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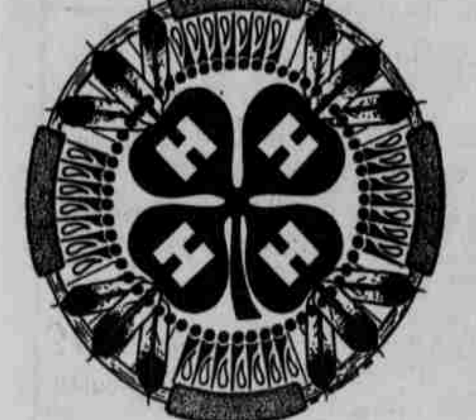
The Oregon State University Extension Service staff is devoted to extending research-based information from OSU to the people of Warm Springs in agriculture, home economics, 4-H youth, forestry, community development, energy and extension sea grant program with OSU, United States Department of Agriculture, Jefferson County and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs cooperating. The Exension Service offers its programs and materials equally to all people.

The Clover speaks

by Sue Ryan

Valentines for Veterans was a big hit! Thanks to Jefferson County Veterans Service officer Keith Baker who delivered the valentines to The Oregon Veterans Home at The Dalles. Thanks to those



who contributed valentines: the 4-H Fun Food Club, Warm Springs Brownie Troop # 737, Early Childhood Education's afterschool classrooms and others.

In 4-H news, a new quilting club is getting underway. Leader Nancy Seyler and Assistant Leader Mary Sando-Emhoolah will hold their first meeting on March 4th. There is still room for one more teen in this group. The quilting club is for those in the 7th through 12th grades.

Preparation for Jefferson County Fair is starting. For youth enrolled in Home Ec projects like cooking or sewing there will be a Skills Contest on March 27th. This contest is not required, but you earn more points to place at Fair if you participate. For those who want a walk-through experience—especially if this is your first year in Fair there will be a Skills Practice Night on March 9th at the High School. This event runs from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Home Ec room.

Warm Springs 4-H is always looking for leaders. Just a reminder to adults in the community. Stop by our offices in the Education Center to get started. 4-H is an opportunity to provide positive experiences for youth.

Arlene Boileau, 4-H Agent, presents "Valentine's for Veterans" to Keith Baker, Jefferson County Service Officer.

Natural Resource notables

by Zach del Nero, Natural Resources Agent

PUNCTUREVINE

Tribulus terrestris–otherwise known as Puncturevine, Puncture weed, Tackweed, Mexican sandbur, Burnut or Goathead. As noxious weeds go, this is one just about everyone wants to get rid of! Puncturevine is native to the Mediterranean region and was first found in railroad gravels of the Pacific Northwest in 1924.

You may not know it by name, but you've probably been unfortunate enough to encounter this weed. The seed-dispersing fruit segments of puncturevine are about the size of an M&M (I'm hungry now so that's all I could think of) with very rigid and sharp spines. These spiny fruits flatten bike tires and cause plenty of aggravation for pets and humans unlucky enough to step on one. Here at Warm Springs, we have puncturevine throughout the community areas and along roadsides.

Puncturevine is a summer annual plant that reproduces from seeds formed in woody, spiny fruits with five segments that split when mature. Each segment, or bur, contains one to four seeds separated by the same woody tissue found in the outer walls of the fruit. Although not considered a prolific seed producer, a plant growing by itself without competition may produce over a million seeds. One plant in California produced 576,000 fruits (average of two seeds per segment = 1,152,000 seeds)–that's a lot of flat tires and sore feet!

The spiny fruit segments are how the plant spreads. Large and small seed spines are arranged at different angles, so that no matter how the seed falls, at least one spine points upward to lodge in the unwary foot, hoof, paw, or vehicle tire. The sharp spines easily penetrate leather, rubber, skin, or other surfaces, and may be transported some distance before being knocked or picked off. Vehicle tires are the most significant seed spreader we have today. There is a dense population of puncturevine at The Dalles dam overlook, which I discovered last summer when my daughter and I were there. I spent about 10 minutes pulling the fruits out of my tires before heading back home. Once the seeds are out–what to do with them? The

only practical way to kill out the hard spiny fruit is to burn it, so I usually just toss 'em in the wood stove when I get home.

