



THE CONSERVATIONIST

JACKSON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2006

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

Planning For Success On A Small Farm

By Cathy Harris, FARRM Member & Small Horse Farmer

'How do you make a small fortune farming?? Start with a big one.....more seriously, how do you define a successful farm that is also profitable?' A successful farm can be defined by a personal set of standards that differ widely even within the same type of operation. For us, independence and not having to work 'a real job' (as my relatives once put it) ranks high on our list. Lynn Miller, the editor of *Small Farm Journal* uses Belgian horses as his primary power source. He describes successful farming as "Looking out on your pastures every morning and smiling at what you see there." I certainly smile each time I look out on our breed of copper and gold Haflinger horses grazing in the green pasture. We made the decision to farm with horsepower (literally) and I like the way that feels. To some, knowing where the food that feeds their family comes from is the measure of success. For others, success can be the simple joy of living in the country. However, we all share some common concerns. For those of us who value sustainable farming or ranching and strive to utilize our resources effectively there are similar issues that seem to crop up. One driving concern is often some measure of financial solvency. Attempting to make a modest living on a small farm, in today's economy, is truly a challenge. We are glad to share information and resources that can be helpful in planning for success on a small farm, perhaps helping to lighten another's load by using short cuts and eliminate difficulties.

Anyone who has water rights and irrigation systems knows there is an array of issues to deal with. One of our primary concerns is to make our current flood system more efficient and less labor intensive. The labor costs are prohibitive for us. We are interviewing potential interns (we are listed on the ATTRA-National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service web site—apprentice page), but we would prefer to use our helpers and our time to generate income in a more direct manner. Dave Bowers of Ewing-Smith Irrigation is working on designing a main K-line irrigation sprinkler system (little black pods), and a line for drip irrigation in the garden. We are looking at siphon hoses out of the ditches as a stopgap measure until we can implement some changes. In addition, I'm trying to navigate the tricky waters of grant writing and get the Oregon Department of Energy to help pay for a solar pump in order to reduce the expense of power for the pumping system.

Another resource concern deals with responsible utilization and stewardship of the grasses and pastures. Managing intensive rotational grazing and direct harvesting of the hay crop used by the livestock not only improves the overall health of the pasture, but reduces the labor and expense of cutting, baling and storing the hay crop. Fortunately, we have a local source for affordable quality hay, which when you pencil it out, makes more sense for us.

Hand in muddy hand with other practices, is the study of a specific farm's soil. We have the capability to produce forage, and in some instances, food crops as well. Based on soil tests, soil maps, location of water sources and some gut level feeling we have divided our farm into designated pasture areas, and smaller plots that will become the melon patch, the corn/pumpkin field, and the bio-intensive market garden.

(Continue on page 7)

In This Issue:

JSWCD- Chair's Corner/Donations	2
Elections – Board of Directors	2
Fred's Facts – Elmore Family History	3
District Annual Meeting/Celebration	4
FARRM – Local Valley Sunset Tours	6
2005 Managers Award	8
FARRM – August Annual Tour	9
In Memory of Fred Straube	10
Calendar – Upcoming Events	10

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.

Chair's Corner

By Barbara Niedermeyer



Spring is in the air - bringing in the planting and irrigation season!!

I would like to welcome our newest board member, Brian Gebhard, representing Zone 3, the Sams Valley area where his family has farmed for years. At the annual convention of the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) held in November, JSWCD's Cooperator of the Year — Bob and Judy Lozano — were selected as the OACD statewide 2005 Cooperator of the Year. Congratulations!! At this same meeting I was elected as OACD Vice President.

With our partners ¥ Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), we

have put together a short slide presentation explaining the services that we all provide. It's called "Who We Are - What We Do". If you belong to, or know of an organization that would be interested in viewing this presentation, contact our office @ 734-3143. We would like to show it to as many people as possible.

Spread the word, it's very informative. We have several workshops and tours planned for this spring. Our District, along with financial help from Jackson County and a private donor, has put together the **Jackson County Rural Living Handbook**. It is a reference guide for rural landowners concerning legal, social, and cultural situations with regard to good stewardship for both new to the area and long time residents. It has a wealth of information in it. Copies are free and available at our office.

