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"Notes by the Wayside"

Snider Predicts Favorable Market For Northwest's Strawberry Farms

By J. J. Inskeep, County Farm Agent

Eldon Snider, Clackamas county berry farmer and processor, gave us the latest berry outlook from the standpoint of a farmer and processor last week. He returned recently from a trip which took him through the major berry producing areas in the United States.

From his observations, Northwest strawberry farmers should have a good market outlook for the next three or four years, at least.

He predicted a good market for blackcaps also, because of new uses found for this commodity, such as flavoring for ice cream.

Mr. Snider said that the warning that Oregon berry acreages have increased about 25 per cent are misleading because actually the berry acreages for the entire U.S. has increased about only 2 per cent. He has a good point, too, because the national picture is the true picture so far as competition is concerned.

He summarized his trip by saying that Northwest berries are in great demand and are first in preference of large eastern processors.

Farm Agent's Day

What does a county agent do in the office aside from keeping his feet on the desk? Here are a list of activities and calls one day last week so far as I could remember at five o'clock.

Begin the day by writing the monthly report. Dictated ten letters. Caller No. 1 wanted to know what was the matter with his potatoes which had black specks in them. Answer—flea beetle and quack grass damage.

No. 2 (By telephone) What to do with fifty tons of limestone to be delivered soon (lucky guy). Suggested spreading on stump pasture and discing-in, to be followed with sub-clover and creep-

ing red fescue seeding. No. 3 "What's the matter with these sub-clover plants?" Answer—"Nothing. The dark bars across the leaves are natural. The plants are very healthy."

No. 4 wanted to know what to seed on a short grazed hill pasture. Answer—sub-clover and creeping red fescue.

How Fertilize

No. 5—How to fertilize established stand of grass and sub-clover? Answer—Phosphate and ammonium sulphate now. More ammonium sulphate in March or April.

No. 6—Reed Jagger came in to hash over recent seed league meeting.

No. 7 Insurance adjuster came in to locate farm which had suffered a fire loss. He had the wrong address.

No. 8 Telephone caller asked whether carrots should be dug and stored, or left in the ground. Suggested leaving in ground; carrots do not store well.

No. 9 This caller wanted suggestions for building up a piece of land prior to establishing a perennial shrub nursery. Suggested summer fallow followed by Fall planting crimson clover.

No. 10 Regarding management of holly orchard. Suggestion given in accordance with varieties used and age of trees.

No. 11, What to plant for hay now? Suggested more pasture and purchase of hay. Also to try sawdust for litter in poultry house in place of peat moss and in the dairy barn in place of straw.

No. 12, News reporter called to obtain information regarding new assistant.

Weed Killer Wanted

No. 13 Information regarding spray for killing winter weeds growing in rhubarb field. We are obtaining latest information on the subject.

No. 14 For pasture management information and where to obtain milking shorthorn cattle? Couldn't tell him where to obtain shorthorns; no one here is selling.

No. 15 Caller wanted to know how to fertilize his pastures. Suggested three choices to be regulated by what might be obtained on the market now.

Between times caught up on reading. Suggested two articles which local editor might use. Signed two veterans' applications for Tule Lake farms.

No. 16 Caller wanted to know how to get rid of blackberry bushes in fence row. Suggested application of sodium chlorate

or atlacide to each crown.

No. 17 Gave directions for our home made stump burner.

No. 18 Talked over Harney county extension program with Ron Davis. Suggested his livestock association try to secure permanent services of a veterinarian.

No. 19 Suggested trapping as best method of eliminating moles.

No. 20 At three o'clock got tired of removing feet from desk. Placed them under desk where they belong. Outlined a radio program.

No. 21 R. A. Blyth called saying a resident of Tupelo had written regarding Clackamas county farm income, sources of income, and processing of farm products. Agreed to answer inquiries.

No. 22 Referred callers to A. A. A. office for special information.

No. 23 Gave suggestions for seeding big trefoil on wet land.

No. 24 Answered inquiry from Virginia farmer relative to using alta fescue there.

Five o'clock—gave up trying to think of other callers. Took remainder of day off.

Vetch for Bees

I have received an interesting letter from Wm. R. Wyatt, Logan, bee keeper and chairman of the agricultural committee of Harding Grange.

Bill calls attention to the fact that horticulturists recognize the value of bees for pollinating all kinds of fruits and berries and says that he finds hairy vetch to be one of the best bee pastures. He thinks it would be a good idea to plant all roadsides to hairy vetch for bee pasture and calls attention to the fact that weeds have not a chance where hairy vetch becomes established. Bill says, "I have found that by liming the soil heavily, sowing to hairy vetch thick, and not cutting the vetch for three years that the vetch eradicates quack grass and morning glory."

We make his ideas public for they bring out some good points but some folks consider hairy vetch to be quite a pest perhaps as bad as the weeds it controls. They would not like to see it planted on the roadsides for fear that it would scatter into adjacent fields. Neither would some plant their fields to hairy vetch because it is difficult to eradicate. It would seem therefore that where hairy vetch is planted, it should be considered more or less a permanent crop. A good and continued demand exists for the seed for cover crop purposes in

the South. It makes good hay, is a good soil builder, and, as Bill says, makes excellent bee pasture. For those who keep bees, planting outlying fields to hairy vetch is an excellent practice.

Bill goes to Seattle in February to lecture on honey producing plants. This is a hint to those who might like a similar talk to community groups in this county.

Farm Labor Transferred

We begin the new year with administration of farm employment service transferred from the extension service, which is us, to the hands of Ted Huff who heads the Oregon City branch of the Oregon State Employment Service. Ted's office is located in the basement of the Clackamas county courthouse at Oregon City.

Berry growers and all others needing seasonal labor will help themselves, and Ted Huff also, if they will make their needs known as soon as possible. In turn, no doubt, Ted will be contacting all those who previously have secured seasonal labor through the Farm Labor Service.

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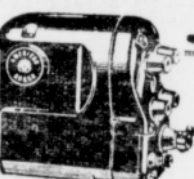
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