

COUNTY AGENT PRESENTS HIS YEARLY REPORT

Includes Activities and Accomplishments from December 1, 1921, to December 1, 1922.

1. CROP PRODUCTION

(a) Hybrid 128 and Hard Federation.
Hybrid 128 acreage increased from 1921 to 1922 to over 8000 acres in 1922, on the recommendation of the agent. Forty Fold and Hybrid test plots measured by the county agent in all sections of the county gave an average yield of 6.1 bushels more for the Hybrid than the Forty Fold. Use of this variety effected an increase in the total yield of the winter wheat crop of Union county of between 25,000 and 50,000 bushels last year, figuring increase on average of test plots.

Hard Federation wheat has been introduced into four different communities in the county with much better yields than other spring varieties and this wheat will replace other spring wheats as rapidly as the seed becomes available.

These hundred and ninety-nine acres of wheat were inspected and certified as pure in the 1922 season, compared with twelve acres the previous year.

(b) Potato Certification.
Nine farmers submitted 137 acres of potatoes for certification, but only one-half acre was certified. Diseased seed lowered county yields considerably. La Grande growers are co-operating with the County Agent in securing some disease-free for 1923 planting.

(c) Copper Carbonate.
Copper carbonate powder introduced by the agent for use in treating wheat for smut gave one per cent less smut than blue vitriol last year. Demonstration plots have been planted for 1923 with the object of making this method a general practice if next year's tests prove successful.

(d) Morning Glory Control.
Salting of morning glory patches started in 1921 under the direction of the present agent, resulted in successful killing of the weeds. The Farm Bureau is now pooling orders for a carload of salt for this purpose.

(e) Fertilizers.
The greatest amount of land plaster ever used in the county for alfalfa fertilizer, was used in 1922. Ninety tons were purchased co-operatively through the county agent and Farm Bureau purchasing a saving of \$540 over the retail price of the fertilizer at the time purchased.

(f) Hardy Alfalfa.
The planting of hardy varieties of alfalfa introduced by County Agent Spillman has become an accepted practice and orders for over two thousand pounds of seed were directed to local growers in the county last year.

2. HORTICULTURE

Demonstrations in horticulture were carried on in co-operation with C. L. Long, field horticulturist of the Oregon Agricultural college in the Cove and Imbler communities this year. Imbler growers used two carloads of orchard fertilizer compared with one carload the previous year and some before that. Liquid lime-sulphur was substituted in a number of places for the dry lime-sulphur and the use of dormant lime-sulphur spray for the control of blister mite in particular was practiced for the first time by many growers in the county.

Many miscellaneous requests for help on the control of cherry slugs, red spider, fire blight, etc., were answered by the county agent and information in regard to pests and diseases were reported to H. H. Weatherspoon, horticultural commissioner.

3. LIVESTOCK AND BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUBS

1183 cattle were tested for tuberculosis on 135 farms in six different communities in the county, the agent furnishing transportation and assisting the inspector in the test. This

is a much larger number than has been tested in past years.
47 members were enrolled in the boys' and girls' clubs during the year and the boys received instruction in feeding and care of stock and livestock judging, growing out 192 head of hogs and 5 calves. Some of the club members exhibited at the Pacific International, winning important prizes. Outstanding results of the work include winning of the grandchampion ribbon for the best pair of three fat barrows, all weights and breeds in the open class at the Pacific International by Lester Blokkand; winning of fourth place in the judging contest at the Pacific International by the Island CIO judging team; the winning of second place in the judging contest at the Oregon State Fair by the Cove judging team; the purchase of 40 purebred hogs by club members of the county.

4. POULTRY

Seven poultry culling demonstrations were given in the county during the year. A poultry demonstration farm has been arranged on the S. A. Robertson farm near La Grande where periodical demonstration meetings illustrating the subjects of culling, feeding, breeding, housing and rearing of chicks will be given by H. E. Crosby, extension poultry specialist, during the year 1923.

5. RODENT CONTROL

More than 8000 pounds of poisoned oats were mixed and distributed to approximately 400 farmers in all communities in the county in the squirrel campaign. This is double the amount used in previous years and the demand was greater than could be supplied. Three gopher poisoning demonstrations, held in the county under the direction of Ira N. Gabrielson of the United States Biological Survey, were attended by 104 people.

6. HOME ECONOMICS

Millinery schools arranged by la-

cal women at the request of the agent were held at Elgin, La Grande and Cove during the year. Those attending made their own hats under the instruction of Miss Esther B. Cooley of the extension division.
(a) Take All Disease.
Take-all the most serious disease of wheat was discovered in the county by the county agent. This disease causes a lodging of most of the affected wheat and reduces yields considerably. The department of agriculture has established an expert-join Smith near Alice for the purpose of trying to learn how to cure this disease.
(b) Wheat Stem Maggot.
The wheat stem maggot which caused a loss of one-third to one-half the yield in spring wheat in Union county in 1921 was investigated by Prof. L. P. Rockwood, entomologist of the Forest Grove Experiment Station, with the help of the county agent in April and September of this year.

(c) Farmers' Week Schools.
Farmers' Week schools held in the county in the latter part of February brought out a larger attendance than usual in recent years in spite of especially bad weather conditions.
Days in field, 2051.
Days in office, 1011.
Different farmers visited on their farms, 656.
Office calls by farmers, 676.
Agricultural meetings held or attended by agent during year, 68.
Attendance at above meetings, 1342.

Agricultural articles written by agent and published, 109.
Individual letters written, 790.
Circular letters, 53; copies distributed, 3,622.

Thought for the Day.
Some people aim at nothing and hit the mark every time.

HOOP SCHEDULE NOW COMPLETED

La Grande high school's basketball schedule is now complete with the scheduling of two games with Wallowa high school, the first to be played January 18 at Wallowa and the second to be played in La Grande on January 26.
Several second team games have also been arranged and the schedule for the scrubs as it now stands is as follows:
January 27, Muddy Creek, here; February 2, Haines here; February 16, Haines at Haines and negotiations are underway to secure a game with Imbler to be played on February 27 in La Grande.

Odd Mixtures.

But we put lemons into lemonade to make it sour and put sugar into the same lemonade to make it sweet. So we put lemonade into a librarian to make him joyful, and we put enthusiasm into him to make him human.—Sam Walter Foss.

Age of Swedish Riksdag.

With the exception of the British parliament the Swedish riksdag is the oldest of existing legislative bodies.

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Old Dutch Custom Kept Up.
In Holland it is still the fashion for ladies to wash the white china and silver after tea or breakfast in the presence of the family and guests.



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