

WILLAMETTE VALLEY FARMER

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

Wheat Smut In Northwest Is Attacked

The Pacific Northwest's worst wheat disease—smut—is the subject of a tri-state attack by means of a regional bulletin, "Controlling Wheat Smut," prepared and issued jointly by the experiment stations and extension services of Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

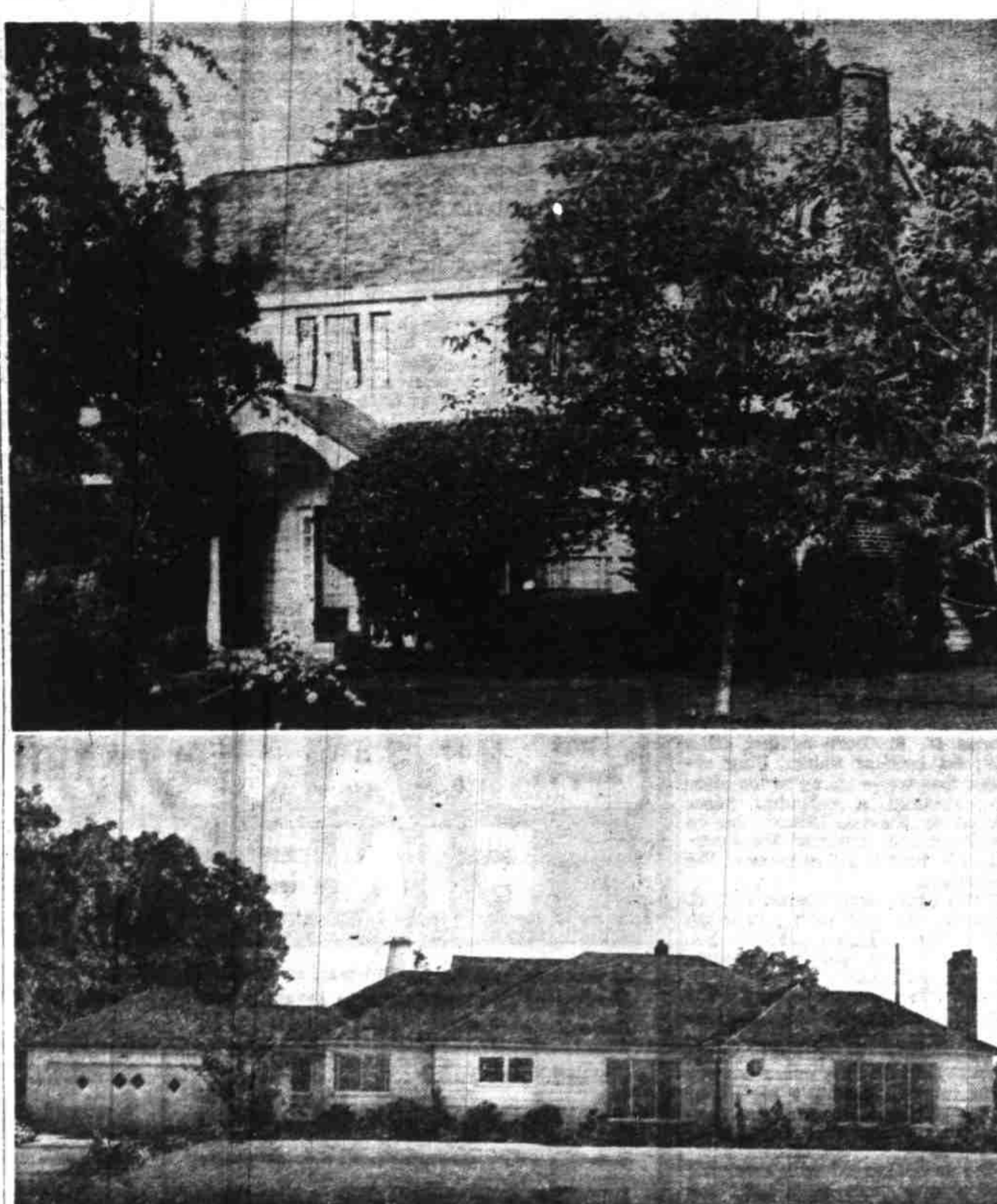
Issued as Pacific Northwest Bulletin No. 1, the publication describes in readable form the seriousness of the smut problem, how the smut invades healthy wheat plants, and what are the best methods of control. A list of common wheat varieties is also included showing which are resistant to common smut and which to dwarf smut.

