

# Timberland Technique Is Told

### State Forester Tells About Getting Most Out of Farm Woodlot

By Lillie L. Madden  
Farm and Garden Editor

Farm taxes are being paid from farm woodlots—"pastures" early Oregonians called them.

Not only were the taxes paid from these woodlots last year and this year, but, in many instances, they will be paid next year and for several years to come from these same woodlots. And while paying taxes, the farmers are aiding materially in the war effort by harvesting urgently needed forest products during the lull of winter and early spring.

For many years the average farm woodlot owner in the Willamette valley regarded his woodlot merely as a stock-grazing pasture and a source of home fuel. The concept of timber as a growing crop which could produce annual returns was foreign to him. The reason for this general attitude was his contacts with "gyppo" loggers who purchased farm timber on a lump sum basis and left the woods in a completely devastated condition so that neither timber production nor grazing could produce maximum returns for many years. Felling-clearing for cultivation was a lifetime work.

But the farmer, almost before the "professional woodsman" learned to use his ax correctly. With the aid of the state forestry department and national forest service, he learned to tend and harvest his tree crop methodically like any other crop. He learned that if he wanted to pay the taxes from the farm woodlot more than one year in succession, he couldn't go out and cut down the old pine tree and make it up into kindling without any thought of the future. Not for sentimental reasons, but for business reasons, he learned to find out whether the old pine tree, along with the Douglas fir and oak, were ready to be cut.

"Some aren't, you know," Dan D. Robinson, extension forester, told me recently.

"Only, I didn't know. And after 'cruising' (a good woods term) about on a number of farm woodlots, I learned that some of the farmers didn't know either, while others knew exceptionally well.

"Unlike the cake of fable," Robinson said, "you can 'eat' your woods and still have it. On some lands," he added, "you'll always want trees. Rough farm land, land that is to steep it may erode if plowed, land with non-agricultural soil, meaning rocky or shallow, and land that would cost more to clear than it is worth, had best be left in farm woodlots."

**Millions of Acres**

There are, the forester said, approximately three and a half million acres of farm woodlands in Oregon. This represents approximately 11 per cent of the total forest land in the state, and about 18 per cent of the agricultural area. In western Oregon, according to Robinson, the average farm has approximately 40 acres of timber in some stage of productivity. Complete utilization of all possible products from the farm woods in the form of usable wood on the farm, cash returns from sales of surplus products, and services rendered in the form of windbreaks and prevention of soil erosion is essential if the farm woodland is to bring the maximum supplementary returns.

Sustained farm forestry activity will not stand a chance of success unless every acre of the farm woodland produces the highest quality products in the greatest amount possible. Wood products should be sold on the basis of measurement rather than "lump sum" offers. Woodlots are full of by-products which are overlooked even at a time when harvesting them will well repay the labor. Salvage before they are smashed and wasted, the bark of the cascara trees, yew and cedar posts and even the sword ferns, say the forest service men.

Many wood lots contain acres of sapling Douglas fir which farmers are profitably harvesting for Christmas trees. If the land is to be devoted to timber production, the farmers make the Christmas tree cuttings highly selective so as not to make non-stocked openings over 15 feet square. They carefully cut each tree off at the ground and do not top big trees. In some instances farmers have for the past two winters made almost as much, if not more, from their woodlots' by-products as from their regular crops.

**Advised to Watch Volume**

Farmers are advised by the state forestry department that in partial cutting—that is where clearing land for cultivated crops is not the ultimate goal—not over 25 per cent of the live timber volume should be cut in a 10 or 15-

# Willamette Valley Farmer

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



Pictures show properly tended woodlot on the Jess Neal place near Molalla. Top picture shows Neal working on a downed tree. Lower picture shows that woodcutters have cut and piled wood with a minimum of injury to remaining stand, basis for making a paying project of the farm woodlot.

### Liming Soils Less Important Thinks Polk County Agent

Liming garden soils in western Oregon is not so important as usually thought, Walter Leth said over in Polk county just as he was getting ready to leave for his eastern Jersey meetings. He added that 1½ pounds of hydrated lime per 100 square feet, not to exceed eight to ten pounds of wood ashes per 100 square feet might be used advantageously. A common error is to use too much wood ashes, he said.

Leth was referring to victory gardens. The 6-10-4 formula in commercial fertilizer, is most favored for Willamette valley soils, Leth believes. This should be spread at the rate of one to one and a half pounds per 100 square feet before spading or plowing, in addition to side dressings made at planting time.

