

Sherman County Journal

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TILLAGE METHODS DETERMINE YIELD

Plowing May Be Partially Superseded By Double Disking

BURNING STRAW UNPROFITABLE

Best Methods Bring Best Results Over Long Period

With stories being told every day about the production methods of competing countries in wheat raising the wheat farmer is more than ordinarily interested in whatever means he may make use of in lowering his cost of producing a bushel of this grain.

The experiment station here in Moro has been conducting tests along that same line for years and has figures to show the average productions under various means of treating land. These figures do not represent a theory about tillage; they are actual production figures and the experiment has been carried on for 18 years through good years and bad, wet years and dry.

Land that has been disked twice and sown to winter wheat has made an average yield of 19.5 bushels of winter wheat while land along side of it that has been plowed in the manner approved by custom has returned a 18.7 bushel average in the same time. This year the yields were 13.3 on the disked land and 12.1 on the plowed plots.

The land disked is worked once in early spring and again about month or six weeks later, after which it is cultivated in exactly the same manner as is the plowed land adjoining. On larger fields it would be possible to cross disc the land, but it is not done on the small station plots.

For spring wheat the average yield is 18.1 for disked fallow and 19.5 for plowed fallow. This year the plots made 17.2 for the disked and 17.4 for the plowed showing that for spring wheat plowed summerfallow is a little the better.

One of the ways in which the experiment station has been able to help farmers in their ambition for better wheat yields has been in showing the advantage of early plowing of summerfallow. This recommendation has been generally followed and plowing is now done much earlier than was the custom several years ago.

A few figures show the advantage gained thereby. Early plowing has brought an average return of 27.9 bushels per acre; medium early plowing 26.3 and late plowing 22.5. This year varied a little from the normal as the medium early plowing made a little more wheat than did the early.

Old Time News Reprinted For Old Time Readers

From the Observer of August 30th, 1912.

Hi Donley, the veteran engineer on our little Short Line Ry., has returned to the throttle after a 30 days outing.

We are informed that farmers will have a new warehouse at Millers station west of Biggs in time to handle this seasons crop.

Returning Monday evening from his regular wheat buying trip to the Kent vicinity, W. H. Moore got under cover just before the rain; he reports that there is considerable wheat in the stack yet to be threshed in the Bourbon and Kent districts.

Josh H. Elliott killed one of the pioneer rattle snakes of the county at his farm east of Monkland last week; it measured over three feet in length, carried ten rattles and was as large in circumference as the stoutest fork handle. It had the house cat charmed and was rattling to beat the band when Mr. Elliott aimed a blow with a formidable club that dispatched his snakeship and brought the cat to a realization of the situation with a sudden leap of about fourteen feet in the air.

From the Observer of August 29th, 1902.

Gasoline 27 cents per gallon at The Leader. (We wonder what for.)

The stories about mountain trout, soda water and cool shade as well as those about crabs, rock oysters and shell fish to say nothing about surf bathing, are hard for the editor who is compelled to stay at home to appreciate, but our junior enjoyed one day this month at Harris' on the Deschutes. In company were Messrs. Kennedy, McCully and Parry, Mrs. Redfield and Misses Laura Thomas, Ida Mowry, Belle Fitzmaurice and Edna Strahl.

Industrial Accident Auditor at Moro Hotel

Those who use the facilities of the State Industrial Accident Commission have an opportunity to confer with the auditor of that organization during the ensuing week. C. H. Freeman auditor, will be at the hotel in Moro until the 6th of September to check the accounts and time books of those who have protected their employees under this act.

Figures are 15.3 for the early, 17.1 for the medium and 12.6 for late plowing.

The station also has a set of test plots to experiment with fall plowing which is testing the value of deep and shallow plowing show that deep plowing has given an average of 23.6 bushels of winter wheat since 1920 and that shallow plowing has given an average of 23.0 bushels. These plots have been plowed deep and shallow for a longer period than is indicated but spring wheat was grown on them for a few years. Deep plowing for the purposes for this experiment is ten inches and shallow plowing five inches.

