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PROGRESS IN THE ERADICATION OF RABBITS

IT IS NECESSARY FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION IN ORDER TO OBTAIN COUNTY STRYCHNINE.

Altho there has been very little favorable weather in this county to date for the killing of large numbers of rabbits thru the use of poison mixtures, the progress made in the county in preparation of the use of these mixtures and the work of eradicating the rabbits generally, is very favorable. There are at present 18 community organizations organized and ready for work as soon as favorable weather appears. Four other organizations will take up the work immediately, and requests for meetings and assistance in organizing communities have been received in large numbers by the county agriculturist. Because of the necessary work in preparation of annual reports on demonstrations, etc. in the county for the year, which must be prepared by Jan. 1, and because of the County Agents' conference at Corvallis, Jan. 3 to 14, the county agriculturist

has found it impossible to hold meetings until after his return from Corvallis, Jan. 16. Mr. Ward, U. S. Biological Assistant, will also be gone from the county from Jan. 3 to 13, but after that time will be glad to visit any section of the county and continue the work we have already started. A large quantity of strychnine bought by the county and state, is expected to arrive this week and a large portion of this will be distributed among organized communities in the county. None of this strychnine will be given to individuals; all will be given to the organizations. It is not necessary that either the county agriculturist or Mr. Ward be present to affect a community organization. Any community can organize and as soon as we have proof that the organization is perfected and that it means business, it will be given its share of the strychnine. If your community wants assistance in the rabbit work it must have an organization.

In regard to the use of poison mixtures for rabbits, Mr. Ward states as follows:

The ultimate success of the jack rabbit poisoning in Crook county will depend on how carefully those using the poison mixture follow instructions regarding its preparation and recommendation for its exposure. I have lately conferred with one "poison mixer" who deviated from the plan. This man used practically no accurate measures and guessed at the amount of liquid for the starch solution. This would not have made any material difference had he added

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IS KILLING OFF JACK RABBITS

Owing to the fact that I have had to lecture at the Oregon Agricultural College I will be unable to answer inquiries concerning poisoning until my return on Jan. 13. After that date I will be pleased to assist the various poisoning organizations in any way possible and will appreciate the hearty co-operation of those concerns in making the Crook county poisoning project a success. Earlier in the campaign the organizations were advised that as soon as results of the poisoning experiments at present in progress were available such information would be given to them. While no conclusions have been reached concerning the experiments conducted by my assistants in Lake county, the following facts are worthy of mention and I recommend their use by those actively engaged in rabbit poisoning.

It appears that the absence of saccharine will not affect materially the success of the poison. Equally as good results have been obtained the past week without its use. Instead, a tea cup level full of table salt dissolved in the pint of water before making the starch gives promise of increasing the effectiveness of the poison.

The number of quarts of oats used to each ounce of strychnine may be increased from 12 to 14 quarts without decreasing the efficiency of the poison. It will also tend to make the preparation cheaper. The alfalfa mixture has given equally as good results as the poison oats during the past month in Lake county. It is also slightly cheaper to use. The organization on the High Desert still reports good kills, and it appears that weather conditions are more favorable for poisoning in that locality.

F. E. Garlough, who is assisting me in the Lake county experiments, has averaged 90 jack rabbits a night by the use of a small portion of poisoned grain and poisoned alfalfa. This is due to the fact that the rabbits, their habits and natural food conditions, are being carefully studied. The hay in the bait corrals is changed every few days,

and as fast as it is eaten down a fresh fork full is put out. Poisons are switched every 3 or 4 days; that is, the oats are used in a corral which has been used for poisoned alfalfa and the poisoned alfalfa is exposed where the poisoned grain has been used. The poison is put out fresh every evening, and that which has been in the corral for two days is removed. It is worthy of comment that on the nights when the poisons are switched the largest kills have been made. R. A. WARD, U. S. Biological Assistant.

POWELL BUTTE

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Bayne and Mr. and Mrs. Allen Wilcoxen went to Prineville Thursday with Alvin Riggs in his new car. Miss Nan Cudd has been sick with the grip.

Jess Tuck is laid up with a relapse of the grip.

All of the patrons of the Wilson school have volunteered a load of wood for the school.

John Tuck went to Prineville last week to attend county court. Charlie Johnson has been quite sick the past week.

Van Morse spent Thursday and Friday at Homestead Acres.

Mrs. Bussett and her mother Mrs. Mary Brown visited Mrs. Frank Bayn last Friday.

Miss Edna Morse returned to her school last Wednesday.

At a meeting of the Men's Club last Thursday evening J. F. Rice was elected president and Earl Saunders secretary and treasurer. The question of a community hall was discussed after which the ladies served a nice lunch.

Much ice has been put up in this section recently.

Last Wednesday evening the N. P. Alley home was the scene of the liveliest and most enjoyable gathering ever held in this section. The members of the Sorosis and their families sat down to a banquet prepared by the ladies, after which the men present gave several hours' entertainment by performing the stunts the entertainment committee called on them for.



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GREETING

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