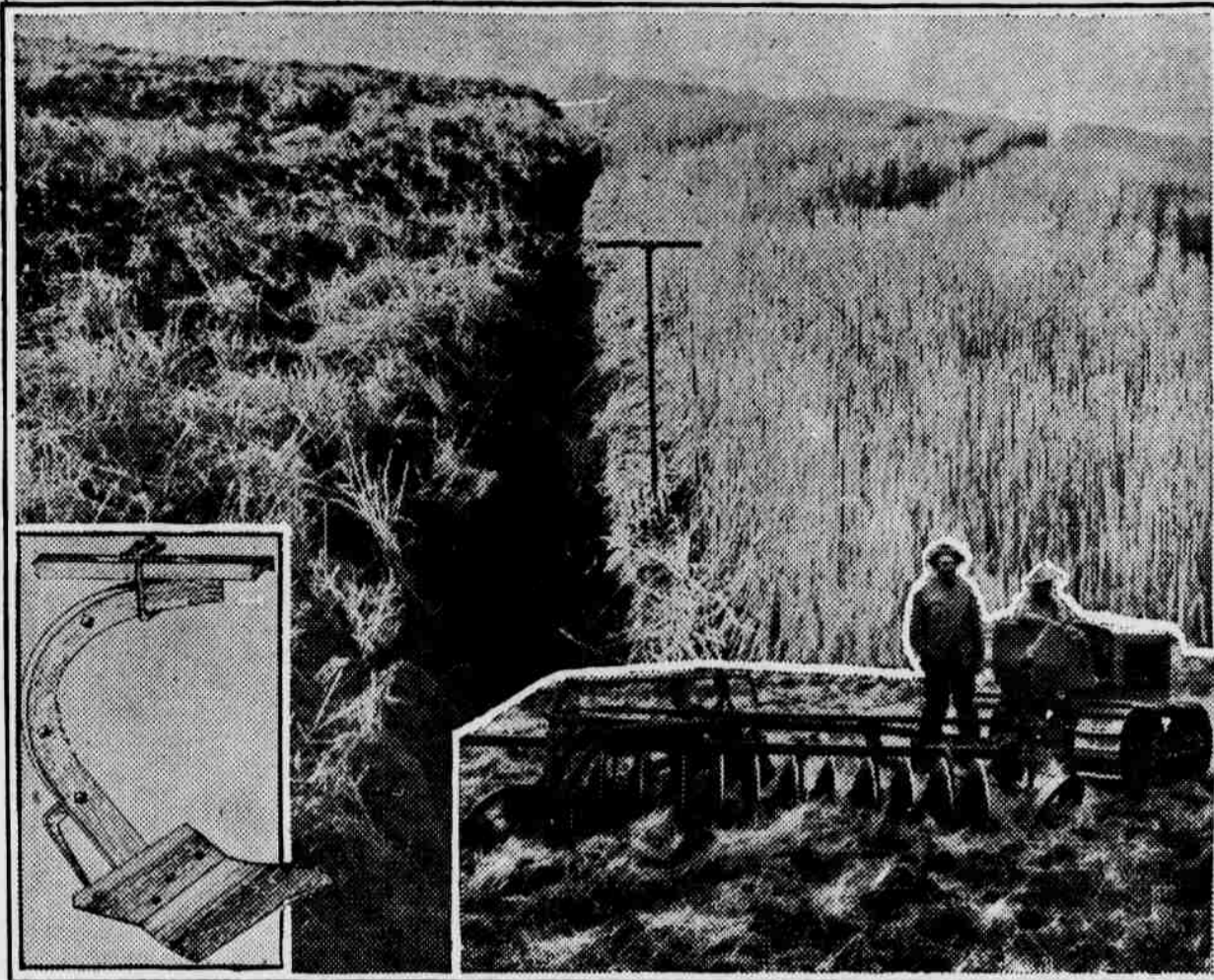


Trashy Tillage Saves Soil and Moisture



More and more Pacific Northwest grain farmers are using rough, trashy tillage to protect their cropland against soil washing and blowing and hold more moisture for their crops. Here is a representative field tilled so as to leave the stubble on the surface, and two popular implements for doing the job. One is the modified, or "stubby" mold-board plow and the other a one-way disk. Both machines loosen the soil enough or it to absorb moisture but keep the straw on top as a protective cover until the next crop is grown.
—Soil Conservation Service photos

Burned Stubble Now Frowned on; New Tillage Used

Farmers who burn their stubble or straw these days are fortunately becoming much more rare than in former years. This is partly the result, no doubt, of the pressure of neighborhood opinion which has learned that burned stubble one year may mean a serious "blow" the next, which will not only hurt the offender but his neighbor as well.

