

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

Farmers Wary of Putting Wheat Fields Into Acreage Reserve Plan

By LILLIE L. MADSEN Farm Editor, The Statesman

Farmers are being a little skittish about entering the acreage reserve and removing wheat from plantings.

Marion County's wheat reduction to date is only between one and two per cent of plantings—not nearly what was expected or hoped for according to the county agricultural stabilization and conservation committee, headed by Earl K. Johnson.

Sign Up Slow "Of course," Johnson said Wednesday, "the farmers have until March 2 to sign up, but we had thought that many more would have signed up before now."

The acreage reserve calls for one-year contracts, and is centered only in the reduction of wheat, Johnson explained.

Good news for growers of barley and oats is contained in recent announcements of the USDA, according to ASC committee members.

Support prices have been established on this year's crop of barley and oats at 70 per cent of parity. There had been some question as to whether these grains would be supported this year.

to plan their spring planting with some degree of intelligence.

Rates Differ Although the supports are announced on a national average basis, the various county committees are able to estimate the local rates closely by allowing the usual differential between county rates and national average rates.

National price for oats, Grade 3 or better, has been set at 60 cents per bushel; barley, Grade 2 or better, 85 cents and rye, \$1.15 for Grade 2 or better.

Most of the Willamette Valley tops this national average by almost 10 per cent. Estimates are for barley in this county, \$1.03; for oats, 70 cents and for rye, \$1.31.

These support prices are for grain delivered on track at county landing points or at warehouses handling government grain.

Bartlett pear trees rate a close second to peach trees in requiring annual pruning, if the grower expects quality fruit.

Bartletts and peaches are also similar in that more wood is removed by annual pruning than is necessary for sweet cherries, prunes and apples.

Fruiting habit is a major difference affecting pruning methods necessary for peaches and pears. Peaches are borne on lateral fruit buds formed on one-year-old wood.

Pears are borne on fruiting spurs, each of which may be several years old. Pruning of peaches is essentially a replacement of wood, that has already fruited, by wood that is one year old.

Pruning of Bartlett pears involves more thinning out and some heading back to allow light penetration, minimize mechanical injury to the tree and enable the grower to maintain healthy fruiting spurs throughout the tree.

Until it comes into bearing, the Bartlett pear has a compact, upright growth. Pruning during the non-bearing years should consist in selecting three to five main scaffold limbs. In addition, pruning can help spread the limbs outward and upward.

After the Bartlett comes into bearing, the weight of the fruit gradually spreads the scaffold limbs. However, annual sucker growth is always a problem in a healthy pear orchard. How to handle suckers depends largely on their location in the tree.

Suckers are removed if they are close to the main trunk where they have no room to grow. If on the sides of the tree, they are either thinned out or headed back. If in the top of the tree, some are removed, some are headed back, and some are left untouched, depending on location. Another suggestion in pruning Bartlett pears is to replace old spurs, gradually, with new spurs. Best quality fruit is produced on younger spurs.

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Pear Trees Need Pruning For Fruiting

By D. L. RASMUSSEN — Marion County Extension Agent

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Ranch Ramblings

By RURAL REPORTER

WAR AGAINST THIEVES—Christmas may seem quite a spell away from right now, but Willamette Valley tree-owning farmers are preparing now for next season's war against stealers of Christmas trees.

We get around to a lot of meetings—particularly this time of the year—and we've heard a lot of griping from farmers—but this is certainly legitimate gripe—this one about Christmas tree-theft.

Ralph Hardy, a Clackamas farmer just south of Molalla, said this week that he loses from 20 to 30 trees each year. These trees are some he has pruned and raised for sale. They sell for \$1.25 to the farm.

Other farmers report the same thing. In commenting on the practice said: "City property owners would be real indignant if farmers helped themselves to shrubs from city homes, especially if this became an annual event."

Another farmer, whose name we'll withhold, said that he was at a church Christmas party where the committee members told about what a time they'd had getting "by the farmer's house without being seen" with the big tree they'd selected.

Well, anyway, there's going to be some patrolling and prosecuting come next Christmas time—and church members will not be excepted, farmers say.

GOT TO TREAT THEM RIGHT—Rotation and permanent pastures, especially in Willamette Valley foothill land, can't be expected to produce anything like satisfactory yields without annual fertilizer applications, according to J. J. Inskeep, Clackamas County Extension agent.

John quotes Everett Shibley and son, Elwin, who have a very successful pasture program.

