



Chapter Wins Awards

by Gus Thoele

The Sherman FFA chapter has won many new experiences and awards during the past years of their hard work and practice. Last October, Doug Reid and Doug Medler went to the National Convention held in Kansas City. They were at the national organization four days, and saw many interesting things. In the Wheat League show John Fields had the champion steer and won the beef herdsman ship. The chapter won the beef herdsman ship, with 11 boys showing 30 head of stock. In the livestock judging four boys placed 9th out of 63 teams in the state contest. At Tygh Valley they placed first and at Sherman County they placed third. In Goldendale they had a high of 550 out of 600. In the state soil judging contest that was held at The Dalles November 16 the chapter took second place. Gene Eakin was high scorer and won the sweepstakes. Mr. Robertson was the highest instructor, in the instructor's division. Ron Mobley, acting as chairman, helped the team take second place in the district parliamentary contest. The team will compete with Pendleton, Madras and Culver Feb. 25, for the right to enter the championship round at the state convention.

County Ramblings

County Agricultural Agent

Numerous demonstrations exist over the county showing the results of applied conservation practices. The three-run-offs this winter have cut nasty marks in our valuable soil. Applications of so-called conservation or just good farming practices have really shown their worth.

Stubble mulch, the number one best erosion control practice time after time demonstrated its worth. Fields where stubble has protected the surface reduced rill, sheet, and ditch erosion. These fields are in better surface soil condition to take in additional moisture. No figures are available, but it would be a good bet stubble mulch fields absorbed

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more of the hard rain around Feb. 8. Estimates have been and still look to be true that stubble mulch can stop 80% of the erosion. One would also have to admit that early wheat is a contributing factor, but it is not the only one. Observations on stubble mulch barley fields rough tilled but not seeded showed little if any erosion.

Strip Cropping

Accumulation of water on long slopes shows the greatest erosion. Even stubble mulch on long slopes many times will not hold up. This has been demonstrated in the past. Operators John Shipley, W. L. May and Paulen Kaseberg have recognized this and have used strip cropping to good advantage.

Break-up interspersing stubble land with fallow on long slopes is the main key to strip cropping. This practice has shown excellent results this year and is certainly one recommended for areas especially in the Moro area north on fields where long slopes are a problem.

Strip-cropping can be done under either moldboard or stubble mulch tillage. The practice is recommended and encouraged by farmer groups and agency representatives. The 1958 Planning conference recommended more use of strip-cropping. The Sherman Soil Conservation district has as one of its goals to increase this practice by one or two thousand acres this year.

The County ASC committee recognizes the value of this practice. To assist in increasing acreage an 80% ACP payment for cost of establishing this practice has been set up. Engineering assistance by the Soil Conservation service is available to lay out a strip cropping program on the land.

Water Supply Fair For This Area

The water supply outlook for the 1961 irrigation season in

Hood River and Wasco Counties is "fair" to "poor" and slightly better than last year at this date, according to a report released today by W. T. Frost, snow survey supervisor for USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Oregon. The excellent beginning reported one month ago has dissolved in the warm dry spell that has prevailed during most of January.

Water content of the mountain snowpack is only 37 percent of average and about the same as one year ago. The big difference is that this year's snowpack is mostly confined to the higher elevations—the low snow has melted off.

In an average winter the snow accumulation usually reaches 60 percent of the total by Feb. 1st. This winter's "snow crop" is so far equal to only 28 percent of the total average accumulation. Remaining winter storms will have to deposit three times as much snow as is now on the ground if this big deficit is to be overcome.

Moisture content of watershed soils is very satisfactory. Heavy November rains coupled with contributions from melting low-elevation snow have produced a situation favorable to runoff.

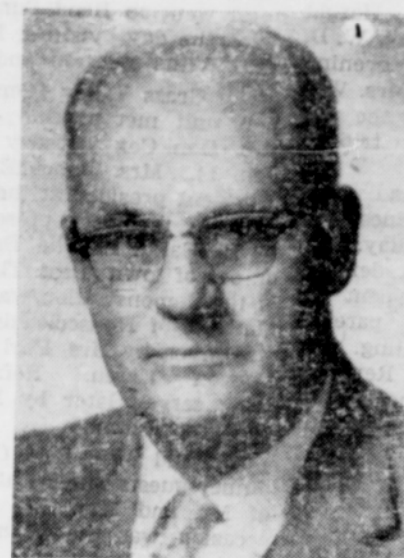
No reports have been received from Wasco County reservoirs but it is believed that present storage in Clear Lake, Rock Creek and Badger Lake Reservoirs is behind schedule as are most other reservoirs over the state.

The flow of White River is forecast at 75 percent average for the irrigation season and smaller tributaries such as Rock, Gate, Threemile, Badger and Tygh Creeks are expected to have much below average flows.

Statewide, Oregon's 1961 water supply outlook for the spring and summer months has not improved during the last month and now ranges from only "fair" to "very poor". Reservoir storage is less than last year and only about two-thirds of average. Water shed soils under the snowpack

are fairly well wetted but only forecasts range from 23 percent average on the Lostine River in at higher elevations. Streamflow on the Owyhee to 87 percent of the Wallows.