But plowing is not all to raising wheat. The treatment of the summerfallow after it is plowed is also important. In the 17 year experiment conducted on tillage it is shown that subsoil packing and clean tillage thereafter produces the most wheat on the average if the plowing is done early. Most farmers have become acquainted with this theory in the past years and endeavor to practice it as far as possible. The difference between this sort of farming and no cultivation of the summerfallow is usually about four bushels per acre.

Experiments at the station show that the straw should be plowed under to add humus to the soil for in a nine year test 26.2 bushels have been raised where two tons of straw per acre is disked and turned under as compared to 24.4 bushels raised on ground that has had the stubble burned.

The American farmer, like the American manufacturer, will not be in much danger of losing his place as a producer for the world's markets if he consistently uses the best methods for raising his wheat economically. Manufacturers conduct research to find means of reducing costs; experiment stations fill the same place for the agricultural industry.

Automobiles Crash Saturday Night

An automobile collision in which minor damage was done to two cars occurred on the Sherman highway south of the Collis Moore ranch last Sunday morning about two o'clock.

The car going south was occupied by a party of young people returning home to Grass Valley from the Harvest Ball in Moro and was driven by Glen Perry, son of the owner J. J. Perry, engineer on this branch of the railroad. The other car was owned and driven by Mark Anderson, 390 Addison St. Klamath Falls, Oregon.

The heavier local car met the small roadster in the middle of the road and knocked the left front wheel off and doubled up the fender and running board, suffering some dents and a punctured tire in the melee.

The three legged car was towed to Moro where it was repaired and the travelers continued their journey. Each owner paid for the damage to his own automobile.

Baby Wild Cat Captured By Grass Valley Man

Last Monday while building a feed rack on his place just west of Grass Valley Dell Olds found a partially grown wild cat fooling around his workings. He caught it with some little trouble and it is now watching the world from behind a cage under charge of Florin Coon.

Times are evidently as hard in wild cat land as with humans, for the youngster is very thin for one of its kind. It is a murky yellow in color with black hairs on the points. Its semi-starved condition and its suddenly enforced captivity are not conducive to its exhibiting the best of humor and it makes aggressive movements and quite fear engendering sounds whenever any one approaches too close. These seem rather odd for in appearance it resembles a common household kitten with a peculiar color and extremely large head and feet.

Council Deliberates Long Time On Vacancy

In regular session five councilmen weightily discussed the city's problems last Tuesday night. Due to the resignation of Councilman Truitt there are only five and part of the discussion was to find a sixth man, or woman, to add his, or her, wisdom to the weekly round table talk. None were chosen. Some cannot qualify for lack of property, some because of lack of time, some, and here the great majority, for lack of desire to give any thought to the need of the city for government.

Some more debate was given to the question of collecting the back water bills. The sentiment of the councilors seemed to be that in as much as the city is in debt and needs its money to pay its laborers and its current bills it should be paid in regular order. The marshal was instructed to make his collections on the monthly basis without exception.

LIGHT COMPANY FINISHES LINE JOB

"Hot Tools" Make It Possible To Continue Service

NO ACCIDENTS ON THIS WORK

220 New Poles Now Strengthen Line In Frost Area

Twenty three thousand volts of electricity is something to be handled very gingerly and passers by who have observed the linemen of the power company poking at the wires with strange looking sticks can attest that it was being handled just that way. But there is no ginsaying the fact that it looks peculiar to a thing as a wire with a stick. It all came about in this way.

The Pacific Power and Light company felt that it was necessary for them to install more poles along their line where frost conditions had made trouble for them in the past winters. They did not want to cut off the current for long periods of time during working hours so they decided to try the so-called "hot tools" that were devised three or four years ago to handle charged wires.

These tools are composed of a treated stick about four or five feet long on which different kinds of tools are mounted. The stick is safe for voltages up to 70,000 volts per foot. These tools consist of a mechanical hand, a pig tail, a clamp and pliers—what linemen could work without pliers.

