

WILLAMETTE VALLEY FARMER

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

Seed Yield Is Low But Not a Failure

Seed yield prospects from four important Oregon grasses, while not to be classified as a "bumper" crop, are anything but a failure, summarizes a veteran crop observer, E. R. Jackman, Oregon State college extension farm crops specialist.

A crop by crop summary by Jackman is as follows:

Chewings fescue: The Willamette valley crop is not as bad off as earlier believed. Approximately 6,000 acres will yield close to the normal 250 pounds of seed per acre. Yields in eastern Oregon, where 800 acres are located, will yield about one-half normal or 250 pounds, Jackman estimates.

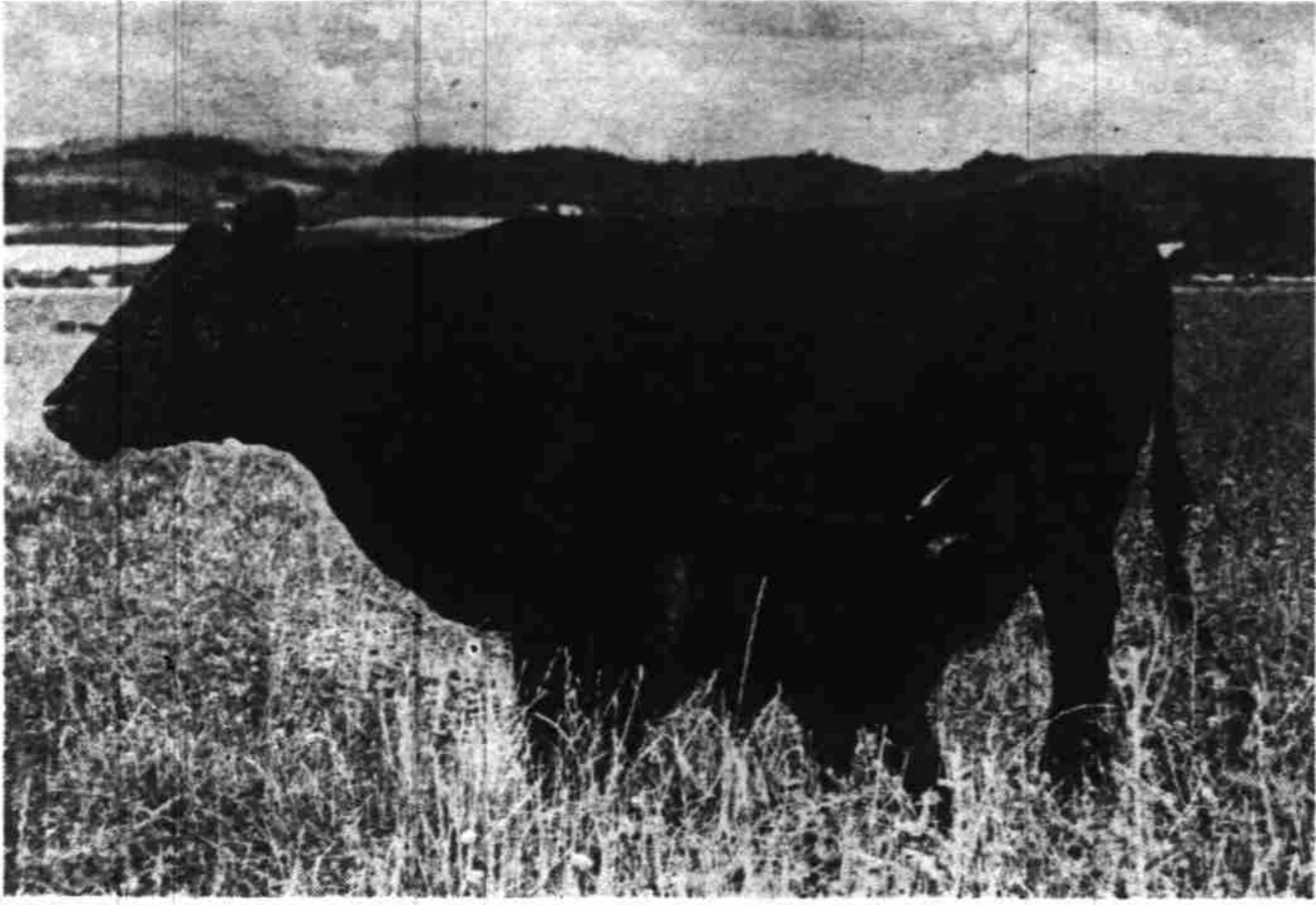
Creeping red fescue: Approximately 4,500 of the state's 5,000 acres are located in Union county where seed yields are normally more than 400 pounds per acre. This year the crops specialist expects yields to fall to slightly less than 200 pounds per acre.

