



THE CONSERVATIONIST

JACKSON SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2005

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

“Reward The Best”

By: Peter Winnick, NRCS Soil Conservationist

The **Conservation Security Program (CSP)** is a voluntary conservation program, designed to address soil and water quality concerns on agricultural lands. It is administered by the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The idea is to identify and reward those farmers and ranchers who are meeting the highest standards of conservation and stewardship on their operations. It is based on rewarding outstanding conservation stewards, whether they are cranberry growers, orchardists, grain growers, live-stock ranchers, hay farmers or any of a number of other types of producers. The size of the operation does not matter. The common thread is the commitment to conservation.

If you qualify, you could receive an annual payment, on a per acre basis, based on the level of stewardship/conservation that you have maintained for a **minimum of two years prior to the signup**. Contracts could last from 5-10 years. There is also an opportunity to receive additional payments based on future conservation practices you are willing to implement on your land.

How do you prepare?

The **Conservation Security Program (CSP)** will be coming to your watershed in the next 2 to 6 years. Watersheds in Jackson County include the **Middle Rogue**, **Upper Rogue**, and the **Applegate**. Watershed maps are available through NRCS to help determine where your operation is located.

It will be critical for each producer to begin planning now to take advantage of the benefits offered under the provisions of CSP. The records and documentation that will be required, show that you meet the minimum standard for entry into the program and must cover at least **two years** preceding the official signup date for the watershed area where your operation is located. (NRCS will not keep your records.) The purpose of providing records is to satisfactorily demonstrate that you are implementing the conservation and stewardship practices you say you are. If you have been doing good conservation and stewardship work, then it will be a matter of collecting your records before the signup period arrives in your watershed. If you are not presently keeping records, you may still have time to get started in order to meet the sign-up date for your watershed.

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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 that help the landowners of Jackson County.

Chair's Corner



Hope everyone is enjoying this spring weather.

The Jackson SWCD has continued to move forward with the help of our Natural Resource Specialist/District Manager Randy White. Thanks Randy for all you've done.

I would like to Thank all the directors and associate directors for all the time and energy that they

have given to the district. There have been many hours logged by everyone.

We have made a few changes along the way within our business operations, and hopefully we'll be making more to become a better district. There are some scheduled classes, workshops, and tours for the coming year. We will try and have this information in the newsletters. We have been able to make more contact to the patrons of the district and hope that with these newsletters we can reach more. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, Please call our office to remove your name from the mailing list. Pass the newsletter along to others. Also if you know someone that would like to receive this mailing then have them call the office.

Until next time.

Have A Koala-ity Day !!

New FSA Staff Member



Trent Luschen is the new County Executive Director for USDA— Farm Service Agency here in the Jackson and Josephine county office. Trent will be overseeing the administration and supervision of Federal Farm Programs at the local level. He can help you with your operation. Give him a call at (541) 776-4270 or e-mail him at Trent.luschen@or.usda.gov



Jackson

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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 170(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**

(Continued from page 1)

The first step is to complete a self-assessment of your operation. (The CSP Self Assessment Workbook can be found on the Internet at <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov> or pick one up at the local NRCS office). The assessment includes questions to help determine your eligibility as a Producer and as to whether your Land meets the criteria of the program. If you meet Producer and Land eligibility requirements, the next step is to access whether your operation meets basic program requirements.

Questions regarding the Land Use Assessment cover areas such as fertilizers/nutrient management, pest management, crop and soil management, irrigation water management, and grazing management. Generally, there are two types of questions in the Self Assessment Workbook. The first type are those questions which need a simple yes/no/na answer. The second types are those that will require you to provide documentation to verify your answers. An example of this type of question would be: Do you keep written records of your nutrient management activities for each field, such as yields, soils analysis, and nutrients applied – including animal wastes? If you answer “yes” to this question, you would need to provide these records in a written format. Another example of this may be: Do you conduct soil tests and/or plant tissue tests? If your answer is “yes”, then you will need to provide documentation of the soil/plant tissue test. If you are doing any kind of fertilization, you need to have and be using a soil test to help guide your applications.

