

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

Farm Scribe Finds OSC Field Trip Warm, Dusty, Educational

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
Farm Editor, The Statesman

CORVALLIS—You stop bugs from eating the top of vegetables by putting something on the ground at the bottom of the plants.

That's one of the things I learned during the week, while with several hundred other curious folk, I followed a group of experimenters around the East Farm at Oregon State College during the annual vegetable field day as well as the peach day. The latter was a bit more interesting from one point of view. You could pick up a fallen peach and eat without a little more difficulty to pull a turnip out of the ground and start munching. Both field trips were very warm, slightly dusty, and thoroughly interesting.

At the vegetable farms we saw some of the finest beans—pole and bush—as well as some poor varieties. This held for each section of the vegetable tour. And this was the purpose. We were viewing not only which varieties would do the best but which fertilizers and which insecticides would give most results on the numerous varieties and under varying soil conditions. Without a note book in hand one could become quite confused before the days were over.

Progress Made Through Soil Considerable progress has been made in recent years in the chemical control of injurious soil insects by the treatment of the soil itself before planting. We were taken to plots of potatoes and turnips where experiments dating back to five years had been made. These residual soil insecticide plots measuring 50 by 20 feet each, were first established in 1949, and had received only the one treatment with wettable powders at the rate of 10 pounds actual material per acre. The identity of the materials used has been maintained by careful rotary tillage within plot boundaries.

The thorough mixture of the materials in the soil to a depth of six to eight inches was considered an important feature in the experiment. In the first plots we visited the experimenters were for control of tuber flea beetle on potatoes, wireworm on potatoes, cabbage maggot control on turnips and radishes.

Later we observed field trials for control of the worms in sweet corn and the onion maggot. In all cases the thoroughness of insecticide mixtures in the soil was shown to affect the degree of control of insects. We were told that this probably also affects the longevity of the insecticide in the soil.

Control Longevity Noted One thing that interested us was that with some of the new insecticides, controls were good the first year but tapered off as the years went on, while other soil insecticides improved with the years. For instance, DDT gave 77 per cent control of the tuber flea beetle on potatoes the first year it was placed in the soil but only 14 per cent last year, three years later. On the other hand Heptachlor gave no control the first two years, but in 1951 gave 99 per cent control, and a perfect control last year. Aldrin gave 99 per cent control throughout the four years.

Experiments proved, according to Dr. H. E. Morrison, who headed this experiment and explained the work during the field day, that Aldrin was one of the most effective treatments throughout. It is easy to apply, requires no exact timing and gives almost perfect control. The cost of soil treatment is no greater than that of previously recommended measures.

Aldrin is available in the form of wettable powders and emulsion concentrates. Two pounds of actual aldrin per acre are needed. Dr. Morrison advised the use of one gallon per acre of the emulsion concentrates containing two pounds of actual aldrin per gallon. He added that wettable powders can be used in power spray machinery, but will clog the nozzles of low pressure weed sprayers. A sufficient volume of water (50 gallons per acre or more) should be used to insure an even coverage of the soil, he said.

We learned too that it is desirable to combine the insecticide with commercial fertilizers or soil conditioners.

Aldrin also gives good control for wireworm and fair control for the cabbage maggot. However, dieldrin gives a better control for the latter, as does also heptachlor. The latter showed no control the first two years but a 96 per cent control the fourth year. The dieldrin showed a 67 per cent control the first year and a 100 per cent control the fourth year.

Leaving the vegetable grounds, we passed through beautiful lily and rose plantings to get to blueberry, raspberry, blackberry, the peach plantings where we were greeted by Dr. Quentin B. Zielinski, who is in charge of breeding and testing fruit tree varieties. We were very happy to get in a little on the latter. When it comes to peaches, I personally am an excellent test person being a native of the nation's finest peach producing area, South Haven, Mich. Dr. Zielinski, however, is a



Dr. H. E. Morrison didn't seem to mind the bright sun as he spent the entire vegetable field day at East Farms, Corvallis, telling visitors about the success and failures of various soil insecticides in control of potato tuber flea beetles. (The Statesman Farm Photo.)

native of the Willamette Valley, was graduated from Oregon State College in 1940, with the O.H. State University and State College of Virginia, receiving his doctor's degree at the University of Virginia before returning here in 1947.

"We are working toward an earlier peach, as well as one that will can and freeze more perfectly." We have a number that look very promising," the peach doctor told us as we tested out a couple.

Among those he named as "looking very promising" were Jerseyland, Dixigem, Fairhaven, Redhavan, Starling Delicious, and several varieties still bearing numbers, which will be changed to names before they are put on the market.

