

Soil Productivity and Conservation Stressed

By CLAUDE STEUSLOFF

Use of commercial fertilizers on Marion county farms has greatly increased crop yields and profits but must be accompanied by field practices which maintain soil organic matter, Tom Jackson, soil fertility specialist at Oregon State college, told 100 farmers at the Marion county farm crops meeting in Woodburn on Saturday.

"Since most commercial fertilizers gradually increase soil acidity, lime must be applied periodically to maintain favorable soil conditions for growth of legumes," Jackson said.

But by greatly increasing growth of green manures and cover crops, commercial fertilizers are an important link in modern farm cropping which constantly improves soil capacity and makes ever increasing yields possible, he said.

March and April are favorable months for application of nitrogen to cereal crops, according to Jackson. Generally about four pounds per acre of actual nitrogen is needed for each 100 pounds of grain yield the farmer plans above the average grain yield of the field to be fertilized. At present prices this will run about 35 to 40 cents per bushel for wheat.

Word of Caution

Jackson cautioned against application of fertilizer, particularly nitrogen, in contact with cereal seeds or plant roots. Best results come from band deposits below and to one side of the plant or seed. Too much nitrogen can be injurious, particularly where moisture is lacking.

Anhydrous ammonia is to be available to Willamette valley farmers during the coming growing season. Jackson said this is an excellent source of nitrogen but since it is a gas it must be applied properly or undue loss will occur. In cultivated land it must be injected at least 6 inches below the surface. It is not recommended for sprinkler irrigation but can be used in flood systems.

"Corn will give more profit to farmers of the Willamette valley than any other grain and local demand is almost unlimited," said R. E. Fore, Oregon State college farm crops professor. Each year nearly four million bushels are shipped in to Oregon for use in poultry rations. Current corn prices at Kansas City are about \$1.54 per bushel, Portland quotations being \$2.10.

Fore reported that 30 Marion and Clackamas county farms entered in the 1952 Oregon State corn yield contest produced corn for an average cost of 85 cents per bushel, average yields a per acre being 72.3 bushels. He pointed out that net profit per acre of these farms averaged \$115.

Grain Corn Recommended

Hybrid Oregon 355 is recommended for grain corn planting on Marion county farms in the valley floor. For hilly sections and silage corn production hybrid Oregon 525 give better results.

On non-irrigated lands Fore suggested use of about 80 pounds per acre of actual nitrogen. An abundant boost of phosphate fertilizer also hastens maturity of corn. Too much nitrogen may cause burning of the plants where insufficient moisture is available but with irrigation unlimited amounts can be applied.

Fore said that under Western Oregon conditions a corn ear weighing about 1/2 pound gives highest yield per acre.

He noted that farmers could increase yields by planting more plants per acre where fertility and moisture is abundant. On non-irrigated lands he suggested 11,000 plants per acre, with irrigation 16-20,000 plants.

Talent alfalfa is showing great promise on the Mission bottom farm of Jack Chapin. It was brought out on the alfalfa forum participated in by Chapin, Mike Bronco of Hubbard and George Elliot, Aurora. Talent gives excellent early spring growth and seems rather resistant to grass invasion but Ranger variety gives indication of making better late summer growth.

Chapin planted his alfalfa with a cereal nurse crop and used up to 800 pounds of super phosphate per acre. Elliot got an unusually clean stand of alfalfa by working his ground frequently during the spring and early summer to conserve moisture and then planting in July.

Aumville Man Draws Wash. Farm Priority

Quincy, Wash. (AP) — Two Oregonians were among 11 applicants whose names were drawn for highest priority on the purchase of 11 government-owned farms south of here in the Columbia river basin.

Omer Robert, Jr., of Aumville, Ore., was fourth in the preference drawing and Nathan Haines of Central Point was tenth.

INDIANS GREET SPRING

Warm Springs, Ore. (AP) — The root festival, an ancient rite of thanksgiving for spring, was observed here Sunday by the Warm Springs Indians. Chief Alex Towhead led the 500 Indians in the ceremony which was attended by Indians from the Yakima and Columbia tribes.

Top Prize to Mrs. Kjelmmyr

A 21-inch combination television, radio and phonograph, top prize in the Saturday night drawing of the Salem Downtown Merchants' association, was won by Mrs. Robert Kjelmmyr, 2475 Ferry street.

The lucky tickets were pulled from a cement mixer drum on the portable platform on High street west of Courthouse square by Chief of Police Clyde A. Warren, starting at 5:30 Saturday evening, and similar drawings for prizes will occur next Saturday and the following Saturday, and on the latter date the grand prize of all, a 1953 Packard sedan, will be given away.

Free tickets are available to purchasers at some 200 downtown places of business during the next two weeks.

Master of ceremonies at the Saturday night event was Bill Ross of KSLM. Other prize winners were:

John A. Dyke, 3750 Hulsey avenue, wheelbarrow; Hilda Martin, Stayton, power lawn mower; Marc Jennings, 1965 North Front, steam iron; Frank P. Doerfler, 1400 George street, Woodburn, pen and pencil set; J. L. Campbell, 525 North 19th, pen and pencil set; Mrs. Gwen Hill, 1865 North Capitol, electric shaver; H. W. Eckerman, 3325 Rawlins St., automatic percolator; Myra Friesen, 119 Ash street, Dallas, electric shaver; Del Aleshire, 335 Rich-

Douglas Fir Region Paying High Wages

Portland (AP) — Hillman Lueddemann, president of the West Coast Lumbermen's association, told delegates to the group's annual convention here that wages in the Douglas fir region are the highest in the U. S. lumber industry.

