inside this issue . . .
Workshop topics planned | page 1
Gardening Articles | page 2, 4
Forest Products Economy | 3
Log Prices | 3
Baby Boom Generation | 4
Calendar of Events | page 5
Check our website | page 5
4-H News | page 4
Blanching | page 3

New and upcoming extension workshop programs for 2014-2015

University of Idaho Extension—Clearwater County workshop programs are focused on land-based economic development and land stewardship. The goal of this programming is to help private landowners better manage their property for combined ecological and economic benefits, as well as familiarize residents with natural resource policies that govern the management of public land in N-C Idaho.

We are continually adding new workshop programs, so if you are not on our regular mailing list please call the Extension office in Orofino to get on the list so you can keep updated on new workshops.

Below is a listing of some of the workshops we plan to deliver in 2014-15.

In 2013 we began a new workshop series entitled “So You Want to Buy a Ranch?: Rural Land Purchasing 101.” This three night workshop series is designed for new and prospective rural land purchasers and realtors who want to become more familiar with the complexities of rural real estate market. This workshop was very successful in its first year attracting participants and in the reported knowledge gained. We are planning to offer it again in 2015. Presentations include due diligence issues for rural land purchasing, as well as presentations by realtors specializing in rural land, a rural land appraiser, and NW Farm Credit on financing a rural land purchase. In addition, attendees were introduced to the variety of government programs and technical assistance available to rural landowners. This year we hope to add presentations on rural property tax categories (which ones are best for you), and real estate law.

New for 2014-15 will be a workshop on conducting your own timber sale.

(Cont. pg. 2)

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

The University of Idaho is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educational organization. We offer our programs to persons regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, or disability.
New and upcoming extension workshop programs for 2014-2015

( cont. from page 1)

As the log market continues to rebound after being depressed for several years, timberland owners are looking for opportunities to better manage their timber holdings as well as provide a good economic return. Topics will include planning for “desired future condition” of your forest stand; economic, social, and ecological goals for forest management; locating and interviewing logging contractors; marketing your logs; marking timber and skid trails; sale administration; tax accounting and capital gains; and the tasks required after the logging is complete. We are currently planning on delivering this program in the spring in Orofino.

Currently in the planning stage is a workshop on rural land planning for new landowners. This workshop will take a comprehensive look at private land management from an ecological, economic, and social perspective to assist landowners in reaching their primary goals for land ownership while at the same time producing economic and ecological benefits.

Another new program dealing with natural resource policy is also in the works. Given the public interest in natural resource policy, and given the large holdings of public land in north-central Idaho, we are planning a program that will give an introduction to resource management policy, its history in the area, and the science it is based on.

The popular annual Extension workshop series “Cabin Fever” will be getting a name change in 2015 to reflect the changing emphasis of the program. The curriculum for this program has been changing to reflect the growing interest in community agriculture and the economic opportunities it provides to local landowners.

Continuing workshops for 2014-15 include LEAP Update, Current Topics of Pasture and Rangeland Health, and Forest Insects and Disease Field Day. If you have any questions about any of these workshops, or would like to recommend a workshop that we are not currently offering, please contact Bill Warren at the Extension office in Orofino at 208-476-4434.

Freezing fruits and vegetables

Freezing is one of the simplest and least time consuming methods of food preservation. For best quality, it is important to follow directions carefully. Color, flavor, and nutritive value can be affected by freshness of the produce selected, method of preparation and packaging, and conditions of freezing. More information and recipes can be found at: extension.uidaho.edu/clearwater

Contact Us!

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Calendar of Events

November
11: Office Closed in Observance of Veteran’s Day
27-28: Office Closed for Thanksgiving — Happy Thanksgiving!

December
11: Current Topics in Farm and Forest Health Workshop
25: Office Closed for Christmas — Merry Christmas!

January
1: Office Closed for the New Year Holiday — Happy New Year!

19: Office Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. / Human Rights Day

Clearwater County Extension Website

The University of Idaho Clearwater County Extension office is online, check out the new items on Food Preservation and Safety, Soil Sampling, and Insect Identification! Look for additional items in the months to come.

