

FARM BUREAU NEWS

(From the Morrow County Farm Bureau News.)

Yes, We Had Some Rain

The weather man has been most kind to Morrow county this fall so far as the supply of moisture is concerned. This is not an unmixed blessing. A good many farmers are going to suffer at least a small loss because of damage to grain. We hope that this will not be too bad. However, there are a lot of advantages that are coming with this storm: it is settling the ground, it is starting the weeds on the summerfallow, and making it possible to plant clean grain another year but also an even stand of wheat. A few general correlations for wheat farming this fall may not be amiss:

- Be sure to treat your seed.
- Don't treat it too strong.
- Don't sow too deep.
- Don't sow your summerfallow.
- Don't sow mixed wheat if you can possibly secure clean seed of the variety you prefer.
- Don't delay to get the grain in as soon as possible. The sooner in the season up. A considerable amount of grain this year was sown in September and is now up so that the rows may be seen in the field. This offers an exceptional promise for another year. There should be no serious crusting in 1921. Many farmers are predicting the greatest crop in history for next harvest, but it is yet a long way off.

New Methods Put New Land In Cultivation In Morrow County.

During the last three years more than fifty thousand acres of good tillable land which a few years ago had been condemned as worthless is being put to the growing of good wheat crops. In the early pioneer days of Morrow county this land was taken up and deeded to private parties, and because of the low price of wheat (at that time wheat sold as low as 18 cents a bushel in Lexington and Ione) these farmers were compelled to absolutely leave their ranches, most of them being taken over by what is known as the Oregon Dakota Land Company. This company loaned a lot of money on the lands in the northern part of Morrow county, beginning at what is called the base line, which for a great many years was called the dead line. Anyone who had land north of this line was supposed to be in that land where only failure could be the reward of hard toil. With wheat selling at anything like those prices it is easy to understand how these men could not make expenses; could not even continue to live. The land was deserted, the fences were torn down, the bunch grass and weeds and sagebrush began to come back over this land. During the last three years, due to new methods of farming as developed in Sherman county, these lands are gradually going back into crops. This is particularly due to the increased price of wheat, but more largely to better methods of cultivation and proper variety.

In this territory, due to lightness of soil and light rainfall, Bluestem wheat can seldom be grown and now rarely, if ever, is any other variety

than Turkey Red found. Under present conditions the farmer comes a little more nearly getting what his wheat is worth than he did five or ten years ago. Now in place of the barren desert where nothing but the wild horse and jack rabbit roamed, today are found sections after sections of good summerfallow, well filled with the weeds carefully kept down, and side by side of these, fields of waving grain. It is fairly understood by these men on the land that this land cannot be expected to produce maximum crops for several years as it must be built up. The land, however, is very deep, in general running from ten to thirty feet in depth, with an average amount of rainfall approximately ten inches, not dissimilar to that in Sherman county. It is a question of but a few years until this will be covered by prosperous farmers. The advent of the farm tractor has gone a long way toward making this practical. The land lays very level and is most admirably adapted to mechanical farming. When this land comes into its own, when the other lands in Morrow county have increased in pro-

duction, and will as the farmers now realize they will be increased, the county will unquestionably stand second in the state in wheat production. Good tillage makes good yields.

John Day Irrigation District.

The John Day Irrigation District was one of the first major projects started in Morrow county through the efforts of the farmers working with the man who was then County Agent, Mr. F. R. Brown. Mr. Brown has been continually active with this project ever since it started and we are glad to announce at the present time that it is making splendid progress. The field surveys are now being done, the re-classification of the land is practically completed and there is a far better and brighter prospect now of its final completion than ever before. With the Reclamation Bills now before Congress and the prospects of definite release of reclamation, there is no reason to doubt that the GREAT JOHN DAY PROJECT will soon be a reality instead of a dream. There are very few men in Morrow county who have dreamed of the John Day project for more than five or six years, and these men we believe will live to see the realization of their dreams of waving alfalfa fields instead of sage-brush.