On February 8, 2006 we held our District Annual Meeting with over 90 people in attendance. Thanks to

the Crater FFA Alumni we enjoyed a great B-B-Q. The District's **2006 Cooperator of the Year** award went to the Corp Ranch- Keith Corp and Marsha MacCormack. Congratulations Keith & Marsha!

Until next time,
Have a Koala-ity Day !

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, NRCS/District Manager
Linda Town, Administrative Secretary
Janet Mogel, Bookkeeper/Office Assistant
Margaret Meierhenry, Newsletter Editor

Board of Directors:

Barbara Niedermeyer, Chair, Zone 2
Marilyn Rice, Vice-chair, Director, at Large
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

Associate Directors:

Ed Vaughn
Bob Lozano
Barbara Decker
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

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, 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**



Fred's Facts

A historical perspective of the people and the land that make up the communities of Jackson County.

Editor's note:

Fred's Facts was launched in 2004, researched and written by Fred and Martha Straube. Fred was working on the following article at the time of his death and Martha graciously continues on so that this community history can be told. Barbara (Elmore) Niedermeyer is presently Jackson SWCD Chair and represents Zone 2 (Applegate). Last November, she was elected Vice President to the state Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD).

The C.H. Elmore Family History

By Martha Straube, FARRM Member

In 1900, C. H. Elmore, his wife Pauline, and their five children -- C. Herbert II, Joseph, Grace, Elizabeth, and Dorothy, moved from Neligh, Nebraska to Jackson County, Oregon. Three years later, he purchased one hundred sixty acres from A. W. and Henrietta Shearer, three miles south of the Applegate Store on Steamboat Road, now known as Thompson Creek. He then purchased another forty acres from a neighbor, Edgar H. Knutsen. C.H. died February 8, 1908, with no will, and only his name on the deed for the ranch. Another child was born in September 1908, a girl Pauline named Jennie. Son C. Herbert II, then age 21, had been named Administrator of the estate, and all of the children had to be identified, with special papers for Jennie.

C. Herbert II married Bessie B. Robinson in April of 1910. A year later, they had a son, Charles H. III, and a daughter in 1915. The family ran a dairy and raised pigs. They separated the milk, sold the cream, and fed the skim milk to the hogs. They decided to try raising some Herefords, but because the cattle liked to wander off, they sold them and just raised the pigs and dairy cows.

Over the next few years, C. Herbert II and Bessie bought out the shares in the ranch from the other members of the family. 1936 was a busy year as C. H. II bought another fifty-five acres from Horace Blevins, which bordered the home ranch on the south. Sheep were purchased, and a special barn built for them. The sheep became a partnership between C. H. II and Charles H. III. Electricity came to Thompson Creek road and everyone who wanted electricity had to dig five holes for the power poles. Homes had to get wired, and appliances and lighting installed. There were few rules and regulations at this time.

In 1937, Charles H. III bought forty acres that bordered both the Blevins place and the home ranch making the ranch 295 acres. In 1938, Charles H. III married Beryl

A. Brockway, eventually adding seven children to the family: C. H. IV, Truman, Russell, Michael, Alicia, Joseph, and Barbara. In 1941, they bought another five acre strip bordering the Blevins place.

The original ranch house burned in January of 1943. All the pipes were frozen since they were attached to the outside of the house, and nearly everything was destroyed. They cut trees for lumber, and stacked it to dry. It was January of 1951 before the new house was finished. Until then, they set up housekeeping in the barn. From the beginning, all the farm work had been done with horses. Hay was cut, let dry, then raked into long 'wind-rows' to finish curing. When it was ready, they would take pitchforks and make the hay into bigger piles; then loaded it on to wagons and hauled to the barn. It was lifted up into the barn on Jackson forks, big metal bars that slid under the stack of hay; then another team of horses would pull a rope that lifted the forks to a rail at the top of the barn. Next a trolley would transport it to wherever it needed to go the length of the barn. Beryl drove the team that pulled the trolley. She did not really like working with the horses. It took time to put the harnesses on so that the team could be used on various equipment; they had to be fed and the stalls cleaned all the time. This changed in 1949, when Charles H. III bought a tractor and equipment for it to take the place of the horses. Beryl was delighted!