New website items include:

* Food Preservation and Safety
* USDA Complete Guide to Home Canning
* Soil Sampling Submission
* Insect Identification & Plant Disease Diagnosis
* Gardening

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Start Seeds Indoors with Success

Starting vegetable, herb, and annual flower plants at home from seed is economical and rewarding. A greater variety of plant material is available by seed, and the gardener skilled in seed starting enjoys more flexibility in planning and planting the garden.

To request the full University of Idaho Extension publication, call or email the Clearwater County Extension Office at 208 476-4434; Clearwater@uidaho.edu; or go online at www.extension.uidaho.edu/idahogardens

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Baby boom generation migration and rural Idaho
by Bill Warren

Migration to the Western United States is not a new phenomenon. Euro Americans have been migrating from the eastern US to the West in large numbers for at least 150 years. However, current trends in migration can have a large effect on rural economies such as Clearwater County.

Clearwater County has seen a dramatic increase in the proportion of its population that is retirement age over the last few decades, and many of these individuals have moved to Clearwater County from out of the area. Today over 31% of county residents are over the age of 60 (almost one out of every three people), this compares with only 11% in this age group in 1970. The United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service predicts that the Baby Boom generation (currently those aged 50-68) will disproportionately move to rural locations as they retire. According to the USDA, there has never been such a large share of the workforce approaching retirement age (approximately 83 million people, or a fourth of the entire US population). The USDA predicts that these retirements will significantly increase the elderly populations of rural areas and small towns by 2020. Rural areas favored by Boomer retirees tend to be areas with scenic amenities, outdoor recreation opportunities, and relatively inexpensive housing costs such as Clearwater County.

To the extent this migration effects Clearwater County it will place demand on some services of rural areas and small towns by 2020. Retirees and less on jobs, which are needed to re-creation from frequent wind. Growing beautiful and productive plants in the mountain or high desert regions of Idaho requires unique approaches and an attention to detail that are rarely discussed in popular garden guides.

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The forest products economy
by Bill Warren

University of Idaho Extension-Clearwater County launched a new workshop program in 2013 that we plan to offer every other year, on Timber Economics and Log Marketing. The forest products economy is of great importance to Clearwater County and North Central Idaho, and this program is designed to provide up-to-date information to private landowners who may be considering a timber harvest the latest economic information on which to base their financial planning for forest management.

While log prices increased substantially in the region in 2014, Charlie McKetta, Professor Emeritus of Forest Economics at the University of Idaho, predicts even higher prices for logs in 2015 and 2016. The Idaho forest products economy generates an estimated 18 jobs, $528,000 in wages and salaries, and $3.2 million in sales of goods and services for each million board feet of timber harvested. Wages in the forest products sector are some of the highest of any sector in Idaho, with the average salary $53,000 per person. This is 27% higher than the average salary for all Idaho workers (Morgan et al. 2014).

It is reported that one of the biggest constraints on the growth of the forest products industry is the availability of timber that is under federal ownership. Between 1947 and 1990 the federal lands provided 43% of the timber harvested in Idaho, but in recent years that total has been about 10%, despite the fact that over 80% of the timber volume in Idaho is on federal lands (Morgan et al. 2014).

The Clearwater Basin Collaborative is working toward remedying this issue, by looking for ways to increase timber harvest on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest while at the same time restoring desired ecological conditions, as well as increasing protections on additional acres.


A Sampling of Current Log Prices from Local Mills—October 2014

DF $375 – 400 / GF $350-375 (preferred lengths) – Empire Lumber (208-435-4703)
DF $250 – 385 / GF $250 – Tri-Pro (Ph. 208-476-4597)
DF $430 – 460 / GF $430 – 460 – IFG, Grangeville (208-507-0783)

DF – Douglas Fir
GF – Grand Fir

Blanching Vegetables
National Center for Home Food Preservation

Blanching (scalding vegetables in boiling water or steam for a short time) is a must for almost all vegetables to be frozen. It stops enzyme actions which can cause loss of flavor, color and texture.

Blanching cleanses the surface of dirt and organisms, brightens the color and helps retard loss of vitamins. It also wilts or softens vegetables and makes them easier to pack.

Blanching time is crucial and varies with the vegetable and size. Under blanching stimulates the activity of enzymes and is worse than no blanching. Over blanching causes loss of flavor, color, vitamins and minerals.