

Farm Bureau Federation Hears Millage Talk

Members of the Douglas County Farm Bureau Federation meeting this month heard County School Supt. Kenneth Barnburg explain the millage equalization bill.

The bill is sponsored by county school superintendents throughout Oregon. It is now before the Legislature.

In other business, the county federation members heard reports from several following commodity chairmen.

The next meeting of the federation will be held March 7. A state social security office will discuss new changes in the SS law affecting farmers.

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Farm Forest Facts

Should I hold my timber or sell it? That's the \$64 question. My crystal ball is covered with "smog" and doesn't give a clear answer—but here are a few things to consider.

FOREST MANAGEMENT experts tell us that Douglas fir does its fastest growing up to 100 years of age. After that growth slows down and it is more profitable to clear cut, leaving a good seed source, and let natural reproduction restock the area to small trees.

All indications are that forest land will be managed on a 100 year rotation or less. The days of the "old growth" are gone according to these experts.

From this knowledge we can conclude that if we have a stand of old growth, we are putting on very little volume growth. Many old growth stands, in fact, are actually losing volume because of insects, diseases, and windfall.

If conditions are right, it seems feasible that an old growth stand is ready for marketing whenever the landowner wishes.

The only drawback is—will my timber value increase the next ten years as it has the last ten? It's hard to really predict, but indications are that timber will always have a good standing in relation to other values.

Timber on farm woodlands, which is usually the most accessible and grows on the best soil, will always be in good demand. This leads one to think twice before he makes a decision to sell.

SMALL OPERATORS are having difficulty locating timber at present time. As more private timber is cut, farm woodland owners who have kept their timber will be in a favorable selling position.

Good management practices on young second growth stands call for a partial cut or "thinning" as soon as it is merchantable. A partial cut should be made every five to ten years to release growing space for vigorous, high quality trees. This is continued until the stand reaches 80 to 100 years of age.

With this type of operation, you can cut and still have a good stand of trees left.

Young Douglas fir trees double and redoubt their volume of saw timber between the ages of 40 and 80 years. And then between 80 to 90 years saw timber volume almost doubles again.

THINNING of a stand will increase this growth even more.

Clear cutting these young stands is like picking a corn crop before it is completely mature. Circumstances may arise where the landowner needs extra money and a young stand of timber may be his only chance of getting it.

But unless this is the case, it's only good business to hold these young stands until they reach a rotational age of 80 to 100 years.

If you have made up your mind

to sell—have located a good operator—have drawn up a good timber sales contract—then take one more step—

Locate on the ground the stock of trees you wish left for seed source or mark the seed trees that you want.

Natural reproduction is a lot cheaper than planting seedlings—but without a good seed source, natural reproduction is a long time coming.

THE OREGON forest conservation act holds both the operator and landowner responsible for leaving five percent of the area logged in an uncut block of seed trees. An alternative to this is leaving two seed trees per acre that are at least 18 inches in diameter.

I heard you. Well, what about agriculture land! The law says when land has been logged for bonafide agricultural purposes the Forest Conservation Act does not apply. Many farmers have taken advantage of this part of the law and quite a number have regretted it.

Hardwood brush is the reason they are regretting it. Brush species have taken over a good portion of the logged-off land that has been used for grazing in Douglas County. Without a fir or pine seed source, the only way to put the land back into production is to plant seedlings. This costs money.

IT'S POSSIBLE to keep those areas in tree production and still get a few years' grazing off of recently logged land.

How? By maintaining a good seed source when the area is logged. A properly located seed block is not lost—it can be logged after a good natural reproduction is obtained.

Canning Crops Aid Farm Economy

Production of vegetables for canning and freezing last year returned well over \$16 million to Oregon farmers.

"This large cash income was the result of the harvesting in the state of 431 million pounds of vegetables for sale to processors," explained E. G. Gross, Oregon representative for the American Can Company.

He pointed out that the 1954 farm income from processing vegetables was slightly greater than the year before and about \$5 million greater than the average for the 10-year period ending in 1952.

Gross said that Oregon was the nation's No. One producer of snap beans for processing and ranked third with its harvest of beets. It also is an important producer of asparagus, sweet corn, cucumbers and green peas. He explained that the state last year planted almost 85 thousand acres to these and other vegetables for canning and freezing.

Conservation Handbooks Mailed Out Saturday

The 1955 Agricultural Conservation Program Handbooks were mailed out Saturday. All ACP operators are requested to become familiar with the contents of this booklet and to participate in the program which is designed to encourage the carrying out of needed conservation practices, according to J. F. Bonebrake, county ASC chairman.

The initial sign up period will be in force through February 1955. Federal cost-share will be extended to all eligible operators after February 1955 as long as money is available, Bonebrake said.

The directors appointed a non-instituting committee and made plans for the annual election of directors to be held on March 21.

