

**FARM,  
RANCH,  
AND  
RURAL  
LIVING  
EDUCATION**



# Sundowner

**Livestock Advisor Program Newsletter July 2011**

## **Joan's Letter - Program Update**

It's been a busy season! We had a great Livestock Advisor Training held in Margaret Olson's Stanwood High School classroom. She is an amazing host. From two footed to four footed, all were invited in! We headed to Pullman where we visited our regular stops PLUS Dr. Margaret Benson, (Animal Science), Dr. Kris Johnson, (Beef ) Dr. Mark Nelson (Beef Cattle Management) and Dr. Holly Neibergs, (Animal Genomics). This certainly made for an enlightening, fun-filled trip. The energy level of the 6 high school students

was undying invincible so we might have taken them to the horse race track and let them "canter" around to wear them down.

The Evergreen Fair Petting Farm is out this year but the Sorticulture event was in and amazing! Literally thousands of folks came by to cluck about chickens, learn about the Livestock Advisor program, and receive information about upcoming events. We sold almost 100 sets of plans for the chicken tiller!

There are many volunteer spots

available for our fairs. Bubba (the giant Holstein steer) plans to star at the Skagit County Fair again this year. Please remember the commitment YOU made when signing up and taking the Livestock Advisor Training. Entrance to the fairs is free, and parking can be as well if you plan ahead. We cannot have a program without volunteer help. Increasing calls for information on raising livestock, the popularity of raising chickens, and consumers desire to know where their food comes from allow our volunteers to deliver information within their communities.

## **Livestock Advisors' Journey to**

Life is full of surprises. We can plan all we want, but the road to get to our goals is often a winding one. As for us, years of change and transition have taken us to some amazing places. And now, approaching the end of our 50s, we are finally living a busy but fulfilling "life on the farm" on our own personal slice of paradise. We are happy and busy—as we both like to be—and the fresh air and physical activity are great for our health. Our journey to this point was a

long one that began thirty years ago when we bought our first piece of acreage and started developing a gentleman's farm. We thought we'd live there "forever." But we only got as far as a big garden and some beef cattle before life took a turn and we found ourselves heading overseas to serve as missionaries. Several years later we returned to the U.S. and landed in a neighborhood within the city

limits of Snohomish—with no room for livestock in our yard.

Another few years and a job took us to Colorado where we developed two acres with a horse barn, paddocks, and riding arena. But once again we were detoured, once again to a small town

## Journey – Continued

neighborhood, this time in Mukilteo. Yet our hearts were still in the country. While living in Mukilteo we took several WSU Extension courses, including the Livestock Advisor Training Class of 2008.

We started looking for land to retire on—ten to twenty acres in Snohomish, Skagit, or Whatcom County. But an unexpected thing happened. Our adult kids and their spouses decided they would like to find some acreage together...and that they'd like us to join them! Would we consider buying some adjoining land and being neighbors? Well...hmm...let's see now...of course! So began our search for "a little" more than twenty acres.

Because we really like four distinct seasons, we extended our search to central Washington, and then to eastern Washington and other western and Rocky Mountain states. One thing led to another, and in 2007 we found a beautiful

hidden diamond in Northeast Washington. It is 140 acres of timber, pasture, and a three-acre pond.

That summer and the next, the family camped on a campsite in tents and trailers, sometimes all together, sometimes one family at a time. In 2008 we put in roads and utilities, scoped out an area on our parcel for our utility barn and a house, and moved our trailer down to the site. In the spring of 2009, we began construction of a monitor barn with a "temporary" 800' sq. home on one side. We also had a well drilled and brought water pipes to the barn/home and surrounding garden and livestock areas.

All that summer we went back and forth, spending a couple of weeks on the west side, a couple on the east side, and so on. By fall the barn was enclosed and ready for us to resume work the following spring. We wintered in Mukilteo, but on Easter Sunday 2010, we

drove a moving truck over to the property. The trailer was our home for five months while finishing our home in the utility barn. Jim did most of it himself with Adele as laborer and an extra pair of hands.

The kids came and went all summer, helping with various parts of the construction and finish work. Some of them worked on their own land as well. Between the ten adults we have quite a broad spectrum of skills, expertise, and interest in various aspects of agriculture and the "back to the land" lifestyle. Eleven grandkids (and counting) add their excitement and enthusiasm.

Now we think we might not want to build a bigger house after all—this cozy little abode may be just the right size for us. So far we still think we could live here happily, especially since we are outside most of the time for several months of the year. We made it through the winter without cabin fever! Even during snowstorms we went outside at least two or three times a day.

