

THE ROLLING THUNDER



April 2025

SHERMAN COUNTY SWCD & WATERSHED COUNCIL

Soil & Water Conservation District

Upcoming Meetings

The next SWCD board meeting is May 13th at 8:30 am in the USDA Service Center Conference Room. The SWCD budget hearing will be held right before the meeting.



County Cost Share

The SWCD has available funding for County Cost Share (CCS) grants! CCS funds conservation projects in crop, range, and/or riparian areas. Eligible CCS projects include **cross and border fencing, haul roads, spring development, solar water development, weed treatment, range seeding, riparian restoration, and more.** Projects up to \$20,000 have a 75% cost share rate. Our completion deadline for all CCS projects is now 2 years from the date of approval. Call Taylor at 541-565-3216 ext. 110 to learn more or to apply. There is no deadline to apply. Applications are reviewed every month at SWCD board meetings.

Sherman County Area Watershed Council

Upcoming Meetings

The next Council meeting is June 10th at 8:00 am in the USDA Service Center Conference Room.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Funding Available!

We have OWEB Small Grant funding available. Sherman County has two Small Grant Areas, the Lower John Day and the Lower Deschutes. The Small Grant Program awards up to \$15,000 for on the ground restoration projects.

Eligible projects include (but are not limited to):

- Livestock and wildlife water developments
- Range seeding
- Riparian planting
- In-stream restoration
- Cross fence
- Cropland erosion control



How to Reach Us



USDA Service Center
2004 First Street, Moro, OR
(Open Monday through Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm)



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Farm Service Agency (FSA)



Upcoming Deadlines:

- **ARCPLC** (Agricultural Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage): 2025 Sign up runs through **April 15, 2025**.
- **ECAP** (Emergency Commodity Assistance Program): Applies to commodity crops, please see full article below. Deadline to apply for 2024 benefits is **August 15, 2025**.
- **MAL** (Marketing Assistance Loan): **March 31, 2025** is the deadline to request marketing assistance loans for 2024 wheat.

Spring Acreage Reporting deadline: July 15, 2025 for all Spring Seeded crops

FSA Accepting Applications for the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) Through August 15th

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins, on National Agriculture Day, announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is issuing up to \$10 billion directly to agricultural producers through the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) for the 2024 crop year. Administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), ECAP will help agricultural producers mitigate the impacts of increased input costs and falling commodity prices.

Authorized by the American Relief Act, 2025, these economic relief payments are based on planted and prevented planted crop acres for eligible commodities for the 2024 crop year. To streamline and simplify the delivery of ECAP, FSA will begin sending pre-filled applications to producers who submitted acreage reports to FSA for 2024 eligible ECAP commodities soon after the sign-up period opens on March 19, 2025. Producers do not have to wait for their pre-filled ECAP application to apply. They can visit fsa.usda.gov/ecap to apply using a login.gov account or contact their local FSA office to request an application once the sign-up period opens.

Eligible Commodities and Payment Rates

The commodities below are eligible for these per-acre payment rates:

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wheat - \$30.69• Corn - \$42.91• Sorghum -\$42.52• Barley - \$21.67• Oats - \$77.66• Upland cotton & Extra-long staple cotton - \$84.74• Long & medium grain rice - \$76.94• Peanuts - \$75.51• Soybeans - \$29.76• Dry Peas - \$16.02• Lentils - \$19.30• Small Chickpeas - \$31.45• Large Chickpeas - \$24.02 | Eligible Oilseeds <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canola -\$31.83• Crambe - \$19.08• Flax - \$20.97• Mustard - \$11.36• Rapeseed - \$23.63• Safflower - \$26.32• Sesame - \$16.83• Sunflower - \$27.23 |
|---|--|

Producer Eligibility

Eligible producers must report 2024 crop year planted and prevented planted acres to FSA on an FSA-578, *Report of Acreage* form. Producers who have not previously reported 2024 crop year acreage or filed a notice of loss for prevented planted crops must submit an acreage report by the **Aug. 15, 2025, deadline**. Eligible producers can visit fsa.usda.gov/ecap for eligibility and payment details.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) Continued

Applying for ECAP

Producers must submit ECAP applications to their local FSA county office by **Aug. 15, 2025**. Only one application is required for all ECAP eligible commodities nationwide. ECAP applications can be submitted to FSA in-person, electronically using [Box and One-Span](#), by fax or by applying online at fsa.usda.gov/ecap utilizing a secure login.gov account.

