

Volume 19, Issue 5

November 2019



SHERMAN COUNTY SWCD & WATERSHED COUNCIL

The Rolling Thunder

Soil & Water Conservation District

Upcoming Meetings

The next SWCD District Board Meeting is Tuesday November 12 at the SWCD Office, 8:30 am, 302 Scott Street, Moro, OR 97039.



Staff Changes

We would like to thank Jacob Powell for his great work as the Watershed Council Coordinator. We wish him well as the OSU Extension Agent for Sherman and Wasco Counties! Emily Freilich is now the Watershed Council Coordinator.

Job Opening

We have a position open for the Watershed Program Assistant. The Watershed Program Assistant executes day to day grant management, field work, outreach, education, and administrative tasks for both the SWCD and Watershed Council. For more information about the position and how to apply, visit the SWCD website: shermancountyswcd.com.



Tree Sale

The annual SWCD tree sale will take place in March 2020. Start looking for places for your trees! We will be selling native trees at great prices. Look out for more information on the species and the date of the sale.

Sherman County Area Watershed Council

Upcoming Meetings

The next Watershed Council Meeting will be held Tuesday December 10th, 2019 at 8:00 am at the SWCD Office.



Small Grant Funding

Do you want to improve the health of your crop, range, or riparian areas? Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) small grant funding is now available! Cost share is 75% for projects under \$10,000 and 50% for projects that exceed \$10,000 with a \$15,000 cap. Once funded participants have two years to complete projects. Projects are approved monthly at the SWCD board meetings. If you have a project in mind or any questions, visit us at the SWCD office in Moro or call 541-565-3216 ext 101.

Hatchery Field Trip

The Sherman County fifth graders went on their annual field trip to the Oak Springs Hatchery on October 8th! They learned how fish are sorted at the hatchery, saw how eggs are incubated, got to dissect a few trout. It was a wet and fun day for the students and the chaperones. We brought back 250 eggs for the first graders to hatch in their classroom. They are learning about trout lifecycle and water quality. They will be releasing the trout fry into a local pond. Thank you to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for hosting us!

Photo: collecting the eggs from a female trout



Contents

Service Center Updates	1-3
Mustard Talk	3
Water Quality Monitoring	3
Experiment Station Weather	4
Critter Spotlight: Convergent Lady Beetle	5
Local Advertisements	5
Conservation Calendar	6



Farm Service Agency



Call Ahead and Make an Appointment

As soon as you have completed your fall seeding, call the FSA office at 541-565-3551 ext 2 and make an appointment to report your fall seeded crops and make your 2019 ARC/PLC Elections. We will be very busy this fall with new ARC/PLC elections, yield updates and acreage reporting. To better serve you, we ask that you call ahead to make an appointment.

Report 2020 Farm Operation Changes Timely

FSA is asking that if you have 2020 changes to your Farming Operation or ownership, please report these to FSA at the time of Fall Acreage Reporting. Do not wait until next spring to make changes. If someone has passed away or an entity is changing we will need supporting documentation, estate paperwork, trust documentation, updated LLC or partnership papers, **updated deeds, written leases** etc as soon as you have them available. If you are making any operator changes, please also check in with NRCS to be sure that your contracts will not be affected adversely.

ARCPLC 2018 Farm Bill Election And Enrollment

The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC). Elections and enrollment for 2019 ARCPLC will begin on **September 3, 2019**. The 2020 enrollment and yield updates will begin in **October of 2019**.

Participants can elect PLC, ARC-CO, or ARC-IC programs. The election made for 2019 will also be effective for 2020. Producers will have the opportunity to reelect thereafter in each year from 2021 through 2023.

Failure to make or agree to a unanimous election in 2019 for a covered commodity results in a default program designation of the current election of the covered commodity on the farm from 2018 and prohibits any 2019 payments for the covered commodity. **ALL signatures for 2019 Election and Enrollment must be received by March 15, 2020. NO Late File Elections will be accepted by FSA. All signatures for 2020 Enrollment must be received by June 30, 2020.**

The farm owner can update the PLC program payment yield in 2020 for:

- ALL covered commodities. Based on 90 percent of the **farm's 2013 through 2017 average yield per planted acre**, excluding any year that no acreage was planted to the covered commodity, multiplied by a National ratio. If the yield in any of the years 2013 through 2017 is less than 75 percent of the county yield, then 75 percent of the 2013 through 2017 county yield will be substituted for that year.
- **IF you wish to update your PLC Yields on the farm, you must complete the PLC Yield Update Form CCC-867 for each farm. PLEASE NOTE: FSA will not be accepting any production information or calculating your yields on your farms. Please complete the form and turn it in to the FSA office and we will then compute your new PLC yield. You will then have to make the decision to update or retain the current PLC yield.**

Vote in Sherman County Committee Elections

The 2019 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections will begin Nov. 4, when ballots are mailed to eligible voters. The deadline to return the ballots to local FSA offices, or to be postmarked, is Dec. 2, 2019. Eligible voters in local administrative area **LAA 1 (Area North of Baseline Rd includes the communities of Wasco, Rufus and Biggs) is open for election**, who do not receive a ballot can obtain one from their local USDA Service Center. Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2020. The candidates in this year's election are: Jon Simantel is nominated in LAA 1, Sherman County, to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. Simantel resides in Wasco and has produced Wheat for many years in Sherman and Gilliam County. He is currently an active member of Sherman County FSA Committee and has served as Chair, Vice Chair and voting member over the past 6 years.

