



FARM and GARDEN NEWS



Merge Practices Under AG Program, Advice to Farmers; Handbook Offers Guidance

Farmers intending to cooperate in the 1949 Agricultural Conservation (A.C.) Program and who are planning conservation practices for their farms should take into consideration the usual need for combining several practices.

This advice from J. F. Bonebrake, chairman of the Douglas County Agricultural Conservation Committee, was prompted by the fact that sometimes farmers think of conservation practices as independent of each other when in most cases practices are more effective in combination.

The real purpose of providing assistance for applying lime and phosphate is the increase in growth of plants that provide protection to the soil—plants that hold the soil and help to make it more productive.

In addition to lime and phosphate, the 1949 handbook of practices for Douglas County offers assistance for pasture seeding and the use of nitrogen on fall seeded cropland pastures, clearing land for pastures, and the construction of drainage ditches and sod waterways. All these practices, or any combination of them, serve to meet the most serious conservation needs in the county. The handbook will be

sent to all farmers in the next few weeks.

Careful Reading Urged

Bonebrake advises farmers of Douglas County to read their handbook carefully then consider the conservation problems on their farms and plan the combination of practices which will meet the problems. Not all the problems can be met in one year so the most serious one should be considered first.

He emphasized that it may be more economical and more effective to keep land productive than to restore land after it has been damaged. "Conservation is protection as well as cure."

He urged that plans be made now for conservation under the 1949 A.C. Program, with emphasis on a combination of practices to meet the most serious problems. Stressing farmer responsibility, he urged: "Where assistance is provided to help us carry out conservation practices, we as farmers have a responsibility to get all the conservation we can for each dollar of assistance."

Wait'll Louis Goes Home!



Imagine what Mrs. Louis Petroni will say when he gets home—smelling of (a) garlic, (b) champagne and (c) singer Joan Edwards' perfume. "Dear," Louis will say, "you see I was the 30,000th farmer to bring my produce to San Francisco's Farmers' Market, and they gave me a necklace of garlic, and Joan Edwards poured champagne on my head." No matter what Mrs. P. thinks, it's true

Turkey Crop to Be Larger This Year

Oregon's 1949 turkey crop will be 30 per cent larger than last year's short output, the federal crop reporting service says in a report based on producers' intentions.

Earlier private predictions, based on lower feed prices and the record prices paid for the 1948 crop, were for an increase of 20 to 25 per cent.

The federal report said producers have indicated intentions to raise 2,131,000 birds. This would be 5 per cent below the five-year average, but still the largest state turkey crop since the record output of 3,105,000 turkeys in 1945.

Increases of 15 per cent in Washington and 20 per cent in California were indicated by producers. Growers in all western states, who produce about 30 per cent of the nation's turkeys, have planned a 23 per cent increase. A 23 per cent boost is indicated nationally.

Continued strong demand for hatching eggs was reported.

Load of Feeder Cattle Auctioned For Record Price

DENVER, Jan. 24. — (AP) — A world's record price for a load of feeder cattle—\$77 per hundredweight—was paid last week at the National Western Stock Show Auction.

The grand champion feeder cattle load of 20 Shorthorns, which weighed a total of 9,075 pounds, was purchased by W. J. Foxley of Omaha, Neb., for \$6,987.75.

The cattle, exhibited in the show by Josef Winkler of Castle Rock, Colo., will be taken to Boy's Town, Neb., for use in the agricultural program there, Foxley said.

Despite the record price paid

for the champion load, Lawrence M. Pexton, president and general manager of the Denver union stockyards, said this year's sale would not equal that of 1948.

He predicted the 214 cars would average about \$25 a hundred, bringing in a total of \$1,075,000. Last year, 254 loads sold for \$1,500,000 an average of \$30 a hundred.

Oregon's Potato Stocks Higher Than Year Ago

PORTLAND, Jan. 24. — (AP) — Oregon's potato stocks at the start of this year were 40 per cent higher than a year ago, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reports.

Stocks held by growers and dealers were estimated at 4,250,000 bushels, compared to 3,000,000 a year before.

Washington and Idaho stocks on hand increased even more.

Prices of Cattle, Hogs Take Plunge On Chicago Mart

By WILLIAM FERRIS
CHICAGO, Jan. 24. — (AP) — Meat on-the-hoof isn't the four-legged gold it used to be.

Prices of both hogs and cattle are far down from the record highs made last year. And livestock experts agree that the slump in the past few weeks has been much more than just "seasonal."

Take hogs, for example. For a time last year hogs were the "black gold" of the Midwest, bringing fabulous prices. Hogs at Chicago hit a top of \$31.85 a hundred pounds last August. Last week the best price was \$21.50.

The same story applies to cattle. Average cost of slaughter steers at Chicago last week was estimated by Agriculture Department experts at \$23.75 a hundred pounds. That compared with an all time high last July of \$36.85.

What's behind the price drop? Mark Pickell, secretary of the Corn Belt Livestock Feeders Association, said, "There are just too darn many of the critters coming to market." He said he thought it would take from 30 to 60 days to "clean up" the present market glut.

