

The Clover Speaks

Arlene Boileau, 4-H Agent
Minnie Tulalakus, 4-H Assistant

How to start a 4-H Club: 1. Contact the Warm Springs 4-H staff, Arlene Boileau or Minnie Tulalakus. 2. Sit down for an initial discussion about your club or project idea (all ideas are good). 3. Complete required paperwork and training. This can be done before or concurrently with the start of your club. Requirements include filling out the following forms: * personal interview form. * Volunteer services application. * Official 4-H registration form. * Introductory to 4-H leader training (this will consist of viewing two videos and attending training session) 4. Set out your club plan. Keep in mind the four- (4) basic steps of the 4-H Club Program. * Educational Transfer. * Skill Development. * Proficiency. * Competition. This is a start when you decide to become a 4-H Leader. So step forward and become a 4-H Leader.

Home Alone Cooking

This is for youth at home after school and fixing a snack

Well Little Cooks here is our recipe, for this week. Remember little Cooks to have someone older in the kitchen with you, this is for your safety, also wash your hands before you start. Baked Potatoes in the Microwave. You will need the following utensils before you start: fork, potholder so you don't burn yourself when you take the potatoes out of the microwave (the potatoes will be very hot, so be real careful). You will also need the following ingredients: potatoes. After you cook the potatoes you will need the following ingredients to put on the potatoes to eat. Salt, butter, sour cream, and a glass of juice (this is to drink not put on the potato). To microwave the potato, do the following: Wash and scrub the potato real good, use the fork to poke several holes in the potato so that some of the steam can escape as they cook.

When cooking several potatoes, it helps to have them all the same size. So they will finish cooking at the same time, also place the thick end of the potato toward the center of the floor of the microwave arrange them like the spokes of a wheel at least an inch apart. Turn the potatoes over and reposition halfway through the cooking time so they will cook evenly. Set the time for one potato at 3-5 minutes, for several potatoes set the time at 8-10. When the potatoes are finished cooking check with the fork to see if they are done, if they are not done set the time for 3-5 minutes more. When they are done enjoy eating your snack with a glass of juice. Source of information: (Its not just for cooking anymore what can I do with my microwave.) by Ruth Spears.

The 4-H program here in Warm Springs is in need of 4-H leaders. Are you ready to share your talents with the youth of Warm Springs, if you are ready please call Arlene or

Minnie at 553-3238 or come on into the Education Building and talk with us.

Some dates to remember and events to go to.

Know Your State Government, April 18-21, Salem, Or

Interested youth in High School. Cost of this event is \$ 125.00

Camp Counselor Training and Counselors-in-Training will be May 18&19 in Salem, Or. If you plan to be a counselor, Please reserve this weekend.

High Desert 4-H Camp at Round Lake is June 25-29

Call Arlene or Minnie should you have a question.

If you are considering raising an animal for the Jefferson County Fair now is the time to start thinking about buying that animal. We have some contacts if you are interested, think about it. Call Arlene or Minnie at 553-3238

See you next time.

Home Sweet Home

When we moved to Crooked River Ranch 15 months ago, we opted to rent our home until we were sure we wanted to live there. The landlord was interested in traveling for a few years, so we had plenty of time to make up our minds. Or so we thought. Last month, he gave us the bad news. His plans changed and he would be moving back in four months. Suddenly, we were thrown into the world of real estate agents, mortgage lenders, interest rates and the dreaded... credit reports. Trying to understand it all and keep a perspective on what we are able and willing to pay can be quite difficult.

This much is clear. A good credit score can make all the difference in terms of what you may qualify for. It may mean the difference between a 7.5% rate and an 11.5% rate. It may not seem like a lot... just 4%... but over the course of a 30-year mortgage, that is a lot of money.

How are credit reports and scores determined? When you apply for any type of credit (mortgage, credit card, etc.) your credit history is given a "score". The automated scoring system we use now was designed by Fair, Isaac and Co. (FICO) in 1989. The credit score is based on risk models that analyze your various debts and your credit history with payment performance and compares it to millions of other consumers. Reports

(www.ConsumerReports.org) identifies five factors that can be used as predictors for how well folks pay their bills. 60 to 65 percent of the overall score is determined by the first two factors.

Previous payment behavior. Do you pay your bills on time or late? On time is better. Late is evaluated depending on how late, how often and how recently. Your mortgage is the most important bill for you to pay.

Current level of indebtedness. What are your credit limits and lines? What do you owe? Charging your accounts to the maximum consistently is not good. Credit should be used only when it is needed not as a supplement to your income. If you accept a credit line increase, the company is responsible for reporting that increased credit line. If it is not reported in a timely manner, your credit report may reflect that you have exceeded your balance.

Length of time credit has been in use. A new line of credit is considered a risk. Can you handle the burden of additional credit? Until you prove that you can make responsible and regular payments over a period of time, the new account adds to your credit burden.