Turkey Wheat.

Several farmers in the county this year are somewhat disappointed at

their yields of Turkey wheat. We might say that they are not the only farmers who are disappointed as this year has not been a turkey year in any county. A few crops have done exceptionally well. Because Turkey has not done as well as you anticipated this year we would advise that you restrain your inclinations and do not desert it at once. Remember that Turkey wheat should be sown early in the fall. That the ground should be plowed early and that the wheat should be up in the fall if possible. Last year was a very poor fall for seeding grain but the turkey that was sown early did make good crops this year. It is practically only the late seeding which has given disappointment. It is our firm belief that Turkey is probably the best wheat for all the land from Heppner north, while there may be room for some argument in the upper country. Turkey Red wheat is the wheat which has made Kansas famous. It solved the problems for the farmers of Kansas between an account on the wrong side and the right side of the ledger. It has done well in Illinois. It has made Sherman county. It does well in the northern part of Gilliam county and we believe that it is one of the good wheats for Morrow county.

Forty-Fold Seed Wheat.

The shipment of Forty-Fold seed wheat in the county has finally arrived but has been brought with difficulties and point to dissatisfaction. The shippers at Condon with whom we kept in touch from day to day permitted us to act to our original order and assured us that they would ship us up to 1100 sacks. This was added on a few sacks at a time and we had every reason to believe they would fulfill their agreement. However, when the time came to ship

they claimed their inability to ship more than 647 sacks. We had taken the money for this in good faith from many of the farmers of the county and they would have very much preferred to have received their wheat instead of the money. However, we bought all the Forty-Fold wheat that was available in Condon and were assured that there was none available in Sherman county, there was no certified wheat in Union county and we feel that there is nothing to do but to sow what we can get and wait until next year to get

the rest of our good seed. In addition to the above troubles the bank for some reason misplanned the bill of lading and eight draft so that if we were unable to get it unloaded in what would appear to be an unreasonable time. These are a few disappointments we hope will not occur every time we want to get good seed.

I. Sweek, well known Monument sheepman, is over from Grant county on a visit to his son, C. I. Sweek, local attorney.



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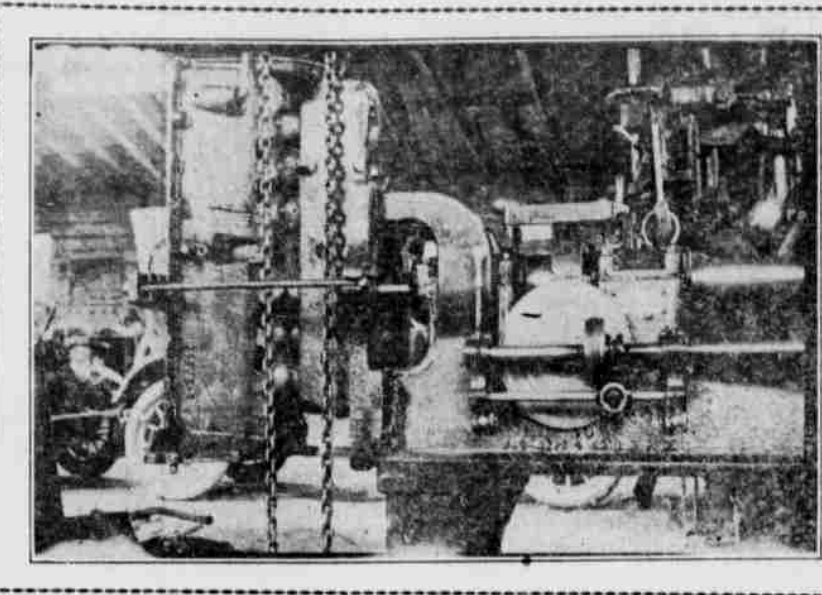
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