

Conservation Of Soil Topic At Assn. Meet

Seeding of Improved Pastures Emphasized As Program Item for 1948

County and community committees of the Douglas County Agricultural Conservation Association met at the K. P. Hall in Roseburg Thursday to hear County Agent J. Roland Parker, member of the county committee, discuss the seeding of improved pastures and other practices under the 1948 Agricultural Conservation Program. Parker was introduced by J. F. Bonebrake, chairman of the association.

Bonebrake stated that, "The need for conservation of soil is apparent in the county. It is evidenced by the great drop in profitable tillable cropland." He pointed out that conservation farming pays the farmer by increased returns, and pays the consumer through a plentiful supply of food at lower prices. It will also pay the future generations if we leave soils capable of producing their food and clothing.

Good Pastures Needed

Attention was called to the fact that little cropland is left in the county to be developed, and land now being cropped should be "built up to increase production." Development of good pastures is the most economical way, stated Parker, to increase fertility and productivity of unproductive cropland. He added that 270,000 acres of grazing land "could be improved and carrying capacity increased" by seeding to improved perennial grasses and legumes.

Good pastures containing the approved grasses and legumes will return more cash income to the farmer in this county than the average grain crop, Mr. Parker said. The average wheat yield in the county, he explained, is only about 17 bushels per acre when good land and poor is all taken into consideration. If the cost of plowing, planting, and harvesting is deducted from the grain value produced by the average land little or no profit is left.

Good pastures will not only yield a fair profit to the farmer over a period of years but will at the same time build up fertility so that tillable land can again produce grain yields that will pay, especially when a good rotation policy is practiced. Legumes store nitrogen in the soil which stimulates the growth of grasses, improving the quality of feed as well as increasing carrying capacity per acre.

Two Varieties Suggested

The most productive pasture legumes for Douglas County are subterranean clover and lotus corniculatus. There are many varieties of lotus, some of which are not adapted to local conditions, and some are not palatable to livestock. Farmers can rely on Oregon grown seed, but should get full information on imported seed before buying, Parker said. New varieties of both subterranean clover and lotus are in the process of development and may well prove far superior to the now available varieties.

Among the grasses which have proven hardest are alta fescue, red creeping fescue, meadow foxtail, English ryegrass and, for poorest soils, Highland bentgrass, are the most successful.

Two or more of these grasses should be chosen to fit soil conditions on the individual field or farm. Each grass has its own range of adaptability. English (or perennial) ryegrass grows quickly and well on all types of soil; Alta fescue on soils of good depth and moisture; red creeping fescue on good to medium soils, and Highland bent is desirable only on the poorer thin soils. Farmers should seek advice in

choosing their pasture mixtures, and consult the county agent's office, their handbook, or committeemen, unless they know by experience what varieties to use and where to use them.

Program Aid Available
The Agricultural Conservation Program gives direct assistance to farmers in providing part of the cost of the seed for approved mixtures and making it possible to seed good proven varieties at about the same cost as for cheaper seed mixtures for which no assistance is available. Farmers should refer to their 1948 handbook of conservation practices for specifications on this, and other practices, to be sure that their work will qualify for assistance payments.

Other practices for which payment is available under the 1948 program are clearing land for pasture, application of limestone, application of phosphate, application of nitrogen to approved pasture seedings, construction of drainage ditches and construction of sod waterways.

Farmers must sign up their proposed practices before May 1, in order to obtain any payments for carrying out these practices. If a farmer needs help in planning his program he should contact his committeeman or call at the county office in the Pacific building. Worksheet forms and instructions have been sent to all farmers on the mailing list. Others should contact the county office.

Crackdown Hits GI Contests For Body Beautiful

FORT LEWIS —(AP)—Beauty-lovers everywhere will remember the search for the GI body beautiful recently launched at this peacetime army post. The idea caught on like a flypaper overnight.

In nothing flat, the gym was jumping. Barrels banged. Pipe-armed corporals clung and grunted on the chinning-bars. Massive sergeants did pushups with gusto (a T/5). The air was filled with torn pinecone decks and phone books, shredded by men who had once used both hands to squeeze toothpaste out of a tube.

Lone crackshooters sat saddled in the barracks shooting dice with the mice—all the men were too busy building muscle to give any thought to the bones. Then the breeze that blighted the body beautiful blew in from San Francisco.

An officer here who requested anonymity told of a grim visit by stern men from Sixth Army headquarters.

"Call off the contest," the visitors said. They declared it was undignified.

"But . . ." said the men from Fort Lewis. But no buts would be listened to.

"The body beautiful must go," announced the men from San Francisco, and as one man they wheeled and strode back to their airplane and vanished into the wild blue yonder.

The word was passed. Stunned, the muscle-builders stopped construction. Pushups halted. Barrels were dropped.

And now they gather dust in a darkened gym. Biceps wilt, chestlines droop, muscles are running to fat.

"Since the body beautiful contest is off," a burly sergeant wistfully said, "He is an empty thing." And he hoisted a flagon of ale with a flabby arm and forced it down—a gesture of utter despair.

GILL TO REMAIN
CORVALLIS, Ore., April 5.—(AP)—Slats Gill will remain at Oregon State. The veteran basketball coach disclosed over the weekend that he has rejected offers of coaching posts at both Minnesota and UCLA. Gill has been at Oregon State for 21 years.

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"—and so he promised to rent Vermont for me this summer for week-ending."

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