

Willamette Valley Farmer

News and Views of Farm and Garden — BY LILLIE L. MADSEN

Hessian Fly Is Wheat Hazard In This State

Injury Most Often Occurs in Years When Spring Comes Early

The Hessian fly has been in western Oregon for more than 45 years. It is present in wheat fields every season, and serious injury to wheat has occurred in some localities in recent years. Such injury is most likely in years when an early spring.

Barley and rye also are attacked by the Hessian fly, but are seldom seriously injured. Oats are free from this pest.

Wheat infested by the Hessian fly before jointing has occurred has characteristic stunted appearance. The leaves are broader, less spreading and of a darker green, color than those of healthy plants.



Hessian fly, life-size

Small plants and young tillers may be killed outright before jointing. When jointed, wheat stems are attacked, the injury is less obvious and consists of a weakening of the stems at the point attacked by the maggots. Such weakened stems often fall, or lodge before harvest.

There is also direct loss of grain owing to insufficient nourishment of the kernels as the larvae interfere with the supply of sap to the wheat heads. In severe infestations, this form of injury causes shriveled grain that reduces its grade.

Spring Wheat Hit

Fall-sown wheat, if seeded early enough to get a good start before cold weather sets in, is usually so far along as to be little injured by flies of the spring emergence. Spring-sown wheat in western Oregon often becomes considerably thinned and otherwise injured by a severe infestation.

Also, wheat seeded very late in the fall or in winter is sometimes severely injured in the spring. This late-planted wheat is often in a very immature stage that is most attractive to the Hessian fly at the time of the first spring emergence.

Control calls for the plowing of all stubble fields, and the stubble buried as soon as possible after harvest. These stubble fields contain, in the "flaxseeds" on the straw, or as "flaxseeds" or maggots in the volunteer wheat that has sprung up following the early rains, practically all the Hessian flies that will later attack that sowed wheat.

Flowing Delayed

In many sections of western Oregon, the heavy clay loam soils bake so hard in the dry summers that good plowing cannot be done until after several good rains. It may be impossible, therefore, to plow the stubble under before September when the fall emergence of flies has left it for volunteer wheat close at hand.

This volunteer wheat, however, will be located in stubble fields and hence will be destroyed by later plowing. It is important that all of the stubble and volunteer wheat should be well buried so as not to be raked out by later harrowing. A few flies can increase enormously if conditions are right. Where the straw was cut high it may be advisable to disk it prior to plowing.

The Hessian flies on well-covered stubble and volunteer wheat are unable to work out through the covering soil in the following spring after the surface of the soil has been puddled by the winter rains.

Fire too Great Hazard

Burning the stubble before the fall emergence of Hessian flies would not kill enough to warrant endangering woodland and other property in the fire season.

When clover has been seeded in the wheat and the stand is too good to plow up, L. P. Rockwood, entomologist at Oregon State college, says little can be done to combat the Hessian fly. Such fields often have much volunteer wheat in them as well as all the unemerged Hessian flies of the previous wheat crop. They are the principal sources of the flies that injure neighboring wheat in the following spring.

Late fall, winter, and spring-sown wheat should be located as far as possible from the infested stubble and volunteer wheat in these young clover fields. Seeding clover with oats, or alone, would do away with this hazard. Fall wheat should not be sowed until after the first week in October, according to Rockwood, and

Supply of Eggs Will Be Plentiful Despite Drop in Production

While egg production, now above last year's levels, may be less for September-December than a year earlier, supplies of eggs, particularly of the lower grades, will be plentiful.

Supplies of the better grades are expected to be seasonably small with retail prices at or near ceilings. Wholesale egg quotations did not make their usual August seasonal rise because of increased supplies of shell eggs compared with last year, record cold storage holdings of shell and frozen eggs, and decreased requirements of shell and frozen eggs for drying.

Specialist for Forestry Has Been Named

A new position of extension specialist in forestry, approved by the Oregon state board of higher education at its last meeting, has been filled with the appointment of D. D. Robinson, 1940 graduate in forestry at OSC, according to a joint announcement by William A. Schoenfeld, dean and director of agriculture, and Paul M. Dunn, dean of forestry. The appointment is effective October 1.

Oregon's importance in the forestry field is indicated by the fact that this state has led all others since 1938 in the production of forest products. While most of this has come from commercial production, farm woodlands comprise an important source of forest products, the OSC officials point out. Farm woodlands including woodland pasture represent more than 11 per cent of the state's forest area, and more than 19 per cent of the farm acreage.

The new extension forester will operate under and be supported by both the federal cooperative extension service and the Clark-McNary forestry act. First and major attention will be given to assisting farmers in marketing their timber products to best advantage, both as a means of obtaining maximum output for the farm effort and to increase returns to farmers. As with other extension projects, the work will be conducted in the counties through county agents.

