

FSA Families Planning Spring Farm Clean-ups

Spring farm clean-ups are being planned by many county FSA families to cut 1946 fire, accident and disease hazards to a minimum, reports V. S. Madson, county farm security supervisor, Commercial building, Hillsboro. Clean-up programs are sponsored by the national USDA safety council to reduce an annual accident toll of 17,000 farm residents killed, a million and a half injured, and 90 million dollars in farm property destroyed by fire.

"Every year farms in this county pay a heavy toll in accidents, fires and disease, and FSA borrowers are taking the leadership in reducing the human suffering and monetary losses involved," Madson said. "Plans for this year are centered on cleaning up rubbish, broken machinery and trash in cluttered barnyards; fixing up broken steps, faulty flues and chink-bolts in farm buildings; and eliminating health hazards of rat-infested buildings, mosquito breeding pools and improper covered walks."

"Spring plans of a number of borrowers include minor building repairs to eliminate accident haz-

Care of Birds Urged As Help to Farmers

MOUNTAIN HOME—Spring has arrived and the birds are coming. We will do well to encourage them to live near us. They are the farmer's helper and the joy of the town folks. Fortunately, he who has found favor with the birds.

Many states celebrate the second Friday in April as "Bird Day," but every day can be Bird Day with those who appreciate the birds. Birds can get along very well without our help but a little encouragement may bring them to live near us and so enrich our lives. They will furnish us perfect music all summer and much companionship if we but make a little effort to know them. Many will return another year to the same place to nest. They come again as old friends and seem to know us and be glad to be back.

Flies, gnats and mosquitoes are the choice food of swallows and bluebirds, which catch their food on the wing. The most industrious man can not compare with a bird in catching gnats that destroy trees.

Yes, now is the time to put up bird houses, or clean the old ones; one likes to move into a dirty house.

ards such as defective steps, stairways, porches, broken barn and shed doors or floors, and putting new tops on wells, cisterns, and springs where contamination is possible. It was pointed out that further precautions are being taken in checking electric wiring, chimneys, flues, oil storage and other fire as well as accident hazards.

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Farm and Garden

Hillsboro, Oregon, Thursday, March 28, 1946 Page 3

Planting of Home Gardens Urged To Help Food Situation Abroad

An early and handy supply of fresh vegetables will reduce living costs and has taken on an added importance in view of the food situation abroad, according to information received from the county agent's office in Hillsboro. Few are in the back yard or nearby for a home garden. The "victory" garden is needed as badly as ever this year as can be seen by the continued scarcity of some foods. Besides supplying valuable food, a home garden is pleasant recreation for many who enjoy making things grow.

Proper planning is of first importance in successful gardening. A warm, well-drained soil of good fertility should be selected where possible. Land free from weeds is desirable and a little early planning here may save a lot of work later in the summer.

Proper soil preparation is essential to good gardening. Too many gardens are worked when the soil is too wet and time is actually lost because the plants grow more slowly in the hard lumpy soil which results.

It is easy to judge when a garden may be plowed or spaded by taking a handful of soil at spade depth and squeezing it into a ball. If the resulting ball is a hard sticky one, the soil is too wet, but if the ball crumbles, the soil is just right. If the soil is too wet but an early planting of leafy vegetables is desired, a small portion should be prepared for this purpose leaving the remainder until it is dry.

In working a garden of this size, a plow or spade the ground to a depth of five to seven inches and work it down forming a level, firm surface.

If the soil tends to be heavy or run together it may be desirable to apply barnyard manure or some other form of organic matter before plowing.

Further information about your home garden may be secured by writing the county agent's office. Extension bulletins 551, "Vegetable Garden Insect Pest Control," and 614, "The Farm Home Vegetable Garden" and others are available there which should help you in growing a successful garden.

Continued Rainy Weather Drowns Many Fall Seeded Crops in County

Continued rainy weather during the winter has caused the drowning out of quite a little fall seeded crops in Washington county, according to Palmer S. Torvond, county agent. For this reason spring planting of certain crops or certain fields or portions of fields may be necessary. Among the crops that may be considered are oats, barley, alfalfa, permanent grass pasture grasses, corn and wheat.

Although winter cereals will ordinarily out-yield spring cereals, farmers may find it advantageous to re-seed poor stands with spring varieties as excessive winter kill may reduce the stand to such an extent that spring seeding will be advantageous. Torvond said. Varieties of the crops suggested for spring planting are as follows: Oats, Victory is a suggested spring variety. The acreage of alfalfa in the county has been reduced very materially, although seed supplies are quite short, it is suggested as a good spring crop on well drained land.

