

Migration Of Muskrats Puzzles Game Officers

BEND OR — State Game Commission agents sought this week an explanation for an apparent migration of muskrats in the Beaver Marsh area of Northern Klamath County. Scores of them have been killed by cars on The Dalles-California Highway.

There have been reports of past migrations but whether due to a seasonal water condition or other cause, the game agents said they didn't know.



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FARM-FOREST-FACTS

By Ed Gilden
County Extension Agent

Remember Frank Grubbe's method of selling timber? Frank is the farmer out at Colas Valley that came up with the idea of selling only 40 acres of his timber at a time. The written sales contract that he has with the operator states that if he does a good job on the first 40, he will be given another 40.

Frank is on this third 40 now and is still quite satisfied with his method of selling.

THE GRUBBE woodland has about 360 acres of mature timber. The boundaries on each 40 are marked off by Frank and the operator.

Well, first you have control of the timber throughout the life of the sale. Second, the landowner is assured of better utilization. Third, you, as the landowner, can take advantage of any price increases or new markets that may open up.

Have you had many offers on your timber? If you have had lots of offers at all, I bet you have had lots of offers.

Small logging shows are in high demand. Some operators are having difficulty in locating timber.

Now you Know!

The answers to everyday insurance problems.

By William S. Reinhart

QUESTION: Is Additional Extended Coverage in a fire insurance policy the same as Extended Coverage or is it something extra?

ANSWER: Additional Extended Coverage is just what it says. Many water damage losses and structural and glass damages not covered under standard fire insurance or Extended Coverage have now been grouped together for additional protection at low premium cost.

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Prices have skyrocketed. **DON'T** be disappointed — If possible, do your own logging and marketing. Bob Campbell, Yoncalia farmer, has had very favorable results from logging and selling his own timber.

All of us can't do our own logging — then the thing to do is to sell to a reliable operator. More and more loggers are beginning to realize the value of a good reputation.

BE CHOOSY. Look around. Don't sell on the first offer. All "per thousand" offers aren't the same. How much of the tree an operator will utilize is important.

Many trees are more valuable as poles than as logs. Think about the pole possibilities in your timber along with the sawlogs and peels.

A lump sum sale is very undesirable without a cruise. Before considering a lump sum sale, the landowner should have the timber cruised by his cruiser. A cruiser's wages will often be only the difference of ten or fifteen thousand and a board foot.

TAKE A LEAD from D & C timber sales. They have a 100 percent cruise on all timber that is sold.

A landowner with a cruise on his timber can figure the minimum price that he should have for his trees. Don't worry about the maximum — the operator usually knows what he can pay.

Have you sold any lambs the last few years without counting them? If you have, you probably aren't too concerned about a cruise on your timber.

— But if you haven't, why sell your timber without knowing how much volume you have.

Last but not least — have a written timber sales contract.

Verbal contracts have proved to be very unsatisfactory. Any agreement that can be made verbally can also be written. If you put it in writing, you and the operator both know what is meant.

We have available in the Douglas County agent's office, a timber sales contract check list. This will give you ideas on what should be put into a written contract. The points in this check list should be discussed with the operator. Those agreed upon should be written into a legal contract by a lawyer.

Does selling timber sound confusing? Maybe you would rather wash your hands of the whole deal.

DON'T — just sell your timber on the first offer.

A consulting forester will do the complete operation for a small percentage of the actual selling price. He will also aid you in getting wood forestry practiced on your land.

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FARM and Garden

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 1953

—The News-Review, Roseburg, Ore. 7

Wheat Prices To Near Loan Rate, OSC Says

Prices for Oregon's 1953 wheat crop should hold close to new loan rates to be announced this summer, less storage costs, says M. D. Thomas, Oregon State College agricultural economist.

Thomas believes most Oregon farmers will want to wait until final support rates are known before closing any sales on the new crop. The rates cannot be determined nationally before July 1 with announcements of local terminal and county rates to follow soon after.

As announced last fall, the national level will be not less than \$2.06 a bushel or 82 1/2 percent of June 15 parity. If parity holds at its mid-March level, the national basic loan rate would be \$2.08 instead of \$2.06. The economist points out these figures are 16 to 18 cents a bushel less than the basic support rate for the 1954 crop.

Loan rates at Oregon terminals and county points may vary up or down from the national average depending upon action by the USDA commodity stabilization service in setting discounts and premiums on various classes of wheat. These, along with other possible adjustments in determining the final support rates, are subject to approval by the secretary of agriculture.

Crops, Weed Guide Published For 4-H

A crops and weeds guide is ready for distribution to Oregon 4-H club leaders, according to Burton Hutton, state club leader at Oregon State College.