If not already on file for the 2024 crop year, producers must have the following forms on file with FSA:

[Form AD-2047](#), *Customer Data Worksheet*.

[Form CCC-901](#), *Member Information for Legal Entities* (if applicable).

[Form CCC-902](#), *Farm Operating Plan* for an individual or legal entity.

- Form CCC 943, *75 percent of Average Gross Income from Farming, Ranching, or Forestry Certification* (if applicable).
[AD-1026](#), *Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification*.
[SF-3881](#), *Direct Deposit*.

Except for the new CCC-943, most producers, especially those who have previously participated in FSA programs, likely have these forms on file. However, those who are uncertain and want to confirm the status of their forms or need to submit the new Form-943, can contact their [local FSA county office](#). If a producer does not receive a pre-filled ECAP application, and they planted or were prevented from planting ECAP eligible commodities in 2024, they should contact their [local FSA office](#).

ECAP Payments and Calculator

ECAP payments will be issued as applications are approved. Initial ECAP payments will be factored by 85% to ensure that total program payments do not exceed available funding. If additional funds remain, FSA may issue a second payment. ECAP assistance will be calculated using a flat payment rate for the eligible commodity multiplied by the eligible reported acres. Payments are based on acreage and not production. For acres reported as prevented plant, ECAP assistance will be calculated at 50%. For ECAP payment estimates, producers are encouraged to visit fsa.usda.gov/ecap to use the ECAP online calculator. **Please call the Sherman County FSA office if you have any questions at 541-565-3551 ext 2.**

Enroll in ARC/PLC by April 15, 2025

Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting enrollments and elections for the [Agriculture Risk Coverage \(ARC\) and Price Loss Coverage \(PLC\)](#) for 2025 from Jan. 21 to **April 15**. ARC and PLC provide financial protections to farmers from substantial drops in crop prices or revenues and are vital economic safety nets for most American farms. The American Relief Act, 2025 extended many Farm Bill-authorized programs for another year, including ARC and PLC.

Producers can elect coverage and enroll in ARC-County (ARC-CO) or PLC, which provide crop-by-crop protection, or ARC-Individual (ARC-IC), which protects the entire farm. Although election changes for 2025 are optional, producers must enroll through a signed contract each year. Also, if a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm it will continue for 2025 unless an election change is made.

If producers do not submit their election revision by the April 15 deadline, their election remains the same as their 2024 election for commodities on the farm from the prior year. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the cropland.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

USDA also reminds producers that ARC and PLC elections and enrollments can impact eligibility for some crop insurance products including Supplemental Coverage Option, Enhanced Coverage Option and, for cotton producers, the Stacked Income Protection Plan (commonly referred to as STAX).

For more information on ARC and PLC, producers can visit the [ARC and PLC webpage](#) or schedule your appointment at the Sherman County FSA office at 541-565-3551 ext. 2.

Watershed Education Incentive Program

The Watershed Education Incentive Program is to provide financial resources for local conservation education including workshops, demonstrations and youth conservation projects; to provide technical resources for implementation of education projects that will benefit Sherman County residents and resources; and to assist with worthwhile projects that don't fit traditional funding sources.

Applicants can apply for up to \$2,000. Past grants have included greenhouse projects, field trips, 4-H camp, tree planting, chick hatching projects, and more! Call us at 541-565-3216 for more information or to apply.

