

# Farm and Garden

Hillsboro, Oregon, Thursday, April 21, 1949

## Moss Removal Methods Told

"How do I get rid of moss in my lawn?" was a question frequently asked of the county agent's office, reports Agent Palmer Torvend. The use of nitrogen fertilizer has done the job in many cases, Torvend states.

Generally an application of eight to 10 pounds of ammonium sulfate spread evenly over each 1000 feet of lawn area will kill moss. The use of lawn mowers as a sign of low fertility. The lawn crops department of Oregon State college states that nitrogen fertilizer will do the job much better than raking. Raking of lawn is only a temporary method.

The fertilizer may turn the lawn brown following the application, however, if it is to be effective in controlling moss, this should occur. For best control of moss the lawn should not be watered for a few days following the nitrogen application. The lawn will come back greener than ever within a short time without mow.

Say you saw it in the Argus.

## Farm Units Open For Homesteads

One hundred farm individual farm units of about 130 acres each have been opened for homestead settlement on the Heart Mountain district of the bureau of reclamation, Washington, according to K. V. Vernon of Hillsboro, state director of bureau's region 6.

Included in the opening, the third in this district since the end of World War II are 12,072 acres of irrigable land. The average farm unit contains 136 acres of irrigable land and about 15 acres of non-irrigable land suitable for pasture and other purposes. Veterans of World War II are given preference of application.

Applications for the irrigable farm units by the superintendent of the Heart Mountain project at Coaly, Wyo. by June 15 will be considered simultaneously filed. Copies of the public notices, application forms and detailed information about the opening may be secured from the regional director's office, H. H. Workinger, manager of the Big Horn district, bureau of reclamation, Coaly, Wyo.

## Roots Important In Grass Crops

The importance of the roots of grass crops in reclamation often is not appreciated, is the opinion of E. Harvey Miller, chairman of the Oregon state PMA committee. These roots are being grown, it is not apparent how completely they occupy the soil.

To check up on this, scientists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture have washed out the roots of a number of mixed crops. When sweet clover was grown alone it produced 2000 pounds of roots to the acre. When grass was grown with the clover, 3000 pounds of roots were produced to the acre. Alfalfa alone produced 2000 pounds of roots to the acre. When grass was sown with the alfalfa, the roots amounted to 5000 pounds to the acre and in some cases up to 6000 pounds.

It is these unseen characteristics of grass which make it such a valuable conservation crop, the chairman points out. They fill the soil and hold the particles together. When the grass is turned under, it is these roots which make the soil work easier. As the roots decay they make the native fertility of the soil available and add to the sponge like ability of soils to absorb water. It is for this reason, the chairman explains, that grass is such an important conservation crop.

## Nut Cost Study Plea Dismissed

Northwest Nut Growers, major filbert and walnut grower market organization with headquarters at Dundee, Oregon, has been notified that its petition for a cost of production study of the filbert industry in Washington and Oregon has been dismissed and denied by the United States Tariff Commission. The study was requested for its bearing on possible tariff revisions.

Ray Ward, director, and John E. Trank, general manager of Northwest Nut Growers, who petitioned for the cost study, in behalf of all filbert growers, both expressed keen disappointment in the decision of the tariff commission.

Other foreign figures on filbert growing costs showed that if the tariff commission undertook such a study, they would look with favor on an application for a 50 per cent increase in tariff on foreign filberts. Trank said, "Certainly they would have found it difficult to raise tariff reductions."

Ward and Trank represented Northwest Nut Growers at January tariff commission hearings in Washington, D. C. at that time applied for tariff increases on imported in-shell filberts and requested cost of production studies in the Northwest. They spoke in behalf of the entire domestic filbert industry, which joined in support of Northwest Nut Growers' application.

Trank explains that the tariff commission is empowered to undertake cost studies of many products under section 306 of the tariff act of 1930, but that such action is not mandatory.

## Food Production Capacity Holds, PMA Head Says

That it may be necessary for the state to turn to agriculture to produce average allotments and submit marketing quota referendums to the vote of farmers on a number of major crops, according to the chairman of the PMA committee, is being maintained says E. Harvey Miller, chairman of the Oregon state PMA committee.

