

People & Places

Bacteria enlisted to battle cheatgrass

Matt Germino researches unique means of controlling weeds

By DIANNA TROYER
For the Capital Press

Matt Germino, supervisory research ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Boise, is overseeing an innovative research project to use weed-suppressive bacteria to control non-native invasive cheatgrass and medusahead.

"We're seeing some interesting activity so far," says Germino, referring to plant growth on 84 small research plots in southwestern Idaho. The three-year study began in the late summer of 2016.

The plots are in three areas that were selected because annuals and perennials co-dominate. The areas are north of Eagle, on Bureau of Land Management land in the Snake River Plain, and on state land in the Owyhees.

"Applying bacteria isn't a magic bullet but one of several tools that could be used to help restore land with native vegetation," he says. "A systemic approach is the ticket. We need to combine what we learn from this research with grazing patterns and protecting the vigor of desirable native species."

The study focuses on applying certain bacteria to



Courtesy of Francis Kilkenny

Matt Germino, a research ecologist, is overseeing a study in southwestern Idaho that uses bacteria to help control cheatgrass.

cheatgrass and medusahead to inhibit the plants' root growth.

Two strains of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* bacterium, named D-7 and MB-906, are being used because they can be applied in areas where perennial grasses and non-native grasses both grow. Other strains of the diverse bacteria have also been used success-

fully to clean oil spills in groundwater.

To learn how to best use the D-7 and MB-906, researchers are doing controlled burns, then applying bacterium with and without herbicides that kill non-native grasses, and with and without tillage.

The bacteria were also used in the aftermath of the 2015

Soda Fire in Owyhee County and fires in 2016 in hopes of giving perennial grasses a chance to grow without competition from cheatgrass.

"This may be one way to help restore burned areas to prevent the spread of exotic annuals," says Germino. "We want to give desirable species a chance to fill the void."



Western Innovator

Matt Germino

Age: 47

Occupation: Supervisory research ecologist, U.S. Geological Survey since 2011

Education: B.S. in environmental science, University of Massachusetts; M.S. and Ph.D. in botany, University of Wyoming

Hometown: Longmeadow, Mass.

Family: Wife, two children

The \$250,000 study is funded by several agencies. Along with a \$75,000 Conservation Innovation Grant, administered through the Natural Resources Conservation Service, other agencies contributing include the Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation.

"We plan on applying for additional funding for the final two years of the project," says Germino. "We'd like to study this through 2020."

Oregon Women for Agriculture honored at AAW convention

Capital Press

Oregon Women for Agriculture brought home several prestigious awards from the recent American Agri-Women convention in Minneapolis.

The Oregon organization was honored with first place for having the most new members and second place for the most members overall.

In addition, three members of the Oregon affiliate — Kristi Miller, Mallory Phelan and Arwen McGilvra — were honored for their part in the Ag Day 365 campaign, a yearlong advocacy initiative started by American Agri-Women during the 2016 National Convention and formally kicked off at National Ag Day in Washington, D.C.



AAW

From left to right are AAW President Doris Mold with recipients of the Ag Day 365 campaign awards: Arwen McGilvra of Oregon, Lynn Woolf of Kansas, Krystal Doolittle of Iowa and Kristi Miller of Oregon. Also receiving the award was Mallory Phelan of Oregon.

The "Ag Day is Every Day" campaign, or #AgDay365, is inspired by and builds on the

important connections made between the public and farm and ranch producers on Nation-

al Ag Day, which is celebrated in March and organized by the Agriculture Council of America.

McGilvra was also honored with the organization's president's award along with Lynn Woolf of Kansas. President Doris Mold, of Minnesota, remarked on the great amount of work McGilvra and Woolf did for the all-volunteer organization during the year, and thanked them for being "the wind beneath her wings," according to an organization press release.

American Agri-Women is the nation's largest coalition of farm, ranch and agri-business women. American Agri-Women began in

1974 with members of Oregon Women for Agriculture and women from three other states joining together to create a national organization to represent women involved in agriculture and agri-business.

American Agri-Women promotes national security through a safe and reliable food, fiber and mineral supply. AAW members have worked together to educate consumers, advocate for agriculture and offer networking and professional development opportunities. For more information or to join, visit AmericanAgriWomen.org. Find AAW on social media at: facebook.com/AgriWomen and twitter.com/Women4Ag.