When we made the big move here we fenced in a 3-acre section that includes our barn, home, garden, orchard, and space for small livestock. For starters we got chickens last spring. Watching over the chickens and the humans are two beautiful Maremma Sheepdogs, Gus and Clara--our livestock guardians extraordinaire. They have been busy keeping coyotes and bears out of our personal space.

Last year we raised 42 baby chicks—assorted laying breeds to try out plus Freedom Ranger meat-birds. We learned how to butcher poultry, and after a couple of fam-



Adele & Jim Noetzelman

ily processing days and a visit to a mobile poultry processor, we had chickens and two Thanksgiving turkeys in the freezer.

While raising wholesome food for our family, we also want to provide some income. This year we're establishing a business to sell farm products. We're on the way to selling hatching eggs, chicks, and pastured poultry. Another project is a breeding experiment to develop a sustainable quick-growing meat chicken. Grassfed beef cattle will be the next addition to our farm. We are planning a very intensive rotational grazing program that will use stockpiled grass in the winter, minimizing the necessity for hay. This means more fences, a good water system, and continual management of all paddocks. For now, the two of us are the only ones living full time on the property, so we pace ourselves and the projects.

Many a time over the past year we've pulled out our Livestock Advisor Manuals. We've had a lot to learn and remember about the feed

and care of livestock. Though we've raised cows and horses before, chickens are new to us. All through the past year, we have recalled things that were said by speakers and classmates during our Livestock Advisor Training course. One of the concepts from the course we recall often is that we are not chicken or beef farmers—we are grass farmers!

Recently we started a rural consulting business, encouraging people in the transition from urban/suburban to rural life and helping with property development. As we meet others in our community, our heart is to help others pursue their dreams of a more self-sufficient lifestyle. And part of that is passing on things we learned in our Livestock Advisor Training. It's an awesome program and it's made a big difference in our life.

Wishing for each of you a dream come true,

Jim and Adele Noetzelman

## Skagit County Junior Livestock Auction

August 12

Buyer BBQ 5:30

Livestock Sale 6:30

Come and  
support the  
kids

## ***Livestock Advisor Update***

***LIFE AT OUR LADY OF THE ROCK- SHAW ISLAND, WA***

By Mother Hildegard

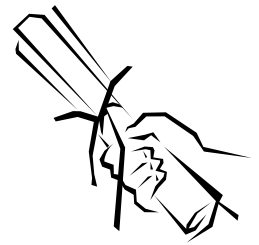
We always appreciate people asking about us and the animals. Mother Therese and Mother Hildegard continue in their capacity as Master Livestock Advisors: MT at times with cheese making and fowl and the dairy, MH with sheep and llamas and fiber products. Mother Dilecta cares for the cattle and pigs. This year for the first time we got Berkshires. We

still have our certified raw milk dairy, with a new cow and her heifer calf at side.

Due to the market, we have stopped breeding the llamas and alpacas but still have 16 and sell the fiber. We have also decreased breeding of the Cotswold sheep, for the same reason. This year we have 4 bred ewes, one ram lamb so far, but the wool continues to be a good source of income for us.

People from all over NA ask for the wool.

Our two Portuguese Water Dogs, Bella and Koko (as well as our Chocolate Lab, Shanley), continue to give us laughs. All very serious farm workers! We have had many laborers this year so far, with some wanting to learn about farming. We welcome visitors, especially those who want to pitch in!



# Recent Graduates of the Livestock Advisor Training Program

Jerry Ball  
 Michelle Canfield  
 Heidi Castaneda  
 Vincent Chaffee  
 Burt Daggett  
 Cherry Dennis  
 William Dennis  
 Barbara Devol  
 Marc Goodsell  
 Chris Hall  
 Lauren Hubbard  
 Katharine Isserlis  
 Becca Johnston  
 Therese Lundvall  
 Jaryn Maxson  
 Micheal McDade  
 Sharon Bertilson \*

Shiafaun Medwick  
 Sally Pritchard  
 Paul Thorne  
 Kevin VanderWall  
 Trisha Anderson-Brown  
 Brittany Briggs  
 Tyler Burns  
 Audrey Chadwell  
 Megan Cruise  
 Craig DeYoung  
 Ryan DeYoung  
 Jill Eelkema  
 Cheryl Elliot  
 Debbie Foster  
 Jerry Foster  
 Brian Bartmes\*  
 Kurt Bertilson\*

Eileen Frazier  
 Barbara Hay  
 Kathleen Knull  
 Marissa Levi  
 Mikel Levi  
 Glode MacConnell  
 Lindsey Martin  
 Kate Mintz  
 Robin Morse  
 John Nelson\*  
 Margaret Olson  
 Jeff Poetzel  
 Kristin Poyser  
 Jerry Poyser  
 Marilene Richardson  
 Stephanie Stetson  
 Allen Deets\*

**Weed Identification:** Don Stanwyck (LA Class of 2008 Snohomish County) was asked to identify the weed below for a pasture owner. He determined it was “March Cudweed.”



