

County Ramblin's

by Sherman Co. Extension Agts.

Range Field Day

The Squaw Butte Range Field Day has been set for June 25. The program will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Information on grass variety trials, sheep digestibility trials, brush control with 2,4-D, supplementing yearling cattle on pasture, and grass management will be important tour inspections.

The Squaw Butte Station is forty-two miles west of Burns on U.S. Highway 20.

Farm Legislation

Twenty-five farm bills dealing with wheat and feed grains were introduced May 23 into the House. Additional bills were introduced into the Senate. Action on any of these is uncertain. All have been referred to the House and Senate agriculture committees.

Any change other than 50% supports if you stay within your allotment is uncertain at this time.

It seems farmers need to conduct their operations to allow as much flexibility as possible. Present indications would seem that growers would need to plan to stay within their wheat acreage allotment for the 1964 crop and fertilize accordingly. If changes occur before seeding, then adjustments can be made.

Indications are that wheat growers may yet be able to seed wheat this year on their barley acreage for the 1964 crop. This decision is up to the secretary of Agriculture and his determination as to what influence this program would have on wheat production and feed grain. Undoubtedly this will be known before seeding time.

Decision by P.N.W. Growers

Wheat growers and others interested have important decisions to make as to what type or if any legislation or administrative action should be taken on wheat and feed grains. O.S.U. economist believes growers need to decide and let their congressmen and the Department of Agriculture know whether they want:

1. The privilege of substituting wheat on barley acreage for the 1964 crop.
2. The Department of Agriculture to offer surplus grain at the 1964 wheat loan rate for feeding purposes in the northwest to encourage and build the livestock feeding industry.
3. Do you want the Department of Agriculture to raise or lower the loan rate for corn for 1964, or do you want comparative prices for corn, milo, barley, wheat, and other grains on a feed price basis?

Japanese Wheat Marketing

The Oregon Wheat League and Commission have called a meeting to consider the problem confronting P.N.W. wheat growers in loss of dollar market in Japan. The session has been called for 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 18, Gunther's restaurant, Pendleton, Oregon. County elevator operators,

County buyers, grain dealers, League and Commission officers, Oregon State University Extension personnel, and other interested wheat producers are invited. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the export marketing problems now evident for the immediate future in relation to supplying the demand for specific wheat to the Japanese dollar market.

The main problem stems around the complaint of the Japanese about lack of uniformity of wheat cargoes and too high a protein content. Australia is anxious to take over more of this market with low protein wheat. League officials and experts are concerned with a possible substantial loss in dollar export market. The meeting will attempt to review the problem and solicit the trade and producers in fulfilling the export trade needs. Any growers are welcome.

Columbia Basin Footrot

Various types of root and foot rots have existed in Sherman wheat crops for many years. No winter wheat varieties are satisfactorily resistant to this fungus. This year extensive footrot damage — mainly Columbia Basin Footrot — have been noted for some weeks in early seeded wheat fields. Extent of the damage is not known to date, but presence of the disease has been noted from the Columbia River to Grass Valley. A more extensive survey is underway at this time.

Disease Symptoms

The disease begins in the spring as eye-shaped spots on the outer sheaths at the ground line. The fungus invades directly into the stem from these, covering infected parts with a black, charred growth. The stem shrivels, the tissues collapse, and the stems finally fall over in irregular tangles in the infested parts of the field. The heads of diseased plants are reduced in size and in number in comparison to those of healthy ones. These diseased plants are reduced in size and in number in comparison to those of healthy ones. These diseased plants are pale green, almost yellowish, in appearance.

Climatic Conditions

Weather conditions have a profound effect on the development and severity of the disease. Moist growing weather during the winter and early spring favors the development and spread of the fungus in the soil and also favors infection, while subsequent protracted dry periods in May or sometimes June injure the footrotted plants more than healthy ones.

This past growing season seems to have been one nearly ideal for footrot development and damage. Roderick Sprague, Extension Pathologist in 1948 described the best conditions for footrot. Quoted from the publication: "The severity of footrot varies from year to year and this variation is attributed to seasonal weather conditions. The conditions that tend to favor its development are: (1) sufficient soil moisture to insure immediate germination of wheat in the fall; (2) long growing season in the fall, accompanied by abundant rain, resulting in excessive fall growth; (3) warm, wet weather in February and March and cold, wet weather in April, which retards grain growth; and (4) continuation of wet weather in May, followed abruptly by a dry period.

Later reports on extent, nature and best management information will be presented in later County Ramblings and Circular Letters.

Sagebrush Control

Sagebrush control by insect appears to show promise for the near future. A webworm, the larvae of an adult moth has eradicated nearly 20,000 acres of big sagebrush in Harney County. This larvae feeds on the sagebrush plant and kills it.

