

Business & Ag

Ag producers gather to discuss fire losses

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The Livestock Forage Program provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or that is planted specifically for grazing.

Also, in conjunction with the USFS and others, FSA offers an Emergency Conservation Program, which may alleviate costs such as fence rebuilding due to fire damage.

A Livestock Indemnity Program also exists through FSA. Owners of dead cattle must provide photographic evidence or other documentation of ownership, said Luschen.

According to the FSA's web site, "The Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) authorized the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) to provide benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather. In addition, LIP covers attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law, including wolves and avian predators. LIP payments are equal to 75 percent of the

market value of the applicable livestock on the day before the date of death of the livestock as determined by the Secretary."

Kuehl, of the NRCS, mentioned his agency's Environmental Quality Incentives program. "Or EQIP, as we call it," he said.

EQIP, according to NRCS literature, is "a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers through contracts up to a maximum term of ten years in length. These contracts provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns and for opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. In addition, a purpose of EQIP is to help producers meet Federal, State, Tribal and local environmental regulations."

"These are competitive," said Kuehl.

Those interested must fill out an application, which will be screened and ranked based on demand.

Dozens of other representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon



Kerry McQuisten / The Baker County Press

Trent Luschen discusses federal relief monies.

Department of Forestry and Baker County were also present at the meeting.

Landowners and agriculture producers in attendance were informed of the meeting individually, primarily by phone. A public meeting announcement was not disseminated.

Many of those who attended have lost untold numbers of cattle, with losses still being calculated.

At the end of the meeting, each representative was stationed at a separate table at which interested landowners could gather to obtain more materials, or

simply to ask questions.

Another similar meeting was scheduled Thursday, hosted by the Baker County chapter of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA), during their monthly meeting, after this issue went to print. This meeting will give OCA members who were unaware of Monday's meeting the opportunity to hear assistance information.

Baker City's NRCS and FSA offices are both located on Midway Drive across from St. Alphonsus.

— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, August 14, 2015 — Eastern Oregon

Prices trended generally steady for Alfalfa in Lake County for the same qualities. The other counties did not an accurate comparison available from last week. Trade activity remained steady with a week ago. Many producers have decided to hold on to their hay for now, in hopes for higher prices.

Tons Price Range Wtd Avg

Alfalfa — Large Square			
Supreme 350	210.00-210.00	210.00	
Alfalfa — Large Square			
Premium 580	180.00-185.00	182.50	
Alfalfa/Timothy Mix — Large Square			
Premium 1,100	210.00-210.00	210.00	
Meadow Grass — Small Square			
Good 22	175.00-175.00	175.00	

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, August 12, 2015

Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 598

Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 295.00 - 328.00	Top 331.00
400-500#	Bulk 278.00 - 303.00	Top 309.00
500-600#	Bulk 234.00 - 266.00	Top 266.50

Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 256.00 - 282.00	Top 290.00
400-500#	Bulk 228.00 - 246.00	Top 248.00
500-600#	Bulk 225.00 - 239.00	Top 249.75

Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk 226.00 - 239.00	Top 242.00
700-800#	Bulk 198.00 - 217.00	Top 219.50
800-900#	Bulk 188.00 - 206.00	Top 209.00
900-1,000#	Bulk 179.00 - 187.00	Top 189.00

Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk 206.00 - 228.00	Top 230.00
700-800#	Bulk 184.00 - 196.00	Top 198.00
800-900#	Bulk 177.00 - 186.00	Top 189.00
900-1,000#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A

Thin Shelly Cows 74.00 - 89.00

Butcher Cows 96.00 - 106.00

Butcher Bulls 112.00 - 127.00

Stock Cows Yng. N/A

Younger Hfrts. 116.00 - 142.00

Stock Cows - 1650.00 - 2050.00

ProducersLivestock.com

541-473-3136

Scoop -n- Steamer has new ownership

• FAMILY FROM SALT LAKE CITY MOVES TO SUMPTER, BUYS POPULAR BUSINESS

BY MEGHAN ANDERSCH
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Sumpter's Scoop -n- Steamer is under new management.

The business, including the restaurant and log cabin rentals, was purchased by a family from Salt Lake City. Candace and Anthony Madill, their nine-year-old son, and Candace's parents, Dennis and Cheryl Farnsworth, took over the business as of July 1st.

They previously owned a fire protection business in Utah, supplying such things as fire extinguishers and flushing fire hydrants.

Candace said husband Anthony Madill is still in Utah finishing up selling the business.

Candace Madill, also a full-time online student finishing her criminal justice degree with a minor in psychology, said they were ready for a new challenge.

The Farnsworths have a passion for gold prospecting, starting the Utah Gold Prospectors in the 80s, and are interested in finding like-minded individuals.

Madill said they never went to Disneyland, but they did a lot of camping and small-time prospecting. They unfortunately



Meghan Andersch / The Baker County Press

Candace Madill poses in front of her new business in Sumpter.

have not had time to do any of this around Sumpter, due to taking over the restaurant and learning the ropes of the business.

Madill, one of the main cooks (an employee comes in from Baker City to cook on weekends) said nothing has changed as far as the menu or restaurant at this time and the business did stay open during the transition.

They have worked to keep continuity as customers expect a certain thing

when they walk in.

She said they try and keep a warm and welcoming atmosphere for anyone who comes in.

In addition, the log cabin rentals remain unchanged, with rates ranging from \$75-110.

As for the future, Madill said, "We'll keep putting our heart and soul into it and hope for the best."

Summer hours for the Scoop -n- Steamer are Friday to Monday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Tuesday to

Thursday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More information on the rental cabins and restaurant can be found online at scoopandsteamer.com.

Reservations can be made by calling 541-894-2236.

The web site states, "We are happy to be here and we look forward to our new adventure as owners of the Scoop -n- Steamer. We can't wait to have a chance to serve you!"

— LOG PRICE REPORT —

Price per 1,000 board feet: Northeast Oregon

Doug Fir is \$415.00/mbf

White fir is \$365.00/mb

Ponderosa Pine is brought sold on diameter splits

6 to 11 inch dib \$300 to \$310/MBF

12 to 17 inch dib \$350 to \$375/MBF

18 to 23 inch dib \$400 to \$430/MBF

24 inch plus dib \$450 to \$500/MBF

DIB is diameter inside bark at small end of log.

MBF is thousand board feet lumber, net scale.

People interested in selling logs should call and get specific quotes from saw mills.

Courtesy of Arvid Andersen, Andersen Forestry Consulting

— PRECIOUS METALS REPORT —

Price per ounce, USD

Gold: \$1116.90

Silver: \$14.79

Platinum: \$996.40

Palladium: \$598.15

Bloomberg.com

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$377.25/bu/USD

Wheat: \$498.75/bu/USD

Soybeans: \$904.20/bu/USD

Oats: \$237.50 bu/USD

Rough Rice: \$11.84/cwt/USD

Canola: \$475.40 CAD/mwt

Live Cattle: \$147.40/lb./USD

Feeder Cattle: \$207.08/lb./USD

Lean Hogs: \$66.13/lb./USD

Bloomberg.com