

Christensen Farm Near Midway is Scene of Extensive Irrigation Project



Julius Christensen, prominent farmer in the Midway section (right), listens to Ben Faber, irrigation equipment specialist, explain technical details of an electrically-driven centrifugal pump setup recently installed on the Christensen farm. Feeding through a 12-inch pipe-line, the pump draws water at the rate of 900 to 1400 gallons per minute from the Tualatin river for irrigating thirsty fields. Below: Christensen stands by as "crop-insurance" bubbles out of a man-made spring, one of six outlets strategically situated at various corners of his farm. The wheat field in the background has been seeded with 40 pounds of Ladino clover and 30 pounds of spring wheat to the acre. With irrigation, the field is not only promising a yield of wheat comparable with a 100-pounds-per-acre seeding, but is also growing a lush cover crop of Ladino underneath, to be harvested or used for pasture after the wheat has been cut. (Argus photos)

Future Development Expected To Boost Total Acreage to 200; Crops Saved by Pumped Water

(By Darrel W. Ellis)

Destined to become the largest irrigation project in Washington county with developments planned for succeeding months is the system installed in recent weeks on the Julius Christensen farm near Midway. With a 12-inch pipe line and 20-horsepower centrifugal pump taking water from the Tualatin river at a rate varying from 900 to 1400 gallons per minute, Christensen expects to be irrigating 150 acres within the year and has set 200 acres as a goal for the next year.

Larger than the Christensen project at the present time is the irrigation system operating on the John Thornburgh farm on Gale Creek, where 165 acres are supplied with water by a 20-horsepower pump and pipe system.

Until Christensen's fields are properly prepared for regulated watering, the large water supply at hand will be used in wild-flooding, the enterprising farmer said this week. But even with this somewhat unsatisfactory system, the "rain-to-order" investment has already begun to pay dividends, he said.

In months just past, he has kept 100 cows pastured on three pieces of Ladino clover field totaling 24 acres, an average of almost four cows to the acre. With frequent flooding, the Ladino clover remains heavy enough to supply the dairy animals with all the succulent feed necessary, he said.

Crop Ruin Averted
Another field of Ladino clover seeded in April, was threatened with ruin by the freak weather conditions of this spring and early summer, he said, but is now lush and green, thanks to the water supply provided by his pumping pipe lines. A light rain showered the new pasture fields shortly after the seed was sown, he said, and it was at first feared the seed had germinated and died with the drought weather which followed. In a desperate chance to save the fields, Christensen said, he flooded the fields and was not only gratified but somewhat surprised at the heavy growth which followed.

Ready in Two Months
With the new 40 acres, about 60 acres will be used for pasture within two months.

Corn fields on the Christensen farm have also seen their day of rescue from drought with a water supply from the irrigation system. Time for planting corn came, Christensen said, and the ground was dry as desert land. The earth drank greedily of the water that was wild-flooded over 12 acres to be seeded with corn, he stated, and the corn is now doing nicely. Another 12 acres now thriving were watered by row irrigation after seeding but before the sprouts had come up.

"Without irrigation, I could now be expecting about a third of a crop of corn," the water-conscious farmer predicted.

Covers 700 Acres
Including uncultivated land, the Julius Christensen farm covers 700

Logged-Off Land Showing Promise As Grazing Area

Cattle, sheep and goats are faring well on the logged-off land seeded to grass in the Northrup creek experimental grazing area in eastern Clatsop county. Such was the report made to approximately 250 farmers and representatives of public agencies who attended the third annual Field day at Northrup creek late in June.

Herb Howell, superintendent of the Astoria branch experiment station, who is also in charge of the grazing experiment, told about the response of the various grasses which have been seeded on the burned-over areas, but said final conclusions have not yet been reached as to which grasses will prove the most profitable.

A distinguished visitor taking part in the Field day was Governor Charles A. Sprague, who was introduced to the group by William A. Schenck, dean of agriculture at O. S. C., who was chairman for the occasion. Governor Sprague urged the farmers to await more conclusive information from the test areas before risking too much money of their own in reseeding cut-over land. He pointed out that the biggest experiment will come

five miles south of Hillsboro, are three farms: Ed Hatfield, Farmington, 15 horsepower; F. G. Mitchell, Farmington, 10 horsepower; and W. B. Chandler, near Scholls, 25 horsepower.

In addition, irrigation electricity had been previously supplied to Putnam and Sons, Farmington, who started electric-driven irrigation pumps in 1937. Ed and Herman Freudenthal, Fir Grove Dairy, two miles south of Hillsboro, who have been irrigating for 9 years, the last three with electric power; Frank Setniker, six miles south of Hillsboro on the River road, 7½ horsepower, started in 1937; Loren Thurneiser, across the road from Setniker, 7½ horsepower, also started in 1937; and E. F. Gouty, in the same vicinity, 5 horsepower, started in 1936.

Mr. Faber is the man behind a great many recent irrigation setup installations and will be found promptly on the job from Setniker. Technical knowledge about installing an irrigation system is sought.

when people take these findings and put them to practical use.

To Use Idle Land
Every indication so far points to the practicability of using large areas of cut-over lands in western Oregon for livestock production, the visitors learned. The object is to develop an income-producing industry while reforestation is proceeding.

Superintendent Howell points out that western Oregon grass land might well be used to supplement the eastern Oregon ranges in producing livestock. Possible development of a larger livestock fattening enterprise in the Willamette valley will also increase the demand for feeder animals which could be produced on the cut-over lands.

A combined meeting of the Clatsop and Columbia county livestock associations was also held, with F. H. McDonald, president of the Columbia county group, and F. H. Wooten, vice-president of the Clatsop county organization, presiding. A resolution was passed urging the farmers pay more attention to the state law demanding that all livestock marketed bear sheriff's tags.

Movies on FFA Program Tuesday

A motion picture plus a program to be presented by Swift & Company will be on the entertainment side of the FFA meeting at the

Hillsboro union high school at 8 p. m. Tuesday, according to John Durr, chapter instructor.

Invitations to attend the meeting are being extended to any and all young men of high school and college age who are interested in farming, Durr said.

Bechens Sell Guernsey

A registered Guernsey bull has recently been sold by Bechen Bros. to Lee Mead of Nehalem. This animal is Nehalem Cavalcade of Pine Farm 272952 according to The American Guernsey Cattle club, Peterborough, N. H.

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Oregon Dominates Bent Grass Market

Oregon produces more than 90 per cent of the commercial bent grass seed annually in the United States, according to figures compiled by the Oregon State college extension service.

Imports of seed from other countries have been virtually halted by a protective tariff giving Oregon a near monopoly on the market for the entire country. Under the supervision of G. R. Hyslop, head of the plant industries division, a seed

certification service has been developed which gives Oregon seed an accredited place on the market. Close to a half-million pounds of seed were produced in 11 western Oregon counties in 1938 against 56,000 pounds in the early days of the industry in 1926.

The bent grass straw is not wasted after the seed is harvested, as it makes excellent hay.

Examiner Here July 19

An examiner of operators and chauffeurs will be in Hillsboro Wednesday, July 19, at the court house from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. All

those wishing permits or licenses to drive cars are asked to get in touch with the examiner during these hours.

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