



FARM and GARDEN NEWS



Oregon Farmers Get New Alfalfa

PENDLETON — (AP) — A new revolutionary kind of alfalfa that will grow on dead soil without irrigation was shown to Oregon farmers near Pendleton recently.

This creeping alfalfa, called no-

mad, has been developed by E. F. Burlingham and sons, Forest Grove Seed company, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Test plots have been raised on farms and ranchland all over the west.

Thirty farmers from different parts of Oregon saw the alfalfa on a Burlington farm west of Pendleton.

Dr. Olaf Aamodt, USDA legume consultant, said that nomad is the answer for U. S. cattlemen who have 200 million acres of semi-arid land that is no good for grazing.

He said that nomad alfalfa is the first legume plant found that will grow and increase its crop from year to year despite drought, hoppers, plowing and extensive grazing.

The first nomad alfalfa was planted on a field in Klamath county. It was then distributed by the Burlington company to farms elsewhere in the west where it grew under all kinds of climatic and soil conditions, said William F. Cyrus, Burlington representative.

RED SHIPMENTS BANNED

PANAMA, Panama — (AP) — Official sources reported today that the Panamanian cabinet has drafted a decree forbidding ships flying Panama's flag to carry strategic goods to Red China.

Farm Wages in Oregon Higher Than Ever Before

CORVALLIS — (AP) — Oregon's farm wages on July 1 averaged \$1.97 an hour, without room and board. This is the highest in the United States.

The Oregon State college extension service made the reports in connection with its weekly price, crop and weather review compiled from federal Department of Agriculture and other reports.

On farm wages the southern states were low with South Carolina's 40 cents an hour at the bottom, and the western states were highest.

Four southern states paid less than 50 cents. Eleven states paid \$1.00 or more.

The average in the United States was 82 cents, compared with 73 a year ago.

Data On Oregon Meat Animals, Wool, Prepared

Farm production of meat animals in the state two years ago amounted to more than 400 million pounds live weight. It is recorded in a new Oregon State college extension bulletin, number 718 entitled, "Oregon's Meat Animals and Wool," which is now ready for distribution through county extension offices.

The 24-page publication is a statistical yearbook containing estimates on numbers, prices, and income for the years 1925 to 1951. It was compiled by OSC extension agricultural economists.

The bulletin includes information on cattle, sheep and wool, and hogs as well as cash receipts and price data.

More money is received by Oregon farmers from meat animals and wool than from any of the other 12 farm commodity groups for which statistical yearbooks are prepared, the economists declare.

Cash receipts from marketing was \$93,550,000 last year as compared with \$29,048,000 in 1940.

Income from cattle and calves accounted for almost three-fourths of the total received from meat animals and wool.

In 1949, the last year for which figures are complete, Malheur county led in cattle and calf pro-

West Is Proving Ground For Vast Cloud Seeding

By BURTON THOMPSON

DENVER — (AP) — This is a critical period for weather modification activities — generally referred to as rainmaking.

The test is whether there will be worthwhile results from cloud seeding weather modification attempts on a vast scale. The west is a giant proving ground.

The target terrain covers from 300,000,000 acres upward. Projects in 17 western states add up to over 13 percent of the nation's area. The overall figure may be 350,000,000 acres by the end of the summer.

This is the first big year for the fast-growing weather modification industry. The judges of how well the weather modifiers succeed will be thousands of farmers, ranchers and others backing individual projects with at least \$3,000,000.

One commercial rainmaker, Dr. Irving P. Krick of Denver, estimates his own contracts alone include 300,000,000 acres. His water resources development corporation contracts cover all New Mexico. Krick confidently predicted the end of a drought in that state in July. But the state still was dry in mid-July and a survey showed that rainfall this year has averaged 55 percent of normal.

"We are still confident that we will break the drought in July," Krick said, "and that they will get lots of rain in August and September."

Don't Be Miracles

Even if the far flung rainmaking efforts are generally successful, there won't be any miracles. Weather modifiers don't make rain — "We aren't magicians," Krick has emphasized. Only nature can put moisture in a cloud. The weather modifiers try to help her let loose of it.

To do the job, dry ice, silver iodide and other material are scattered from airplanes or sent up from ground generators.

The theory is that in nature, moisture is attracted to frozen drops of water, dust, bits of soil and rock. The thing to do is to furnish extra amounts of them.

Commercial rainmakers are confident moisture may be increased from 50 to 500 percent and that hail and heavy rains can be tamed. But some scientists and meteorologists feel that there is insufficient evidence that weather can be modified except on laboratory and local scales.