All of the SWCD's education outreach this winter was made possible thanks to a generous grant from **Oregon Community Foundation** and **Roundhouse Foundation**. The homeschool programs are in conjunction with **Sherman County Prevention**

Enviroscape Watershed Model

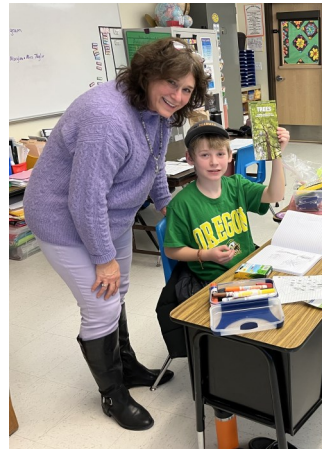
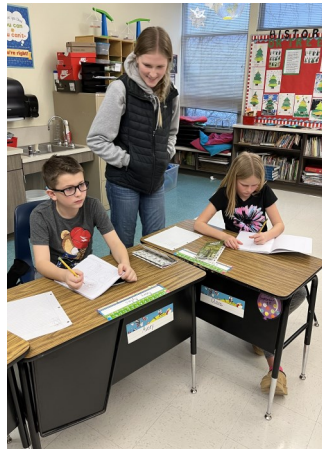
Grades K-5 in both Sherman County School and homeschool used this interactive model to learn about the importance of protecting our waterways from various forms of pollution.



Christmas Tree Ag Presentation, 4th Grade



The SWCD staff was invited to Mrs. Wambold's classroom in January. Taylor created a PowerPoint showing how Christmas trees are planted, grown, and harvested in Oregon. The students sketched needles and branches from the four main types of Christmas trees from the PowerPoint.



NACD Poster Contest "May the Forest Be with You Always"



Each year the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) holds a poster contest for students in grades K-12. The contest begins locally, advances to state levels, and national winners are recognized at NACD's annual meeting. We are excited to announce that Elizabeth Burgess from Sherman County placed 2nd in the 10-12 grade category!

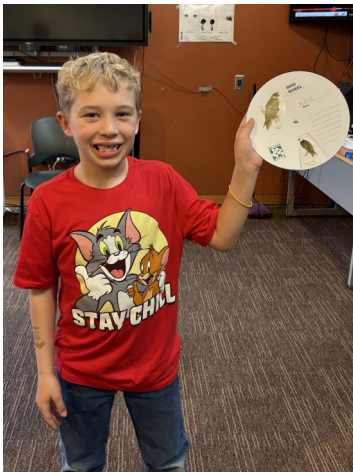
Owl Activities and Pellet Dissection



Sherman County School 4th and 5th graders and homeschool students learned about owls and dissected owl pellets. They were able to identify bones from shrews, moles, and mice. Thank you to Mrs. Nelson (Specials teacher), Theron Taylor (NRCS), Cathy M., and high school senior Bailey Coelsch for helping the students with this activity.

Birds of the Northwest

Grades K-2 learned about birds commonly found in Oregon. Bailey Coelsch created a PowerPoint for our lesson and the students made their own "Birds of the Northwest" wheels. Thank you to Mrs. Nelson, Theron (NRCS), and Bailey Coelsch for helping the students with this activity.