The Grimm variety is recommended, however, liming of the land is essential to assure a good stand. A well-prepared seed bed is important. Corn is another spring crop which provides an opportunity for weed control as well as one that will spread out the harvest season. On smaller farms it offers an opportunity because of its low mechanical culture requirement. Most of the crop can be handled by hand labor. The birds, Oregon 325 and for early maturing feed and on hill lands, Oregon 100. The pasture mix which may be seeded on crop land in the spring where a well prepared seed bed can be established include subterranean clover, alfalfa fescue and perennial rye grass. This will provide a permanent type pasture and is particularly well suited to dry land conditions. Ladino clover is recommended on irrigated land in place of subterranean clover. Varieties of wheat for spring planting include the Zimmerman, Marquis and Huston.

Seed supply of a number of these crops are somewhat short and in some cases may not be available at all unless the grower has his

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fore plowing. Compost or green manure will have a similar effect if allowed to rot under the soil before planting time. Complete commercial fertilizers are recommended. Five to eight pounds of 3-8-7 per square foot is a good application. March and April are good for seeding the early vegetable and planting of lettuce, spinach, beets, carrots, onions, radishes, peas and turnips will make possible the earliest of the several grown vegetables. Early cabbage should be ready for transplanting by April 1.

In selecting seed, choose varieties suited to the climate of this county. Seed should not be wasted. Just enough should be planted to insure the good stand on an ample area for the family. Planting too thick and failure to thin out the extra plants may retard the growth.

Care must be exercised in depth of planting. Most garden seeds have directions for planting printed on the package. Many seeds when planted too deep require weeks for germination or do not grow at all. On the other hand, seeds planted too near the surface may dry out before germination is complete.

Many vegetables are more desirable when very young and tender. Plantings of things like lettuce, spinach, carrots or beets, so that a supply of the proper maturity is available over a long period.

Some of the early vegetables planted now will be out of the way in time for late summer plantings of cold storage and canning vegetables.

Further information about your home garden may be secured by writing the county agent's office. Extension bulletins 551, "Vegetable Garden Insect Pest Control," and 614, "The Farm Home Vegetable Garden" and others are available there which should help you in growing a successful garden.

Conservation Aid in Shortage

With the feed situation in for progressive tightening as the emergency program to relieve the world food crisis gathers momentum, Oregon farmers are being urged to conserve.

Assistance in carrying out plans to grow more feed is offered to farmers through AAA conservation practices that produce more and better pastures. These practices include the application of phosphate to grasses and legumes, seeding or reseeding permanent pastures with approved mixtures of perennial grasses and legumes, and developing improved pastures by clearing, ditching and other extensive improvements. Payment rates and specifications for these practices and for grazing land improvement practices can be obtained from county committees.

These AAA conservation practices result in more effective use of pasture and the conservation of grain feed. Miller reminded. Wheat grain feed, Miller reminded. Wheat grain feed, Miller reminded. Wheat grain feed, Miller reminded.

own supply already on hand. For further information contact the county agent's office.

County Union Meets
Washington County Farmers' Union will meet in the chamber of commerce rooms Saturday night at 8 o'clock.

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Mounting Costs Hike Parity on Farm Production

Continued advances in the United States index of prices paid by farmers for commodities, interest and taxes the so-called parity index brought this figure to 178 at mid-February, the highest in 25 years, according to a review of farm price trends prepared by the ASC extension service from USDA reports and other data. An index that represented all farm commodities would be materially higher, said mid-January farm wage rates stood at 391 per cent of the 1910-1914 level.

In Oregon in 1939 USDA data indicate that hired farm labor cost 23 per cent of the total production expenses of farm operations. Weighted on that basis, an overall farm costs index would stand at around 220, and the average exchange value of farm products would thus figure out at about 94 per cent of 1910-1914 instead of 116 as under the present "parity" formula.

Production expenses of farm operators have reached a level about double the prewar level. These costs, at least 150 million dollars last year in Oregon, were even greater than the average gross farm income from 1935 to 1939. Should farm income in the future fall below the prewar level and farm costs remain near current levels, net farm income would shrink sharply below that of recent war years.

Farm family living costs have also advanced materially. At 192 per cent of 1910-1914, the United States index at mid-February stood last year above 1935-1939, and 55 per cent over a year ago. This is the highest since 1920, with an advance of seven points in the last six months.

Under legal provisions, "parity" prices for wheat and other farm products must rise with each advance in the index of prices paid by farmers for commodities, interest and taxes (the parity index). The United States parity price for wheat reached \$1.57 a bushel at mid-February, a cent above mid-January and five cents above mid-February 1945. The OPA ceiling price for wheat must be not less than the parity price, but may be higher. For some farm commodities, parity may be even higher than parity under other legal provisions.

The recent advance in wheat ceiling prices was necessary owing to the increase in the parity price for wheat. Should the index of prices paid by farmers (including interest and taxes) advance to as much as 180 or 181, another rise in the ceiling price of wheat would be due. That may or may not be accompanied by a corresponding advance in cash market prices.

