

THE CONSERVATIONIST

JACKSON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2006

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

Hey! Hey! – Hay!!!

By Keith Corp & Marsha MacCormack

What do you know about hay? Some know more than they ever wanted to know. To others it is grass or alfalfa with strings around it. Technically, it is defined as grass or other plant material that is mowed and cured for food for livestock.

Haying has changed a great deal in the last 50 years even here in the Rogue Valley. In the 50's on my parents ranch, draft horses, wagons, and men cut the hay, then picked it up by hand, put it in wagons, and horses took it to the barn, where a Jackson fork lifted it up into the barn. Jackson forks were big metal bars that slid under the load of hay. They were suspended off the ridgepole of the barn and a team of horses was used to pull a rope that lifted the fork load to rail or trolley at the top. The hay was then moved through the opening and was stacked loose inside the barn. When I was 12, the ranch got a Freeman baler. No one could keep it working. I made the mistake of fixing it once. It became my job FOREVER.

Most of the hay grown on the place was used for the 300 head of Angus cattle (the only Angus in the valley at the time). The horses got the same hay as the cows or what was left over. Today our cowherd is all but gone. Our hay market is for pets -- horses, llamas, goats and even rabbits. We produce 1000 to 1500 tons of grass hay in a season. A season is May 15 through September, depending on the weather. Often southwest Oregon has wet springs and we start mowing June 1st and go until July 15th for the first cutting. Grass gives two cuts usually a year – spring and through September. Alfalfa usually has three, sometimes a fourth or fifth depending on weather conditions.

In March the irrigation system is serviced and/or repaired. It consists of nine wheel lines, each ¼ mile long; several thousand feet of hand sprinkler pipe; a diversion ditch from Neil Creek; the water delivery box and two water filters. There is three miles of underground pipe, which was designed by Keith to feed most of the ranch. It is a gravity system at 100 psi (pounds per square inch). This system alone saves the ranch thousands of dollars in electricity and pumping fees.

In April we begin to 'fire up' by adding water to hand lines and wheel lines. Even if it rains, it may not be enough to keep the grass moist or enough moisture in the ground. We fertilize in the spring and fall as needed. Soil tests in the beginning of winter and late summer indicate to us what nutrients need to be added. Weather permitting the grass grows (we hope). Some where around May 20th we begin to look at cutting, again weather permitting.

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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 which help the landowners of Jackson County.

New SWCD Staff Member



Janet and Redd are getting ready for a trail ride.

When you come into the office on certain days a new face will greet you from behind the desk . Welcome, **Janet Mogel** our new **Bookkeeper/Office Assistant**.

She will be sharing administrative duties along with Linda Town. Janet was born and raised in Petaluma, California and moved to Oregon in January of 2005. She enjoys team penning, trail riding, and the great outdoors. Janet says, "Oregon is a great place and I plan on retiring here."

Board of Directors Election

Four Jackson SWCD Board positions will expire January 1, 2007. These positions will be on the November, 2006 ballot:

- Two At Large positions
- One position in Zone 1 (Medford)
- One position in Zone 3 (Sams Valley)

Nominating petitions of candidates for director will be accepted after July 20, 2006 and petitions must be received in Salem no later than August 28, 2006.

For more information please contact: Linda at the Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District office 541-734-3143.

Jackson

Soil and Water Conservation District

Staff: Randy White, NRS/District Manager
Linda Town, Administrative Secretary
Janet Mogel, Bookkeeper/Office Asst.
Margaret Meierhenry, Newsletter Editor

Board of Directors:

Barbara Niedermeyer, Chair, Zone 2
Marilyn Rice, Vice-chair, Director, at Large # 2
Charlie Boyer, Secretary/Treasurer, Zone 4
Keith Emerson,
Director, Zone 1
Brian Gebhard,
Director, Zone 3
Keith Corp,
Director, Zone 5
Monte Minchow,
Director, At Large # 1

Associate Directors:

Ed Vaughn
Bob Lozano
Martha Straube
Margaret Meierhenry

USDA

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Staff: Nicola Giardina, District Conservationist
Peter Winnick, Soil Conservationist
Suzy Liebenberg, Soil Conservationist
Bill Cronin, Irrigation Engineer

USDA, Farm Service Agency

Staff: Trent Luschen , County Executive Director
Diane Rabbe, Program Technician
Donna Finch, Program Technician

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, County Service Partners, and some State 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**

County Committee members:

LAA1 - Suzanne Ginet, Chairperson
LAA3 - Lori Mefford, Vice-chair
LAA2 - Mel Morris, Member

Chair's Corner

By Barbara Niedermeyer



Jackson SWCD has been very busy since the last newsletter. We printed 3000 copies of the Rural Living Handbook at the end of March and they disappeared like hotcakes. We had over 100 requests from 10 other states plus numerous counties in Oregon. Many

were requesting our permission to utilize the format and any pertinent information. We are preparing to print another 10,000 copies with four additional pages. Look for it to be out by the end of August.