At the time of signup you will need to provide written documentation for the following items (if they are applicable to your operation):

Nutrient Management (including crops grown, fertilizer formulation used, application rates, application method/date, and depth applied)

Soil and/or Plant Tissue Tests (if fertilizing)

Waste Utilization Plan (if applying animal manure or waste)

Pest Management (including crop grown, target pests, suppression method, formulation used, application date/method, and if it was surface applied, soil incorporated, or foliarly applied)

Crop Rotations (including crops grown, residue left, and tillage operations/sequence)

Irrigation Water Management Plan (including acres irrigated, crop grown, soil types, type of system, water source/water rights, water applied per irrigation, and method for decision making)

Grazing Plan (including fields grazed, dates in/out, supplemental feeding, forage type)

Forage – Animal Balance (including livestock type/numbers, Animal Unit Equivalence, dates held, and available forage from all sources)

Range Management (including livestock type/number, dates in/out, days grazed)

Wildlife (Records of work you have completed to benefit wildlife. This may include planting field border areas to permanent vegetation, managing water to match wildlife needs, or building areas that encourage bird nesting.)

Now is the time to begin gathering records to document your past conservation work. Get your soil tested (if needed) and start keeping grazing records, pesticide and herbicide application records, fertilization records, and write down your crop yields by field.

For more information, contact Randy White at the Jackson SWCD (734-3143) or Peter Winnick at NRCS (776-4267 x 109) or visit the office located at 573 Parsons Drive in Medford.



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FARM AND RANCH RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Rangeland Tour

Mark your calendar – the local Rangeland Tour will be Saturday, August 20th and we will spend the day in the Siskiyou Mountains on the backside of Dutchman Peak. Martha and Fred Straube will give us the grand tour of the Silver Fork Basin where they have range permits and maintain cattle during the summer months. We will learn about good stewardship in an open range environment and view several “exclosures” (fencing out livestock) that are used in this area. The Siskiyou Mountains have a unique diversity of plants, so there should be many wildflowers in bloom as a special treat.

We plan to carpool from the Ruch Country Market at 9 am and return about 4 pm. (If you would like to have breakfast come at 8 am, Martha says the Magnolia Grill within the shopping center has excellent food.) The roads are steep and bumpy—not good for low-riding vehicles. There is some hiking involved, but not strenuous. Bring a sack lunch and water. The elevation is 7000 ft. so consider the weather and bring a jacket or raingear. For more information call Randy at the SWCD office (734-3143) or Margaret at (826-6649) / e-mail to msmeier@jeffnet.org.

The cost is: \$10.00 per person; \$5.00 per additional person per operation
Pre-signup by: August 22nd



Irrigated Pasture Tour

The local Irrigated Pasture Tour will be on Saturday, August 27th. We will visit Larry Martin’s farm in Central Point where he has been experimenting with growing one warm-season pasture grass (Eastern Gamagrass). Larry will share how he utilizes different grasses in rotation for his grass-fed beef operation. He is trying the K-line irrigation system for the first time this year as well. Larry also has a unique chicken operation and sells eggs at the growers market.

The next stop will be Mike Bowles’ ranch near Eagle Point. Mike grows grass for selling as hay in the winter and has implemented a “gated pipe” system whereby controlling the irrigation water he receives from the Eagle Point Irrigation District to the various fields.

We continue the tour to property managed by Ton Rietveld off highway 62 near Shady Cove. Ton has installed the K-line irrigation system in a woodland area along the river. He also harvests various types of grass for hay and sells the bales by marketing to customers from a “roadside hay stack” or delivers by the ton.

Our last stop will be Mission Bell Ranch on East Evans Creek Road. The Wonnacott’s are new to ranching and we can see how they have progressed over a short period of time. Shawn, Lynne, and Nigil are hosting the bar-b-cue where there will be good food and enjoyable company, as well as a time to share some of the ideas learned from the different operations we have visited during the day.

