

**In This Issue:**

Jackson County SWCD	2
Water Quality Rules	6
Fred's Facts	3
FARRM	8
Farm & Ranch Safety	4
Conservation Security Program	9
Oregon CREP	7
Donations & Contributions	2
Weed of Distinction	11
Across The Fence	13



Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District  
573 Parsons Drive, Suite 102, Medford, Oregon 97501  
Telephone: (541) 734-3143 - FAX: (541) 776-4295

Spring 2005

Volume 1, Issue 2

# CONSERVATIONIST

*Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District is your gateway to natural resource assistance. Board members and staff work with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to ensure educational and on-the-ground technical assistance opportunities take place that help the landowners of Jackson County.*

## Drought? Are You Prepared?

By: Charlie Boyer, JSWCD, Board Member

The March 1, 2005 snow pack for the Rogue Basin was 48% of average, with the water year precipitation (October 1 - September 30) at 77% of average. Storage in Emigrant Lake, Fish Lake, Four-mile Lake, Howard Prairie and Hyatt Prairie Reservoirs was 88% of average. Rain and snow fall levels for the month of February have

been below normal so we are even further behind the average for March 1 totals. What this means is that unless we start getting a lot of spring moisture, water supplies will likely be limited this year. As a producer or consumer of agricultural products in the Rogue Basin how can this affect you and what steps can you take to prepare to get

through a dry season?

If water supplies are limited, this could lead to longer rotation cycles for irrigators similar to the ones we had in 1992 and 1994. In those years the Eagle Point Irrigation District water users were required to go from a 14 day rotation to a 28 day rotation. This caused

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Dry-land Pasture Establishment in Southwest Oregon (Continued from last issue)

By : Randy White, Natural Resource Specialist/District Manager



### Fertilization

Hopefully you were able to get your dry land pasture planted sometime last fall. With help from Mother Nature you should begin seeing young seedlings emerge and start to grow. If you have not already performed a soil test, now is a great time. Soil testing will help

determine your soil nutrient management needs, resulting in more uniform and productive pastures. Fertilizer applied appropriately, decreases the chances of runoff or deep percolation of excessive nutrients into water bodies. This will help assure compliance with State water quality rules and regulations.

This article will discuss some of the options available for taking a soil test, obtaining the results from the lab, and determining the amount of soil amendments (fertilizer) to apply to your pasture. Many seed dealers and fertilizer companies have agronomists whom offer soil testing services, which include reviewing results and determining fertilizer recommendations. Another option is to take your own soil

samples and send them to laboratories for results. Either way there are a few things to consider when taking soil samples, including:

### How Often To Take Soil Tests

Oregon State University Extension recommends testing soil, for permanent pasture, prior to seeding and subsequently at least every three years. If your property is in an area known to have acid soils, testing should be done well in advance of planting to determine if liming will be needed. Lime moves slowly through the soil profile, conse-

*(Continued on page 5)*

**Chair's Corner**



Welcome to the Chair's Corner. I am currently serving as Chair for my second term and I am very enthusiastic about the future of Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District.

At this time I want to say farewell to a long-time JSWCD Board member and welcome a new member to board.

I tip my hat to the dedication that John Billings has given, over

the many years and the numerous hours spent with the district. John's exuberance of knowledge about the workings of the district has been very helpful in moving the district forward over the years. Also his involvement in R C & D and other organizations as well. THANKS John for all you've done, we will be calling on you from time to time.

It will be a pleasure working with John's successor, Keith Corp. Keith has been involved in many organizations dealing with agriculture in the Rogue Valley. His knowledge will be very beneficial in continuing to move our district forward in the future. I welcome Keith as our newest board member.

Until next time;  
Have A Koala-ity Day !!  
Barbara Niedermeyer

**New JSWCD Board Member**

**Keith W. Corp, Jr - Director Zone 5**

Keith W. Corp, Jr. has lived on and farmed the family farm since 1967. The farm is located near Emigrant Lake where they raise hay, cattle, and sheep. He received the 2001 Watershed Stewardship award. He is involved with the WISE project, Bear Creek Watershed Council and a Grange Co-op board of director. Keith has been a member of Farm and Ranch Resource Management (FARRM)

**Don't Miss it!**  
**Annual Meeting & Bar-B-Q**  
**April 27, 2005 6: 00 p.m.**  
**J C Extension Service**  
**Auditorium**  
**RSVP by April 15, 2005**  
*(see last page for details)*

**Jackson**

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 Linda Town, Administrative Secretary  
 Margaret Meierhenry, Newsletter Editor

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 Suzy Liebenberg, Soil Conservationist  
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**County Committee members:** **LAA1 -** Suzanne Ginet, Chairperson  
**LAA3 -** Lori Mefford, Vice-chair  
**LAA2 -** Mel Morris, Member

**Tax Deductibility for Donations / Contributions**

Please think of Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD) if you are interested in donating, gifting, granting, and/or bequeathing items, real or personal property, or monetary contributions for soil and water conservation efforts. Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of state government. IRS Code, **Section 17 0(c) (1)** states: Contributions or gifts to a state or any of its political subdivisions, i.e., conservation districts, are "charitable" contributions for tax purposes, and are, therefore, **tax deductible.** (See IRS Publication 526: Charitable Contributions).

