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Miller Wheat earns Stewardship Farm of the year



The Miller family (left to right): Corey, Shanny, Marcy and Mark.

Miller Wheat, Inc., of Lexington has been named the 2000 Morrow County Wheat Growers Environmental Stewardship Farm of the Year.

Miller Wheat, Inc. consists of Mark, Shanny, Corey and Marcy Miller, and employee Rob Ashbeck. The Miller farm was started by Mark's grandfather, Harvey Miller. It was operated by Tad and Melba Miller until 1989 when they both "retired".

Tad Miller was the recipient of the Environmental Stewardship Award in 1981 and is a past president of the Oregon Wheat Growers League.

The farm is leased family land and includes leases on two other neighboring farms. The Miller farm is north and east of Lexington. The soil type is predominantly Ritzville silt loam, with Mikalo, Willis and some heavier Valby soil on the southern-most part of the farm. Soil depth averages around three and one-half feet overall. Rainfall averages of 7-11 inches on the north end of the property and 11-13 inches to the south. Conditions on the farm change from north to south. The elevation ranges from 1400 feet to 2600 feet. Much of the farm is susceptible to wind erosion, but runoff is still the biggest problem. The entire farm is terraced, with over 30 miles of graded and level terraces. Check dams are put in throughout. In the future, main drainage channels will be created to maintain control during times of high water. The terrace work is done by Corey, and the Millers take nocost share monies for that.

After 11 years CRP grass was removed on part of the farm, but grass was left in waterways and some shallow, rocky areas. The acreage that was left did not go back into the CRP program.

The farm is a trashy fallow-summer fallow operation. Depending on the year and conditions, Round-Up is applied in the spring to the stubble with two chisel plowings. Fertilizer is applied with the second plowing, then a deep rod weeding to seal the ground. The goal is to leave as much straw as possible on the ground and still be able to get the drill through it. The Millers use crawler tractors and do everything they can to conserve moisture in the soil. They have started a spring seedling program on part of the farm to help clean up the ground. Their best yield potential, however, comes from early fall seeding of winter wheat.

"Farmers' livelihoods depend upon good stewardship practices.

Annual golf scramble slated

The Oregon Wheat Foundation, Inc., has set the date for the Fourth Annual Golf Scramble fund raiser for Thursday, June 8, at Willow Creek Country Club in Heppner.

Teams will consist of foursomes with the rules of play very simple: "All golfers must possess their own clubs." Team members should pre-register with the Oregon Wheat Growers League no later than Monday, June 5. To register, simply contact the staff of the OWGL at 276-7330.

The cost to participate is \$45 per golfer or \$180 per team. Lunch is included. All team members should arrive at the Willow Creek Country Club at 9:30 a.m.

A gift certificate for three nights at the Westin Hotel in Maui will be just one of the

This award is one way to recognize wheat farmers who excel as caretakers of the land," said a Wheat Growers news release. The Miller's philosophy on environmental stewardship is to maximize resources to maintain a productive unit, protect the soil from wind and water erosion and to manage the land for future generations by using minimum tillage and good farming practices.

The Millers' philosophy has resulted in being selected the 2000 Environmental Stewardship Farm winners for Morrow County.

A potluck dinner and tour of the Miller Farm will be held Friday, June 16. The tour will start at 4 p.m., and dinner will begin at 6 p.m. Community members are invited to attend.

many prizes awarded during this event.

This year's event sponsors include: Pendleton Flour Mills; Farm Credit Services; Pioneer Implement; Columbia River Bank; Salomon Smith Barney; MK Commodities; and Novartis Crop Protection Inc.

Republican Central Committee to meet

The Morrow County Republican Central Committee will have a meeting on Thursday, June 15, at Two Marine Drive, Port of Morrow Riverfront Center at 6:30 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect new officers and fill vacant precinct seats. Anyone interested, should attend the meeting or phone Greg Smith at 676-5154.