Alta fescue: Most of this acreage cut for seed is in the Willamette valley. While yields will be reduced somewhat they will approximate the normal yield of 200 to 250 pounds per acre. Yields in Union county will be cut by two-thirds and will range about 200 pounds per acre, the specialist believes.

Common ryegrass: Severe winter injury in the Willamette valley materially decreased the stand. After much spring rain and reseeding the crop is still likely to be somewhat short simply due to reduced acreage. Instead of the usual 90,000 acres there will be about 60,000 acres cut for seed.

An unusually dry spring in the Union county area accounts for the low seed yields in that area, Jackman states.

Word from the Spokane area in Washington, where much wheat and alfalfa seed is produced, indicates yields in that sector will be about 25 per cent of normal. Much creeping red fescue seed is produced in Canada, but Jackman does not know the status of the crop. Certified alta fescue seed will sell higher than the support price of 35 cents a pound for blue tag seed, Jackman believes.



Pictured here are an Aberdeen Angus cow and her calf, one of the 53 calves born in a herd of 100 since mid-May on the Lane Brothers ranch in Yamhill county near Wheatland ferry. The black cattle grazing on the white clover have attracted much attention from passing motorists in recent weeks. (Statesman Farm Photo.)

Black Cattle Take Well to Oregon Clover

By Lillie L. Madsen
Farm Editor, The Statesman

A herd of sleek black cattle grazing on fields of white clover have in recent weeks attracted much attention from the passing motorist on the Dayton-Salem road near Wheatland Ferry on the Yamhill side of the river.

The herd is really the outgrowth of a mental picture of herds of Aberdeen Angus grazing in eastern Canada in their youth, their owners, George and Arthur Lane, will tell you. These cattle were raised for the famous British baby beef.

The Lanes came to Oregon in 1928 from their native eastern Canada and for the past six years have been raising the Aberdeen Angus in the upland acreage in Wheatland Ferry area. Several acres of the land, when the Lanes bought it, were in stumps, but by bulldozing and blasting this was cleared to tillable land. Fields of English wild white clover (Kentish clover) were established on the land. The Lanes had farmed on the Polk and Yamhill county hills where they had raised sheep. But they found that sheep had done better on the hill land than on the lower fields which they now own and which seems more suitable to cattle.

Recalling the home fields of their childhood they made inquiries about the Aberdeen Angus and last spring bought 102 head of 100 cows and two bulls — at Toppenish, Wash.

More fields of white clover are being established. There are now 60 under irrigation and considerable which is not being irrigated. The Lanes plant one pound of seed to the acre — the seed is very small, the one pound making 19 seeds to a square foot. Arthur Lane, who was formerly a public accountant, will tell you, while they admit the cattle business is new to them and that their work with the clover and cattle is merely in the experimental stage, they say they are enjoying it very much. They plan to bring their herd to approximately 200 head of females, but it all depends upon how pastures and cattle work out, they add.

The cattle, regularly passing motorists recall, were very thin when they first grazed along the roadside fields in March. Today they are nicely filled out, an excellent advertisement for Willamette valley pastures. And besides the original 102 head there are now 53 calves and more arriving daily.

Improvement association, Corvallis.

The Statesman's Farmer-of-the-Week

Rex Hartley, almost a native of the Ankeny Bottom section, was selected as this week's Farmer because of the splendid soil-building work he is doing.

Rex himself will tell you he isn't doing anything but farming, and while those who have watched his work in recent years will agree, they add "but he is doing that farming in the right way."

"I haven't proved anything yet, I'm just experimenting," Rex insists, but the men down at the college might add that the 266 acres Rex farms are much better off now than they were eight years ago when he started farming them.

The Hartley farm lies in the Ankeny road section and carries a Jefferson address. It was once owned by Carl Abrams, R. J. Hendricks and E. A. Rhoten, and is still known to some as that farm, although there have been other owners between these three and the Hartleys.

