

Fern Fires Greatest Hazard To Forest County Agent Louis Gross Says

Greatest fire hazard in the 4,000,000 acres of forest and brush land which farmers and small land holders own in western Oregon is the careless burning of fern, brush, and other debris by some farmers themselves, County Agent, Louis Gross reported, after attending meetings recently with other county agents and with officials of the state forestry department.

The meetings were held at Forest Grove, Salem, Springfield, Coquille, and Medford.

In northwestern Oregon, three-fourths of all fires handled by state forest wardens in 1946 were caused by careless burning which got out of hand, those attending the meetings were told.

Although farmers have the right to burn fern on their own land, some question exists as to the merit of such means of clearing ground, the officials at the meeting said. Observation of areas on which repeated burning has been done has shown no lessening of growth of new fern. The only apparent gain has been an immediate clearing of the areas burned, which lasted only until the new growth. Many farmers no longer burn fern but are using such methods as prior cultivation and intensive grazing and seeding to get rid of it. Most fern burning is done in the months of February, March, and April, when an escaping fire is not apt to do much damage to mature forest. Most fern areas are in old burns or cutover areas being restocked with new forest trees, which may be from one to 40 years old. A fern fire in a new production area will kill everything in its path and thus cause a severe setback to attempts to reestablish the area as forest land. Actually, fern helps young tree seedlings by protecting them from heat and dryness, according to Charles R. Ross, extension forester.

If an individual wishes to burn brush or fern, no objection will be raised as long as the fire is kept within boundary of property he controls. The moment fire escapes to adjoining property, however, it becomes the concern of fire protection agencies and the person who set the fire is responsible for damage caused other property as well as cost of suppression.

During the closed season, which lasts normally from May 15 until sometime in the fall, permits must be obtained for burning. Forest wardens will issue them if the land is in a solid farming district. Permits will be issued at any time, free of charge,

if reasonable precautions have been taken and the weather is reasonably safe.

If a fire started without a permit gets away, the person starting the fire is subject to arrest and fine, since the fact that the fire escaped is considered prima facie evidence that the proper precautions were not taken.

County Agent, Gross, said that the meetings reported farmers in northwestern Oregon have been able to proceed with grazing development without organizing special grazing districts. Such districts were authorized in 1937, and Coos County has a 20,000 acre district.

Heaviest Entry List At State Fair In Years

Livestock entries for Oregon's great State Fair in Salem, Sept. 1 to 7, are the heaviest in years. Manager Lee Spitzbart said this week. Spitzbart pointed out that competition will be particularly keen in both the dairy and beef cattle classifications.

Entries received this week at fair headquarters from Oregon exhibitors include John Boeckli, Anna Sandman, Jessie Boyds, all of Portland; Wilbur M. Brog, Gerald W. Brog, Frank R. Kellogg, all of Salem; John G. Manning, Theo T. Jacobs, both of McMinnville; Alvin and Dora Scheiber of Oregon City; Adrian J. Hornecher, Hillsboro; Karl B. Wipper and son, Florence Koehn, and Richard Gilvert, all of Turner; San-tiam Stock Farm, Lebanon; Jerry Jeshely, Aurora; N. V. Shelby, Albany; Joe Fisher, Warren; Millard R. Eakin, Grass Valley; B. Lloyd Ellis, Powell Butte; Frank E. Gray, Cottage Grove; Dell W. Looney, Chris Jorgenson, both of Jefferson; Pat Mann Hopper, Adams; Grimes brothers, Harrisburg; Cecil Springer, Harlan; P. H. Brown, Sublimity; Austin P. Flagel, Sherwood; C. E. Stretcher, Beaverton; Elmer Stangel, Wilsonville; Elaine and Henry Davenport, Silverton; and Lyle McKinley and son, Shedd.

Parking space for Oregon's great State Fair in Salem, Sept. 1-7, has been increased to 60 acres. Total area for the fairgrounds is 167 acres. The construction of two new entrance gates has been completed, designed to accommodate the increased crowds expected at the 1947 show.