Bring a sack lunch and a side-dish or dessert for the bar-b-cue. Meat and drinks will be furnished. For more information call Randy at the SWCD office or Margaret at (826-6649) / msmeier@jeffnet.org

The cost is: \$10.00 per person; \$5.00 per additional person per operation
Pre-signup by: August 15th

Facts on Farm and Ranch Safety

By Glen Cook, Farm Safety Chairman (FARRM)

Sun and Heat Exposure

During late spring and summer many people like to spend time outside in the sun for fun or work, but overexposure to the sun can damage the skin and could cause skin cancer. Heat stroke, heat exhaustion, heat cramps and heat rash are possible when you overexert in the heat. Put your health first in order to enjoy the summer.

- **Wear a wide-brimmed hat** to keep your head and face cool. This will also provide added protection from damaging sun exposure. Baseball caps provide little protection except to the face. A hat should protect the neck, face, and ears.
- **Wear a long sleeved shirt at all times.** It should be light colored and loose fitting except while working around machinery.
- **Carry a source of fresh water** with you and take drinks every 15 minutes.
- **Take frequent breaks** in the shade or in a cool environment during the hottest times of the day.
- **Adjust gradually** to working in the heat over a period of 10- 20 days.
- Someone suffering from heat exhaustion or heat stroke should be moved to a cool environment. Offer sips of water if conscious, and call for emergency medical personnel.
- **Wear sunscreen that has a SPF of at least 15.** Make sure children are also adequately protected.

Everyone have a safe summer!

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Do you have waterways on your property that could be improved with a vegetative cover? Are there eroded areas close to water sources like creeks and streams? Would you like to improve the area to prevent runoff from reaching the waterways? The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (**CREP**) provides incentives and annual rental payments to install buffers and riparian areas to assist landowners with those concerns. CREP will reimburse you for retiring cropland or pastureland surrounding streams, ponds and rivers from agricultural production.

FSA will pay producers:

- Yearly rental payments
- Practice Incentive bonus
- A cost-sharing incentive payment
- A signing bonus
- Cost-sharing
- A yearly maintenance

Contact the USDA – FARM SERVICE AGENCY
Jackson-Josephine County Office
(541) 776-4270 or e-mail Trent Luschen at
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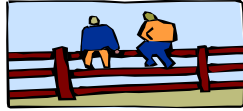
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Across the Fence



Helpful tidbits shared by FARRM members. This came from Pam Boyer and working with sheep.

SHORT TERM ELECTRIC FENCING

For temporary fencing for our sheep we use a combination of 17 gauge galvanized wire, poly wire, and 1/2 inch poly tape on 3/8 inch x 48 inch fiber glass rods. It is essential for ease of handling to have these materials wound on reels, preferably ones with locking gears. The 17 gauge wire is the least visible and is easily broken so we combine it in a two or three strand fence with a strand of the 1/2 inch tape. The poly wire has white and black strands so it is more visible than the wire but we still like to have a strand of tape in a multi-wire fence. The tape will fit in the standard wire clips on the fiberglass rods. For the sheep two strands at about 10" and 24" are minimum but three strands at about 8", 16", and 24" are more secure. We put the tape at nose height of the animals or in the middle of a three strand fence. When the lambs have been

well trained in the more visible fences and the permanent high tensile three wire fences, we do use 17 gauge wire for all three strands in some fences.


The Premier and Gallagher catalogues have a lot of information about fencing, electric and otherwise, with species and situation specific pointers. They are good references to have on hand. (Premier - 800-282-6631, www.premier1supplies.com) (Gallagher Power Fence Inc. - 800-531-5908, www.gallagher.co.nz)




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Foxtail Control in Pastures and Hay Fields

By Shelby Filley, Regional Livestock & Forage Specialist for OSU Extension Service

Foxtail is a problematic grass in pastures and hay fields; infestations need immediate attention. Small infestations of foxtail should be spot treated, while larger infestations require whole pasture renovation. Kill existing foxtail plants with an herbicide. A no-herbicide alternative is repeated tillage and rest during summer heat. And, since there are foxtail seeds in the soil, those need to be dealt with as well. Finally, the foxtail needs to be replaced by a strong stand of competitive grass and clover. A suggested treatment regimen for treating foxtail includes soil testing and fertilizing; a series of alternating herbicide treatments, working the ground, reseeding to a desirable species; proper grazing management; and monitoring for success. For a complete article on this subject, call Shelby at 541-672-4461 or go to the Regional Livestock & Forage Website (<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas/L&F/livestock.php>). Click on Livestock & Forage Information, click on letter A (Production Info), scroll down to Weed Box (lavender color).