There are 150 acres planted into grass to be harvested for seed this year. These are mostly rye grass. Then the remainder of the land is planted into grass that is being grazed off. One of the things Rex hopes to learn is how much the land is improved by grazing over seed cutting or vice versa, and which of the two methods brings in the most financial returns over a period of years.

The vetch and oats and early pasture clippings go into silos to supplement the dry-season feeding. Rex is experimenting without irrigation. At the present time he doesn't believe it is feasible for him to irrigate for beef cattle pastures. But if cattle forage only on dry feed then during the six weeks' dry season in the valley, they stand still and do not gain. That's where the silage comes in. And there are now 85 head, mostly Red



Rex Hartley

Polks, to feed. Besides the silage there are 80 tons of hay put up for use on the Hartley farm.

Rex is a little hesitant to talk much of his beef-grass program as yet. But, now horses, those are his hobby. There has always been a horse or more on the Hartley ranch—some years ago American Saddle horses—now mostly quarterbloods. Not many, just enough to admire and to ride.

SPRAY BLACKBERRIES

To spray vines such as evergreen blackberries, use three pounds of the new weedicide, 2,4,5-T, acid per 100 gallons of water. Thoroughly cover the foliage for berry vine control. Good results will be obtained anytime during the summer.

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Farm Calendar

- July 23-24 — Annual Dayton rodeo.
- July 24-30 — National Farm Safety week.
- July 27-29 — North Willamette valley 4-H livestock and crop tour in Multnomah, Marion, Clackamas, Washington, Yamhill and Polk counties.
- July 26-30 — Santiam Bean festival, Stayton.
- July 29-31 — Mt. Angel Flax festival.
- July 31 — Oregon Jersey Cattle club picnic, Canby.
- Aug. 1-3 — South Willamette valley 4-H livestock and crop tour in Lane, Linn, Benton, Lincoln counties.
- Aug. 6 — 9th annual Willamette valley purebred ram and ewe sale, Albany.
- Aug. 6 — Western Horse show, Silverton.
- Aug. 13 — Newberg Berrian Farmeroo, Newberg.
- Aug. 14 — Marion County Pomona grange picnic, Coolidge & McClaine park, Silverton.
- Aug. 17-20 — Tillamook county fair, Tillamook.
- Aug. 18-20 — Oregon Poultry Improvement association, Corvallis.
- Aug. 19 — Oregon ram sale, Pendleton, 10 a.m.
- Aug. 21 — State Farmers union picnic, Champoeg.
- Aug. 24-26 — Marion county 4-H fall show.
- Aug. 25-27 — Yamhill county fair (junior) McMinnville.
- Aug. 25-27 — Polk county fair, Dallas.
- Aug. 29-Sept. 1 — Linn county 4-H fair, Albany.
- Aug. 31-Sept. 3 — Clackamas county fair, Clackamas.
- Sept. 5-11 — Oregon state fair, Salem.
- Sept. 20-31 — Oregon Turkey

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Berries Thrive On Yamhill Chicken Ranch

Out at the Ralph Abdill berry and chicken ranch near Dayton the berry shelter moves right along. That is, it is doing so this year.

A portable picking wagon was installed to take the place of the temporary shelters usually erected berry fields. The wagon takes the place of seven temporary shelter sheds this year, Mr. Abdill says, and it is working out very well.

And what is more Mr. Abdill will tell you, berries and chickens rank into a natural project. The Abdills bought their 20-acre farm about five years ago. Chickens formed their first farm project. Later they added cane berries. They now keep about 400 laying hens and have around 10 acres of boysenberries, raspberries and loganberries.

In 1948, the berries yielded slightly over four tons to the acre. This year, as the berry season is well underway, the vines give promise of just as satisfactory a yield. The use of the fertilizer from the chicken enterprise on the berry fields gives good evidence of the successful combination of the two projects on the same farm.

Louis H. Gross, Yamhill county extension agent, in referring to the Abdill farm, says that in or der to be successful at this combining of the two projects one should have enough units of each to make a satisfactory living for the family as well as to pay off mortgages and pay interest on the investment.

"To do this," Gross said, "I believe one must have at least 500 to 1,000 laying hens and from five to 10 acres of berries. Otherwise the full time efforts of the farmer cannot be used and he will have to seek part time employment outside."