The District is putting together a 5-year plan that includes a Vision and Mission Statement. It will guide our natural resource stewardship activities as we assist rural and urban landowners acquire technical and financial support to install conservation measures. *(The Vision and Mission Statement can be seen on page 10).*

The Jackson SWCD "Five-year Business Plan (2007-2011)" states existing problems, what we will do to address these problems, what resources Jackson SWCD needs, and how we will acquire these resources. Resource concerns such as invasive species and limited water supplies demand increased attention. Projects are being planned in collaboration with Jackson County and other local, state, and federal agencies. New partners and customers necessitate a broader range of services and a higher level of

technical skills, such as engineering.

Jackson SWCD's current and future commitments are to help landowners and managers develop and implement on-farm plans that will improve and conserve natural resources and increase their productivity; help urban landowners become more effective stewards of their property and communities by helping them use fertilizers and pesticides properly; utilize riparian buffers; dispose of chemicals properly; conserve water; implement conservation plans to meet the Inland Rogue and Bear Creek Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plans and Confined Animal Feeding Operation rules in order to comply with the Clean Water Act; increase the accessibility to engineers who can help landowners design efficient and effective structures; partner with county, state, and federal agencies to share expertise to avoid duplicating efforts; establish a county cooperative weed management area to help identify and control invasive plant species and noxious weeds; and establish researched based educational programs to help landowners improve management and stewardship practices.

To meet these demands, Jackson SWCD must grow in size and resources to provide services, activities, and programs which will impact all county residents.

Until next time,
Have A Koala-ity Day !

Small Grants — Funding Workshop

The Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District, Applegate River Watershed Council, and Bev Goodreau, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Small Grants Coordinator will be sponsoring a funding workshop on August 30th. This workshop will detail the processes that the local small grants team and individual landowners must follow when for applying for small grants. These small grants are landowner grants of up to \$10,000.00. Funds from these grants must be used for on-the-ground projects that contribute to the stewardship of natural resources. The local small grant team, which is made up of representatives from the watershed councils and Soil and Water Conservation Districts determine and rank the priorities within the basin. For more information and to register for the free workshop contact: Zack Stevenson (zstevenson@arwc.org) or Randy White (randy.white@or.nacdnet.net) or call 734-3143.

Registration is due August 25th.



Photo taken of the Corp Ranch. Keith and Marsha MacCormack were winners of the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District's "2005 Cooperator of the Year" Award.

FARM AND RANCH RESOURCE MANAGEMENT —FARRM

ANNUAL FARRM TOUR

Skagit River Ranch & Mt. Saint Helens
August 9-12, 2006

- 08/09/06, 8:00 am — Leave Eagle Point and travel to Sedro Wooley, WA.
- 08/10/06, 8:00 am — Leave for Skagit River Ranch owned by George and Eiko Vojkovich. We will spend the day observing their farming and marketing program. We will also spend some time viewing their portable animal slaughter operation and the stationary cut and wrap facility. This will give us a lot of insight into the possibility of doing a similar operation in S.W. Oregon. We will spend two nights in Sedro Wooley.
- 08/11/06, 7:30 am — Leave for Mt. Saint Helens.
1:00 pm – Meet with Weyerhaeuser representatives at the Forest Learning Center followed by a tour of Mt. Saint Helens. We will spend the night in Castle Rock, WA.
- 08/12/06, 8:00 am — Return to Eagle Point.

A Registration fee of \$100.00 per person (a non-refundable deposit) is required. Make the Checks payable to Jackson SWCD and indicate that it is for the FARRM Tour.

If you are interested in the tour call
Randy White at 734-3143


Local Valley — Sunset Tour

The last of the Local Sunset tours will on :

Thursday - September 21, 2006
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The tours last about two (2) hours ending with a casual discussion of what we have learned while enjoying a light refreshment of cookies and drinks. Specific information will be sent out before each tour giving more detail on location and time.