JSWCD depends on funding from grants, donations, and County Service Partners funds to implement, maintain, and/or support soil and water conservation efforts. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Contact **Linda Town (541) 734-3143. linda.town@or.nacdnet.net**

## Fred's Facts

**An historical perspective of the people and land that make up the communities of Jackson County**



*Editors Note: There will be an historical article in each issue of the Conservationist. These articles are researched and written by Fred and Martha Straube and published here with their permission.*

### Article 2—Long Road Home Fred Straube's Family Branch (continued from last issue)

This is the next segment in the story we began last issue about the Straube family and what happened to the ranch.

I will begin with my grandfather, Fred Straube. Great Grampa died when Grampa was 18 years old, leaving him the farm at Willow Springs, north of Central Point. Grampa farmed about 75 acres of dry land, growing oats, barley, and wheat. He diverted Willow Creek and Jackson Creek onto a seven acre field and was able to keep it green all summer. This beautiful sight was one of the forces driving him to find an irrigated ranch. It would be several years before he found one.

In the fall, after harvest, Grampa would load the wagon with wheat and drive the team to the Butte Creek Mill in Eagle Point. Others waited for their own wheat to be ground into flour. But it was a long drive over and back and there were chores to do, so trading the wheat for flour was quicker.

A neighbor, Emmett Thompson, and Grampa raised a lot of pigs in the oak-covered hills behind the

ranch, clear to Galls Creek. The sows farrowed out there and raised their litters on the abundant crops of acorns, where they got fat. In the fall, the pigs were gathered, put in pens, and fed grain. Although they were fat, the acorns made the meat taste bad. The pigs were fed for about six weeks on corn, barley, and skim milk from the milk cows. Then Grampa and Mr. Thompson would drive 90 or so head to the railroad in Gold Hill and put them in pens. Grampa worried they wouldn't be able to tell the two owners' pigs apart. But he soon found if they left the pigs alone, the pigs would separate into two bunches and the count was always right.

The Straube family also raised 12-14 hogs for themselves. When it was butchering time, all the neighbors got together and helped with all the work. They would render the lard, usually getting 30-40 gallons. Everyone would eat the little bits of crispy fat that would float to the top, thinking it a real treat. Sausage was cooked and canned or placed in big crocks and melted lard poured over it to cover the meat deeply. Hog jowls, shoulders, hams and bacon were hung in the old smokehouse and fires were kept burning 24 hours a day for the first several weeks. Then fires were lit just during the day, until the meat was cured. The smokehouse was 12 X 12 X 10 feet tall. The meat hung in two layers and wasn't allowed to touch. Grampa took a lot of pride in his smoked hams and sold many to neighbors who didn't raise pigs. Unfortunately, there were other neighbors who didn't raise pigs, yet seemed to have a lot of pork meat all the time. Then their friends were having pork chops regularly, and THEIR friends... So Grampa eventually quit raising pigs for everybody else.

Grampa always had 6-8 cows,

and sold cream. My Dad was fond of Jersey cows, and saved his money to buy a registered Jersey heifer. She cost \$30.00 and came from Drain, Oregon, on the train. Grampa decided to buy some 2 year old bred registered Jerseys from Oregon City to increase the herd. They cost \$70.00.

In 1929, Grampa bought the ranch in the Applegate. Gus Newberry, the previous owner, had proven that he needed 4" of water per acre because it was so sandy and rocky. The water just sank. That gave him one of the largest water rights in the state.

Grampa moved his family to the ranch as soon as Dad graduated from high school. Dad was 16, and it was 1930, the beginning of the Great Depression. The first order of things was to start improving the fields and cleaning the irrigation ditches. The fields had been planted to alfalfa years before, but were pretty well run out. The 700 head of sheep that came with the ranch kept it mowed flat. As the ditches were repaired and cleaned and the fields became properly irrigated, water would run underground and flow back into the river the full length of the ranch.

Grampa wanted to keep planting grain, which he would feed to the milk cows. Dad wanted to plant alfalfa, since it grew such huge crops of hay. He was able to convince Grampa and began planting most of the ranch. The drawback to this was the sheep. As things got

*(continued on Page 10)*



## Drought? Are You Prepared?

*Continued from page 1)*

very low yields, if any, in the second or third cuttings of hay. Irrigated pasture production was also significantly reduced. Streams used for stock water and irrigation had reduced flows, or in some cases dried completely up. When the irrigation water demands of all the water users could not be met, the priority of the water right filings dates had to be enforced leaving some irrigators without any water for the latter part of the summer.

So what can you do to prepare your operation for a low water year if the hoped for spring rains and snows don't materialize? Take actions to get the highest production from your irrigated crop and pasture lands as soon as possible.

