



Contributed photo/Oregon State University
A cow and calf drink from Catherine Creek in Northeast Oregon. Using GPS tracking collars over five grazing seasons on federal land, researchers determined cows spend 1 percent to 2.5 percent of their time in streams.

Research helps better understand grazing near streams

Environmental groups say cattle grazing on public rangeland trample and erode streambanks and pollute water. But a five-year study of cattle grazing conducted by Oregon State University shows cattle spend only 1 to 2.5 percent of their time in streams or buffer areas. And rather than ranging up and down the length of streams in allotments, cattle used only 10 to 25 percent of the available stream area. The cows typically did not rest or graze near streams. Instead, they spent most of their time grazing on higher ground or resting in dry areas away from streams. John Williams, an OSU Extension rangeland expert in Wallowa County, said cows enter riparian areas for two reasons: "One is to drink, the other is to cross." The study was done on a tight budget. Researchers built

their own GPS collars, which generated location data every five minutes. They attached the collars to 10 cows in three different herds. Over the course of five years they collected 3.75 million data points. That data show that animals behave differently at different points in the grazing season. And that, Williams says, suggests that producers could use such data to increase the efficiency of their operations. The findings are potentially significant. Now we know that cattle probably don't cause as much damage to streams and riparian areas as popularly thought, and it's possible to use real data to reduce damage further by better management. The study shows the value of testing assumptions, and using what's learned to make things better. We encourage OSU to continue this line of inquiry, and for all parties to take note.



FARMER'S FATE

Without farmers

By Brianna Walker
To the Blue Mountain Eagle



Brianna Walker

Farming is sometimes romanticized. Advertisements often show gorgeous girls in sun dresses and boots in rolling wheat fields. Mothers babywearing children in expensive wraps walking through idyllic fields of frolicking lambs. Farming is sometimes demonized. I once saw a shirt that read: "Farming: the art of losing money while working 400 hours a month to feed people who think you are trying to kill them." To which I would respond, "Don't gripe about a farmer with your mouth full." But farming, to me, is just a set of catastrophes that have resulted in a lifestyle. A lifestyle I wouldn't trade for anything — although 8-hour days and paid vacations seem pretty tempting! Everyone has probably seen the bumper sticker that says, "Once in your lifetime you'll need a doctor, a lawyer, a policeman and a

preacher. But you need a farmer three times a day." Agriculture is important and it goes beyond mere starvation. Without farmers... there would be no farmer's tans. Without farmers... who would be outstanding in their field? Without farmers... there would be no corn (whiskey), rice (sake), sugarcane (rum), wheat (beer), grapes (wine), agave (tequila). No farmers — no shot glasses. Without farmers... there would be no tractors. And a feud as big as the Hatfields and McCoys would never have taken place: red tractors vs green tractors. Farmer born and farmer bred... this girl's tractor will never be red. There are so many things that are impossible with farming. Without farmers... there are no country roads to take you home. ... what happens in the barn ... wouldn't. ... no one could be sheepish ... or the black sheep.

... no one could have a cow anymore. ... life would be hard to live high on the hog. ... partying wouldn't be the same if the cows have no place to come home to. ... no one would chew the fat. ... you couldn't farm out your kids to their grandparents anymore. ... agriculture wouldn't be worth a hill of beans. ... there would be no first straw, so there could never be a last straw. ... you can't bet the farm. ... there would be no spring chickens ... or old biddies ... or need to worry about putting all your eggs in one basket. ... there would be no reason to make hay while the sun shines. ... no one would understand reaping or sowing ... let alone reaping what you sow. But the biggest travesty of all? Without farmers ... there would be no farmer's daughters! *Brianna Walker occasionally writes about the Farmer's Fate for the Blue Mountain Eagle.*

