

Drought:

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Unfortunately, they didn't have crop insurance on the peas or timothy grass.

Jim Dunham, who raises feed barley off Dunham Road north of Enterprise, agreed the drought was a killer. He was in a holding pattern Monday, waiting for the weekend's rain to dry out. His prospects for harvest are not looking good.

"There just isn't any because of the drought. I'll run the combine through, but that's about it," Dunham said. "It's a very poor crop."

In fact, he said, in the 60-plus years he's been farming there, it's about as bad as it's ever been.

"This is as poor a crop as I've ever seen," he said, agreeing that it must get better in the future. "I hope it don't get worse."

Dunham said he usually rotates his barley crop with hay to feed the 350-400 cattle that provide the mainstay of his income.

He said he, too, is hoping federal crop insurance will bail him out this year.

"I hope to get enough back to what I've got into the crop," he said.

He compared his dryland barley to what the Melvilles are getting in their dryland DNS.

"It's about the same comparison to the barley I raise," Dunham said.

For barley, that usually means about 2 tons an acre.



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain
Kurt Melville, of Cornerstone Farms, unloads soft white winter wheat after harvesting a dryland field north of Enterprise on Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021. The dryland crops were particularly hurt by this year's drought.

This year, he's hoping to get a half-ton per acre.

"It's hardly enough to even combine," he said. "If we get more than that, I'll be tickled to death."

Drought's the killer

The drought and the accompanying hot wind that dried it up never allowed it to grow, Dunham said.

Dan Butterfield, who farms with his sons Robert and Eric and their wives and raises about 600 acres of DNS near Joseph, agreed the

heat was a killer this year.

"This heat was relentless," Butterfield said. "It was pretty hard on it. (Wheat) just doesn't grow as well under that intense heat. Alfalfa does well in heat, but wheat and grass don't do well."

He said that although DNS is fairly drought resistant and a "protein wheat," it still didn't yield as large a harvest as he had hoped. He said he cut one dryland field on the moraine he estimated as a yield of 35 bushels per

acre. He said Portland prices are more than \$10 a bushel, but it costs about \$1 a bushel to get it there by truck.

Being a protein wheat, DNS tends to make more protein in drought years,

Butterfield said. He said the goal is for the grain to be 14% protein. The market pays a premium if the producer's crop is higher than 14%, but docks the crop if it's under 14%.

"It all depends on what happens in the wheat world," he said.

But it's all come down to the water farmers were able to get for their crops. Butterfield noted that's been a problem this year.

"We ran out of water to irrigate with, so that's another issue," he said. "We've been short of water all year. Now we're literally almost out of water. It was so cold this spring, the snow didn't melt and then when it did melt, it melted really fast."

Melville agreed the drought hurt them.

"We were short on irrigation water," he said. "We wished we'd had more."

Looking ahead

But farmers don't wallow in their misfortune of one year and are eager to move on.

"I hope next year's a lot better," Melville said. "Most people you talk to, they're glad this year's about done."

Dunham, with his six decades of experience, agreed.

"You keep plugging along and take it as it comes," he said. "You have to look to the future and can't look back."

Vaccines:

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"We just heard the announcement that Gov. Brown has directed OHA to develop a rule ordering schools to have vaccinated adults in all K-12 settings by Oct. 18 or six weeks from FDA approval, whichever is later," the email said. "This is a shock to say the least. One saving grace is that we have a bit of time to process before the OHA rule takes effect. At this time, we are asking our staff and community to please be patient while we process exactly what this announcement means. We will get more information out as we learn details — please understand that we may not have all information until the OHA rule is written and do not know their timeline. It is our full intent to respect and support our school community over the coming weeks."

The message said there are religious and medical exemptions allowed to Brown's staff, and that local

leaders "will learn more about if these exemptions apply to adults in the K-12 setting once the rule is written and released."

Cases of coronavirus have exploded statewide in recent weeks, including in Wallowa County. Last week, the county had its highest

one-day total of cases with 16, and after reporting 16 more cases over the week-end stands at 348. More than 100 of those cases have been reported by the OHA just in the month of August, continuing the highest spike in local coronavirus cases during the pandemic.

Eagle Cap Shooters Association & Eagle Cap Shooters Educational Alliance



Presents

YOUTH SHOOT

Saturday, September 18, 2021

69105 Ant Flat Road

7 miles North of Enterprise, OR

Sign Up at the Pistol Range: 9:00 am to 10:00 am

Shoot Begins: 10:00 am until we finish

5 EVENTS

2 Classes: 8 - 12, and 13 - 17

ALL YOUTH SHOOTERS RECEIVE

- **FREE Firearms & Ammo Provided**
- **FREE Entry**
- **FREE Food**
- **Great Prizes! Including a new rifle for each 1st place winner!**

Come out and have some fun!



THANK YOU to all those who contributed to this Super Fun Event

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Stangel Industries | Central Copy & Shipping |
| NAPA - Thompson's Auto Supply | Copper Creek Mercantile |
| Harris Motor Sports | Embers Brewhouse |
| Pro Drive | La Laguna Mexican Restaurant |
| Mountain Getaway Lodging, Inc. | Silver Creek Financial Services |
| Ponderosa Motel | Candor Custom |
| The Wilderness Inn | Range Rider |
| City Of Enterprise | Stein Distillery |
| Wallowa Chamber of Commerce | The Rygg Family |
| Bollman Funeral Home | Wheatland Insurance |
| Cameron's Wallowa County ACE | Art Brock |
| Community Bank | Wildhorse Resort & Casino |
| Dollar Stretcher | J and G Livestock |
| Enterprise Electric | Antone's |
| Chopper Car Wash | Arrowhead Chocolates |
| Favorite Finds on Main | Chevron Enterprise |
| J and S Automotive Services | Farmers Insurance |
| Les Schwab Tire Co. | Heidi's Gift Shoppe |
| Log House RV Park | Hillock Insurance Group |
| Mountain View Motel & RV Park | The Little Store |
| Northwest Fence Co | Enterprise Liquor Store |
| Norton Welding | Longhorn Espresso |
| Red Rose Boutique | ODOT |
| Kellermann Logging | Prairie Creek Quilts |
| The Sports Corral | Sugar Time Bakery |
| Wallowa Food City | The Bookloft |
| Gordon & Adam Wolfe | to Zion |
| Woodstock Circuitworks, Inc. | Wallowa County Nursery |
| Wortman Ranch | Rockauto.com |
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| Wallowa Mountain Property | Karen Wergen |
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| Ford and Wyatt | Sei Mee Tea |
| Hayes Printing Signs & Graphics | Hagerty Insurance |
| Kooch Century Farm | Summit Racing |
| Wild Carrot Herbs | Wildwood |

We Also Thank All The Participants, Spectators, Vendors, Artisans, Clubs and Volunteers, ... See You Next Year!!!