

County Ramblin's

By Sherman County Extension Agents

The Dalles Show

Late action by the Oregon Legislature changed distribution of paramutual racing money to shows and fairs. The Northwest Turkey Show and Oregon State Corn Show appropriation have been eliminated. Appropriations for The Dalles Show will be continued as in the past.

Legislative action also increased appropriations to the State Fair and P.I. County Fair funds will thus be decreased with the later change plus a change in the one-twentieth mill tax from county funds to deduction from the paramutual fund before distribution to the counties.

An early May show had been proposed for the 1964 Oregon Wheat League Show in The Dalles. This generally has not been looked upon favorably, so dates will be set for June 7-11, 1964. This is possible for '64 since 4-H Summer School has been set for June 15-20.

Oregon State Fair

The 1963 Oregon State Fair is scheduled for August 30 through September 7. Copies of the Premium List for open class and 4-H are available at the County Extension Office.

Since the Sherman County Fair is held after the Oregon State Fair some pre-fair judging activities are necessary for 4-H members. June 26 the 4-H pre-fair 4-H horse judging program was conducted. Next month, July 16 and 17, all other 4-H exhibits except livestock will be judged to select candidates for State Fair Competition. Somewhat over 50 exhibits at State Fair was made in 1962.

Sherman County is the only County Fair, except Harney, that is held after the Oregon State Fair. The pre-fair judging certainly causes much additional work on the part of many individuals. The pre-county fair judging will continue by parental and leader request to provide State Fair opportunity for Sherman 4-H members. It is hoped someday County Fair dates can be adjusted to fit the State Fair judging schedule.

Cattlemen's Tour

A bus load of Sherman County people interested in livestock during a recent tour observed some of the progress in the livestock feeding industry being made in Umatilla County. Tremendous changes have been made in the Hermiston-Stanfield area in utilization of irrigated pasture, silage, cannery waste and feed grains. The gross agriculture income for livestock has already doubled during the past six or seven years due to this development. Sherman County people attending were certainly given an eye-ful as to programs underway. The event was sponsored by the Cattlemen's Association and tour arrangements made by the Umatilla and Sherman County Extension Agents.

Some of the more important observations by one party were:

1. Excellent cooperation was noted in planning advancement in programs by producers and producer groups, research and extension people.

2. Irrigated ground can probably be put to its best use producing feed for livestock in this area in form of pasture, corn silage, green chopped feed, or alfalfa hay.

3. Full grain feeding is not done until steers get to the 650-700 weight level. Cattle will not stand the all barley program for more than 120 days.

4. From weaning until put into

the feed lot, cattle need to gain 1.5-1.75 pounds per day on as cheap a ration as possible. Several combinations of feed can be used. Chaff can be used if feed a supplement and 1 percent of their body weight in grain a day.

5. Feedlot location and equipment is important. Cable fences, special troughs, and aprons are good.

1964 Grain Program Alternatives

Northwest agricultural leaders and economists from the land-grant Universities met with John Schniltker, economic adviser to Secretary of Agriculture, Orville Freeman, June 14 at Spokane. Administrative alternatives under existing federal grain legislation was discussed. Marion Thomas, Oregon Economist reports results as follows:

1. The secretary of agriculture can still allow substituting wheat for barley on feed grain base acres for 1964. Substitution is discretionary with the secretary in line with the overall wheat and feed grain programs. A decision is hoped for by August.

2. The present law requires a reduction in wheat base on farms that exceed their 1964 allotments unless substitution on feed grain base acres is authorized.

3. Present legislation prevents sale of CCC stocks for domestic use at less than 105 percent of current loan rates unless wheat was going out of condition. This means that wheat cannot be offered on the basis of the lower loan rates now in prospect for 1964 before July 1964.

However, CCC stocks of corn, milo, and barley can be offered at the 1963 loan rates during the 1963 marketing season. There is nothing in the law that specifically prevents the sale of CCC's stocks of Great Plains milo and corn in the Northwest at the local support rate of about \$42.60 a ton on corn.

