



Ag Innovations Conference Set for NWREC

The 2022 Ag Innovations Conference-Sustainable Agriculture, the first to be held in Oregon, will bring together public and private researchers, growers and other stakeholders to address issues facing Oregon agriculture.

The conference, scheduled September 22 and 23 from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the North Willamette Research Extension Center in Aurora, will include presentations, field tours and other events.

The conference is the brainchild of Surendra Dara, who was named director of the center in January and who started the annual event in California in 2014 while with the University of California Cooperative Extension. The conference is unique from most university-sponsored events, he said, in that private industry researchers are encouraged to provide presentations, as well as researchers from universities, state and federal agencies.

“The idea of The Ag Innovations Conference is to bring together researchers from universities, USDA and private industry, as well as the ag input industry and even progressive growers to give presentations about how they address an issue,” Dara said. “It could be an irrigation issue, or using pesticides effectively, or using microbes or biologicals.

“So, it is not like a typical extension event, where just researchers present new information,” Dara said. “This is about industry too, because they invest so much into ag research, and we want to learn from them. This is to provide a platform for researchers, farmers and industry people to come together, share their ideas and then network and help identify what the industry needs.”

The conference was very well received in California, in large part because of the interface of multiple entities, Dara said. “So, I am hoping it will be another successful event here.”

Following the conference, on the evening of the 23rd, NWREC is hosting its Eleventh Annual Harvest Dinner to celebrate the success of research and extension programs at NWREC. Participants and attendees will include faculty, staff, OSU leaders, elected officials and stakeholders, Dara said.



“Together we will recognize the many contributions made to thriving local economies, the promotion of healthy communities and the progress made stewarding our finite natural resources,” according to a brochure on the event.

The Harvest Dinner will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at NWREC, 15201 N.E. Miley Road in Aurora. Cost is \$75.

For more information on the Ag Innovations Conference, go to <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/nwrec/events/ag-innovations-conference-sustainable-agriculture>.

For more information on the NWREC Harvest Dinner, go to <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/nwrec/events/nwrec-harvest-dinner>.

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OSU Turf Day Draws Twice a Typical Turnout

The 2022 OSU Turf Field Day drew about twice what a typical Turf Field Day draws, as landscapers, seed company personnel, golf course superintendents and grass seed producers gathered to hear research reports, view turf plots and get in a round of golf, September 1 in Corvallis.

“We typically get about one hundred people attend our field day,” said Alec Kowalewski, OSU Turfgrass Specialist. “This year we have over two hundred.”

Kowalewski attributed the increased attendance in large part to the recent success being experienced by the golf industry.

“During COVID-19, people were looking for things to do and they could go use the golf course when a lot of other activities were closed down,” Kowalewski said. “So, the golf course industry is booming right now because of that. And I think the turnout we see is a big reflection of that.”

In her remarks to attendees, OSU College of Agricultural Sciences Dean Staci Simonich said she was thrilled with the turnout.

“To go from one hundred people to two hundred people is amazing,” Simonich said. “I think we are all glad to be out and be together on this beautiful morning.”

Simonich added that she has been impressed in her six months as Dean at the involvement of the turf industry in the OSU program.

“I’ve been impressed by the support this program gets from the industry and the alums,” she said.

Further, Simonich said she has come to appreciate the importance of the OSU turf program, not only to Oregon, but to the Western United States.

“I’ve come to learn there aren’t many programs like this around,” she said, “and this one really fits that need. It is important.”

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Staci Simonich

of the chafer’s adult flight and its early instar period, and to get a better understanding of its distribution in Western Washington and Oregon.

Presentations at the Turf Field Day included a report from OSU graduate research assistant Zach Hamilton on the European chafer, an invasive species that causes serious damage to the roots of turfgrass and a pest that has been found in the coastal Pacific Northwest since 2015. Hamilton is involved in research designed to assess the duration



About 200 showed up for the 2022 OSU Turf Field Day, about twice a typical turnout.



Several sponsors were on hand for the 2022 OSU Turf Field Day, September 1 near Corvallis.



Clint Mattox, speaking at the 2022 OSU Turf Field Day, has joined the team at the USDA ARS Forage Seed and Cereal Research Unit as a weed scientist.

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OSU Turf Day Draws Twice a Typical Turnout *continued*

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OSU research associate Chas Schmid presented a report on use of plant growth regulators on putting greens planted to annual bluegrass. Preliminary findings are showing that the main effect

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Staci Simonich

in some areas, like Connecticut, it is forbidden to use pesticides on K-8 school property.

of the treatments is a potential for treatments to hasten cultivation recovery times.

Clint Mattox, new USDA ARS Weed Science Researcher, provided a presentation on a study looking at alternative chemistries for controlling grasses and weeds, with a focus on school grounds. “There is a lot of push-back from using synthetic chemistries on school grounds,” Mattox said. “In fact,

“So, this is a big problem for school groundskeepers, because often they are understaffed,” Mattox said.

The study, which is sponsored by Tim Stock, the OSU School IPM Program Director, is comparing the effects of eleven compounds to glyphosate in controlling weeds and grasses in plots. Among the compounds being studied are sodium chloride, cinnamon oil plus clove oil, and acetic acid.

“Some of these products are kind of doing okay,” Mattox said, “but it takes a lot of applications (compared to one application of glyphosate).”

Mattox said next steps for the study include looking at developing an environmental index quotient to try and understand the effect of these applications on the environment and on human health, particularly because it takes so many applications for the compounds to be effective, and a cost analysis. “Some of these products are exorbitantly expensive compared to glyphosate,” Mattox said.

Seed and Cereal Production Meetings Upcoming

OSU Extension is holding its Fall Seed and Cereal Crop Production Meetings over two days, September 13 and 14, with a morning and an afternoon session on the 13th and a morning session on the 14th.