Say the two: "Our soil, like a lot of other, is lacking in phosphorus and limestone. All of our pastures need more than one application of fertilizer each season."

"It has been our custom to top-dress our alfalfa-fescue-subclover fields with 200 pounds of 16-20 each fall, just prior to the first fall rains. We repeat this operation as soon as we can get on our fields after Jan. 15 and again in April or even up to the first of May."

"This adds up to 600 pounds a year. We graze our pastures heavily until about the first of May. Then we turn our animals on outside pasture and allow our heavily fertilized fields to grow for hay. This results in delayed maturity of our grass so we do not cut for hay until after July 4 when good hay weather is expected. The average yield is about three tons per acre."

Everett adds that he formerly used three tons per acre of limestone on fields not recently limed, but that in recent years soil tests show the need of 4 to 5 tons per acre "so we are using that amount."

ANOTHER GREAT DECISION—John says each farmer will have to decide whether he will spend cash for fertilizer for pastures or for hay for the animals, or sell a certain number of animals a little before he planned to. Without fertilization, according to John, most lands will not produce enough roughage for the animals raised. But, he adds—"have your soil tested!"

THERE'S ANOTHER WAY OUT—With taxes going up and fertility of soil going down, there's such an idea as planting some of the hillside land into trees under the new conservation and Soil Bank programs.

You hear the answer to this "That I won't live to see the harvest."

Naturally this depends a little upon how old you are when you start in. If you are drawing social security and not doing much heavy farming anyway, remember these two points:

1. Growing timber adds to the saleable price of the area on which it is growing. The older the growing stand the higher the value.

2. If properly planned and cared for, the owner may take the thinning as Christmas trees in eight or 10 years. Thinning for pulpwood may be taken out in about 20 years.

It certainly is a program to be investigated if you are one of those farmers who work off the farm and constantly complain that "nobody—just nobody—can make a living on the farm anymore" . . . If you are one of the farmers who do okay, who don't complain, who have a nice home and television and a good car—just keep on farming. The country really needs you . . . we say.

DAIRY CATTLE IN THE NEWS—Orville L. Brown of Woodburn, tells us he sold his registered Guernsey sire, Brownies Farm Dairy, to Aubrey D. Hanna, Olympia, Wash. This animal is out of Donald D.'s Nancy Ann, with an official production record of 10,096 pounds of milk and 566 pounds of fat. He was sired by Northern Prince Douglas.

Over at Mt. Angel, C. J. Burning has a Holstein, Nugget Tritomia Florence Segis, which has joined the 100,000 pound club. Segis has now produced 100,863 pounds of milk and 34,411 pounds of butterfat in her 2,483 days of milking on official test, and she's still going strong.

A little goes a long way when it comes to using boron in legume fields, but that pinch is important, according to experience of farmers.

The 1956 soil boron tests from Marion County showed that 78 per cent were low in boron. Red clover and alfalfa fields have responded especially well to boron, but other legumes also need this minor plant food.

Oregon State College Extension Soil Specialist Dr. Tom Jackson suggests that one and one-half pounds of actual boron or fifteen pounds of agricultural grade borax be used annually on perennial legumes.

One easy way of applying boron is to use boric acid. Certain precautions are important relative to boron applications. Do not use boron if beans or other crops sensitive to boron are to be planted. Since boron in heavy quantities is a soil sterilant, excessive applications may reduce yields of many crops.

Egyptians Change Song About Paris

CAIRO, Feb. 20 (AP)—Cole Porter's "I Love Paris" vanished from Cairo's night spots after the British-French invasion of Egypt last November.

The tune now has returned to one night club with a slight lyric change. The vocalist sings it "I Love Madrid."

James A. Bland, composer of "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia," was born in a suburb of New York City.

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Farm Calendar

Feb. 21 — Strawberry meeting, Rickreall Fairgrounds 8 p.m.

Feb. 22 — Hop Growers meeting, Yakima, Wash.

Feb. 23 — Willamette National Farm Loan Association, Marion Hotel, 10 a.m.

Feb. 25 — Yamhill County Strawberry Growers, McMinnville Fair Building, 1:30 p.m.

Feb. 27 — Polk County Agricultural Planning Council, Dallas.

Feb. 28 — Yamhill County Planning Conference, Yamhill County Fair Building, McMinnville.

March 2 — Rabbit School for 4-H Club members, leaders and parents, OSC.