Germination starts during warm spring weather and continues until frost. Seedlings tend to emerge in flushes following rain or irrigation. Flowers appear as early as 3 weeks after germination, followed by fruit and viable seed 1-2 weeks later.

So how do we get rid of it? The best control is to prevent establishment by destroying new plants before burs form. Use a hoe or shovel and shear the plant off at ground level and dispose of it properly. The best disposal is by burning it, second is to seal it up in a bag. Remember, if those seeds get out at the dump, they will just spread from there!

Several contact herbicides are available for chemical control–remember to always read the label for cautions and instructions.

Remember, a new crop of seedlings may appear following any rain or irrigation – so keep an eye out and remove plants as they appear. As with any weed, control efforts take time. It may take up to 10 years to effectively remove a weed from an area – simply because the seed can remain dormant for long periods of time in the soil.

If you have additional questions about Puncturevine or other noxious weeds and their control, contact the OSU Extension office and watch for the Community Weed Control Education dinners–planned for this coming April or May at Agency and Simnasho.

HOME SWEET HOME

By Bernadette Handley, OSU Extension Home Ec Agent

Are you ready for the new millenium? The Y2K focus of this week's article is the potential impact for your finances. Do you have a bank account, a credit card, a mortgage, a car loan or investments? If you do business with a financial services provider, the Year 2000 date change may affect your accounts. Why? The Year 2000 problem... the millennium bug... the Y2K computer glitch... all refer to the inability of some computers and computerized systems to correctly recognize dates after 1999.

Y2K problems exist because many computer programs and computer chips recognize only the last two digits of a year on the assumption that the first two digits are 1 and 9. As a result, 98 is read as 1998. This approach works fine until the Year 2000, when 00 may be read as 1900 instead of 2000. This could cause some computer systems to shut down or malfunction.

How could the Year 2000 date change affect you? Many consumer financial services providers, such as banks, mortgage companies, investment firms, and credit card issuers rely on computer systems to perform a variety of date-sensitive functions, including: calculating interest and other charges, tracking deposit, loan, and lease payments, transferring funds electronically, or producing billing or other periodic statements.

Disruptions or errors in these computer functions could create problems with your personal finances, such as: delays in clearing checks, billing errors or inaccurate crediting or debiting of transactions, improper delinquency notices, penalties, or late fees or inaccurate credit reporting.

How can you protect your personal finances? Many financial service companies have prepared for the Year 2000. Still, you may want to take the following precautions as the date change approaches to minimize problems or avoid them altogether. Ask your financial service provider about its plans to deal with Y2K. If you're not comfortable with the response, consider doing business elsewhere.

Ask your provider what type of backup records are kept in case of an emergency. How would these records be used to identify and correct problems affecting your deposit, loan, or other account? Several months before the date change, get statements from your creditors detailing your payments toward principal, interest, and other charges. Also get a payment schedule showing how your loan balance will decrease until it is paid off. If you don't normally maintain financial records, as a precaution, you may want to consider doing so in preparation for the Year 2000. That way you'll have proof if something happens to the computerized records.

At a minimum, keep a six-month paper trail—three months before and after the date change—on significant transactions, such as mortgages, stocks, and insurance. Make sure your deposit receipts and periodic statements are accurate. Report discrepancies to your financial services provider(s). Keep canceled checks as proof of payment for at least several months before and after the date change. If you bank by computer, download your transaction records and store them on a backup disk. You also may want to print out downloaded records in case, backup disks are contaminated with Y2K problems. As a precaution, you may want to consider sending payments for mortgages, loans, leases, and other important obligations by certified mail, return receipt requested, for several months before and after the date change. This would give you proof that payments were received on time.

Get a copy of your credit report from one of the three major credit bureaus—Equifax (800-685-1111), Experian (800-682-7654), or TransUnion (800-916-8800)—before and after January 1, 2000. You may be charged up to $8.00 for your report. Check for errors and report them to the credit bureau. Keep credit card receipts for purchases and cash advances made on or around January 1, 2000. Compare them against your billing statements. Report discrepancies to your card issuer.