Instead of the population out-running the ability of the land to produce, farmers still have an opportunity to study the land to see that it will build the soil for future production. There is no conflict, the chairman points out, between supporting prices, setting allotments which call for a reduction in acreages, and also assisting farmers to carry out conservation measures. These are all elements of a necessary and desirable national program.

The primary objective is to make sure there is enough to eat—and wear—now and in the future. To do this it has been found necessary to protect the farmer from ruinous prices as well as to protect the land from wasteful farming, Miller said.

With nearly six million farms and all hazards of weather, disease, insects on the one hand and the introduction of improved varieties and better farming methods on the other, it is necessary to make national adjustments in production from time to time. Such adjustments are the only way to prevent waste of national soil resources in producing unneeded surplus crops.

To make sure there is enough—now and in the future—the soil must be protected from erosion and deterioration. This can be done only if the farmer is protected from the bankruptcy which in the past has resulted from over-abundant production and no price protection.

With lands filling up and production on a number of crops moving ahead of consumer needs, the farmers of this country have a golden opportunity to carry out needed conservation on the land that is taken out of surplus crops, the chairman points out. This will be good for the farm and the farmer but it will be even better for the consumer and the nation as a whole. An effective national effort to put this land to some conservation use will increase the nation's potential food strength, Miller stated.

## Silo Circular Available Here

A new agriculture circular prepared by Oregon State college on how to build a silo is available at the county extension office, reports Palmer Torvend, county agent.

Included in it are construction details showing the foundation, adding staves, roof, chute, anchors, and even painting. A silo of this type was erected last week on the Frank Setzler farm on the River road. This silo, which is 26 feet by 12½ feet in diameter, was erected in two days without staking. The new circular includes everything from a list of materials to drawing showing how to build various parts of the silo. The bulletin is entitled station bulletin No. 529 "How to Build a Homemade Wood Stave Silo."

## 4-H Club Family To Give Guernsey

Donor of a purchased Guernsey heifer to be awarded the highest winning 4-H Guernsey dairy club member at the 1949 state fair will be Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Maynard, McMinnville, announced L. J. Allen, state 4-H club leader.

The award known as the "Guernsey Cattle Club Special," has been made each year at the state fair since 1927, Allen stated.

The Maynards were also donors of the calf at the 1941 state fair when it was awarded to Donald Michael, Lane county.

Competition for the calf is based on the following: exhibit, 20 per cent; herdsmanship, 20 per cent; showmanship, 20 per cent; record book, 20 per cent; and report and interview with the Oregon Guernsey cattle club members at the fair, 20 per cent.

As well as having led 4-H clubs, Mr. and Mrs. Maynard are parents of seven children, all of whom are now club members, Allen states. In fact, three of the Maynard youngsters have been awarded Guernsey calves at past fairs. John won the award in 1939 when the calf was presented by W. C. Fleming, Proutdale. The following year, Eugene won the calf presented by C. T. Gilbert and Sons, Shasta.

The heifer given by Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Clarke, Gaston, in 1943 was won by Clara Lee. Six of the seven Maynard youngsters are enrolled in dairy club projects.

## Flaxseed Said Good Opportunity

Farmers who are still undecided as to what to plant for a spring crop might well give some consideration to the growing of flax seed, says Palmer Torvend, county agent. Although the support price of flax this year has been set at \$3.99 a bushel as compared to \$6 a bushel last year, it still offers a profitable opportunity on good land.

All seed flax should be planted before the first of May because it is important that flax be pretty well through the blooming period before hot weather starts. It is also important to prepare a fine, firm seed bed and drill the seed shallow, states Torvend. In some cases an application of 100 pounds of ammonium sulfate per acre may get the flax plants started off a little more quickly. Bison is still the standard flaxseed variety recommended and the planting rate is 30 to 35 pounds per acre.