### Fertilization

If you haven't already applied fertilizer to feed the plants you will be harvesting then that should be a priority. If you do not have time to get a soil sample taken and tests returned, then get a description of your soil types from the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District and take it with you to the Grange Co-Op fertilizer plant and have them help you with a generic fertilizer mix for this year. Then get on a cycle of taking soil samples at least every three years and follow the fertilization recommendations from the soils analysis.

### Prioritization of Limited Irrigation Water

Determine which fields or pastures are your highest producers and make sure these get the water that is available. Extend your water as far as possible by getting an irrigation

to apply to each soil type so you are not over irrigating some areas and will be able to cover more area with limited water resources. not over irrigating some areas and will be able to cover more area with limited water resources.

### Cull Non-productive Animals

Less water means less forage and you should make every effort to see that these limited resources



are going to your highest producing animals. Currently, sale prices are quite good for both cattle and sheep, so it might be a good time to look hard at which animals you want to keep and which you should cull from your herds. The low water resources are expected to extend all across the northern tier of the West which could result in increased livestock sale that could affect prices at the market place. If you are considering selling animals, you might want to check out the buying services of Eldon Townsend (see his ad on page 12 of this newsletter) or one of the livestock auction yards in Klamath Falls or Roseburg.

### Implement Managed Grazing

If you are not currently using a planned grazing program on you

### Supplemental Feed

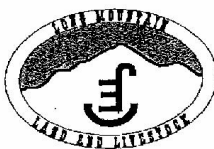
If you feed hay to your livestock at any time throughout the year, you may want to consider buying your hay early. It is difficult to predict the quantity of harvested forage crops that will be available at the first cutting but the good quality hay is always in demand. If water is limited in the mid to late summer, second and third cuttings of forage crops will be greatly reduced.

Neighboring areas, such as the Klamath Basin, do not have a brighter water outlook than we do in the Rogue Basin and may not be able to fill the demand for harvested forages that cannot be met by local producers. There is a good likelihood that the longer you wait to buy your hay the harder it will be to find and the higher the price you will have to pay.

### Feeding Facilities

If you feed supplemental forage to your animals, you need to inspect your feeding facilities to make sure that you are wasting as little as possible of the feed you are purchasing. Purchased feed is often a significant cost of keeping livestock for either business or pleasure. Any actions you can take to reduce the amount of waste will save you money.

We are all praying for adequate moisture for a good year and high production from our crops and pastures. But if we fail to get the moisture we need, following the steps above will help make the most of a bad situation.



**Charlie Boyer**  
11630 Agate Road  
Eagle Point, Oregon  
97524  
541-826-9873  
horseman@ccountry.net

Pasture Management - Rural Land Planning - NEPA  
Reviews - Hay & Lamb Sales

**Dry-land Pasture**

*(Continued from page 1)*

quently incorporation of lime during seedbed preparation is optimal.

**Where To Take Soil Samples**

Diagram 1 shows the Lower Field with vertical lines and the upper field with diagonal and vertical lines. These lines show three different soil types that could be used to delineate areas for three separate soil tests. However, the two soil types in the upper field are on similar slopes, have been managed similarly (rotational grazing, and irrigation management), and there is not a large enough area to warrant another soil test. The lower field has less slope, received less irrigation water and is being considered for re-seeding. Consequently it was decided to take two soil samples.

equipment prior to and after use. If the equipment is contaminated with soil from a field that was just fertilized your results will not be reliable. Conversely, you don't want to be responsible for someone else's results being inaccurate. Samples may be taken using a shovel or a soil auger (a

**Reviewing The Results**

It normally takes between two to three weeks to receive your results. It may take longer in the spring when everyone is trying to get results. Consequently, taking samples in the fall for spring application may be wise. You can ask to have copies sent to your consultant (seed dealer, extension service, etc.) to make fertilizer recommendations. You may also want to determine your own fertilizer requirements. In this case, you may refer to Field Guide—FG 63 Fertilizer Guide—Pastures for Western Oregon and Western Washington, published by Oregon State University and available at your local Extension Office or the Jackson SWCD.

