

Irrigation in County Doubles During Past Five Years

Progress Told At Mt. Angel District Meet

Marion Ground Water Supply Said Best In Valley

"Use of irrigation in Marion county has doubled in the last five years and it is just about the leading county irrigationwise in the state," Marvin Shearer, extension irrigation specialist at Oregon State college, told members of the Mt. Angel Soil Conservation district at their annual meeting this week.

Marion county had the first organized irrigation district in Oregon (West Stayton), it has the largest irrigation acreage of any county in the Willamette valley and has the best supply of ground water in the valley, Shearer pointed out.

Farmers will soon be asking how long they can maintain themselves in the valley without irrigation in Shearer's opinion.

Average to Increase
Acreage will increase as rapidly as farm economy will allow, finances will sooner or later force most growers to use water from irrigation, he added. Hopewell district farmers, 2 or 3 groups in Lane county and a 1,500-acre district in Linn county are now in process of development.

Shearer said ultimate shortage of water will bring on more careful use of irrigation practices. "It is necessary to keep our pepper-pine fields sopping wet as most growers feel necessary," he asked. O.S.C. surveys of 101 farms in the Willamette valley, 80 per cent of them growing pole beans, show the smallest water application was 4 1/2 inches and the highest 87 inches last year. Sweet corn water use varied from 1 inch to 27 inches.

Soil Plotting Equipped

Four years ago work was started with special soil plotting equipment in 20 counties of the state. Following recommendations timidly because his neighbors were doing the opposite, a Linn county farmer cut his water application on beans by one-half and grew 9 and 11 tons per acre in the last 2 years. By using water meters a group of Hood River farmers have saved 1 to 2 applications each year.

A statistical minded wife of a Jackson county fruit grower reads moisture meters and plots results in neighborhood farms. "She tells us when to irrigate—when we get her trained to move the pipes it will be just perfect," the farmer reported.

Saucy Severely Prunes His Cherry Orchard Processors to



Trees in 7 1/2 acre Lambert and Royal Anne orchard, 5650 Portland road, get a severe pruning, the trees for a more efficient spray program. The Pierre Saucy orchard is 27 years old and had a good record for heavy production.

Drastic Cherry Pruning Tried to Overcome Dead Bud

Efficient Spray Pruning Helped By Action

By BEN MAXWELL
Capital Journal Writer

Pierre Saucy who has completed a drastic pruning of his 7 1/2 acre cherry orchard at Royal Anne and Lambert varieties at 5650 Portland road had these objectives in mind:
First, Saucy hopes heavy pruning may stimulate a strong growth that will overcome to an extent the presence of dead bud in his orchard.
Secondly, he prunes to open his trees for a more efficient spray program. And associated with this is the thought that open trees will admit more sunlight and air flow to combat fungus and bacterial diseases such as brown rot, both

in the blossom and on the fruit.
Neither the experts nor Saucy know exactly what causes dead bud (fruit spurs lose their vitality, become malformed and finally die) but he associates the condition with older trees and particularly those that suffered from the severe freeze during November of 1955. Anyway many of the trees in his orchard are having their lower limbs, where dead bud is most severe, lopped off.
Trees in Saucy's cherry orchard are planted 35 feet each way and the 27 year old orchard is now said to be too close.

Horticultural authorities have suggested to Pierre that his orchard be thinned of trees to help overcome some of its problems. But taking out every other tree, however beneficial, would be too drastic from a financial viewpoint for a commercial orchard growing on expensive land. Instead, Saucy is doing what he considers to be

the next best thing: He is giving the orchard a severe pruning, the first it has had in four years.
Virus Blamed
Specialists in horticulture have come to associate a number of heretofore mysterious cherry tree afflictions with virus. Now they are obtaining bud and scion wood from old trees obviously free of any such disorders and index testing it for virus contamination. Such stock as passes the test is further propagated under carefully controlled conditions and disseminated among nurserymen for commercial propagation on vigorous, resistant understock. Better nursery stock available for planting is now considered virus free.
Experienced cherry growers often remark about old and isolated trees with plenty of room for root and top expansion as being particularly healthy and vigorous. Usually they do not regard themselves as qualified to discuss the laboratory aspects of virus. But they do have the thought that cherry trees with plenty of room for a vigorous life, good drainage, good soil and ample air circulation have the capacity to resist most known afflictions, including virus.

