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The Clover speaks

by Arlene Boileau 4-H Agent& Minnie Red Dog 4-H Program Assistant

There are many activities coming up during the summer, here are a few you all can choose from. All About 4-H Camp

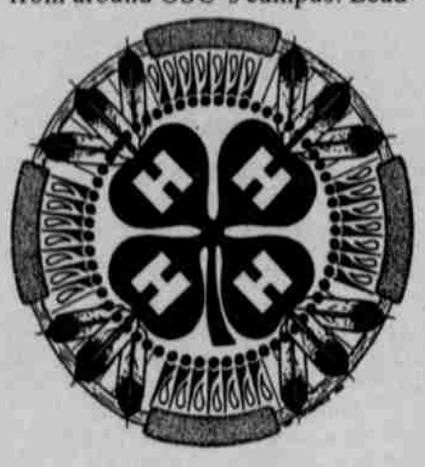
4-H Camp at Round Lake (use to be 4-H Camp at Crystal Springs) dates are Monday, June 26th to Friday, June 30th , 2000. Cost is $95.00 Per camper.

4-H Culture Enrichment Camp At Peter's Pasture, dates are:

First session, Sunday August 6th to Saturday August 12, 2000, for grades 2nd to 5th grade, campers are to arrive Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. and depart Saturday from 12 to 3 p.m. (please no early campers or late campers on these two days).

Second session, Monday August 14th to Sunday August 20, 2000, for grades 6th to 9th, campers are to arrive on Monday from 9 a.m. to12 p.m. and depart Sunday after the noon meal. Please, campers before you leave the camp grounds remember to check out with your camp counselor.

Another great opportunity for students in the 7th to 9th graders is the Oregon State University Summer Days to be held on campus June 20th to 23rd, 2000. This conference will be packed full of fun, educational activities that 4-H members will not want to miss. Students will have the opportunity to choose from a wide-variety of workshops that will actively engage them with experts from around OSU's campus. Leadership & citizenship skills will be emphasized throughout the week, which will conclude with and OSU Summer Days Quiz Bowl Competition among members. Here are some of the workshops being provided "Fisheries & Wildlife", "Web Page Development", "Veterinarian Medicine", "Engineering", & Forestry just to name a few. The cost for this conference is $160. If you or you know someone interested in taking a trip to the OSU campus this summer, give the OSU extension here in Warm Springs a call for a registration packet.



Want to learn how to operate a tractor? Well, give our office a call. Tractor clinic is set for June 3rd & 4th, 2000, at Hillsboro High school. Students must be between the ages of 14 &17. The training will include 14 hours of class time to earn a certificate for operation of tractors or farm machinery. The cost of the clinic is $25 per participant. Participants will be allowed to keep their instructional booklets. Deadline for signing up for the clinic is May 26, 2000. Space set for 30 participants only so call if you are interested.

Okay lets make an after school snack "Cheesy Nachos." Items needed are oven, pot holders, cookie pan (or cake pan will work), cheese grater, & sharp knife to cut cheese.

Ingredients needed are: 4 cups (one large bag) tortilla chips, 2 cups of grated cheese, 1 cup of salsa.

1) Turn oven on to broil. 2) On the pan, spread the chips evenly out over pan. 3) Spread salsa over the chips. 4) Sprinkle grated cheese over the salsa. 5) Put the tray in oven, not to close to top of oven so the Nachos will not burn. Cooking time will only be 5 minutes so make sure you check Nachos when the cheese melts and is a little bubbly, remove from oven with pot holders. Let cool a minute and then enjoy homemade Cheese Nachos.

If there are any questions regarding any of the summer activities please give the OSU extension office a call at 553-3238.

HOME SWEET HOME

By Bernadette Handley, Family & Community Development Agent

April 15th has come and gone. Hopefully, all your tax information was handy and your forms were filed on time. Time to breathe a sigh of relief, but don't relax too much. Now is the time to look at your finances for THIS year and how to manage your money. Paying family bills can be overwhelming, saddening, frustrating and time consuming. In Paying Family Bills (EC 1422), Alice Mills Morrow, OSU Extension family economics specialist, offers advice on bill paying. There are so many payment options available now - cash, check, charge or debit.