The smut problem was pretty well licked some 10 years ago, in fact only 2 percent of cars of wheat shipped in 1942 graded smutty. That was when much of the soft white wheat grown was Rex, a highly resistant variety. Millers turned thumbs down on that variety, however, and showed favor for the Alice-Eldin variety which is a pushover for smut.

The result is that by 1948, 14 percent of the cars graded smutty. Experiment stations are working as rapidly as possible to develop new resistant varieties that have good milling qualities, but meanwhile extensive and careful seed treatment is necessary to prevent serious losses to growers, the bulletin points out.

Figures are given in the bulletin showing that 10 percent smut infection in a moderate yielding field will cause a loss to the grower of about \$8.50 per acre which could have been prevented by good seed treatment costing only 10 cents per acre.

The condensed four-point program advocated in the bulletin suggests clean and treat all seed wheat, whether resistant or not; plant resistant varieties of good milling quality if available; if soil is too contaminated even for treated seed, use only resistant sorts; where dwarf smut is severe, grow only spring wheat, unless a resistant winter variety is available.



National Home week is being observed throughout the nation this week. Pictured above are two Willamette valley farm homes — but of widely different architecture. Floor space in both is about the same. Each has three bedrooms. But differences of opinion, such as depicted here, as to what constitutes a good home keep the Willamette valley farmside from becoming monotonous. The colonial style at the top is the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Hattberg on Route 2, Silverton. The lower house is the home, built a year ago by Mrs. C. A. Ziellinski on Route 7, Salem. It is typical in the latest trend in ranch homes. Home building in rural Willamette valley has increased rapidly in the past two years. (Farm Photos for The Statesman.)

Poultry Food Space Should be Ample

When the grain and mash system of feeding poultry is used, 30 to 36 running feet of hopper space for 100 layers should be provided, report Willamette valley poultry experts.

When the all-mash system is used, this space should be increased to 40 to 48 feet for each 100 layers. Two feed hoppers, 14 feet in length and constructed so that birds can eat from both sides, would give 48 feet of space.

Farm Calendar

- Sept. 17 — Willamette Valley Soil Conservation day, Aumsville, 10:30 a.m.
- Sept. 18 — Marion County Jersey Cattle club meeting, Robert Clark home, Champeog.
- Sept. 18 — Oregon Polled Hereford association at Willamette Polled Hereford ranch, Halsey. No-host lunch 1 p.m.
- Sept. 20 — Oregon Turkey Improvement association, Oregon State college.
- Sept. 22-24 — North Marion County fair, Woodburn.
- Sept. 24 — Santiam Canyon Fall festival, Santiam Valley Grange hall, Lyons.
- Oct. 7-15 — Pacific International Livestock show, Portland.
- Oct. 12 — Pacific International 4-H fatstock auction sale, Portland, 10 a.m.
- Oct. 15-16 — Capital City Rabbit Breeders association show, Salem.
- Oct. 22 — Guernsey Heifer sale, State fair grounds, Sept. 5; National 4-H club Achievement week opens.
- Nov. 6-8 — Annual convention Oregon Wool Growers, Portland.
- Nov. 14-15 — Annual convention of Agricultural Cooperative council, Multnomah hotel, Portland.
- Nov. 15-17 — Oregon Farmer Bureau Federation, La Grande.
- Nov. 17 — Annual meeting of Oregon State Horticultural society, Eugene.

