

Soil Conservation Spells Permanent Supplies of Food

Reserves of fertility in the soil for future abundant production as well as reserves of food and feed in bins, cribs, warehouses and grocery shelves are dividends on the investment the nation is making in soil and water conservation. Chairman E. Harvey Miller of the Oregon State PMA Committee, states.

Through cooperating with farmers in carrying out conservation practices, the nation is building strength in the land that assures continued abundant production. Resistance to erosion built into the land through green manure, lime, phosphate, pasture improvements and similar practice, not only protects the land against erosion but will strengthen its productive capacity to meet the needs of an increasing population.

It is more than just holding the soil for a "sustained production," the chairman points out, "it is building on what we have for greater production in the future. Only by increasing the productivity of our land can we meet the needs of a population that has increased 13 million since 1940."

He points out that when the nation cooperates with a farmer by sharing the cost of conservation practices, as it is doing through the Agricultural Conservation Program, the people have added assurance that there will be plenty of food for a good living in the future.

"Full bins at the beginning of World War II and an abundance of food since the war are evidence that the investment in conservation is paying off," the chairman says. "The abundant harvests of recent years were due in large measure to favorable weather and other factors but the conservation work has helped make that abundance possible."

The conservation work done by farmers under the program for the past 12 years will continue to return dividends. Continued conservation effort will assure continued strengthening of the soil and assurance of continued abundant production.

Tomato Production In Greenhouses Explained

Tomatoes are one of two major vegetables commonly grown in greenhouses, which are usually grown in the fall as well as early spring, writes A. G. Bouquet, O. S. professor of vegetable crops, in his new extension circular number 525, entitled, "Greenhouse vegetables—Tomatoes." Copies are available free.

Cucumbers are rarely, if ever, grown as a fall crop under glass, Bouquet states in his publication intended to detail the essentials for successful greenhouse production of tomatoes. Temperature requirements for tomatoes in the greenhouse call for a minimum of 60 to 65 degrees if maximum growth is to be maintained and leaf diseases avoided.

Among subjects detailed by Bouquet in his six-page circular are soils, varieties, trimming and training, pollination, watering, mulching, fertilization and crop ailments and control.

Blueprint Symbols Are Plain in House Bulletin

Many persons who suffer from "blueprint blues" when they attempt to make "heads or tails" out of a house plan may find some assistance in a new publication just released at Oregon State college.

Atomic Heredity Change Slow But Most Certain

OREGON STATE COLLEGE—Hereditary effects of radiation from atomic bombing and similar exposures may not show up for

several generations but will inevitably affect the future of the race, Dr. H. J. Muller, Nobel prize winner and professor of zoology at Indiana University, told those attending the annual Sigma Xi fall lecture here. Sigma Xi is the honor society for research scientists.

Dr. Muller, making a tour of Sigma Xi chapters throughout the middle and far west said that high frequency radiation, such as from X-rays and those from atomic energy, is the only thing yet found to affect heredity, and then only if reproductive tissues are involved.

Even minute exposure of such tissues, however, causes changes that will accumulate and lie dormant like time bombs ready to show up in the distant future when two characters similarly affected happen to meet. The delay in appearance is likely to make people unduly reckless of such effects, Dr. Muller warned.

Market Outlets For Oregon Fruits Scanned at Meet

The northwest fruit industry would do well to maintain a market representative in Europe to keep in contact with future export outlets as they develop, Wm. A. Schoenfeld, dean and director of agriculture at O.S.C., told delegates to the annual meeting of the Oregon State Horticultural society in Corvallis.

Dollar shortage abroad and the emergency need for cereals, fats, fertilizers and some farm machinery has precluded recent purchases in quantity of the northwest's normal exports of apples, pears and dried prunes, Schoenfeld reported. As recovery proceeds further, however, the northwest could be more assured of regaining markets in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, The Netherlands and the Scandinavian countries by having their own representative on the ground, he believes.

Meanwhile he urged intensive market development in this country and Canada as an outlet for present production.

A new vegetable section of the society was formed with officers elected to prepare an annual program in connection with the regular convention. Chairman chosen by the vegetable men is Truman Chase, Eugene, with Larry Aylsworth, Gresham, vice-president and Ed Caruthers, Hillsboro, secretary.

Officers chosen by the main organization are Lon Hawkins, Eugene, president; Robert Tana-maker, Hood River, first vice-president; Ward Spatz, Medford, second vice-president; Tom Harper, Junction City, third vice-president; and C. O. Rawlings, Oregon State college, secretary-treasurer. Eugene will be the meeting place next year.

Flared skirts still outnumber the straight line. Old-fashioned blouses and sweaters are still being stressed.