March 11 — Wage and Hour hearing, Portland state building.

March 14-15 — Statewide 4-H Tractor tour, Portland.

March 15-16 — Northwest Christmas Tree Association annual meeting, Portland.

March 30 — Columbia River Section of Society of American Foresters, Marion Hotel, Salem.

April 6 — Oregon invitational Guernsey sale, State Fairgrounds, Salem.

May 6-8 — Annual Oregon Cattlemen's Convention, Eugene.

May 6 — Western States Jersey sale, Sacramento.

June 1 — Marion County Lamb Show and State Sheep Dog trials, Turner.

June 4-6 — Holstein-Friesian Association of America annual convention, Omaha, Neb.

June 13-15 — Lebanon Strawberry fair.

June 24-26 — Western Society of Crops Science annual meeting, Corvallis.

June 26-28 — Eighth annual Fertilizer-Conference of Pacific Northwest, Benson Hotel, Portland.

June 26-28 — Pacific Branch of Entomology Society of America, Multnomah Hotel, Portland.

June 22-23 — Oregon Arabian Horse show, Salem, State Fairgrounds.

July 2-4 — St. Paul Rodeo, Aug. 3 — Willamette Valley Ram Sale, Albany.

Aug. 8 — Fifth annual OSC Livestock Sale, Corvallis.

SOCIETY 56 YEARS OLD

Kent Peterson of Junction City was named president of the Lane County Horticultural Society at the group's annual meeting. The group is the oldest horticultural society in Oregon and observed its 50th anniversary at the recent convention, which was attended by many Willamette Valley folk. Edsel Chase of Coberg was named vice president, and R. E. Kerr, Eugene, secretary-treasurer.

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Ewe Feeding Said to Help Lamb Growth

Farm flock owners will find that feeding ewes extra well after lambing will pay dividends in better lambs since it is the mother's milk that really makes the lambs fat, according to Ben A. Newell, county extension agent.

He points out that the feed requirements of a ewe giving milk are nearly 50 per cent higher than they are up until lambing time. For this reason the main job after lambing is to feed the ewes so that they will give as much milk as possible.

One suggested ration, Newell said, is to feed the ewes good, bright alfalfa hay and one-half to one pound of oats per ewe per day. If oats are not available or too high in price, substitute barley or heavy screenings.

A mixture of grains such as mill run, oats, or barley in equal amounts by weight is a good ration for ewes when they are getting all the alfalfa hay they will clean up. Beet pulp or silage, if available, may be used to supplement this ration.

Extra feeding of the ewes can be discontinued as soon as good pasture becomes available, Newell said, but in the meantime they must be fed well to maintain milk production.

Creep feeding lambs as soon as they will eat will help get them to market early. Mixtures of 30 per cent barley, 30 per cent oats, 30 per cent peas and 10 per cent molasses make a good lamb supplement.

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Farm Union Adds to Hells Canyon Fund

Groups of farmers are going all out for a high Hells Canyon dam—says Harley Libby, (left) president of Oregon Farmers Union, shown here handing a campaign fund check for \$1,000, signed by James G. Patton, National Farmers Union president, to Elmer McClure, (right) master of Oregon State Grange and secretary-treasurer of the National Hells Canyon Association. It brings the national Farmers Union contributions to \$7,000. In the center is J. D. McDonald, president of the Oregon AFL-CIO, representing Jim Marr, president of Hells Canyon Association.



Many bills relating to work performed under law by the state department of agriculture were dropped into the legislative hopper as the dropping period closed. Some were introduced at request of various commodity groups, some of "housekeeping" nature by the department itself, and some by individual legislators.

J. F. Short, director of agriculture, calls attention to these bills so anyone interested may contact his or her legislators for more detailed information or to present views pro or con.

The subjects of these bills and the house or senate number they bear are:

Weights and measures (HB 372) — Would permit the department to adopt the book of federal standards to eliminate the cost of publishing a complete new book; broadens the definition of weighing devices and permits by regulation elimination of weights or measures deemed impractical or unnecessary to be tested. Liquid measures remain as in present law. Introduced at request of the department.

Brucellosis Bang's control (HB 383) — Legislation for the state to take over brucellosis testing to facilitate a cleanup program in the next two years while increased federal money is available. Carries a \$381,856 appropriation request for the two years ending June 30, 1959. Introduced at request of Oregon Cattlemen's Association and Oregon Wool Growers.

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