### In Salem Markets

Lambs, 11 to 13½ cents; ewes, 3 to 6 cents; cows, dairy type, 9 cents; beef type, 12 cents; veals, 14 cents; hogs, \$15.45; and sows, 11 to 14 cents.

Livestock in the Salem markets remain short with prices steady. Beef and veal, however, took a decided upward swing this week.

year period. If more is cut there will be danger of windfall and the slash fire hazard will be too hard to control. When cutting products like fuel wood, cut first the dead, diseased, misshapen and suppressed specimens, so the other trees may benefit. In cutting for piling and poles, obtain the specifications for such before falling the trees. Keep the woodlots fully stocked with desirable trees. It is sometimes even necessary to plant young trees such as can be obtained at a small cost from the state arboretum at Corvallis.

Good management of the farm woodlot, the farmer has learned, will net him an annual growth of from one-half to two cords or more per acre per year, or in terms of board feet, from 300 to 1000 board feet of saw timber per acre annually. Products should be sold, whenever possible, by the farmer himself. Approximately 85 per cent of the value of farm timber is derived from cutting, yarding and hauling. A tree in the woods may be worth only \$2, but if the farmer some winter's day falls it, cuts it up, and hauls it to market it may bring \$15 or more.

Thus 20 acres properly tended, as many farmers are now doing, keep a farm family in fuel perpetually, and in addition, yield enough "spare" every few years for a small house or for the farm taxes.

### Diseases in Rye Will Spread If Not Checked

The "blind seed" disease of perennial ryegrass will continue to spread in Linn county unless growers and seed dealers cooperate with Dr. John R. Hardison, associate pathologist at the state college in a control program.

O. E. Mikesell, Linn county agricultural agent, reports that of 342 samples of perennial ryegrass sent to him, only 30 samples were found to be free of the fungus that causes the disease. The remaining 294 samples contained the fungus in amounts ranging from very light to very heavy.

Dr. Hardison, who made the seed examinations, did so for the purpose of guiding farmers in deciding whether to keep fields for a seed crop in 1945. Many recommendations being sent to the farmers following the seed testing will be to "plow up before April 15."

Mikesell is urging growers to cooperate in the control program as the perennial ryegrass enterprise is important in Linn county. During 1944, 11,900 acres yielded 2,570,000 pounds of clean seed at an estimated value of \$464,100.

### Dental Decay Can Be Prevented Says Man Who Knows

Dental decay can be prevented 80 per cent, says Dr. Herman Becks, who has with his assistant, devoted the past five years to study of dental troubles, and has studied more than 1500 individuals.

He says this can be one by lessening the intake of refined carbohydrates and replacing the calories ordinarily derived from these foods by increased consumption of meat, eggs, vegetables, milk and milk products.

Dr. Becks is with the division of dental medicine in San Francisco.

### Prune Growers Name Neufeld

Organization of Polk County Prune Growers association was completed during the past week with Frank Neufeld elected president; George Kurze, vice president; and with the secretary-treasurer to be appointed by the president and vice president. A total of 28 growers form the association.

George R. Minty was selected to represent the group at a public hearing relative to price ceilings of dried prunes. The meeting will be held in San Francisco sometime after March 20.

Current plans to finance the representative include contributions at \$1 from persons producing less than 10 acres of prunes and at \$2 for growers having 10 acres or more.

### Untreated Lands Fail to Furnish Proper Vitamins

"Quit trying to make a mowing machine out of a cow," is advice from Dr. William A. Albrecht of the University of Missouri, a nationally known authority on soils.

He claims that what he has in mind is that too often farmers think all that is required is to let the livestock have plenty of grazing. But, he asks, do they find out what feed nutrients are in that grass?

"A sheep can eat only 2.1 pounds of grass a day," Dr. Albrecht says. Sheep fed on soybean hay and lespedeza grown on land fertilized with lime and phosphate gained 18 pounds in 63 days, as compared with only eight pounds where these crops were untreated. This was a Missouri experiment. The same kind has been carried on here with the same results. In

### Farm Bulletins

March 8 — Polk county farmers who produce seed crops and pastures, meet at Dallas chamber of commerce at 1:30 p. m.

