

Volume 21, Issue 1

October 2020



SHERMAN COUNTY SWCD & WATERSHED COUNCIL

The Rolling Thunder

Soil & Water Conservation District

Upcoming Meetings

The next SWCD District Board Meeting is Tuesday October 13th, 8:00 am at the OSU Extension conference room.



County Cost Share

The SWCD has county cost share grants available! County cost share funds conservation projects on crop, range, and/or riparian areas. Eligible projects include haul roads, terrace reshape, spring development, solar water development, herbaceous weed treatment, range seeding, riparian vegetation planting, riparian restoration, and more. Projects up to \$10,000 have a 75% cost share rate and projects \$10,001-\$15,000 have a 50% cost share rate. Projects must be completed within 1 year and a producer/entity can only be awarded 3 grants in 5 years. Call the SWCD office at 541-565-3216 ext 5 to learn more or apply. There is no deadline to apply and applications are reviewed every month at SWCD board meetings.

Rain Barrel Program



The SWCD will be installing a rain barrel at the Sherman County Fairground Office for public viewing. Soon we will start offering a cost share program to help homeowners get one for themselves! Rain barrels are great ways to reduce home runoff and collect water for plants or vegetables. While we don't get much water in the summer, roofs collect a surprising amount of water in those rare rainstorms. For instance, a 500 square foot roof will collect 78 gallons with just a quarter inch of rainfall. Call Taryn at 541-565-3216 ext 106 to learn more.

Sherman County Area Watershed Council

Upcoming Meetings

The next Watershed Council Meeting is Tuesday December 8th, 8:00 am, location TBD



SCAWC

Sherman County Area Watershed Council



Thank you OYCC!

We had a great few days working with the Sherman County Oregon Youth Conservation Corps. They helped the Watershed Council and SWCD pull puncturevine at McDonald's Ferry on the John Day River and did an annual clean up at the SWCD nursery. They pulled 13 garbage bags of puncturevine!

Be careful where you park and check your tires and shoes if you go to McDonald's Ferry. There is still lots of puncturevine and we want to avoid flat tires and spreading the seeds around the county.

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Puncturevine seed

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Staff Changes



The Sherman County USDA office is sad to say goodbye to NRCS's Emily Huth. She will be continuing her work as a Soil Conservationist with our NRCS neighbors to the west in Parkdale, OR. Thank you, Emily, for all of your hard work - you will be missed!

We would like to welcome Morgaine Riggins to the office! She will be taking over Emily's position as a Soil Conservationist. Morgaine is from Northwest Washington and has lived in Oregon for the last 9 years. She graduated from Oregon Tech in Klamath Falls with a B.S. in Environmental Sciences. Before starting her position with the NRCS, Morgaine was a botany tech, snowboard instructor, field tech, chainsaw conservation crew member, and watershed corps member. Her jobs have taken her to Wisconsin, Montana, and Utah, but she is very excited to be back in Oregon which has always felt like home. She looks forward to working with everyone and getting to know Sherman County!



Lower Deschutes Wildfire Restoration and Prevention

The SWCD and NRCS staff are writing an Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) to address wildfire restoration and prevention in the Lower Deschutes region. Please contact us if you are interested in implementing any of the conservation practices below in the next few years. Gauging interest helps us to write a stronger application. The more interest we hear, the more funding we can get for the county.

Contact Emily at 541-565-3216 ext 101 or Amanda at 541-565-3216 ext 109 if you are interested in implementing or learning more about any of the following practices in the Lower Deschutes region!

Included Conservation Practices:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brush Management• Weed Treatment• Critical Area Planting• Fuel Break• Field Border• Firebreak• Wildlife Habitat Planting | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Livestock Pipeline• Fence• Prescribed Grazing• Range Planting• Access Road• Heavy Use Area Protection• Spring Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tree/Shrub Establishment• Watering Facility• Water Catchment• Water Well• Riparian and In-stream Habitat Restoration• Upland Wildlife Habitat Management Structures |
|--|---|--|



Tree and Shrub Establishment



Bottomless trough

Lower Deschutes Cooperative Weed Management Agency

Be on the lookout for Rush skeletonweed, Whitetop, Scotch Thistle, and other noxious weed rosettes. Rosettes of various noxious weed species have been spotted for a few weeks now on the Lower Deschutes River meaning fall applications should be well underway. Herbicide treatments on the Lower Deschutes River have been on-going since spring, but with the recent appearance of rosettes, follow up treatments from earlier this year will become more precise.