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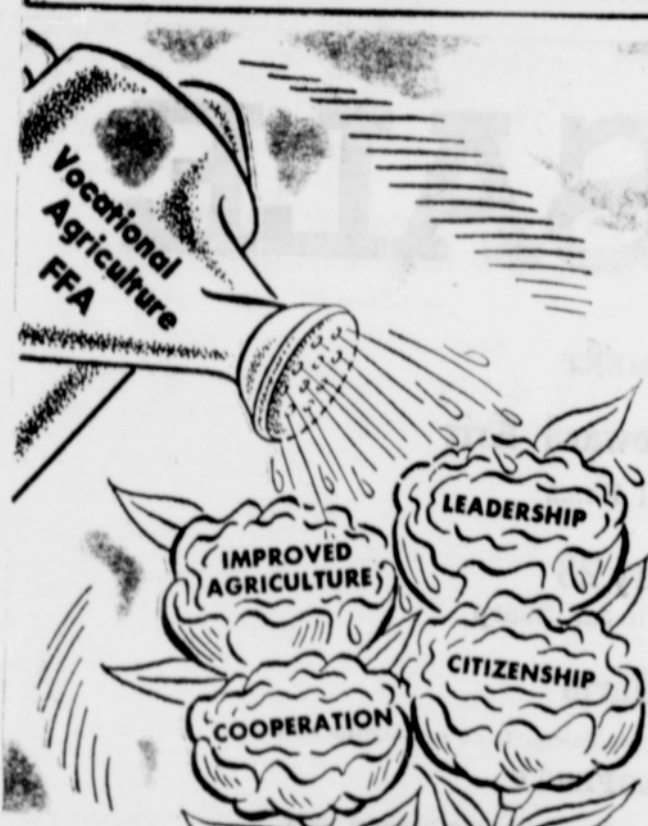
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FFA Officers Are Prominent At School

by Doug Reid

The Sherman FFA chapter officers are leaders in the school functions and have set the pace for the projects of the other chapter members.

The President Ron Mobley of Kent has played an important part in the school. He was the President of the Sophomore and Junior classes and is now the vice president of the Senior class. He has served as the president of the chapter for two terms and has done much to help it develop into the strong chapter it is now. He owns 9 ewes, 7 lambs, and one ram, which he saved from the sheep chain he started with. He owns 6 head of purebred Angus which he runs on 35 acres that he rents. He grows barley on 35 acres that he also rents.

Our secretary, Malcolm Eslinger of Grass Valley, is a real cattleman for he is raising only beef of which he has 7 head. He was the vice-president of the sophomore class, president of the sophomore class and is now the vice-president of the student body.

Gene Eakin of Grass Valley, our treasurer, has 4 registered Herefords and is fattening out 9 hogs. He was the president of the sophomore class and is the vice-president of the junior class.

John Fields of Wasco, the vice-president, has done much for our school in the way of sports and was the co-captain of the football team. He was the sergeant-at-arms of the student body during his Junior year. John has one of the largest projects in the chapter. He has one quarter interest in the calf crop of his father's 60 head of cows. He has 6 head of registered Herefords and is fattening 4 head of steers. He has two horses and he also fattens out about 30 head of hogs a year.

George Miller of Moro, our reporter, is active in the chapter and at the present is the head of the grasses plot committee. He also writes many articles for the Sherman County Journal. George has done much in sports, being on the varsity squad in football and basketball. George has one steer.

Our Sentinel, Alan Miller of Moro, has the largest project in the chapter. It consists of 12 registered Herefords, 5 steers, 7 acres of irrigated pasture, 18 acres of barley, and he feeds out about 50 head of hogs each year. Last year Alan came in second in the state soil and water management contest and he expects to win it this year.

National Society Heads FFA Chapters

by Doug Medler

The Future Farmers of America, or "FFA" as it is commonly known is a national organization of high school boys, studying vocational agriculture in public

schools. It is an educational non-profit organization of nearly 400,000 members.

Among other things, FFA members learn through active participation how to conduct and take part in a public meeting, to speak in public, to buy and sell cooperatively, to solve their own problems, to finance themselves, and to assume civic responsibility. The foundation upon which the

Future Farmers of America is built includes leadership and character development, sportsmanship, cooperation, community service, thrift, scholarship, improved agriculture, organized recreation, citizenship and patriotism.

The Future Farmers of America exists today because of a co-operative spirit and a desire on the part of farm boys, 14 to 21 years of age, preparing for farming through vocational agriculture, to have a national organization of their own in which they

may secure practical business experience, act as their own instructors, and to enjoy the fellowship of one another. Improved agriculture, better local communities, a more satisfying farm home life, and more efficient farmer-citizens are emerging as a result of the boy's experiences he receives through the "FFA" program.

This year under the leadership of the president, Ron Mobley, chapter adviser, Mr. Robertson, and officers, the Sherman FFA chapter is experiencing a highly successful year.



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