The new official will also work closely with other forest agencies including the state department of forestry, US forest service, soil conservation service and fish and wild life service, the OSC officials say.

Hay Carry-over Gives Stockmen Margin of Safety

Beef cattle in Oregon consume an average of one and one fourth tons of hay annually, while sheep consume an average of 285 pounds, according to H. A. Lindgren, livestock specialist.

Actual amounts vary with winter weather conditions, age of animals and other factors, but the figures represent the average over a period of years as observed by the experiment station and Oregon stockmen. Most operators plan enough margin of safety to have a 25 to 50 per cent carry-over of hay, says Lindgren.

Dairy Heifers In Need Of Constant Care For Maximum Results

The period from approximately one year of age until two or three months after calving is the easiest and cheapest time in raising dairy heifers. It is a very important period, however, and should not be neglected. The heifer should be kept in a thrifty, growing condition and not be allowed to become stunted or, on the other extreme, to become too fat. The well-grown-out heifer can be bred to freshen at an earlier date than if stunted.

New, Early-Maturing Melons Are Developed In Trials Nearing Finish in Clackamas County

A canteloupe variety trial now nearing conclusion on the farm of the late Fred Luenberger of Clackamas has brought to light several new early maturing melons of interest both to commercial growers and home gardeners. This demonstration, conducted in cooperation with County Agent J. J. Inskip, included new northern varieties compared with those in common use.

Plants started in the green-house about October 15 would be safer. The fall emergence of Hessian flies occurs after the first fall rains and often continues until well into October. Experiments show that the most fly-free date is about October 15 at Forest Grove. October is also the best time to sow wheat for freedom from weeds and for optimum production.

Sunflowers Serve Double Purpose



Sunflowers are grown in turkey pastures not so much for feed as for shade. The seed simply acts as an inducement to get the birds into the shade. Shown here is a section of the Rhoten-Speetra flock in the Roberts district. (Story in adjoining column).



Playing personal maid to 5000 turkeys may be a lot of work but it is also a lot of fun, says Roy Michael as he tries to select an 18-pounder.

Ladino Clover Stands Good For 4-8 Years

Good stands of Ladino clover on suitable land and properly handled should produce well for four to eight years, although it is almost impossible to keep the stands from getting grassy as they get older.

As soon as the percentage of grass gets larger than that of clover it may be advisable to break up the sod and plant to other crops unless the quality and quantity of the remaining combination is such that it can be profitably utilized for forage.

The use of Ladino clover instead of white clover, in pasture mixtures on land reasonably well supplied with summer moisture, usually results in increased amounts of pasture. This is especially true in the coast districts or where irrigation is practiced. Common white clover probably will be more productive on poor, dry soils because little forage can be expected from the Ladino plant under such conditions.

Cultivation to destroy weeds and grass is not successful because of the heavy loss of stems and plants due to the shallow rooting system. Stands of Ladino clover on our soils frequently are stimulated by applications of one to two tons of lime per acre. Many good stands have been obtained, however, without the use of lime because Ladino appears better suited to slightly acid soil conditions than some other clovers.

4H Polk County Winners to Exhibit In Portland Store

Polk county's 4H club members placing in the top three brackets at the county 4H club fair held August 17 will exhibit their projects at the state exhibit October 9-13 at Meier and Frank's, Portland.

Home economics, forestry, health and gardening projects will be on display at the state exhibit.

Home economics judging contests will not be held because of the need to curtail transportation.

Land Market Price Shows Big Jump

Present market prices of land are much higher than in 1938. The bureau of agricultural economics index of land prices for Oregon was 43 per cent higher in March than in 1938. Land prices have been rising rapidly since March and for June were 50 per cent higher than in 1938.

A mother at the age of six weeks is a record made by the meadow mice. This is not uncommon with this little animal but she does claim it as a record among other mammals.

Land Available But Clearing Cost High

Thousands of acres of logged-off land in Oregon may be bought for only a few dollars an acre. In some of these areas, the soil may be fairly good, but in all cases the labor required for clearing is large. All of this land can be cleared, but it is practically impossible to make reasonable wages doing the clearing.

Buffalo paracnemis and B. arenarium — loads to you and me — have been brought from Argentine by airplane to Florida to feed upon insects that are injurious to sugarcane. Seventy of these were brought to this country.

good one for the home gardener, while Extra Early Knight shows promise of an early melon. The Golden Gopher melon developed at the University of Minnesota, began ripening about September 4 in Clackamas county. The Wazu or Hallstone is another interesting variety which ripened on September 1 from seed planted in the field. From a distance the Wazu resembles an overgrown orange in shape and color. This variety is thick seeded and has excellent flavor. The Oregon Delicious, a selection of Spear, is apparently equal in quality and fully two weeks earlier in this trial. Several of the old favorite varieties, including Rocky Ford, Burrella Gem, Hales Best and Hearts of Gold started ripening from two to three weeks later than the other types mentioned.

