

## Eastern Oregon Wheat League Report and Recommendations of the Federal Agricultural Programs Committee

Heppner, Oregon, December 4-5, 1936

### PRODUCTION CONTROL

We recommend that the Eastern Oregon Wheat League request the enactment by Congress of adequate legislation to give American farmers machinery by which they can adjust production to effective demand and by which they can control the distribution of farm products in a basis that will promote soil conservation, and which will assure the American farmer adequate prices and parity of income with the rest of the nation.

We further recommend that such legislation be based upon and include the fundamental principles and machinery that have been successfully applied in the Agricultural Adjustment Act and the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act.

We make these recommendations for the following reasons:

1. Agricultural producers, particularly grain growers, have for many years operated under the handicap of selling in an unprotected world market and buying in a protected market.

2. As a result of many years of effort by organizations of farmers, the Agricultural Adjustment Act became a law on May 12, 1933. The benefit payments made possible by this Act were the first effective semblance of a protective tariff for agricultural producers, bringing them, in simple justice, benefits of the kind other groups have enjoyed for over 100 years.

3. Under the Agricultural Adjustment Act great strides were made in reducing the surplus of farm products more nearly to effective demand and increasing farm income.

4. The conservation of the soil and its fertility, which is the major objective of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, is fundamentally sound and essential to the welfare of the nation's agriculture. We recognize, however, that this Act is not the final answer to our problem. Good as far as it goes, this legislation must be coupled with effective production control and distribution in order to assure us of parity prices.

### AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The committee is of the opinion that in view of the unconstitutionality of the production control features of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, and the improbability of obtaining legislation from all states permitting production control under state laws, that the only practical method of bringing about control of production is through wider participation in the agricultural conservation program. This means that not only materially higher payments for seeding of additional soil conserving crops but also a substantial payment for maintaining soil conserving crops already seeded must be made. We believe that the simplified program recommended by the State Conservation Committee fulfills these requirements. We have given careful consideration to the reports of this committee and, in general, approve of them.

The proposed 1937 program, which we recommend, contains the following points:

1. That only one type of payment be made in 1937 and that this payment be made for carrying out soil building practices. This is intended to simplify the program throughout so that any farmer might determine just what his payments are going to be before carrying out his practices.

2. That a definite soil building allowance be set up for each farm, to be determined by multiplying the number of acres on the farm by \$1.00 and then multiplying by the adjusted farm rate.

3. That the minimum soil building allowance be \$25.00.

4. That the payment for soil building practices on any farm to earn

the soil building allowance shall be as follows:

#### Grasses and Legumes

(a) For planting crested wheat grass after October 31, 1936, and before October 31, 1937—\$8.00 an acre. A payment of \$6 per acre for maintaining any crested wheat grass planted in the fall of 1935 and before October 31, 1936, and \$3 for maintaining any old plantings of crested wheat grass where there is a good stand.

(b) For the planting of perennial grasses or legumes or mixtures thereof, when planted straight after October 31, 1936, and before October 31, 1937, \$6 an acre. For maintaining any plantings made in the fall of 1935 and before October 31, 1936, \$5 per acre. For maintaining any old plantings where there is a good stand, \$3 per acre. When either grasses or legumes are planted during 1937 with a nurse crop, that only \$2 per acre be paid.

(c) For the planting of biennial legumes or grasses in 1937, \$5 per acre, and for maintaining in 1937 the acres planted to biennial legumes in 1936, \$2 per acre. When the biennial legumes planted in 1937 are seeded with a nurse crop, \$2 per acre.

#### Control of Wind Erosion on Critical Blow Areas

(a) \$1.50 per acre for making and maintaining furrows not less than 8 inches deep and 10 inches wide and not more than 12 feet apart. Furrows to be at right angles to the prevailing winds. This should apply only to critical blow areas.

(b) \$2 per acre for the hauling and scattering of organic matter at the rate of not less than 2 tons dry basis per acre with the organic matter properly anchored.

#### Weed Control

(a) \$7.50 per acre for practicing clean cultivation on perennial noxious weeds.