In addition to other influxes of noxious weed species, Puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris*), has really seemed to increase in density within the Lower Deschutes River corridor this year. Multiple treatment efforts from Sherars Bridge to the mouth have been waged and a continuation of such efforts is planned for the future. Herbicide treatments coupled with some out-reach efforts is proving to be effective, but it will be a long “spikey” road for some time to come, proceed with caution. Most recently, through the generous assistance and contributions from ODA, USDA APHIS, and Colorado Department of Agriculture, 100 Puncturevine Weevils will be released on the Lower Deschutes River with the intention of having them colonize and become a nursery site where they could be collected and distributed to other entities within the County, the State, and beyond. Having a biological control agent working on this pest when we can’t is an amazing opportunity. Here’s hoping they proliferate, and quickly.



Puncturevine weevil, Microlarinus lareynii. The weevil eats seeds, helping to slow down the population spread.

Successful treatments abound, but one with spectacular results from just a couple treatments made in 2019 really stands out. Homestead was riddled with large Rush skeletonweed plants when we first arrived in early June 2019. After a couple days, and the hard work efforts of some of the partnering agencies, the results speak for themselves. Notice the non-existence of the Rush skeletonweed plants in the 2020 photo.



In August 2020 during a float trip with volunteers to check the vegetative monitor sites only accessible by raft, it was amazing to see this kind of result that frequently comes from the continued efforts of those involved on the Lower Deschutes Project. As the season winds down, let us look forward to many more success stories from the field and more.

Stay tuned for updates on the Puncturevine Weevils and other happenings from the Lower Deschutes River. As always, your feedback, questions, comments, and concerns are always welcomed.

Dan Son
Program Manager
Lower Deschutes CWMA
Email: dson@shermancounty.net
Phone: 503.858.4191

Farm Service Agency

FSA Deadlines and Important Dates:

- **September 21 – December 11: CFAP2** Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (wheat is now eligible)
- **October PAYMENTS:** Look for annual CRP payments and ARC/PLC payments to start flowing into your bank accounts in early October.
- **October 16, 2020: ECP** - FSA reminds ECP participants to turn in receipts and completion status of fences burned in the 2018 wildfires.
- **November 2020: County Committee Election** - Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 is up for election this year.
- **December 15, 2020: Acreage Reporting for 2021 is available. Please make an appointment to report your planting dates and crops once you have completed seeding.**



CFAP2 - USDA to Provide Additional Direct Assistance to Farmers and Ranchers Impacted by the Coronavirus

USDA announced up to an additional \$14 billion for agricultural producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19. Signup for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP 2) will begin September 21 and run through December 11, 2020.

Producers can apply for CFAP 2 at USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices. This program provides financial assistance that gives producers the ability to absorb increased marketing costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Producers will be compensated for ongoing market disruptions and assisted with the associated marketing costs.

CFAP 2 payments will be made for three categories of commodities – Price Trigger Commodities, Flat-rate Crops and Sales Commodities.

Price Trigger Commodities

Price trigger commodities are major commodities that meet a minimum 5-percent price decline over a specified period of time. Eligible price trigger crops include barley, corn, sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers, upland cotton, and ***all classes of wheat***. **Payments will be based on 2020 planted acres of the crop**, excluding prevented planting and experimental acres. Payments for price trigger crops will be the greater of: 1) the eligible acres multiplied by a payment rate of \$15 per acre; or 2) the eligible acres multiplied by a nationwide crop marketing percentage, multiplied by a crop-specific payment rate, and then by **the producer's weighted 2020 Actual Production History (APH) approved yield**. If the APH is not available, 85 percent of the 2019 Agriculture Risk Coverage-County Option (ARC-CO) benchmark yield for that crop will be used. **NOTE: We do NOT need you to turn in your production or yield information, RMA should have all of this information loaded in our system if you purchased insurance in 2020.**

For broilers and eggs, payments will be based on 75 percent of the producers' 2019 production.

Dairy (cow's milk) payments will be based on actual milk production from April 1 to Aug. 31, 2020. The milk production for Sept. 1, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020, will be estimated by FSA.

Eligible beef cattle, hogs and pigs, and lambs and sheep payments will be based on the maximum owned inventory of eligible livestock, excluding breeding stock, on a date selected by the producer, between Apr. 16, 2020, and Aug. 31, 2020.