March 8 — Livestock men will gather at the Macleay grange hall of the department of veterinary at 8 p. m. Dr. J. N. Shaw, head medicine at the state college, and Harry Lindgren, livestock specialist, will talk on poisoning on western Oregon pastures and feeding management.

March 9 — Grange and Farmers Union heads and secretaries will meet at Dallas chamber of commerce 8 p. m. Mrs. Ethel Keke, chairman of the Oregon state salvage committee will be the speaker.

### Floating Unit to Furnish Cold Foods

A floating refrigerator has been developed to furnish fresh vegetables, fruits, meats and even ice cream to occupied islands in the South Pacific.

The refrigerator barges are known as BRIs (barge, refrigerator, large) and have a special unit which turns out 10 gallons of ice cream every seven minutes and a plant which manufactures five tons of ice a day.

### Add Weed to Program

Tansy ragwort has been restored to the list of noxious weeds included in the weed control practice of the 1945 agricultural conservation program. This weed had been dropped from the 1945 dock. At the request of several western Oregon county AAA committees it was restored.

other words, livestock must have their vitamins. Untreated pasture lands frequently fail to furnish these.

### Care of Pigs When Young Is Economy

No little pigs must be allowed to stay at home because of wrong care this spring, government agencies are reporting. Farm authorities have begun to send out a barrage of material on how pigs should be cared for.

Pigs, whose ancestors have lived in wallows and the other less attractive divisions of the barnyard, are being brought in scrubbed up, and de-mitted.

The high mortality rate of piglets is being brought down and a healthier pork is hoped for by the public.

While the number of sows to farrow this spring in the Willamette valley has long since been determined, growers can increase the pig crop by taking extra care at farrowing time and immediately afterward, says H. A. Lindgren, extension livestock specialist at the state college.

One standard precaution still often overlooked is to provide the farrowing pen with a fender rail or some other form of protection so the small pigs will not be crushed by the sow lying down.

Pigs, it seems, also like electric lamps. Lindgren suggests that where electricity is available the lamp type electric pig brooder in a corner of the pen will save an average of one to two pigs per litter. This brooder should be made of heavy material so the sow cannot tear it out. An electric lamp with a dome reflector provides warmth for the pigs. Most of the county agents have construction plans for such brooders.

Internal parasites are one of the chief causes of severe losses after pigs are farrowed. One of the best ways to reduce losses from round worm infestation is to clean thoroughly the farrowing pen in advance and disinfect it with hot water and lye to destroy worm eggs. It is also a good practice to scrub the udders of the sow with soap and warm water to remove worm eggs before she is placed in the farrowing pen.

Ten days after the sow has farrowed it is wise to move her to clean ground where hogs have not been kept for at least two years. With such precautions, Lindgren reports, pigs are not likely to become infested.

### Ranch Ramblings

By the Rural Reporter

Filbert growers who planted trees last year without any protectors are going to stand some losses this summer, they are being told by such nut experts as C. E. Schuster. If you want to save your young filbert trees, Schuster told growers around Salem last week, get some sort of protectors around the trunks by the first of May. There are not enough filbert parasites to do any harm. But blights will get into the weakened spots on the trunks of the unprotected trees and do a lot of damage.

Out in the Keizer district, I found young P. J. Blake taking care of his 75-acre nut grove in approved fashion, and in turn the grove gave every indication of taking care of the Blakes. Part of the walnut grove is 25 years old while other trees were planted 15 years ago. William Blake, the father retired to Salem a couple of years ago and turned the farm over to the son, who finished at Oregon State college in 1941.

Blake has made some interesting dusting experiments in his nut groves. Last year he used a copper lime dust on the filberts four times—once May 11, then May 11, May 18 and May 26. On the treated section only four nuts out of 612 were infested while in the untreated rows, next to those treated.

ed, 11.6 per cent of the nuts were infested.

In the Lake Labish community, Gus Harris was found putting out an acre of celery.

Out in the West Stayton area, I found that Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Tarpley had sold their 160 acres to Starr and Neal Ruggles. Neal Ruggles will live on the place and do general farming. Mr. and Mrs. Tarpley have been on the place about four years and are moving to Salem, having had their farm sale Tuesday.

Mrs. M. S. Burson of the North Santiam country reports an amazing achievement of a light Brama hen which she owns. The Brama hen laid an egg measuring six and one-half inches in circumference and eight and five-eighths inches around lengthwise.