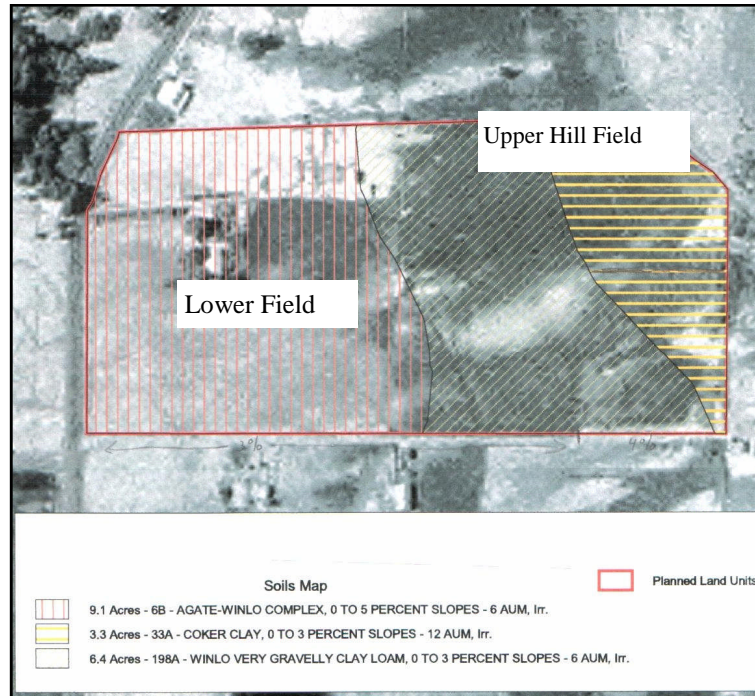


Diagram 1—Location of Soil Tests

**How To Take Samples**

Samples should be taken randomly from a minimum of five different places in each field (more samples should be taken on large fields) that represent the entire field. Samples should not be taken from the top 2—3 inches of the soil, but from 9—18 inches. Additional samples may be taken deeper on established, deep rooted, perennial pastures. Make sure the tools you are using are clean and washed thoroughly between sampling of different field. Take special care to clean borrowed

soil auger may be checked out from the JSWCD office). All samples from one field should be mixed in a bucket to form one sample. All samples should be placed into bags, according to how the laboratory wants them sent, and clearly identified by field number (in this case “Upper Hill Field” and “Lower Field”). Extension Mailer - EM 8677 “A List of Analytical Laboratories Serving Oregon” is published by Oregon State University and is available at your local OSU Extension Service or the Jackson SWCD office.

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### Awareness of Water Quality Rules Helps Agricultural Landowners Model Stewardship

By: Tim Stevenson, O.D.A. Water Quality Planner

You've seen those bumper stickers that say, "Farmers are the REAL environmentalists". In many cases, it's true. No one cares for the land like those who rely on it for their livelihood and their endowment to the next generation. Recently, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) finished its legislatively mandated task (also known as Senate Bill 1010) of developing water quality protection rules for private agricultural lands in Josephine and Jackson Counties. These rules were developed with the aid of local farmers and ranchers who know the issues facing producers and hobbyists in our area. Also, these rules apply to those cultivating or keeping farm animals on more than 10,000 sq. ft. These rules are intended to help local agricultural landowners be the best stewards of their resources and show the Oregon public how environmentally proactive the agricultural community really is. A summary of the local rules follows:

**First. Excessive Soil Erosion – effective June 2005.** No erosion is allowed from agricultural lands due to management where sediments have been, or will likely be, delivered to waters of the state and cause pollution. An exception to that rule is if it is due to a short-term activity that will eventually enhance long-term soil stability (such as creating contours on a slope or pasture renovations).

The intent of this rule is to prevent excessive erosion such as what you might expect when soil is left bare during the winter where no adequate grass filter exists to settle out the muddy water from the field.

**Second. Riparian Vegetation Destruction – effective June 2005.** Agricultural activities shall not cause stream banks to break off more than normal for that particular system. Further, it shall not prevent appropriate vegetation from establishing and reproducing so as to leave the stream side area vulnerable during high flows. In other words, trees are good, but when appropriate, the deep rooted shrubs and grasses need to be there near the stream as well. Willows, sedges, snowberry, and reed canary grass are examples of the deep rooted plants that can protect your stream banks. Some people like the bluegrass and clover under the riparian trees for their livestock but those are upland plants that are easily rolled back during even moderate flow events.

**Third Irrigation Management Problems – Effective today.** With our valley's hard soils, it is difficult to flood-irrigate without some of the water spreading over the soil surface and returning to a ditch or stream. The rule requires that if there is any surface return flow, the water at the top of the field needs to be shut off. Surface irrigation returns do crops little good and can contribute to water quality problems downstream.

It is possible to irrigate more evenly and beneficially with delivery methods other than flooding. Sprinklers can be a beneficial alternative but poorly managed can also cause excessive runoff. No matter the application method, it's best to eliminate or reduce excess irrigation water returns.

**Fourth. Crop Nutrient or Animal Waste Management Problems – Effective today.** It's important to manage manure to prevent it from leaving the property. Small acreage landowners are especially vulnerable to this rule. Stored waste from barn cleanings or feeding areas can leave the property if left open to rain, runoff, or flooding. Paying attention to where you place your manure pile, covering it, and diverting clean water away from it are all easy ways to stay in compliance with this rule. The best way however is to use it right on your property or share some with your neighbor (just don't send it to him by way of your stream!!).

There are several local organizations that can help landowners be the best stewards they can be. For more information, contact the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District at 734-3143 or ODA at 471-7838 in Grants Pass.

**Conservation Security Program (CSP)**

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) is a voluntary conservation program that supports ongoing stewardship of private agricultural lands by providing payments for maintaining and enhancing natural resources. CSP identifies and rewards those farmers and ranchers who are meeting the highest standards of conservation and environmental management on their operations.

