Greetings from Extension!

The Extension system celebrated its 100 year anniversary in 2014 and we are still striving to serve the needs of rural America, including Clearwater area residents.

The University of Idaho Extension office in Clearwater County serves rural residents in the area through programing in forest management; pasture and range management; rural land management, ownership and purchasing; natural resource management policy; small farms and community food systems; hay production and marketing; wildland fire protection; timber economics and log marketing; pest control education offering Idaho Dept. of Agriculture pesticide recertification credits; as well as 4-H and other youth programs.

Our goal is to help foster our areas’ natural resource (land-based) economy through better utilization of our natural resources while practicing sound land stewardship. We assist rural landowners by providing programs and information that address their land-management needs, while also participating in efforts, such as the Clearwater Basin Collaborative, that seek to improve management of our area’s public lands.

Come visit us at our office in Orofino. We have many Extension publications on various topics from home gardening to food preservation and more (and most of them are free!). We also process soil samples to guide fertilizer application and assess soil productivity as well as

continued page 2
provide plant disease diagnosis and insect identification.

Come see us!

Bill Warren, Extension Educator
University of Idaho Extension

P.S. To get on our regular mailing list to receive ALL our program announcements and newsletters throughout the year please contact our office.

It’s free!

Needle Discoloration on Idaho Ponderosa Pine

Idaho Department of Lands
March 6, 2015

There have been many reports in our area regarding browning needles on ponderosa pine. The symptoms appear only to affect last year's needles with terminal buds still alive, indicating needle growth will resume this year.

While still under investigation, this seems to be a weather-related event from our recent winter, and affected trees should recover. Don’t assume any trees you have with this condition are beetle killed. Confirm with evidence of bark-beetle attack.

If you have questions contact your local Idaho Department of Lands Private Forestry Specialist.

University of Idaho publication may be obtained by contacting your local extension office.

www.extension.uidaho.edu/idahogardens

continued from page 1

Spring-Summer Workshops

September:
Clearwater Basin Ecology & Policy
Date & Time: TBA; Orofino, Idaho
Silvopasture (Forest Land Grazing)
Date & Time: TBA; Keuterville, Idaho

Growing small-fruit crops in short-season gardens

Small fruit crops are a diverse group and include vine, shrub, and herbaceous plants. Because these crops have little in common, it becomes difficult or impossible to make universal recommendations for growing them. However, some principles hold true for them all. First, variety selection is critical to consistent performance. Varieties must be both hardy and early. Also, proper planting and maintenance techniques will help the plants remain healthy and productive.

You are a short-season, high-altitude gardener if:
• You live in Idaho at an elevation above 4500 feet, OR
• Your USDA hardiness zone is 4 or lower, OR
• You have a frost-free season of 110 days or less.

University of Idaho publication may be obtained by contacting your local extension office.
www.extension.uidaho.edu/idahogardens

Container Vegetable Gardening

Adequate sunshine, water, and fertilizer plus a well-drained growing medium are essential for successful container gardens.

Small Plot Vegetable Gardening

Many people grow their own fruits and vegetables for fresh, quality produce. However, the traditional, large backyard garden doesn’t fit everyone’s lifestyle. Instead, some gardeners use intensive gardening techniques that help them get the most from their small plots.

Additional information about vegetable gardening and other horticultural topics is available from local extension offices.

Sign up for the Clearwater County Extension Newsletter by emailing: clearwater@uidaho.edu or contact our office at 208-476-4434.

Community Calendar

April
15: Tax Day
May
10: Mother's Day
14-17 ISBA Spring Jam Bluegrass Festival—Kamiah
22-23: Weippe Carnas Festival
25: Memorial Day—office closed
June
21: Father's Day
July
2-4: Grangeville Border Days
4: Independence Day
31-2 Pierce 1860 Days

Contact Us!

University of Idaho Extension
Clearwater County
2200 Michigan Avenue
Orofino, ID 83544
Phone: (208) 476-4434
Fax: (208) 476-4111
extension.uidaho.edu/clearwater clearwater@uidaho.edu

Bill Warren, Extension Educator
Land Based Economic Development & Land Stewardship
williamw@uidaho.edu

Marie Armitage
4-H/Youth Development Program Assistant
mariea@uidaho.edu

Meladi Page
Secretary
mpage@uidaho.edu

Keeping bones strong

With calcium, vitamin D, and physical activity

Healthy eating and physical activity help keep your bones strong. If you don’t get adequate amounts of bone-building nutrients such as calcium and vitamin D, your bones become weaker. Over time, consuming too little calcium and vitamin D and being inactive can result in osteoporosis (porous bones), osteopenia (low bone mass), and osteomalacia (soft bone). Fortunately, you can keep your bones strong throughout your lifetime by following three steps:

1. Eat foods rich in calcium and vitamin D
2. Be physically active, and
3. Meet and talk regularly with your healthcare provider.