The wires are pulled apart where the pole is to be installed and it is in this class and Wasco has 6.3. In the group from 15 to 24 which class may be called the young people of the community, although some a few years older may dispute this assertion, Wasco has 19 per cent of her population, Moro 18 per cent and Grass Valley 11 per cent. In the enraised position and tamped solid. Then the linemen mount the pole and the groundman lets one wire at a time in to where they can reach it with the pig tail, so called because it can be twisted around the wire and serve to hold it away from them. Then one lineman—two work on each pole—twists an aluminum wire around the line to protect it from chafing while his partner holds it solid. Then the line is placed on the insulator and it is wired down solid. Three wires are on each pole and it

WEATHER REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 28

DATE	MAX.	MIN.	PRECIP.
Aug. 20	86	51	0.00
" 21	81	49	0.00
" 22	90	50	0.00
" 23	93	58	0.00
" 24	89	62	0.00
" 25	85	69	0.00
" 26	74	55	0.00
Total for week			0.00

Not So Much Wheat In Northwest As Thought

According to information given out by Henry Collins manager of the Farmer's National in the northwest the government has only 12 million bushels of wheat left on the Pacific coast. This amount is but slightly larger than the normal carry over if indeed it is larger at all for the amount usually carried into another crop year varies from 10 to 12 million.

The crop raised in these Pacific states this year is 84 million bushels whereas it normally runs up to over 96 million. Therefore if we already had 12 million and raised 84 more million we have 96 which is only an average crop after all.

Of course, this is just the northwest and has nothing to do with whatever surplus may exist in the middle west.

Butcher Resigns From Phone Company Office

D. J. Butcher, manager of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co., at The Dalles, has resigned to take effect September 1st after twenty years service with the company. He has been in charge of The Dalles office for many years and is well known to many people residing in the district covered by that branch who will miss him from the company.

Postal Rates To Canada Change

On the first of September there will be an increase in the postage charged on letter mail going to Canada and Great Britain. While it has been possible to send letters to these countries for two cents it will now cost three cents to Canada and five cents to the British Isles.

Post cards will cost two cents instead of one as formerly. This makes the rate the same as it is for other European countries.

is surprising how quickly the three of them can be fastened into position.

Over 220 poles were added to the lines in Sherman county during the stay of the line crew here and all of the work was done "hot". Not one accident marred the work and there were no interruptions of service caused accidentally.

The astonishing thing about this sort of work is the adaptability of mankind in general and these linemen in particular. After a few days they were able to handle these tools four or five feet in length with as much speed as a novice would tie in the wires if they were not charged. This is the first use that has been made of "hot tools" on this system as they have not been invented long and have only been in general use a year or little over.

Wednesday morning the line crew and the local men who have been working with them left for Wasco county where they will install poles in the frost area of that county. This part of the work will take about three weeks.

Dobyns Warns Against Molesting Traps

According to a statement made by Harold Dobyns, assistant leader of the predatory animal control department, while here Saturday of last week trappers and hunters of that organization have had some difficulty with persons molesting their traps.

There has long been a belief that coyotes were sometimes taken from government traps and their hides sold as personal property, but lately it has been the custom for some to take the trap as well.

Mr. Dobyns stated that the object of the predatory animal hunters is to rid the country in which they are working of such animals in the interest of the farmers and they would like to have the cooperation of the farmers in this work. Theft of government traps is not considered exactly sporting by the hunters.

The penalty for stealing government property is from one to five years in the penitentiary and a fine of as much as \$5000.00.

Children's Swimming Classes Finished

The children who have had the opportunity to attend the swimming lessons at Stiles during the past six weeks have finished the course for the year as the last regular was given last Tuesday.

A goodly number have attended from Sherman county and the greater part of them have learned to swim under the careful teaching of the instructor, Ted Walker, of The Dalles. Parents of the children attending express themselves as being very well pleased with the progress they have made stating that the lessons were given in an orderly manner.

They hope that more of the lessons will be given in 1932.

Stock Feeding Will Increase This Year

Harvesting is rapidly being finished even in the south end of the county where spring grain was the rule and nearly everyone is done except a few who had large acreages to cut.

Some of the warehouses have closed already all of the wheat usually destined for those houses being in some form or other in the near future are keeping all of their crop on the ranch where it can either be fed or increase in price without the added expense of commercial storage.

Sheep and cattle are being brought into the county nearly every day from out south to be fed the cheap wheat and hay this winter and it is likely that this influx of stock will continue for some time.

