

# SENTINEL FARM and GARDEN

## OSC Finds Sheep, Farm Forestry Good Combination

Well-managed sheep grazing and farm forestry may be a profitable combination on cutover or marginal forest lands, preliminary trials by Oregon State college show.

Douglas fir seedlings planted in cleared or thinned oak stands suffered little or no damage from sheep browsing except when native grasses were overgrazed according to D. W. Hedrick and Fred Hall, range management researchers.

Long-range plans are to see if sheep can be grazed profitably on such sites for supplemental income while farm forests are getting started. Indications are that such lands will produce up to 40 pounds of meat per acre.

Hedrick says fir-planted lands should provide grazing for 10 to 15 years with declining value as trees become too large to permit good grass growth.

The tests are being conducted near Corvallis on lands covered with white oak and some Douglas fir that is typical of about one million acres of Willamette valley foothills. Trials are in cooperation with the OSC school of forestry.

While the seedlings suffered little or no damage from sheep browsing, Hedrick emphasized the importance of holding animals off until grass growth was well advanced and then removing them while there is still forage left.

Where browsing damage did occur in the trials, it was caused by

deer and mostly in early spring before grass had made good growth. Later in the season, deer caused no more seedling damage on sheep-grazed lands than on ungrazed plots.

Test plots that were cleared of oak and planted with firs were equal in grazing value to land that was clear of all trees and seeded with a grass mixture. Each produced 40 pounds of meat per acre during one grazing season. Hedrick points out, however, that grazing value undoubtedly would decrease within a few years unless brush was held out with chemical sprays.

Plots where undesirable oak was thinned out and Douglas fir seedlings were under-planted produced about 20 pounds of meat per acre. Grazing value was negligible on plots where seedlings were underplanted with no thinning of oak and on plots receiving no treatment.

Later the scientists plan to test grasses that might boost forage production while giving minimum competition to young trees.

### 1956 GRAIN PRICE SUPPORTS SET

Price supports for 1956 crops of oats, barley and rye will be at levels reflecting 70 percent of the January 15 parity price, H. H. Myers, chairman of the Lane county agricultural stabilization and conservation committee, has announced. This is the same percent of parity as for the 1955 crops.

Eligibility requirements and operating provisions are substantially the same as for 1955 crops. Support will be made available through Commodity Credit Corporation farm - and warehouse - stored loans and purchase agreements.

## "Improving Family and Community Living"



NATIONAL 4-H CLUB WEEK MARCH 3-11

## 'Miss Notes' Trio Wins First Place In Grange Contest

By Mrs. Ralph Plaisted

DORINA GRANGE - First place in the local Talent contest was awarded to the "Miss Notes" trio, Judy Larsen, Linda Potter, and Susan Tryk for their vocal number "The Humming Bird".

Carl Hudson placed second with his instrumental number "The Cattle Call" played on the steel guitar. The grange decided to give a prize of \$6 for first place and \$3 for second place. The county play-off for all first place winners will be March 31 at Santa Clara Grange hall.

### Up and Coming Industry

Agriculture Chairman Phil Lake reported on the Christmas tree business as an up and coming industry in this section of the county. He also suggested plenty of fertilizer for the gardens to insure good returns.

Serving committee for March 16 will be Mr. and Mrs. Alpha Pitcher, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Pitcher, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Pitcher, and Mrs. John Pitcher. Clean-up committee will be Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Bassett and Mr. and Mrs. Glen Roby.

Net returns for sale of refreshments at the play festival was \$28.80.

Home Ec club has been invited to visit Jasper Home Ec club for an all-day meeting March 20. Those planning to go please notify Mrs. Glen Roby so the Jasper club can plan its meal.

### Youth Group Meet 11th

Youth Group will meet at the Ralph Plaisted home March 11 at 7 p.m. Stephen Gillespie and Carl Hudson are on the entertainment committee.

Withdrawal cards were granted to Sharon McMillan and Mr. and Mrs. William Rowlett.

A discussion was held on the recent raise in hall rent and a committee of six plus the executive committee was appointed to meet and work out a satisfactory schedule of charges and rules for the grange hall rental.

### Second Prize

Pomona lecturer, Mrs. Claude Arne, presented to past lecturer, Mrs. Robert Downs, the second prize ribbon for granges in the state having a membership of 150 or less for her national booster night program. She also received a blue ribbon in recognition of the activities of the grange in the national achievement project for last year.

The grangers will visit Willamette Grange April 20 and present the seating drill and entertainment. This date will be the regular meeting night for Dorena Grange so it will be dispensed with to make the visitation.

### Boy Scouts Entertain

The Row River Boy Scout Troop No. 13 and their scoutmaster, Don Davis, presented interesting demonstrations and entertainment and Lecturer Mrs. Raymond Wicks presented games, singing, readings, and a skit. Several parents of the scouts and scout committee members and their wives also attended the entertainment period and stayed for refreshments at the close of the meeting.

