

**COLD RETARDING GRAIN AND GRASS**

Condition of Winter Wheat Appears to be Above Normal, However.

By G. C. Meek  
(Observer Correspondent)  
WALLOWA, Ore. (Special)—Continued cold backward weather is retarding the growth of all grain and grasses in this community to a considerable extent. During much of the past week frequent snow flurries accompanied by cold winds have tended to make all classes of outside work quite disagreeable. The soil in most of the fields has become sufficiently dry to allow working them at this time and much of the spring seeding has been finished recently. Some farmers say they could have seeded earlier but were afraid to take the chance on doing so because of a damaging freeze which might come later in the season after the grain had become started. At a number of times in past years much damage has resulted to crops of Federation wheat from hard freezes in late May and early June. The alfalfa crops on the irrigated lands along the valley are much behind what they usually are at this season of the year. The cold weather has prevented alfalfa making any start to speak of until recently. The same condition also prevails in regard to the growth of domestic grasses which are used for pasture purposes on the irrigated farms, while much of the pasture is being used at this time it is not large enough to provide very good forage.

The condition of the winter wheat crops appears to be above normal in nearly all parts of the county. According to reports from farmers, the grain came through the winter with good stands generally and the cool weather of the past few weeks appears to have been very beneficial in causing the grain to stool out well. Several farmers in this community have been busy the past week harrowing the wheat fields. This manner of cultivation is believed by many to be a considerable help in forming a mulch on top of the ground and aid in holding moisture later in the season. Some garden making has been going on at many of the farms during the past few days, with the plantings being confined to early truck which is not easily killed by the frost. A number of the farmers in the dry farming sections have started the plowing of summer fallow at this time and they say the soil is turning over in much better shape than last spring when much of the ground seemed to break up in chunks which was very hard to get worked into condition for fall seeding.

Several farmers in this end of the valley have purchased fine lighting bulbs during the past few weeks. Among those who have made recent purchases are: James Reed, of near Evans; J. H. Plass, of Diamond Prairie; Harry Harmon and James Woodworth, of Upper Parson Creek. It is reported that a number of others are considering the matter of having plants installed.

Miss Ann Murphy, left the latter part of the week for her home at Freewater, she just recently completed a very successful term of school in district 40. Miss Murphy expects to return here a few days before the Bay 8th grade examination to help her class of 8th graders with some review work before the examination. She has been re-elected to teach the same school for the coming year.

W. B. Hunter of Lostine was a business visitor here Wednesday. Mr. Hunter reports the starting of farm work quite slow in that section, he also says the alfalfa crops on the irrigated land has made a very slow growth so far.

Offen Plass has been busy the past few days finishing some seeding of spring grain at his farm in the hills.

Ed Bell was busy the latter part of the week harrowing some of his winter wheat. A number of other farmers in this community have been thinking of trying the harrowing of the wheat this season, however, due to the lateness of the spring the soil in many of the fields has remained too wet to get teams over it without injury to the grain.

Al Thompson of Middle valley received a shipment of 1000 White Leghorn baby chicks the last of this week. He reports that the large shipment all arrived in fine condition and are starting off well. Mr. Thompson is well equipped for handling of the poultry business in a first class manner at his farm, having erected one of the most up-to-date poultry houses in this county a year ago last fall and has since kept a flock of several hundred hens.

With the annual campaign against the ground squirrels in this county now well under way many encouraging reports are heard of farmers in many sections having good luck in getting large numbers of the rodents with poisoned grain and calcium cyanide. The poison was found to have proved the most effective during the early spring when the ground has contained sufficient moisture to cause the powder to give off the deadly gas. Many have also used a considerable amount of poisoned grain during the past few weeks, however, the experience of many seem to be that as soon as the ground becomes too dry the old squirrels do not take to the poisoned grain very readily. Some of the farmers state that they have found the month of May an excellent time in which to use heavily of the poisoned grain, as this is when the young rodents begin to make their appearance and the ground grass begins to get tough they fall easy victims to the poisoned grain. Some of the small boys over the county have found the trapping of squirrels a source of pocket money during the past few weeks. In a number of instances farmers say they have told

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their boys they would pay them a bounty ranging from one half a cent to as much as two cents each for all squirrels which they trapped about the farm and say that this arrangement has resulted in the boys taking a active interest in clearing up large numbers of the rodents with the use of traps.

The south side of Main street here is the scene of busy operations with work going forward on the erection of the new brick buildings and partial rebuilding of one large stone structure which was left standing by the disastrous fire which nearly wiped out the south side of the main business block last December. The largest of the new buildings being built in one being put up by Edwin Marvin which is 24x60 feet with a 24x20 basement, along side this structure Charles Fisher is building a barber shop 14x40 feet. The work on the Stone building which belongs to J. C. Baird is being done by Coley Wray and L. Koop the concrete work has been done and the rest of the work is scheduled to go forward soon. Another new building

on the east side of the postoffice which is to be occupied by H. M. Vaught as a barber shop will be started soon in hopes of having it ready for occupancy by June 1st. This contract has been let to Elmer Huggins and Earl Haney, local contractors.

L. C. Johnson, of Clarkston, Waaba, was a business visitor in this county during the past week. In commenting on the weather experienced on Snake and Imnaha river junks during the past winter, Mr. Johnson says it was the worst he has seen in thirty years. There were 40 days when the snow covered the range areas, where the longest time in the past thirty years which snow has lain on the ranges in that section was five days. He says that despite the fact that many of the stockmen were unprepared for any such severe weather conditions, and had a difficult in getting sufficient feed supplies to their stock at the right time, that the losses were very small and that while it cost a lot of money for high priced feeds and hauling and packing it long since

during the past week. Several members of the J. A. Roberts family of Middle valley have been suffering recently from tanthitis. Scattering cases of flu are reported from various sections of the county at this time.

L. V. and Duane Lathrop, John Couch and Frank Walker farmers of the Leap community were at Enterprise Wednesday in the interest of the Leap Market road.

H. H. McGinnis of Powwaska ridge was a business visitor in town the last of the week. He reports that they are about through lambing at this time having commenced about the middle of last month doing all lambing on the range. To date he figures they have a little better than 100 per cent with a few ewes to lamb yet. He also reports that range conditions are excellent in that section at this time.

W. M. Downing was a visitor in town the last of the week from his home in the Leap community. Mr. Downing took a cow home with him which he purchased recently

A number of local fishermen have been lucky enough recently to catch some nice steelheads in the Willowa river and Bear creek. A few caught recently have been exceptionally fine specimens weighing from nine to 12 pounds each.

J. W. Crowley was a visitor in the Maxville section during the past week and reports considerable snow in the timbered section yet, but states the grass is getting nicely started in the open range.

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**"DARK HORSE" LEADING**  
LO SANGELES, May 8 (AP)—John C. Porter, "dark horse" candidate for mayor to succeed George E. Croyer, today piled up a lead of nearly 20,000 votes over William G. Bonnell, running second in a field of fourteen candidates. The official count for 1929 precincts out 1482 gave Porter 65,935 to 49,344 for Bonnell.

**HOCKEY TEAM FOR SALE**  
PORTLAND, Ore., May 8 (AP)—