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## Upcoming Pastured Poultry Shortcourse at WSU Puyallup

The WSU Small Farms Team will sponsor a short course in producing pastured poultry on **August 22, 2011** at the WSU Puyallup Research and Extension Center. Join OSU Extension Poultry Specialist Jim Hermes, veteran pastured poultry producer Melissa Barker, organic farming researcher and soil scientist Andy Bary, WSU Extension Food Safety Specialist Karen Killinger, WSU Avian Health and Food Safety Lab Chief Rocio Crespo, and WSDA Organic Livestock Certification Coordinator Katherine Withey for a comprehensive course on raising poultry in a pasture setting. Topics to be covered include:

- Marketing
- Economics
- Breed Selection

- Organic Certification
- Animal Care
- Cages and Fencing
- Processing Food Safety
- Pasture Management
- Animal Health and Disease
- Growing, Buying, & Mixing Feed

A chicken breed trial is underway this summer at the Organic farm at WSU Puyallup.

Slow Cornish chickens are being compared to Cornish Cross for feed conversion efficiency and other traits.

Both breeds will be mature and on display during the field portion of the class.



Visit the website at:

<http://smallfarms.wsu.edu/education/courses/pasturedpoultry/>

Pre-registration is required and course admission is \$40 (includes lunch). Online registration coming soon.

## From the desk of..... John Nelson, Foundation President

Many people in our communities are rediscovering the rewards of being more self-sufficient. They are raising their own livestock. The need and opportunities for WSU Livestock Advisors grows each year. This last year I helped at our Livestock master foundation booth at various area fairs. We talked to people about the livestock advisor training classes, sold raffle tickets and answered questions. We also listened and learned from many of the people we talked to. As livestock advisors, we can help people in their farming ventures by learning as much as we can. Last year, I along with other advisors traveled to Pullman for a tour of the animal and science program at WSU. The

tour was outstanding. We learned a lot about beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, swine and meat processing. The Beefing up the future seminar that WSU held last October, showed how to take advantage of a changing industry. The WSU poultry extension in Puyallup also had a seminar in which I walked away with many new ideas and addition plans. In January we had our country Living Expo & cattleman's winter school which had over 150 classes. In April I learned more about growing pasture. Dr. Steve Fransen spent April 12 and 13 in the Skagit area teaching and showing us how to improve our pastures. His enthusiasm still inspires me. Currently the new livestock

advisor classes are underway. Each year the content of the advisor classes changes some. There is always something new to learn. The Livestock Master Foundation along with WSU is continually seeking training opportunities for our livestock advisors and the opportunities to use the skills and knowledge we all acquire. So TEAM to sum it all up, take the opportunity to learn and volunteer to support the Foundation. We do need your help. Remember we not only advise the people in our communities but provide financial assist to some of our future farmer programs.

John Nelson-----President  
Livestock Master Foundation

## Volunteers Very Much Needed!

<b>Silvana Fair</b> July 30, 2011	9 AM – 12:30 PM	12:30 PM - 4:00 PM
	1. Christaan Zegstroom	1. Debbie Foster
	2. Barb DeVol	2.
	3.	3.
<b>Stanwood Fair</b> Friday Aug	10 AM – 3:00 PM	3:00 PM – 8:00 PM
	1.	1. Lindsey Martin
	2.	2.
	3.	3.
Saturday Aug 6th	10 AM – 3:00 PM	3:00 PM – 8:00 PM
	1. Christaan Zegstroom	1. Barb DeVol
	2. Kristin Poyser	2.
	3. Jerry Poyser	3.
Sunday Aug 7th	10 AM – 3:00 PM	3:00 PM – 8:00 PM
	1.	1.
	2.	2.
	3.	3.
<b>Skagit</b> Wed. Aug 10th	10 AM – 3:00 PM	3:00 PM – 8:30 PM
	1. Dee Dennis	1. Kassandra Burnham
	2. Cherry Dennis	2.
	3.	3.5:30 Caitlin Price
Thurs. Aug 11th	10 AM – 3:00 PM	3:00 PM – 8:30 PM
	1. Dee Dennis	1.
	2. Cherry Dennis	2.
	3.	3.
Friday Aug. 12th	10 AM – 3:00 PM	3:00 PM – 8:30 PM
	1.	1.Kassandra Burnham
	2.	2. Wes & Kathy Hagen
	3.	3. 5:30 Caitlin Price
Saturday Aug. 13	10 AM – 3:00 PM	3:00 PM – 8:30 PM
	1. Barb DeVol	1.
	2.	2.
	3.	3.

