



# Garfield County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

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<http://ext100.wsu.edu/garfield/>

# Newsletter

January-February 2017

## Announcements



### Washington Oilseed Cropping Systems Workshops are Coming!

The WSU Oilseed workshops begin January 26, 2017, and registration is now open. Join us for the only workshops in the PNW that focus on growing and managing oilseed crops in cereal rotations. The workshops are for first time and experienced growers, crop consultants, crop input suppliers, agency representatives, and anyone else with an interest in learning more about canola, mustard, and other oilseed crops. Attendees will learn about in-season crop diagnostics for pests, diseases, nutrients, and herbicide damage, variety selection, fertilizer management for spring and winter oilseeds, and much more.

Registration includes lunch and refreshments, and an industry sponsored social will follow each workshop.

Workshops will be in Heartline, January 26th, Ritzville January 31st, and Clarkston February 2.

For more information, view the WOCS website: <http://smallgrains.wsu.edu/washington-oilseed-cropping-systems-workshops-are-coming-soon/> or contact Karen Sowers at [ksowers@wsu.edu](mailto:ksowers@wsu.edu) or 808-283-7013.

### Farmer's Day, Monday February 6, 2017

The annual Garfield County Farmers will be held on Monday, February 6th at the Pataha Flour Mill from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. A final detailed agenda will be available by January 10th. Tentative topics at this time include updates on the Garfield County Volunteer Stewardship Program; a discussion on weeds that are poisonous to livestock; a 2017 Farm Commodity outlook; as well as updates from NRCS and FSA. Please contact either the WSU Garfield County Extension Office or the Pomeroy Conservation District Office for additional information.

### Join Us for the Sewing & Stitchery Expo Washington State Fair Events Center 110 Ninth Avenue Southwest Puyallup, Washington 98371

**March 2 to 5, 2017, Thursday—Saturday**  
Sewing, Quilting, Knitting & Crochet, Beading and More! Quilters Night Out with Kym Goldup-Graham & Ann Duncan. Friday Night Live with Martha Pullen!

Tickets & Information  
866-554-8559  
[www.sewexpo.com](http://www.sewexpo.com)



# Farming & Livestock



## Preparing the Cow Herd for Cold Weather

By Rick Rasby, Beef Specialist,  
University of Nebraska

Moisture, high winds, and cold temperatures increases the cow's energy requirements.

Cows in an optimal body condition score (BCS 5 to 6) are better able to withstand adverse environmental conditions. As a risk management strategy at the ranch level going into the winter, reduce the number of BCS 4 cows and increase the number of BCS 5 cows in your herd.

Another management strategy is to provide cattle with an area that provides wind protection. The lower critical temperature of a beef cow is the lowest temperature a cow can be exposed to before she needs to have changes metabolically to help her cope with cold stress.

Usually what happens metabolically is cows begin to shiver. These processes require extra energy. Lower critical temperature for beef cows is influenced by hair coat condition (dry or wet/muddy), body condition (thin, moderate, fleshy) and hair coat description heavy/winter, winter, fall, or summer.

As hair coat changes from summer to winter, BCS changes from thin to fleshy, and hair coat changes from dry to wet, lower critical temperature decreases which means cows can withstand harsher conditions without an increase in energy needs. Magnitude of coldness is equal to Lower Critical Temperature—Wind chill Index. Energy requirement increase about 1% for each degree of cold stress. As an example, cows that have a heavy winter hair coat that is dry and are in condition score 5 have a lower critical temperature of 19° F.

## Energy Needs of the herd

Let's say, for the next week temperature is going to be 5° F and the wind out of the North at 15 mph, then the wind chill index is -10° F. At those environmental conditions, energy needs of the herd increases by about 30%.

- If the total digestible nutrients (TDN) requirements of the cows are 12 lb of TDN per head per day for this week, you would consider bumping the ration to 15.5 lb/hd/da. This is an increase in 3.5 pounds of TDN per head per day.
- If grass hay is 57% TDN, that's an increase of about 6lb/hd/da on a dry matter basis.
- If the hay is 88% dry matter that would mean each cow receives an additional 7 lb/hd/da.

If these cows were being fed 254 lb/hd/da under current condition, could they eat 31 lb/hd/da during the harsh weather condition? For a 1200 pound cow, this calculates to about 2.3% of her body weight on a dry matter basis, —so yes.



## Preparing the Cow Herd for Cold Weather (continued)

Be very careful if you plan to use grains (corn) to increase the energy density of the diet during severe condition as you may do more harm than good. Feeding more than 2-3 lb/hd/da of corn to cows on a forage based diet will increase fiber digestion. When cows are on a forage-based diet and supplemental energy is needed, consider the use of high energy, non-starch feed stuffs such as distillers grains and soy hulls to meet cow energy requirements. It would not be advisable to change rations daily, but if it is predicted that weather conditions will be severe over a period of time then ration changes may be warranted.

### Pro-active approach

The pro-active approach would be to have cows in adequate body condition and provide shelter belts in the winter.

Sometimes weather conditions are so severe that cattle cannot be fed enough to meet the increase in energy needs. In these conditions, getting feed to them is the best that can be done. These extreme conditions usually don't last for a long period of time, but the effects may.