Pursuit of new credit. Each time you apply for new credit, a new credit report is issued. Someone who is requesting or searching for additional lines of credit in a short pe-

riod of time is considered "risky". If you are searching for the best deal in order to finance a car, the model allows for that and you are not penalized. However, if you apply for the different lines of credit or loans, then your score will be impacted.

Types of credit in use. Variety is the spice of life. This is also true for credit lines. Lenders like to see more than just an auto loan or a mortgage. They like to see how you handle a variety of payment options. Keep in

mind that most lenders don't indicate that a credit card is secured, so it appears as an unsecured credit. If you are trying to rebuild credit then secured credit cards are an excellent way to achieve that.

Keeping your record - credit record - clean can be a challenge especially if your household or employment situation changes. The good news - it is possible and it is definitely worth the financial benefits.

Get plugged into good news about education

OSU Extension wants you to Get plugged into the good news about education...

The *Satellite Town Meeting* is the U.S. Department of Education's monthly live broadcast about improvements in teaching and learning that are happening in schools and communities across the nation. On each show, the Secretary of Education invites national experts as well as local educators and community leaders to share their ideas about how schools are preparing all students for the challenges of the 21st century.

In panel discussions with parents, teachers, principals and business experts, as well as videotaped reports on innovative schools, viewer call-ins, and special segments on resources, the *Satellite Town Meeting* focuses on what works.

The Secretary and his guests talk about the most important issues facing today's schools and communities - improving reading skills, expanding technology, boosting student achievement, assuring safety, serving children with disabilities, raising mathematics performance, and more. Communities and local school systems around the country are working collaboratively in new and creative ways to help make schools safer for students. Effective strategies include communitywide and schoolwide efforts that promote healthy child development and reduce school violence and drug abuse.

Keeping Schools and Communities Safe: Collaborating for Healthy Children
Tuesday February 20, 2001 - 5:00 PM PST, 1st Floor Training Room, Education Building.

The February *Satellite Town Meeting* will feature people and programs that are implementing tailored strategies, focused on prevention, intervention and accountability.

Upcoming Satellite Town Meetings

Tuesday March 20, 2001

Tuesday April 17, 2001

Tuesday May 15, 2001

Tuesday June 19, 2001

Town Meetings will be broadcast from 5:00 - 6:00 PM. For more information or to register for the event, contact Bernadette Hoyer, OSU Extension @ 553-3535.

Stockman's Roundup: Nation marks milestone in Brucellosis eradication

As the year 2000 drew to a close, the nation marked an historic moment in the fight to eradicate brucellosis. For the first time in memory, there is no known brucellosis infection in commercial cattle or bison in the United States.

"We reached an apparent zero infection in late December when Florida lifted a quarantine on a previously infected herd that had been cleaned up and Texas depopulated its last known infected herd," said Dr. Bob Hillman, president of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA). USAHA, an organization composed of state and federal veterinarians, laboratory diagnosticians, researchers, academics and livestock producers, has been instrumental in developing and recommending implementation of standards for the cooperative state-federal brucellosis eradication program. Brucellosis is a bacterial disease that causes cattle and some other species of animals, such as bison and elk, to abort, deliver weak calves or produce less milk. In humans, where it is also called undulant fever or Malta fever, the disease causes severe flu-like symptoms that can last for months or years if left untreated.

Hillman pointed out that no newly infected herds have been found in the United States since last July when infection was disclosed in a cattle herd in Navarro County, Texas. "However," he added, "we can't afford to relax our surveillance efforts. This is an insidious disease whose signs are not always easily seen."

Hillman noted that currently the only remaining foci of brucellosis in the United States is in the Greater Yellowstone Area, which includes Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, the National Elk Refuge and portions of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, where free-ranging bison and elk are infected. These animals pose a disease threat to cattle in surrounding brucellosis-

free states and serve as the only known source for reintroduction of the disease into domestic cattle and bison herds. Hillman said that state and federal officials are working to develop and implement plans to control and eventually eliminate brucellosis from bison and elk in the Greater Yellowstone Area.

Currently, 46 States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are classified as brucellosis-free, meaning that they have had no infected cattle or domestic bison herds for at least one year and have active surveillance programs in place for the disease. Four states—Florida, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas—are in the final stage of eradicating the disease and, with no known infection at this time, are now in the final one-year countdown phase.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service carry out the brucellosis eradication program in cooperation with the cattle industry and animal health agencies in the various states. Efforts to combat brucellosis began as part of a cattle reduction program in July 1934 because of extreme drought conditions. The program lapsed during World War II, but was accelerated in 1954

that just one of these causes is responsible for everything, but when they are all added up together it presents a major problem for the health of the planet.

There are 5 Northwest species of frog which are listed as candidates for the endangered species list: Cascades frog, red-legged frog, Oregon spotted frog, Columbia spotted frog, and the Western toad.