Paying with cash has its benefits but you must make sure you **always** get a receipt. The receipt is your record of cost and is proof that you paid for the item or service. If you are paying for a bill with cash, the person receiving the payment should mark the bill paid and return it to you. Keep this until you receive the next statement showing that payment was received. If you pay for something in cash and you have no bill, ask for a receipt. Never send cash through the mail. You will have no proof that you sent it and the money may be stolen. Send a check or money order instead.

If you have a checking account, you may pay many of your bills with a check. The canceled check is proof of payment. A check (share draft if you belong to a credit union) is a written order telling the bank, credit union or savings and loan to pay an exact sum of money to someone else. A check is a safe and convenient form of payment.

Postal or money orders are often used if you don't have a checking account. A bank issues personal money orders and postal orders are available at your local post office. The amount is filled in when it is issued. It is important to fill in the blanks (name of the payee, the date and the signature of the purchaser) **immediately.** Until the blanks are filled in the money order is just like cash - anyone who has it can use it. Keep your copy until you know the money order has been received and credited to your account.

Debit cards are one of the quickest ways to make payments. It saves you the time of writing a check and mailing it. Whether you are withdrawing money from an ATM (automated teller machine) or paying a bill by debit, keep your transaction record! Note the transaction on your checkbook ledger or savings account and carefully review your monthly statements. If there is an error in the statement, immediately notify the bank in writing. When you use an ATM machine, think about your physical safety. The ATM may be open 24 hours a day, but it may not be safe to go to the ATM after dark.

A PIN (personal identification number) is necessary to access your account and is your protection against unauthorized use of your access card. The best practice is to memorize your PIN. Don't carry the PIN with you and don't choose an obvious PIN such as parts of your name, address, and birth date. If your access card is lost or stolen, immediately notify the bank.

If you would like a copy of Paying Family Bills (EC 1422) or more information on money management, feel free to contact the OSU Extension office at 553-3238.

Natural Resource notables

The Value of Healthy Riparian Areas

The following contains excerpts from an article by Sherman Swanson, Range Specialist for the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Service.

The transition areas between the aquatic ecosystem and the nearby, upland terrestrial ecosystem are called riparian areas. These areas are identified by soil characteristics plant communities that indicate free or unbound water and include the wet areas in and near streams, ponds, lakes, springs, and other surface waters.

Water Means Life in the Desert

Riparian areas can produce more vegetation per acre than any other part of the range. They are the proverbial oases in the desert that attracts humans, livestock, and wildlife. Riparian vegetation is not only highly productive, it also has the potential to stay green for a much longer part of the year than upland vegetation.

Fisheries and Wildlife

Wildlife use riparian areas more than any other single habitat. Big game use riparian areas for water and to browse or graze on riparian plants. These areas also provide necessary hiding or thermal cover. Small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians abound in the thick undergrowth near water. More than half of the vertebrates living on rangeland needs riparian areas for some critical period of their life cycle. Salmon, steelhead, and other fish species depend on healthy riparian systems to provide cover, food, and to maintain proper instream water temperatures and levels of dissolved oxygen. Well-knitted, stable stream banks and riparian vegetation provide overhanging banks that shelter fish and shade water.

Water

Water in riparian areas gets used downstream as well as on site. Water can be the limiting factor controlling such things as livestock herd size, wildlife population size and diversity, agricultural development, and urban development. Users depend on abundant sources of clean water. Improper management in logging, road building, livestock grazing and other uses can negatively impact water quality. Instream water temperatures are highly dependent upon streamside cover and riparian area quality, as well as uplands management.

Vegetation

Riparian vegetation improves water quality by filtering out sediments and nutrients from flows, as well as dissipating energy. When plants reduce water velocity, sediments drop out and add to flood plains. Plants grow in this sediment, using roots to stabilize stream banks during peak flows. Riparian flood plains store water during high flow, then release it back to the stream during long, dry periods.

Vegetation can remove excess nutrients, thereby "cleaning" water as it passes through the system. Water with excess nutrients can cause eutrophication downstream, a condition where water becomes choked with too much organic matter and may appear green and murky. As the organic matter decays, it may deplete the supply of dissolved oxygen to levels below that which fish and other aquatics may require. Eutrophication is a special problem for cold water fish like trout, which require highly oxygenated water.