W. F. McDonald, assistant chief of the federal weather bureau, has said this of weather modification: "We admit the possibility that rainfall may be locally influenced in some degree by artificial means. The bureau feels that it is still too early to try to define what can or cannot be done."

Jim Wilson of Fort Collins, Colo., secretary of the National Weather Improvement association, takes this attitude:

"This whole thing is so new that it is only an experiment. But thousands of westerners want to try it. Farmers, ranchers and others have banded together in loosely-knit organizations. One man, several or a few could not afford to absorb the cost.

There are other considerations, too. Among them is freedom from

duction, Douglas led in sheep and lamb production, and Wallawa was the state's leading swine producing county.

Wool production, the bulletin says, has been on a steady decline since 1934 with the exception of 1941 when there was only a slight increase from the year before and 1950 which showed a 3 percent increase over 1949. Yet the 1950 wool average.

The total number of cattle on Oregon farms on January 1 this year was only one-half the 1939-48 year was one percent greater than on the same date in 1950. While milk cows have decreased, beef cow numbers have been on the rise.

Copies of the bulletin are also available directly from the college.

Hop Growers To View Test Plots At Field Today

A conducted tour of experimental plots is scheduled for the second annual hop growers field day at Oregon State college Friday afternoon, August 3. G. R. Hoerner, extension hop specialist, has announced.

Starting at 1:30 in the afternoon, the field day will be held at the experiment station's hop yard, located on the college farm one half mile east of Corvallis in Linn county. Signs will be erected.

Dr. K. R. Keller, USDA agronomist, is in charge of the tour. Hoerner will discuss the college's hop research program as the field day gets underway.

A hop breeding block, high-low fuggles selections, cultural and fertilizer trials will be seen, Hoerner concludes.

Velvet Grass Often Mistaken For Crab Grass

What you believe is crabgrass in your lawn may be the same thing that's confusing 3 out of 10 others who think they have it—and are mistaken.

Virgil Freed, in charge of weed research at the Oregon State college experiment station, says 90 percent of the state's homeowners who would swear they have a crabgrass problem are confusing it with some other weedy pest. Velvet grass, he adds, is the lawn nuisance most frequently mistaken for crabgrass.

Both are pests and either one is bad enough. Each in its own way is difficult to get rid of.

Yet here's the rub, says Freed: chemicals which are sold specifically as crabgrass sprays don't work on velvet grass. This means lots of time and money is being spent by homeowners who are fruitlessly attempting to get rid of velvet or some other grass with a spray which will not do the job. In most cases, there is nothing wrong with the spray materials. They'll work fine on crabgrass, but it's a case of trying to fill a round

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hole with a square peg when they are used on the wrong weed.

At least part of the blame is due to the fact, Freed says, that reams have been written about crabgrass. Actually it is a lawn pest which is much more widespread in the east and midwest, and velvet grass is comparatively unknown.

This might help you tell the difference: Crabgrass is an annual which starts as an individual plant and spreads by creeping. You'll see it most prominently in late summer.

Velvet grass, on the other hand, is a perennial which tends to form clumps of a different hue on a lawn. It has pale green leaves which stand erect.

Digging out the clumps is one way to get rid of velvet grass. Freed suggests doing it early in the spring. Another eradication method is to mix 1 pint of IPC

in 7 pints of stove oil and spray it on the clumps through a small watering can.



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WILL "CONTROLS" CONTROL

The following joint resolution was adopted by Congress: "It hath been found by experience that limitation in the price of commodities is not only ineffective for the purpose proposed, but likewise productive of very evil consequences to the great detriment of the public service and grievous oppression of individuals."

You didn't hear that on the radio, nor read it in current news, because the resolution was adopted by the Continental Congress on April 8, 1788. But the founding fathers knew that it "hath been found by experience."

What a wonderful thing if the present Congress could have profited by the knowledge possessed by the founders of our great country!

Or does Congress know? There is no reason they couldn't know. History is full of cases where price controls have failed. The Babylonians tried them 4000 years ago and the fifties 1000 years ago and the old guy, the Roman Emperor, Diocletian made it tough. A death penalty for evasion.

Merchants couldn't figure head nor tails to save their necks they simply went out of business. (Present day merchants can't figure heads nor tails either). Anyway, with no merchants doing business, the people got hungry, and kicked out controls. The emperor obligingly committed suicide, an act that would be popular with the general public if it were followed with considerable regularity in Washington today.

When England tried price controls on bread hundreds of years later bread disappeared from the stores. So Parliament repealed controls. Today England is a classic example of controlled economy. England and Russia. And "austerity," rationing and black markets are the result. Must the U. S. go through the same thing that has happened time and again before we learn? Must we take our lesson from bitter experience, rather than from history?

