



Lisa Britton/Baker City Herald

Lines of grass hay waiting to be baled in Baker Valley on July 5, 2022.

Grass:

Continued from Page 8

It was cold.

And when the skies brought precipitation it was often as not snow — dry snow that blew in the wind like sand, with scarcely enough moisture to darken the soil.

“We didn’t have any grass,” Pickard said.

But at the end of June, after the series of storms that delivered rain so reliably, the formerly dun hills are soft green.

“It has turned around completely,” Pickard said on June 28. “It’s one of the best grass years we’ve had in 30 years.”

One of Pickard’s ranching neighbors in Keating Valley, Frederick Phillips, shares Pickard’s descriptions both of how poor the outlook was in early

spring, and how much the situation has improved since.

“It looked terrible the first part of April, and even into the middle of April,” Phillips said.

Grass was so sparse, in fact, that Phillips said he postponed moving cattle onto spring range beyond the usual April 15 date.

“But then the rains came, and it’s one of the best years we’ve had in a long time,” Phillips said on June 29. “The grass in the hills is phenomenal.”

Mark Bennett, who owns a ranch near Unity, in southern Baker County, with his wife, Patti, also is pleased by the benefits that spring rains have brought to grass hay in that part of the county, which sometimes is drier than northern areas.

“It should be a real bountiful crop overall,” said Bennett, who’s also a Baker County

See Grass, Page 12

Growing Generations Together

THANK YOU!

To each of our Ag Producers for your Contribution to our Rural Communities.

WE UNDERSTAND YOUR WORK AND DEDICATION.

Bank of Eastern Oregon’s Mission has always been to provide Financial Support for the Ag Industry.

 **Bank of Eastern Oregon**

Member FDIC

BOARDMAN
Shane Lazinka
541-481-3445

BURNS
Laura Georges
541-573-2006

CONDON
Amber Schlaich
541-384-3501

ENTERPRISE
Bob Williams
John Bailey
541-426-4205

HEPPNER
Amber Schlaich
541-676-9125

HERMISTON
Jared Lathrop
541-303-8274

IONE
Amber Schlaich
541-422-7466

IRRIGON
Shane Lazinka
541-922-2828

JOHN DAY
Bob Quinton
541-575-1862

LA GRANDE
David Stirewalt
Kristy Nelson
541-624-5040

MADRAS
Pete McCabe
541-475-7296

MORO
Shane Lazinka
541-565-3712

ONTARIO
Jed Myers
Nial Bradshaw
541-889-4464

PENDLETON
Mike Short
Tracy Hamby
541-276-6509

Just the Right Tractor
FOR YOUR HORSES



Branson TRACTORS

New
2515R
25 hp

www.gyllenbergeq.com

Gyllenberg Equipment, Inc.
10 E. Campbell Street, Baker City
541-523-7823

- A compact tractor with loads of power
- Front-end loader lift capacity of 2,200 lbs.
- Hard working and stable enough for the job
- Durable steel frame construction
- Easy attaching implements
- Also available with hydrostatic transmission
- One of the heaviest tractors in its class - 3014 lbs.