## Artificial Insemination School at WSU Pullman Aug. 11- 13

WSU animal science experts are offering an artificial insemination short course in Pullman, Aug. 11 – 13. The course will be taught by David deAvila, a WSU research technician who has extensive experience in AI and in teaching AI to WSU undergraduates. The course will be limited to 20 people. Tuition is \$400 per person, regardless of time of arrival: this covers animal costs and supplies. The minimum age for participation is 15. Students under the age of 18 must have a parent or designated guardian with them.

WSU professor of animal sciences Kris Johnson said, "Some people will want to learn this from the beginning while others just need a refresher. Artificial insemination providers used to offer this info, but some don't have the facilities anymore. We wanted to meet the needs of smaller producers in the industry."

Participants may arrive at their convenience and join the class from Thursday afternoon at 2 p.m. through Friday at noon. Course organizers strongly recommend that people with no AI experience come on Thursday for the extra time and instruction. Those looking for a refresher course are advised to arrive no later than noon on Friday. Classroom instruction in reproductive physiology, semen handling, estrus synchronization and heat checking will be given. To enroll, go to:

<http://www.ansci.wsu.edu/>  
and click the AI School link to fill out the registration form.

## Livestock Advisor Training Fall 2011 Skagit County

Where: Skagit County Extension-Burlington Office

When: Sept. 13 thru November 15

Time: 6:00-9:00 P.M.

Cost: \$250\*

(2nd person from same family/farm attends for free but also agrees to return hours)

Contact [joanrd@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:joanrd@co.skagit.wa.us) or call 360-428-4270 Ext. 240

## Livestock Advisor Training Winter 2012 Snohomish County

When: Feb-April

Where: Snohomish County

Time: 6:00-9:00 P.M.

Cost: \$250\*

(2nd person from same family/farm attends for free but also agrees to return hours)

Contact [joanrd@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:joanrd@co.skagit.wa.us) or call 360-428-4270 Ext. 240

## Beef 200 at Stanwood High School

WSU Experts will bring Beef 200 to Stanwood High School Sept 30-Oct 1. Save the date, more information will be available soon at: <http://www.ansci.wsu.edu/> 200 Program: this program is designed primarily for people west of the cascades and others who may not have the time to attend a three day 300 program. The course covers the same material in a condensed day and a half program with fewer hands-on activities.

## Poison Hemlock Photos



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

## Country Living Expo & Cattlemen's Winterschool 2012

Saturday, January 28, 2012 - Stanwood HS



### Save the Date!



Registration available Nov. 2011. Register early to receive a discount.

Visit <http://skagit.wsu.edu/CountryLivingExpo>

or call 360-428-4270 ext. 0



**OVER 150 LIVESTOCK & COUNTRY  
LIVING CLASSES TO CHOOSE FROM!**



## PLANNING for this year's

## Country Living Expo

## & Cattlemen's Winterschool

begins September 14, 2011

at the home of Dave & Carol Schram

25619 - 12th Ave. NW, Stanwood

A wonderful potluck begins at 6:00 PM, with our meeting following at 7:00. We will adjourn by 8:30 P.M.! For the past 3 years we have had dynamic folks come together willing to share ideas, listen objectively to others for the good of our program, and cohesively weave our ideas into an incredible event that has touched the lives of almost 3000 people. Again our Country Living Expo & Cattlemen's Winterschool will be hosted by Stanwood FFA at Stanwood High School. Each year our goal is to build on our successes while incorporating an even higher level of education and program delivery for attendees. Join us in our planning for this year's event at Dave & Carol's. If you are unable to be on our planning committee but would like to suggest speakers or topics please e-mail me directly with ideas.

### FEED COSTS

#### TIPS:

It's a wild ride in our world today, with sunshine certainly helping folks desperate to make hay. This is certainly the year to aggressively **fill your barn** with local hay ASAP. Many hay growers were drawn to plow under their alfalfa fields, replacing it with more lucrative grains. Add the lousy cold weather into the mix and the present price of big bale Eastern Washington hay is around \$300 per ton *in the semi load*. Presently rolled corn is being sold for \$325 per ton to the dairy farms-ensuring an even higher price for bagged feed this year. Sit down and evaluate your cost of production with today's feed cost, and make the best decision for you. Fortuitously high beef and lamb prices are bringing more profit to livestock owners. Don't get caught in December buying "golden" hay for your animals or you may get coal in your stocking.

Extension programs and policies are consistent with federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, gender, national origin, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension Office.