

Small-business & Ag HAPPENINGS

Women's business networking opportunity held

BAKER CITY — The next Baker County Women's Business Networking, a gathering organized by Northeast Oregon Economic Development District, will begin at 4:30 p.m. June 27 at Launch Pad Baker, 2019 A Main St., Baker City. Women are invited to take advantage of this opportunity to meet with other business owners and share their experiences and network. Call 541-519-5377 or go to www.neoedd.org for more information.

Copies Plus now serves coffee drinks

LA GRANDE — Copies Plus, at 1904 Adams Ave. in La Grande, announced the opening of CP Espresso. Opening at 6 a.m. every day, CP Espresso offers a wide range of beverages both inside and at its drive-up window. Call the business at 541-663-0725 for more information.

Old West Credit Union shows appreciation to members

LA GRANDE, UNION — The La Grande and Union branches of Old West Credit Union are each holding a Member Appreciation Day June 28. Members of the La Grande branch, 3 Depot St., are invited to stop by between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. for pizza, soda and ice cream. Members of the branch in Union, 539 S. Main St., who come by between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. will be offered lunch, beverages and dessert.

Nature's Pantry sells water by the ounce

LA GRANDE — Nature's Pantry, 1907 Fourth St. in La Grande, is now selling Artesian Blue Water for 2 cents per ounce. Customers can refill their own containers, cutting down on plastic and supporting local businesses at the same time.

Public welcome at NEOEDD budget meeting

BAKER CITY — Northeast Oregon Economic Development District is having a budget meeting beginning at 2 p.m. June 27 at the Baker County Courthouse, 1995 Third St., #170, Baker City. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019, as approved by the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District Budget Committee. This is a public meeting. Any person may appear and present arguments for or against any item in the budget document. More details are available at www.neoedd.org.

La Grande's U.S. Cellular store celebrates customers June 27-30

LA GRANDE — U.S. Cellular is hosting a Customer Appreciation Celebration at its La Grande store June 27-30. Everyone who visits the store during this time will receive a free beach towel (while supplies last), and customers can access a mobile prize game on their smartphones to spin to win prizes that include bill credits of up to \$20 and accessory discounts of up to 20%.

According to Erryn Andersen, director of sales for U.S. Cellular in the Northwest, "Beyond the in-store festivities, we also show our appreciation year-round by investing in our network and the latest wireless technology to ensure that our customers have a great wireless experience and their phone works when and where they need it."

Local financial adviser receives award

LA GRANDE — Gary F. Anger of the financial services firm Edward Jones in Union County recently won the firm's Jim McKenzie Award for his exceptional achievement in building client relationships.

Edward Jones, a Fortune 500 company headquartered in St. Louis, provides financial services in the U.S. and, through its affiliate, in Canada. Every aspect of the firm's business, from the investments its financial advisers offer to the location of its branch offices, caters to individual investors.



WesCom News Service file photo

A garden is shown last summer. A trial by the OSU Extension Service Master Gardeners has successfully grown vegetables without irrigation except on the day they are put in the ground.

No irrigation required?

By Kym Pokorny
OSU Extension Service

CORVALLIS — Growing vegetables without irrigation may sound farfetched, but two Willamette Valley trials proved crops can be grown in home gardens without a drop of irrigation.

At demonstration gardens in Benton and Marion counties, Oregon State University Extension Service Master Gardeners successfully grew tomatoes and other vegetables without irrigation except on the day they put them in the ground. The idea came from Amy Garrett, assistant professor of practice with the Extension Small Farms Program, who is conducting research into dryland farming, an ages-old but little-used method of farming vegetables without supplemental irrigation.

Garrett began her research in 2015 with a trial of tomatoes,

squash, beans, and melons. Not only did the plants thrive, but in a blind taste test the majority choose dryland tomatoes and melons over irrigated ones. The taste, they said, was sweeter.

Since Garrett started her work on dryland farming the idea caught on and the Dry Farming Collaborative has formed to further refine the system. The idea intrigues home gardeners, too.

When some OSU Extension Master Gardeners found out about Garrett's research, they decided to translate the principles to small-scale plots. In Benton County, Ann Brodie headed up a group that grew three 'Dirty Girl' tomato plants for two years at their demonstration garden at the Benton County Fairgrounds.

"They all did very well," said Brodie, who has been a Master Gardener for 18 years. "We got

lots of tomatoes; they were really productive and they tasted great. The only thing we noticed was that the skin was a little tougher."

