

### Alta Fescue with Subclover Found Best Pasture Mix

Western Oregon farmers faced with the problem of what to sow on the so-called "red hill" soils where a permanent pasture is desired can best plant alta fescue in mixture with Tallarook subterranean clover, according to a newly published circular of information, No. 376, entitled "Results of Permanent Pasture Grass and Legume Experiment, Red Soils Experiment Area at Oregon City," by Edwin Keitner, superintendent.

As a project of the Oregon State college experiment station, six pasture grasses in general use in western Oregon were seeded alone and in mixture with subterranean clover and white clover in the fall of 1940. The grasses were: English ryegrass, chewing fescue, alta fescue, red creeping fescue, orchard grass and highland bent grass. Seeding rates and fertilizer applications are included in the circular.

All of the plots received pasturing throughout the summer months by a herd of dairy heifers. From the palatability standpoint, English ryegrass was the number one choice followed by little preference between alta fescue and orchard grass. The English ryegrass provided only a short pasture season, however, and was gone soon after the rains ceased. The cattle showed a distinct liking for the mixed grass and clover seedings

### Gross Income Up, Net Down Little On Oregon Farms

Slightly more gross but slightly less net farm income apparently resulted from Oregon's farm business in 1945, according to a preliminary analysis of available data by L. R. Brethaupt, OSC extension economist. Cash receipts from farm marketing from January through October ran slightly ahead of last year, the USDA estimated. Farm wage rates were considerably higher, however, and other costs averaged somewhat above 1944.

Even so, net farm income in 1945 probably was generally at over grass planted alone.

On the basis of observations and yield, alta fescue and Tallarook subterranean clover fertilized with 100 pounds of treble phosphate each fall proved to be the most desirable combination for a permanent pasture. This mixture rated well toward the top in palatability and produced a continued growth throughout the dry summer months. By its vigorous growth it practically eliminated foreign grasses and weeds after three years of pasturing.

The subterranean clover increased rather than decreased its stand in spite of constant pasturing. The circular is available from any western Oregon county extension office.

least three times the 1935-1939 average, not allowing for greater soil fertility depletion. The general outlook is for some further reduction in net farm income in 1946 yet leaving it far above 1939.

The returns of course, always vary greatly in amount according to size, type and location of farms.

In 1939 the U. S. census reported more than 20,000 farms in Oregon that produced very little for sale. Such "farms" are commonly known as rural residences or part-time farms. The average gross value of farm products raised was \$219, mainly used by the farm household.

The other two-thirds of Oregon's farms produced an average of \$2561 in gross value for sale and farm use in 1939, a low figure compared with 1945. Production expenses look nearly 60 per cent in 1945 compared with perhaps close to 50 per cent in 1945, as a general average.

The figure \$2561 as the average gross value of farm sales in 1939 for Oregon farms that received their major income from the sale of farm products compares with \$2435 for Washington and \$2367 for Idaho, census data indicate.



IN VIENNA 300 extra calories a day help the aged to survive. Feeding in old people's homes, orphanages, hospitals is directed by the American Red Cross whose workers administer U. S. army supplies.

### AAA Committeemen Aid Growers with Practice Program

With \$2,000,000 available for improving and conserving Oregon's agricultural resources, this year AAA committeemen are helping farmers and ranchers plan to all out attack on erosion and desertion with the assistance of the 1946 agricultural conservation program.

The conservation work for each farm will be started on a farm plan, the basis for participation in the program, according to E. H. Miller, chairman of the state AAA committee.

At community meetings, county offices and in individual visits with committeemen, operators will show on the farm plans the practices for which they want assistance during the year. May 1 is the final date for filing a plan for participation in the program.

County committeemen will review each farm plan and determine the amount of assistance to be given the operator. In addition to cost-sharing payments, this assistance can be in the form of conservation materials or technical aid needed to plan and carry out the practices. In fixing this amount, committeemen will consider the size of each farm's conservation job in relation to the funds available for conservation work on all farms in the county. Payments will average 50 per cent of the cost of performing the practices.