CSP provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes on Tribal and private working lands. Working lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pasture, and range land, as well as, forested land that is an incidental part of an agriculture operation.

The program provides equitable access to benefits to all producers, regardless of size of operation, crops produced, or geographic location. CSP is administered by USDA'S Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

**How CSP Works:**

1. The CSP sign-up will initially be offered in selected watersheds (the pilot watershed for Oregon is in Umatilla County) across the nation, rotating through basins on an 8 year cycle.
2. Producers complete a self-assessment, including description of conservation activities on their operations, to help determine eligibility for CSP at this time.
3. Eligible producers in the selected watersheds submit an application at their local NRCS office.
4. Based on the application, description of conservation activities, and a follow-up interview, NRCS determine in which program tier and enrollment category the applicant may participate.

Jackson County is tentatively scheduled to have CSP funds available in some local watersheds by 2006 and others by 2010. For more information Contact Peter Winnick at the USDA NRCS office in the Medford Service Center, phone (541) 776-4267

**Farm Service Agency Announces—Oregon Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program**

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary land retirement program that helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land. It is a unique partnership between agricultural land owners, state and federal governments and, in some cases, private groups. It is viewed as a community-based, results-oriented effort centered on local participation and leadership.. The program contracts with local agricultural landowners and requires a 10—15 year commitment to keep certain streamside lands out of production. It provides both annual payment to participants who enroll land and financial assistance in establishing certain types of cover on the enrolled land.

The original agreement between Farm Service Agency and the State of Oregon was signed in 1998. It was originally designed to provide habitat restoration along streams and other water bodies for threatened and endangered fish species. Under an amendment signed in December, 2004, stronger emphasis will be put on general water quality as a goal along with habitat restoration. Eligible streams and water bodies in Oregon are those that are in an area covered by an Agricultural Water Quality Area Management Plan with the State of Oregon, those streams that contain salmon species and tribal lands. This vastly expands the potential enrollment in the program and the environmental benefits that can be realized from the practices established on those lands enrolled in a CREP contract.

Please contact Donna Finch, USDA, Farm Service Administration at 776-4270 for more information on CREP and application procedures.

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## FARM AND RANCH RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### Western Ranchers Beef (WRB) Annual Meeting and Profit Conference

By: Bob Lozano, WRB Board Member

The Western Ranchers Bee Cooperative's annual membership meeting and Profit Conference were held at the Nugget in Sparks, NV on January 8, 2005. The few intrepid members that made it through the "weather event of the year" were enlightened by an array of well informed speakers.

There were two sessions in the morning starting with Dr. John Maas, UC Davis. He explained the latest BSE situation and what will and will not affect our operations. Dr. Maas's presentation generated strong consensus that no live cattle from Canada should be allowed into the U.S.

Julie Morrison, Northwest Pilot Project, gave a brilliant description of the future animal ID program, discussing what it is and is not, how to participate and be compensated, and have input that will make a difference as Animal ID moves forward. Hopes are that WRB will become involved, as the "Born and Raised in the USA" and Certified Feeder programs could dovetail into the project.

In the afternoon Bill Dale and Laura Norman from the California Beef Council California is focusing on building beef demand by spotlighting lesser cuts. Some of the national; advertisements will be seen on the Super Bowl. They are also targeting the Hispanic population. The Council works with Sysco Food Service serving over 1500 restaurants in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Council is also presenting programs to some of the larger culinary schools.

Mark Graves from Western Grasslands Inc. gave an informative talk on building "niche" beef markets.

A panel discussion, moderated by Trent Loos of Loos tales ended the conference. Darrell Wood made closing comments and invited all participants to the evening banquet.

Unfortunately, C.J. Hadley and Tim Finley of Range Magazine were unable to be honored as "Westerner of the Year", due to the storm. Profit conference II will be held this Summer, in hopes of better weather.

### Ranch Economic and Production (REPro) Changes Name, Doubles Membership

By Randy White, FARRM President

Ranch Economics and PROduction (REPro) has changes it's name to **Farm and Ranch Resource Management (FARRM)**. Consensus of the group was that **FARRM** does a much better job signifying the organization's vision and mission. Apparently it helped as the group has more than doubled. The membership now includes cattlemen, sheep producers, horsemen, hay producers, and other rural landowners. A common interest that holds the group together is good land stewardship that leads to improved production on a sustainable basis.

New officers were elected in January. Many thanks and much appreciation to Herb Hoeptner, who has lead this group since it's inception in 1991.

Serving two year terms are:

President—Randy White  
Vice-president—Charlie Boyer  
Secretary—Martha Straube  
Treasurer—Marsha MacCormack  
Reporter/Historian—Fred Straube

Committee chairs were also selected as follows:

Tour (annual) - Charlie Boyer  
Tours (local) Margaret Meierhenry  
Publicity—Herb Hoeptner  
Farm Safety—Glen Cook/Keith Corp  
Education/Outreach—Larry Martin/Ton Reitveld  
Fundraising—Lynn Wonnacott  
Pack Trips—Ed Kupillas/Ken White  
Legislative—Virginia White  
Organizational Liaison—Warren & Audrey Merz  
Membership—Joan Devlin.