Calendar

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To submit an event go to the Community Events calendar on the home page of our website at www.capitalpress.com and click on "Submit an Event." Calendar items can also be mailed to Capital Press, 1400 Broadway St. NE, Salem, OR 97301 or emailed to newsroom@capitalpress.com. Write "Calendar" in the subject line.

Friday-Wednesday Jan. 5-10

2018 American Farm Bureau Federation Convention and IDE-Ag Trade Show. Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, 2800 Opryland Drive, Nashville, Tenn. CEExplore the IDEAg Trade Show floor to gain a stronger industry network, shop featured products, learn about innovative technologies, and enjoy talks on the Cultivation Center stage. Website: <http://bit.ly/2iJS9t3>

Monday, Jan. 8

Permaculture Design Certificate. Online and instructor-led, the 10-week Permaculture Design Certificate offered by Professional and Continuing Education at Oregon State University arms participants with the knowledge needed to successfully employ permaculture philosophies and techniques. This online course runs Jan. 8-March 19 with registration open until Jan. 14. Cost: \$740 (plus \$60 registration fee) Website: <https://http://bit.ly/2it7Sxm>

Tuesday, Jan. 9

Idaho Alfalfa and Clover Seed Growers Association annual meeting. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Caldwell Elks Lodge, 1015 N Kimball Ave., Caldwell, Idaho. Growers from around the region will attend this annual meeting.

Tuesday-Wednesday Jan. 9-10

Eastern Washington Ag Expo. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday. Trac Center, 6600 Burden Blvd., Pasco, Wash. The expo features exhibitors, pesticide classes, livestock handling demonstra-

tions, precision ag and the second annual Cattlemen's Connection. Website: www.easternwaagexpo.com

Cropping Systems Conference. 7:30 a.m. Three Rivers Convention Center, 7016 W Grandridge Blvd., Kennewick, Wash. The Conference is sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association, but it's not just for direct seeders. Besides a robust selection of presentations, it also offers six educational tracks and a trade show. Website: www.directseed.org/events/annual-conference

Tuesday-Thursday Jan. 9-11

N. Willamette Horticulture Society Conference and Trade Show. 8 a.m.-4:15 p.m. Clackamas County Event Center, 694 NE Fourth Ave., Canby, Ore. This year's conference will include a vegetable crops section on Jan. 9, an organic section on Jan. 10 and a berry section on Jan. 11. Website: <http://nwhortsoc.com>

Wednesday, Jan. 10

Developing or Expanding Your Farm Stand or Agritourism Operation, Part 3. 5-8 p.m. OSU Extension Auditorium, SOREC, 569 Hanley Road, Central Point, Ore. Are you interested in developing or expanding a farm stand or agritourism operation? Jan. 10 is Accepting Food Stamps/SNAP/EBT at a Farm Stand or CSA and Feb. 6 is Starting a Farm Stand/Agritourism Operation. Website: <http://bit.ly/JacksonSmallFarms>

Wednesday-Friday Jan. 10-12

Potato Expo 2018, 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Rosen Shingle Creek, 9939 Universal Blvd., Orlando, Florida. Over the last 10 years, the Potato Expo has gained the reputation as the best setting for conducting business and getting caught up on industry issues. Website: potato-expo.com

Thursday, Jan. 11

Idaho Irrigation Equipment Show & Conference. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Keefer's Island at Shilo Inn, 780 Lindsay Blvd., Idaho Falls, Idaho. There will be a

trade show with more than 55 vendors displaying the latest in irrigation equipment for agriculture, commercial, municipal and residential use. There will also be helpful classes. The event is free and no registration is required. Website: <http://idahoirrigationequipmentassociation.org/>

Thursday-Friday Jan. 11-12

Oregon Essential Oil Growers League Annual Conference. Salsihan Lodge, 7760 US-101, Gleneden Beach, Ore. Featuring industry updates. Website: oregonmint.org

Monday, Jan. 15

Sheep Producer Workshop. Etchamendy Sheep Company, 24394 Highway 46, Wasco, Calif. The California Wool Growers Association is hosting four interactive workshops focusing on improving lamb marketing and quality as well as producer profitability by applying innovative management practices and technologies. To register contact the CWGA office at info@woolgrowers.org or (916) 444-8122.