**This Issue's
"Weed of Distinction"**

The "Weed Of Distinction" this time is actually two plants that are similar and often confused. Poison Hemlock and Western Water Hemlock both grow in Jackson County and while both can grow in similar areas, Poison Hemlock is typically found around barns and corrals, as well as, blackberries. Western Water Hemlock is more often found along stream banks and shaded areas. There are a few distinguishing factors: 1. Poison Hemlock leaves are fern-like; Water Hemlock leaves are toothed. 2. Poison Hemlock has purple spots on the main stem and branches; Water Hemlock does not. 3. The main root structure of Water Hemlock has chambers that distinguish it from Poison Hemlock.



Poison Hemlock is dangerous at any season to all livestock, however cattle are the most susceptible and can be poisoned by eating 0.5% of their body weight. Symptoms include nervousness, trembling, dilation of the pupils, slowed heart rate, coma, and death. Western Water Hemlock is the most poisonous plant that grows in the US. It is toxic to both livestock and humans with the underground portions being most dangerous. There is no known treatment and the toxic response is so rapid that animals can seldom be treated. The accompanying photos are courtesy of the USDA-NRCS plant data base found on their web site.

Corp Ranch



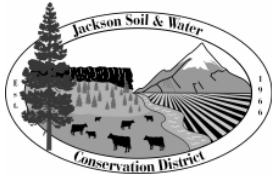
Alvord Barn on Hill Fork Road, still standing

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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
2005 FARRM Tour
August 2-3-4, 2005**

August 2:

- * Umpqua Valley Lamb—Kathy Panner Ranch, Riddle (pasture management/marketing)
- * Sandberg Ranch, Glide (management/marketing)
- * Horticultural Learning Center, Roseburg (forage identification plots & Discovery Garden)—BBQ
- * Windmill Inn, Roseburg

August 3:

- * Boyer's Meats, Roseburg (tour, discuss USDA requirements for marketing packaged meats)
- * Mast Ranch, Myrtle Point (management/grazing beef, dairy, sheep)
- * Clark Rooke Ranch, (grazing/renovation/seeding)
- * La Quinta Inn, Newport

August 4:

- * OSU Campus, Corvallis (tour sheep/equine barns)
- * Eldon Townsend's Ranch (BBQ given by host) (livestock buyer/seller for the Medford area)
- * Dumdi Ranch, Eugene (sheep marketing)
- * Return to Medford

Call Randy (541) 734-3143 for details—Join Us!

**Would you like to learn how to
Improve your Farming or Ranching
Operation ?
Become a member of
FARRM !**

Join us the next meetings —

- * **Potluck Night—July 21**, 6:30 pm, JSWCD Conference Room, 573 Parson Drive, Medford
- * **Alternate Breakfast Meeting—August 18**, 8 am, at Chaps, 4635 Crater Lake Hwy, Medford
- * **Special Potluck Night—September 14**, 6:30 pm OSU Extension Auditorium (tentative program-Jerry Hill, ODA Food Safety Division, "Marketing Specialty Crops")
- * **Alternate Breakfast Meeting—October 20**, 8 am, at Chaps, 4635 Crater Lake Hwy, Medford

SIGN UP FOR THE TOURS

- * **2005 FARRM Tour—August 2-3-4**
- * **Rangeland Tour—Saturday, August 20**
- * **Irrigated Pasture Tour—Saturday, August 27**
(See page 4 for details on local tours)

Bring a friend along!