(b) \$30.00 per acre for the treating of perennial noxious weeds with recommended chemicals. Ten dollars per acre was paid in 1936. It was felt that this payment should be increased due to the fact that all records available indicate that it costs at least \$50 per acre to treat an acre of perennial noxious weeds with chemicals and that more farmers would be encouraged to treat their weed patches if they were allowed at least 50 percent of the cost of it.

#### Crop Residues

(a) \$1.50 per acre for returning all of the crop residue from any small grain crop to the soil and adding a nitrogen carrying fertilizer in accordance with recommendations of the Oregon Experiment Station. No straw to be burned on the farm.

(b) \$1 per acre for returning all of the residue from a leguminous crop to the soil. No straw to be burned on the farm.

(c) \$50c per acre for making an acre of trashy summerfallow. By trashy summerfallow we mean that enough residue must be present on the surface of the soil at all times during the season to effectively prevent wind or water erosion to the satisfaction of the county committee. Provided, however, that if any farmer leaves all of the crop residue except the chaff on the fields and tills his fallow according to practices recommended by the county committee for the community involved, he would be in line to receive a grant even though wind and water erosion are not completely controlled.

#### Strip Farming

\$2.50 per acre for strip farming when carried out on the contour of the slope or at right angles to the prevailing winds, with crop strips not more than 20 rods apart.

#### Green Manures

Annual legumes, when turned under as green manure, \$3 per acre; small grains, when turned under as green manure crops, \$2 per acre. Mixtures of legumes and small

grains, when turned under as green manure, \$2.50 per acre.

#### Seeding Winter Wheat or Rye In Spring

The seeding of winter wheat or rye in the spring and none of the crop utilized, \$2 per acre.

#### Straw Checks in Gullies

Fifteen cents per linear 100 feet for the construction of straw checks in gullies where the slope of the bottom of the gullies is two per cent or more, with checks at least 4 inches deep and not more than two feet apart and the straw properly packed.

#### Chiseling

We recommend that the state committee give consideration to the inclusion of chiseling of crop land in the Oregon docket, payment to be based on a portion of the cost of operation.

5. That no requirements as to the minimum number of acres on which soil building practices are carried out should be made.

6. That each farming unit be handled separately with no multiple farm rulings.

7. Payment for soil conserving practices carried out other than for seeding or maintaining soil conserving crops to go to the operator, provided that if the owner furnishes any materials or pays any labor costs in connection with any other soil building practice that he should receive a portion of the payment earned on the farm in accordance with the percentage of the total cost he contributes.

8. We believe that payments for performance of soil building practices listed above should be considered as the minimum payment possible to accomplish the desired result of both soil conservation and production control. We recommend that if such payments, as outlined above, do not bring about production control to effective demand that additional appropriation by Congress be made to permit their increase.

#### CROP INSURANCE

The committee discussed the proposition of crop insurance thoroughly. In view of the fact that this subject is under consideration by a group of grain growers called to Washington, D. C., for that purpose by the Secretary of Agriculture, and further, in view of the fact that this committee's report is not available, we recommend that the Eastern Oregon Wheat League take no action on the subject of crop insurance at this time.

### Wheat Shows Well In Livestock Tests

One reason that wheat has been the subject of so much controversy regarding its value in feeding livestock is that it varies widely in composition according to the conditions under which it is grown. D. E. Richards, superintendent of the livestock branch experiment station at Union told members of the Eastern Oregon Wheat League at its recent convention.

"Wheat is the most variable in composition of any of the cereals and is profoundly influenced by climate, especially as to its protein content," Richards explained.

"Corn, if the crop is mature, has a very constant feeding value and its composition is little affected by climatic conditions. Wheat grown in the northern plains states on the other hand, averages 13.5 per cent protein, while wheat from the Atlantic coast states 11.7 per cent, and that from the Pacific coast states only 9.9 per cent protein."

