

## Conservationist offers help from wind erosion

Remember all the dust blowing last October? Soil losses from wind erosion on smooth, bare ground can add up to over 30 tons per acre per year, according to Loren Unruh, district conservationist. Soil loss from snow melt running off frozen soil can also be great, he said.

Morrow County receives 50 percent of its annual wind between September and March. This is also the period that the land has in fall planted crop has the least amount of protection. Saving ample crop residues is one of the cheapest and easiest methods of protecting crop land from erosion, especially wind erosion, said Unruh. In many parts of the county, grain and residue yields were lower than average last

year. Now is the time to plan for saving those residues and think about alternative practices to help protect your land from erosion.

How much is enough? Many of the Food Security Act (FSA) conservation plans ask for a minimum of 30 percent residue cover of 500 pounds residue per acre after planting. Luckily, 500 pounds of grain residue will protect the soils from wind at about four tons per acre per year soil loss level, from September through March. The land is generally adequately protected by growing crop the other months. Four tons per acre soil loss is below the soil loss tolerance of some soils and meets the alternative soil loss requirement of many of our FSA plans. Seven hundred pounds of residue will protect soil down to just under two tons per acre per year for this seven month period and at 1000 pounds of residue there should be well under a ton of soil loss per acre.

Another good practice for wind erosion control is to keep the land

surface as rough as possible after seeding. Using deep furrow drills with 10 to 16 inch rows leaving a furrow of three to four inches deep does this very nicely, said Unruh. This combination has good wind protection until the

rows are within 20 degrees of parallel with the wind (nearly running with the wind).

The 500-pound residue amount will also help protect soil from sheet and rill erosion by water if cross slope farming is done as a supplemental practice. The residue amounts need to be significantly more without cross slope farming. More residue and cross slope farming are both required as slopes get steeper. Subsoiling may also be used to help meet the acceptable soil loss level for a particular field or soil.

Terraces do a great job of intercepting concentrated flow erosion (large rills or small gullies) but are less effective for sheet and rill erosion unless spaced closer together than the slope length is long. Slope length is defined as the distance from where water starts to run to where it ponds up or forms a gully. Slope lengths run from 350 feet or less on 15 percent slopes up to about 550 feet on slopes of 5 percent.

In years of low straw yield it may be hard to end up with enough residue to meet the residue cover requirement in some FSA plan. Ideally, the number of tillage operations should be reduced in order to end up with the required amount of residue. "I have seen some farmers going across their fields on an ATV hand hoeing Russian thistles and other weeds in the summer fallow rather than getting on the tractor and rodweeding," said Unruh. "I admire that kind of effort to save residue, meet the requirements of the FSA plan and save some diesel fuel too. Another alternative may be to plant early, if there is adequate moisture, in order to have 30 percent or more ground cover of growing wheat by December 1. In other words substitute green cover for residue cover.

We have all heard the old saying "there is more than one way to skin a cat". The same is true of soil and water conservation, continued Unruh. There are lots of combinations of practices that can get the soil loss to the acceptable level.

"If you have a problem or just want to discuss conservation, stop in at the SCS office in Heppner or give us a call at 676-5021," Unruh added. "We will be happy to talk with you."

### WCCC Golf

#### WCCC Ladies May 19

Flight A: low gross-Eileen Padberg; low net-Anita Boyer and Jan Paustian; least putts-Barbara Gilbert; long drive-short drive-Barbara Gilbert.

Flight B: low gross-Juanita Martin; low net-Jo Pettyjohn; least putts-Carol Norris; long drive-Juanita Martin.

Flight C: low gross-Mary Beamer; low net-Dorris Graves; least putts-Lorena Jones; long drive-Lucille Massey and Linda Schultz.

#### Sunday Men's Play

Low gross: a tie for first between Ron Bowman and Howard Gilliam, 67; second-Ray Reid, Gary Watkins and Jay Straley, 70.

Low net: first-Frank Bailey, 54; second-Vic Bowman 55; third-Dave Mitchell 57; fourth-Gene Sonstegard 59; fifth-Earl Norris 60.

Long drive-George Waterland, K.P. Gary Watkins.

#### May 12

Flight A: low gross-Harriet Pierson; low net-Barbara Gilbert; least putts-Lois Hunt and Martha Peterson; chip in-#14 Martha Peterson.

