

### The Rain Question

It Bothers Corn Farmers but Those With Forage Crops Want Ample

By LILLIE L. MADSEN  
Statesman Farm Editor

Rain this past week, while troublesome to some farmers who were trying to complete their corn and potato planting, was welcomed by the ranchers more interested in forage crops. Clover, alfalfa, and the grains grew by leaps and bounds. Some of the nicest clover fields we had seen, we found between Mount Angel and Gervais and over toward Brooks. We noticed that in many instances, cows and sheep had been turned into the fields indicating that "hay" would be harvested in this manner for the present at least.

Wheat, which has been looking pretty good this spring, improved with the rains. We also noted that garden peas, early potatoes and lettuce were looking very good.

We were surprised to find Lake Labish so thoroughly cultivated. Somehow we almost thought this couldn't be done without the Japanese, but it is being done and exceedingly well. Some of the growers tell us it is costing a little more, but so are other things—because we are fighting the Japs.

We learned that there might be more peaches than had at first been expected. Frost did not injure the peach crop to any great extent, most orchardists we contacted said, but the blossom blight, which we wrote about earlier this spring, has done more damage.

Here and there we found reports of a little damage to strawberries by frost.

More people who had sold veals reported receiving top price than those who sold some weeks ago. Veals are in much better condition now, than earlier.

W. G. Nibler, Marion county's agent, we found interested in grass or legume silage. Mr. Nibler prophesied the need of increased feed supplies next winter.

A growing number of farmers, Mr. Nibler told us, in western Oregon are making grass and legume silage late in May as a means of saving all possible forage regardless of weather conditions. This feed is exceptionally high in protein and vitamin content, hence will require use of less high protein supplements when fed, he said.

Lack of a permanent conventional type silo is no reason to pass up the opportunity to save early-grown feed that cannot easily be cured for hay, added Nibler. A temporary silo can be made by digging a trench or pit. A temporary silo may be made by standing shiplap or 1x12s uprights and holding them together by 2x6s nailed edgewise. These 2x6 bands are placed at intervals of two to three feet up the side of the silo.

Grass for legumes to be made into silage, Nibler continued, are cut earlier than for hay—grass at about heading time and alfalfa and clover in the early bloom stage. The crop is wilted to about 65 per cent moisture before being chopped into short lengths for packing. Either molasses or grain is added as the silage is added to insure proper curing and add to the feed value. Ground wheat or barley is added at 150 to 250 pounds per ton, depending on the amount of legumes present.

You've heard of pigs in clover? Well, we certainly found cows in clover over at the Sam Torvend farm between Silverton and Mt. Angel. Thirty of them on ten acres of Ladino clover and the 30 couldn't keep the clover down. It's irrigated, of course.

We used to think that there was no prettier farmside during summer than we saw in the Fox River valley in Wisconsin. The other day we were looking at the farm of Earl Garver and William Graham near Silverton. The two raise pure bred Herefords. The farm made us think of Wisconsin and then it came to us—what it was we liked so well about the Fox River valley. It was the neatness! Mr. Garver and Mr. Graham have been making wood out of all unnecessary underbrush, of too low growing limbs on oak and fir trees and of a lot of extra trees in their pasture. They have grubbed out the wild roses and other underbrush. The cattle have "Wisconsin shade", more pasture, and the whole is much more pleasing to the eye. I know some will rise up and ask me, "What about the quail and pheasants that like the underbrush?" The only answer is that Mr. Garver and Mr. Graham aren't raising quail and pheasant in their cattle pasture. Way back from the road there are still ambushes for quail and pheasant. But the wooded pasture land is certainly a pleasure to the eye of both human and cattle.

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# Willamette Valley Farmer

News and Views of Farm and Garden

## Rotenone Use Restrictions Are Lifted

But if Shortage Does Develop, Substitutes Are Being Produced

A complete selection of ammunition to fight insects has been assured victory gardeners by a new ruling of the war production board which lifts restriction which had been imposed upon the use of rotenone.

This is one of the most useful insecticides because it is effective against all classes of insects, both juice drinkers and "salad" eaters, and it is not poisonous to warm blooded animals.

Previous rulings had limited its use to certain specified crops, and while victory gardeners could buy it, they had to make a written promise to use it only on those crops. Now, in quantities up to five pounds, it can be bought and used without such a promise and without restriction.