In his investigation of feeding wheat to livestock, Richards has found that it is satisfactory for all kinds of livestock if properly fed. The fact that it has usually been higher in price than other grains has led to a common opinion that it is not adapted for livestock feeding purposes.

As early as 1892, however, the Oregon Experiment station published a bulletin in which wheat was spoken well of as a feed for pigs. Three years later a second bulletin was published showing that gains made by steers fed wheat compared favorably with those made by feeding corn, and that good returns could be realized by feeding wheat to cattle. Late experiments carried on by Richards at Union confirmed earlier trials showing that wheat

### Judge Threatened



KANSAS CITY... Judge A. L. Reeves (above), was told over the 'phone, "We're going to get you for this," a few hours after instructing a Grand Jury to reach for high as well as low in the alleged election' frauds, November 3rd.

can be used satisfactorily if properly fed.

Under eastern Oregon conditions a weaner calf weighing 400 to 500 pounds can be changed into a prime market animal weighing 700 to 800 pounds by feeding about 1000 pounds

of wheat with 1700 pounds of alfalfa hay over a period of 140 days. Yearling steers require a little more hay, from a ton to 2500 pounds, with the 1000 pounds of wheat to get in top shape.

### Range Program Meets Favor.

Livestock operators in Morrow county are hailing the range improvement program under the Agricultural Conservation act as the most beneficial and practical program ever offered for livestock men, and applications for improvements on more than 200,000 acres of range land were made, according to Joe Belanger, county agent. Range owners have been able to do a great deal of work on their land that they have been wanting to do for years, but have been forced to forego, Mr. Belanger says. Spring and water hole development probably leads the list of practices carried out under the 1936 program, he believes.

### CARD OF THANKS.

We wish to sincerely thank the kind friends and neighbors for their help and expressions of sympathy at the time of the bereavement of our beloved husband and father, Thomas J. O'Brien.

The Family.

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- Needlecraft - - - 1 Yr.
- Successful Farming - 1 Yr.
- Woman's World - - 1 Yr.
- The Country Home - 2 Yr.
- Farm Journal - - - 2 Yr.
- Pathfinder - - (26 issues)
- Breeder's Gazette - - 1 Yr.

#### GROUP-B

Check 2 magazines thus (X)

- American Poultry Journal 1 Yr.
- The Country Home - 1 Yr.
- Farm Journal - - - 1 Yr.
- Gentlewoman Magazine 1 Yr.
- Good Stories - - - 1 Yr.
- Illustrated Mechanics - 1 Yr.
- Leghorn World - - 1 Yr.
- Mother's Home Life - 1 Yr.
- Plymouth Rock Monthly 1 Yr.
- Rhode Island Red Journal 1 Yr.

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- Flower Grower - - - 6 Mo.
- McCall's Magazine - 1 Yr.
- Motion Picture Magazine 1 Yr.
- Parents' Magazine - 6 Mo.
- Open Road (Boys) - - 2 Yr.
- Opportunity Magazine - 1 Yr.
- Pictorial Review - - 1 Yr.
- Pathfinder (Weekly) - 1 Yr.
- Romantic Stories - - 1 Yr.
- Screen Play - - - 1 Yr.
- Sports Afield - - - 1 Yr.
- True Confessions - - 1 Yr.
- Household Magazine - 2 Yr.
- Woman's World - - 2 Yr.

#### GROUP-2

Check 2 magazines thus (X)

- American Poultry Journal 1 Yr.
- American Fruit Grower 1 Yr.
- The Country Home - 1 Yr.
- Farm Journal - - - 1 Yr.
- Gentlewoman Magazine 1 Yr.
- Good Stories - - - 1 Yr.
- Illustrated Mechanics - 1 Yr.
- Household Magazine - 1 Yr.
- Leghorn World - - 1 Yr.
- Mother's Home Life - 1 Yr.
- Needlecraft - - - 1 Yr.
- Plymouth Rock Monthly 1 Yr.
- Rhode Island Red Journal 1 Yr.
- Successful Farming - 1 Yr.
- Woman's World - - 1 Yr.
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- Breeder's Gazette - - 1 Yr.

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