Only 50 Per Cent Peach Crop Among the speakers were C. O. Rawlings, one of the college's better known horticulturists. Rawlings spoke chiefly on the premature dropping of fruit, particularly of the Elberta peach. This dropping is very serious this year, and in some orchards whole crops are lost, he said. The peach crop in Oregon, Rawlings believed, would be about 50 per cent normal this year.

We also stopped briefly to view the nectarine trees. Efforts are being made to develop one which will do well in the valley under most conditions, Dr. Zielinski told us.

Everyone who visits the experimental farms here for the first time, is amazed at the wealth of material and the scope of experiments. It is possible to absorb but a little of the available information with each trip. . . I vowed, however, to return Oct. 3 for the annual Chrysanthemum field day.

Beef, Sheep Will Be Sold At OSC Sale

Registered beef and sheep from Oregon State College breeding stock will be auctioned August 20 at the OSC livestock pavilion, according to Dr. Fred F. McKenzie, head of the animal husbandry department. The auction begins at 1 p. m. Bids will also be accepted by mail.

Five dwarf-free, registered yearling Hereford bulls top the auction list. Dr. McKenzie says the bulls have made rates of gain up to 100 percent above average—as high as 3 3/4 pounds gain per day.

2,000 4-H Youths Due At State Fair

State fair 4-H activities will have 2,000 boys and girls taking part this year, Burton Hutton, state 4-H leader, estimates.

He reports indications are that entries of 4-H exhibits will reach a new high this year. Exhibits are to be set up Sept. 4, with judging to start Sept. 5, opening day of the fair. Judging contests in which the 4-H'ers take part begin on Labor Day.

Hutton anticipates increased interest in 4-H demonstrations this year. Because of the number of demonstrations, they will last all week. Championship run-off for top agricultural and home economics demonstrations will be on the final day of the fair.

Interviews to pick two boys and two girls as Oregon's delegation to the 1954 national 4-H club camp in Washington, D. C., are also to be included in fair week activities.

The 4-H club member who has made the greatest health improvement is to be picked at the fair, too. This health winner, who must be at least 14 years of age, will win a free trip to the national 4-H club congress in Chicago in November.

Fair-goers will find improvements made in 4-H facilities. A new ring has been built by the fair management for livestock judging, and a new stage will background the dress revue, in which young seamstresses model clothing they have made.

El Salvador is the most densely populated nation on the American mainland.

Ranch Ramblings

By RURAL REPORTER

If Independence Hopmen think they have turned into vegetarians, they should scan the much-tooted Yakima hops country. Low hop prices have had their effects in further reduction in hop acreage in the famed Yakima Valley hop area, with some yards completely abandoned this year.

In others, the growers have taken out three of every four rows in order to grow more profitable crops between the fourth rows, and thus keep their yards ready to convert back to full production, if prices warrant.

Corn, squash and grain have been the "more profitable" crops.

We always knew Salem had what it takes. Now Walt Holt, manager of the Pacific International Livestock Exposition in North Portland, reports that already three of the judges for this year's show come from Salem. These are: Ronald V. Hogg, judging 4-H sheep exhibits as well as 4-H showmanship; Douglas Chambers, judging 4-H swine, and Claude Steusloff, judging open class sheep.

Then, if there is no conflict in schedules, Ronald and Doug will be judging Future Farmer classes also. Claude will stick to the open classes—and the sheep had better look like his Southdowns if he's to think they warrant any blue ribbons.

Ronald raises mostly Hampshires and Doug, while he is with the Valley Packing Co., is also doing some fancy breeding in producing Shropshires minus-wool-on-the-face.

This wooliness of the Shrops has kept them from going over well as range animals—one of the big markets for valley sheep. If "clean" faced Shrops can be produced then they are expected to gain greatly in popularity with east-of-the-mountain range sheepmen.

H. Mikkelsen and Son of Westwood Jersey Farm (kind of pretty name for a farm, isn't it?) near Woodburn, have received special recognition for their outstanding production records made on three Jersey cows, on Herd Improvement Registry test. Westwood Lad Prince gave 9,799 pounds of milk, containing 582 pounds of butterfat at the age of 4 years and 2 months; Standard Fauvic Volunteer Lena, 10,235 pounds of milk with 589 pounds of fat at 9 years, and Volunteer Eagle Betty produced 10,991 pounds of milk containing 637 pounds of butterfat at the age of 10 years, 2 months—which says Calvin, the "son" of the partnership, proves that "While Jerseys are plenty good enough in the beginning, they get even better with age!"

