

LOCAL FARM FIELD DAYS

On-farm field days are a traditional educational tool used by Cooperative Extension Agricultural Agents/Educators. The field day is generally a day-long event held at a local cooperating farm and typically includes demonstrations of specific management practices. We have observed that attendance is usually better if a meal is provided. Participants are unwise, however, if they come for the meal and miss the instruction.

Field days can range from structured presentations about the practices and impacts of those practices to more informal events where participants walk through field plots or view practices at their own pace. Often, the best learning takes place as participants and presenters talk among themselves and share successes and failures. New ideas for potential research projects are often identified during farm field days.

Local leaders have organized an interesting summer field day to examine progress on controlling Medusahead in the Paradise/Avon area. This extremely competitive, invasive winter annual grass has already invaded over 2000 acres in Cache and Box Elder counties and is crowding out desirable grasses on rangelands and pastures. Infested ranches have suffered 40 to 70% reductions in grazing capacities.

Concerned land owners, along with personnel from several agencies, have organized a Weed Prevention Area in an effort to control medusahead and attempt to prevent additional spread. The purpose of this field day will be to review management plans that landowners are using, and to assess progress and deficiencies. Control of small isolated infestations will also be observed.

Interested participants are invited to meet at the Paradise City Park at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, July 14th. Plans for the morning include a tour of Selman Ranch, Jon White Ranch and the Zan Summers Farm where we will observe management practices and successes. We also anticipate observing USU herbicide test plots and reviewing the success of various herbicides at varying rates. The field day will conclude at approximately 1 p.m. with a lunch in the Paradise City Park. An e-mail to Colby Mower mover87@gmail.com would be helpful in planning for the meal.

Individuals with an interest in irrigated pastures will want to tour the Intermountain Irrigated Pasture Research Facility in Lewiston, Utah (1317 S 800 W) on July 22nd. The tour will begin at 10 a.m. and end with lunch at approximately 1 p.m. Individuals with small pastures, as well as larger operators will find items of interest at this local field day.

Participants will be updated on research findings with Tall Fescue and Timothy grasses, along with studies on Birdsfoot trefoil and legumes for grazing. Research personnel have been tracking impacts of environmentally friendly grazing on production, carcass, and meat quality in beef steers and growth and production with dairy cattle. Data will also be shared regarding

cattle preference and crop persistence. Individuals desiring additional information may call 797-3772.

We will likely hold field days at the Blue Creek and Greenville Research Farms to look at dryland and irrigated crops. I do not have details yet, but will pass along an invitation as soon as plans are finalized.