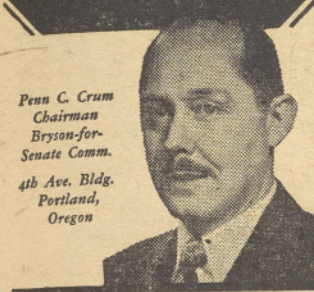


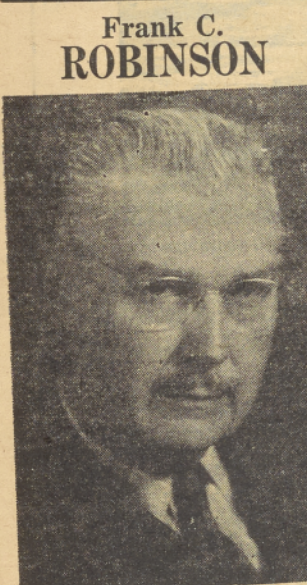
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ABOUT THE FARM - - -

Notes by the Wayside—

Fir Trees Infested with Beetles; John Tells How to Buy Beef Cattle

By John J. Inskeep, County Agent

This information is rendered at the specific request of residents of Oswego and Milwaukie areas who have become alarmed over infestation of valuable fir trees in these areas with bark beetles. Infested trees usually die. We have conferred with service forester Al Parker and he, in turn, has conferred with Entomologists connected with the U. S. Forest Service and Oregon State Board of Forestry. They have given us the following information:

Trees previous damaged by dry weather are especially susceptible to fir bark beetle damage. Such damage may appear in most unexpected locations. Sometimes beetles migrate to considerable distances. They may or may not migrate to adjacent trees. Beetles are always present in limited numbers. They increase at a terrific rate in areas of trees damaged by drouth or by other means. Although forestry entomologists have been working on artificial means of bark beetle control for the past twelve years they have been unable to find any insecticide which will give effective control regardless of cost.

Crowns First

Beetles first attack fir tree crowns from which they spread downward. The only, now known, effective control consists of removing infested trees. So far as we know there is no law or regulation which forces a property owner to remove infested trees. This means that one cannot protect his trees from surrounding infestations unless he can arrive at some satisfactory agreement with the owner of the trees infested, whereby such trees are removed.

And a final precaution. Logs of infested trees should be disposed of immediately. Remaining limbs, residue and slash should be burned at the first opportunity to insure destruction of beetles remaining therein.

Foresters expect beetle damage to recede as rapidly as trees recover from drouths of recent years. The 1951 drouth was especially damaging. In the meantime many trees will have perished. Beetle damage has appeared in every portion of Clackamas County including U. S. Forestry Service holdings. Forestry Service Management is unable to salvage most of the damaged trees in nearby districts because of the absence of access roads.

Beef Buying

The following information will be of essential interest to Clackamas County residents desiring assistance from the County Extension Office in purchasing beef cattle direct from eastern Oregon ranches. Clackamas County Extension Agents Don Walrod and Bill Smith have arranged with Extension Agent Bill Farrell, Grant County, to have a number of herds ready for inspection probably the second week in October. Offered for sale will be weaner calves weighing around 400 pounds, yearling steers and cows. Prospective buyers can look these herds over and take the animals of their choice. There is no obligation to buy.

Quite a number have signed up to take the trip. Those who wish to go should register at the extension office in Oregon City. Notices giving full directions, relative to time and meeting place, will be mailed as soon as final details have been completed.

Prospective purchasers will have the opportunity of inspecting the herd of each seller. This was done last year and buyers here secured some very fine and uniform animals from Grant County herds. All those purchased last year were high grade animals but purebreds will likely be available also.

Those who make purchases may desire to haul for themselves. Otherwise arrangements for delivery can be made at small cost.

