



MAPS FOR ACREAGE MEASUREMENTS

Verna Ferrine, wheat allotment and price support clerk, measures wheat acreages from aerial photographs. She also makes loans at the county ASC office in La Grande. (Observer Photos)



COMPUTING ACREAGE ON FARMS

Stella Garrett, conservation reserve and wool clerk of the ASC, computes acreage from aerial photo maps at the ASC office in La Grande. She is one of three clerks who handle administrative work under direction of Lloyd German, office manager.



BOUNDARIES CHANGED — Leonard Grimes, field supervisor and farm stored grain inspector of the ASC, points out community boundary changes. Grimes handles all field work for the Union County Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation office.

American Farm Scene Changes Dramatically As Federal Government Takes Bigger Role

(Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of six articles in the Observer farm section on the Union County Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation office and the five programs administered by the office.)

By **BILL BEBOUT**
Observer Staff Writer

The American farm scene has changed dramatically since the mid-thirties. No longer is the farmer's economic condition determined solely by the law of supply and demand.

Markets, glutted with surpluses, sent prices plummeting to the cellar. The farmers were in trouble.

Attempting to relieve the nation's farmers, the federal government stepped in with programs designed to stiffen the agricultural backbone of the economy.

No simple solution has been found or is likely to be found to the complex problems which face the farmers. The farm question has been exploited for political purposes and administration farm policies have been criticized by nearly everyone connected with agriculture—including the farmers.

Major Issue
Shaping up as one of the major

issues in the 1960 presidential campaign, the farm scene is as confused today as it was 30 years ago.

Most Americans have heard about price supports, wheat allotments and the soil bank. The labels of administration farm programs and policies are bandied about daily in the nation's press and no self-respecting politician could be caught without an "answer to the problems of the farmer."

What are the farm policies of the administration? What are they supposed to do and who is responsible for the carrying out of those programs at the local level?

There are currently five programs in force in Union county. Administered by the county Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation office, the programs are designed to cut surpluses and aid the farmers.

Federal Funds
Funds for wheat allotments, soil bank price supports, incentive wool program and the agriculture conservation program are supplied by the federal government.

Although the ASC is a branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, it is operated by county

farmers who put the government's policies to work at the local level.

A county election board, appointed by the secretary of agriculture, handles the elections of the community and county committees. This election board is composed of the chairman of the county Extension Service, the Soil Conservation Service, a representative of the F.H.A., and the county heads of the Farm Bureau, the Grange, and the National Farmers Union.

Nominating committees are appointed by the election board in each community in the county.

Nominating committees pick a slate of 10 farmers to run for the community committees of the ASC. Farmers cast their ballots for three members and two alternates. The man receiving the highest number of votes is chairman.

Make Decisions

Chairmen of community committees meet following their election to select a county committee from their membership. The county Extension agent is an ex-officio member of the county committee.

The county committee holds

monthly meetings to consider the agricultural problems of the county and to review the day-to-day operations of the ASC office. The committee hires the office manager, makes all major decisions on the programs (including indicated violations) and makes recommendations to the government concerning the programs.

County committees of the ASC throughout the nation, composed of farmers and elected by farmers, are key figures in helping development of national farm policies.

The recommendations of the committees and farm organizations are considered by department of agriculture specialists, viewed by the administration and if accepted are incorporated into the national farm policy.

Express Needs

The farm policy is based on what the farmers themselves want as they express their needs through the committees of the ASC and their respective farm organizations.

As farm policies are put into effect, the county committee and the ASC office must see that they are carried out.

The Union County ASC office, under the direction of Lloyd German, cooperates with other agencies of the government in administering the ASC program. Technical assistance is received from the Soil Conservation Service, the county Extension Service, the Forest Service and the Game Commission.

Acres measurements on all wheat farms and acreage checks for the soil bank program are made periodically by the office staff.

Process Loans
The processing of government loans under the price support program for grain and storage facility loans are also handled by German and his staff.

Records and reports are filed for each program on an individual basis. It is on these reports that the county committee makes its decisions on the problems of farmers participating in the programs of the ASC.

The operations of the ASC office and staff will be covered in more detail in future articles dealing with the individual programs of the ASC.

The next article will be an examination of the soil bank program in Union County.

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Bill Bebout, Editor



ALL RECORDS FILED FOR FUTURE

Lena Hix, administrative and agriculture conservation program clerk, files records for future reference at the county ASC office. Complete and accurate records are kept on all programs administered by the ASC.

New Hormone For Cattle Considered

WASHINGTON (UPD) — The government is about to take a "new look" at the widespread use of a synthetic female sex hormone to fatten up cattle and poultry, it was learned today.

The hormone drug, diethylstilbestrol or more commonly called "stilbestrol," is known to cause cancer of the breast in man when taken in large doses, Food and Drug Commissioner George P. Larrick said.

Arthur S. Flemming, secretary of health, education and welfare, will announce the new study of the scientific and legal aspects

involved in its use in animal feeding at a news conference Thursday.

Flemming kicked off the recent cranberry controversy by announcing that some of the crop had been contaminated by weed-killer that has caused cancer in rats.

The FDA stopped issuing any new permits for use of stilbestrol after the last session of Congress passed the so-called Delaney amendment which bans food additives found to induce cancer.

However, the law makes no provision for rescinding permits of

those with prior sanction to use stilbestrol.

Larrick said there was no cause for alarm. He said he was still eating meat and chicken, and "feeding it to my children and grandchildren."

The FDA chief said there still was much "conflicting evidence" on the effects of stilbestrol. He said FDA planned to "marshal the world's literature" on the subject and the agency's experts

have started a new investigation "to find out where we stand."

He reported that about 80 per cent of the livestock raised today are fed stilbestrol.

Larrick said that recent scientific tests have turned up minute quantities of stilbestrol residue in the skin and liver of the chicken. He said no such residue has been found in meat tissue. Cattle, usually stop using stilbestrol up to 48 hours before slaughter.

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