Dues were also voted on and are \$15.00 per member (\$20.00 per family) per year. Membership fees should be sent to Joan Devlin, 1262 Hammel Rd., Eagle Point, OR 97524.

We are looking forward to a very exciting year. To Join, please contact Joan or come to one of our monthly meetings:

3rd Thursday—even months = breakfast meeting  
at Elmer's starting at 8:00 a.m.  
odd months = evening meeting at the Jackson  
SWCD, Conference room, 6:30 p.m.



## FARRM — NEWS

### Facts on Farm and Ranch Safety

By: Glen Cook, Farm Safety Chairman, Farm and Ranch Resource Management (FARRM)

Coming from a farm and ranch background, farm safety was not the most important thing on the list. After having two of my boys almost killed by riding in a bucket of a tractor, this has changed the way I look at safety on the ranch.

We are all guilty of taking chances. Like getting off the tractor while it is still running or letting someone ride with us on the tractor. It seems to be just the thing to do. The kids are asking, "please Dad let me ride with you, when will I learn Dad?" That's why we do what we do. It's for the family so we can do it together. That is true but, we all need to live to enjoy it.

Every week in the United States there are 2 children killed on farms and ranches, and many close calls.

There is no one to implement a Safety Program for us, we must do it ourselves or the close calls will become more statistics. There are so many things that can happen on the ranch it is impossible to cover all of them. I will try to cover 2 of them a month.

#### Tractor Safety

Develop a safety first attitude. Follow safe work practices all the time and set a good example for others.

Be physically and mentally fit when operating tractors. Fatigue, stress, medication, alcohol and drugs can detract from safe tractor operation. Take breaks.

Read operators manual and warning decals. Pay attention to safety information.

Equip the tractor with a Roll-over Protective Structure (ROPS) and wear seat belts.

Inspect the tractor for any hazards and correct them before operating.

Make sure everyone who operates a tractor has received training and is physically able to operate it safely.

Shut down equipment, turn off engine, remove key and wait for moving parts to stop before dismounting equipment.

Keep bystanders and others away from tractor operation areas. Do not allow Extra Riders, especially children

#### Inspection

- Are ROPS in place and seat belts used?
- Is a PTO master shield in place?
- Is the operator's platform clear of debris?
- Is a reflective "Slow Moving Vehicle" emblem posted?
- Are lights and flashers operational?
- Are tires properly inflated?
- Is the hydraulics free from leaks?
- Are brakes locked together?
- Is a 20 lb. "ABC" fire extinguisher in place?
- Is a fully equipped first aid kit on the tractor?

#### Livestock Handling

Farm workers, ranchers, family members and visitors are injured every year by livestock. Many of these injuries occur when handling livestock.

Label livestock handling areas to warn away visitors.

Design livestock pens and handling facilities using recommended plans.

All facilities should be designed to allow workers easy access to an exit.

properly use restraining equipment. Equip pens with emergency exits.

Keep children and bystanders out of livestock handling areas.

Animals can be unpredictable. Be sure you understand some of the common instincts of animals.

A strong territorial instinct is common.

Changes in lighting or shadows can excite or spook them.

Separation from other animals can cause unpredictable behavior.

Sudden or loud noises can frighten animals.

Some type of livestock, such as beef cattle, swine and dairy cattle, are color blind and have poor depth perception. This causes them to be sensitive to contrasts in light, movement, and noises.

Cattle and Horses can see everything around them except directly behind their hindquarters.

#### Inspection

- Are gates, fences or pens in good repair?
- Do aisles have any sharp projections?
- Is restraining equipment useable?
- Is an escape gate or path available?

*Note: The next issue will discuss two more safety issues.*

### ~ Mark Your Calendar ~

**April 27**-JSWCD Annual Meeting & B-B-Q at JCES Auditorium

**April 21**-FARRM Breakfast Meeting at Elmers

**May 17-18**- SWC Commission Meeting & Field Trip

**May 19**--FARRM Potluck Meeting at SWCD Office

**Fred's Facts***(Continued from page 3)*

lush and green, they would begin to scour. A neighbor, Ben Dawson, up in the dry area around Steamboat wanted the sheep and traded 14 dairy heifers for a bunch of them. Once off the rich grass, they quit scouring and thrived.

Grampa and Dad increased the dairy herd and sold cream. The milk was separated and the cream went into 10 gallon cans which sat in a vat with creek water running through it to keep it icy cold. At 6 AM, the cream cans were hauled to Ruch, where a truck from Del Norte picked them up. When World War II started the Army needed milk. Camp White sent 5 men out to inspect everything with critical eyes. As the war progressed and shortages began to occur, the inspectors became far less critical and eventually quit coming at all. They just wanted milk. This contract was the

thing that made the ranch the most profit. After the war, the local dairy farmers were left with no market. They got together and contracted a truck to haul the milk to Eugene. Grampa and Dad milked into a 400 gallon tank, which was picked up every other day.

