at the root of economic injustice. Economic injustice is the root cause of hunger. The only way to end hunger is to end racial injustice.
 - 43% of those people who answered the question, "What should be the focus of the 2017 conference?" answered explicitly race & equity

Quotes:

"Thank you so much. This conference has been eye-opening, empowering, educational, and life changing."


"I feel like I can never go to another conference

CULTIVATING FOOD JUSTICE CONFERENCE

again outside of CTHG because I'll just be thinking the whole time that we're not talking about the right things."

"I had such a positive experience here, maybe better than any other conference. I really appreciated that the conference didn't shy away from challenging political analysis. This was demonstrated, included Black Panthers history, creating group work agreements, an emphasis on the intersection of race and privilege in food bank work, etc."

"The conference reiterated to me the need to address root causes and be intentional about building programming that isn't just a band aid."

"I think that the focus on race and privilege was really powerful and isn't discussed enough. These issues are closely tied to the individuals and families we serve and I think we need to take a closer look at our social structures and institutions if we really are serious about ending hunger, increasing food access, and being for food justice." 



Calendar



October

14 - Poisonous Plants - Minimize the Risk to Livestock

Identify poisonous plants and manage the risk of livestock consuming toxins. Topics include: the economic impacts of plant poisoning; keys to identifying local toxic plants; assessing potential harm to your animals; how, why, and when plant poisoning occurs; common sense management. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM. OSU- Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center Auditorium, 569 Hanley Rd, Central Point, OR. Contact Paula Burkhalter at 541-776-7371 or paula.burkhalter@oregonstate.edu **\$20 per person or \$30 couple**

21 - Northwest Farm Credit Services- Farm Loans

A Northwest Farm Credit Services expert explains what types of loans are available for small farm operations and how to apply for them. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM. OSU- Southern Oregon Research & Extension Center Auditorium, 569 Hanley Rd, Central Point, OR. Contact Paula Burkhalter at 541-776-7371 or paula.burkhalter@oregonstate.edu **\$5**

November

7 - Soil Health Workshop

Speaker Sara Runkel, Small Farms and Food Systems Coordinator,

Douglas County OSU Extension 1:00 PM - 4:00PM. Douglas County OSU Extension Discovery Garden, River Forks Park Roseburg, OR. For more information please visit <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/> or call 541-672-4461 **\$10 per person or \$15 couple**

10 - Mud and Manure Management

Speakers Shelby Shelby Filley, Regional Livestock and Forages Specialist, & Sara Runkel, Small Farms and Food Systems Coordinator, Douglas County OSU Extension 5:30PM - 7:30PM. Extension Auditorium, 1134 SE Douglas Ave., Roseburg, OR. For more information please visit <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/> or call 541-672-4461 **\$10 per person or \$15 couple**

January

Winter Farming Series Begins

This year long series will begin with a tour and continue through the year. For more information contact Amy at 541-766-3551 or amy.garrett.lucas@oregonstate.edu. **\$TBA**

February

20 - Oregon State University Small Farms Conference

More information will be available on the conference website <http://smallfarms.oregonstate.edu/sfc>

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