Kids in the Garden



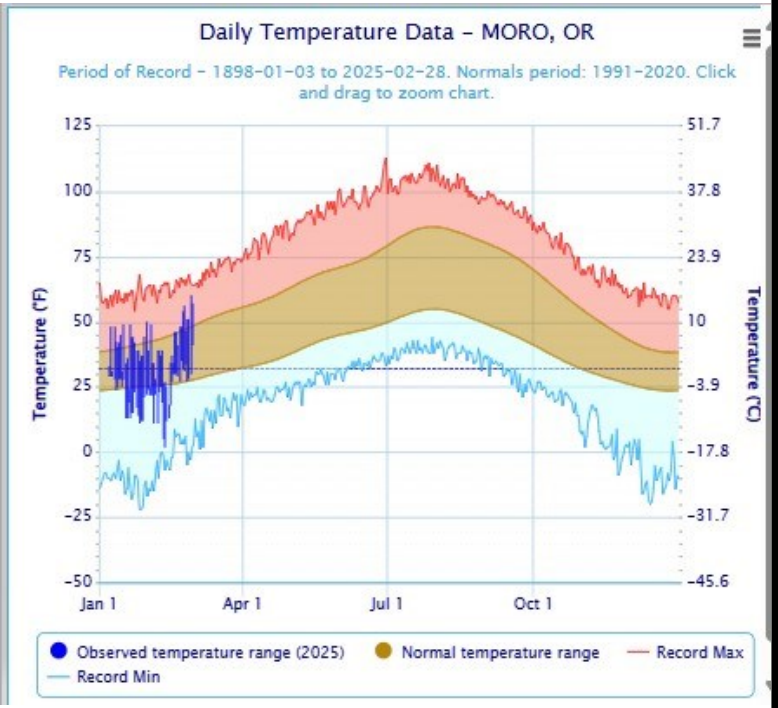
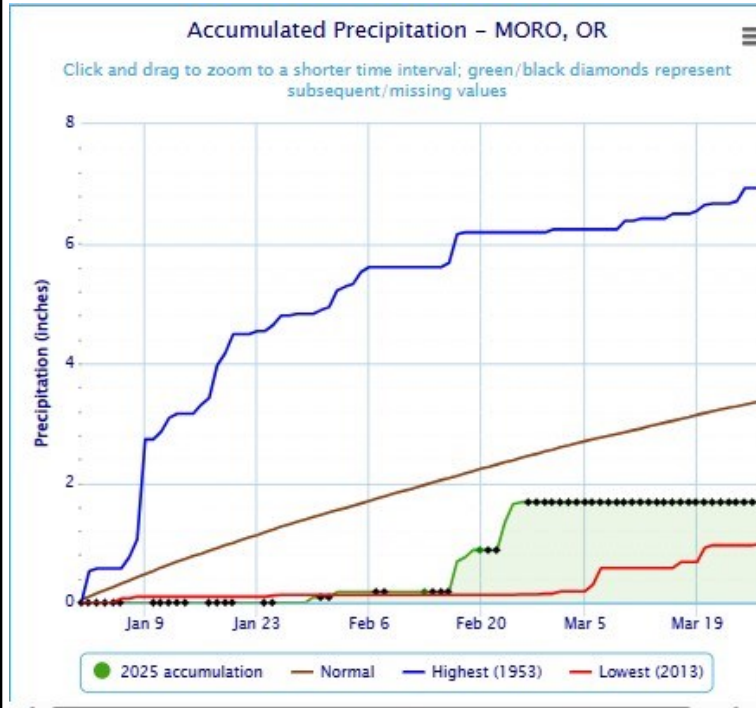
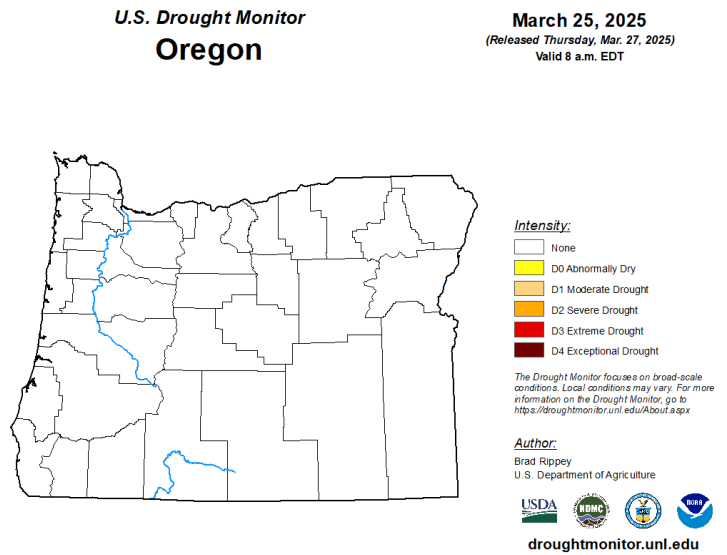
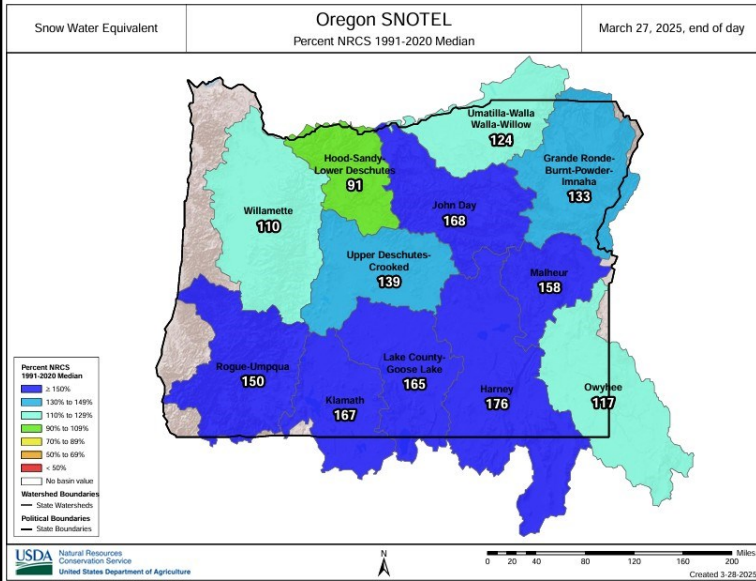
Cindy Brown joined the SWCD and Prevention for March's homeschool conservation lesson, held at OSU Extension. Activities included jar soil experiments, decorating recycled bags, and garden planning with everyone's favorite fruits and vegetables. Thank you to Cindy for the fun garden lesson with the kids and the great gardening advice for the adults! Thank you to Prevention for providing beautiful give-away books to the students.