AGE GROUPS DIFFER IN COUNTY TOWNS

Young People More Numerous In North End of County

MASCULINITY OF STATE LOSING

Men Still Outnumber Women But By Reduced Majority

The good old masculine state of Oregon where there used to be 133.2 men for each 100 women as short a time ago as 1910 is becoming more feminine from the point of view of population all the time. In that heyday there were four men for each woman and the women could afford to look them over pretty carefully if she chose to be particular. Now all this is changing for in 1920 we had 113 men for each 100 women and now we have only 110, which leaves only 11 men for each 10 women.

These figures are not given as an excuse for short skirts, gay cosmetics or the prevailing craze for flowing pajamas, but are taken from that interesting publication of the United States Bureau of the Census, entitled the Composition and Characteristics of Population.

There is only one place where men are increasing in proportion to the women and that is on the farms and this may be laid to the loss of farming population by families moving to the towns and seasonal hired men taking their places. Larger farms, equipped with machinery, need no more cooks than do smaller farms with slower types of power.

The census found that there were 221,806 married men in Oregon and only 218,946 married women, but of course, the book being almost entirely statistical gave no reason for the apparent discrepancy nor any attempt to explain who the 2,600 odd men were married to.

In Sherman county there are, or were in April of 1930, 1677 males and 1301 females all of the white race but one which was listed as negro. These are listed in the different age groups as 195 under 5 years of age, 547 between the ages of 5 to 14, 461 between the ages of 15 to 24, 488 between the ages of 25 to 34, 603 between the ages of 35 to 44, 165 older than 65. There are 1617 persons in this county who are classified as rural farm which means that they actually live on farms away from towns of any sort.

Dividing the population of Sherman county into age groups shows some curious differences. Grass Valley has 9 per cent of its people under the age of 5, Moro has 5.4 per cent

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Surplus of Planners Plan Against Surplus of Wheat

What to do! What to do! Here is the farmer who only a few short years ago was pondering long and earnestly on some scheme that would serve to raise the price of wheat. And now look what all that thinking

The farm board has a plan or at has come to.

least a suggestion that the farmers who normally raise all the wheat and cotton they can should curtail production and not produce so much.

Such proposals becoming immediately unpopular others have taken it upon themselves to provide others more suitable to their tastes. There is the Dayton plan which fits in nicely with the above scheme as it would limit a farmer to selling three fourths of his wheat each year. Gilliam county is hearing about that plan this week.

Some inspired student of the stock market has bloomed out with the suggestion that the farmers instead of raising wheat in 1932 should buy the surplus farm board wheat now instead of raising any of that well known food stuff. It was confidently expected by the sponsor thereof that the price would raise enough to make all the farmers a nice profit at the end of the year, provided of course that something didn't stampede them before that time and put all the wheat on the market at once. But, then there is always a but about these plans.

Our friends, pardon me—the prohibitionists have made the evil suggestion that strong liquors be permitted again in the land for the altruistic purpose of using up some of the surplus and preventing further surpluses by turning much of our wheat land over to the production of

grains of the potable variety, wheat being reported to make too strong a brew for any but the most hardy.

There are also those who would have us return to the tractorless age and feed wheat to hard working livestock. Needless to say this is much discussed in the wheat country where the argument never grows old about the advisability of horses or tractors.

Oh, yes, we almost completely overlooked the two solutions that have caused the most mental suffering for the past several years. These are the twins that have caused as much oratory in the national congress as the league of nations. They are the debenture and the equalization fee.

It is quite probable that one of these plans will be adopted this session of congress and be used to hold prices more equal than they have been lately.

Some of the more facetious observers of the farm problem have been heard to deplore the demise of sage rats pretending to believe that had they not been partially exterminated in a great campaign of a few years ago they would have destroyed enough to hold down the surplus.

Some have pled for the importation of carload after carload of livestock to consume the grain, but it was pointed out by one shrewd farmer and stockman that no stock could be expected to do well, to say nothing of growing, if fed such cheap feed as wheat has become to be. So that's that.

So the farmers have a surplus of plans on their hands now as well as a surplus of wheat and cotton. But then, as the cynic remarked, no one in Sherman county has a surplus.