What's ahead for agriculture? Sitting where we are too busy to read all the reports and prognostications. Perhaps we should read more - and then again - perhaps it is just as well we don't. M. S. "Mike" Shrock, well known to all of the old timers of Clackamas County tells a story to illustrate the point. It concerns two old codgers at dinner. One asks the other several times to pass the salt. Finally he becomes wise to the fact that he is talking to a man who is fairly deaf.

In a shouting voice he asks, "Did you see a doctor?" His neighbor replies, "Yes, I did." And from there on, "And what did he tell you?" "He told me I would quit drinking my daily dram I could hear better."

"Did you try it?" "Yes, I did and it helped but I liked what I was drinking so much better than what I was hearing that I started taking my daily dram again."

By the same token we do not like some of the things we read. (We are not taking to drink.) The things we read run all the

session was inclined to take in between view. Last week we reported their views on seeds and general crop production. We were reluctant, but forced to predict a larger acreage of wheat because of the guaranteed price. We also look for a large acreage of spring barley in 1953 because of the large 1952 yield and satisfactory price.

Factory Milk

And now, what does the advisory committee think of livestock and livestock products for Clackamas County?

The first and most important is that we could well increase the number of dairy cows materially. And that most of consequent increase in milk might be factory milk. This to us was a rather startling prediction. The idea has generally prevailed that the only money in the dairy industry comes from production of fluid milk. One has only to look at the "dried up" creameries, condensing plants and cheese plants in the Willamette Valley to verify that point.

Here is the way one of the dairy committeemen expressed it. "The honeymoon is over. During the past 10 years or so our farmers could make more money growing a variety of seeds and field crops. They can now make more from growing forage crops and feeding these to milk cows. Furthermore, capital and operating costs of producing fluid milk for the bottled trade are so terribly high that I believe there is

more money today in producing factory milk."

Milk vs. Beef

The committee believes that on many farms it will become more profitable to produce milk than to produce beef. The committee looks for a continuing downward trend in beef prices. But it concludes, "There are many Clackamas County setups which can produce beef at a low cost and we are likely to see a larger spread between feeder cattle and fat cattle. The latter situation will be conducive to amore profitable beef industry here. Success of the beef producer here will depend somewhat on the number of pounds of beef which he can produce per acre per year."

The proposition of early calves and selling these calves as baby beef at weaning, came up for discussion at the committee meeting. It was generally agreed that such calves, fat, and weighing between five hundred and seven hundred pounds, produce tender, juicy and small cuts favored by the housewife.

On the other hand beef of this description has not been available in the past and it will take an educational program if we are to obtain acceptance by the trade at satisfactory prices.

Sheep Increasing

"We are increasing sheep numbers slowly but steadily," the committee believes. Many ewe lambs are being saved for breeding purposes but only from the

better flocks. Sheep production is expected to remain in a relatively good position because of the general decrease in sheep numbers in the United States during May and early June when we market our early lambs.

The committee calls attention to the fact that we are producing only a third of the pork products consumed on the west coast. Should we start producing more factory milk it might be feasible to skim the milk at home and feed it to pigs on pasture. Pigs produced on good pasture and skim milk need only small amounts of grain to finish them out. The trade no longer wants fat hogs anyhow. At other times it might be more profitable to sell whole milk.

Inexperienced bean and pea growers are often disappointed when their dry beans are supposedly ready for use, to find that they are infested with weevil and completely ruined for human consumption.

Gardners have a fine bean crop this year. We have had several requests for directions to be used in controlling these weevils. We repeat them here for convenience of our readers. From Extension Bulletin 601, Vegetable Storage - "As soon as the dry seed is threshed it should be fumigated with carbon bisulphide to kill weevils. The dosage is from 5 to 8 pounds to 100 bushels of seed. For small lots use a half gallon jar of threshed seed and pour one tablespoon of carbon bisulphide over the seeds and