The secretary, Mrs. Walter Downs, wishes to remind members that those whose dues are unpaid after January 1 are classed as delinquent and she urges that they be taken care of very soon. Yearly dues must all be in this month to earn the dues paid-up pennant. This also applies to juvenile members and honorary members of juvenile grange.

### London Grangers Brave Weather

LONDON GRANGE - In spite of inclement weather 15 members and four visitors attended the March meeting of London Grange Friday evening.

Lane County Tax Assessor Winfred Smith had charge of the literary program and discussed tax problems of Lane county. Michael Sweeney, grange insurance representative, presented the grange with a clock.

Mrs. Roy Geer gave an informative talk on Pomona Grange meetings and other grange activities.

A proposal was made to change the date of meetings. This will be voted on March 16, when all members are requested to attend.

Next Home Extension meeting will be March 8 with Mrs. O. E. Craig as hostess. Roll call will be answered with 10-cent contributions toward a CARE package.

There is still a need for blood donors for Mrs. LeRoy Muno, who was badly burned recently. Mrs. Gale Roby, Grange member, was reported ill. She underwent an emergency operation Monday morning at Cottage Grove hospital.

Boys and girls from Maine to Oregon are displaying green shamrocks emblazoned with four white "H's" with special pride this week. By presidential proclamation, March 3-11 is set aside as National 4-H Club Week - a time for community programs, ceremonies or just reflection on the value of the youth program that strives to "make the best better."

In Lane County, the 4-H program was established in 1920. And over a period of 36 years, thousands of Lane County youngsters have been the better for ascribing to the motto:

"I pledge my Head to clearer thinking  
my Heart to greater loyalty  
my Hands to larger service,  
and my Health to better living for my club."

"These four H's are the true basis in our work with Lane county youth," agreed Jack R. Gorton and Miss Hattie Mae Rhonemus, agents responsible for the Lane County Extension program in 4-H club work. "After all, the important thing is not the ribbons won or the projects completed - but is the development of the youngster into a topnotch citizen."

Currently, close to 1200 youngsters, ranging in age 9 to 21 years are organized within 109 clubs covering a variety of 48 projects which range from sewing to bug collections, from room improvement to raising of beef.

### Trend: Neighborhood Clubs

Reflecting on "changes" in the 4-H club program since its beginnings in Lane County, Mr. Gorton said that one characteristic - "flexibility" - has remained constant.

"Because of this flexibility, the program has been easily adapted to changing needs of our population," he explained.

"When 4-H was established in Lane County after the passage of the Smith-Lever law, the junior extension phase was launched in schools under joint cooperation of field workers from Extension and the State Department of Education," said Gorton. "The first swing away from the school-emphasis was when the Department of Education discontinued its field workers."

This trend away from the "school type" club has persisted. Only 41 of the 141 clubs in 1955 fell in the category of school clubs, and a majority of these were health clubs led by teachers who feel that the club approach for teaching health is unbeatable.

The trend, instead, is for neighborhood clubs which Gorton describes as groups of youngsters organized on a community level and led by interested parents.

"This home approach is expanding the 4-H program on the ground level and interests of the people," said Gorton. "It's a very personalized system which places the responsibility of the club's success directly on the parents and the members. It is resulting in greater participation of older 4-H club members in events such as 4-H camp, fairs, and summer school."

Gorton notes that "sub-trends" resulting from the increase in neighbor clubs are a smaller average number of club members per club and a higher rate of completion of projects. Nine members are the average per club. And during 1955, 80.5 per cent of 1537 projects were completed - a big increase over 60 per cent in 1952.

"Whenever we hear adults complain that today's youth lack stick-to-itiveness we like to flaunt these figures," Gorton declared. "Believe it or not, the completion rate gets better each year. In 1952 it was 71.4 per cent; in 1953, 75.5 per cent; in 1954, 77 per cent; and last year 80.4 per cent. No one need make apologies for these youngsters."

### Strong Force: Leaders

A strong force in "binding together" the junior program is the Lane County 4-H Leaders association composed of leaders of all 4-H clubs. The executive committee of eight meets monthly to help plan major functions such as the Lane County 4-H Fair, 4-H Summer Camp, and the 4-H leaders recognition day. Members of the board are: Darrell Smith, Veneta, president; Earl Jager, Junction City, vice president; Mrs. Walter Steink, Springfield, secretary; Mrs. Waldo Taylor, Creswell, treasurer; directors, Mrs. Elwood Soacy, Eugene; Mrs. Gordon Corum, Eugene; Mrs. Creat Marsh, Veneta; Mrs. M. Vern Stratton, Springfield.

The "staying influence" of the 4-H program, says Gorton, is indicated in that 9 per cent of 176 leaders in the county are now serving their sixth to tenth year, and 5 per cent have served more than 16 years.

