

Something in the Old Sock Just in Case



County Ramblin's

By "Tommy" Thompson

Announcement last week of discount under the Commodity Credit Loan program for Rex wheat has long been anticipated. Full information about the discount program on poor quality varieties has not been received to date. There are some named varieties here in Oregon that have been increased by farmers that were at one time tested by the Oregon experiment station, but not named and released because of poor milling qualities. It is possible that these unnamed varieties will likewise be discounted in the future. Farmers that have such varieties should prepare to dispose of the seed this coming year.

The proposed discount on Rex wheat will have only a slight in-

fluence on Sherman county varieties. Rex production in 1954 in Sherman county amounted to 33,000 bushels or 1 and 1-10th per cent of the total production. Morrow and Gilliam counties will have considerable more difficulty with this reduction due to the much higher percentage of Rex. Gilliam county in 1954 produced 912,000 bushels, or 34 per cent Rex, while Morrow county produced 1,113,000 bushels or 40 per cent of its total production. Hardship will be encountered by farmers in these two counties before varieties are available to replace Rex entirely.

Mrs. Glayds Raymond, chairman of the Domestic Wheat Utilization committee for the Oregon Wheat Growers League has informed us that the Oregon Wheat Commission and the Fisher Flouring Mills plan to distribute about 14,000 free samples of "Ala" from

the Wheat Commission booth during the Oregon State Fair. They are in need of some assistance by wheat men or women to handle the wheat booth assignment, anyone planning to spend some time at the Oregon State Fair might write the Oregon Wheat Growers League office at Pendleton telling their interest to assist in this program.

Over 5000 firms and individuals are receiving the weekly market information reviews as prepared by the agriculture extension economist at OSC. Twenty-one different Sherman county persons are receiving various weekly market reviews this year.

The weekly market reviews include: seed crops, farm forest products, fruit and nut crops, potatoes and truck crops, production prices and cost, meat animals and wool, grain and hay, eggs and poultry, and dairy products. These

weekly market reviews are available upon request from any Oregon farmers or firms.

Several new livestock plans are available at the county extension office. A good many different types of plans are available and farmers are invited to look thru the plan book when thinking of construction around the farmstead. New plans available include: a calf creep feeder, two different types of movable calf creep feeders, four different corral plans, two different cattle squeeze plans, a chute and headgate plan, and a loading chute plan. Folks finding desirable plans may order copies from the plan service at OSC.

The Farm Home and Rural Life committee and representatives of the 4-H leaders in the county are being asked to meet the afternoon of September 2nd. Mrs. Ina Hanson, new county extension agent for Sherman county will be present. The purpose of the meeting will be to make plans for the year's activities in the 4-H and Home Economic fields. The meeting will give an opportunity to determine actually what the new home economics agent will concentrate on the first year.

Wheat yield reports throughout the county vary from 15 to 50 bushels, and barley from 1-2 ton to one and 1-2 ton. Average yields this year will be good considering weather conditions during the winter and spring months.

Folks finishing harvest and bringing cattle back into stubble land are asked to make arrangements for Bangs testing work at their convenience. All folks that have not tested their cattle since the Bangs district was formed are asked to get this job done prior to the winter months. Arrangements for Bangs testing can be made through the county extension agent's office.

New 4-H club events scheduled for State Fair this year promise to add even more color and education to the week-packed program for boys and girls chosen to represent all counties and the cities of Portland and Salem, reports Cal G. Monroe, state 4-H agent at Oregon State college.

A tractor operator's contest, open to one club member from each county, will test both driving and mechanical skills. It includes a series of obstacle courses in hitching to farm implements, backing, turning and general handling of the tractor and equipment with skill, speed and safety. Contestants also will inspect an old tractor for mechanical and safety defects and will take a written examination on tractor operation.

Also added to this year's competition is an exhibit in conservation of Oregon's natural resources. Exhibits will feature conservation of soil, water, forests, range or wildlife. They will be judged on workmanship, attractiveness, and educational value and teaching of

approved conservation practices.

Another special event is an educational livestock marketing program at the Portland union stockyards, September 7. Club exhibitors who sell market stock through the yards will see their animals sold, learn how the stockyards operate, and will tour a packing plant and retail meat market. Club members have the option to sell animals privately or to take them home.