Prepared by W. G. Nibler, farm crops extension specialist, "Know Your Crops and Weeds" can be used by all 4-H club leaders. It is of particular interest to club leaders of field crops, livestock, poultry, horticulture and forestry projects.

The guide lists suggestions to help 4-H club members know more about weeds and legumes, grass and grain, seed, and the characteristics of good quality grain, hay and potatoes. Club members will also find tips on identifying and judging Oregon's crops and weeds.

The mimeographed publication is one of the special services developed for Oregon 4-H club leaders by the 4-H club department at OSC, Hutton says.

Study Of Conifers Root Rot Slated To Start In Summer

One of Western Oregon's most threatening forest disease problems—root rot in conifers—is due for study beginning this summer at the Oregon State College forest experiment station, according to a release from the OSC News Bureau.

Dr. Lewis F. Roth, forest plant pathologist, will be project leader. The root rot problem involves two species of damaging soil fungi, according to Roth. One is a menace to Port Orford cedar stands. The other, cinnamon root rot, is a serious potential threat to Douglas fir and other Northwest conifers.

First reported damage from Port Orford root rot came on orange-red trees in the Willamette Valley around 1938. It appeared in 1952 in the native range of Port Orford cedar at Coos Bay. Since then, the rot has spread through Port Orford plantings and stands in Coos and Curry counties and has continued to spread in plantings in the Willamette Valley.

Cinnamon root rot was first observed near Portland in 1949. While it has not been found in any forest stands to date, greenhouse research shows Douglas fir trees and many other conifers are susceptible.

Cinnamon root rot is a close relative of deadly "red stele" in strawberries, Roth explained, and is a problem on various plants throughout the world. Its name came from damage to cinnamon trees in Sumatra. It has also hurt pineapples in Hawaii, chestnut stands in Europe and southeastern United States and short-leaved pine in the Appalachians.

Could Be Critical If it should attack Douglas fir stands, the problem of control or checking the spread would be critical, Roth believes.

Both fungi are soil inhabitants. They are known to spread through soil water movement, in soil carried by roots of plants being moved to new locations, and probably by earth-moving equipment.

Roth will work on finding how rapidly the fungi spread and whether they can be checked. Influence of soil type, tree age, and site and stand condition on spread will be investigated as opportunity arises. How susceptible various trees are and the availability of resistant trees also will be studied.

The state board of forestry will help finance the study and cooperate in research. The project grew out of discussions of insect and disease research needs made by the Northwest Forest Pest Action committee.

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VISITS IN ROSEBURG State Extension Agent C1111 Smith was in Roseburg recently inspecting agricultural progress in the county. He returned to Corvallis Thursday.

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Suit Involving Two Gas Companies Is Dismissed

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A suit in the U. S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals involving the Pacific Northwest Pipeline Co. and the Trans-Northwest Gas Co. has been dismissed. It was announced here.

The suit grew out of a ruling by the Federal Power Commission dealing with the allocation of construction of pipeline in the San Juan area.

Joseph Greenough, counsel for Trans-Northwest, announced that a stipulation withdrawing legal action was signed last Friday and mailed to the Circuit Court of Appeals here.

The clerk's office of the court announced the suit was dismissed.

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New Zealand White Clover Not Recommended Here

Oregon farmers planning to seed New Zealand White clover this spring either for pastures or commercial seed production might save themselves money and crop disappointment by considering first whether the crop is adaptable for their area.

H. H. Rampton, USDA agronomist at Oregon State College, says the only area in the United States where New Zealand White clover is being recommended as a primary forage is at low elevations along the narrow coastal strip in Oregon and the lower Columbia River. Climate in this area is similar to that where the clover was successfully developed in New Zealand.

The recommendation is based on trials conducted by H. B. Howell at the John Jacob Astor branch experiment station, Astoria. New Zealand White clover has been under test at the OSC agricultural experiment station, Corvallis, since 1934.

While the plant is adaptable to the Willamette Valley and is more persistent and a better producer without irrigation than ordinary commercial White Dutch clover, it will only give 80 to 85 per cent as high yields under irrigation as ladino clover.

Ladino clover, Rampton explains, gives better sustained production throughout the grazing season. This is particularly true during the heat of the summer when New Zealand White clover shows down considerably in growth. In pastures managed under a rotational system favorable to the development of ladino clover, the New Zealand variety is also slower in recovery after grazing.

New Zealand clover in the Pacific Northwest does outshine ladino, however, in its ability to withstand damage from garden slugs and tolerance to acid soils.



Temperatures during April will average below seasonal normals east of the Appalachians and over the southern half of the nation from Texas eastward.

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