

# Perusing the journals of past Extension Service agents

Here's a look back at Grant County's rich agricultural history from the journal pages of past OSU Extension Service agents:

## Dec. 1, 1927 - Dec. 1, 1928

• Communities Served: Prairie City, John Day, Mount Vernon, Canyon City, Dayville, Bear Valley, Izee, Monument, Silvies, Fox Valley, Long Creek, Hamilton, Cottonwood, Ritter, Galena, Kimberly, Top and Court Rock.

• There was a change of agents during the period of this report, D.E. Richards having served the county from December 1, 1927 to September 15, 1928, with R.G. Johnson, Jr. filling out

the year during the months of October and November.

• Grant County is essentially a range livestock county. In number of beef battle it ranks fifth among the various counties of the state with 29,195 head. In number of sheep the county ranks ninth, having 99,870 head. These two sources provide more than 75% of the county's agricultural income.

• There are 591 ranchers and stockmen in the county and the total agricultural wealth, including livestock buildings and equipment, according to the census, is \$10,173,692.

• "On the evening of November 24, a call was received that yearlings were dying from Blackleg at Izee, a

distance of 54 miles. By 9:30 a.m. of November 25, 95 head had been vaccinated by the County Agent. This rancher will now vaccinate on time. Delay cost him \$210.00."

• One livestock club, a pig club, was organized and completed its work at Prairie City. The club had ten members including Phillip W. Kuhl, Jr., Gilbert Olp, Paul Olp, Robert Hall and Roland Bradford. Mrs. Echo Kuhl was leader.

## December 1, 1932 - Dec. 1, 1933

• The major project on the program is forage improvement. It is vital to the livestock man. If he can see a ton more hay, he can see more money to be made. If he has not the feed, the stock had better be dead.

• Alfalfa stands are not holding out in the John Day Valley in most places. Many ranches, which originally yielded well, have quit. This brings to mind the fact that perhaps there are some soil deficiencies.

• With the large percentage of range land in comparison to tillable land - and that tillable lands laying in long, narrow strips - there is a very definite need for some control of rodents and pests. A very active, continued control is necessary, and this project should never be lost sight of.

• Besides the above named larger issues, the County Agent's office has been kept rather busy diagnosing and trying to diagnose other troubles. County Agent is not a Veterinarian - having had only two years of the work - but in many cases we are able to run down troubles or get help from the outside to diagnose it.

• At the present time, activities of the County Agent of Grant County include the following:



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Grasshoppers threatened a large acreage of range land. This shows a CCC crew spreading poison bait in July, 1938.



Contributed/OSU Extension

Ladak Alfalfa in Bear Valley, 4,800 ft. elevation with frost almost every night. (1933)

- Regular County Agent Work
- Secretary of the Grant County Chapter of American Red Cross
- Member of the County Relief Committee
- Secretary of the Grant County Stockgrowers' Association
- Chairman of the Agricultural

Committees of Pomona Grange

• In charge of agricultural exhibits at the Grant County Fair

• Judge at the Prairie City Round Up

• Member of the '62 Association

• Member of John Day Chamber of Commerce

• Member of Farm Mortgage Adjustment Committee

## Dec. 1, 1937 - Nov. 30, 1938

• As tabulated by the Oregon State Agricultural College Extension Service, 1926 to 1930 farm income for Grant County was \$2,360,000. Of this amount, 86.5% was from animal products and 13.5% represented crop products, and these sold practically all within the county.

• The 1935 USDA census showed the livestock population in the county as 46,048 head of cattle and 118,870 head of sheep on 710 farms.

• The demand for services of the County Agent continued during the year with a total of 3,221 calls received; 1,635 letters written; and 403 farm calls made.

• Further trials of Victory oats were established on the Guttridge ranch, Prairie City, 15 acres; Oliver Brothers, John Day, 6 acres; and Homer Barry ranch, John Day, 1 acre. Comparison of yields with Swedish Select and Markton oats under irrigated conditions showed that Victory oats out-yielded the other two varieties.

• Some improvement of meadows and a considerable increase in the acreage of forage crops occurred in 1938. This increase in acreage followed closely recommendations of the County Agent office for seeding of Ladak alfalfa for dry land; smooth brome grass in meadow mixtures; and crested wheat grass on dry, idle crop land to control soil erosion.

## December 1, 1942 - November 30, 1943

• In cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service assist producers with their problems of predatory animal and rodent control.

• Familiarize farmers with county production goals and the need for increased production in the war effort.

• Develop a county victory garden program in cooperation with County USDA War Board, Defense Council, Nutrition Council and Granges.

• The following outline indicates the progress of the victory garden project in Grant County:

• Number of farm families in the county, 580.

• Estimated number of farm families growing gardens in 1943, 500.

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The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs has a long tradition of natural resource stewardship. The John Day River basin is within the Tribes ceded lands and supporting sustainable agriculture and watershed restoration efforts are an important part of maintaining cultural foods and fish populations.

The Tribes want to recognize the value of local agriculture, and the landowners that work to build and maintain the lands and communities that we live in.

John Day Basin Office • 320 W. Main Street • John Day • (541) 575-1866 ext.11