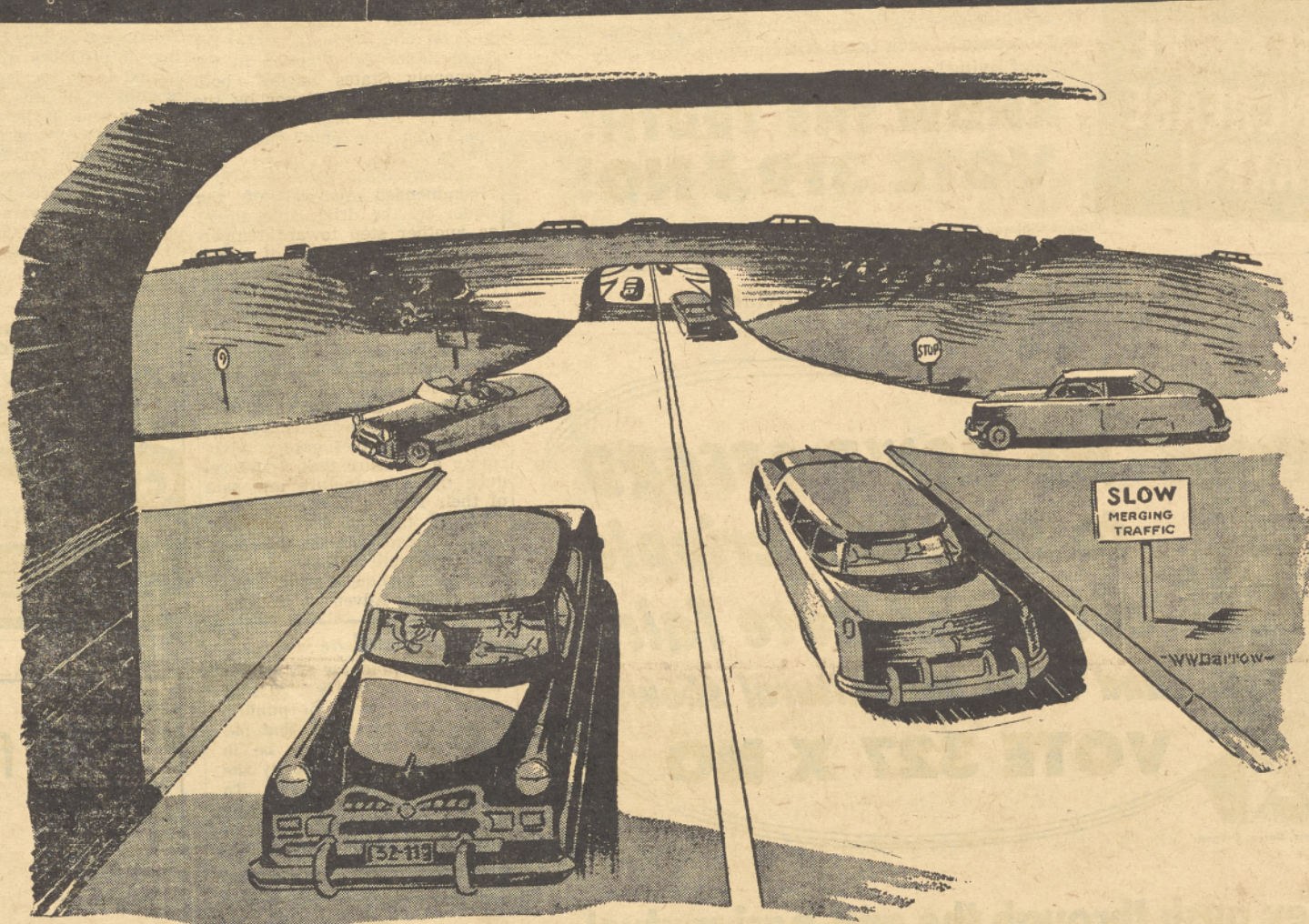
tightly close, leaving it for 48 hours. The temperature of the fumigation room should be above 60 degrees F. Dried peas or beans for table use should be well aerated after fumigation before being used for food."



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