Dormant Spray Needed for Peach Curl Before Buds Swell

Rain, wind, and other unfavorable weather usually delay the dormant spray for peach leaf curl in local orchards, observes County Extension Agent D. L. Rasmussen.
However, as long as the spray is applied before the buds swell, it will protect against damage by peach leaf curl, one of the most serious fungus diseases of peaches in the Willamette valley.
Recommended sprays include Bordeaux, 12-12-100; Ferbam, 2 pounds in 100 gallons of water; or Puratized Agricultural Spray, 3 pints in 100 gallons of water. A spreader sticker, such as Triton B 1056 or DuPont Spreader Sticker should be used according to manufacturer's instructions. Another suitable sticker is 1 quart of spray oil emulsion in 100 gallons of spray.
For the backyard gardener, Puratized Agricultural Spray is effective at 1 tablespoon per gallon of water. Ferbam at 2 level teaspoons per gallon of water is equally effective. Dry milk powder at 2 level teaspoons to 2 gallons of spray makes a good sticker for small quantities of these sprays.
Experienced peach growers know that it is difficult to apply an effective peach leaf curl spray. They must be able to time their sprays to dry before rains wash them off or lower their effectiveness. Growers must be able to move equipment in the orchard without getting stuck. They must be prepared to stop spraying if winds make thorough coverage impossible. Finally, they must plan to discard any Bordeaux spray that cannot be used the same day it is mixed. Bordeaux is an unstable spray that will not remain effective for more than a few hours after mixing.

Fertilizer Use To Be Topic At OSC Meet

Proper use of commercial fertilizers will be stressed at this year's Western Oregon Fertilizer Dealers meeting, reports Tom Jackson, Oregon State college soils specialist. The meeting will be held January 17 on the OSC campus.
A new feature on the program this year will be a talk by Chet Lowe, First National Bank, Salem, on "Financing Farm Production Loans." Another speaker, F. Todd Tremblay of the Washington Cooperative Farmers association, Seattle, will tell "What's in the Fertilizer Bag" as he discusses the manufacture of fertilizer materials.
During the meeting, OSC soil scientists will report on fertilizer experiments being carried on by the agricultural experiment station. Fertilizer recommendations will be given for pastures, and for some small fruit crops. Boron recommendations for fruit trees will also be discussed.
There will also be a session on the Washington state fertilizer demonstration drive, and soil testing in Western Oregon.

Farmers Union at Spring Valley to Donate to Fund

Spring Valley Local of Farmers Union, decided, in a meeting this week, to donate \$50 to the Community Center Association when they begin work on the addition to their building.
The group also donated \$20 each to the state and national budget funds. This money is used to help farm legislation in Congress.
G. L. Hammond presided at the meeting which was held at the home of Mrs. B. B. Whittington. Mrs. McKinney and Mrs. Whittington reported on the recent farmers union meeting and Mrs. McKinney was appointed delegate to the State Farm Union convention Feb. 8, 9, 10 in Salem. G. L. Hammond and Mrs. Whittington will also attend.

West Oregon Health Meet Slated Jan. 29

Community health problems, their sources and solutions will be discussed at a regional health conference for Western Oregon counties January 29 in Coos Bay.
"Man, His Aids and His Abode" has been chosen as theme for the program sponsored by the Oregon State college extension service and the Oregon Rural Health Council.
Dr. John Waterman, social psychiatrist, Oregon State board of health, will speak on human problems, followed by a panel of church, professional, school, police, health and social workers. Mrs. Dean Brooks, Salem, a director of the Marion county tuberculosis and health committee will propose ways a community can study its problems.
Hospitals, health departments, the extension service, employment service, tuberculosis association and the juvenile court are among the health resources in a community that will be discussed in the afternoon session.
Discussions on improving "man's abode" through planning, education and legislation will include a talk by C. Eugene Fields, Coos county sanitarian. T. M. Gerow, district engineer from the state board of health, will tell of individual sewage and water problems and Victor Morgan, Lane county sanitarian, will speak on the need for county zoning and planning.
According to Mrs. John Devereux, Bandon, program chairman, the sessions will be built around how people can evaluate their resources, identify problems and then solve them. Mrs. Harland Montgomery, Coos Bay, is general chairman of the conference.
All sessions will be at the Marshfield high school auditorium in Coos Bay. The public is invited.