Destruction of habitat (wetlands) is considered to be the primary cause for amphibians decline, however, biologists list other factors. Outbreaks of a lethal skin fungus have been found throughout western states. A fungus which kills larvae and adult amphibians has been found in Oregon. Non-native predators (bullfrogs, trout) have taken a heavy toll on native amphibian populations. Pollutants such as excess herbicides and crop fertilizers degrade the quality of the environment for amphibian species.

Mr. Blaustein's research has also shown that increased levels of UV-B radiation, caused by the thinning of the Earth's protective ozone layer, is negatively affecting salamander eggs in the Cascades and causing eye damage to the Cascades frog.

Natural Resource Notables World Amphibian Population decline

Scientists worldwide, including Oregon State University zoology professor Andrew Blaustein, are expressing deep concern about the trend of declining amphibian populations. Many say that this is a sign that the health of our planet is in jeopardy.

Frogs, toads, salamanders, and others have been the subject of intense research in Oregon for years - and all are declining rapidly. In recent years, 14 species of amphibians have disappeared from Australia, along with a host of other species in Europe, South America, Asia, and Africa.

Amphibians are extremely sensitive to the environment. Mr. Blaustein comments that "the overall result is that this group of animals, which has been around since the time of the dinosaurs, is now in serious decline all over the world. And some of the things that are killing frogs almost certainly have implications for other animal species, including humans."

Some of the things that may be responsible include changes in global climate (global warming), insecticides, crop fertilizers, viruses, and industrial pollution. It doesn't mean

as an eradication effort with additional funds. At that time, an estimated 124,000 cattle herds were infected with the disease.

A major boost to program operations came in 1978 when a special commission completed a two-year study by concluding, "control leading to eradication is biologically feasible." By August 1990, the number of quarantined herds had dropped below the 1,000 mark and five years later to fewer than 100. In 1997, the Brucellosis Emergency Action Plan, which provided additional funds and procedures, was implemented.

"Our progress in eradicating this disease can be directly credited to producer cooperation and the efforts of state, federal and private veterinarians," Hillman said. "All are to be congratulated. But, while we have reached this historic milestone, we can't become complacent about this insidious disease. We must continue active surveillance until we are sure that no more infected herds exist in the United States". It has been estimated that if brucellosis were allowed to spread, beef and dairy production costs would increase by an estimated \$80 million within 10 years.

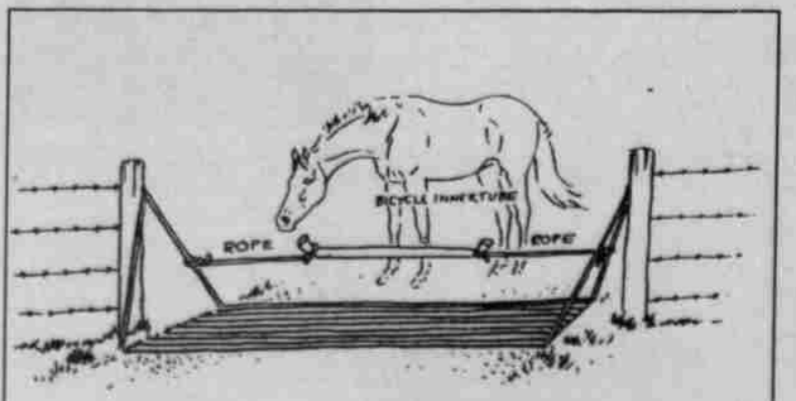
Grandparents raising grandchildren: legal and policy issues

The national satellite videoconference "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Legal and Policy Issues" will be offered on February 27, 2001 from 10:30-1:30 PST in the 1st Floor Training Room, Education Building. The videoconference will look at some of the legal concerns of grandparents raising grandchildren and the agencies and professionals they work with. The program will explore the implications of various forms of informal and formal custody arrangements, how laws and policies impact custodial caregivers, ways to improve interaction between grandparents and professionals, including lawyers, medical personnel, schools and social service providers and how states might design and implement changes in state laws. It will explore custody arrangements and implications, how to work with local service providers, and how some states have made changes in laws.

Grandparents and service provid-

ers will learn about various forms of informal and formal custody arrangements, how laws and public policies impact custodial caregivers, how to improve interaction with medical, school, legal and social services providers, and how to design and implement changes in legislation in their state. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions of a studio panel and share information with a national audience.

In addition to Warm Springs OSU Extension, local sponsors include the Warm Springs Senior Program, I.H.S. Public Health and Oregon AARP. National Sponsors are the Cooperative Extension Services of the University of Wisconsin-Extension and Purdue University, AARP, Generations United and the National Association of State Units on Aging. For more information or to register for the upcoming video satellite program, contact Bernadette Hoyer, OSU Extension @ 541-553-3535.



SOME CATTLE and horses don't have much respect for a cattle guard. This is another idea that should slow 'em down some while permitting a car to drive over. The bicycle tube will stretch enough to allow the wheels to pass but you will have to experiment some on the right height to prevent snagging.