From where I'm sitting tolerance is just a big word for peace. War can't get going where there's a sympathetic understanding of nation for nation, man for man, and creed for creed. - Bing Crosby.

## Weather, Politics Fog Farm Outlook Economists Report

Weather and politics are combining to make 1956 farm production and price prospect more difficult to judge than usual, say Oregon State college agricultural economists in the current issues of Oregon's Farm and Home Outlook, now available from county extension agents.

Farm price support levels and the much-discussed "soil bank" are still in the formative stages with a decision needed by the end of March to have much effect on spring plantings, says M. D. Thomas, agricultural economist. Another unanswered question is the full extent of winter damage to Pacific Coast fruit and nut crops.

Approval of some form of soil bank could strengthen markets considerably for Oregon seed growers if large national acreages are planted to protective grass and legume crops, Thomas states. Seeds that seem likely to receive the biggest call include wheat-grasses, bromegrass, orchardgrass, perennial ryegrass, tall fescue, alfalfa, red clover and alsike clover.

More common ryegrass vetch and crimson clover seed might also be used, especially on cotton and corn land. The economists report seed supplies are quite limited for bromegrass, orchardgrass, and wheatgrasses. Supplies are fairly large for other grasses, clover, and alfalfa seed.

November freeze and winter flood damage may bring local fresh fruit shortages, according to Groder, OSC marketing specialist. A few local shortages, such as certain cane berries, may affect national prices. But Northwest production of most fruits is only a fraction of national totals and will have minor effects on prices, Groder explains.

The nation's 1956 strawberry crop still may be as large as the near-record 1955 tonnage, says Groder. Larger acreages planned in other states last fall could easily make up the difference. Also, the carryover of frozen strawberries seems likely to increase again this year.

Prospects look brighter for nut crops on the heels of last year's shortage. Cane fruit prices are also looking up with frozen berries moving well this winter to ease large carryovers for the past two years.

Why should there not be a patient confidence in the ultimate justice of the people? Is there a better or equal hope in the world? - Abraham Lincoln.

Man is unjust, but God is just; and finally justice triumphs. - Longfellow.

## Wool Act Payment Details Outlined By OSC Economist

Mary's little lamb would have to go to school for more than one day to unravel this yarn. It's about bonus payments for wool under the U. S. department of agriculture's 1956 wool incentive program.

The USDA has announced that payments under the wool program beginning April 1 will be changed so that each producer who sells unshorn lambs will be eligible for payment on the weight increase while he owned the lambs, provided he owned the lambs 30 days or more. The current program made payments only on animals marketed for slaughter.

M. D. Thomas, Oregon State college agricultural economist, says the new provision boils down to this: growers of feeder lambs will now share directly in wool incentive payments. Under the old program, only the seller of fat lambs got the bonus.

Now the original grower will be eligible for a payment based on the full live-weight of the lamb at the time he sells it. Each subsequent owner will be eligible for a payment only on that part of the weight produced during his ownership of at least 30 days. An additional requirement for the coming marketing year provides that payments will be made only on unshorn lambs.

Thomas explains that lambs bought before April 1 and marketed later will be paid for on the old basis of full live-weight at time of final sale. This is to protect feeders and others who buy the animals before April 1 on the basis of the 1955 program.

Payments on 1955 lambs and wool will be made sometime this summer, the economist says. Claims should be filed soon with county agricultural stabilization and conservation offices.

Incentive payments for lamb wool will be based on the national average weight of wool-five pounds-per hundred pounds of animal. Further details of the wool act incentive program are available from local ASC offices.

### Summer, Not Boil

Meat cooked in liquid should be simmered, never boiled. Boiling makes the meat stringy, dry, less flavorful and difficult to carve.

Self-control is more often called for than self-expression. - William Wistar Comfort.

## Weed Control Meeting Slated At Eugene 12th

A one-day weed control meeting for highway maintenance workers, commercial weed control men, and the public is scheduled March 12 in the Fireplace Room at Pioneer Park, according to W. B. Parker, Lane County extension agent.

Rex Warren, farm crops specialist at Oregon State College; Ray Kelso, State Department of Agriculture; Bill Koesan, agronomist with the State Highway Department; and Ted Glass, Eugene spray operator, will take part in the program beginning at 9:30 a.m. Discussion will center around the Oregon herbicide law, highway spray recommendations, uses of herbicides, ways to reduce spray hazards, and problems encountered in spraying weeds and brush.

An examination for herbicide applicators license will be given during the afternoon session. Questions to be covered in the exam will be discussed during the morning session.

Open to the public, the meeting will stress correct handling of herbicides for the protection of farmers and property owners from possible damage during spraying. More information on the examination and on license requirements may be obtained from Ray Kelso, State Department of Agriculture, Salem, or from the Lane County Extension Service office, 1170 Pearl Street, Eugene.

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