Farm Efficiency Progress Noted In Recent Years

Step by step, science is improving man's efficiency in farm production.
For example, says County Agent Ben A. Newell, it requires 23 per cent less feed to produce a quart of milk than it did 40 years ago; 23 per cent less feed to produce a dozen eggs; 29 per cent less feed to produce a pound of chicken; and 32 per cent less feed to make a pound of pork.
Also in the past 40 years the man-hours needed to grow an acre of wheat has dropped from 152 to 44, and a ton of hay required 10.3 hours of labor, compared to 4.6 hours today.

Merrill Tells of High Reputation of NW Processed Foods

Governor Holmes will address some 1,200 leaders of the food processing industry at their first annual convention at the Multnomah Hotel in Portland, Jan. 28 through 30.

This announcement was made by N. W. Merrill, president of the association, as he returned to Oregon from the National Frozen Food Convention in Florida.
Merrill commented on the reputation of the Northwest for quality leadership in the food processing industry. "It is abundantly clear," he said, "that the preference of America's consumers for Pacific Northwest canned and frozen fruits and vegetables is not an idle claim, but an established fact. With volume and competition for markets constantly increasing, we face the difficult task of maintaining that leadership through the years to come. At the forthcoming convention we shall demonstrate further development procedures which will enable us to continue to live up to our slogan, 'A Dependable Source of Supply from a Region Where Quality is a Tradition'."

The Northwest group is unique among food processor associations, having been formed from the merger of two long-standing predecessor associations. Last year the northwest canners and processors met separately and decided their mutual aims transcended their competitive positions. As a result, 60 member companies from Oregon, Washington and Idaho, now comprise the association.
Major speakers for the convention beside Governor Robert D. Holmes will be Milan D. Smith, executive assistant to the secretary of the U.S. Department of agriculture and Paul Benson, public relations director for the Green Giant Company. State and industry leaders of recognized authority will present the most recent developments in the science of agriculture and food processing.

Southern Slash Pine Plantation



This slash pine plantation in Minden, La., was 50 feet in height. The picture is an example of planted in 1941 six feet apart both ways. The trees every other row thinning. A woodland conservatist is shown looking at the planting.

Oregon May Soon Follow South's Lead in Growing Trees for Pulp

Insistent demand from numerous pulp mills in the Arkansas-Louisiana-Tennessee area has made tree farming more profitable than land farming, even with 90 per cent parity cotton, and predicted construction of 6 new pulp mills in the next few years in Oregon will bring similar results here in the opinion of Bill Sauerwein, Linn county forester with the Soil Conservation Service.

"I never saw so much interest in tree growing in my life, it is infectious," said Sauerwein in discussing the S.C.S. woodland workshop recently held in the southern gulf states. Bankers, farmers, professional men and business men all go out to their tree plantations and trim trees in their spare time.
Nearly All Pine
The tree farms range from 5 to 500 acres in size, 160 acres is about average according to the forester. Nearly all are pine trees with a few hardwoods. Older plantings were made at 6 x 8 spacing but 8 x 8 is more common now.
During the first 25 years, pine trees in that area grow faster than do Douglas firs in Oregon but in the second quarter century the reverse is true, Sauerwein noted. "If properly spaced, Douglas fir could be grown more rapidly here for pulp wood and eight foot stud logs," he said. Many of our natural seedings are too dense for rapid early growth.
Pulp wood trees are being thinned as early as 15 years after planting in the Gulf states. At that time they are 6-8 inches in diameter at "breast height." It is customary to thin 1-2 cords of wood per acre. Present stumpage price for pulp wood is about \$5 per cord, if the owner delivers to the mill he gets \$12 per cord, cut in 5 foot lengths.
Southern gulf tree farm soil types are silt clay loams somewhat similar to our hill types. Terrain is rolling, somewhat like that of Howell Prairie. Annual rainfall of about 50 inches often comes in heavy storms. Due to erosion, farmers of that district do not like to crop lands with more than nine per cent slope and many of the tree farms are on poor land formerly in cotton-corn crop lands. Sauerwein said land values are somewhat lower than ours.
Mechanical girdling devices are

used to kill low grade hardwood trees so that pines may develop more rapidly. Sauerwein feels this could well be done here on dissected, rotten or ill-shaped oak, alder and maple trees.