Also for the first time, 4-H'ers enrolled in any project can participate in individual as well as team demonstrations. During the public demonstrations, contestants explain how to make or do something related to their project such as baking, sewing, electricity or safety.

Monroe says growing interest in the 4-H flower arrangement contest now makes it possible to divide the event into two classes for club members over and under 14 years of age.

More Money Going Into Predatory Animal Eradication

About \$16,000 more than last year will be thrown into the war against predatory animals in Oregon during this fiscal year. This is revealed in the yearly allocation of predatory animal funds recently made by the state department of agriculture to 32 of the 36 counties. The counties, with added funds from livestock associations, have put up \$120,440, the largest budget ever provided for this work. This is increased to almost \$150,000 by the department allocation.

Douglas county will spend more than any other county to combat predatory animals. All work will be carried on by the hunters employed under the state and federal program.

Sherman county budgeted \$3200 and the state will provide \$785-

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One can learn a lot at a fair. Country people not so much as city people to whom the manifestations of nature are matters of theory or hearsay.

City children learn that cows have calves like women have children; country children learn that woman have children like cows have calves. There's quite a difference. To one the facts of nature come naturally to the other with an air of mystery.

The well known farm fact that red cows have red calves is just as acceptable as that the sun comes up in the east—always does. Not that a black cow does not sometimes have a red calf or vice-versa but the rule is pretty well followed by nature.

So the city kid has to go to college to learn all about Mendel and other researchers, to study inheritance while the country kid knows about it from hanging around the barnyard.



Sherman County Fair September 8-9-10-11

Every year there are parties of people who drop in to the Sherman County Fair by accident or almost so. Some are driving thru and stop to see a country fair, some come with friends. They are usually the most excited about it of any. In the first place natives don't get excited about the fair at all. Seeing a fine calf in the arena they may grunt a satisfied "good calf" but except for a few they don't go into ecstasies about it. But these visitors do. Enough pictures of good cattle have been printed so that nearly every one knows a good one from a bad one and they make happy sounds at seeing these Sherman county calves with their attentive attendants out in the arena.

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We read a story the other day or week about a man who had to live the better part of his life to find that he was like his parents and there was nothing he could do about it. Some city feller must have written it. Any country boy knows that Shires never beget Palominos and that you're going to be a lot like your folks in basic matters or have a terribly frustrating time trying to be something else.

Sherman County Fair September 8-9-10-11



That doesn't mean that because Dad was handy with tools you have to be a ditch digger. You might repair watches or become an engineer or an artist or a scientist.

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There's always something new at a fair, some new kind of variety of animal, maybe a Brahma or a Santa Gertrudis, a new kind of squash or a better strawberry. Or some cowpoke figures out a better way to tie a calf or train a horse to hold on a rope. And some woman may have on a new kind hat.

Sherman County Fair September 8-9-10-11

Fairs were started to be educational. Agricultural experts figured that if everyone could see some of the best they would try to emulate it and thus produce better stuff. It has worked, too, except that in addition to showing better stuff, the experts now go to the extent of telling how to produce it. Sometimes that does not work because every year is different and what does well this year may be a failure the next. But that doesn't stop the experts. They work on averages.

Sherman County Fair September 8-9-10-11

Whether one is adjusted to learning about agriculture at a fair it is always possible to learn about people and they are just as interesting as the other animals, maybe more so.

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They are happy when they win, sad when they lose; expressive when excited, stolid when depressed; their faces light up like a television set when you tell them something they like to hear and the shadows of defensiveness come over them at something they don't like. They like to meet old friends and a fair is a fine place for that because there's apt to be a lot of them around. We see folks at the fair we seldom see any other time. So do you.

That's educational, too. This old friend has been doing something. Hunting for uranium, traveling to Alaska, running for office, having arthritis—some sort of experience about which he can talk and talk until you know some thing you've never heard before. How information does get around.

Sherman County Fair September 8-9-10-11



Certainly the ability to learn includes the ability to learn from others and use their experience to broaden one's own. If we had to learn all we know from experience we wouldn't live long. If we had to learn to learn enough to keep out of swift water, burn our fingers to find out that fire is hot, get in wrecks to learn that steel is harder than flesh, the human race wouldn't even exist today. So we've learned to learn from what we hear, what we read, what we see and old friends give us a pleasant way of so doing.