A resolution was passed supporting the steamship lines in urging a reduction in tolls on commercial cargoes moving through the Panama Canal.

Those present were R. L. Clark, Portland; Ronald V. Hogg, Salem; Floyd Edwards, Albany; Stanley Christensen, McMinnville; Gaylord Madison, Echo; G. A. Sandner, Seio. Also present were R. A. Ward, general manager and vice

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FARM and Garden

10 The News-Review, Roseburg, Ore.—

Mon., Feb. 21, 1955



BUNDLE OF JOY—Vaughn French exhibits the ewe and her quadruplet lambs on his farm near Ft. Wayne, Ind. A veterinarian said the birth was a real rarity. The quads weigh a total of 27 pounds and all are in good condition.

G. Madison Named To Head Wool Growers

An Eastern Oregon man stepped into the presidency of the Pacific Wool Growers this month.

He is Gaylord Madison, Echo. Madison replaced R. L. Clark who resigned "because of a heavy load of civic and other business responsibilities. Clark is president of the Portland Chamber of Commerce. The new president had been serving as vice president.

Madison's new position was approved at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the wool cooperative held in Portland Feb. 10.

Manager R. A. Ward reported on wool market conditions at the session. He explained details of the new incentive wool payment program which will go into effect with the 1955 wool clip. It was emphasized that payments to growers will be on a percentage basis rather than a flat amount per pound.

Therefore growers who market their wools in a graded condition, direct to mills, through their own cooperative organization, should benefit accordingly, he said.

A resolution was unanimously passed by the executive committee in favor of permitting growers to make assignments of their incentive payments to the marketing agency or loan agency that makes shearing time advances. This makes available the highest possible cash advances for production financing.

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New Vegetables Adaptable Here

The new All-America selections of vegetables are all adaptable to growing in Oregon, according to R. Ralph Clark, Oregon State College extension horticultural specialist.

These 1955 vegetable winners are Seminole bush snapbean, Golden Beauty sweetcorn and Pennsweet muskmelon.

The Seminole bean was produced in Florida to fill their need for a bean to compete with Oregon's Blue Lake strains, Clark said. It is suitable for home, market, canning and freezing.

Although it is recommended for gardens all over the United States, the horticultural specialist said it may not do as well in Oregon as the Blue Lake.

Both the corn and muskmelon are worthy of trial here, he said. The corn, originated in Massachusetts, is a few days earlier than Marcross, and a heavier yielder and more disease-resistant than Far North. Its main crop is ready for picking in about 73 days. It has 12 to 14 rows of golden yellow kernels of medium depth and desirable white silks.

The muskmelon, bred at Pennsylvania State University, was developed for short growing seasons. Although it is not a commercial shipping type, it seems well adapted for home gardens, and local market production, Clark reported.

president; E. L. Adams, secretary-treasurer; and Bruce Arnold, assistant secretary-treasurer of the Pacific Wool Growers.

Shearing School Dates Are Set

March 10 is the last day applications will be accepted for attending any one of four sheep shearing schools to be sponsored by Oregon State College this year, according to John Landers, animal husbandry specialist at OSC.

The schools will be held March 21 and 22 and March 23 and 24 at OSC; March 29 and 30 in Milton-Freewater; and March 31 and April 1 in Ontario.

Landers says that while attendance is usually made up primarily of 4-H club and FFA members, other youths and adults are welcome. Because each school can only handle 16 people, however, acceptance will be on a first come, first served basis.

Applications are available from county extension offices and from Landers. They should be sent to Landers. In addition to hearing instruction, care of equipment and sharpening of knives and combs will be discussed.

NO USE PROTESTING

SALEM—The Senate Game Committee wishes that farmers and ranchers would quit flooding it with protests against the "loaded gun" bill.

The bill, which would ban the carrying of loaded guns in motor vehicles, was killed by the committee a few days ago. But the protests still are piling in.

Cattle Rancher Would Close Aluminum Plant

PORTLAND—Paul Marti, a Troutdale, Ore., cattle raiser who some time ago won a \$47,000 damage suit from the Reynolds Metals Co., has filed suit in federal court here asking that the aluminum plant be closed.

Marti, who contended in the previous suit that fumes from the plant had damaged his livestock, said in the new suit that the controls which the plant had installed against "poisonous fluorides" had been ineffective. He also asked \$500,000 damages for what he said was harm that the Reynolds plant had done to his stock and crops since August, 1951.

He suggested the sagebrush country of Eastern Oregon would be a suitable new location.

Meat Shortages Noted In Moscow Food Stores

MOSCOW—There have been continuous meat shortages in Moscow's food stores this week.

Beef and Mutton are particularly hard to find these days and in some stores even pork, which is more expensive and therefore usually more abundant, is unavailable.

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