Arkansas Example
Statistics prove the importance of tree farming in Columbia county, Arkansas, which is about as large as Polk county. Between 1941 and 1948 there were 1,600,000 trees planted in that county. In 1949 planting was 2,632,000 trees, the 1953 planting was 791,000. To date more than 10 million plants have gone into the ground. During 1955, land owners thinned 15,000 acres, improved by trimming 17,800 acres and removed crop trees on 15,200 acres. In Columbia county 1950 owners have 491,500 acres devoted to trees.
Tree farm provisions of the soil bank, proposed changes in the state reforestation act to lessen the tax load and the predicted pulp mills should make prospects bright for future tree farmers according to Oregon State college extension foresters.
Timber growth in western Oregon often adds \$30 to \$50 per acre per year here. By doing his own harvesting the land owner can realize 78 to 80 per cent of the gross take.

Oak Prospects
Tan oak, formerly counted a weed tree, may come into its own as stands of southern hardwoods are depleted. There are an estimated 1.7 billion board feet of this variety in southwestern Oregon which will make merchantable floorings and if treated is good for ship decking according to Gary Sander, O.S.C. extension forester. Application of commercial fertilizer has long been used in European tree farms. Soil deficiencies shown by checked growth, poor foliage color, short needles and premature needle drop have been corrected in New York state by aerial use of 200 pounds of material costing \$9 to \$13 per acre.
Experiments with Douglas firs have shown that nitrogen fertilization, by hastening mortality of intermediate trees, may partly eliminate the need for thinning and also stimulate the crop trees.

Rise Noted in Those Needed For Marketing

Fewer Persons Needed In Agricultural Production

While the number of workers required in agricultural production has been going down, marketing workers have increased, according to county agents reports.
Latest figures show that marketing workers have increased from three and a half million to over five million since 1929.

Retailing engages some 60 per cent of this number, food processing about 25 per cent and the other 15 per cent are employed in local assembly, wholesaling and transportation of foods.

Increased volume of products and output per worker have gone along with the gain in numbers. A 50 per cent increase in workers now handles a 63 per cent larger volume of food products than in 1929. Recent years have also seen a shift to food preparation in processing plants rather than the home kitchen, and to additional service operations once performed by the user.

Farm Calendar

- January 22-24 Annual 4-H club leader and agent conference, OSC, Multnomah Hotel, Portland.
- February 2 Oregon Swine Growers Breed Gill Sale, State Fairgrounds, Salem, noon.
- 5-6 Short course for nurserymen, landscape gardeners, florists, bulb and holly growers, on OSC campus.
- 7-9 State Farmer Union annual convention, Veterans of Foreign War Hall, Salem.
- 8 ARS-OSC Soil and Water conservation research program review conference, OSC, M.U., 206.
- 11-13 First Annual Oregon Seed Processors short course, OSC.
- 11-14 Oregon Dairy Industries 46th annual conference, OSC.
- 15-16 Oregon Cattlemen Assn. Annual range bull sale, Ontario.
- 19-20 Oregon Wheat Industry Conference, Multnomah Hotel, Portland.
- 20-21 Eighth Annual Northwest Perishable Loss Prevention short course, courthouse, Medford, 8:30 a.m.
- May 6-8 Oregon Cattleman's annual convention, Englewood, Salem.
- 17-18 Annual Oregon Home Ec. Assn. meeting, Marion Hotel, Salem.
- June 24-26 Western Society of Crops Science annual meeting, OSC.
- 26-28 Eighth Annual Fertilizer conference of Pacific N.W., Benson Hotel, Portland.
- 26-28 Pacific Branch, Entomological Society of America, Multnomah Hotel, Portland.
- 31 MILLION PAID FARMERS PORTLAND — Oregon farmers have received \$4,158,000 from the federal government for participating in the 1957 soil bank program, state agricultural stabilization chairman Robert Lister said Monday.

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Smut Decrease Seen in Wheat

A slight downturn in the amount of smut found in wheat grown in the Pacific Northwest was reported at the annual Pacific Northwest Smut Control committee meeting in Portland Thursday.
Inspection of 22,282 lots of farmer-owned wheat in Oregon, Washington, and northern Idaho in 1956 showed 30.3 percent of the hard red winter and white wheat varieties graded smutty — a decrease of 3.8 percent under the year before.
Some of the smutty wheat lots carried larger amounts of smut than the year before, however. Over one-half of one percent smut was found in 15 percent of the lots of wheat inspected in 1956. In 1955, just 13.8 percent of the inspections uncovered wheat carrying this amount of smut dockage.