At least one of the local seed stores reported this week that if one buys over five pounds one has to sign that it is being used for a food crop only.

This new ruling only applies to small packages of rotenone now in dealers' hands, however, so a shortage of this material may develop. In that case, arsenic for leaf eaters and nicotine for juice drinkers may become the chief reliance of victory gardeners and both these materials are poisonous to animals.

Most adults were brought up on vegetables which had been sprayed or dusted with arsenic or nicotine, however, and they can be safely used if simple precautions are taken.

Crops protected by their own covering, like peas and sweet corn, can be treated with poisons without special precaution if edible parts are thoroughly washed. Such crops as string beans should not be treated after the pods begin to form, and even then they should be thoroughly washed after picking. Where the tops of

green things are eaten, they should be thoroughly washed and should not be sprayed or dusted within 15 days before picking.

If all the loose leaves of cabbage are removed there is little danger from the poison. Many persons, however, eat the first four leaves outside the head in order to obtain extra vitamins; in such cases poison applications must be avoided when heading begins.

Cauliflower and broccoli should not be treated with poisons when heading or after the edible parts begin to form. Leafy vegetables like lettuce, kale, Swiss chard and beet tops should not be treated during the 30 days before harvest.

Nicotine sulphate can be used on vegetables up to 48 hours before harvesting.

## Reason Told For Losing Blossoms

The dropping of tomato blossoms is not infrequent and may seriously reduce the number of early fruits. A heavy blossom drop is induced especially on plants growing in soil that has been fertilized too heavily, manure or nitrogenous fertilizer so that the plants are large and vegetative. High temperatures and low humidity also induce considerable blossom drop.

To avoid this condition the soil should be fertilized carefully, avoiding the use of heavy manuring. The blossom clusters may be shaken to advantage during the middle of the day when the temperature is moderately warm, at which time there will be a tendency for the pollen to scatter in such a way as to influence a greater setting of fruit. No insects visit the tomato flower except the bumblebee, which can do a lot of valuable work in fertilization of blossoms. It is often desirable to plant near tomato plants a row of tall white, or red-flowering beans which will encourage bumblebees to come to them and later visit the tomatoes nearby.

## Egg Quality Is Improved

With the hatching season practically over, poultry men who have been producing hatching eggs will save money and improve egg quality by eliminating the male birds as soon as the last hatching eggs have been delivered.

Noel Benion, extension specialist at Oregon Agricultural college says that producers can't afford to keep male birds because of the shortage and high cost of feed.

If fertile eggs are exposed to temperatures above 68 degrees, cell division will take place, which means that a chick embryo is developing. This sets the stage of what is known as a bad egg. Benion explains. An infertile egg will shrink and deteriorate in quality but it will never make a bad or rotten egg.

## Beetles Avoid Parsley Vegetables Thrive

Parsley, if planted near roses, will drive away certain varieties of harmful beetles, we are told. It might prove an interesting experiment.

## Spray Walnuts For Blight Control

The second spray for walnut blight control should be applied to Franquette and Mayette orchards on the valley floor, announces Ben A. Newell, assistant county agent. Orchards located in the foot hills above the valley floor will not be ready to spray until later. Usually this has been from two to four days later than those on the valley floor.

Newell suggests 4-2-100 Bordeaux spray, and adds to be sure to add one pint of summer oil emulsion to this mixture. Dusting is also effective in controlling blight. Use a 25 per cent copper lime dust or 10 per cent yellow cuprous oxide dust.

## Red Clover Liked By Wireworms

Red clover helps build up wireworm population so avoid clover, if the wireworm has become established in great numbers. Alfalfa is said to be a key crop in control of wireworms. They decrease in number with each succeeding year of alfalfa cropping.



ROTENONE TECHNIQUE  
Spray plants from below to cover both sides of leaves

## Prices May Average Lower This Year

Prices of all types of meat animals were lower during the first three months of 1944 than in 1943, and except for sheep and lambs, prices probably will average

somewhat lower this year than last. The average farm price of cattle at \$111.86 and of calves at \$13.50 in 1943 were the highest on record. All meat animals sold in 1943 brought an average of \$12.20 per hundred pounds, the highest since 1919.

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