Pickell predicted the current price decline several months ago, when he made the flat statement "meat prices are coming down." He admitted last week the drop in livestock prices was "more than I expected; I made a good forecast, but not enough of it."

H. M. Conway, market analyst for the National Livestock Producers Association, said some cattle feeders were a "little panicky" and therefore had started to send their cattle to market. He said he thought the price slump was greater than justified by the supply situation.

Specialty Crop Acreage Tripled in Recent Years

Oregon farm acreage devoted to specialty crops has more than tripled in the 30 years following World War I, according to figures included in a recent O. S. C. experiment bulletin, "Oregon's Capacity to Produce."

In 1919 only a little more than 5 percent of the crop land was used for tree fruits and nuts, small fruits, potatoes and truck crops, and other specialties such as forage seed crops. Now 16 percent of the crop land is used for these.

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Atomic Duty



Although a member of the Communist Party, Frederic Joliot-Curie, France's high commissioner for atomic energy, says he would quit the party if it ordered him to betray atomic secrets to Russia. He said his first "duty" was to France, regarding atomic secrets, "until the UN succeeded in outlawing all atomic weapons."

Smut Remains As No. 1 Wheat Enemy

Smut, the number one wheat disease problem in Oregon as well as the Northwest, stood its ground in 1948 as a menace to the industry, members of the Pacific Northwest smut control committee learned in a Portland meeting.

Robert E. White, PMA grain supervisor, Portland, told committee members that 14.1 percent of 17,444 federal grain samples taken in Oregon, Washington and Idaho during the 1948 harvest season graded smutty. An identical smut figure was registered on samples from the 1947 crop. Short cuts in seed treatment for smut are responsible for much of the disease spread, believes Rex Warren, O.S.C. extension farm crops specialist.

A member of the smut control committee, Warren states that smut infestation on two popular Oregon wheats—Eglin and Alcol—took an alarming jump in 1948. There was some improvement in hard red winter and common white wheats to offset the smut increase in the two white club varieties.

Water requires more heat to warm it and more cold to cool it than any other common substance.

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Production Credit Assn. Holds Annual Meet Wednesday

The Southern Oregon Production Credit Association holds its 15th annual meeting Wednesday noon, Jan. 26, at the Riverside Grange Hall. Luncheon will be served.

The association comprises membership in five Southern Oregon counties and has 551 members owning \$175,945 worth of stock. In 1948 it disbursed \$2,209,000 in farm loans. This represents an increase of \$350,000 over 1947, according to a report issued recently.

E. E. Henry, Spokane, president of the Production Credit Association, will be the principal speaker on the luncheon program.

The program follows:
11 a. m. Registration.
12 noon Luncheon.
1 p. m. Call to order, chairman.
1:05 p. m. Introduction of guests, directors and staff.
1:15 p. m. Reading of minutes of previous meeting.
1:30 p. m. Reports of Board of Directors and Loan Committee.
1:45 p. m. Secretary's report to stockholders.
2:10 p. m. Speaker from Production Credit Corporation.
2:30 p. m. Financial program.
2:45 p. m. Resolution for sale of class A stock.
3 p. m. Report of Nominating Committee.
3:10 p. m. Ballot for additional nominations.
3:30 p. m. Adjournment.

Price Support For Wool Continued

The government's 1949 wool price support program will provide a national average wool price to growers of slightly more than 42 cents a pound, on a basis, according to an announcement by the Department of Agriculture. This will approximate the 1948 support level.

Wool prices will be supported by purchases, and the program will apply to all types and grades of shorn and pulled wool. The wool support program is mandatory under legislation which provides for price support to producers at the 1946 level and permits the Commodity Credit Corporation to sell its wool stocks without regard to parity prices for wool.

Through October 31st the Department since 1943 had purchased 1.5 billion pounds of wool and had sold 1.4 billion pounds. On that date, almost 130 million pounds of wool were on hand, including 10.5 million pounds of undelivered sales.

Northwest Grain Little Hurt by Cold Weather

PORTLAND, Jan. 24. — (AP) — Pacific Northwest winter grains, vetches and field peas appear to have suffered no serious damage because of the prolonged cold weather.

But the Department of Agriculture reported that it was too early to determine the full extent of damage.

Grain areas of Eastern Oregon and Washington cannot evaluate damage until the ground thaws and crops start growing again.

Western Oregon areas reported damage appeared to be confined to some truck crops, such as cabbage, and less hardy types of seed crops, including clovers and rye grass.

Pigs to be Addition To Prineville Cattle Show

PRINEVILLE, Ore., Jan. 24. — (AP) — Pigs will appear at the Oregon Shorthorn breeders annual show and sale this year.

An Eastern Oregon sale of gilts will be held March 2, first day of the annual cattle show. It will be sponsored by the Oregon Swine Breeders Association.

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If we haven't been around to see you lately, we're hoping to do it soon. We'd like to get better acquainted... both with you and your farm. The better we know you, the better we'll be able to serve you.

Meanwhile, next time you're in town, drop in and see us. Lots of folks do. You'll be welcome.



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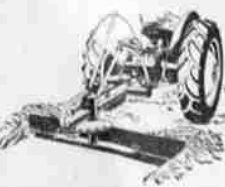


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