**Field Notes**

**CLATSOP SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**March 2018**

**Special points of interest:**

- Native Plant Sale
- Planting for Water Quality
- Featured Weed
- Strategic Implementation Areas

Free Water Quality Seminar! March 16 10am to 2pm at Fort Clatsop. Lunch is included. Please RSVP as space is limited. 503-325-4571

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**New Strategic Implementation Area—Cow, Cronin and Humbug Creek areas near Jewell**

Oregon Department of Agriculture has chosen the Cow, Cronin and Humbug Creek drainages for Clatsop County’s new Strategic Implementation Area (SIA). The goal of an SIA is to assist landowners in making water quality improvements through partnerships with agencies, watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts. Working together to provide technical and financial assistance results in greater program effectiveness. Please see the enclosed 2 page brochure and feel free to contact us if you have any questions.
Plant native vegetation to improve water quality

Runoff from pastures and paddocks can contain sediment, manure, fertilizer and chemicals. Having a buffer strip of vegetation helps filter out these pollutants and keep them from making their way to open water, such ditches and streams. Pollutants from runoff can negatively impact fish, wildlife and aquatic organisms. If you manage agricultural land, it is a requirement to allow vegetation to grow along year-round and seasonal streams. This could be as simple as fencing out livestock so the vegetation is not disturbed. Streams lacking a vegetative buffer should be planted to native species including grasses, shrubs or trees. Native grass seed can be difficult to find, but shrubs and trees are readily available. Shrub species well-suited for riparian areas include Pacific ninebark, redosier dogwood, and Douglas spirea. Tree species that grow well along streams include willows, Western redcedar and Sitka spruce. Invasive species like Himalayan blackberry and knotweed choke out native vegetation and contribute to erosion.

Native Plant Sale
April 7 at the Bob Chisolm Community Center in Seaside!

Pre-order forms are due March 23 and can be found on our website clatsopswcd.org or picked up at our office

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A small investment can yield big results

Gutters and downspouts are one of the most cost effective ways that you can improve water quality and working conditions on your farm. Redirecting water away from walkways and paddocks will greatly reduce the amount of mud and runoff, making your chores easier and keeping your animals cleaner and healthier. Redirecting the runoff will also keep sediment and nutrients (manure) from entering groundwater and streams. Make sure that you have a strip of vegetation to filter out sediment before the runoff enters a stream or ditch. It is important to keep pollutants from entering water for both wildlife and environmental health. It is also the law. Also take care to direct water away from well heads—both yours, and your neighbors’. You may even choose to build a rain garden or water catchment system for irrigating your garden.
Featured Weed

Garlic Mustard

*Alliaria petiolata*

Garlic mustard is a biennial plant growing a basal rosette the first year, and a flowering stalk the second year. Flowers are small and white with 4 petals. When crushed, the leaves smell like garlic. This invader can grow in shade or sun and is a prolific seed producer. Seeds can be easily spread on boots, vehicles, animals and water. Garlic mustard grows successfully in a variety of conditions and soil types, easily outcompeting native vegetation. Control methods include both hand pulling and herbicide application. If pulling by hand, be sure to get all of the root. Plants should be bagged and discarded in the trash or landfill. Be sure to clean your boots and clothing well to avoid spreading seeds. After removing or spraying garlic mustard, you can mulch or re-seed the site with a fast-growing grass seed mix. Continue to monitor the area for new plants for several years. Please let us know if you find garlic mustard in Clatsop County.
The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) works with partners to develop agricultural water quality management plans and regulations to prevent and control water pollution from agricultural activities. These regulations (Area Rules), tailored for 38 water quality areas in Oregon, apply to agricultural lands regardless of size or use. They also apply to agricultural activities on forest land and within cities and urban growth boundaries.

Water quality goals can be reached by promoting voluntary cooperation among landowners and natural resource partners to address management concerns, and by ODA enforcing water quality regulations.

ODA will be leading “Strategic Implementation,” where select areas around the state will receive focused outreach and education to address priority water quality concerns. ODA and natural resource partners will work together with agricultural landowners to concentrate technical and financial assistance as needed. ODA will enforce water quality regulations where problems persist.

Strategic Implementation Areas are chosen by ODA after discussions with partners and review of local information and water quality data when available.

What are the Area Rules (Regulations) for my Area?
Visit [oregon.gov/ODA/programs/NaturalResources/AgWQ/Pages/AgWQPlans.aspx](http://oregon.gov/ODA/programs/NaturalResources/AgWQ/Pages/AgWQPlans.aspx)

Questions? Call ODA’s Ag Water Quality Management Program at (503) 986-4700
STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION AREAS

What's next?

1) ODA will conduct a Compliance Evaluation to identify potential sources of pollution from agricultural activities.
2) ODA will contact landowners who might need assistance. The sooner landowners contact our partners, the more likely they will receive help because partners have limited resources.
3) After landowners have been given a chance to make changes, ODA will track progress toward reducing agricultural sources of pollution.
4) Properties that do not meet the requirements established in the local Area Rules (regulations) may be subject to a compliance investigation and further action by ODA.

What should I do?

Agricultural pollution can come from many sources. The Ag Water Quality Program focuses on land conditions and management that supports clean water and healthy watersheds. You should evaluate your agricultural activities and try to determine whether they might:
1) Pollute streams, canals, and/or groundwater, or
2) Prevent growth of appropriate vegetation along streams to stabilize stream banks, provide shade, and filter potential pollutants.
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