Citing the need for building back fertility lost in heavy wartime production, Miller called on every farmer to perform all of the conservation practices he can carry "on his own" and then add a few extra practices with the assistance of the program. Committeemen taking farm plans will have full information on the practices offered, and also will be prepared to discuss production goals, price support programs and crop insurance.

The first is applied when 30 to 40 percent of the bloom has shown green at the tips, second application is made when all blossoms have green, with a third, if necessary, when stems lengthen and buds show white.

This schedule cannot always be followed precisely because of rain or wind, though DDT can be used in less favorable weather conditions than the other materials, the authors say. DDT has also proved useful in spraying the soil through the front before the adult thrips emerge, usually a week or so before time for the regular spray.

The circular, obtainable free from any county extension office, gives directions for applying DDT to kill thrips. It also gives a little more on the weeds. This has been found useful in helping tobacco growers in their work.

Every organization civic, fraternal, church and patriotic is urged to designate a reporter and hold him or her responsible for reporting briefly and concisely the news-worthy happenings of the organization. The reporter's name should be registered with the Argus.

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### Question Arises As to Just What Makes a "Farm"

There is need for a new term to designate small places and homes in the country that are not operated as "farms" but are nevertheless designated by the census as "farms" and farm management authorities say. To back up their view they point out that the census of 1939 indicates that about 90 per cent of the "farms" produced over 50 per cent of the total value of all farm products and that most of the six per cent was used on these "farms."

Stated in another way, less than 10 per cent of the farms produced 94 per cent of the total output and practically all of the products marketed. Obviously, the economists say, the census definition of a "farm" is outmoded.

The data indicate that the number of "farms" that are really country residences and small part-time farms has increased and become large in some areas. There is no way to determine exactly from the data, however, how many there are and how many really farms large enough to provide work and income for a family.

Thus, the economists say, the value of the data is reduced. For example, they point out that 23.7 per cent of the "farms" were reported to be on hard surfaced roads in 1940. Likewise, the census reported about 60 per cent of the "farms" had electricity, that about 40 per cent had telephones, and that about 31 per cent had running water. But, the economists ask, how many of the real farms were so situated? And how many of the "farms" with these advantages were country residences of people who work in cities and towns?

The census shows an increase of about 44,000 in the rural farm population of Oregon from 1920 to 1940, compared with about 120,000 in rural nonfarm and 140,000 in urban. But that comparison is not indicative of the real population trend on the real farms, the economists say, as the increase in other country places was perhaps more than enough to account for the increase in the "rural farm" population.

### THE ESSENCE OF IT



### Price Levels of Farm Products in Past Years Shown

Timely data on prices received by Oregon's farmers from 1909 to 1944 have been assembled and published by the OSC extension service co-operating with the USDA bureau of agricultural economics.

In addition to 12 tables of farm commodity price data the bulletin contains index numbers and a striking chart showing the tremendous changes that occurred in the general level of prices for farm products in Oregon over the 35-year period.

The highest peak in Oregon's general farm price level was reached in May 1929 at 213 per cent of the 1935-1939 average. By May of 1921 the average level dropped to 104. This was followed by some recovery with the 1925-1929 average at 146. Then, in 1930, the second and greater decline began, reaching bottom at 55 in February, 1933.

Subsequently, the general course of Oregon's farm price level has been irregularly upward, with another great rise during World War II. As of December 15, 1945, the index had reached 196 per cent of 1935-1939.

Whether that marked the peak of wartime price rise is still problematical.

Current farm price data indicate that a slight decline occurred in Oregon's general farm price level from mid-December 1945 to mid-January, 1946. Nationally the farm price index declined one point while the index of prices paid advanced a point.

In terms of "parity" the United

### DDT Given First Spot As Prune Thrip Spray

DDT is now definitely recommended as an effective control for thrips on prune trees that have been a serious pest of prunes in Oregon for 25 years. The recommendations and directions for applying are contained in a revised circular of information No. 374 just issued by the OSC experiment station.

Three spray materials are now available and are listed in this order: DDT in oil emulsion, nicotine sulfate in oil emulsion, and nicotine sulfate combined with lime sulfur. Nicotine is unusually scarce this year.

S. C. Jones and Dr. Don C. Mabe, station entomologists who are authors of the circular, say at least two spray applications are necessary where infestation is severe.

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