

Dry Spell Means Problems In Fall Planting for Farmers

By DAN WYANT
Register-Guard Staff Writer

Lane County's farmers are doing a lot of talking about the weather these days—even more than usual.

That's because the current prolonged dry spell poses a big question in connection with fall planting. Should farmers wait for rains before seeding their fall pastures and other crops? Or should they seed now and hope for the best?

County Agents O. S. Fletcher and W. B. Parker, and Fred Knox, president of the Lane Agricultural Council, came up with some advice this week — with the reservation that whatever course is taken, there's a risk in-

involved. But when wasn't farming a gamble with the weather?

URGES SEED PLANTING

Wherever possible, the three men suggest that seed be planted now so it will be ready to germinate as soon as the rains start. When the rains come, they point out, the ground is likely to be wet 'til next spring.

Fletcher recalled a season a few years back when rains started Oct. 9 and just kept on in typical Oregon fashion all through the rest of the year.

"That put an end to planting that fall," he observed.

The advice to plant right now is especially true for fall grains such as oats and wheat which do not require a firm seedbed. Of course, the county might get just enough rain to sprout the seeds and then receive another long spell of dry weather. Then the crops would dry up. That's the risk.

Farmers who have been waiting for rains before seeding pasture this fall face a special problem. The fine seeds used in pasture planting need a firm seedbed, just as a lawn does. In many cases the soil is dusty dry right now and requires moisture before it can be firmed down. Unless rain comes soon, it will be too late to plant these pastures, Parker noted. This holds particularly true in connection with irrigated pastures where slow-starting ladino clover in one of the principal plants.

Some farmers were able to get their new pastures seeded following the rainfall which the county received early in September. In most cases these pastures have sprouted and are doing all right. But if the dry spell continues, they will probably shrivel up unless irrigation is available.

The dry weather has brought some benefits, however. It's been a big help to farmers with late-maturing crops. Fruits and vegetables for the cannery, such as corn, beets and pears, have been harvested without a hitch, thanks to clear weather.

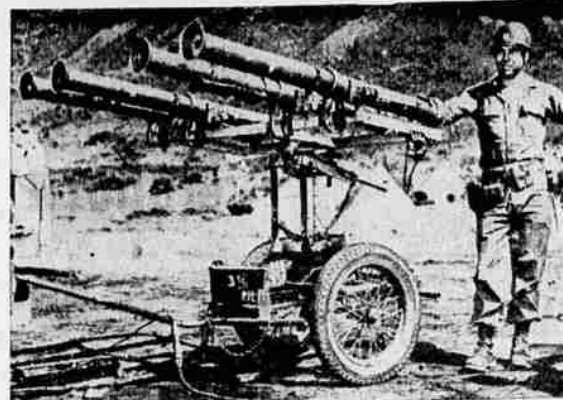
NUT GROWERS HAPPY

Filbert growers are also happy with the sunny, dry days we've been having. The nuts are falling, while most of the leaves remain on the trees. This, combined with a lack of mud, speeds up the tedious job of picking the nuts from the ground.

The lack of rain has also been helpful to growers of various clover seeds which mature late. Wet weather sometimes ruins these crops.

Non-irrigated pastures have naturally suffered from the lack of rain and won't turn green again these pastures won't develop much until moisture falls. It's likely that growth when the rain does come because cold weather will probably follow soon.

Likewise, maximum benefits can not be expected from fertilizer which has been applied to pastures this fall if lack of rain continues to curtail growth.



DEADLY "LOUDSPEAKERS" — Latest thing in "secret weapons" in Korea is this quadruple rocket-launcher, devised by Capt. Albert J. Barron, shown standing beside it. The highly mobile weapon gives an added punch to his Army unit. (NEA)

Defense School Report Given

Lane County's civil defense committee Thursday night heard a report on the last session of the Western Civil Defense Training School at St. Mary's College from Robert Holland who attended the meet.

Holland, who is a battalion chief in the Eugene Fire Department, was sent to the school by the committee to study disaster fire fighting methods.