Odds and Ends

Range Drill

The SWCD's Range Drill is available for landowners/operators to rent. It's primary function is to be able to accurately apply grass seed to rangeland areas that are too difficult for standard equipment, but it can be used to enhance existing pastures, improve decadent grass stands, or establish food plots. The drill is capable of applying any size of grass or grain seed at a 10 ft width on 12 inch spacing. It weighs approximately 4,000 lbs and is capable of being pulled with a standard three quarter ton pickup over most moderate terrain. If you would like to rent the range drill call the office (541-565-3216) to make an appointment.

Moro Weather



Conservation For Kids Homeschool Program

The SWCD and Sherman County Prevention have teamed up to bring "Conservation for Kids" to homeschoolers in grades K-5! Our free monthly lessons include activities and take-home projects.

Next program:

"Beaver Dam Challenge"
Grass Valley Baptist Church
April 22nd at 10:00am



To sign up, please provide names and grades of students who are attending.

Call: 541-565-3216
Text: 541-705-5161
or email: shermancount-

**The Oregon Community Foundation and The Roundhouse Foundation provided funds for this program*

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Are you interested in showcasing your business cards in our newsletter?

Advertisements are \$20 per issue or \$75 for the year! Issues are dispersed quarterly. For those of you who previously advertised, if you haven't renewed don't get left out! Call our office today!



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~ CONSERVATION CALENDAR ~

April 22: Homeschool Conservation Class @ Grass Valley Baptist Church, 10:00am

May 13: SWCD Budget Hearing, 8:30am

May 13: SWCD Regular Board Meeting, 8:30am

May 26: Memorial Day Holiday, office closed

June 10: Sherman County Area Watershed Council Regular Board Meeting, 8:00am

June 10: SWCD Regular Board Meeting, 8:30am

~ BOARD & STAFF ~

SWCD Staff

Amanda Whitman, District Manager
Marylou Martin, Office Assistant
Taylor Bullock, Watershed Technician & Coordinator

NRCS Staff

Misty Strayhorn, District Conservationist
Becky Hilderbrand, Conservation Technician
Theron Taylor, Conservation Technician
Michael Cistulli, Resource Conservationist

Sherman County SWCD Board of Directors

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Brian Simantel, Treasurer
Nick von Borstel, Secretary
Ryan Thompson, Member

"The first blooms of spring aways make my heart sing"- S. Brown

We're on the Web! Don't forget to check us out for current news! www.shermancountyswcd.com

We're also on Facebook @ Sherman County SWCD

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