There was still a lot of hard work. One winter it snowed so much you could not see a sheep, even if it was standing up. The ewes were lambing, and the lambs did fine once they got a tummy full of milk. Rain and mud was much harder on the lambs than snow. Unfortunately, in the 1950's a broken light bulb spark ignited some dry hay and the barn burned to the ground. In the summer, it took constant shoveling to keep the irrigation water where it was needed but in the winter, the ditches would overflow if the water was not managed properly.

By 1949, Charles H. III and Beryl bought out C. H. II and Bessie leaving ten acres for a Life Estate in their

(Continued on page 7)



Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District

Nicola Giardina, District Conservationist for the Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District won the initial **'Guiding Light' Award** given during the JSWCD annual meeting on February 8. Giardina was among several awards recipients during the ceremony held at the OSU Extension auditorium near Jacksonville. Approximately 100 people attended the event.

Speaking for the Board representative Charlie the selection based on out-
district, the People of Jackson
Oregon over a 26-year pe-
responsible for developing
cation workshops on topics
Small Farm Workshops,

landowner workshops to help improve the quality of water and reduce soil loss across the region.

Giardina was instrumental in providing both leadership and energy in the efforts to carry out rehabilitation on private lands following the 1994 Hull Mountain Fire and following the floods of 1997. Boyer said, "Your participation in these emergency efforts helped place thousands of rehabilitation dollars on the ground to help repair the damages from natural disasters."



of Directors, Eagle Point
Boyer said the board made
standing service to the Dis-
County, and the State of
riod. Giardina has been
and conducting public edu-
such as Nutrient Recycling,
Horses in Mud, and various



Joining Giardina in receiving awards were Keith Corp and Marsha MacCormack. They received the **2006 Cooperator of the Year Award** for their efforts in implementing beneficial practices both on their ranch in Ashland, but also for efforts on behalf JSWCD, the Bear Creek Watershed Council, Farm and Ranch Resource Management (FARRM) and other projects involving the protection and improvement of farm and ranch lands. Last year's recipients, Bob and Judy Lozano of the JRL Ranch in Butte Falls also won the **Oregon 2005 Cooperator of the Year Award** after competing against other basins within the state. The FARRM group meets the third Thursday

of each month, alternately as a breakfast meeting and an evening potluck meeting to accommodate as many people as possible. Information on FARRM is available from Randy White JSWCD at 734-3143.

The Grange Coop received the **Manager's Award** for generous support of Jackson SWCD and agriculture in general throughout Jackson County. In making the award, Randy White said that management and staff at Grange Coop have been very cooperative in all their dealings with JSWCD and have been a valuable source of information when cooperatively on projects for landowners.



Jackson County Rural Handbook A Resource for Country Living and Land Stewardship

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Pick up your copy: JSWCD Office, 573 Parsons Drive, Suite
102, Medford, OR call 776-3143

Look for booklets at many locations throughout the county!

Honor Many At Annual Celebration

Ken Schiff was awarded the *Volunteer of the Year Award* for his help in compiling and editing the Rural Living Handbook, a publication designed to help landowners understand their rights and responsibilities when moving to rural lands. Also a recipient of a special *Volunteer* award was Ralph McKechnie of *The Independent* for his reporting on agricultural issues and publicizing events and projects of the JSWCD and FARRM group.



Auctioneer J. B. Dimick presided at the auction to benefit the Fred Straube Memorial Scholarship, annually awarded to a student wishing to continue into an agricultural field of study. This year, the scholarship fund increased by \$2,814, thanks to the generous donations of attendees.

Prior to the meeting, the JSWCD installed its newest board member, Brian Gebhard, representing the Sam's Valley area. The district is represented by seven members, five representing specific areas, and two members-at-large.

Board Chair, Barbara Niedermeyer, was recently elected as vice president of the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts.

During 2005, Jackson JSWCD provided technical assistance to 533 landowners on 13,816 acres. They developed grazing plans for eight JSWCD clientele and four USDA-NRCS clientele. Work is in progress on developing a curriculum for an eleven-week course on farm planning and environmental stewardship. The newsletter mailing increased to 2400 recipients, five workshop tours were conducted, all sections of the Rural Living Handbook were compiled, and the FARRM group continued to grow. District Manager, Randy White, says the District is a leader in providing scientifically based technical assistance and financial resources to help rural landowners institute sound management practices while enhancing the environment and also protecting the cultural, social, and economic values of Jackson County.



