



Photo by Gina Perkins

Two of Baker County's prominent registered cattle breeders held their spring sales Monday and Tuesday of this week. Harrell Hereford Ranch sold 150 Hereford bulls, 50 registered heifers, 20 commercial heifers and 20 Quarter Horses from Harrell-Mackenzie Performance Prospects on Monday, March 7. Thomas Angus ranch sold 240 bulls and 50 purebred females at their ranch on Tuesday. At left, local veterinarian and cattle rancher, Dr. Tom Hill (center), was among those at Tuesday's Thomas Angus spring sale.

Woodlands Association to Meet: The Ritter Landowner Collaborative

This month, the Baker County Private Woodlands Association monthly meeting will feature a presentation on the Ritter Landowner Collaborative by Curt Qual, the Collaborative Coordinator. The Ritter Collaborative is a unique community of landowners working together to find innovative solutions for enhancing the health and productivity of private lands in the Middle Fork John Day River watershed. The idea for a collaborative was suggested to Ritter landowners by the Committee for Family Forestlands (CFF) in 2012, which is a state-level committee established by the Oregon Board of Forestry to advise on issues and effects of policy on family forestland owners in Oregon. The CFF and Ritter landowners recognized that many of the pressing land management issues could be better addressed by a coordinated,

watershed-scale effort and so the concept of the Ritter Collaborative was born. Today there are over 30 landowner members in the collaborative, representing around 68,000 acres under management. The Collaborative is coordinating with the ODF, NRCS, Watershed Councils and OSU Extension to define their goals and objectives, develop specific management plans and develop relevant educational programs to increase landowner knowledge and skills. The Collaborative is proving to be a powerful tool and will hopefully serve as a model that can be replicated in other areas.

The Baker County Private Woodlands Association evening meeting will be at 6:30 p.m., March 24 at the OSU Baker County Extension Service office, 2600 East Street in Baker City.

BCLA Holds Meeting on Canyonlands Monument

The Baker County Livestock Association held what they deemed an urgent meeting on Wednesday, March 9 after the Record-Courier went to press. Their only scheduled topic was the Owyhee Canyonlands National Monument Designation.

"There is a huge effort developing to stop this designation," wrote Jacob Bingham BCLA president to the membership.

"Talk is cheap if we aren't willing to put our money or actions where our mouth is. We are willing to put our money where our mouth is, so that is why we need BCLA members to provide their input and a vote on this issue. To provide information on this, representatives from the Owyhee Basin Stewardship Coalition will be present to discuss their efforts to deter the monument designation. Please come to listen, be informed, and vote on a large sum of BCLA funds that would be contributed to this cause. It

is vitally important that we utilize the voting process in our industry and our country," said Bingham.

Bingham also stated at the previous meeting, Dr. Matt Kerns stressed some valuable concepts for consideration including the rotation of parasite control methods. Mike Colton from the Baker County Wolf Depredation Compensation Committee provided an update and Ed Trindle informed ranchers of efforts to form a grazing association. Interested producers, in particular, those who may have lost grazing land due to fires, are encouraged to contact Trindle.

Cheryl Martin, OCA District 2 Vice President, gave a report on the OCA Spring Quarterly meeting.

"It sounds like we have a very competent and energetic OCA staff doing their best to promote the interests of cattle producers in Oregon," Bingham added.

Oregon Snowpack Holding Steady

In most basins across the state, Oregon's mountain snowpack remains at near normal to above-normal levels and continues to surpass last year's peak levels, according to the March Water Supply Outlook Report released today by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Today's statewide average snowpack is 92 percent of normal.

Portions of eastern Oregon are experiencing the highest snowpack levels due to above-normal precipitation that fell as snow throughout January. Additionally, cooler temperatures at higher elevations have retained the snowpack from earlier in the season.

In Western Oregon, snowpack is the lowest in the state in the Mt. Hood and Willamette Basins, at 77 percent and 76 percent, respectively.

February was very warm, with above normal temperatures statewide.

Most basins experienced some mid and low elevation snowmelt during warmer periods in the middle of the month. Higher elevations continued to gain snow during February and are retaining the snow for now. As the spring weather approaches, warmer temperatures and rain-on-snow events could result in significant snowmelt run-off.