Vaughn Farms: Ed Vaughn is a diversified farmer/orchardist. He grows grass hay and alfalfa, but puts a lot of energy into his pear orchard. Ed presently has 22.3 acres under cultivation with four (4) different pear varieties. With two walk-in coolers for use during pear harvest, he is kept busy during August and September Direct Marketing to local establishments and to SOS packinghouse. We will have an opportunity to learn about pear growing in the valley, and appreciate how he overcomes Mother Natures' whims which often make it difficult to be in agriculture.



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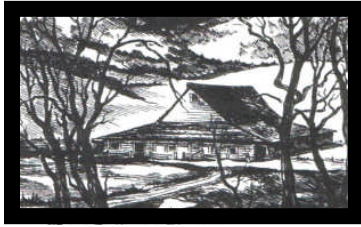
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Links to the Past



Corp Ranch Near Emigrant Lake

By Marsha MacCormack

Oliver Evans homesteaded what is now Corp Ranch near Emigrant Lake in 1853. He thought he had staked his claim and went to record it only to find Patrick Dunn had beaten him to it. He later returned to the area and restaked 320 acres for himself and his brother becoming the Corp Ranch of today.

He then built a cabin, all hand-hewn lumber, and shared the cabin with his brother Richard and wife Jane. He traveled to Iowa, married Martha Jane Stafford in 1859. She had a little girl, Ophelia Jane, age six or seven. In 1861, Mary Olive was born, two months later her mother Martha Jane died. One year later, Richard's wife Jane died; heartbroken, Richard returned to England selling his portion of the farm to Oliver. Both women are buried at the Hill Cemetery on the west side of Emigrant Lake.

In the fall of 1868, tragedy hit again. Oliver put an axe through his knee while chopping firewood. Later in the winter, he went deer hunting for food. It is suspected he was using his rifle as a crutch and it accidental went off killing him. He was not found until later in the spring when the snows melted and was buried where he laid.

That left Ophelia Jane, age 15, to run the ranch by herself, which she did. Men from neighboring ranches came to help with livestock. One young man, William R. Kincaid and who was unmarried, was said to be strong and capable of doing the work of several men, spent much time there. Ophelia Jane and William were married June 1869; Ophelia was just sixteen years old.

Their first child, Denver William Kincaid was born in 1870. There were a total of thirteen children born from 1870 to 1896. All the children survived to adult hood, which in that time was quite a feat. Gossip had it, that William Kincaid and Charles Howard had a side wager going as to who could have the most kids--William won.

The original Evans cabin burned down and a new house was built in 1870. It was added on to and

added on to as more children arrived. It burned down November 29, 1929. As close as can be told, the house that stands today was built on the same site and was finished in 1930 by Wm Kincaid at age 90. He also built a large barn in about 1869, to house his horses that he was famous for. The barn is a historic landmark on Neil Creek Road today.

The ranch grew many things--apples, filberts, and grain as well as, raising cattle and horses. It was said that they produced enough apple cider to supply the size of a community of what we call the Rogue Valley today. A man from Sacramento would send a Chinese crew to help pick apples, and then buy the apples. Today three of the original trees still survive; they are a little weathered and twisted but still produce apples.

In 1930, Wm Kincaid passed away and the ranch was sold at that time. Denver, the first child, was to inherit the ranch, but was killed in 1924 coming down the Greensprings (State Highway 66).

Charles Carpenter from Los Angeles bought the place and was going to make it into a dairy. He put a skirt around the 1860 barn, and built a milk house. He sold the place in 1947 to Doctor Keith W. Corp. Dr. Corp, raised in Nebraska, came West with his wife Margaret settling in Salinas, California. The ranch on Neil Creek was to be the place to retire to for Dr. Corp. His dream was never fulfilled as he passed away in 1976. In the 50's, the building that is known as the 'Orchard House' was moved closer to the main house because of theft. The Orchard House

(Continued on page 6)



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Corp Ranch Near Emigrant Lake (Continued from page 5)

was the 'starter home' for the Kincaid children; when they married they stayed there until they got a start.

In 1967, Keith W. Corp Jr. came back to the ranch to help his dad after graduating from Cal-Poly. He never left. He supervised and helped build Corp Ranch Road in the 1970's. Financial hardship required subdividing that side of the ranch. Keith helped to extend the earthen dike of Emigrant Lake in late 1959. He designed and built a gravity water system, which continues to water the entire ranch today.