Editor's Note: This article was written by Ralph McKechnie a reporter with the Upper Rogue Independent and originally appeared in print on Tuesday, February 14, 2006. Permission was granted for its use in this newsletter.

FARRM AND RANCH RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Local Valley — Sunset Tours

This year the FARRM group is planning to have local tours once a month in the evening rather than an all-day Saturday schedule. There will be four (4) **Sunset Tours**, one per month during the summer. They will be in the evening from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. beginning at 6:00 p.m. to car pool from a central location to the farm/ranch we will be visiting. The tours will 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. The following Sunset Tours have been scheduled for:

Tuesday - May 16, 2006

Alpacas at Lone Ranch: Renata and Richard Gyuro have 50 alpacas on 14.5 un-irrigated acres. They raise breeding stock to sell and to improve on quality female alpacas for wool production. The wool is sent to a processor; then the spun yarn is used for their own use and sold to crafters. The Gyuro's also sell garments made from alpaca wool while Direct Marketing their own products. Check out the web site:

www.alpacasontheweb

Thursday - June 15, 2006

Seven Oaks Farm: Doreen and Don Bradshaw along with other family members have this very productive enterprise. Fresh produce is grown on this fourth generation family farm

starting the season with corn and veggie's, ending with pumpkins and fall decorations. We will tour the fields to learn about the many, various crops they have planted and how they approach sustainable agriculture while at the same time appreciating how they Direct Market fresh products. Their corn is really fresh and good varieties to try.

Thursday - July 20, 2006


Lost Creek Dam: Jim Buck is Operations Manager for the US Army Corps of Engineers for the Rogue Basin Project as well as being a FARRM member. He will give us a power point presentation on water use from the dam. There will be a tour of the power plant and Jim will also attempt to answer all questions regarding the Rogue Basin Project. Plan to attend and learn about 'water' in the Rogue Valley.

Thursday - September 21, 2006

Vaughn Farm: 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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Planning For Success On A Small Farm *(Continued from page 1)*

Besides two weekly Farmer's Markets, we plan on having a small road side stand and a couple of days per week dedicated as 'U-Pick' times when we will open up certain areas to the public. Besides connecting us to the community, this can be a great form of advertising. The cattle, both stockers and feeders, the market lambs and meat goats will be sold several ways, conventionally, direct market to consumers, and through marketing co-ops.

Finally, the topic that many farmers/ranchers hate most is the dreaded 'M' word (no, not marriage, money, mud, mechanic, or mad cow's) - IT'S MARKETING... i.e. sales. Why spend 364 days per year working to produce a quality product and one day taking whatever price the market or availability of buyers has set for your product? Learning to 'like' marketing or selling is not that hard — just talk to friends, neighbors, and co-workers. If you truly believe you have great beef, veggies, hay, horses, whatever then tell people. Join local marketing co-ops and farmer's markets. Smile, shake hands, and welcome the 'city people' (yes, the city people) explaining how you produce whatever product it is of yours that they consume and voila!! YOU ARE DIRECT MARKETING; thereby increasing your profits and beginning to effectively eliminate the 'middle-man'.

Take pride in your own unique way of approaching farming and remember always, that you are truly the last of the independent business people, real pioneers, and custodians of an agricultural legacy that deserves to be passed on and preserved.

Editor's Note: More information regarding sustainable agriculture and marketing can be obtained on the web - ATTRA-National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service: (<http://attra.org>)

Did You Know ...

There are many types of **grants** available from **private foundations** and **government entities** for the farming/agriculture community. Some are free and others require matching funds. There are a variety of needs that can be met. Some grants may apply to improving water and soil quality, sustainable agricultural endeavors, renewable energy projects, art in agriculture, environmental issues, and natural habitat restoration to name a few. If you are interested in knowing more, give **Cathy Harris** a call at 541-826-5144. She just might be able to help you!