Turkeys Win Major Role at Rhoten Ranch

Proper Care Is No Small Chore When 15,000 Are Involved

By Lillie L. Madsen, Farm and Garden Editor

Being maid to 5000 turkeys is no small chore, in the opinion of Roy Michael, who is in charge of one third of the birds owned jointly by George Rhoten and Sam Speetra on the Mrs. E. A. Rhoten ranch in the Roberts district.

For six years turkeys played a minor part to registered Guernseys on the Rhoten ranch. Two years ago this was changed and now the turkeys are the major crop, with 40 head of Herefords in the minor role.

The warm September day on which I called at the turkey farm, I found Mr. Michael cooling in the shade of one of the former dairy barns. His particular flock of 5000 birds was cooling in the shade of sunflowers.

Sunflowers Give Shade

The sunflowers proved one of my first turkey theories blasted. Sunflower seed for turkey feed was my idea of the plantings. Instead, the main purpose of the sunflower fields is shade, Mr. Michael says. The seed simply lures them into the shade.

Turkeys on the Rhoten farm start out with the hatching process in late March, April, May and June. Each "batch" of pouls remains in the brooder from six to eight weeks.

Whether or not turkeys reach maturity depends chiefly on care, says Mr. Michael. There is no chance about it. Sanitation, check on diseases and the correct amount of vitamins form the key. The Rhoten-Speetra partnership has its own feed mill and grinds a mixture of alfalfa meal, soybean meal, mill run, wheat, oats and meat meal—when the latter can be had.

Water Important Item

Water is an important item. Mr. Michael's little flock, on warmer days, will drink 70 gallons in a half-hour's time. The flow of water in the seven drinking troughs is automatically controlled so that the birds are never without a drink.

Never hold a turkey by one leg, cautions Mr. Michael. Always take hold of both legs of the bird, or the birds may be injured. Once a bird is injured in a flock, it is a goner. The other birds complete the kill. An injured, ill or weakened bird simply has no chance in the mob rule of the turkey world.

Very soon now, 750 hens will be selected for laying purposes. Laying begins usually in early January. The toms for breeding purposes are bought, Mr. Michael said.

Nine Persons Employed

The 18-weeks old birds would now average around 18 pounds, in the opinion of their caretaker. Marketing—under government contract—will begin about November 10. Mr. Rhoten and Mr. Speetra have their own killing and packing plant in West Salem. Killing capacity this year is 15,000. By the 1945 season, this is expected to be up to 25,000.

Nine people are employed to care for the 15,000 birds now maturing on this former dairy farm. Byron Ward is overseer of the second flock, and Frank Highsmith of the third group. Only broad-breasted bronze turkeys are grown here, and these 15,000 consume approximately seven ton of feed a day.

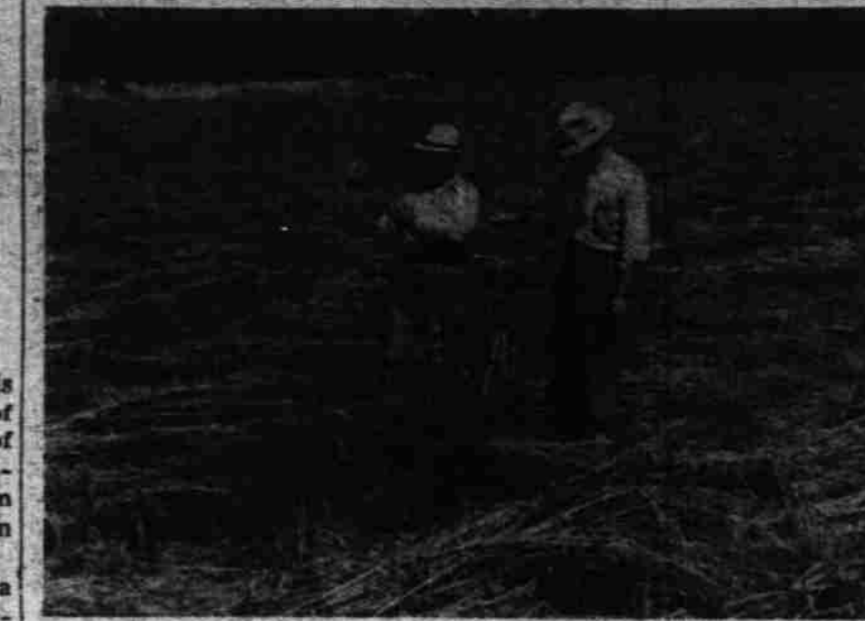
"Yes," said Mr. Michael, "even though you don't have to feed them individually, playing nursemaid to 5000 turkeys is no little job, but I kind of like it."