Henry Killo and Albert Eymann of Molalla have hired Lee Engle as dozer operator and are clearing up 80 acres on their foothills farm adjacent to the Collins logging road above Dickey Prairie. Eymann expects to seed his new clearing to creeping red fescue, lotus major, subterranean and Kent white clover immediately, but Killo will not be in position to seed until next fall.

The two ran 45 head of white faces on this range last summer. A portion seeded to chevings fescue previously furnished excellent pasture.

### Ten Years to Ripen

The sea coconut, found only in the Seychelles, is the slowest maturing fruit, requiring ten years to ripen.

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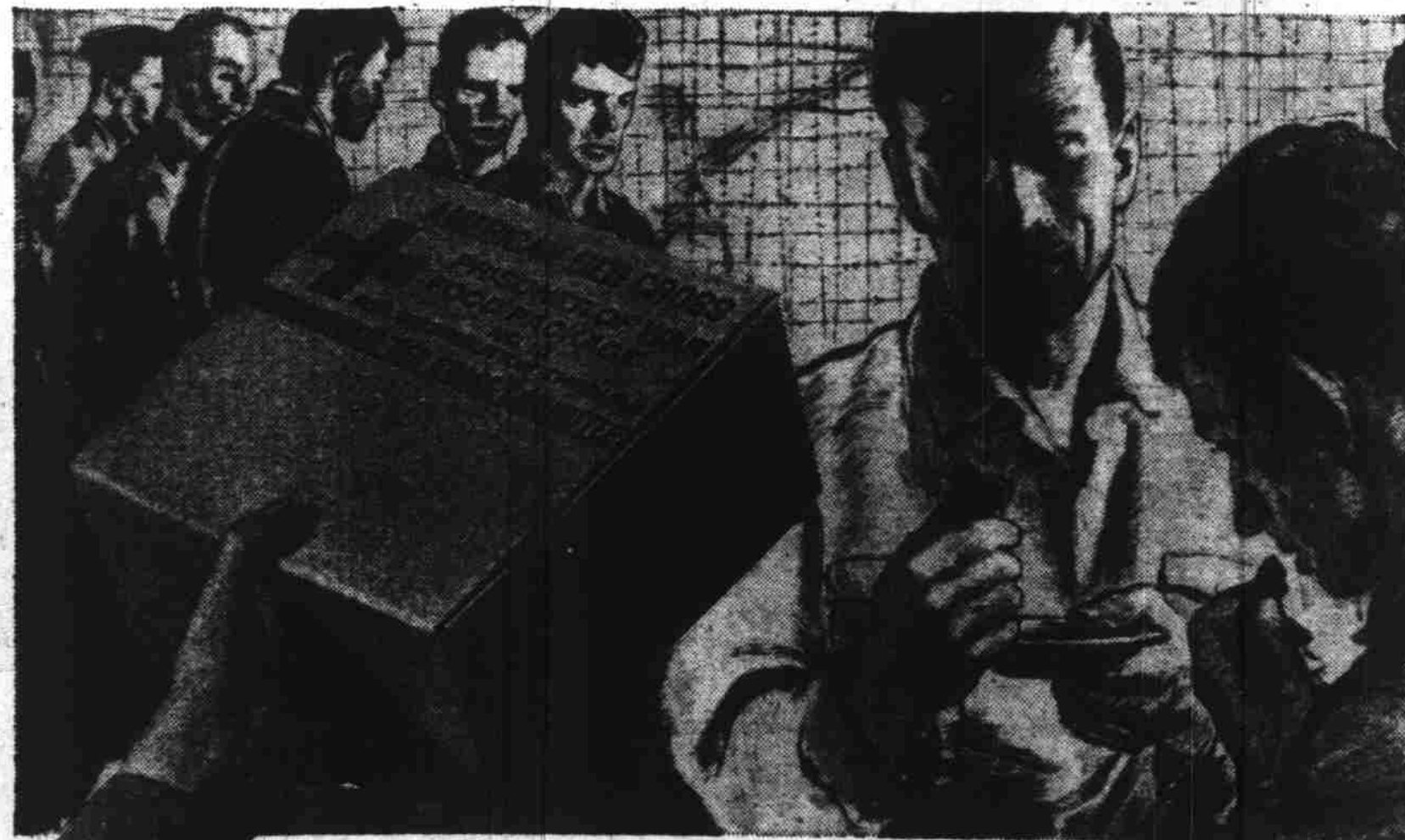
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