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

name and the dairy cows were sold. (C.H. II died in 1961 and Bessie died in 1981.) Charles H. III added Angus cattle to the ranch as a result of their children's 4-H projects and continued to raise pigs and sheep.

In 1963, Charles H. III was out cutting firewood on a cold, foggy day, and came home to find the house had caught fire due to old wiring. The road was filled with neighbors trying to help fight the fire. Housekeeping was set up once again, but this time in the chicken house, until a large army tent could be erected. Eventually, they built a long 'bunkhouse' style house that was divided in half, adding sleeping quarters for the kids. In 1957, Charles H. III had bought an additional three hundred twenty acres bordering the north side of the ranch. This was known as the Kubli Place.

Living on the original Elmore property at the present time is daughter Barbara (Elmore) Niedermeyer and her family. Charles H. III died in 1988, but Beryl still lives on the ranch helping out at lambing time tending the 'bummer lambs' snuggled by the old stove. On July 1, 2006, she will be 91. And she doesn't miss a thing, let me tell you. She knows exactly what is where, how many, the whole nine yards, a real pioneer, who has seen an incredible amount of change in her lifetime. Here's hoping she has many more birthdays.

2005 Managers Award

Grange Cooperative is a member-owned corporation that provides a large variety of agricultural related goods and services throughout the southern Oregon region. Retail stores are located in Ashland, Central Point, Grants Pass, two in Medford and a recent store in Klamath Falls.

Established in 1934 as an agricultural supply cooperative, the organization was initially funded by a \$10.00 investment made by each of the original 99 founding members. Today, with an annual revenue of \$45 million, the Grange Co-op has approximately 170 employees serving about 3,000 agricultural producer, 9,000 dividend patrons, and thousands of other customers throughout southern Oregon and northern California.

Some of the features making the Grange Co-op unique in this area are:

- ◆ Region's only complete feed manufacturing plant and grain handling facility with in-store purchases and bulk delivery.
- ◆ Has the only bulk and bagged fertilizer plant in southern Oregon.
- ◆ A petroleum plant offering bulk deliveries of gasoline, diesel, and kerosene, with card-activated fueling systems at 3 of its five stores.
- ◆ A large and complete pet supply store.
- ◆ Vineyard, Crop Production, as well as Fertilizer consultations are available.

sultations are available.

On a 'personal' level, Grange Co-op has worked closely with Jackson SWCD:

- ◆ Providing help with pasture and grazing management workshops.
- ◆ Enrolled employees in our classes and workshops to receive training.

And:

- ◆ They support our local 4-H and FFA members with their agricultural enterprises.

Barry Robino, CEO of this impressive cooperative, accepted the **2005 Managers Award** on behalf of Grange Co-op and their employees at the Jackson SWCD Annual Meeting and Celebration on February 8, 2006.

THE GRANGE CO-OP IS A GREAT FRIEND TO THE COMMUNITY AND FANTASTIC PARTNER TO THE DISTRICT

A Big Welcome

to

— **Melissa Matthewson** —

the new OSU Small Farms Extension Agent
JSWCD looks forward to a long and productive
partnership with Melissa!

Contact her at: Office: 541-776-7371 ext. 208

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Sun 9am-5pm

South Medford

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(541) 772-4730

Ashland

421 A Street
(541) 482-2143

Central Point

225 S. Front Street
(541) 664-6691

Grants Pass

1710 Schutzwahl Ln.
(541) 476-7771

Klamath Falls

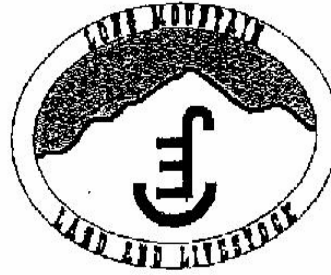
2225 Washburn Way
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New Location!

Annual - FARRM - Tour

The Annual FARRM Tour will be a visit to the **Skagit River Ranch to observe the USDA Mobile Slaughtering Unit** as well as the nearby packing facility on **August 9-13**.