Management

Proper management of riparian areas involves all land users. It is every person's responsibility to protect this vital resource while enjoying its tremendous value. Those who make management decisions have a special responsibility to understand the needs of the resource. With proper management, all multiple users will benefit. Without it, we stand to lose even more of this precious and invaluable resource.

If you would like more information on riparian area management, feel free to contact the OSU Extension office at 553-3238.

Satellite Events

OSU Extension hosts a series of educational satellites developed by the U.S. Department of Education.
Connecting with Youth - May 16
Learning Everywhere - June 20
Programs will be offered in the 1st floor classroom of the Education Building from 5PM-6 PM.
Contact OSU Extension @ 553-3238 if you are interested in attending.
Limit: 10.

STOCKMAN'S ROUNDUP: Consider early weaning

by Bob Pawelek OSU Livestock Agent

Consider early weaning

Time of weaning can be altered to manipulate cow body condition to maintain high reproductive rates and reduce winter feed requirements. Cows nursing their calves for a longer or shorter period of time than is traditional decrease or increase their body condition.

Often when a cow is declining in body condition the calf is not growing at optimum.

Changing either the calving date and (or) the weaning date will have an influence on cow condition. Age of the calf at weaning is affected by both the date of birth and the date of weaning. Any change in time of weaning must balance the potential positive impacts on the cows with potential negative impacts on the calves or calf market weights.

Cow Body Condition

The condition of beef cows at calving is associated with length of postpartum interval (time following calving). It also affects lactation performance, health and vigor of the newborn calf, and in extremely fat or thin heifers the incidence of calving difficulty. The condition of cows at breeding influences the number of services per conception, calving interval, and the percentage of open cows (Herd and Sprott, 1987).

For spring calving cows body condition in the fall affects the amount and type of winter feed supplements that will be needed (Momont et al.,1994). Cows in adequate body condition usually need only small quantities of supplements, while thin cows usually need large quantities of supplements high in energy. Researchers in Minnesota (Thompson et al., 1983) reported a 6-10% higher energy requirement for maintaining thin cows (versus moderate to high body condition) through the winter in a cold environment. A cost savings may also result from having cows enter the winter in good body condition.

Matching Dates To Forage Base

Timing the start of calving in anticipation of the plant growth cycle can reduce the need for high levels of supplement or hay. The cow's nutrient requirements increase substantially after calving and continue to increase through peak lactation, generally 45 to 60 days post calving. At the same time reproductive functions must be supported in order to remain on an annual calving schedule.

As range or pasture plants mature, nutritive quality declines to the point that optimum production cannot be maintained. While an individual plant's maturation date will vary with the year, temperature, rainfall, soil, elevation, aspect, etc., it is well established that with maturation comes a decline in both digestibility and protein content. Regardless of the date, this decline in quality begins at the boot stage for grass plants and at the bud stage for broad leafed forbs. Research at the Northern Great Basin Experiment Station near Burns, Oregon indicates northern Great Basin desert ranges typically reach maturity in mid July. More arid sites will be earlier and high elevation forest ranges will be later. After these dates it is difficult for a lactating cow to consume sufficient nutrients to maintain her calf, herself, and her own body condition.

USDA Agencies Seek Input on 2002 FARM BILL

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON, March 29, 2000 —— Washington State Directors for

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Risk Management Agency (RMA), and Rural Development (RD) announced today their plans for a Tribal Nations Public Listening Session scheduled for: April 25, 2000 Ellensburg, WA 10:00 a.m. -Noon Hal Holmes Community Center 201 North Ruby.

The purpose of the listening session is to gather Tribal farm owner and operator input on the future of agricultural policy in the United States, particularly farm safety net, conservation and environmental programs within the 2002 Farm Bill.

The format of the Public Listening Session is one that allows for prepared testimony, as well as remarks by those who wish to address specific programs FSA, NRCS, RMA, and RD administer. The meeting is being held in cooperation with the Northwest InterTribal AG Council (IAC).

To submit statement for the record: Producers who are unable to testify at a field hearing may instead submit written testimony for the official record. Testimonies must include their name, address, phone number and forwarded to USDA-FSA, Chris Bieker, 316 W. Boone, Suite 568, Spokane, WA 99201 by May 1, 2000.

Persons requesting special accommodations (e.g.: translator, disability) to participate in any one of the above listed meetings should contact Jo Lynne Seufer at 1-800-205-9953 by April 17, 2000.