Keith would like to be on the ranch for 75 years as were the Kincaid's. He also would like the place to stay a farm, but pressures and influences from urban people may make that dream hard to accomplish.

Editors Notes: This column first began as Fred's Facts, but since we plan to have different contributing writers share Jackson County history, it seems appropriate to re-name it—Links to the Past.. The column's purpose still continues to be a historical perspective of the people and the land that make up the communities of Jackson County.

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“Weed of Distinction”



Hypericum perforatum, commonly known as St. Johnswort or Klamath Weed is an introduced perennial found in pastures, fields, roadsides, and waste areas throughout the United States. It has bright yellow-orange blossoms. Holding the flower to the light reveals numerous black dots along the petal margins that are glands containing hypericin. This red pigment is also visible in glands on leaf margins (tiny translucent dots) giving the leaf a perforated look, thus the Latin word *perforatum* is used in its scientific name meaning “with holes” or perforated. It is dangerous to all animals (especially light-colored) all season long, causing photosensitivity or dermatitis because the dye-substance of the plant – hypericin – increases sensitivity to the sunrays. Signs of poisoning may include restlessness, scratching head with hind legs, rubbing head against solid objects, crouching, rapid pulse, redness and swelling of white-skinned areas, swollen eyelids, clouded eyes, peeling of affected skin, and convulsions. Losses may be reduced by moving affected animals to shade or dark areas, treating affected areas with healing oil, and giving animals plenty



of fresh water and feed. Eating fresh plants are more toxic than dried, but a reaction may still occur. Extracts of *Hypericum perforatum* have been recommended traditionally for a wide range of medical conditions. The most common modern-day use of St. Johnswort is for the treatment of depression. However, St. Johnswort is invasive, as well as toxic to livestock. It is a vigorous competitor in pastures, rangelands, and natural areas causing economic loss of pasture and rangeland including stock fatalities. It is rated as a noxious weed in Oregon. The plant can be controlled with chemicals, but Klamath Beetles, used as a biological agent, are preferred in controlling large areas.

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Grants Pass
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Klamath Falls
2225 Washburn Way
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New Location!

Hey! Hey! — Hay!!! (Continued from page 1)

What used to take a team of men and horses to do, we have replaced with equipment. We have two mowers, both disc type (like your lawn mower only with more blades and power.) The newest is a self-propelled tractor with a cutter head, 16 feet wide. The other is a disc mower, which attaches to the back of a 94-horse tractor. We use this machine for smaller fields and the outside rows of our own fields. We have three rakes: one an older side delivery rake (which makes one windrow at a time); one twin rake which has two rakes, adjustable to do two windrows at a time; and a tedder rake that picks the hay off the ground and fluffs it, helping it to dry more evenly. Each rake has its' purpose and sometimes it will take all three to get the hay ready to bale. We have two balers, both produce a 16-inch by 18-inch by 46 inch bale and we try to keep bale weight less than 100 pounds. We would like to produce smaller bales for ease of moving, but present machinery cannot pick up a smaller bale, so we went to the bigger bale. We can no longer find young men or women to move 1000 bales a day (as teenagers it was the number we set for ourselves to pick up) or even 200 bales a day. Once the hay is baled it is picked up by a self-propelled hay wagon (our young boys thought it looked like a big dinosaur). It is then taken to the 'pole barn'. It was built because of the size of the haying equipment. Our 1860 barn was unable to handle the size of the equipment; its doorways are too small and its sills get in the way. At the pole barn the hay is unloaded in a cube of approximately 3.5 tons or 67 bales. A 'hay squeeze' (a forklift with squeezable clamps) puts the cubes in the barn and double stacks them. There they sit until they are sold (hopefully).

Second cutting is the same as above only done September 1st to October 1st-- again weather permitting. We try to have enough irrigation season left to cover the fields one more time before shutting the water off.

For winter, we put the wheel lines in place, stake them to the ground (we get fierce winter winds which have been known to pick up a wheel line and twist it like a pretzel), and put all the hand lines away. An inventory is taken of repairs needed and diversion ditches are cleaned for use as winter stock water. Weather permitting, we use the cows and sheep to clean the edges of the fields, which keeps

the weeds down and makes mowing in the spring easier. If the fields are wet with rain, we are unable to do that. Soil compaction is of great concern.

The actual cutting of hay is about 6-8 weeks, but three-fourths of a year is getting ready for those six weeks. This season the men had to catch a pair of young fawns in the hay field and put them over the fence to keep them safely out of harms way from the haying equipment.