### Check List:

1. Economically manage feeding programs so cows enter the winter in BCS 5 or greater.
2. Develop shelter-belts for cows to protect them from high winds.
3. If weather conditions are going to be severe for extended periods of time, be prepared to feed more energy to the cows.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (<http://ianr.unl.edu>)

## 2017 Washington State Swine Information Day, February 3, 2017

Washington Swine Information Day features an array of presentations that have been organized to meet the diverse and unique needs of Pacific Northwest Swine Producers. The day will begin with a quick update from the WSU Animal Science department, a timely discussion on decreasing market prices followed by a dynamic presentation from the State Veterinarian's Office. The presentations before lunch will cover the new VFD, nutrition and feed additives.

The early afternoon session is a concurrent dual action Quality Assurance Training and Certification. Presentations in the later part of the day will focus on proper preparation for an on-farm audit, updates on the feral hog issue and an overview of Washington Ag in the classroom.

Plan to attend for another grand session to mingle with fellow pork producers. Learn tips to help you gain confidence and courage for the demands of 2017 and enhance your knowledge base. This is an opportunity that you won't want to miss!

Registration for the day's event is \$25 per person and includes seminar, handouts, lunch and break refreshments. An all-day youth registration, \$20, is also available to 4-H and FFA members. Individuals may also attend just the afternoon session for \$10. There is a \$15 per person late charge for registrations post marked after January 27, 2017.

A complete seminar agenda and registration brochure is available at <http://extension.wsu.edu/grant-adams/event/washington-state-swine-information-day>, or by contacting Sarah M. Smith, WSU Extension Regional specialist at [smithm@wsu.edu](mailto:smithm@wsu.edu) or (509)754-2011, Ext 4313. To register with a credit card, go to [www.BrownPaperTickes.com](http://www.BrownPaperTickes.com) and enter event number 2737946 (<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2737496>).



## 4-H & FFA

**Pursuing Justice “The Judicial System”  
Know your government 2017, February 18-21, 2017**

### **Mission Statement**

The 4-H Know your Government Conference serves to strengthen the connection between youth and our political and social networks through education., experience, application and inspiration. We look forward to hosting you as we discover together the power and influence of media in today’s society!

### **Location**

Students are accommodated at the Red Lion Hotel in Olympia, WA; however other conference activities allow students to be immersed in out state’s beautiful capital city.

### **Eligibility**

High School students (9th-12th grades) are invited to participate in the hands on civic education event.

### **Purpose**

Know Your Government is a 4-H sponsored program that allows students to learn about and participate in out country’s three branches of government. During pre-conference meetings, participants will learn about the Washington State Judicial branch of government. In addition, delegates will become familiar with:

- Different kinds of cases
- Washington’s five courts and their jurisdiction
- The trial process
- Resolving conflicts
- The roles and purpose of those in a mock trial.

During the conference teens will take on the roles of attorney, defendant, witness, juror, or reporter, as they participate in a mock trial with a ‘real’ judge.

**For more information, please contact:  
Jan Klein, 4-H Adolescent Leadership Specialist, 509-358-7937 or email:  
<mailto:jlklein@wsu.edu>**

## Home & Garden

### **Catalogs and Seeds**

It’s time to order see and plant catalogs and to order seeds. Order your favorites now to avoid your selection being sold out. Try a new variety of your favorite flowers and vegetables.



### **View from Inside**

This is a good time to take a hard at what your garden looks like from the inside. Check your favorite windows and ask yourself if your view could use some additional winter interest or if it could use pruning to avoid blocking the view.



### **Force Bulbs**

Favorite bulbs for forcing indoors are amaryllis, paperwhites and hyacinths. Other bulbs include tulips, daffodils and dwarf iris. Forced bulbs don’t even need soil to grow as they can grow well in water and/or gravel.



### **Snow on Trees**

If you can, leave snow on trees and shrubs unless the weight of the snow appears to be breaking the branches.

If you need to remove snow, use a broom and sweep upwards. Never attempts to remove ice from branches as they will break.



<http://ext100.wsu.edu/spokane/home-lawn-and-garden/>



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## **Ensure Food Safety When the Power Goes Out!**

Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed

- A refrigerator will keep food cold for about **4 Hours** if the door is kept closed.
- A full freezer will keep temperature for about **48 hours** (24 hours if half full). If your freezer is not full, group packages so they form an “igloo” to protect each other. Place them to one side or on a tray so that if they begin thawing, their juices won’t get on other foods.
- If the power is going to be out for an extended period of time, **buy dry or block ice** to keep the refrigerator as cold as possible. Fifty pounds of dry ice should keep a fully stocked 18 cubic feet freezer cold for two days.

Don’t place frozen foods outside in the snow., the sun’s rays can thaw frozen food even when the temperature is very cold. In addition, animals could discover your stash. Instead, take advantage of the cold temperatures by making ice outside. Fill buckets, empty milk cartons, or cans with clean water and leave them outside to freeze. Then put the “homemade ice” in your refrigerator, freezer, or coolers.

For more information and what to do when the power returns, visit: [https://www.foodsafety.gov/blog/power\\_outage.html](https://www.foodsafety.gov/blog/power_outage.html)

By Diane Van, Manager, USDA Meat and Poultry hotline

Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension Office.

Washington State University helps people develop leadership skills and use research based knowledge to improve their economic status and quality of life.



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Helping You Put Knowledge To Work