Flight B: low gross-Juanita Martin; low net-Neoma Bailey and Jo Pettyjohn; least putts-Carol Norris.

Flight C: low gross-Norma French; low net-Muriel Palmer; least putts-Annie Lusher; chip in-#15 Norma French, #16 Muriel Palmer.

#### Jack and Jill Tournament May 15

Low gross: first-Frank and Neoma Bailey; second-Mike and Cindi Doherty; a tie for third, fourth and fifth-Gene and Luvilla Sonstegard, Duane and Robanai Disque, Dave and Karen Wildman; sixth-Gary and Barbara Watkins.

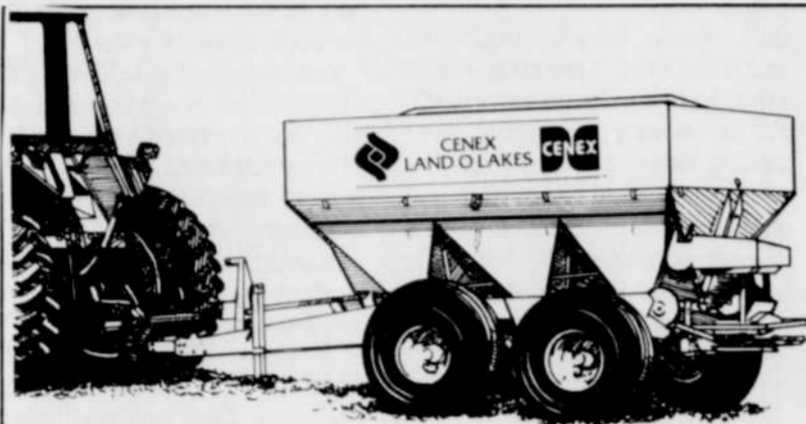
Low net: first-Wayland and Pat Hyatt; second-Craig and Debbie Gutierrez; third-Duck and Annie Lusher; a tie for fourth and fifth-Floyd and Lorena Jones and Earl and Peggy Fishburn; sixth-Earl and Carol Norris.

Special events: KP second shot #1 Dave and Karen Wildman; #4 men-Earl Fishburn, women-Neoma Bailey.

Chip ins: Reese and Linda Schultz, Dave and Karen Wildman and Eldon and Barbara Gilbert.

Other special awards went to Stan Kemp, Betty Christman, Gary and Martha Munkers and Riley and Bebe Munkers.

The children of Sue Vinson Invite everyone to help celebrate her 80th Birthday at the St. Patrick Sr. Center on June 7 from 2 to 4 p.m. Please no gifts.



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## Fishburn, Grant earn degrees

Mark Fishburn and Greg Grant will receive degrees at Oregon State University's 123rd annual commencement on Sunday, June 14. Fishburn will receive his bachelors in radiation health physics. He is the son of Earl and Peggy Fishburn. Grant will receive a master of education degree. Both are from Heppner. Ceremonies are scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. in OSU's Gill Coliseum. Philip Habib, former U.S. diplomat, will receive an

honorary doctoral degree.

The commencement will be telecast "live" throughout Oregon on the Oregon Public Broadcasting Network.

OSU president John Byrne will preside and award degrees to approximately 170 doctoral candidates, 600 master's degree candidates and 2,730 bachelor's degree candidates. Some 3,465 students are expected to earn degrees with 78 receiving two or more degrees.

## Students experience outdoors



Caleb McDaniel, Jayme Hansen and Adam Doherty perform duties at the sixth grade outdoor school held at the Tupper work center during last week.

Heppner and lone students, teachers and high school student counselors participate annually in the outdoor school.

The students have classroom time, learn outdoor skills, help clean up and eat, sleep and have fun together during the five-day experience. The weather was beautiful this year but previous years have seen rain and snow.

## Wranglers set summer playdays

The Wranglers Riding Club has set the schedule for summer playdays. Playdays will be all four Fridays in June beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Wrangler grounds in Heppner.

Age groups will remain the same as for spring playdays. Games will be barrels, poles and a committee choice. The snack shack will be open. The date for the day ride has also been tentatively set for July 18.

For more information contact Janet Greenup, 676-5822 or Judy Barber 676-5037.



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