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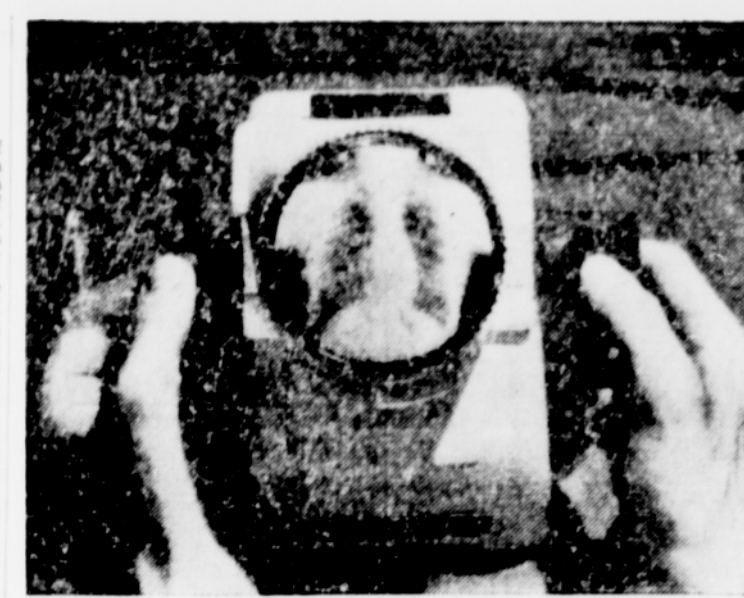
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MINIATURE PICTURES like these will be taken April 25-29 when the mobile chest X-ray unit will be in Washington county. All those who have a negative X-ray are sent a postcard telling them that at this time there is no evidence of active pulmonary tuberculosis. The goal of the survey is an annual chest X-ray for every adult in Oregon.

## Maggot Sprays Called for Now

Interested growers should begin making applications now for the control of the currant and gooseberry maggot, says Palmer Torvend, county agent. Within a few days after emergence the adult flies deposit their eggs under the skin surface of the berries.

Sprays are applied to kill these adult flies before they have an opportunity to lay their eggs. Once these eggs are laid, there is no possibility of control, Torvend said.

Magot flies have been found in a trap in Washington county. Control recommendations are as follows: Lead arsenate (4 pounds), cheap molasses (8 gallons) and water (30 gallons).

For the home gardener, two ounces of lead arsenate, one quart of molasses and three gallons of water will take care of a small patch. In addition to spraying the gooseberries and currants in commercial fields, interplanting trees and shrubs, and trees along neighboring fence rows should also be sprayed.

Sprays should be applied at weekly intervals beginning within one week of harvesting time. Weather conditions might alter this spray. Harvesting the fruit as soon as possible will assist in reducing wormy fruit.

## Burkhart to Judge Garden Competition

Wilbur Burkhart, Washington county extension agent, will judge the county entries in the 1949 Food Garden contest conducted by the Oregon Journal, it was announced last week.

In the two years he has been associated with the office, Burkhart has been engaged in activities such as poultry husbandry, farm crops, seed certification and field work in soils and weed control.

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For further information see station circular No. 121 "The Currant and Gooseberry Maggot" available at the county agent's office.

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## Last Rites Held For Pfc. Kommer

BUNTON—Funeral services for PFC Eugene H. Basil Kommer, who was killed in action on Okinawa, May 21, 1945 while serving with the 96th Division, were held at the Forest Grove Undertaking chapel Saturday under the auspices of the Banks American Legion Post No. 30.

The Rev. Oscar C. Lahr officiated. Jesse McNeil sang "The Old Rugged Cross" and "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere."

Participants included Lloyd Felton, Ernest Kniss of Portland, Lyle and Gene Melbye, Elery Whiteside and Victor Jablonski.

Obituary was given in the Argus of April 14.

## Crop Shift Often Causes Trouble

When farmers are troubled with excess production of one cash crop the tendency is to shift to another cash crop which results in trouble for the second crop too, says E. Harvey Miller, chairman of the Oregon state PMA committee.

Miller called attention to recent crop reports on prospective plantings for 1949. This survey shows practically no increase in soil conserving crops such as hay and pasture. Rather in a number of corn producing states the acreage to be taken out of corn appears to be going into wheat and oats.

Even though the carryover of corn October 1, 1949, may exceed 700 million bushels, there is little indication that the total acreage in corn will be reduced in 1949. And, though wheat bins are filling up with an expected carryover of 300 million bushels July 1, 1949, the expected average of wheat has increased from 71,800,000 acres in 1948 to 81,670,000 acres for 1949.

This clearly indicates, the chairman said, the necessity of a national program so that the adjustments made in one area do not nullify the adjustments made in another. To protect the soil and the farmer's income, Miller states, it may soon be necessary to set up allotments and vote on marketing quotas on a number of crops.

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