Flat-rate Crops Crops that either do not meet the 5-percent price decline trigger or do not have data available to calculate a price change will have payments calculated based on eligible 2020 acres multiplied by \$15 per acre. These crops include alfalfa, extra long staple (ELS) cotton, oats, peanuts, rice, hemp, millet, mustard, safflower, sesame, triticale, rapeseed, and several others.

Continued on next page

Farm Service Agency continued

Sales Commodities Sales commodities include specialty crops; aquaculture; nursery crops and floriculture; other commodities not included in the price trigger and flat-rate categories, including tobacco; goat milk; mink (including pelts); mohair; wool; and other livestock (excluding breeding stock) not included under the price trigger category that were grown for food, fiber, fur, or feathers. Payment calculations will use a sales-based approach, where producers are paid based on five payment gradations associated with their 2019 sales.

Eligibility

There is a payment limitation of \$250,000 per person or entity for all commodities combined. Applicants who are corporations, limited liability companies, or limited partnerships may qualify for additional payment limits when members actively provide personal labor or personal management for the farming operation. In addition, this special payment limitation provision has been expanded to include trusts and estates for both CFAP 1 and 2.

Producers will also have to certify they meet the Adjusted Gross Income limitation of \$900,000 unless at least 75 percent or more of their income is derived from farming, ranching or forestry-related activities. Producers must also be in compliance with Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions.

Price trigger commodities and the rates are:

Commodity	Unit	Crop Marketing Percent-	Payment Rate (\$/unit)
Barley	bu	63	\$0.54
Sunflowers	lb	44	0.02
Wheat (all classes)	bu	73	0.54

**Crop payment =reported acres times yield times standard crop marketing percentage times payment rate.

Livestock	Unit	Universe	Payment Rate (\$/unit)
Broilers	head	75% of 2019 broiler sales	\$1.01
Beef Cattle	head	Lesser of producer selected maximum inventory or 4,546 head	\$55.00
Hogs and Pigs	head	Lesser of producer selected maximum inventory or 10,870 head	\$23.00
Lambs and Sheep	head	Producer selected maxi-	\$27.00

Flat rate commodities are paid \$15 per acre based on their 2020 planted acres and include: alfalfa, canola, triticale, hemp, safflower, oats, rapeseed.

Removal of Breeding Stock

Breeding stock such as cows, bulls, sows, boars, ewes, and rams are not eligible for CFAP 2. Culled cows are not eligible for CFAP 2.

Additional commodities are eligible in CFAP 2 that weren't eligible in the first iteration of the program. If your agricultural operation has been impacted by the pandemic since April 2020, we encourage you to apply for CFAP 2. Call our office at 541-565-3551 x 2 to get on the list for us to run your application. Remember you still need an appointment to come in. A complete list of eligible commodities, payment rates and calculations can be found on farmers.gov/cfap.

Experiment Station Weather

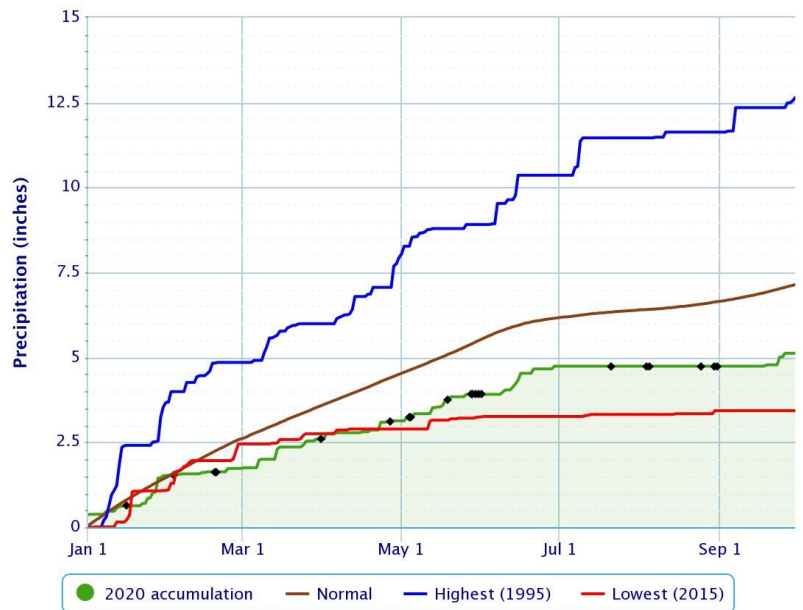
Air Temperature

Month	Highest Temp °F	Average High	Lowest Temp °F	Average Low
June	96	71	35	48
July	101	79	41	51
August	95	86	42	52
September	95	81	34	49