Utah and North Dakota purchase most of their turkey hatching eggs, and laws in these two states require that hatching eggs and pouls must come from breeding flocks which have been tested for pullorum disease. Ninety per cent of Utah's hatching eggs are imported from other states.

On January 1, 1944, there were 671,000,000 turkeys and 4, 289,000 chickens in Oregon. The same will probably hold true around January 1, 1945, in the opinion of Elmer Peterson, director of agriculture.

Do not put lids tight on milk cans if milk is to stand overnight. The animal heat may have a chance to escape if the milk is to remain at its best.

Beets Yield Big Seed Volume



Inspectors from a Canadian sugar factory looking over sugar beet seed on the D. E. Neibergall ranch near Albany. This field yielded 2100 pounds of seed per acre. The seed stalks have just been cut for harvesting.

Sheep From Western Oregon Are Shipped to South America

Australian sheep may come to America to improve the American herds, but 80 head of Oregon sheep are now on their way to South America to see what they can do for that country.

The sheep, 50 registered Romney yearling breeding ewes, and 10 Romney stud rams, left Salem during the week. They had been purchased by the government of Venezuela. The deal was arranged through the efforts of Nelson Johnson of San Angelo, Tex., and Ahrens brothers of Turner, Ore.

Johnson is one of the largest ram dealers in Texas, having his own auctioneering ring and sales yards at San Angelo.

Wesley Wooden of California was asked to make the best selections for the shipment, and Eddie Ahrens of Turner, president of the American Romney Breeders' association, spent several days with Wooden to select the ewes and rams. Henry Ahrens accompanied the sheep as far as San Angelo.

From there they will be shipped to Houston and be put aboard a ship at some port on the Gulf of Mexico en route to South America. Before reaching San Angelo the sheep will have travelled approximately 2300 miles in nine days.

The sheep consigned for this shipment were from Romney flocks of Ahrens Farms, Turner; C. M. Bishop, Newberg; George Minte, Monmouth; Gath Brothers, Turner; Fred Gilbert, Shaw, and Lynn Barns, Harrisburg.

State Horticulture Declared on Verge Of Great Changes

Oregon horticulture is on the verge of another great change, says C. E. Schuster, Oregon State college and federal horticulturist.

Most of the orchards are old in years or in vitality, total yields are declining, and some sections like the Willamette valley in the case of apples have changed from an exporting to an importing basis. With demand for fruit as keen as it is and with prices where they are, renewed interest in fruit production is bound to come. Schuster thinks. We have ahead of us, whether justified or not, both increased planting of new orchards and attempts to bring back into regular production many of the orchards which have been neglected, he says.

Unfortunately, there is no proved general program for rejuvenating orchards.

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Harvesting of Peaches Near End for 1944

Imminent Spraying Urged in Combatting Damaging Blights

A successful peach harvest is nearly completed and orchardists need to begin planning next year's disease control program.

Peach blight is one of the most serious diseases with which peach growers have to contend. It blights the buds and causes cankers on the fruit, twigs and leaves during the growing season. The fall and winter infection is the most serious phase of this disease.

Ben A. Newell, assistant county agent, advises an 8-8-100 Bordeaux applied at once. Several growers already have gone through their orchards and sprayed each variety as they finished picking so that they would be sure to have the Bordeaux on before the rains set in.

Polk County Has New Aid In Food Work

Polk county has been assigned a new war food assistant by the Oregon State college extension service to replace Miss Maxine Roberts, who resigned recently on account of illness. Miss Helen Taylor of Bozeman, Mont., will fill the position in this county. W. C. Leth, Polk county agent, announced.

Miss Taylor is a graduate of Montana State college and she has taken graduate work at Oregon State college. Prior to coming to Oregon she taught home economics in Montana in the Havre and Miles City high schools.

Incidentally, Miss Taylor's sister, Miss Janet Taylor, is the home demonstration agent in Clackamas county.

Miss Helen Taylor has had considerable experience working with farm people and is especially well qualified for the work to be done in this county, according to Leth. She also has had 4H club experience as a 4H club member.

The government is placing war food assistants in many counties primarily to assist with war food preservation, and it is planned to conduct a program in Polk county that will be of the most help possible to farm families and also those people in the towns who may be interested, Leth said.

Mondays will be maintained as office days by Miss Taylor, in the Dallas city hall.

The European corn borer caused a loss of over \$33,000,000 to the 1943 corn crop in northeastern United States alone.

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