



Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

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April 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

April 3, 9-10:30am **Tour of Selective Water Withdrawal at Round Butte Dam**

Learn how the facility works up close and personal! **You must RSVP by April 1st** at coordinator@middleschuteswc.org, bring a signed waiver, and arrive on time!



April 9 through June 18 **Integrated Water Management Course**

Virtual, plus 3 Saturday field tours.

Deschutes SWCD is partnering with OSU to offer this practical, regionally focused program designed for producers, landowners, irrigation managers, and others working with water on Central Oregon landscapes. The course consists of evening webinars, 6-8pm, on Thursdays, plus three Saturday field tours. Registration is \$90. Link is: [Irrigation: Online Curriculum and Field Training Registration - Deschutes SWCD](#)

April 21 and 22: Choose either April 21 (Drone & Spectator) or 22 (Drone Only) **Range and Pasture Spray Drone Calibration Workshop** Blue Mountain Equestrian Center, Pendleton, OR

This workshop will provide drone applicators with essential information for effective application of Rejuvra and Imazapic to control invasive annual grasses in the Pacific Northwest. Consultants will offer free drone calibration, swath width and pattern testing services. Classroom instruction will cover invasive annual grass ecology, proper use of herbicides, surfactant selection, and regulatory updates from Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. Hosted by Envu and Oregon Department of Agriculture. Registration/questions: [Noe Russo](#), 970-576-0369

April 28, noon-1:30pm **Jefferson SWCD Board Meeting** Madras Airport (back at the airport again)

Learn what the SWCD is doing for you. Contact [Kate Haarberg](#) for an agenda and to RSVP for lunch! Agendas and approved minutes are posted on our [website](#) as soon as available.

May 6, 10am-2pm **Virtual Fence/Weed Day** Antelope School, Wasco County

We are partnering with Wasco SWCD, OSU Extension, ODA, and Sustainable Northwest to provide local ranchers with information on virtual fencing and weed management (broadleaves and invasive annual grass). Peter Grubb (Big Muddy Ranch) will discuss his experiences with virtual fencing in eastern Jefferson County. We also expect BLM and vendors. Lunch provided. Contact [Ellen Hammond](#) to RSVP 😊



Even more good stuff on next page!

June 18, morning 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.

June 25, morning

Kernza Conference

Central Oregon Ag Research and Extension Center



Interested in potential perennial grain grasses as a rotational crop? Kernza (a patented variety of intermediate wheat grass) is getting a lot of attention now. COAREC is hosting a multi-day national conference for Kernza researchers and other interested parties June 23-25, with a field tour at COAREC the morning of June 25th. More info to come!

Do you farm along Highway 26 or 97? Would you host a crop sign on the edge of your field to let the public know what food and fiber you are growing for them? Spread the word about our agriculture! Contact Oregon Women for Agriculture at centraloregon@owaonline.org!



NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Have a spring that needs help or a streamside area ready for restoration? Contact the Middle Deschutes Watershed Council about small grants (up to \$16,000) for habitat Improvement. For more information: coordinator@middledeschuteswc.org or 541-699-8458.

These grants require 25% match, which can include cash or in-kind labor/equipment.