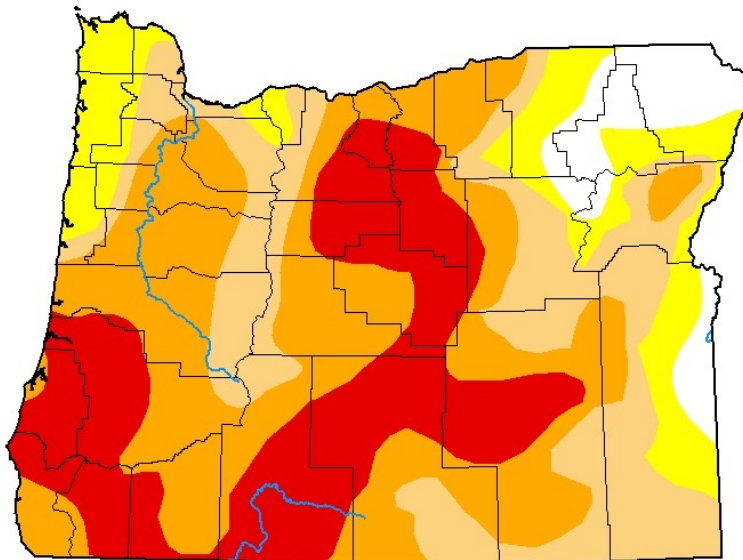
Soil Temperature

Month	4" Average Max Temp °F	4" Average Min Temp °F	12" Average Temp °F
June	77	68	65
July	85	76	72
August	87	78	76
September	76	69	68

Accumulated Precipitation



Oregon Drought Monitor



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Plant Spotlight: Narrow leaf Milkweed

Narrow leaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) is a native perennial plant used by many butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. Milkweed is the only plant that monarch butterflies will lay their eggs and monarch caterpillars only eat milkweed. Eating the sap also makes the caterpillars poisonous to other animals. Humans use milkweed for fiber and medicine.

Milkweed is best to plant in the fall in the ground. The seeds germinate best after exposure to three months of cold. Seeds are naturally wind blown but can be collected and planted. Milkweed is pest resistant and drought tolerant. Milkweed naturally dies back in the winter and may get eaten by monarch caterpillars in the summer so it's generally not the centerpiece of a garden. Plant milkweed in large clumps; young caterpillars drop to the ground when threatened and have a hard time finding their way back to plants unless the plants are close together.

Monarch populations are declining due to habitat loss and loss of milkweed in the US. You can help stop this decline by planting milkweed in your yard, at your church, at your school, etc! Monarchs migrate from Mexico to Canada every year but no single monarch makes the whole journey itself. It usually takes four generations of monarchs to complete the whole migration. Generation 1 leaves Mexico and lays their eggs in the Southern US. Generation 2 lays its eggs in the Northern US or Canada and then the pattern is reversed.



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~ CONSERVATION CALENDAR ~

October 12: Columbus Day, Office Closed

October 13: SWCD Board Meeting, 8:30 am

October 21: OSU Sherman County Grazing Management Conversation, 12:30pm, virtual, register at beav.es/oMC

November 10: SWCD Board Meeting, 8:30 am

November 11: Veterans Day, Office Closed

November 26: Thanksgiving, Office Closed

December 1: Oregon Wheat League Annual Meeting, Virtual

December 8: Watershed Council Board Meeting, 8 am

December 8: SWCD Board Meeting, 8:30 am

December 24-25: Christmas, Office Closed

January 1: New Years, Office Closed



~ BOARD & STAFF ~

SWCD Staff

Amanda Whitman, District Manager

Emily Freilich, Watershed Coordinator

Taryn Asmus, Watershed Technician

NRCS Staff

DelRae Ferguson, District Conservationist

Morgaine Riggins, Soil Conservationist

Sherman County SWCD Board of Directors

Jesse Stutzman, Chair

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Clint Moore, Treasurer

Thad Eakin, Secretary

Trevor Fields, Member

“I wish that every day was Saturday and every month was October.”
- Charmaine Forde

We have a website and Facebook! Check them out for current news!

shermancountyswcd.com - shermancountywc.com

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