The tomatoes were planted deeply with an organic fertilizer and dash of water and mulched with straw. After that, they were on their own. No irrigation. Period. She has to say that over and over again, because people find it hard to believe. However, more proof came from a trial undertaken by the Marion County Master Gardeners, who had similar success. Bill and Carol Sutkus, Master Gardeners since 2012, managed a project that featured 'Early Girl' tomatoes, 'Dark Star' and 'Costa Romanesco' zucchini, and 'Zeppelin' winter squash.

The crops were tested in three ways with three tomatoes in each planting: one group was irrigated; one was mulched with grass clip-

pings and not irrigated; and one was not irrigated.

Again, the results were positive for the non-irrigated vegetables. In a blind taste test, the tomatoes grown without irrigation under mulch won. The second year of the trial, the Sutkus planted grafted and non-grafted 'Stupice' and 'Early Girl' tomatoes. In a taste test, the non-irrigated, non-grafted 'Stupice' won.

Their takeaway? Plant with a mulch. Straw, compost, wood chips, bark dust, fabric or plastic would work if grass clippings aren't available. Don't water.

The caveat is what type of soil you have. To have a dryland garden, you need deep soil with good water-holding characteristics. Gardening without irrigation works in suitable soils because many vegetables, especially those

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ODA removes pesticide products claiming to be organic

WesCom News Service staff

SALEM — On Dec. 26, 2018, an organic grower contacted the Oregon Department of Agriculture after an insecticide labeled "organic" tested positive for pesticides not approved for organic production. Before applying it to his crop, the grower tested Southern Ag's Triple Action Neem Oil, which was advertised as organic with neem oil as its naturally occurring active ingredient. The grower's test came back positive for Malathion, a non-organic pesticide widely used in agriculture, residential landscaping and pest control. Malathion was not listed as an ingredient on the label, which is a violation of Oregon law ORS 634.

On Dec. 28, 2018, ODA initiated a follow-up investigation, once again testing Southern Ag's Triple Action Neem Oil, and found not only Malathion but also confirmed the presence

of two other pesticides — Chlorpyrifos and Permethrin. On Feb. 14, 2019, ODA issued a statewide Stop Sale, Use and Removal Order for the product. A request for administrative hearing was received by ODA.

To test similar products, ODA visited local stores and purchased six different neem oil products from six different registrants or manufacturers. All products were labeled for organic use. Samples were submitted and results showed all six products tested positive for several active ingredients not listed on the labels including Malathion, Chlorpyrifos, Permethrin and several other non-organic active ingredients.

Based upon these results, ODA has issued an additional six statewide SSUROs for the following registered products:

- Bonide, Neem Oil, EPA #70051-2-4, Lot

- #18082202

- Schultz Company, Garden Safe brand, Neem Oil Extract, EPA #70051-2-39609, Lot #U071818 L 002817

- Woodstream Corporation, Safer Brand, Neem Oil, EPA #70051-2-42697, Lot #LBL5182B 0617

- Lawn and Garden Products Inc, Monterey, 70% Neem Oil, EPA #70051-2-54705, Lot #1800241958 MLN #70892947

- Certis, Trilogy, EPA #70051-2, Lot #71133547

- Bayer Advanced, Natria Neem Oil, EPA #70051-2-72155, Lot #NP65FX7081

ODA is working with the registrants and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to address concerns. If consumers have any of these products and want to dispose of them, call 1-800-732-9253.

There are exceptions to 2019 acreage reporting dates

WesCom News Service staff

SALEM — In order to comply with Farm Service Agency program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline. Acreage reporting dates vary by crop and by county, and there are a number of exceptions that apply.

If the crop has not been planted by the applicable acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.

If a producer acquires additional acreage after the applicable acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported

no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing" or "seed," then the acreage must be reported by July 15. Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP-covered crops is the earlier of the applicable dates or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, contact your local FSA office.

FSA county committees accepting nominations

WesCom News Service staff

SALEM — According to a press release, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency's county committees are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA and allow grassroots input and local administration of federal farm programs. Nominations for 2019 committees are now being accepted.

Committees are composed of locally elected agricultural producers responsible for the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties. Committee members are part of a local decision making and farm program delivery process. Each member serves a three-year term.

To be eligible for nomination and hold office as a committee member

or alternate, a person must fulfill each of the following requirements: (1) be a producer with an interest in farming or ranching operations, (2) participate or cooperate in any FSA program provided for by law, (3) be a U.S. citizen, (4) be of legal voting age, (5) meet the basic eligibility requirements, and (6) reside in the county or multi-county jurisdiction in which they will be serving.

All nomination forms for the 2019 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA service center by Aug. 1. For more information on FSA county committee elections and appointments, refer to the FSA fact sheet: Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a COC Member available at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections.

