

Farm and Garden

Hillsboro, Oregon, Thursday, July 11, 1946 Page 3

Small Water Facility Loans Boosted On Farm Security Fund Program

Farm security funds for all programs in Washington county were appropriated for the new fiscal year which began July 1. V. S. Madson, county FSA supervisor, has been advised. Although funds for five-year operating goods loans and 40-year farm ownership are about the same as those budgeted last year, money for small water facility loans was substantially increased.

Every effort will be made to clear as soon as possible all veteran and farmer applications, and supplemental loans to FSA borrowers carried over into July, Madson said. "We are also prepared to process all new applications for water facility, group service, operating goods or farm ownership programs. A minimum of speculative cash crops and raising most of the family food supply on the farm is the goal."

Office days at the Hillsboro office are set up for every Wednesday from 8 to 5.

Special attention will be given every veteran who is able to rent or lease a good farm or can qualify for a farm ownership loan in the county and is unable to secure sufficient credit from usual sources, explained Madson. Farmers' needs

Tualatin River, Tributaries Said To Affect 135,000 Acres of Land

The Tualatin river and its tributaries affect about 135,000 acres of Washington county land, according to information in the report of the land use committee to the Washington County Agricultural Board, which was released today. Reports of the various committees have been made available in published form at the county agent's office.

According to surveys made, the report said, about 40,000 acres of county land are subject to some danger because of improper drainage and flooding and 24,999 acres are seriously affected almost every time there is high water. The report continues:

"These flood lands represent a major farming problem. The cost of operation is often high in proportion to return and there is considerable difficulty in maintaining soil fertility. Two soil types in the main predominate these flood land areas. The wetter portions follow the Wapato series, and the Chelaha soils, usually a little higher and drier. The committee believes that the recommendations and the program would very materially help this flood area and favor the development of the project."

In addition to these recommendations, the committee points out that until such flood control projects are completed and effectively working, certain areas of land should be planted to meadow, foxtail, either for seed or pasture purposes, and some of the higher areas should be planted to alfalfa. The overflow water drains off in a rather short period of time, where irrigation is available, lading clover.

"The committee believes that the annual plowing of this type of land increases the erosion, is expensive and therefore, the use of some more permanent types of crops other than spring grain is desirable."

These areas also offer a serious problem as far as noxious weed control is concerned. More permanent seedings, particularly of grasses which they will grow well, the committee believes help control the weeds.

"The land use committee generally believes that in the most serious areas, if the present crop of timber is to be retained, the land should be seeded back to trees to allow the present crop of timber to be as quickly as possible. There are other areas suited to grazing, and perhaps a few areas in some of the sloping valleys which are well suited to growing such profitable farm units. The committee points out that in most cases there is little land in these areas so situated that it is possible to agricultural development. However, there are areas where grass, either for fire prevention alone, or in some of the better locations for grazing, can be grown to advantage until a new crop of trees can be started. Fires must be kept from these areas if the growing of trees is to be practical. The grass, in addition to perhaps providing small revenue from the land while the trees are getting started, will be a definite factor in cutting down soil erosion, developing more moisture holding capacity during the summer months, and providing the rapid varieties of grasses, seeded, serve as fire breaks. The committee urges the reseeded of these burned-over areas immediately after fire."

The committee recommends that Washington county farmers make the most possible use of the weed control practice as provided for under the AAA program. Also, that grass seedings of sod-forming grasses may be made where needed to control larger areas. Alfalfa and cloverings and red creeping fescue are recommended, using them as pasture.

"The land use committee points out that there is very little new farm land available in Washington county except as larger farms are cut up into smaller ones and occasionally in some of the sloping valleys. The committee points out, however, that owners of uncleared land in the valley may well consider the possibility of clearing up stumps, brush, and some cases even timber land which is adjacent to cultivated land, as they believe the cost of clearing land has increased steadily in proportion to the price of purchasing cultivated land. In other instances the committee points out, much better use can be made of poor stump and brush land pastured by clearing it and seeding it down with recommended grass and legume mixture. Additional returns in the form of pasture from this type of operation will greatly exceed those received from natural stands or uncared for pastures."

"The committee feels that the farmers in Washington county who have had land subject to erosion should seriously consider methods of controlling this annual loss in crop land. The committee points out that unless such control is established, much of our productive hill and will eventually become worthless due to the smothering off of the topsoil. The com-

Race on Between Farm Costs and Price Increases

A see-saw race between advancing farm costs and advancing prices for agricultural products has been going on in the past few months, according to a review of USDA data by the O. S. C. agricultural economics extension section. Cost increases have averaged a lot faster, but with some commodities, such as grain the price increases have been the winner.

A further rise in the parity index of farm costs was registered during the period mid-May to mid-June. Prices paid by farmers jumped three points to 187 per cent of 1910-14, an increase in the past year of 14 points over June 1945.

Partly offsetting the increase in costs, the general level of prices received by farmers rose 12 points during the period mid-May to mid-June. Thus, the exchange value of farm products declined from 114 per cent of parity to 117 per cent, calculated without including farm labor in the formula.

As parity is calculated, the United States average beef cattle prices stood at 140 per cent, down three points from June, 1945; lambs, 130, down one point; milk at wholesale 127, up three points; chickens 125, down 12; wool 123, down 11; corn 118, up 16; feed 117, down one; butterfat 116, down 12; oats 108, up 10; potatoes 107, down 36; wheat 106, up seven; hogs 105, down seven; eggs 96, down 16; and hay 86, down 12 points.