Tuesday, Jan. 16

Sheep Producer Workshop. Emigh Livestock, 2838 Goose Haven Road, Suisun City, Calif. California Wool Growers Association is hosting four interactive workshops focusing on improving lamb marketing and quality as well as producer profitability by applying innovative management practices and technologies. To register contact the CWGA office at info@woolgrowers.org or (916) 444-8122.

Soil Health Workshop featuring Brendon Rockey & Steve Kenyon. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. The Gathering Place, 510 South Main, Three Forks, Mont. We have a number of great presenters lined up throughout the week that will share their own experiences in building and maintaining soil health. Cost: \$20. Website: <http://bit.ly/2zGUuZC>

Woodland Rice Grower Meeting. 1:30-5 p.m. Cracchio's Market, 1320 E. Main St., Woodland, Calif. Website: <http://>

cesutter.ucanr.edu

Wednesday, Jan. 17

Sheep Producer Workshop. Chico State University Sheep Unit, 311 Nicholas C Shouten Lane, Chico, Calif. The California Wool Growers Association is hosting four interactive workshops focusing on improving lamb marketing and quality as well as producer profitability. To register contact the CWGA office at info@woolgrowers.org or (916) 444-8122.

Soil Health Workshop featuring Brendon Rockey & Wendy Taheri. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Holiday Inn, 1100 5th St. S, Great Falls, Mont. Cost: \$20. Website: <http://bit.ly/2B-pZyNT>

Richvale Rice Growers Meeting. 8:30 a.m.-noon. Evangelical Church, 5219 Church St., Richvale, Calif. Website: <http://cesutter.ucanr.edu>

Glenn Rice Growers Meeting. 1:30-5 p.m. Glenn County Office of Education, 311 S. Villa Ave., Willows, Calif. Website: <http://cesutter.ucanr.edu>

Wednesday-Thursday Jan. 17-18

2018 Northwest Hay Expo. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Three Rivers Convention Center, 7016 W. Grandridge Blvd., Kennewick, Wash. Featuring 90-plus exhibitors, top speakers and breakout sessions covering industry updates. Website: <http://wa-hay.org/nwhayexpo/>

Idaho Noxious Weed Conference. Riverside Hotel, 2900 W. Chinden Blvd. Boise, Idaho. A variety of presenters will offer information important to weed control. Website: www.idahoweedcontrol.org

Thursday, Jan. 18

Sheep Producer Workshop. UC Hopland Research and Extension Center, 4070 University Road, Hopland, Calif. To register contact the CWGA office at info@woolgrowers.org or (916) 444-8122.

Soil Health Workshop featuring Brendon Rockey & Steve Kenyon. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Big Horn Resort, 1801 Majestic Lane, Billings, Mont. We have a number of great presenters lined up that will share their experiences in building soil health. Cost: \$20. Website: <http://bit.ly/2zGUuZC>

Friday, Jan. 19

SAIF Agri-Business Banquet. 6-9 p.m. Salem Convention Center, 200 Commercial St. SE, Salem, Ore. The SAIF Agri-Business Banquet is a celebration of the agricultural community and its impact on the mid-Willamette Valley. The Salem Area Chamber of Commerce prioritizes hosting this event along with title sponsor SAIF and presenting sponsor KeyBank because agriculture is a key part of Oregon's economy. The banquet will feature guest speaker Steve Gilliland's humor, inspiration and business insight. There will also be recognition of an outstanding FFA student for leadership in shaping the future of the agricultural industry. Website: <https://salemchamber.org/>

Soil Health Workshop featuring Brendon Rockey & Derek Axton. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Richland County Fairgrounds, 2118 W Holly St. Sidney, Mont. We have great presenters lined up throughout the week that will share their own experiences in building and maintaining soil health. Cost: \$20. Website: <http://bit.ly/2zGUuZC>

Soil Health Workshop featuring Steve Kenyon & Wendy Taheri. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sleep Inn, 1006 S. Haynes Ave., Miles City, Mont. We have a number of great presenters lined up throughout the week that will share their own experiences in building and maintaining soil health. Cost: \$20. Website: <http://bit.ly/2zGUuZC>

Family Foresters Workshop. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Coeur d'Alene Inn, 506 W Appleway Ave., Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The workshop, sponsored by the University of Idaho and Washington State University, is for any professionals that work with family forest owners. Cost: \$90 by Jan. 12. Website: www.uidaho.edu/FamilyForesterWorkshop

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