



Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

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(541) 208-2207 www.jeffswcd.org

May 2026

Let me know if you want to be ADDED or TAKEN OFF this email list or have something to add: ellen.hammond@jeffswcd.org

May 6, 10am-2pm

Virtual Fence/Weed Day (see back page)

Antelope School, Wasco County

We are partnering with Wasco SWCD, OSU Extension, ODA, and others to provide local ranchers with information on virtual fencing, control of invasive annual grasses, and fire resiliency. Peter Grubb (Big Muddy Ranch) will discuss his experiences with virtual fencing in eastern Jefferson County. Vendors include Vence and Halter. Envu will give an update on Rejuvra. Other presenters will discuss funding for projects. Lunch provided. Contact Ellen.Hammond@jeffswcd.org or 541-771-8258 by May 4 to RSVP 😊.



May 7, 9-11am

NRCS Local Working Group Mtg

Madras City Hall – Conference Room, 125 SW E St

Local Work Group Meetings are a valuable part of the NRCS planning process, providing an opportunity for local land managers to be part of a collaborative effort to improve natural resources within Jefferson County.

Come review performance of last year's projects, help shape plans and prioritize future projects, connect with partners and new audiences to seek opportunities to leverage funds, and learn about other NRCS programs which may benefit you. More info: Michelle.Richwine@usda.gov or 541-419-3972.

May 26, noon-1:30pm

Jefferson SWCD Board Meeting

Madras Airport

Learn what the SWCD is doing for you. Contact [Kate Haarberg](mailto:Kate.Haarberg@jeffswcd.org) for an agenda and to RSVP for lunch! Agendas and approved minutes are posted on our [website](http://www.jeffswcd.org) as soon as available.

June 18, 10am-noon, plus lunch 😊

COAREC Field Day

Central Oregon Ag Research and Extension Center

COAREC staff are excited to show you what they have been up to. Stay tuned!



June 18, lunch 😊 plus 1-3pm

Croplands Working Group

Central Oregon Ag Research and Extension Center

This diverse group was established 2 years ago to implement the Croplands Priority Tools in the Jefferson County Agricultural Drought Resiliency Plan. Those tools are:

- Optimize crop water use efficiency
- Identify additional cash crops
- Improve soil health
- Control annual weeds on unirrigated land

Our current emphasis is on finding funding for irrigation modernization and on research related to crops and water use. Let me know if you want to join the discussion on how it's going and how to move forward. In addition, the group is partnering with Jefferson County Weed control. We will meet at COAREC after their Field Day.

More on next page!

June 25, morning

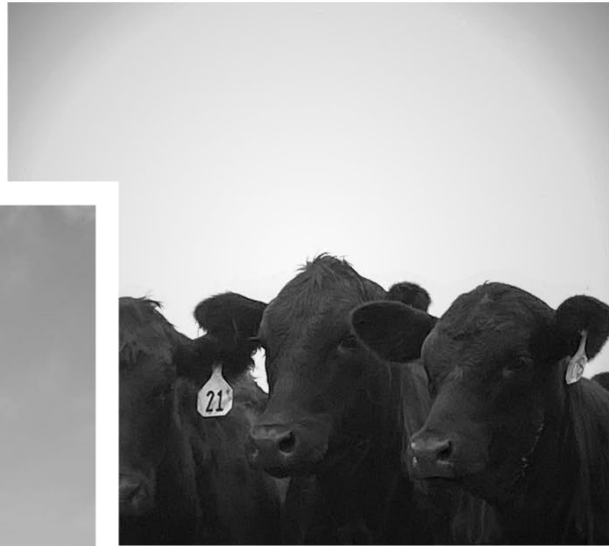


Kernza-CONNECT Conference

Central Oregon Ag Research and Extension Center

Interested in the potential of perennial grain crops in Central Oregon? Kernza (a trademarked variety of intermediate wheatgrass) is getting a lot of attention now. COAREC is hosting a multi-day national conference for Kernza researchers and other interested parties June 23-25th. On June 25th, there will be a field tour at COAREC, followed by lunch and a discussion of what Kernza buyers and distributors need from growers to develop a local source of Kernza. Contact [Steve Culman](mailto:steve.culman@oregonstate.edu) for more information (steve.culman@oregonstate.edu) or go to beav.es/Kernza-CON-nect.

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RANCHLANDS LANDOWNER WORKSHOP

**VIRTUAL FENCE, INVASIVE
ANNUAL GRASSES & FIRE
RESILIENCY**

COME AND PARTICIPATE IN PANEL
DISCUSSIONS WITH LOCAL RANCHERS,
AGENCY PARTNERS, RANGELAND
SPECIALISTS, AND VIRTUAL FENCE VENDORS

PRESENTATIONS FROM

- BIG MUDDY RANCH
- BLM
- CTWS
- VIRTUAL FENCE VENDORS
- OSU EXTENSION
- AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST
- SUSTAINABLE NORTHWEST
- & MORE

6 MAY 2026

10 AM - 3:00 PM

WITH LUNCH PROVIDED

ANTELOPE COMMUNITY CENTER

94237 MC GREER ST,
ANTELOPE, OREGON

PLEASE RSVP NO LATER THAN **MONDAY MAY 4, BY CONTACTING:** ELLEN HAMMOND AT ELLEN.HAMMOND@JEFFSWCD.ORG OR 541-771-8258
OR ABBIE FORREST AT ABBIE.FORREST@WASCOSWCD.ORG OR 541-705-3647