Agenda items include a report from Aaron Shiels, a Research Biologist with the National Wildlife Research Center, on the Weatherability and Attractiveness of Zinc Phosphide Baits for Managing Gray-tailed Voles; Updates on Slug Control Research from OSU Slug Scientist Rory McDonnell; a report from Extension Cereal Scientist Ryan Graebner on Winter Wheat Varieties and Management in the Willamette Valley; a report on Addressing Inconsistent Soil Test Results and K Deficiencies in Grass Seed Production from Extension Soil Fertility Specialist Amber Moore; and a report on Problematic Weeds and their Management in Willamette Valley Seed and Cereal Crops from new OSU Weed Scientist Pete Berry.

The morning meeting on September 13 is being held from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Roth’s Hospitality Center, 1130 Wallace Road in West Salem. The afternoon meeting on the 13th is being held



at Linn County Fair and Expo Center, 3700 Knox Butte Road in Albany. The meeting on the 14th is being held from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Forest Grove Elks Lodge, 2810 Pacific Avenue in Forest Grove.

OSU Extension asks that participants please pre-register for the meeting by going to <https://beav.es/iDm>.

Two ODA pesticide credits are available to attendees.

New Weed Scientist Joins Corvallis ARS Unit

The USDA-ARS Forage Seed and Cereal Research Unit in Corvallis has added a weed scientist to its research staff.

Clint Mattox, who spent several years in Europe as a golf course superintendent before starting graduate school in turfgrass at Oregon State University in 2013, joined last month.

Mattox, who completed his Ph.D. in Horticulture with a minor in Botany and Plant Pathology in 2020, joins a staff that includes recent additions of plant pathologist Hannah Rivedal, entomologist Seth Dorman and soil scientist Jennifer Moore.

“We are thrilled to have Clint join our unit,” said Research Unit Leader Ryan Hayes. “He is an excellent scientist, has some history with turf and had a successful career as a golf course superintendent.”

Mattox said he decided to return to school in an effort to learn about alternative means for controlling the turfgrass disease *Microdochium* patch, a fungal disease affecting cool season grasses that was prominent on the golf course in France where he worked as superintendent.

“In France they were making pesticide restrictions and we had a huge problem with the winter turfgrass disease *Microdochium* patch,” Mattox said. “So, I wanted to try and find ways of managing that disease without chemicals.”

Mattox graduated from Purdue University with a turfgrass science degree in 2000 before departing for overseas. He spent time in Japan, Germany and Togo in West Africa before taking a superintendent position in France.

Mattox said his international experiences help in providing perspective to managing turfgrass issues.

“The good thing about working overseas is you get to see a lot of different approaches,” Mattox said. “I’ve worked in turf on four continents now, and you get to see creative ways of doing things, especially coming from a European background where people are trying to manage weeds with less chemicals.

“You start to think beyond herbicides,” he said.

At the Forage Seed and Cereal Research Unit, Mattox will focus on managing weeds in grass seed and other crop production systems. His research interests include using integrated weed management to combat herbicide resistance, exploring the use of bioherbicides and using precision agriculture to expand weed management opportunities.

The ARS Forage Seed and Cereal Research Unit is now looking for a new research geneticist and a molecular biologist to replace Jim Dombrowski and Ruth Martin, two long-time unit scientists who retired in recent years.

Hayes said he expects to have those two positions filled sometime this next winter.



Clint Mattox



Second Oregon Ag Prayer Breakfast Set for September 13

The second Oregon Ag Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13, beginning at 8 a.m.

People interested in attending should look for the giant tent on a 160-acre field just off I-5 Exit 228 near Albany.

According to a poster announcing the event, thousands of farmers are expected to gather for food, fellowship and prayer. “We Need God’s Help. It’s Time to Pray. It’s Time to Come Together and Eat,” the poster announces.

The event includes presentations from special guests Pastors Wayne Cordeiro, Don Knight, Greg Peterson and Dee Duke.

The event also includes a free country western concert on Monday evening, September 12, beginning at 7 p.m., at the Jefferson Baptist church, 15002 Jefferson Highway 99E, Jefferson, Oregon.

The concert is headlined by country western singer Sam L. Smith from Kentucky. Joining Smith will be Oregon’s own Cornerstone and a special reunion by the band The Knox Brothers.



Free on-site camping is available at the Ag Prayer Breakfast site the night before the breakfast. And the organizers note there is plenty of room for parking.

A video, map and free registration for the event can be found at www.OAgPB.com. People are asked to sign up for the free breakfast on the same website.

Calendar

September 13	Oregon Ryegrass Commission Meeting, 6 p.m., Cascade Grill, 110 Opal St N.E., Albany
September 28	Oregon Tall Fescue Commission Meeting, 6 p.m., Roth’s, 1130 Wallace Rd NW, Salem
October 10	Oregon Fine Fescue Commission Meeting, 7 a.m., Roth’s, 1130 Wallace Rd NW, Salem
October 26	Oregon Clover Commission Meeting, 7 a.m., Roth’s 1130, Wallace Rd NW, Salem
November 29	Oregon Ryegrass Commission Meeting, 6 p.m., Cascade Grill, 110 Opal St N.E., Albany
December 5	Oregon Fine Fescue Commission, 7 a.m., Salem Conference Center, Salem, Oregon
December 5-6	Oregon Seed League Annual Convention, Salem Conference Center, Salem, Oregon. Visit seedleague.org for more information



THE E-NEWSLETTER

The goal of this e-newsletter is to provide timely updates to Oregon seed producers and field reps. It includes a snapshot of what’s happening currently with respect to weather, pest and disease outbreaks, harvest, label updates, and other management activities. Growers or field reps can provide input anytime at mitchlies@comcast.net.

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