The Jersey herd began testing positive for Brucellosis. The State Veterinarian branded them with an S on their jaw. Grampa eventually got undulant fever, probably from the un-pasteurized milk, and became very ill. After he finally recovered, Gramma would use a small pasteurizer for his milk. The rest of the family still drank it raw. The cows were sold, and they bought another herd to replace it. Later on, this herd also came down with Brucellosis, and were sold. They were able to buy a group of vaccinated heifers, Holsteins this time, and started again. They eventu-

ally got up to 80 cows, and went to a 1000 gallon tank.

Grampa did not believe in buying grain and hay for the cows. He felt you should raise it, then all the profit was yours. He sprinkled molasses on the rained-on-hay, grew corn for silage, and used everything they produced. Dad, however, wanted to expand, and the two knocked heads a lot. Dad figured if they could just grow alfalfa, they would not be plowing so often and he wouldn't have to pick rocks. Dad hated that job, and said he always got stuck with it. The ranch had tons of rocks, all sizes, mostly 8—12" across that worked up in the fields every time they were plowed.

Mom and Dad both farmed the fields with teams of horses. Gramma babysat me, and Mom worked as hard as any other field hand mowing, planting or harvesting the crops. She helped gather cattle in the mountains,

*(Continued on page 12)*

# Corp Ranch

*Merced Lane on Hill Road, still standing*

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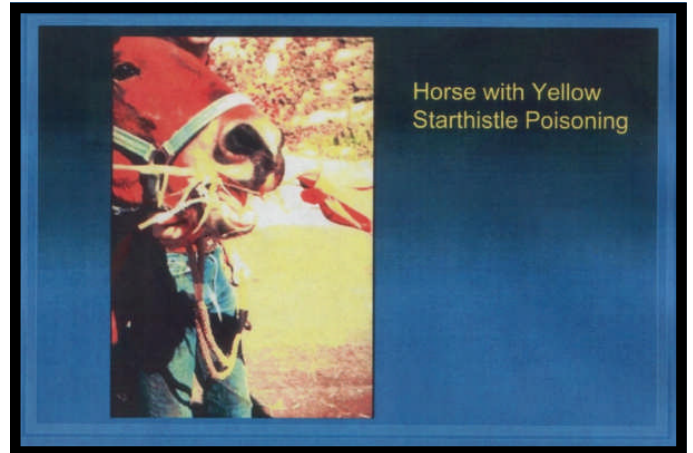
Grassy-Alfalfa & Alfalfa



Yellow Starthistle

Yellow Starthistle (YST) is an introduced annual that is very opportunistic in its ability to take over disturbed sites and then fight for resources (space, water, sunlight, etc.) to maintain and spread. It can be controlled by mechanical, biological, herbicidal, or a combination these management techniques. Grazing by sheep and/or cattle are very effective in reducing YST. Best results are obtained when sheep are grazed early spring and cattle are grazed late spring.

All equine are the only known livestock to be poisoned by YST. The toxins have a cumulative effect which becomes apparent when they consume 50—200% of their body weight. Unfortunately, when symptoms appear (unable to eat or drink, twitching lips, tongue flicking, mouth held open, involuntary chewing movements) it is too late to save the animal. Death occurs due to starvation or thirst. Normally, horses will not eat YST, however, some horses develop a taste for it. All equine will consume YST if they are starved. *For more information contact Randy at JSWCD.*



Horse with Yellow Starthistle Poisoning

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 (541) 476-7771

**Hours:**  
 Mon-Sat 8-6  
 Sun 9-5

## Fred's Facts

(Continued from page 10)

galloping full speed down slopes that would scare the man from Snowy River to death. At the end of the day, she put on her apron, and fixed huge meals for the hired men, then cleaned, got food ready for the next day, and did Mom stuff. Nobody thought a thing of her working like she did. However, none of the men ever helped with the inside stuff.

The horses gave way to tractors, and soon there was a tractor for this, and a tractor for that, a skid steer, a backhoe, and nobody to do all the work. Now that the ranch is sold, the upper half in grapes, the lower half in grain. Hmmm, maybe Grampa wasn't so far off as they thought....

*Note: Please look for a story about another old time Jackson County farm family in the next issue of the Conservationist*

## Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

### General Program Description

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The program supports production agriculture and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, farmers may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land.

EQIP offers contracts with a minimum term that ends one year after the implementation of the last scheduled practices and a maximum term of ten years. These contracts provide incentive payments and cost-shares to implement selected conservation practices. Persons who are engaged in livestock or agricultural production on eligible land may participate in the EQIP program. EQIP activities are carried out according to a conservation plan developed in conjunction with the producer that identifies the appropriate conservation practice or practices to address the resource concerns. The practices are subject to NRCS technical standards adapted for local conditions.

For fiscal year 2005, we will assist farmers and ranchers to conserve irrigation water, improve grazing land health, and improve Oregon Confined Animal Feeding Operations. With special basin funding, forestry health issues can also be addressed. We have \$200,000 in EQIP funds to address these issues in Jackson County.

