

### Consider Teff Hay for Short Season Rotations

In 2005 and 2006 several hay growers successfully marketed Teff grass to feed stores as a hay substitute.

Teff grass (*Eragrostis tef*) is native to Ethiopia where the population uses its grain for making sourdough-like bread (*enjera*), and the straw for livestock forage and adobe building construction. Teff has very fine leaves and has a sweet aroma and taste. Seed has been grown on a limited basis in South Dakota and Idaho for grain and made available in health food stores as a source for gluten-free flour. More recently, forage producers find it a great short season rotation crop or double cropping alternative for following a short-season crop like peas.

Teff is a warm season annual grass very susceptible to frost, thus the planting date must be after the last spring frost. In the fall, it can tolerate very mild frosts, but not hard frosts.

An Othello field trial was conducted in 2006 by WSU Grant-Adams Extension in cooperation with Oregon State University Extension at Klamath Falls and Ontario, OR. Six varieties, (three released varieties and three experimental strains) were tested. Forage yields ranged from 5-6 tons per acre under a two cutting system. Seed was planted in June, with the first harvest occurring in late July-early August. The second cutting was done in September. Forage quality parameters were also evaluated.

At all three locations, varieties performed similarly in forage yield and quality (protein and fiber). The following table shows the total season hay yields and second cutting forage quality at the Othello site.

Variety	Yield (t/ac)	Crude protein (%)	Relative Forage Quality (RFQ)*
Tiffany	5.9	12.6	87
Pharaoh	6.2	12.6	80
Dessie	6.9	12.4	78
VA-T1 Brown	6.0	13.0	82
X9	5.9	12.6	88
X10	5.9	12.2	86

\*RFQ – Relative Forage Quality is an index used to compare forages in terms of feeding quality. It results from an estimate of the forage's palatability and feed intake potential. An RFQ of 100 would be characteristic of the forage quality of full-bloom alfalfa.

J. Kugler

## Recycle Plastic Pesticide Containers

In cooperation with the Far West Agribusiness Association, Pacific Northwest Aerial Applicators Alliance and many other industry organizations and regulatory agencies, Northwest Ag Plastics (NWAP) is contracted by the Agricultural Container Recycling Council (ACRC) to recycle pesticide containers in Washington, Idaho and Oregon. Acceptable plastic containers range from half pints to 55 gallon drums. Service is provided at no charge.

Preparing containers for recycling does not require significant time or effort, and actually saves money by making efficient use of expensive product materials:

- Rinse containers until no residue remains. Best to do when mixing and loading material.
- Drain so that they dry inside and out, and leave no apparent odor.
- Remove slip-on labels and label booklets. Glued on labels may remain on container.
- Remove hard plastic lids and discard.
- Remove most of the foil seal. A small amount is acceptable.
- Remove lids and metal bails from five gallon buckets. Lids from buckets are accepted if metal ring and rubber gasket are removed. Five gallon containers and smaller are accepted whole.
- Do not put plastic lids back on empty containers. This inhibits the ability to perform required container inspections.
- Plastic drums are required to be rinsed so they are decontaminated as well. Remove bungs (lids) and store upside down so they will drain out completely. Once this is accomplished, the drums can be accepted whole for recycling. They do not need to be cut into pieces as was required a few years ago.

Find an online schedule of pickup times and locations at

[www.nwagplastics.com/schedule.php](http://www.nwagplastics.com/schedule.php), or go to our website. A. McGuire

## U.S. Rated As “Controlled Risk” for BSE

An expert panel for the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has classified the U.S. cattle herd as a “controlled risk” for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

“Controlled risk” is the middle ranking in OIE’s three-tiered classification scheme, and applies to countries with a record of having BSE cases, but with the proven ability to contain the disease.

“Negligible risk”, the top ranking tier, applies to countries determined to be safe from the disease, and “undetermined risk”, the lowest level, applies to countries whose danger level is not fully determined.

According to Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Administrator Dr. Ron DeHaven, “this recommendation provides strong support that U.S. regulatory controls are effective and that U.S. cattle and products from cattle of all ages can be safely traded in accordance with international guidelines, due to our interlocking safeguards.”

It is hoped that this classification will further enhance beef export efforts. S. M. Smith

## **Light to Moderate Stripe Rust Pressure Predicted**

Based on analyses of December and January weather, WSU researchers are predicting light to moderate stripe rust levels in the Pacific Northwest.

In susceptible varieties, stripe rust may reach 61 to 80% at the flowering stage. This prediction is much lower than those for the last 5 years and equivalent to those for 2000 and 2001. The forecast was solely based on the winter temperatures. The cold January temperatures, which were much lower than normal, could reduce the rust survival, resulting in a late start of rust development.

Stripe rust has not been observed in central California, indicating that stripe rust may be much later than last year. Growers in Eastern Washington should check their fields in mid-May. A. McGuire

## **Riparian Grazing School May 15-17<sup>th</sup>**

WSU Lincoln County Extension and the Lincoln County Conservation District (LCCD) are offering a 3-day riparian grazing school. The school will be held May 15-17 at the Reardan Memorial Hall in Reardan, Washington. The school is designed for ranchers, land managers, natural resource agency personnel, regulatory agency personnel, and conservationists.

Participants will learn to manage riparian grazing that will withstand public and regulatory scrutiny, protect riparian areas for future generations, and provide abundant forage to livestock.

Registration fee is \$100 per person, \$50 refundable to those completing the school. Registration deadline is May 8<sup>th</sup>. For more information please contact David Lundgren, LCCD, 509.725.4181 x3 or [dlundgren@wadistrict.net](mailto:dlundgren@wadistrict.net). S. M. Smith

## **Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Grants available from USDA**

USDA's Office of Rural Development is offering Renewable Energy Grants from \$2,500 to \$500,000 for such things as anaerobic digesters for dairies and wind turbines. Also, Energy Efficiency Grants ranging from \$1,500 to \$250,000 are offered to small businesses and agricultural producers for upgrading to more efficient irrigation pumps, large fans for animal sheds, low-pressure circle conversions, and refrigeration upgrades in agricultural produce storage buildings, to name a few.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting LeRoy Debes at 509.924.7350 x115.

The application deadline for the grants is May 18, 2007. To learn more about these grants, visit the WSU Grant-Adams Extension website and follow the Resources link on our homepage. J Kugler

## Calendar of Events

### April

- 2-6 **WSU/Washington State Sheep Producers Sheep Shearing School;**  
Beginning school. Contact Sarah M. Smith, 509.754.2011 x413,  
[smithsm@wsu.edu](mailto:smithsm@wsu.edu).
- 7 **WSU/Washington State Sheep Producers Sheep Shearing School;**  
Advanced. Contact Sarah M. Smith, 509.754.2011 x413,  
[smithsm@wsu.edu](mailto:smithsm@wsu.edu).



John Kugler – Agronomy/Forage  
M. Christine Price – County Director/Family Living Educator  
Karen M. Lewis – Tree Fruit  
Diane Russo – 4-H/Youth Development  
Sarah M. Smith – Animal Sciences  
Andy McGuire – Ag Systems

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### **World Class. Face to Face**

*Cooperating agencies: Washington State University, U.S.  
Department of Agriculture, and Grant and Adams Counties.  
Extension programs and employment are available to all without  
discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported  
through your local Extension office.*

### **Resources:**

Unless stated otherwise, you may request a print  
version of these resources: [USDA Renewable Energy  
and Energy Efficiency Program](#)

Underlined resources are available online through  
links from our homepage:  
<http://grant-adams.wsu.edu>

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