The general trend, however, is similar to the situation following the first world war. From about the present parity level, the general farm price level dropped to 75 per cent of parity in four years following World War I. It rose to average about 89 per cent of parity for several years before plunging down to 50 in 1933. For a year or two just before World War II, farm prices averaged about 75 per cent of parity.

Broken Back Result Of Fall From Tree

CHEHALEM MT.—Bonnie Hamblin, niece of Tom Shuck, received a broken back from a fall last Tuesday. She fell from a ladder while picking cherries on the Shuck farm, and was taken to the Jones hospital. They expect her to be in a cast for about three months.

Ruth Hanson of Portland is staying with her uncle, E. V. Hanson, and family, to help with the berry harvest.

Hudson McCormick was taken seriously ill Saturday. His aunts, Mrs. J. Burke and Miss Ivy Peterson, of Vancouver, visited him Sunday.

The F. E. Hoffman home was the scene July 4 of a reunion of Mrs. Hoffman's family. Present were the mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Smith of Boring, former residents here, Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Gould, Muriel Schmidt, and Vernon Schmidt of Portland, and Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Brink and sons of Klamath Falls who had been visiting here several days.

The hard rain early Monday morning interfered with the pickers' harvest and the last picking of strawberries. Blackcap picking will start this week.

Many from Chehalis Mountain attended the Happy Days' celebration in Hillsboro and the O. T. Valley rodeo. A number competed in the horse races, and prizes were won by Ruth Simpson, Carolyn Ego, and John Jones and Gordon Holbrook.

Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Kearns and daughter, of Portland, spent the Fourth of July holidays on their farm in the Buck Heaven district where her parents, Dr. and Mrs. W. C. Brown, live. This was formerly the Saxon place. They are remodeling the house, making the rooms larger by enclosing the porches and adding a utility room. Kearns is connected with the W. C. Forestry, located in Portland. He is a former instructor in forestry at OSC in Corvallis.

County Juvenile Cases Show Gain

Twenty juvenile cases, 18 boys and two girls, were handled in Washington county during June, according to Harold Meyer, county probation officer. This represents an increase of nine over the May docket.

Five juveniles were placed in detention. One was committed to a public institution and one to a private institution, two were placed in foster homes, and two were dependency cases. Ten were placed on probation.

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Month of July Said Critical For Gardening

July is usually a critical month in the garden when some late season vegetables are still to be set out or planted, when weeds have a habit of growing ground, and when a good job of irrigating may mean a good crop instead of a poor one.

This reminder comes from Joe Cox, assistant county agent, who adds that some of the crops that may be put in following peas and other early vegetables are celery, cauliflower, late cabbage, brussels sprouts, kale, late turnips and rutabagas.

Good irrigation involves giving vegetables more water than ordinary crops require, but avoiding overwatering says Cox. Quick-growing leafy vegetables and those with shallow roots require water more often than others. Vegetables with light-green leaves turn darker green when in need of water. If the soil is too wet and water logged the leaves turn lighter green or even yellow.

Quality water can be applied most economically by running it along the rows in shallow rills or furrows. If the ground is uneven and the garden is not too large, the contour type of soaker, sprinkling with a hose held in the hand is usually chiefly to help germinate shallow planted seeds. Where real irrigation is needed hand sprinkling may do more harm than good by forcing the gardener into thinking he has helped the plants when he has merely formed a top crust through which deeper moisture will be lost.

A thorough irrigation every two weeks is much better than several light irrigations at frequent intervals. A light cultivation as soon as the soil is dry enough to work well is nearly as essential as the irrigation, though this needs to be

Farmer Picnic Set

The annual Washington County Farmers Union picnic is scheduled to be held at Shute park, Hillsboro, July 21. It was announced this week. A softball game will be held in the morning, a picnic lunch at 2:30 with coffee furnished, and races and skating in the afternoon. A prize is to be given the local having largest number in attendance.

Californians Visit

KINTON.—Mrs. Ed Jones and daughter, Donna Louise, arrived Monday from Santa Rosa, Cal., to visit Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Collins. Jones came Wednesday to spend the Fourth of July with his family. Mrs. Jones' daughter left Saturday night for Texas to visit her father before returning home.

Fred VanHorn spent from Wednesday till Sunday in Seaside with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. VanHorn.

Mrs. J. J. Collins cut her hand in a broken bottle Monday. The doctor took six stitches. Mrs. Roy Mosier arrived home Friday from Good Samaritan hospital in Portland. A small piece of bone that was chipped from her elbow in a recent accident was removed from her arm.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Matthews and family of Astoria, Cal., spent last week at the home of Mrs. Matthews' grandmother, Mrs. Alice Richards.

Mr. and Mrs. James Graf and family of Myrtle Creek have been visiting Mrs. Graf's mother, Mrs. Alice Richards. They arrived in time for the wedding of Mrs. Graf's niece, Miss Ruth VanKleek, Graf left Sunday but Mrs. Graf and the children will stay another week.

Janita Renny went to Kelo, Wash., last week to visit her grandmother, Mrs. Rachel Shirk. Thursday she went to a camp near Tacoma with the Sunbeam group of the Junior Girl Guards of Kelo, of which she is a member. She returned home Sunday.

Shute Reunion Slated Sunday

SHUTE—The Shute school reunion will be held Sunday, July 14, at the school, with a pot-luck lunch at 1 p. m. The committee and all former pupils and teachers are invited to attend and renew old friendships.

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