Better Nitrogen Fertilizer Made; Storage Problem

Better quality nitrogen fertilizer, in a form more easy to store and spread, is now available at the Salem plant of the Columbia Metals corporation, says Art King, O. S. C. soils conservation specialist. Farmers can help by purchasing spring needs now and taking delivery, thus freeing storage space at the plant.

In the past sacked fertilizer from the plant has been difficult to store, King relates. The product was slightly wet so that moisture in the air and in the fertilizer destroyed bags in storage. All that has been changed now.

Within the past two weeks the fertilizer company has installed drying equipment which is expected to overcome the bag-rotting difficulties.

King, who has inspected the new equipment, says fertilizer material produced now is dry. The crystals are large and uniform, he reports, and spreading will be easier.

The company is now beset with storage worries, however, King reports. Until recently an ammonia shortage had the plant closed down. But through efforts of the Oregon congressional delegation, a supply of ammonia was obtained from army ordnance plants.

With fall needs of nitrogen fertilizer generally supplied, the plant is now building up a backlog that is taxing storage capacity. King says the plant may be forced to close down again—this time because too much hard-to-get nitrogen fertilizer is on hand.

Yule Tree Harvest, 1948, Will Set Oregon Record

SALEM, Ore., Nov. 29.—(P)—State forester Rogers reports that the 1948 Christmas tree harvest will be the largest in Oregon history.

Most of the trees cut in the state will fill local markets, but the bulk of state shipments to California, Kansas and the Hawaiian Islands will exceed the 200,000 reported last year.

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U. S. Imports of Canadian Potatoes Draw Protest

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—(P)—Senator Gurney (R-S.D.) has protested to the Agriculture Department over U. S. imports of Canadian potatoes in the face of domestic surpluses.

Gurney said failure to limit such imports is costing American taxpayers millions of dollars annually.

He told Secretary of Agriculture Brannan he had noted the Department's recent announcement that the support price of domestic Irish potatoes would be dropped from 90 per cent to 60 per cent of parity in the 1949 crop year.

Oregon Farmers to Get Fund to Fight Erosion

PORTLAND, Nov. 29.—(P)—Oregon farmers will get \$2,000,000 of federal funds to fight soil erosion next year.

The state production and marketing administration committee reports the allocation is 80 per cent higher than this year.

The payments are made to farmers who participate in approved soil conservation programs.

Most of the money is expected to go to Eastern Oregon areas where erosion in the wheatlands has been severe.

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Canada to Halt Potato Exports To United States

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—(P)—American potato growers won't have to compete with the Canadian product the rest of the marketing season.

The Agriculture Department has given that assurance in announcing that the Canadian government has agreed to halt all spud exports December 1 except those sent to this country for seed purposes.

In recent weeks American growers and Congress members have protested that the Canadians were underselling home grown potatoes at a time when the U. S. government was spending \$100,000,000 to take 63,500,000 surplus bushels off the market.

The department said Canada, in making the agreement, has helped this government materially by recognizing the "adverse effect which unrestricted imports of Canadian potatoes" would have on the U. S. program.

In addition to the \$100,000,000 price support outlay, the Agriculture Department has ordered next year's potato lands reduced by 20,000 acres and has set 60 per cent as the parity price instead of the current 90 per cent. (Parity is the theoretical "fair to everyone" price congress authorized).

Canada, meanwhile, announced it is instituting a price support program for its potato growers. It will fix the purchase amount next April.

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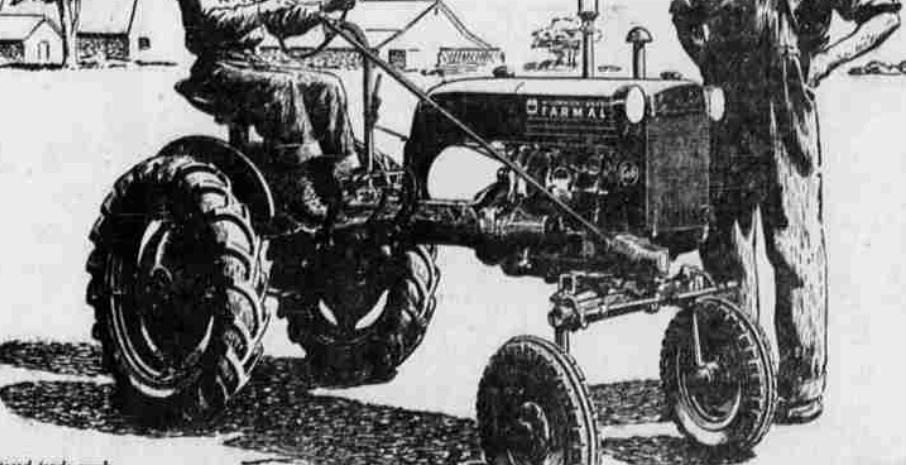
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