Ronald Hogg is getting for himself a busy schedule in judging this fall, we note. . . At the Clackamas County Fair, to be held Aug. 26 through the 29 at Canby, he will judge sheep and swine. Ronald runs a big ranch over in Polk county, claiming a Salem address.

Loan Plans Outlined by State Group

Emergency livestock loans, authorized by recent legislation, are now available to eligible farmers and ranchers in Oregon. F. E. Price, dean and director of agriculture at Oregon State College, announced following a meeting of the state special livestock loan committee.

The loans will be made to established producers and feeders of cattle, sheep and goats, says Price. They must have good records of operations, have a reasonable chance to succeed and they must have been unable to obtain needed credit from other sources to continue their normal operations.

The loans will not be made to carry on commercial feed lot operations, to refinance existing debts or to enable a borrower to start livestock operations.

Loans Made for 3 Years Price explained the special livestock loans will bear 5 per cent interest and may be made for periods up to 3 years. Borrowers will be expected to repay the loans as rapidly as they can. Each loan must be secured in the full amount by the personal obligation and available security of the borrower.

The government will not require present creditors to subordinate their liens, but borrowers will be expected to obtain stand-by agreements from their present creditors so they will have a chance to work out their difficulties. Also, present creditors must be willing for a portion of the borrower's livestock income to be paid on the government loan.

Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson has designated the Farmers Home Administration as the agency to handle this emergency credit program, and has made Administrator R. G. McLeish responsible for it at the national level. However, all loans must be approved by the special livestock loan committees appointed by the Secretary.

To serve as a temporary state special livestock loan committee for Oregon, Secretary Benson has named the following: Walter A. Duffy, state director, Farmers Home Administration; Dean Price; and Arnold M. Bodtke, chairman, state PMA committee. This temporary committee was named in order to speed up processing of applications for assistance.

Application forms may be obtained at any county office of the Farmers Home Administration. They may be filed with the local county FHA supervisor.

Priest-doctors of ancient Assyria knew that sea kelp would help keep wounds sterile and that goiter was helped by burnt sponge although they probably did not know that the results were due to the iodine content of their remedies.

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Mt. Angel Man Wins Honors With Holstein

Milk production honors for the past month in the Marion County Dairy Herd Improvement Association, goes to C. J. Berning, Mt. Angel. Three of his Holstein cows made over a ton of milk. One gave 2,635 pounds of milk and 92.2 pounds of butterfat. A second one gave 2,635 pounds of milk and the third one produced 2,120 pounds of milk.

Ben Vandercouping, also of Mt. Angel, had a Holstein which made 2,090 pounds of milk. High butterfat cow was Herbert Coleman's Jersey Nixie of Woodburn. She gave 1,500 pounds of milk containing 94.3 pounds of butterfat.

Another Jersey, Jersey Laura, also of Woodburn, owned by L. F. Buserie & Son, produced 1,497 pounds of milk with 94.3 pounds of butterfat to win honors in the top bracket, too.

In Linn County, the herd of James Ruby, Seio, led all herds in production with 15 Holstein cows that made an average of 1,265 pounds of milk, and was second on butterfat production with 47.53 pounds per cow.

The Schmucker & Schweitzer herd with 34 Holsteins was second with 1,122 pounds of milk, while third was Ernest Richards with 19 Holsteins producing an average of 976 pounds of milk, and a 32.63 pounds average of butterfat.

Glen Thurston made the butterfat top, with an average on his 16 registered Jerseys of 51.31 pounds of fat in 899 pounds of milk per cow. Individual cow with top milk production was Percey Heyerly's "Pescheck" with 2,390 pounds of milk and 60 pounds of butterfat.

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Another Hen Enters 'Big Egg Contest'

Eggs are getting bigger and bigger, if the farm editor is to judge by those being shown at The Statesman Office.

Latest on the list is a 5 1/2 ounce egg which measured 8 1/2 inches around the long way, and 7 1/16 inches the other way.

The egg was laid by a New Hampshire Red hen on the Charles Agee, Salem, Route 3, Box 806 farm on South River Road.

Agee reports this particular hen laid double yoked-eggs all winter and then laid off for a month's rest.

"I was thinking about discarding her," Agee said Tuesday when he brought the huge egg to the office, "and she must have guessed if for after four week of no eggs, she produced this out sized number."

HAWAII ATMOSPHERE ARRIVES Big hats, colorful shirts and leis are being worn by Leo Spitzbart, Oregon State Fair manager George McMurphey, information specialist at the fair, and others in the offices at the fairgrounds this week, giving out the word that the flower show will follow a Hawaiian theme this year.

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