Researchers are studying the larvae and its adult moth form to determine how specific it is to sagebrush and how it can be introduced to an area. The webworm has a parasitic disease which keeps it in check. Biological control of weeds has been successfully used on St. Johnswort and gorse two noxious weeds.

Canada Thistle

Canada Thistle can best be controlled in the bud stage of growth. We have been getting excellent results for control and eradication of this noxious weed by using amitole or amitole-T. Use 1 pound of the 50% amitole or 1 quart of amitole-T for each 12 gallons of water. Add a spreader-sticker. Thoroughly wet foliage for spot treatment.

Russian Knapweed

It will be time to treat Russian Knapweed soon. Some knapweed is in the bud stage on the lower elevation. Bud-stage treatment is most effective. Use 10-20 pounds of 2,4-D amine or emulsifiable acid in 150 gallons of water. Add a spreader-sticker. Wet foliage thoroughly with a hand nozzle.



Lee Pettyjohn (second from left) points out ranching developments that won him the 1962 Conservation Man of the Year award, sponsored by the Oregon Wheat Growers League. Occasion was the annual Conservation Field Day, held this week at the Weatherford - Pettyjohn ranch near Arlington.

Dies In California

Everett Pharis Nunn, 79 years of age, of 4201 Old Sonoma Rd., Napa, Calif., passed away Monday, June 3, after an extended illness. He was a native of St. Clair County, Missouri, and a resident of California for 30 years. He had been a resident of Napa for the past 9 years, prior to that he had made his home in Vallejo where he was an employee of the Vallejo Housing Authority.

Mr. Nunn is survived by his wife, Mrs. Edith Nunn; two daughters: Mrs. Barbara Williams and Mrs. Bertha Barnes, both of Napa. Eight sons: Harold E., Howard R., and Charles W., all of Vallejo; Kenneth R. Benicia; Ernest R., Lakehead, Calif.; James R. of Richmond; Leucius R. of Mobile, Ala.; and Leslie R. Nunn of Los Angeles. One Step Daughter: Mrs. Elsie Thompson of Benicia; Two step-sons: Robert A. Engesser of Long Beach, and Allen W. Engesser of Vallejo. One brother: Horace Nunn of Independence, Missouri; Two sisters: Mrs. Florence Otosen of Stockton, Illinois, and Mrs. Margaret Duncan of Independence, Miss. One Half-Brother: Leslie L. Nunn M.D., of Tigard, Oregon.

Funeral services were held at Vallejo, Calif. June 7, 1963.

Rev. Stanley Cornils of the First Baptist Church officiating. Interment was in Sunrise Memorial Cemetery.

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Water Outlook in Area Reported Only 'Fair'

The 1963 water supply outlook for Hood River and Wasco Counties remains only fair, as it was on May 1st, according to a report released today by T. P. Helseth, State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service (USDA) cooperating with Oregon State University, Oregon State Engineer and others. The "short" snowpack has been reduced even further by periods of warm weather during May, but streamflow is still expected to exceed the low years of 1941 and 1944. Severe late season shortages are expected for lands served by smaller streams with no stored water.

Snow cover is almost gone below the 5000 foot level. Periods of warm temperatures melted the snow high on the watershed and reduced Phlox Point measurement, at 5600 feet elevation, from 85 inches of depth and 35.9 inches of water content on the 26th of April to 19 inches of depth and 10.3 inches of water on May 29.

Watershed soils continued to soak up water from the snowmelt and rainfall and are much wetter in most areas than for several years. Clear Lake now has 5,600 acre feet in storage compared to 7,800 acre feet a year ago.

The flow of Hood River near Hood River (preliminary data from U.S. Geological Survey, Portland, Oregon) was only 68 percent of average last month and 79 percent for the October - May period. Streamflow forecasts remain unchanged from May 1. The White River is expected to flow 115,000 a.f. or 65 percent of the April - September period. Hood River, West Fork near Dee, is expected to flow 111,000 a.f. or 64 percent of the same period and the Main Hood River near Hood River, 160,000 a.f. or 60 percent of the May - September period. Severe water shortages are expected on smaller streams without storage, unless above normal precipitation occurs during the late summer months.

Statewide, Oregon's 1963 water supply outlook has changed greatly this year from a gloomy mid-

winter prospect to a currently satisfactory situation for most lands served from stored water supplies. However, thousands of acres of land depending on natural flow of streams will have severe late season shortages unless unexpected rains fall at opportune times. The next report on water supply conditions in this area will be issued at the close of the irrigation season in early October.

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Standard Equipment

25-inch spike tooth cylinder; 38 inch wide separator, 18½ foot auger-type header; 65 bushel grain bin; 339 cubic inch gasoline engine; power steering; 4-speed transmission; manual controlled hydraulic lever; 15 x 26 10-ply front tires; 9.00 x 24, 6-ply rear tires.

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