Well, it sure looks that way, and the answer is in the hands of the voter. But before we decide how to vote, let's decide to at least vote. And let's look some facts in the face.

1. Controls are un-American. It's not our "way of life." America was started as a land of freedom, and to get away from "controls."

2. What slight argument for controls is justified is the result of "scare buying" as a result of FEAR OF CONTROLS. Any scarcity results from such fear. Controls would require millions

of man-hours for enforcement, which if used for production, would increase production and lower prices. Therefore, "controls" make bad matters worse.

3. The enforcement army could cost the consumer. WHO PAYS THE TAXES to defray the cost of controls? Many times more than the savings, even if controls could be made effective. Remember the good old days of OPA, when every business man had to employ extra help to interpret the rules and fill in the blanks. And who paid in the long run. The taxpayer!

SEE WHAT WE MEAN

John Q. Public walked into the revenue office to pay his taxes.

"What's the matter with your nose? Run into a door, or sumpin'?" asked Uncle Sugar's collector.

"No," answered John Q. "You see I've been paying through the nose so long, it's beginning to tell."

RABBIT GROWERS, ATTENTION!

The regular monthly meeting of the Umpqua Rabbit Association will be held at the usual place and usual time Tuesday night, August 7th. Judge Law, one of the foremost authorities on the Pacific Coast will be here to address the members. He will also bring along his collection of rabbit fur. He will answer questions, and altogether, it will be one of the best meetings of the year. Don't miss this meeting.

Lady Shopper: "I'm 2 hours late. Have you seen my husband?"

Floorwalker: "What does he look like, Madam?"

Lady: "Well, he's probably blue in the face by now."

WHO STARTS THE FIRE?

If you started out right in your married life, the wife starts the fires on cold winter mornings. Otherwise, there's only one answer.

But perhaps you started a forest fire yesterday. Are you sure you didn't? Do you know only 10 percent of the forest fires are caused by lightning? The others by people like you and me. Not viciously criminal, but possibly criminally careless. We don't mean to, but we sometimes do.

Every forest fire destroys potential homes, potential jobs and potential happiness. If we

smoke, let's be sure to hold our match till it's cold, use an ash tray for butts, and drown our camp fires three times.

MOVE OVER, BROTHER

On his way to work, a friend of ours has to pass the N. P. Hospital. One guy out there thinks he's Bobby Feller, and puts in lots of time pitching imaginary curves, sliders, etc. Our friend always stops and watches the would-be Feller.

One morning recently one of the attendants asked him: "Why do you spend so much time watching that screwball?"

"Well," answered our friend, "if things keep going the way they are, I'll be in there battling against him some day. And I want to get onto his curves."

HUNGRY SHEEP

You are lucky if your pasture is only dry. Many people don't have any pasture at all. Some are feeding sheep cubes, but another good bet is Alfalfa & Molasses. It is being used extensively these days. Enough protein in the alfalfa and enough energy food in the molasses makes it a well balanced and economical feed. Besides, the sheep love it. The Mill sells it.

WORMY TURKEYS AND PULLETS

We run into an occasional flock of turkeys or pullets that show unmistakably the ravages of parasites. Wormy birds can't possibly do their best and you can't do very good yourself.

Don't let worms rob you and your birds. Not when it's so easy to deworm the flock. Use UMPQUA P. N. WORMER Mash or Pellets as a flock treatment, or P. N. Tablets for individual treatment. If your birds are wormy, you can't make a better investment.

THE BEST IS THE CHEAPEST

Just another reminder to you rabbit producers. The saying quoted above means that even though something costs more, it is still worth it if it has quality. But with UMPQUA RABBIT PELLETS you have not only the best, but at the same time, the cheapest. Increased sale of this fine rabbit ration for rabbits of all ages proves that no other ration has given better results, and certainly none so economically. And even rabbit raisers need that extra margin.

Filbert, Walnut Costs Listed In OSC Report

Cost information for producers of filberts and walnuts in Oregon is contained in the latest circular of information No. 499 published by the Oregon State college experiment station.

The new publication, entitled "Cost of Producing Filberts and Walnuts in Oregon," is a progress report on a study being conducted by Dr. G. W. Kuhlman, OSC agricultural economist, at the request of nut growers and processors.

The report includes a summary of 1949 production costs for 104 plantings of filberts on 94 farms and 23 plantings of walnuts on 91 farms in western Oregon. Free copies are available at county extension offices and OSC.

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