Hopmere isn't any more. This township, platted June 7, 1911, with the coming of the Oregon Electric railroad, was named because of its surrounding hop acreage. Both the hop acreage in that area and the town are now largely memories. But while it thrived it had big hopes. Streets bore names such as State street, Portland Place, Norwood avenue, Broadway and First to Fifth avenues. None of the streets, however, was improved. So now Hopmere is another of Oregon's ghost towns. The name has been ordered off the county map and no objections have been raised. Anyway, once it looked as if there might have been a sizeable town if given time.

It is of no use to treat fence posts for longevity unless the posts are treated properly. This is the gist of a report just out on the T. J. Starker "post farm" which has been under research observation for 22 years. This latest report is issued by the Oregon forest products laboratory.

With Douglas fir posts, three treatments that have proved worthless are brush application of asphalt, charring, and cold soaking in zinc chloride. Port Orford cedar was not benefited by a hot-and-cold bath of carbolineum B, though Douglas fir posts were. Eight treatments, including the salt treatment, that proved beneficial to fir and pine are given in the report.

While the new progress report is somewhat detailed and technical in nature, an extension bulletin on post treatment is available which gives specific directions and recommendations for treating posts.

Reports on OSC Post Farm Given

Sheep Sale Catalogue Ready to Distribute

Catalogues of the ninth annual Willamette Valley Purebred Ram and Ewe sale to be held at Albany on August 6 are now available for distribution, according to word received from O. E. Mikese, sale secretary.

The catalogue lists 113 rams and 36 ewes to be sold by Colonel Earl O. Walter, Filer, Idaho. Rams and ewes will be sold in Romney, Shropshire, Suffolk, Corridale, Columbia, Hampshire, Lincoln and Southdown breeds. Only rams will be sold in the Cheviot and Dorset breeds.

Georgia grows more nuts than any other state in the union, with Alabama second.

Ranch Ramblings

L. S. Lorenzen of Dayton likes to feed a bit of silage all summer to his cows. He says they seem to like it too, right along with their pasture and it possibly increases the total amount of forage they will eat.

Lorenzen is one of those getting a new Jersey from Rex Ross of Mt. Angel. Ross is expecting an importation of 25 head of Jerseys from the Isle Jersey to arrive sometime around September 10.

If you think you (and I am talking to all of you) have early sweet corn (because it is just earing out) you should ramble over to the Lane brothers garden just inside of Yamhill county on the Wheatland ferry road. Arthur and George produce some very nice roasting ears on July 15 and that is really something to brag about.

Ray Heinz of Macksburg intends to find out how much hot commercial fertilizer Clackamas county corn will stand during the dry season. During the latter part of June, Ray sidedressed 15 rows of his previously well fertilized 355 Hybrid with 16-20 ammonium phosphate at the rate of 400 pounds to the acre. It may prove to be a very satisfactory operation, but Ray says he won't blame anyone if 15 rows of the corn are burned up.

The Ranch Rambler will try to find out what happened to the corn and relay the information through the ramblings.

Colorado leads the world in the production of sugar beets.

The National Safety council estimates the annual cost of farm accidents at \$36,000,000 and the loss in time at more than 17,000,000 days.

Machinery, especially the farm tractor, is the chief cause of farm accidents in Oregon, records compiled by the state accident commission reveal. Of 34 fatal accidents reported during a 12 months period ending in 1948, 21 of the deaths resulted from tractor accidents. The fatalities included 23 men, 11 children and two women.

The Oregon Farm Safety council, composed of representatives from farm organizations, implement dealers, state FFA headquarters, the state accident commission and Oregon State college, believes the annual toll from accidents could be reduced through education.

From figures compiled by the National Safety council, September is the high month during the year from the standpoint of farm accidents. Housework accidents reach a high point during the last quarter of the year; motor vehicle accidents occur most frequently during the first quarter. Choke accidents were responsible for about 25 per cent of the nation's farm work accidents reported in 1948.

It has been estimated by James E. Wiles, farm safety specialist, accident prevention division of the state accident commission, that 3,000 Oregon farm accidents take place annually. The accident commission handles about 30,000 farm accounts, covering by no means all of the farm workers.

Farm Accident Cost Annually Figures High

To direct all possible attention to unsafe practices which cause accidents to farm residents, the week of July 24 through 30 has been set aside as National Farm Safety week.

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