



JOKE'S ON THE WEED

Wren Case, left, and John T. 'Bud' Jones, both of Alicel, check a plot of morning glory treated with the new benzoic acid. The test was conducted on the farm of Henry Sallee in Elgin. The new treatment is becoming increasingly popular in the county, according to Ted Sidor, extension agent. Area in right hand side of picture has been treated and shows the effectiveness of the chemical.

Grain Growers Buy Seed Process Plant

The purchase of a seed processing plant by the Union County Grain Growers Association was announced by Dale Bechtel, manager, last Wednesday. The association has purchased the former Wade Seed plant in Elgin for an undisclosed sum. This plant makes the second operation owned by the Grain Growers in Elgin. They also have plants in Alicel and Island City. The plant was built in 1950 but hasn't been operated commercially for more than a year. The UCGG will operate the plant, considered one of the best equipped in the region, as a wheat and pea cleaning plant. Former Wade employees Ray Trump and Ralph Thompson will be in charge of the operation. Tentative plans call for doing business in Wallowa, Union, Baker and Umatilla counties. The operation will not necessarily make seed processing cheaper for local farmers. Bechtel said previous cleaning operations. The plant is so constructed that seed being processed can be sent through any cleaning process or any combination of cleaning processes desired. The plant was especially designed to keep from mixing seeds, Bechtel stated. The first shipment of peas arrived at the plant Monday and cleaning operations will get underway next month. The Alaska peas will be cleaned for shipment to England through the Inland Empire Pea Growers, Spokane. Most of the seed will be bought in the field. The buying, processing and reselling of seed will form the major part of the operation. The Grain Growers hope to restore the plant to its former prominence when it was a major shipper of seeds throughout the Northwest. Financing for the purchase of the plant was provided through the sale of stock.

Among Valley Farmers

By County Agents Ted Sidor and Charles Gavin

First quarter 1959 found the farm value of farm foods in the "market basket" about seven per cent lower than the same period in 1958. The retail cost of these foods, cushioned by higher operating costs, fell only one per cent. The difference was made up by higher costs of getting the foods from the farm to the retail store. Labor makes up about half of the marketing costs. Employees of food-marketing firms carried home fatter pay envelopes this year. Farm freight rates for many farm-food products were also higher, and some increases were chalked up in truck rates.

We recently received some information from Ray Teal, our seed marketing specialist, on the various blue grasses for seed. He sent us part of a letter from Burt Munser, professor of agronomy at Pennsylvania State. He has this to say about some plots he had out:

"As you know, we have had these strains only in pilot plot tests up to the present time. Now part of this year is performing exactly like it did last year. It develops a fairly dense turf during the early part of the season and then begins to shoot seed heads. As soon as this condition develops it makes little effort to produce bottom growth, and consequently the entire plot begins to look thin and stemmy. This permits weeds to come in which must be cleaned out by treatment. The plot begins to look fairly good again by the middle of August. Apparently it is a very difficult strain of bluegrass to manage satisfactorily for uniformly good quality turf. Our plots of Merion, K-5 (47), and K-1 (51) continue to produce the best quality turf of any strains in the test. Most of the California selections have been completely taken over by weeds and other grasses. The Park, Delta, and Troy varieties have had such serious recurring attacks of leaf spot this spring that they have thinned out to the point where weed encroachment is a major problem.

The recent opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway has made Chicago and other Great Lake cities, ocean ports. Water transportation is, of course, much cheaper generally than other methods of transportation. The United States Department of Agriculture has calculated that the cost of moving wheat from Duluth, Minnesota to Rotterdam, Netherlands, will be 12¢ a bushel less by the Seaway than by the combination to the East Coast by rail and then by boat to Europe. Similar savings will be enjoyed by other grains. This new development will cause many changes in freight rates by rail, highway, and water carriers. It is impossible now to anticipate all the changes that will be made in an effort to remain competitive. There is one thing for sure that Oregon will, in some way, be affected by this new Seaway and the changes in freight rates. One of the most obvious effects may be a loss of our export market for feed grains and wheat to Europe. The Midwest now can enjoy cheaper water transportation than we have had from the Pacific Coast.

Part of our farm management studies included one on farm equipment. One that was interesting was that on hay balers: The fixed cost per year when you include depreciation, interest, taxes, shelter, insurance and repairs come to \$634. The variable cost per bale on such things as fuel, lubricants, supplies (wire), labor, tractor costs come to \$1.74 per ton. When broken down, the figures show that you must have at least 230 tons of hay a year to be able to afford a baler. If you have less than this amount, it would be cheaper to have hay baled on a custom basis at \$4.50 per ton. At \$5 a ton on a custom basis you would have to bale 189 tons to break even.