County Berry Acreage Shows Large Increase

Berry acreage in the county has risen from a low of 800 acres during the last few years to approximately 1400 acres for 1946, it was revealed at a meeting of the United Berry Growers of Washington county at Forest Grove on March 18.

Secretary B. L. Sellers of Banks was re-elected or 181, another rise in the ceiling price of wheat would be due. That may or may not be accompanied by a corresponding advance in cash market prices.

A report by the treasurer showed an increase of 21 new members since the last meeting, January 29, surpassing the gain in membership for the entire war period. A motion was approved for memberships to be accepted for varieties of berries other than strawberries. This was brought before the meeting by raspberry and gooseberry growers.

George Waldo of the U. S. extension service at Corvallis spoke on the various types of strawberry diseases. He said experiments are being made to find a new berry less subject to various diseases.

Joe Cox, assistant county agent, and Roy Davidson, farm labor assistant, spoke on the labor situation and the proposed migratory labor camp for Washington county. Davidson said Oregon ranks fourth in the nation on farm labor placement, and runs close to the top on pay.

Tannery Seeking Supply of Bark From Douglas Fir

Locating a supply of bark from second growth Douglas fir which may be used as a source of tannin extract is the very unusual request received from a Dallas tannery by Charles H. Ladd, farm forester for the state board of forestry.

The company will pay \$17 per ton, delivered, for four-foot length dry bark and \$14 per ton for ranter length and width bark peeled from poles and piling. Second growth fir bark can be used up to 14 inch thickness. Fir bark thicker than this has insufficient tannin content. Hemlock bark will be accepted in any thickness. A cord of full-sized will produce about a ton of bark and in sawlogs about a pound to the board foot, depending upon thickness. This company can use 150 tons of bark per year.

Douglas fir bark is a forest product that is usually wasted and considered without value when stems such as poles, piling, sawlogs and pulpwood are harvested. With very little additional effort this bark could be saved and a good use obtained for it.

Further details with regard to market and condition of sale may be obtained from the county agent's office or the state board of forestry in Salem.

Van Kleeks Observe 59th Anniversary

KINTON—Mr. and Mrs. J. J. VanKleek observed their 59th wedding anniversary March 29 at their home in Pleasant Valley road. They were married in Walnut Grove, Neb., and moved to Oregon 34 years ago. They received many gifts and cards from their numerous friends.

The Bell family gathered at the Earl Bell home Sunday to celebrate Earl Bell's birthday. Mrs. J. H. Allen entertained Sunday in honor of Mrs. G. Carpanter's birthday.

Kinton Grange will meet Tuesday night at 8 o'clock. Have Sale.

Ladd said Aid will meet with Mrs. Ivan Newkirk Thursday afternoon. A white elephant sale will be held at this meeting to raise funds to buy ice cream to serve at George White center April 12.

Roberta Pomeroy is spending this week at home. She attends University of Oregon. Arrives in P. S. Mrs. Earl Ward arrived here Saturday from Liverpool, England, to join her husband, who recently received his discharge from the army. Mr. and Mrs. Ward were married in Liverpool June 10, 1944, while Mrs. Ward was in England. Mrs. T. G. Hawley received a letter Saturday from her grandson, Fred VanHorn, telling her that he was stationed at Agenda, New Foundland, with the coast guard.

Social Planned At Arcade School

ARCADE—A pie social will be held April 5 at 8 p. m. at the Arcade school. Proceeds will be used for the new piano. A musical program is planned, and anyone who plays or sings is asked to attend. Ladies are asked to bring pies. Coffee will be served.

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Quantities of Prune Thrips In Orchards

Large numbers of prune thrips have emerged from the soil and are now in the orchards in protected places such as behind bud scales, reports Palmer S. Torvond, county agent.

As soon as the buds break and show green tips the thrip will enter and begin feeding. According to information received from the entomology department at Oregon State college, growers should be prepared to spray prunes as soon as approximately 40 per cent of the blossom buds show green at the tips. In some cases trees may be already reached this stage or will very shortly in a few days of warm weather.

Materials such as those listed below have been found to be effective:

1. Twenty-five per cent DDT in miscible oil emulsion, one pint or five per cent DDT oil emulsion two quarts in water to make 100 gallons of spray.

2. Nicotine sulphate 40 per cent, one pint, and a medium oil emulsion having the following specifications: viscosity 75 seconds Saybolt; unsaponified residue test of at least 85 per cent diluted to give two per cent actual oil; and water to make 100 gallons of spray.

Prune thrips are very active during warm sunny weather and may be found on any part of the tree. Spraying should be thorough, reaching every part of the tree. A coarse driving spray should be used to force the spray into the buds.

Farm Union Locals Plan Banks Meeting
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of the Farmers' Union, will hold their regular meeting at Banks Thursday, April 4, at 8 p. m., according to Bernard Gent, secretary of the Kansas City local.

Palmer Torvond, county agent, is scheduled to give a talk on grass silage.

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