WHERE TO WRITE

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- **Grant County Courthouse** — 201 S. Humbolt St., Suite 280, Canyon City 97820. Phone: 541-575-0059. Fax: 541-575-2248.
- **Canyon City** — P.O. Box 276, Canyon City 97820. Phone: 541-575-0509. Fax: 541-575-0515. Email: tocc1862@centurylink.net.
- **Dayville** — P.O. Box 321, Dayville 97825. Phone: 541-987-2188. Fax: 541-987-2187. Email: dville@ortelco.net
- **John Day** — 450 E. Main St, John Day, 97845. Phone: 541-575-0028. Fax: 541-575-1721. Email: cityjd@centurytel.net.
- **Long Creek** — P.O. Box 489, Long Creek 97856. Phone: 541-421-3601. Fax: 541-421-3075. Email: info@cityoflongcreek.com.
- **Monument** — P.O. Box 426, Monument 97864. Phone and fax: 541-934-2025. Email: cityofmonument@centurytel.net.
- **Mt. Vernon** — P.O. Box 647, Mt. Vernon 97865. Phone: 541-932-4688. Fax: 541-932-4222. Email: cmtv@ortelco.net.
- **Prairie City** — P.O. Box 370, Prairie City 97869. Phone: 541-820-3605. Fax: 820-3566. Email: pchall@ortelco.net.
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SALEM

- **Gov. Kate Brown, D** — 254 State Capitol, Salem 97310. Phone: 503-378-3111. Fax: 503-378-6827. Website: www.governor.state.or.us/governor.html.
- **Oregon Legislature** — State Capitol, Salem, 97310. Phone: (503) 986-1180. Website: www.leg.state.or.us (includes Oregon Constitution and Oregon Revised Statutes).

- **State Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario** (District: 60), Room H-475, State Capitol, 900 Court St. N.E., Salem OR 97301. Phone: 503-986-1460. Email: rep.cliffbentz@state.or.us. Website: www.leg.state.or.us/bentz/home.htm.
- **State Sen. Ted Ferrioli, R** — (District 30) Room S-223, State Capitol, Salem 97310. Phone: 503-986-1950. Email: sen.tedferrioli@state.or.us. Email: TFER2@aol.com. Phone: 541-490-6528. Website: www.leg.state.or.us/ferrioli.
- **Oregon Legislative Information** — (For updates on bills, services, capitol or messages for legislators) — 800-332-2313.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

- **The White House**, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20500; Phone-comments: 202-456-1111; Switchboard: 202-456-1414.
- **U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D** — 516 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. Phone: 202-224-5244. Email: wayne_kinney@wyden.senate.gov Website: http://wyden.senate.gov Fax: 202-228-2717.
- **U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D** — 313 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. Phone: 202-224-3753. Email: senator@merkley.senate.gov. Fax: 202-228-3997. Oregon offices include One World Trade Center, 121 S.W. Salmon St., Suite 1250, Portland, OR 97204; and 310 S.E. Second St., Suite 105, Pendleton, OR 97801. Phone: 503-326-3386; 541-278-1129. Fax: 503-326-2990.
- **U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R** — (Second District) 1404 Longworth Building, Washington D.C. 20515. Phone: 202-225-6730. No direct email because of spam. Website: www.walden.house.gov Fax: 202-225-5774. Medford office: 14 North Central, Suite 112, Medford, OR 97501. Phone: 541-776-4646. Fax: 541-779-0204.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Impressed by John Day

To the Editor:

This is just a general note to let the residents of John Day know how much we liked John Day when passing

through and seeing it for the first time. We were very impressed with your downtown area and the friendliness of the locals!

Karen K Shrum
Redmond

Letters policy: Letters to the Editor is a forum for Blue Mountain Eagle readers to express themselves on local, state, national or world issues. Brevity is good, but longer letters will be asked to be contained to 350 words. No personal attacks; challenge the opinion, not the person. No thank-you letters. Submissions to this page become property of the Eagle. The Eagle reserves the right to edit letters for length and for content. Letters must be original and signed by the writer. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Writers should include a telephone number so they can be reached for questions. We must limit all contributors to one letter per person per month. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday. Send letters to editor@bmeagle.com, or Blue Mountain Eagle, 195 N. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845; or fax to 541-575-1244.



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