To request the full University of Idaho Extension Publication, call or email the Clearwater County Extension Office at 208-476-4434; clearwater@uidaho.edu.

This list is not all inclusive
How to take a soil sample:

1. Assemble a clean plastic bucket, and a shovel or soil probe. Tools should be stainless steel or aluminum alloy; no iron.
2. Take 8-12 randomly spaced soil samples at a depth of 8-12 inches.
3. Mix samples thoroughly and fill collection bag with 2 cups of composite soil.
4. Fill out the submission form with name, address, and phone number. Under “Submitter ID” column, also indicate what you are sampling, i.e. vegetable garden, lawn, flower bed, blueberry bed.
5. Submit samples:
   a. Mail sample(s), completed paperwork, and check to: Analytical Sciences Laboratory, Holm Research Center, P. O. Box 442203, Moscow, ID 83844-2203
   OR
   b. Take sample(s), completed paperwork, and check to: Clearwater County Extension Office, 2200 Michigan Ave., Orofino, Idaho (a small mailing fee will be collected)
6. Plan on receiving results back from the laboratory in approximately 2 weeks. After receiving the results, contact the Extension office for assistance in interpreting the results.

Moss Control in Home Lawns
University of Maryland Extension

Moss is a common occurrence in home lawns. Most often it becomes a problem in lawns that have low turf density. It appears when growing conditions favor the growth of moss more than the turf. The key to controlling moss is improving growing conditions to encourage a thick stand of healthy turf grass.

Conditions that favor the growth of moss:
- Low soil fertility
- Acidic soil
- Dense shade from trees and shrubs
- Areas of poor drainage
- Soil compaction
- Excessive irrigation
- Poor air circulation
- General poor lawn care practices
- Inappropriate choice of turf species or cultivars for site conditions.

The appearance of moss usually indicates a number of the above conditions are present. For example, applying lime on turf hoping to kill the moss by raising the soil pH, but the moss will continue to grow if the area is shady and moist.

For more information visit: http://extension.umd.edu/hgic
Contact UI Extension—Clearwater County at cleanwater@uidaho.edu or 208-476-4434

Idaho Forest Products Industry Forecast for 2015

In 2014 mills in the U.S. continued to increase production from the recession; however, production from lumber mills in Idaho remained about the same as in 2013. Total sales of all forest products in Idaho increased in 2014 to $2.6 billion (up $100 million from 2013). Jobs in the industry increased 2% over 2013 to 11,740, with average worker earnings in the industry at $56,800 which is 37% above the average earnings for all non-farm jobs in the state.

Despite this, timber harvest in the state actually declined in Idaho in 2014 (by 13%) from 2013 to about 1.0 billion board feet, but was still well above the harvest in 2009 at the peak of the recession.

Prospects for 2015 are encouraging with national GDP expected to grow at a faster rate than in 2014 with wood products markets expected to improve. Proposed projects on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest (such as the Johnson Bar Fire salvage proposal) could also increase log availability locally if successfully implemented.


Idaho Hay Report
Idaho Hay and Forage Association

Alfalfa
Large Square Price per ton
Premium/Supreme 190.05
Fair/Good 160.00
Fair 102.50

Gardening Answers
Now, answers to your gardening questions are just a click or two away on an exciting web site developed for Idaho gardeners by University of Idaho Extension. Visit: www.extension.uidaho.edu/idahogardens

A Sampling of Current Log Prices from Local Mills—April 2015
DF $375—400 / GF $350-375 (preferred lengths) – Empire Lumber (208-435-4703)
DF $325—425 / GF $250 – Tri-Pro (Ph. 208-476-4597)
DF $430—460 / GF $430—460 – IFG, Grangeville (208-507-0783)
DF $450 / GF $450 – Blue North, Kamiah (208-451-6072)

DF = Douglas Fir
GF = Grand Fir