Wool and lamb producers will voice their opinions of an agreement between the USDA and the American Sheep Producers Council, Inc., during a month-long referendum in Sept. Agricultural Secretary Benson says the agreement would continue financing of the council's advertising, promotional and related market development activities.



HE'S NOT HORSING AROUND

Bill Hindman of Elgin looks over his Belgian colt. Hindman eventually plans to have a six horse hitch. The Belgians are used for logging operations and feeding during the winter. The mare weighs approximately 2,200 pounds.

Fan Helps Up Cattle Weight

Every farmer knows hot weather makes cattle as well as humans lose their appetite. A California barnyard test may be the answer to summer slumps in areas where long periods of hot weather are a problem. In the tests, cattle in an open pen in the path of a steady breeze from a ventilating fan ate 24 per cent more feed per day. In addition the cattle put on 80 per cent more weight in sustained summer heat. Average temperatures, day and night, for the 70 day test period was 90.3 degrees. Average humidity was 46 per cent. Air temperatures for both the control groups was about the same. The breeze in the "fanned" averaged 3-7 miles per hour while in the other pen it averaged only 0.6 miles per hour.

Rust Being Used As Helpful Item

While U.S. industry is spending billions of dollars fighting rust, one company is actually manufacturing the stuff and turning it into useful products. The firm is the General Ceramics Corp. Its main products are "ferrites," whose principal ingredient is iron oxide, better known as rust. Ferrites are magnetic materials widely used in television sets, radios, computers, radar equipment and other electronic devices. General Ceramics manufactures its ferrites by purchasing scrap iron from iron and steel mills, dissolving it in acid, heating it, washing away the impurities and then pulverizing it. Recently, the firm came up with a new ferrite called Q-3 which it hails as a long step forward in the search for a television antenna that can be installed inside the cabinet of the receiver. vities on lamb and wool through deductions from wool payments for three more years as authorized in last summer's extension of the national wool act.

WHEAT GROWERS PROTEST GOP PLAN FOR SURPLUS REDUCTION

WASHINGTON (UPI)—A spokesman for wheat growers said today the Republican administration's farm program would cut the income of wheat producers without reducing wheat surpluses. Floyd Root, president of the National Association of Wheat Growers, attacked the administration's plan for cutting wheat price supports in testimony prepared for the House Agriculture Committee. The committee is holding public hearings on proposals for new general farm legislation. Root, of Wasco, Ore., said his organization still recommends adoption of its multiple-price plan under which marketing of wheat would be reduced below the current level of demand. This would allow the government to move out part of its surplus stock. Root's program called for supports at 100 per cent of parity on wheat used for human food in the United States and 65 per cent of parity for wheat going into export markets. Volume of wheat moving into these two markets would be controlled rigidly. WASHINGTON (UPI)—Agriculture Secretary Ezra T. Benson says he would favor a White House conference of top farm organization leaders if there was a chance to produce any real agreement on farm policy. But he said he didn't think such a conference would accomplish this aim. The suggestion for the meeting came last week from a House Republican farm leader. Benson made his comment in an interview at National Airport Monday when the secretary returned for a 10-day tour of three European countries — Denmark, Switzerland and West Germany.

Oregon Takes Lead In Tree Farm Program

OREGON (Special) — Whose trees grow taller and straighter — Oregon's or Washington's? And has Oregon taken away leadership in the Tree Farm program from its neighbor to the north—the state in which industry movement to grow timber crops on private land was born? These questions are posed by the neck-and-neck status of Tree Farm acreage reported for the two states. Oregon, with 4,050,226 acres certified in the program, currently leads Washington's 4,036,194 by a scant 14,000 acres. "This is a mighty close rivalry, but one in which nobody loses," said W. D. Hagenstein, executive vice-president of Industrial Forestry Assn. Tree Farm sponsor in the Douglas fir region. "Every acre of private timberland brought under Tree Farm management means more jobs and payrolls—and more hunting and fishing opportunities — for the people of both states." E. L. Kolbe, chief forester for Western Pine Assn., Tree Farm sponsor east of the Cascade, said the 18-year-old Tree Farm program symbolizes the vast strides which industry has made over the past decade and a half toward putting itself on a stable, sustained yield basis. "There are more than 1,300 professional foresters employed by industrial tree farmers in Oregon and Washington today," Kolbe declared, "and industry's success in creating a host of modern new products from wood and developing techniques for utilizing more of each tree harvested is opening up new opportunities for all woodland owners who are ready to grow timber as a crop."

Home Administrator To Miss La Grande

Merlin Halderson, supervisor for the Farmers Home Administration, will not be in La Grande for his regular office day, Aug. 4. The next regular scheduled day in La Grande will be Sept. 1 from 9 a.m. to noon. Halderson can be contacted in the County Extension Agent's office on that day. The supervisor will be in his office in Pendleton to receive callers Aug. 10, 17, 24, 31.

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