"The average hourly earnings exceed those in steel and aluminum, two active competitors. Moreover, they are about 31 per cent higher than British Columbia wages and about 19 per cent higher in sawmill wages," he said.

Frederic A. Delano Dies in Washington

Washington (AP) — Frederic Allen Delano, who was president of three railroads, an Army colonel in World War I, a League of Nations fighter against the opium trade and holder of federal office under four presidents, died Saturday at the age of 89.

He was an uncle of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and served in his administrations as chairman of the National Resources Planning Commission for 10 years.

Cuba became an independent nation May 20, 1902.

108 Basin Farms for Sale to War Veterans

Washington (AP) — Secretary of the Interior McKay announced Sunday that 108 family-size farms on the Columbia Basin irrigation project in Central Washington are being offered for sale to veterans.

Veterans of service between Sept. 15, 1940 and July 3, 1952 will have priority.

The demand for the farms is expected to exceed the number available so priority of selection from among the qualified applicants will be determined by a lot at a public drawing in Pasco, Wash., probably in June. Some 10,000 applications have been submitted.

Additional applications will be accepted at the Reclamation Bureau's office at Ephrata, Wash., beginning Monday for a period of 45 days. To be eligible, applicants must have two full years of farming experience after 15 years of age and must have \$4,500 for development of the units.

The farms vary in size from

38 to 107 acres and the prices range from \$728.80 to \$17,874.70. The highest price is for a unit with full set of farm buildings already built. All but six of the units have been dry-farmed previously.

The farms, 130 miles southwest of Spokane, are to receive irrigation water beginning in 1954.

The sale will be the last for this year on the project, with further sales in subsequent years normally a year before water is made available to the land.

Prior to Sunday's announcement, some 200 farms on the project have been sold by the Reclamation Bureau.

Purchasers may pay 20 per cent down for the land and the remainder in 20 years.

Ultimately the Columbia Basin project is planned to irrigate 1,029,000 acres making up 14,000 irrigated farms, but McKay said most of the farms are already in private ownership.

bushels for 12 years.

Zimmerman is the recommended spring wheat variety. Marquis and Huston are other good yielding spring varieties.

Trials bring out the distinct advantage of fall planting for barley, wheat and oats in this area. Fall sown wheat averaged 38 bushels per acre while spring sown went just half that. Fall oats have been averaging 70 bushels, spring sown, 45 bushels. There is less difference with barley, fall sown at 43 bushels, spring sown, 31 bushels.

Robert Miller of Woodburn was chairman of the meeting. Hollis Ottaway, Marion county agent assisted in arrangements.

Pea Carry-over Heavy

Rex Warren, Oregon State college extension farm crops specialist, said there is a carry-over of 223 million pounds of Austrian field peas in the U. S. Oregon annually plants 10,000 acres to this crop, nearly one-fourth of the U. S. total.

Hannchen, a two-row spring matting barley was the only spring barley recommended for the Willamette valley by Wilson Foote, Oregon State college farm crops specialist.

Victory has been the highest yielding spring oat variety in the Oregon State college nursery on Hyslop farm since 1921. Its average yield per acre has been 48.3 bushels, while Kanota variety has averaged 35.5

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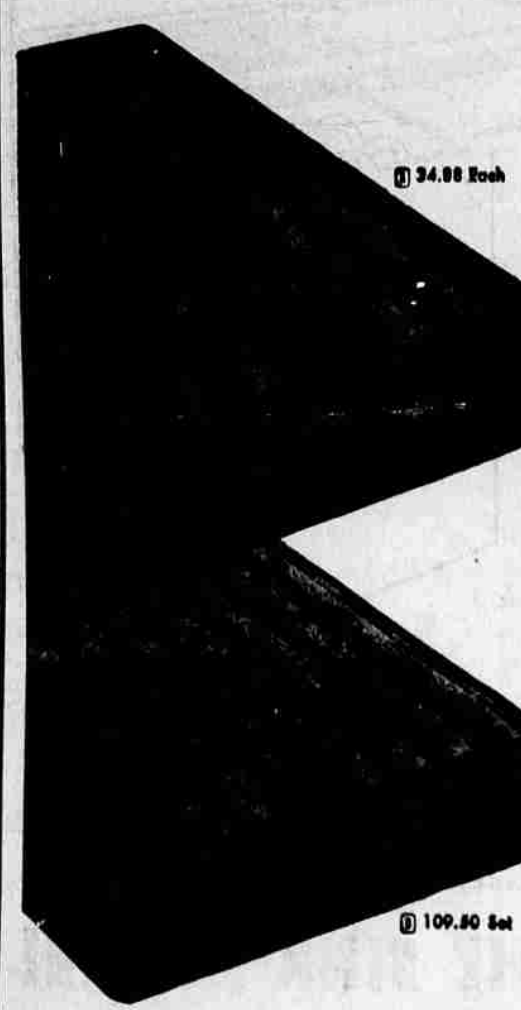
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