



AGRICULTURE

Herbicides show promise as alternative to bluegrass burning

Studies by University of Idaho agricultural scientists seeking ways to maintain Kentucky bluegrass seed production without the use of fire enters its third year with notable progress. Research is funded by \$750,000 from multiple sources.

The first two years of field data showed the need for two new herbicides to add to growers' options. The herbicides suppress bluegrass growth and allow higher yields the following season. Promising initial results led to a request for Idaho and Washington herbicide registration, says Donn Thill, the UI weed scientist who leads the research team.

One bluegrass grower in Washington state, where burning is banned, plans a 30-acre field trial based on the early results.

Another experiment—using cattle to reduce the volume of bluegrass residue after harvest—shows grazing alone will not be enough. However, a baling plus grazing residue removal practice looks promising.

Outreach efforts and growers' interest in maintaining productive bluegrass stands is evolving into a healthy example of cooperation, observes Thill.

The greatest study impact so far reflects the traditional strengths of UI Extension. John Holman, a support scientist on the project, leads efforts that rely on extension educators throughout the study area stretching from Idaho County north to Kootenai County.

A user-friendly website and email list already provide growers with easy access to the most current information.

"I think the website is a major highlight because it's important to get information out to the people who are going to use it," Thill added.

See it at <http://agweb.ag.uidaho.edu/bluegrass/>. *Contact Donn Thill at dthill@uidaho.edu.*

EDUCATION

UI's mule clones star in key science event

International media—including Britain's BBC, Asian, and European agencies—plus hundreds of families gathering in Seattle for one of the world's premier science events got a kick out of world-class science produced at the University of Idaho.

The UI's triplet mule clones visited Seattle Feb. 15 for Family Science Day during the American Association for the Advancement of Science annual meeting—the largest and most prestigious general science event. Media worldwide carried the story.

The clones provided a highlight for many visitors. A steady parade of children, parents, scientists, and other visitors stopped by the corral to see the mules in the Washington State Convention and Trade Center.

Professors Gordon Woods and Dirk Vanderwall, from the UI Department of Animal and Veterinary Science, presided.

Contact Woods at gwoods@uidaho.edu.

DID YOU KNOW?

37'' is amount of water required to grow a lawn, Idaho's second thirstiest "crop," after alfalfa (38").

Source: AgriMet, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

FAMILY

Teens learn food safety to increase their employability

Look around your average fast-food restaurant and what do you see behind the counter? Teens. Indeed, food-service is the first job for at least 70 percent of U.S. teenagers.

UI Extension food safety faculty have developed a nine-lesson curriculum that helps teens earn Idaho Food Safety and Sanitation certificates. Not only does this certificate—required of at least one person in all Idaho restaurants—give students an obvious advantage in their entry-level job market, it helps keep their future families safe in their kitchens, says Canyon County Extension Educator Joey Peutz.

Called "Ready, Set, Food Safe," the class was taught by 23 Idaho high school teachers or teacher-extension educator teams to 727 students in 2002-03 and continues hale, hearty, and healthfully in 2003-04.

Contact Peutz at joeyp@uidaho.edu.