Skagit River Ranch is a small, family-owned organic farm in the fertile Skagit Valley about 1.5 hours north of Seattle. They run a Certified Organic operation with 100% grass-fed beef, pastured chickens, eggs and pork. They believe in being good stewards of the land and use sustainable, organic, humane methods. They grow a variety of grasses and legumes to feed their animals; providing them with good nutrition for maintaining good health and avoiding the use of antibiotics, growth hormones, or animal by-products. The beef is harvested between May and December while the grass is still growing and full of nourishment. A USDA certified mobile processing unit comes to the farm, then transports the carcasses to a cut and wrap facility where they hang for a minimum of two weeks. The meat is quick frozen and kept in commercial cold storage at 0-5 degrees Fahrenheit to hold the freshness. Every package is vacuum sealed and is good for at least 2 years from the production date when kept frozen below 10 degrees. Their web site is: <http://skagitriver ranch.com>

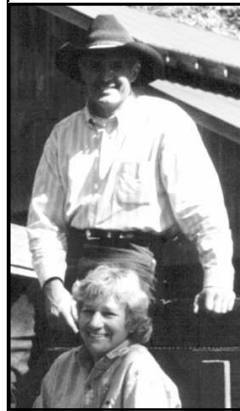
This four (4) day tour will include a stop-over to explore the Mount St Helens National Volcanic Monument Visitor Center. This tour is a great way of learning about new innovations in agriculture and have a mini-vacation for everyone in the family.



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**



Congratulations

**Judy & Bob Lozano
JRL Ranch**

Winners of the Oregon Association
of Conservation Districts State
Wide

**2005 Cooperator of the
Year**

Award—after competing against
other Basins in the State

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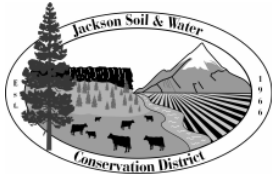
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If your mailing address has changed,
please call us at (541) 734-3143 or
e-mail linda.town@or.nacdnet.net

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.

In Memory of Fred Straube

Fred Louis Straube was born July 12, 1938, in Medford, OR to Louis Straube and Luetta (West) Straube. He grew up on a dairy farm six miles from Ruch, eventually buying his own ranch across the Applegate River from the dairy. He worked at the Rogue Valley Livestock Auction many years, then as State Livestock Brand Inspector for forty years. He raised four children and was a 4-H leader for beef, swine and sheep for the Applegate area. Fred loved working with kids. In the last few years he and Martha have raised show lambs for 4-H and FFA youth.

Fred and his wife Martha were involved in a horrible traffic accident on their way home from a brand inspector meeting in Feb. of 1998, when their truck was smashed by another car while traveling on Highway 140. Fred was in ICU at Providence Hospital for fifty-eight days; a record that still stands. Every bone under the seat belt area was broken, placing him in a wheelchair for the rest of his life. However, he did not let that slow him down. Traveling extensively, he went to livestock shows, checked on their cattle wintering in California, or just took day trips to the mountains, which he loved.

Last year, Fred's health steadily declined and he died on Nov. 1, 2005. Fred was able to live his life doing what he loved: involved in agriculture and was delighted to help someone else get a 'leg up' to follow their dreams. The family and Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District have set up a college scholarship fund to help any youth who is working toward a future in natural resources or agriculture. Donations can be made to Jackson SWCD, 573 Parsons Drive, Medford.

Congratulations

Keith & Marsha — Corp Ranch
Winners of the
Jackson Soil and Water
Conservation District's
"2006 Cooperator of the Year"
Award

◀— **Mark Your Calendar** —▶

FARRM Meetings:

- ◆ **Alternative Breakfast Meeting — April 20,**
8:00-10:00 am Elmer's. 2000 Biddle Rd., Medford
- ◆ **'Who We Are and What We Do' Presentation**
April 28, Wimer Grange Hall, 7:00-9:00 pm
- ◆ **Local Valley Sunset Tour — May 16, 2006**
Alpacas at Lone Ranch 6:00-9:00 pm
- ◆ **Local Valley Sunset Tour — June 15, 2006**
Seven Oaks Farm 6:00-9:00 pm, Central Point
- ◆ **Local Valley Sunset Tour — July 20, 2006**
Lost Creek Dam 6:00-9:00 pm
- ◆ **Annual FARRM Tour — August 10-12, 2006**