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ABOUT THE FARM -

By John J. Inskeep, County Agent

A Sunday Drive Through Clackamas By-Roads Offers Much in Scenery

We have been so busy that we have seen little during the past few months of our friend and hunting companion Louie, who lives out Molalla way. So last week we were glad to find time for a little visit with Louie. Found him on the tractor preparing a seedbed for a new pasture planting of Cornell timothy. But Louie always has time for a visit, especially when there is planning to be done for the elk season, a short five months away.

Our discussion fell to talking particularly of sheep tick control. Louie told us of an experience with one of his neighbors recently, which illustrates a point. We shall call the neighbor Bill for his real name must remain anonymous.

"I went over to see Bill about borrowing a harrow", Louie told us, "and found him shearing sheep. I asked Bill if he was treating his sheep for ticks." Bill said, "no, I don't find many ticks on the ewes and hardly think it's worth while."

"The upshot of our conversation was that we examined Bill's lambs and found the ticks had mostly left the ewes for tender lamb meat and blood. I guess tick-like humans, prefer tender lamb to mutton this time of year. Maybe ticks find it easier to get around on lambs because newly born lambs have less wool. Anyway, Bill's lambs were heavily infested with ticks which had left the ewes. His lambs could not possibly fatten in time for the high market without using good control, which he did next day."

SPRING DETICKING
Just wonder if Bill's experience isn't a common one. Right now, immediately after shearing, is the best time for spring deticking the whole flock, ridding them of these blood-sucking pests which hamper normal growth and fattening. It is much easier to dip, spray or dust the flock after shearing because there is less wool to contend with at that time. Fall control on the ewe flock is a must in the well managed band.

Dipping continues an effective method of control, but not too practical for small flocks. Many sheep owners in Clackamas County prefer spraying with an outfit providing 350 to 400 pounds pressure per square inch. Those who spray commonly use not less than 8 pounds of 50 percent wettable d.d.t. to 100 gallons of water. Each animal must be thoroughly wet to the skin if control is to be effective.

If only a few animals are to be treated, they may be dusted with 10 percent d.d.t. The dust should be rubbed into the fleece, covering as much of the body as possible. That's what the circular says.

Complete information on tick control is found in Extension Circular 523. This circular is available for the asking at the Extension office in the Post Office Building, Oregon City. Our phone number is 3510, Oregon City.

SUNDAY DRIVING
For city folks who want to take a Sunday drive, we recommend in particular this time of year, a trip in the south end of the county. Take the by-roads, any of them in the Molalla, Canby area and return through Clarkes and Beaver Creek. Fields are lush and pastures green. The kids will enjoy the fine herds of dairy and beef cattle and flocks of sheep. Yes, and great flocks of turkey hens busy producing eggs which are either shipped "as is" or hatched to poults for shipping to states farther east. They won't see many small lambs because many of our lambs will be ready for market prior to June 1. They are almost as big as their mothers, although most of them were born in January and February of this year.

And while youngsters are having a good look, it will not do a bit of harm to remind them that our turkey growers shipped out fat turkeys, eggs and poulters valued at two and a half million dollars last season. Those are new dollars coming in from other states. They filter down to our stores, to our doctors and lawyers and to all other business and professional men and for all goods and services we enjoy. Yes, and they help to pay a terrific lot of school taxes, also.

COUNTY PRODUCTION
And, as good parents, you might tell them we will ship from Clackamas County this year, nearly a half million dollars worth of lambs. Of course, the youngsters won't remember such figures but you can tell them that returns from our turkeys and lambs, which they will be seeing on every hand, will sell for enough to purchase 1,000

kind whose carcasses demand a premium on any market in the United States.
Moreover early pasturing delays maturity of clover fields for hay. Following heavy pasturing with sheep, the hay crop may be lighter but cutting is later, at a time when we are likely to have good hay weather. The result is better quality hay.
Because of better soil management practices that we used in former years our winter grain crops are heavier than they used to be. These fields are also used for winter and early spring sheep pastures for our increasing flocks. Actually, wise pasturing alleviates lodging from excessive growth and often increases grain yields.
Another important factor, sometimes overlooked, is that these grain and clover fields are relatively free from intestinal parasite eggs. This is an important matter when trying to produce a hundred-pound lamb in four months—from birth to market.

SWEET CORN HYBRID
For the home garden, P. J. White, Gladstone, reports that he has been using Iowa chief sweet corn for the past two years. "For my use," he says, "Iowa chief is even better than golden bantam but later in maturing. I will not eat golden bantam when Iowa chief is available." The latter is one of the more recently introduced yellow hybrids.

This reminds us that we have on hand a supply of the new Oregon State College bulletin "Control of Soil Insect Pests Attacking Sweet Corn." Principle insect larvae affecting stands of sweet corn include Western Spotted Cucumber Beetle, seed corn maggot and wireworms. They effect germination, cause poor stands, stunt the plants and feed on new corn roots.

Aldrin or heptachlor worked into the soil prior to planting effectively controls these soil borne pests. Circular of Information 540 "Control of Soil Insect Pests Attacking Sweet Corn" fully describes methods of using aldrin and heptachlor. Bulletins of the month: "Control of Soil Insect Pests attacking Sweet Corn," Circular of Information 540; "Control of Insect Pests of Potato Tubers," Circular of Information 538.

Only in recent years have we found chemicals for use in the soil to control the many pests which attack germinating seeds, root crops, and various larvae feeding on roots of growing crops.
Soil insects attacking sweet corn include larvae of the western spotted cucumber beetle (diabrotica), seedcorn maggot and wireworms.
Attacking potato tubers are larvae of the flea beetle, western spotted cucumber beetle and wireworms.

If we were continuing to cut much early June red clover for hay, we would be inclined to stick to our guns. But now we take it all back. Our sheep operators on the valley floor are pretty universally using early spring red clover for sheep pasture, a good practice. Red clover pastured, especially when mixed with a little grass, produces excellent hard, fat lambs. These lambs are the best, the

The circulars in question discuss the various chemicals used for control of these pests and methods of use. Circulars are available on request at the Extension Office, Federal Bldg., Oregon City.

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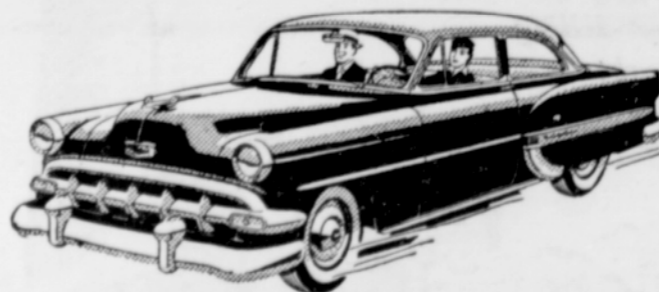


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