

PROPER HANDLING OF SUMMER FALLOW HAS VITAL EFFECT ON WHEAT YIELD

Assistant State Leader Reviews Work of County Agents Who Seek to Make Farming More Profitable for the Producer.

(F. L. Ballard, Assistant State Leader of County Agents.)

Every week after April 15 summer fallow is left unplowed in the Columbia Basin reduces the yield of the following crop an average of one bushel per acre for every week of delay. This fact has been determined beyond question by tests covering a period of nearly ten years carried on by the Shepman county branch experiment station at Moro and applies to more than a million acres in the state.

Federation wheat, a new variety introduced from Australia and increased in spring, is proving the best yielding spring wheat under many typical conditions through Eastern and Central Oregon.

Sheets can be furnished at half the cost per pound of gain by the use of ensilage in the ration. This fact has been determined by the Union branch experiment station in Union county.

There are between 75,000 and 100,000 acres of alfalfa land in Oregon on which the yield can be appreciably increased by sowing Grimm, a hardy variety, in place of common alfalfa or Puerbian strains.

There are more than 100,000 acres of alfalfa, the yield of which can be increased a ton per acre per year for four years by the application of 80 to 100 pounds of sulphur, costing when applied approximately \$3. Between 20,000 and 30,000 acres are now thus treated.

In some counties there are but a few hundred acres of clean wheat. Mixtures reduce the price received by the growers. It is comparatively simple to raise pure strain wheat by sowing seed which is clean. Fields may easily be certified. Thus providing sources of pure seed within every community in every county.

Does it pay to chop alfalfa hay for steers in Eastern Oregon?

Does it pay to build shelter for wintering lambs in Eastern Oregon?

Does it pay to harrow fall wheat in the spring?

Does it pay to grow green crops to plow under on the irrigated soils of Eastern Oregon's irrigated districts?

Definite conclusions on these questions also have been reached on the different branch experiment stations in Eastern Oregon.

Many other experiment stations and, in addition, the United States department of agriculture, have worked out matters of equal value to the farmer and to connect the farmers on the individual farms in the scattered communities of the different states with these facts, is the task of the extension service. The extension service in Oregon, as in most states, centers around the work of county agricultural agents. There are twenty-six county agents in Oregon, eleven of them located east of the Cascade mountains, working on generally sim-

ilar programs. There are also seven extension specialists at the Oregon agricultural college to assist county agents and in some counties there are home demonstration agents and county club leaders also.

The methods used by extension agents in bringing facts before the farmers have developed a unique educational plan unlike anything heretofore instituted. It centers around actual demonstrations in the fields, in the feed lots, and in some cases, in the barns of the individual farmer. These demonstrations serve the entire community, as attention is attracted to them by means of field meetings and publicity. Every county in Eastern Oregon carrying on extension work is mapped into definite communities by the county agents and in each of these communities demonstration work suitable to the particular community has been arranged in cooperation with leading farmers.

While the Eastern Oregon extension program is just now becoming definitely outlined, far reaching results in the different counties have already been obtained. For instance, in Morrow county in 1919, it was possible to find but 200 acres of wheat sufficiently clean to certify for seed purposes. Dealers there said the county was losing approximately \$30,000 per year in discounts because of mixed wheats. The 200 acres of clean seed were used as a practical demonstration. Seed from those fields was distributed over the county through the influence of the county agent. As a result, this year 12,877 acres were inspected and pronounced clean enough for state certification.

A dozen field demonstrations of the effect of sulphur on alfalfa resulted in the application of twenty carloads of sulphur to alfalfa in Deschutes county and nearly as much in Klamath county. One hundred pounds of sulphur increases the alfalfa yield in those counties a ton per acre for four years and its application is, therefore, an economical practice.

Field demonstrations of Hybrid 128 wheat in Union county have so definitely proven its superiority that four or five carloads of seed is being obtained this season. Illustrations in Umatilla county are the work with Jenkins Club wheat by County Agent Dennison, the certification of potato seed on Weston Mountain and demonstrations of the value of sunflower silage as feed for range sheep.

In every county there are similar results along some particular lines which might be narrated. The field demonstrations attracting as they do neighborhood attention and often because of field meetings extending farther in their influence, are the most potent method of spreading information used by county agents. The second method used is extensive publicity in the county press, in the farm

press and also in the Farm Bureau News. Results of the demonstration work and news notes of special bearing on the county agent's program are given wide distribution in this manner. Community meetings are held in every community several times during the year and on these occasions lectures by county agents and extension specialists are frequently features.

Here is a county agent's typical program:

1. Wheat variety trials in twenty communities.
2. Demonstrations of the value of early plowing of summer fallow, five communities.
3. Certification of seed potatoes, two communities.
4. Silage feeding demonstrations, five communities.
5. Silage feeding demonstrations, corn vs. sunflowers vs. peas and barley, four communities.
6. Orchard practices, i. e., pruning, spraying cover crops, three communities. Assistance in this work is obtained from the extension specialist in horticulture from the college.
7. County wide cooperation campaigns against ground squirrels and rabbits.

Such a program of demonstration work based on the results of years of experimental effort in Oregon and other states does not fail to bring important practices into general use. Many counties in eastern Oregon can trace several wide-spread practices of today back to a similar demonstration program. For instance, before extension work was established in Union county, there was not a single silo at this time there are approximately 160. There were three in Willamette county, now there are more than 70. Up to a short time ago there was not a silo in any livestock county in Eastern Oregon that had not carried on cooperative extension work.

MILLIONAIRE COLLECTS FARES ON STREET CAR

PASADENA (T. N. S.)—If you had a million dollars and could have a yacht, automobiles, two or three homes and lots of servants to wait on you would you spend your days as a street car conductor? Take Ed Kohler for instance. He inherited about a million "bucks" when an uncle died in New York two years ago. So Ed began to clip coupons as a profitable pastime. But he varies that delightful diversion by taking fares on the Pasadena Shortline of the Pacific Electric System like any

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AGENTS

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everyday conductor. When Kohler inherited his fortune he took a three months' leave of absence to settle up his uncle's estate and then returned to his old job as conductor, much to the surprise of his associates and the superintendent. "I thought I'd rather work for the

company that buy it," he explained. Refuses to Retire Kohler tells a story that when he went to pay his income taxes, which incidentally ran well into five figures, the revenue collector glanced over the report and then asked if he should write "retired" under the column

designating occupation. "No, just put it down street car conductor," Kohler told him. The collector nearly dropped. Asked why he was still working, why he didn't "take it easy" or else take a jaunt around the world, Kohler replied to the interviewer that he

finds the study of human nature as disclosed to him in his daily routine too interesting and too fascinating to forego. Just a word more. For the benefit of winsome widows and the rest of the girls, Kohler was married two months ago.

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