If you have a credit card with an expiration date after January 1, 2000, consider carrying a second card that does not have a 2000 date. This may come in handy if a merchant can't process a transaction using the 2000 expiration date. Notify your card issuer if you have problems using your card.

For more information, many public and private sector financial organizations provide Y2K information through their Web sites and consumer call centers. To learn more, visit the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion web site. Consumer Response Center, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580. (202) FTC-HELP (382-4357). TDD: (202) 326-2502.

Poplar Tree production in Central Oregon

Can Poplar trees grow in centra Oregon? What does the market look like for poplar wood? What types of wood products can wood be used for? These questions and others will be addressed at a popular production and marketing workshop to be held, Friday, March 12th at the OSU Crook County Extension office, 498 SE Lynn Blvd, Prineville, OR. The workshop wil be hld from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Poplar trees (which include native cottonworrds, aspen and hybrids) have been grown as a fiber source for pulp production. Recently, poplars have also been grown for veneer, core woods for furniture production and other solid wood products.

In the fall of 1998, Mater Engineering, Ltd. of Corvallis, was commissioned by the Oregon Economic Develop Department through its regional offices in central Oregon and Baker-Malheur Counties. Catherine Mater, Vice-President of Mater Engineering, Ltd., will present her findings at this workshop.

The workshop is open to anyone interested in the production, harvest and marketing of poplar wood. For more information contact the OSU Crook County Extension Office, 475-6228.

STOCKMAN'S ROUNDUP: Cattlemen question DEQ's water temp model

by Bob Pawelek OSU Livestock Agent

Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA) has received the results of a study done on a model being used by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to predict water temperatures.

OCA President Sharon Beck, who is very skeptical of the DEQ model, asked an OCA consultant to do calculations on the model. Early results show that skepticism may be warranted.

DEQ is determining how much solar radiation strikes water surfaces on the premise that "removal of riparian vegetation, and the shade it provides contributes to elevated stream temperatures."

Oregon Cattlemen's Association's network of consulting scientists have agreed that the model will not be workable in the real world. Their report concludes "it is easy to get an answer for the wrong reason. DEQ should be skeptical of any process that attempts to describe a universal principle if it cannot be replicated universally."

DEQ's model assumes that a stream will continue to heat as it runs down hill (longitudinal heating). Using the model results in the conclusion that a stream 200 miles long will reach a boiling point of 212 degrees because of longitudinal heating, the consultant, Pat Larson says.

DEQ's model equation was developed using a 2000 foot stream reach. It is currently being used to describe one-mile stretches of streams in the Cave Junction area. Larson's associates predict that verifying the model using 2000 foot sections on streams throughout Oregon will be costly and time consuming.

The DEQ model equation also predicts that streams will be 54 degrees F one mile from the headwaters and 78 degrees F 25 miles from the headwaters. Larson's review has revealed that if a river 200 miles long reaches the boilling point, then the Columbia River, 1232 miles long, should vaporize before it reaches the Pacific Ocean. Larson's review also questions DEQ's assumption that if a stream has less than 1% shade, and the shade is increased to 2%, the stream can be cooled from 142 degrees to 122 degrees.

Many agriculture committees are in the process of writing water quality management plans for their respective watersheds. Larson's review has indicated to OCA membership that their focus in monitoring water temperatures should address the question of how fast streams are heating.

Beck warns Oregon agriculturists of the use of the DEQ model. "Natural rates of heating and cooling can scientifically be described using elevation, velocity, and temperatures of soil and ambient air, while monitoring water temperatures...We have never found a boiling stream and we have never seen stream temperatures change 20 degrees because we planted more trees."

Oregon Cattlemen's Association is a non-profit organization made up of cattle producers from across the state. OCA works to promote environmentally and socially sound industry practices, a positive contemporary image of the cattle industry, improve the economics of the industry, and assure a strong political presence in all areas affecting the industry.

Oregon Cattlemen's Association is located in Salem at the Natural Resource Center, 3415 Commercial Street SE, 97302.

Parenting Series

When: Monthly
Time: 5:30 PM
Where: Education Building

DATES	TOPIC
February 25	Parenting the older child
March 11	Stress Management for the parent
April 15	How to keep your child busy
May 20	Summertime activities – what to do with your child?