We farm 200 acres near Emigrant Lake. Keith's family has owned the ranch since 1947 and most likely he may be the last to farm this land, which has been farmed since 1853. As farmers, we have learned to live with the whimsical ways of the earth: rain, lightening, hail, wind, and scorching sun. We live with the animals that we share the land with: deer, birds, insects, reptiles, cougars, bears, coyotes and others. We are a small number of people who have chosen this way of life. Please think of the time, energy and capital that went into that food that you are feeding your horse, llama, goat, sheep or even your rabbit.

Editors Note: Keith has used the districts technical assistants over the years. One project involved containing runoff that was contaminated by manure from flowing into creeks. He also needed a plan to convert from flood irrigation to a sprinkler system and better utilize the use of the water. These are two examples where Jackson SWCD can help landowners with technical assistance, as well as, assist in securing grants to help pay for the work that enhances Jackson County's natural environment. Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District can help you "take Natural Resource Concerns and turn them into Management Opportunities."



Forage production for livestock and hay operations covers over 25,000 acres. Both livestock and hay production rank seventeenth out of 36 Oregon Counties.



Director Profile Marilyn Rice - Director-at-Large No.2

Editors Note: This is the first in a series introducing Jackson SWCD Board of Directors.

Jackson County native Marilyn Rice is completing a four-year term as Director-at Large No.2. She is the Board's Vice Chair, has served as Secretary, and is a candidate for a second term in the 2006 November General Election.

She attended Central Point Schools and was an active 4-H club member. In 1956, she graduated from Oregon State University with a degree in Animal Science. When her military husband went overseas, Marilyn enrolled at "Southern" (now Southern Oregon University). This led to thirty years of teaching elementary school in Medford, Virginia, and Washington State.

Since retiring she has participated with Citizen Involvement Groups focusing on the valley's growth; clean water, conservation, and open space. These experiences were valuable preparation for joining the Board. Groups included: Agate Desert Vernal Pools Projects; Jackson Creek Watershed; Rogue Valley Council of Governments' Bear Creek Valley Regional Problem solving Project; and the Nature Conservancy Native Seed Garden when it was located at OSU's Southern Oregon Experiment Station.

Marilyn has been impressed with the approach that SWCD takes in solving conservation problems-- plans become projects. There was technical assistance to rural and urban landowners, as well as, county and city governments. Federal, State, and private entities joined in sharing information and assets and education plays a key role. Most impressive were voluntary common sense solutions that turned "... resource concerns into management opportunities." (Taken from SWCD Motto)

On October 17, 2006, Jackson SWCD can proudly celebrate its first forty years. As an elected SWCD volunteer, Marilyn Rice continues to be excited about new opportunities to learn, support agriculture, and promote stewardship of Jackson County lands.

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◀— Mark Your Calendar —▶

FARRM Meetings:

- * Annual FARRM Tour — August 9-12, 2006
Skagit River Ranch & Mt. Saint Helens
- * Local Valley Sunset Tour- September 21, 2006
Vaughn Farms—Pear Orchard
- * Potluck Night — October 19, 6:00-9:00 pm,
USDA Service Center Conference Room, 573
Parson Drive, Medford
- * Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board —
Small Grant Workshop— August 30th
- * General Election — November 7, 2006
Jackson SWCD Board of Directors
- * OACD Convention — November 12-15, 2006
Best Western Agate Beach Inn, Newport, OR



**Jackson Soil & Water
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573 Parsons Drive, Suite 102,
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If your mailing address has changed,
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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, or 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's Vision and Mission Statements

Vision Statement:

Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District is a leader in providing scientifically based technical assistance, and financial resources in a manner that supports rural landowner abilities to implement best management practices enhancing the natural environment while protecting Jackson County's cultural, social, and economic values.

Mission Statement:

Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District will maintain an actively involved board, employ a professional staff, and utilize volunteers, natural resource experts, interested organizations, and federal, state, and local governments to help rural landowners improve the management of their land by:

- ◆ **providing technical support**
- ◆ **seeking grants and other financial assistance**
- ◆ **providing one-on-one, on-the-ground site visits**
- ◆ **developing workshops and classes**
- ◆ **assisting in the development of individual landowner management plans and projects**

Enhanced management of rural lands will reduce soil erosion; improve water quality, air quality, and fish and wildlife habitat to improve the quality of life for all Jackson County citizens.

Motto: We take Natural Resource Concerns and turn them into Management Opportunities.