

County Ramblin's

By Sherman County Extension Agents

Hudson Barley

Six growers are producing two hundred twenty acres of Hudson Barley this year in Sherman county.

Yield results are not available at this writing. The barley looks good on shallower or drier ground. On some of the deep soil areas, the barley is up to five feet tall and certainly questionable on deep, more moist heavier textured soils.

Results at the Sherman Experiment Station have shown good results for Hudson. Nine years test of Hudson up to 1960 gave a 2,226 pound per acre yield, compared to 2,95 for six year test of Alpine. Test weight comparison has been 50 pounds per bushel for Hudson and 45 for Alpine.

The real advantage for shallower and drier soils may well be earlier maturity. Heading date averages show Hudson heading May 21 and Alpine June 4. This proved true under field conditions on the six farms growing Hudson this year.

1961 yields of Hudson were excellent on the Sherman Station in comparison to Alpine. Yield for Hudson in this last season were 2,420 pounds per acre with a 50 pound test weight while Alpine was 1,700 pound yield with a 437 test weight. The '62 station trials were badly winter damaged but an off station trial in Northern Gilliam County showed a 1,000 pound per acre advantage for Hudson - 2,590 to 1,400 for Alpine.

Observation of the six farmers fields look good for Hudson as to shattering. Only a very slight amount of head shattering was observed. Some straw breaking on fertile deep soils was noted.

Some seed is available for additional growers to test the variety. It would certainly look like Hudson could be tried on any shallow soil in the County (three foot or less) and on the drier soils East and North of Klondike, East of Grass Valley Canyon and South of Nigger Ridge.

F. L. Watkins has sixty-seven acres of Hudson Barley that has been field inspected for certification. The Sherman Experiment Station also has one acre of Foundation Hudson seed. Other growers will have seed; none however was eligible or passed field inspection for certification. Generally these fields are okay except for a percentage of wheat.

Grain Program Alternatives

July 1st, a group of 30 representatives of Oregon and Washington grain producing and grain-feeding industries met at Pendleton and went on record unanimously in favor of requesting permission to substitute wheat on feed grain acres and feed grain on wheat acres in 1964. The recommendation is made providing that the substituted wheat is priced competitively with corn and milo in other major grain producing and feeding areas.

During this session informa-

tion on administrative alternatives under present legislation was studied. Basic materials and background information was developed and presented by economists from Washington State University, Oregon State University and University of Idaho in response to requests from industry groups and county agents. A special mimeograph has been prepared here in Oregon by Marion Thomas and Harold Hollands, Oregon State University, Agricultural Economists, relative to administrative alternatives under present federal grain legislation. Copies are available to any Sherman County grower or business people.

Among other things the meeting covered the following points regarding "substitution of wheat on barley acres."

1. Soil erosion losses in many parts of the Northwest are less with wheat than barley and there is less risk of winter-killing.

2. Substitution would give growers greater flexibility in choosing the grain best suited to conditions on each farm.

3. Wheat, at anticipated loan rates, would return higher incomes than barley, at least on farms where wheat out-yields barley.

4. The supply of local barley would be reduced to the possible disadvantage of cattle and hog feeders, especially if exports are large.

5. The price of wheat might be too high in relation to corn and milo prices east of the Rockies for local poultry and livestock grain feeders to compete with feeders in those areas.

6. Wheat supplies might be increased sufficiently to cause a build-up in stocks.

7. Corn and milo might be substituted for wheat in the Midwest in sufficient amounts to cause price-depressing increase in supplies of these crops.

The choices and decisions for 1964 are now being made. Accordingly, this is an opportune time for interested individuals and groups to study the alternatives and make their preferences known as guides to ASCS committees and administrators who must formulate and operate the program.

If anyone has questions about phases of the program, we, with help of our Oregon State University specialists, will do our best to help supply information. Our job in extension is to try and supply information, not to make administrative or farmer decisions. The choices and decisions are the responsibility of the effected people, in this case wheat farmers, and the administrators.

USDA Alternatives

The USDA currently sees no possibility for new wheat legislation for 1964. They are now concentrating on the way to administer the present law on the books.

According to the National Association of Wheat Growers news

letter of July 5, there are three alternatives in operating the Feed Grain Legislation enacted in May. They are:

1. To operate the Feed Grain Program concurrently with the wheat program under a NO vote. As wheat came into competition with corn as a feed grain, wheat prices would tend to find support in the market place at or above the corn price support level.

2. Provide higher diversion payment rates under the Feed Grain Program and require feed grain farmers with wheat acreage allotments to stay within their wheat allotments to be eligible to participate in the Feed Grain Program. (Cross compliance, this is virtually assured now.) The result being more feed grain producers would sign up for voluntary diversion of feed grain acreage.

3. If a grower complied with the provisions for voluntary feed grain diversion as outlined in 2 above, he would be permitted to grow feed grains on wheat acres or wheat on feed grain acres. It

is thought that if this were done, it might be required for a grower to divert more than a minimum now necessary, (20 percent) on his feed grain acres, in order to make such substitutions.

Oregon Employment Picture Brightens

The Oregon State Employment Service announced that total placements made in June were up more than nine percent compared to the number made in June a year ago. Placements made in June 1963 totaled over 116,600 compared to 106,700 in June 1962.

Non-agricultural placements for June 1963 were up 10.7 percent compared to a year ago, the Employment Service said and agricultural placements were up more than nine percent.

Though initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits were up more than 28 percent for June, compared to a year ago, the

number of benefit payments and amount of money paid were down 11 and 11.6 percent respectively compared to June a year ago.

For this fiscal year, compared to the previous fiscal year

through June 30, initial claims for unemployment insurance were down 2.1 percent; number of benefit payments were down 11.2 percent and amount paid out, (25.6 million) was down 11.8 percent.

Average amount of the weekly benefit check for the 1963 fiscal year was \$34.01 compared to \$34.25 for the 1962 fiscal year.

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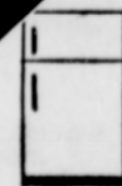
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