Ranch Ramblings

Dan Smith over in Yamhill county figures he has licked the turkey moving business so far as pasture is concerned. Dan suggests that a permanent pasture program be set up. Fences must be built but he figures that saving in feed and labor for one year would pay for the expense of the fences.

Proper buildings for a Willamette Valley Beef operation will be viewed Sunday at the Dick Ward ranch at Halsey when the Polled Hereford association meets there for its first out-door meeting this year—and probably the last for this season. A no-host dinner will be served at 1 p.m. in Dick's new loafing shed. We had believed the shed was built for cattle loafers but it seems it can be used for other things as well. Ice cream and coffee will be provided by the association, and Bob Sears of Salem, president of the group, will be there to see to it that the "treats" are divided fairly, he says.

The old saying, "Prepare a seedbed so firm that you can't track a mule across it surely applies to a year like this. We've scarce enough rain to lay the dust since the first of April, but Charlie Steiner, Beaver Creek, has an excellent stand of June planted Tallarook sub clover and alta fescue. So does Wallace Sawtell on his ranch two miles this side of Molalla.

Of course, these two limed their fields and fertilized well with nitrogen and phosphate-bearing fertilizers prior to seeding.

CROP OUTLOOK MEETING SET
Crop outlook meeting for Yamhill county has been set for September 20, 8 p.m. in the fair building in McMinnville, according to Jack Hansell, county extension agent. W. L. Teutsch, assistant director of extension service; Rex Warren, farm crops specialist; Louie H. Gross, county extension agent; have been scheduled to speak for the evening meeting.

While the beef cattle group is gathered up at Halsey, a dairy group will be meeting down at almost the other end of the valley. The Marion County Jersey cattle club will gather at the Bob Clark home in Champeog area. This is going to be about the last time the group is going to have an opportunity to meet with the Bob Clarks. They have sold their farm and are moving to Eugene—yes, to town. Just why, none of the Jersey breeders can see. We understand that Bob is going to try his hand at building houses. He just finished building one for himself on his farm.

Farm Bureau Reports Regional Meeting

A western regional meeting of the Oregon Farm Bureau federation September 19 in Hillsboro was announced Wednesday by Barry Brownell, Milwaukie, regional director.

Representatives from Marion, Clackamas, Columbia, Polk, Tillamook, Clatsop and Washington counties will study the region's farm problems, Brownell said. Topics to be discussed will include daylight saving time, development of western phosphates, marketing agreements for turkeys and prunes, a new test for milk and a program for selling farm crops on the hoof.

Included in the personnel who will discuss various topics are Milton Simon, Forest Grove; Hans Leuthold, Tillamook; Ray Hobson, Amity; Marcus Tetter, Woodburn; Ray Vanderzanden, Banks; Howard Bowlby, Cornelius and Lloyd Lee, Salem.

Grass Seeds Shedding Blind Difficulties

Preliminary germination tests made from the 1949 perennial ryegrass crop show the blind-seed disease control program is effectively curbing the disease, reports Dr. John R. Hardison, USDA plant pathologist working at the Oregon State college experiment station.

Judging from approximately 150 seed samples, 80 per cent of this year's crop is showing up with 90 percent germination or better. Last year, the worst year on record for blind-seed disease, only 64 percent of the seed lots rated 90 per cent germination or above.

Yet findings made thus far show at least 42 percent of the fields need to be burned over again as a disease control measure. Linn county is the primary district involved since most of Oregon's perennial ryegrass seed crop is grown in that county. Last year, however, 80 percent of the fields needed to be burned, according to Hardison's findings.

Care Must Continue
Fearing that farmers will become complacent again about the perennial ryegrass disease which effects seed germination adversely, Hardison is urging all farmers in Linn county to burn over their perennial ryegrass fields again this fall. While germination percentages are up, he points out that the disease itself is still present. A year of lax control measures would be a decided set-back, he believes.