Special sales of corn and milo in the Northwest during the 1963-64 season would help to retain the remnants of our poultry industries and help grain feeders start the adjustments that may be needed to help provide a market for the increased production of wheat that could come in 1964. Offerings at \$43.00 to \$45.00 a ton would be somewhat higher than loan rates now in prospect for 1964 wheat and barley but several dollars below recent market prices for corn and milo.

4. The Department of Agriculture intends to take steps necessary to protect U.S. commitments under the International Wheat Agreement. In other words, not allow wheat in foreign channel to be sold for less than the world price.

Fertility Stretches Moisture For Crops

Proper fertilization can help stretch moisture for crop production, according to official agricultural scientists reporting in a new handbook just issued by the American Potash Institute.

Entitled "Moisture and Fertility," the new booklet features the latest findings from different parts of the country, showing that "fertilizers for the adequate nutrition of all crops play a major role in the efficient use and conservation of water resources."

The findings are reported by nationally known University scientists, including Stanley Barber of Purdue, Robert Pearson of Auburn, A. L. Lang, L. B. Miller, and P. E. Johnson of Illinois, E. B. Norum of North Dakota, and D. W. Henderson, R. M. Hagan, and D. S. Mikkelsen of California.

Introduced by Cecil Wadleigh, Director of the Soil and Water

Conservation Research Division of ARS at Beltsville, Maryland, the handbook shows how plant nutrients may increase root exploration of the soil so that soil water is used to higher tensions and to greater depths.

It shows how fertilization can increase yields per inch of water used, whether rainfall or irrigation, and how improved fertility on claypan soils pays off in spite of critical periods of drouth or floods.

It shows how irrigation greatly increases the nitrogen demands of annual forage crops, since they are seeded during unfavorable moisture periods, must make growth in a short time, and have relatively shallow root systems.

It shows how impossible it is to get efficient crop use of fertilizer either with or without irrigation on soils that need liming.

It shows how plant roots feeding in subsoil usually have access to half the potassium found in the surface soil and how potassium increases the water-holding capacity of plant tissues.

A single copy of this handbook can be secured by writing Dept. N, American Potash Institute, 1102 16th Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.



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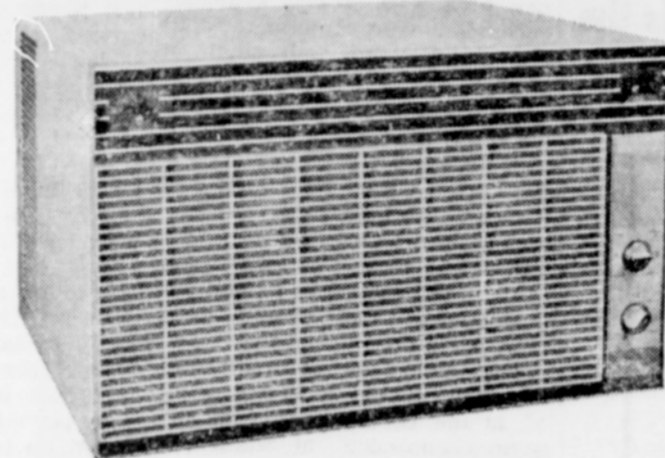
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The Dalles



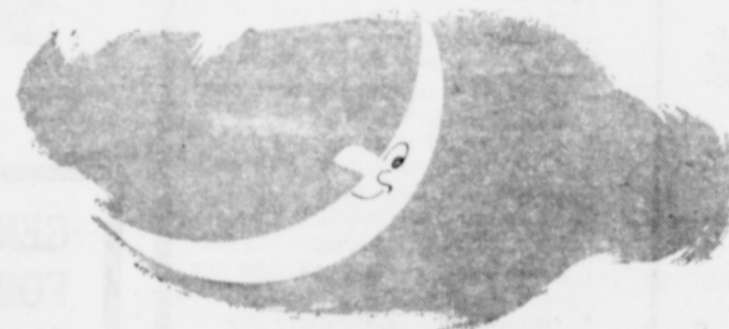
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