Manager Roy Simmons of the Oregon state fair horse show in Salem, Sept. 1 to 7, announced this week

Time to Treat Prune, Peach Trees for Pests

Prune growers are reminded that this is the best time of the year to apply paradichlorobenzene for the control of root borers. This chemical which is sold under various trade names has been found to be the most satisfactory means of control for peach root borers in prune and peach trees, states W. C. Leth, Polk County Agent.

The best time of application is usually from August 15 to September 15, and for trees 6 years old and over, three-fourths to one ounce per tree is used.

The chemical should be applied in a ring about the base of the tree trunk about two inches out from the tree and a mound of dirt should be built above the chemical in order to hold the gas formed from the crystals about the tree, so that it can penetrate the tunnels of the borers.

There has been considerable interest by a number of growers in a new chemical that is used in liquid form and which does not require mounding, and which is known as ethylene dichloride. This chemical has been somewhat unsafe, according to some reports, and because of this, some chemical companies have withdrawn it from the market. More experimental work will be done with this and other chemicals before they will be recommended by the agricultural experiment station or the OSC extension service, states Mr. Leth.

that entries for the 1947 show will close August 23. This year's horse show will be combined with championship rodeo events and staged each night of the fair.

For the first time in several years, out of state horses will be eligible to compete for the increased stakes and class purses. Among the early entries are several strings from Yakima, Stockton, Seattle and Montana.

NORBLAD MOVES OFFICES TO SALEM IN SEPTEMBER

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Congressman Walter Norblad (R-Ore) has closed his Washington, D. C. office and members of his staff are enroute to Salem, Oregon, where the Representative will maintain headquarters beginning September 2nd. All correspondence should be addressed to Congressman Norblad at Salem, Oregon.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Zetterburg

and son Ted visited Mrs. Zetterburg's aunt Mrs. Venita Meyers at Ocean Lake Sunday. While there they were pleasantly surprised when Mr. and Mrs. Paul Emmett of Pittsburg, Pa. visited the Meyers home. Other visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Jack Meyers of San Jose, Calif. Mr. Emmett is an uncle of Mrs. Zetterburg and Jack Meyers is her cousin.

A newly born kangaroo is only about one inch long and weighs approximately 1/350 of a pound.

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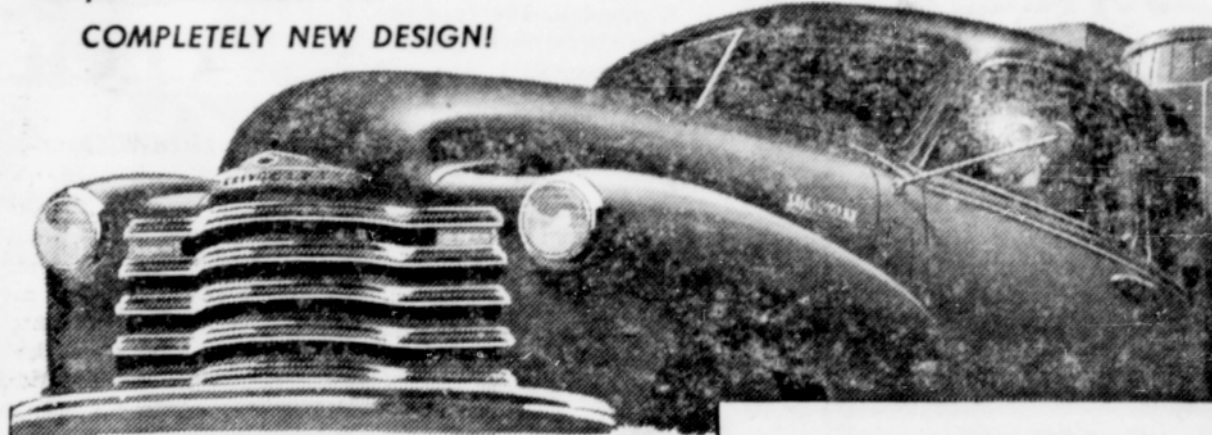
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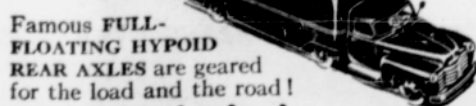


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