To those farmers replanting perennial ryegrass, the pathologist recommends seeding disease-free seed or seed that is at least 24 months old. Lists of disease-free approved seed lots are now in the hands of county extension agents.

Fields which are badly infested with blind-seed disease are not safe for replanting perennial ryegrass for at least two years, during which they are devoted to other crops. To prevent emergence of spore cups and discharge of disease spores, Hardison recommends that plowing of such infested fields be done before May 15.

Since blind seed disease does not affect forage quality, it is of no importance outside the seed growing area.

The Statesman's Farmer-of-the-Week



Cleo Lee

The farm photographer snapped this of Cleo Lee just as she was telling, in response to a dozen requests, just how she made the graham cracker banana cream pie which had won the hearts of the Marion County Jersey Cattle club. Cleo, who is formally Mrs. Leonard Lee was born in Spray, out in eastern Oregon but came to the valley when she was six years old. She and Leonard with their daughter, Lillian, 10, and son, John, 4, live on the old home place of Leonard's father the Warner Lee home. They are raising some excellent Jerseys of which Cleo can tell you quite a bit, too. But she is much better noted for her pie and her attractive handwork than she is for her knowledge about the cattle on the farm.

Turkey Men Will Inspect OSC Project

A conducted tour of the new state college turkey farm and experimental brooder house is among features programmed for the 10th annual meeting of the Oregon Turkey Improvement association to be held on the state college campus in Corvallis on Tuesday, September 20, Noel Bennion, extension poultry specialist and association secretary-treasurer, has announced.

Starting at 9 a.m. standard time, the morning and early afternoon program will be carried out in the Memorial Union building. The association's annual banquet will be held at the Corvallis Country club, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Marshall Dana, Portland, will be featured banquet speaker, and will discuss his recent trip abroad.

During the morning session Dr. J. A. Harper, who heads the turkey research work in the experiment station will review work underway. He will also lead the tour in the turkey farm and brooder house in the afternoon. It is in conjunction with the tour, it is also planned to conduct a demonstration on selecting breeders and drawing blood samples for pullover testing.

Association President M. T. Guerts, Portland, has placed program arrangements in the hands of Price Schroeder, Milwaukie; Paul McDowell, Sherwood, and Bennion.

The committee has announced that a panel discussion on producing and selling turkey hatching eggs will also be a part of the program. Poultry Geneticist Dr. Paul Bernier of the college poultry department will discuss turkey improvement through breeding.

Market prospects for the approaching market season will be discussed by C. W. Norton, Northwest Poultry and Dairy Products company, Portland. President Guerts will also make a report on the National Turkey federation.

SILO SEAL DEVELOPED
To prevent exposed silage from spoiling, a rubber company has developed a circular sheet and a tube of plastic material to seal the silo top when silage is not being removed, reports M. G. Huber, Oregon extension agricultural engineer. When filling is completed, the sheet is laid across the top of the silage. The sheet, which fits snugly against the silo walls, is filled with water to make an air tight seal, Huber explains. The rubber seal prevents top layer from usual spoilage.

Fall Fertilization Of Crops Pays Off

Early fall application of nitrogen and phosphate fertilizers is paying dividends to growers of mixed grass and legume pastures, N. John Hansen Polk county extension agent says.

Forty pounds of available nitrogen per acre is recommended on mixed grass and legume pastures and can be supplemented with superphosphate when applied on ladino or white clover pastures. Forty to 60 pounds of available superphosphate will bring results, Hansen states. This means from 200 to 300 pounds superphosphate.



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From where I sit ... by Joe Marsh

Sure You Haven't A "Blind Spot"?

As I was driving down Main Street last Saturday, another car swung out right in front of me. It turned out to be Buck Blake. He wasn't going fast. It was just that he had something else on his mind at that particular moment.

Buck's really one of the nicest fellows I've ever known. But, sometimes he gets to day-dreaming on the road. He sort of gets a "blind spot" to what's going on about him!

Now, lots of normally considerate folks have their "blind spots."

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