# ULTURE

## Livestock
Bill Broderick

Randy Mills, OSU Extension Agent at Pendleton, (left) discusses lambing at the Extension Lambing School at Krebs Ranch.

# Lambing School Held

Morrow and Umatilla counties Extension service sponsored the second Annual Lambing School thru Oregon State University. Dr. Don Hansen, OSU Extension Veterinarian; Randy Mills, Umatilla County Livestock agent; and Bill Broderick, Morrow County Extension agent joined together to provide classes and materials for the Lambing School participants.

The lambing school covered obstetrics, nutrition, diseases, drop pen, and general management.

The school has been well recieved in the counties, meeting the maximum limit of participants both years the school has run. Next year it looks like the school is booked full again.

The school is held each year at Henry and Skye Krebs Ranch, Ione. The Krebs, along with their hired hands, are a very valuable part of the lambing school. Much appreciation is extended to the Krebs.

Bob Adleman, SCS District Conservationist, discusses conservaton compliance at multi-agency workshop.

# Conservation Big Part of FSA

The Food Security Act of 1985 (FSA'85), otherwise known as the Farm Bill, has many provisions impacting farmers in Morrow County. There is a sodbuster provision, a conservation reserve program (CRP) provision, a conservation compliance provision, and others. Conservation compliance is the provision that anyone who farms highly erodible land (HEL) must deal with.

Conservation compliance means farmers of HEL land must reduct erosion to a level acceptable by the Soil Conservation Service in order to receive farm program benefits. In addition, they must have an approved conservation plan in effect which describes the practices necessary to control their erosion.

In an effort to help producers understand and respond to the conservation compliance provision, Extension worked with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) here to develop a series of twelve workshops. Morrow County was the first in the state to describe the needed conservation plan in these workshops.

The workshops provided producers with HEL determinations on their land and describe the process by which those determinations were made. They explained the role of each agency, and described the process of writing a conservation plan, something each producer needed to do individually.

As a result, Morrow County is on target in it's goal to have a conservation plan for all producers with HEL land by 1990.

# Beef Referendum Vote Near

Voting on the Beef Referendum will be held on May 10, at OSU Extension offices in Heppner and Irrigon. The results of the voting will determine the future of the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985 which enables the beef industry to implement a nationwide $1 per head check-off program.

Producers (including 4-H and FFA members) that owned or acquired ownership of cattle during the period of October 1, 1986 through March 31, 1988, are eligible to vote.

The Beef Promotion and Research Act enables the beef industry to implememt the $1 check-off each time cattle are sold. The funds generated from this program are used for a nationwide program on beef promotion, research, consumer information, and industry information.

All 4-H and FFA members that owned cattle during this time period are encouraged to vote on the beef referendum May 10.

# Cattle Outlook

Cattle prices have been strong through 1987. History would normally tell us to expect 1 to 2 years price advantage. If the USDA inventory reports for 1988/89 hold true, the price advantage could last even longer.

The latest USDA cattle inventory report implies a reduction in beef production in 1988 and 1989 of about 5 percent per year. Taken alone, that could be construed to mean there is extreme growth potential for live cattle and beef prices. But there are many other factors that influence prices. My best guess is that the low inventory of cattle may hold prices up for 3 years, but that won't increase price much more.

There is a negative side to this for the feedlots segment of the industry. In the past year, the break even point went up $13 per cwt. The current break even point leaves some doubt as to whether feeders can make a profit under today's conditions.

Hopefully, we can reach a point where everyone in the business can operate at a profit.