Important Dates to Remember

- **HAPPENING NOW – December 6: 2019 Market Facilitation Program Sign Up**
- **September 3, 2019 – March 15, 2020: 2019 ARCPLC Election and Enrollment**
- **September 11, 2019 – 2018/2019 Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+) Sign-up Began. Please call our office if you had wheat burn in 2018 due to local wildfires.**
- **November 4 – December 2: Farm Service Agency County Committee Election period – LAA 1 Nomination Jon Simantel**
- **November 11, 2019: Federal Holiday – USDA Service Center will be closed**
- **November 28, 2019 : Federal Holiday – USDA Service Center will be closed**

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Environmental Quality Incentive Program Grant Opportunities

Farmers and ranchers interested in financial and technical assistance for conservation measures on their working lands should think about applying for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding for Federal fiscal year 2020. No application deadline has been set yet, but we expect it to be in early Spring.



One funding pool is for landowners within the Pine Hollow/Jackknife Watersheds. This includes property in Sherman and Wasco Counties. The primary practices to be cost shared will be juniper removal, livestock water developments, cross fence, range seeding, and prescribed grazing.



The second funding pool includes all expiring CRP acres within Sherman and Wasco Counties. The primary focus of this project will be to make vegetative and infrastructure improvements on recently expired CRP acres to maintain perennial grass stands and facilitate livestock grazing. The primary practices to be cost shared will be livestock water developments, fence, fuel/fire breaks, prescribed grazing, herbaceous weed control, and range planting.

Applications that address local conservation priorities are evaluated and ranked for funding. The number of applications funded will be based on ranking and available 2018 Farm Bill funding.

Interested parties should contact DelRae Ferguson or Emily Huth at the Moro USDA-NRCS service center located at 302 Scott St. to apply or call 541-565-3551 extension 102 (DelRae) or extension 108 (Emily).



Understanding Our Streams

The Sherman County Area Watershed Council is interested in doing water quality monitoring again and establishing a long-term monitoring program. Monitoring helps all of us understand how the conservation practices improve the water quality and where we can continue to take beneficial actions. It helps us celebrate the work that we all have been doing and show our progress to ourselves and outside agencies. We will be measuring temperature, turbidity (a measure of the cloudiness of the water), and pH.



These measures are important for assessing the quality of the water for aquatic life and human health. The water quality monitoring is not intended to give information on what is happening on one property but rather reflect the conditions of the watershed as a whole. **If you are interested in hosting a water quality monitoring station on your property, please contact Emily Freilich, Watershed Council Coordinator, at 541-565-3216 ext 101 or email at emily.freilich@or.nacdnet.net.**

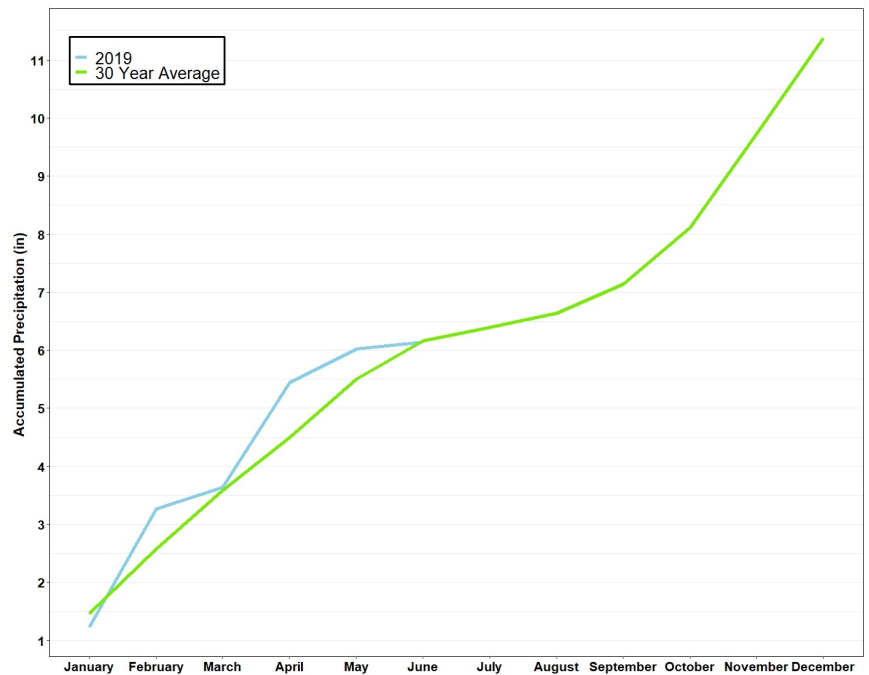
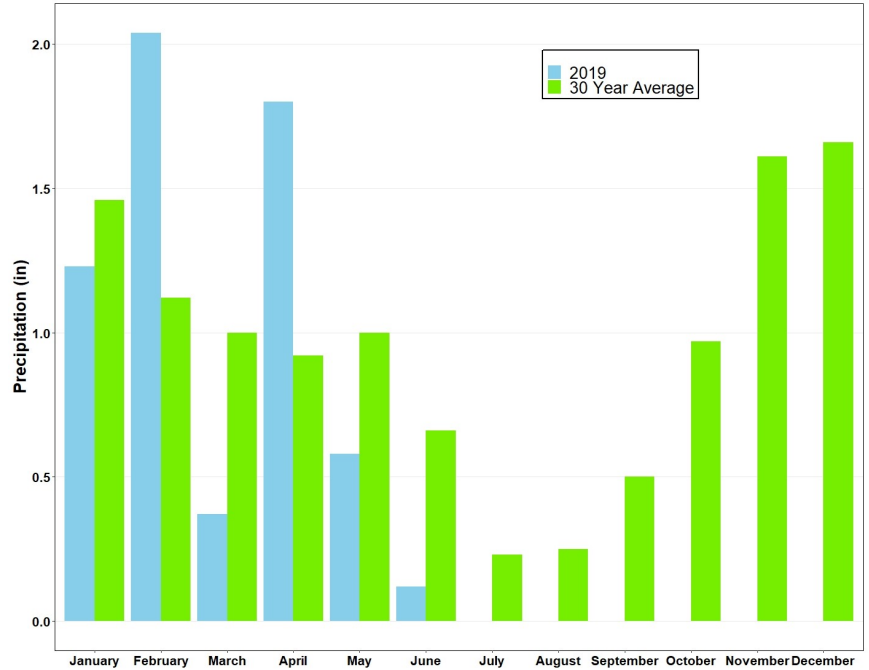
Experiment Station Weather