"Temperature will be the key indicator for March snowpack development and retention, since warmer conditions have already resulted in low and mid-elevation snowmelt run-off in several locations," said Scott Oviatt, NRCS Oregon snow survey supervisor. "Eastern Oregon continues to see the best conditions in the state, due to cooler mountain temperatures."

According to the March report, streamflow forecasts call for slightly-below-average to slightly-above-average volumes for the summer water supply season. Southeastern Oregon has some forecast points well above average, however the

highest forecasts are for the Deschutes and Crooked Rivers. However, hydrologists continue to caution that if current warm conditions prevail, summer projections are likely to change.

The latest information on Oregon's streamflow forecasts can be found in the March Water Supply Outlook Report available on the NRCS Oregon website.

The NRCS Snow Survey is the federal program that measures snow and provides streamflow forecasts and snowpack data for communities, water managers and recreationalists across the West. In Oregon, snow measurements are collected from 81 SNOTEL sites, 42 manually measured snow courses, and 26 aerial markers. Water and snowpack data for all Oregon SNOTEL sites are available online in a variety of formats. The reports are updated every hour and are available at: www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/snow

NRCS publishes six monthly Oregon Water Supply Outlook Reports between Jan. 1 and June 1 every year. To regularly receive this information as an email announcement, visit the Oregon NRCS Snow Survey website and click the "email updates" icon to subscribe.



Current Snow Depths

Anthony Lakes Site (7,160 ft. elevation) – 56 inches / 44 inches in 2015

Bourne Site (5,850 ft. elevation) – 34 inches / 12 inches in 2015

Moss Springs Site (5,760 ft. elevation) – 54 inches / 40 inches in 2015

Schneider Meadows Site (5,400 ft. elevation) – 72 inches / 43 inches in 2015

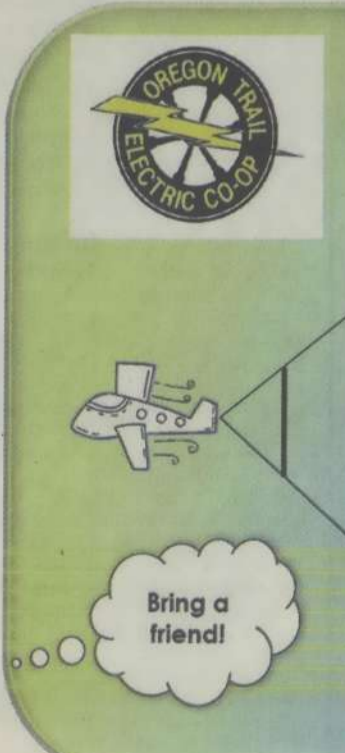
Taylor Green Site (5,740 ft. elevation) – 43 inches / 24 inches in 2015

Wolf Creek Site (5,630 ft. elevation) – 44 inches / 28 inches in 2015

All measurements are current as of March 8, 2016 at 1 a.m.

Brownlee Water Level

March 8, 9 a.m. - Brownlee Reservoir water level was at 2,047 feet; 30 feet from full.



You are invited to **join us** for a coffee with friends...

OTEC is hosting an informal coffee klatch for all OTEC members to come and visit with their local board members and OTEC's General Manager Werner Buehler over coffee and pastries.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| La Grande - | Monday, March 14 - 9-10 a.m.
Joe and Sugar's - 119 Adams Ave. |
| Baker City - | Tuesday, March 15 - 9-10 a.m.
Mdd Matilda's - 1931 Court Ave. |
| Burns - | Friday, May 27 - 9-10 a.m.
Bella Java - 314 N. Broadway Ave. |
| John Day - | Friday, May 27 - 2-3 p.m.
The Squeeze Inn - 423 W. Main St. |

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Baker City

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Sale Schedule

March 17 - Pair Special
March 24 - Regular Sale
March 31 -
Regular Sale with Breeding Bulls
April 7 - Back to Grass Sale
April 14 - Pair Special
April 21 - Regular Sale
April 28 - Pair and Feeder Sale