PROVIDES INSTRUCTORS

He said the purpose of the school was to "teach and create instructors for the various phases of fire-fighting for civil defense." The school was attended by firemen from as far away as Hawaii, Holland said.

The school offered demonstrations and lecture on such topics as heat blast and radiation effects on humans; war-time emergency water supplies; high explosives and atomic energy and a demonstration of a theoretical A-bomb strike on a metropolitan area.

Holland said after the meeting, that persons responsible for Lane County's disaster fire-fighting preparations are "doing a grand job" but he declined to say that the county is "ready" for bombing fires. He did praise the mutual aid program by which communities pool equipment to fight serious fires. This program would automatically come under civil defense in an emergency, he said.

NEEDS MORE HOSE

As for immediate needs, he said the county ought to be supplied with an additional 1,000 feet of 4½-inch hose for emergency use should regular water mains be knocked out. The county now has 1,000 feet of the hose, he said.

Missiles Now Mass-Made

SEATTLE (AP)—President Truman has announced that guided missiles are now in assembly-line production.

The President made the statement at Eagles' Auditorium here in one of the major speeches of his whistle-stop tour in behalf of Democratic presidential candidate Gov. Adlai Stevenson.

"Guided missiles are now in assembly-line production," he said, "and despite many technical difficulties will soon be in the hands of tactical units."

The President approached the guided missiles statement by stating America was much stronger now than it was before the Korean war.

INSURANCE POLICY FOR TV ACTRESS

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—Producers of the television show "Doc Coker" obtained an insurance policy Friday which covers almost anything that can happen to a young actress.

The policy on Connie Marshall, who portrays a 16-year-old girl on the program, insures the producers against her getting married, maturing too quickly, outgrowing the role, gaining more than 7½ pounds, having a change in voice or suffering any physical impediments for four years.

Two-Gun Gal To Fight Reds

TAIPEH, Formosa (AP)—Two-gun Wang, Chinese woman guerrilla of World War II fame, has left Formosa to lead guerrillas against the Chinese Reds.

The Nationalist defense ministry said the 45-year-old Wang Pa-Mei has arrived at an island base off the Chekiang coast on her way to Red China.

She was nicknamed Two-Gun for her ability to handle a gun expertly with either hand.

The Defense Ministry said she will command guerrillas she once led against the Japanese. The widow of a pirate chieftain, she took command of his forces and later won a pardon for piracy by fighting the Japanese.

Army to Stage Study Sessions

Civic groups and other interested civilians are being invited to a series of instructional and demonstration sessions to be staged in Eugene by Sixth Army Headquarters officers specialists through the next three months.

The meetings will be at the Organized Reserve Corps headquarters, 1450 W. 12th Ave. at 8 p.m. on Oct. 20, Nov. 13 and Dec. 4.

In the order of their scheduling, the sessions will deal with: tactical applications of helicopter and atomic tests; developments in ordnance materiel; and, engineer techniques and equipment.

Late last month, Sixth Army demonstrators held a meeting here dealing with quartermaster supply problems.

TREE TROUBLE

BALTIMORE (AP)—The fire department was called out Thursday to uproot a tree growing on the spire of the First Presbyterian Church. It was feared the roots would expand and break off a chunk of the masonry. The sapling, apparently developed from a seed carried up to the church spire by a pigeon.

Chehalis Fluoridation Fight First Court Test for Chemical

CHEHALIS (AP)—A person would have to drink 400 gallons of fluorine-treated water at a single sitting to suffer any toxic effects, City Atty. Lee Campbell told a Lewis County Superior Court hearing last week.

Campbell said the case, brought by a public accountant to prevent the city from treating its water, was the first of its kind in the nation. The accountant, Arthur Kaul, said he was seeking a permanent injunction on behalf of a number of taxpayers.

Kaul had argued that fluoridation constituted mass medication and there was no proof the fluoride would not be harmful to older people.

Campbell based his defense on depositions obtained from national authorities. He argued that 800 communities in the nation have fluorine naturally in their water

and that 472 are adding it artificially. He said the fluorine was not a medicine, but that the treatment was similar to adding iodine to salt.

The city had installed fluoridation equipment and was ready to start treating the water when halted by the court case.

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