Time for 'Music in the Parks'

Free Music in the Parks outdoor performances will be held Monday evenings in Boardman and Irrigon marina parks starting Monday, June 5.

The first program of the 2000 season on June 5 features the "easy listening" music of the Blue Mountain Community College Choir in Boardman's marina park.

"Take advantage of beautiful summer evenings along the Columbia River," said Carol Michael of the Boardman Chamber of Commerce. "Enjoy 36 wonderful voices that brought home gold and silver medals from the 2000 International Choral Music Festival held in Hawaii." Music starts at 7 p.m.

To find Music In the Parks, take the Main Street exit from Interstate 84 (exit 164), head north about 1/2 mile, then west on Marine Drive to the marina park picnic area. Everyone is invited to bring a picnic and lawn chairs to relax and enjoy the first of 12 free concerts on the banks of the Columbia River.

Music in the Parks is funded by Morrow County Unified Recreation District and Portland General Electric.

IUCC Auction this Saturday



Becky Hunt (left) and Helen Heideman show quilt that will be auctioned off during the 38th annual Lone United Church of Christ auction and barbecue this Saturday, June 3 at the Willows Grange Hall in lone.

Heideman and four others, Judy Rea, Ruth McCabe, Loa Henderson and Debbie Morgan, worked on the quilt, which is called "Floral Fancies". Activities start at 10 a.m. Saturday with the opening of the country store. Then at 10:30 the auction will begin. Items up for bid include: antiques, crafts, home-baked food items and hand made items. There will also be a snack shack and a fish pond.

At 12:30 will be the pit barbecued beef dinner costing \$6 for adults and \$3 for children 6-12. Pre-schoolers are free.

Lex Grange reschedules picnic

picnic

The Lexington Grange #726 has rescheduled their annual picnic for Sunday, July 23, at Cutsforth Cabin at 1 p.m.

June 7 last day to buy IUCC bricks



(l-r) Emily Rietmann, 10, Jannie Allen and Miranda Hunt, 11, show bricks with donors names on them that have already been received for the new Lone United Church of Christ building currently under construction in lone. Donors have until June 7 to purchase bricks with their names etched on them to be part of the construction of the church. Those who wish to order bricks may contact Allen.

Social planned for Extension candidates

Morrow County Extension and the Oregon State University Department of Crop and Soil Science invite anyone interested in dry land crops to meet the candidates for the dry land crops position in Morrow County, at a social planned Thursday, June 8,

Flood info sought

Towers Productions, Inc., of Chicago, IL, is interested in learning more about the 1903 Heppner flood and family histories about the flood.

Anyone interested in sending personal accounts, letters or photographs may contact Mauricio Paniagua, production assistant with Towers Productions, Inc., 549 W. Randolph, Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60661; (312) 993-1550, ext. 209 (or Jane Petrof, producer, ext. 121), FAX (312) 993-1533.

at the Morrow County Family Service Center (Morrow County Extension office) conference room at 7 p.m.

"This is an opportunity to meet the candidates and make recommendations to the interview committee as to whom you think best fits the Morrow County dry land crops position," said Bill Broderick OSU Morrow County Extension agent.

The candidates will make short

presentations and time will be scheduled for one-on-one and group discussion. Those attending will be encouraged to let the interview committee members know who they think will be the best person for the job.

The interview committee will continue with this process on Friday, June 9, to complete the interviews and "hopefully" select a candidate to fill the position.

State ed officials plan local visit


A training and sharing of information with John Ritter and John Pendergrass from the State Dept. of Education will be held on Wednesday, June 7, from 1-4 p.m. in the Family Service Center conference room. (above Heppner Hardware).

Local agencies dealing with youth in the educational setting are participating in the training and parents and other interested

parties are encouraged to attend. Ritter and Pendergrass will be available to answer questions.

June 5 planning comm. cancelled

The Heppner Planning Commission meeting scheduled for June 5 has been cancelled.



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