Limited resource producers and beginning farmers and ranchers may be eligible for higher cost-shares. Check our website for the "On-Line Limited Resource Self-Determination Tool" for eligibility.

screening and Ranking Procedure:

Applications for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program are accepted at the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service at 573 Parsons Drive, Suite 102, in Medford. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis with one or more ranking and selection periods per fiscal year. Contact the NRCS office at 776-4267 (3) for information. Applications that are not selected for funding in fiscal year 2005 will be deferred and considered for funding during the next ranking period.

Information and applications are available on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>

## ELDON TOWNSEND

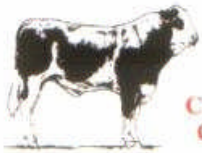
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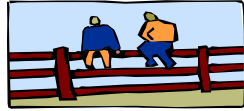
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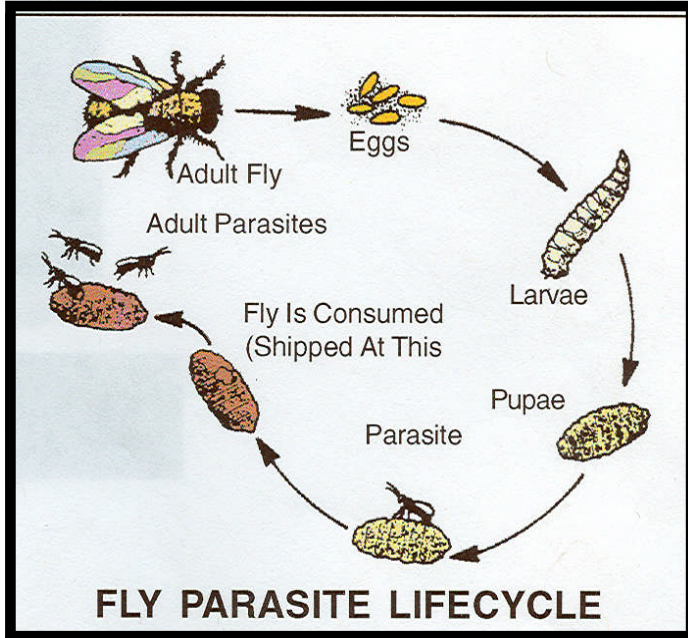
**7:00 am—Noon**

**For information call: 899-1691**

## Across the Fence



Helpful tidbits shared by FARRM members. This one came from Marsha at Corp Ranch.



With a very mild winter, I was reminded of the up coming fly season. We at Corp Ranch, have been using the **Fly Parasite** for several years. It is a natural control avoiding the use of harmful pesticides.

If you are consistent, they will diminish the fly population a great deal. Start in the spring by sprinkling the Fly Parasites (they come mixed with sawdust to give them bulk) in the manure or where the animals collect. Manure areas should be kept dry as possible. Compost piles and fence lines should be included.

Release in shady areas or in the evening to avoid direct sunlight. They will hatch within 1—10 days. **Fly Parasites** control stable flies, house flies, blow flies, horn flies and face flies.

We purchase them at the Lady Bug Indoor Gardens 3960 Jacksonville Hwy. 618-4459. There is an advantage in buying in quantity. If your interested contact, Marsha at Corp Ranch, 482-2765 or Martha Straube, 899-1691.

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Jackson SWCD prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital of familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Jackson SWCD is an equal opportunity employer.

## **Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting and Bar-B-Q**

**You are invited to the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Meeting and Bar-B-Q on April 27, 2005. The Bar-B-Q will start at 6:00 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7:00. The event will be held at the OSU, Jackson County Extension Service Auditorium, 569 Hanley Rd., Central Point.**

### **Agenda:**

- **6:00 – 7:00 pm - Bar-B-Q (pork tenderloin) \$7.50 per person – Silent Auction Starts**
  - **Year in Review (a fun power point presentation)**
- **7:00 pm – Annual Meeting Starts**
  - ❖ **7:00 – 7:15 – Minutes/Treasurer's Report/Annual Report and Audit Review**
  - ❖ **7:15 – 8:00 - KEY NOTE SPEAKER**
    - **Elaine Shein – Publisher-Editor, Capital Press, Agriculture Weekly, Salem, Oregon**
      - **Issues Facing Oregon Agriculture – Barriers & Opportunities**
      - **Questions & Answers**
  - ❖ **8:00 – 8:45 - Awards Ceremony**
    - **Cooperator of the Year**
    - **JSWCD Years of Service**
    - **Volunteer(s) of the Year**
    - **JSWCD Managers Award**
  - ❖ **8:45 – 9:00 - Wrap Up – Silent Auction Results**

**Please Call Linda at 734-3143 for more information ~ RSVP by April 15, 2005**

***PLEASE NOTE: All Proceeds from the BBQ & silent auction go to Crater FFA Alumni Association to benefit Crater FFA activities. Make checks payable to Crater FFA Alumni Association.***