Perhaps more important, however, is the development of satisfactory methods of handling heavy stubble without burning, say the men of the Soil Conservation service who, with state extension and experiment station men, have been working on this problem for years.

Where stubble is light a good plan is to leave it standing until spring to supply the needed ground cover. With heavy stubble, on the other hand, fall disking has proved the best means of reducing the quantity of stubble and straw to permit satisfactory tillage operations in the spring.

For summer following the one-way disk run at slow speeds and the cut-down or stubby moldboard plow are used most widely to stir the ground but still leave most of the straw and stubble near the surface. Later cultivation is accomplished by means of a rod weeder. The resulting trashy surface resists both wind and water erosion.

Some fields have been burned accidentally this summer through no fault of the owner. These present an erosion hazard which can be controlled somewhat, according to the experience of SCS cooperators. Rough fall tillage on the contour has proved to be the most effective way to prevent erosion on burned-over fields the first season. The effects of such fall tillage will not extend beyond one year, however.

Where conditions permit the seeding of a crop next spring, it is possible to re-establish protective crop residues before much damage is done. Where there is no way to eliminate next year's summer following, about the only protection is to carry on the summer following in such a way as to keep a cloddy surface and then be sure that the grain is drilled on the contour or across the slope instead of up and down hill.

2 More Co-ed Co-ops Opened by O. S. C.

Oregon State College—Two new co-operative houses for women will be operated this coming year in Corvallis to help provide for students

who will do part of their own work and thus obtain board and room at very low cost. This brings the total number of cooperative houses to five and increases the capacity from 80 to 135 girls.

Plans have been made for Corvallis residents to care for the prospective overflow of girls from halls, sororities and cooperative houses.

About 60 girls will live in Corvallis hotels and others in private homes for the first week or so while they are becoming acquainted with sororities and are being chosen by present sorority members. Freshman week starts September 25, with regular class work beginning October 2.

By the first week in September more than 500 girls had been accepted for registration the first time, an increase of more than 4 per cent above those accepted on the comparable date a year before. Women students returning will bring the total number of co-eds registered to an estimated 1400 or more.

World-Wide Data Gathered to Aid "War Crop" Plans

Oregon farmers, particularly wheat growers, are going to have to make their own decisions on what changes, if any, should be made in their farming practices in view of the European war, but every effort is going to be made to see that they have all the facts possible on which to base such decisions.

Such, in brief, are the facts back of the recent announcement that a statewide meeting will be held in Pendleton Wednesday, September 13, to discuss the current situation.

AAA officials to be present at the meeting will include N. E. Dodd, western regional director and former chairman of the Oregon state committee, and Will Steen of Milton, present state chairman. Extension men from Oregon State college will also be present to present facts and figures on the wheat situation.

Starting September 18, similar meetings will be held in each of 17 principal wheat-growing counties. The schedule calls for meetings on September 18 in Benton, Lane, Jefferson and Wasco counties; on September 19 in Linn, Marion, Sherman and Gilliam counties; on September 20 in Polk, Yamhill, Morrow and Umatilla counties; on September 21 in Washington, Clackamas, Walla and Union counties; and on September 22 in Baker county.

Many people are assuming that what happened to wheat prices following the outbreak of the World war in 1914 will be repeated. The figures on comparative wheat sup-

plies then and now do not bear out such a belief, say AAA officials. For example, at the outbreak of the war in 1914 the world had a wheat supply of 3.7 billion bushels. This year the supply is 5.3 billion bushels, the largest in all history.

Furthermore, in recent years the European countries have become far more self-sufficient in wheat production than at the opening of the World war. World wheat production

outside the United States, exclusive of Russia and China, has increased from less than two billion bushels in 1914 to nearly 3½ billion bushels in 1939.

These and many other facts will be presented for farmers to use in deciding whether they wish to take a chance on wheat prices going higher than the amounts now received

under the acreage allotment program.

A total of 220,000 lives have been saved in the United States since 1913, National Safety Council statisticians estimate. Had the death rate of 1913 continued through 1938, that many more persons would have been killed during that period, it is figured.

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