Air Temperature

Month	Average Max Temp °F	Average Min Temp °F
July 2019	72.0	56.0
July average	82.5	55.7
August 2019	83.0	57.5
August average	80.7	55.8
September 2019	72.5	53.5
September average	73.5	47.9

May

Snowpack: As of June 1 the John Day Basin is at 120% of normal. Hood, Sandy, and Lower Deschutes, are at 82% of normal



Rainfall:

During May rainfall occurred on the 16th, 17th, 19th, and 21st in amounts of 0.18, 0.01, 0.3, and 0.08 inches, respectively.

During June rainfall only occurred on the 27th in an accumulation of 0.12 inches.



Critter Spotlight: Convergent Lady Beetles

Do you have aphid concerns? Beneficial insects such as the convergent lady beetles (*Hippodamia convergens*) can help do some of your pest control work for you. Convergent lady beetles are just one of almost 90 lady beetles native to the Pacific Northwest. These native insects do not cause unwanted environmental consequences. Aphids are the main diet for the adult and larvae. Adults find aphids by primarily by detecting pheromones and other



chemicals made by the aphids but also use sight and smell to navigate. Studies have shown that larvae are less targeted when looking for prey and are likely crawling around until they bump into an aphid. They can eat up to 5,000 aphids in their lifetime. Adults live for a few weeks to a few months, again depending on the availability of food. They are most active in spring and in the winter some migrate to the mountains while in milder areas they sometimes hide in large groups under logs and vegetation. Active convergent lady beetles can be harmed by insecticides but overwintering populations are generally not harmed by recommended levels of insecticide application.

The best way to get these insects is to make appropriate habitat for them. Some insectaries sell them but they don't usually stay where they are released and might bring in outside diseases. Adding flowers that produce pollen, such as yarrow and marigolds, is the best way to attract the bugs. Providing insecticide-free refuges for winter can also support populations in your area.

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Fax: 541-442-5780

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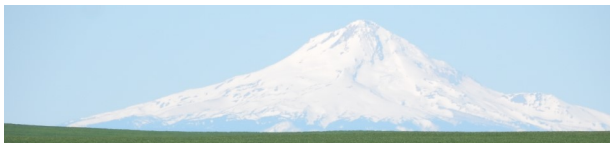
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~ CONSERVATION CALENDAR ~

November 11: Veterans Day, Office Closed
November 12: SWCD Board Meeting, 8:30 am
November 13-16: Tri-State Grower Convention, Spokane
November 20: Lower John Day Basin Working Group Meeting, Condon, 9 am
November 21-23: Oregon Cattleman's Association Annual Convention, Bend
November 28: Thanksgiving, Office Closed
December 10: Watershed Council Board Meeting, 8 am
December 10: SWCD Board Meeting, 8:30 am



~ BOARD & STAFF ~

SWCD Staff

Amanda Whitman, District Manager
Emily Freilich, Watershed Coordinator

NRCS Staff

Del Rae Ferguson, District Conservationist
Emily Huth, Soil Conservationist

Sherman County SWCD Board of Directors

Jesse Stutzman, Chair
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“The land knows you, even when you are lost.”
-Robin Wall Kimmerer

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shermancountyswcd.com - shermancountywc.com

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