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More Oregonians Take 1940 Wheat Crop Insurance

Popularity of Federal Protection Shows Big Increase in Year

Growth in popularity of federal crop insurance is shown by the fact that around 2200 Oregon farmers will have policies protecting this year's wheat crop, as compared to about 700 in 1939, according to the state AAA office in Corvallis.

Oregon farmers have until February 29 to apply for insurance on spring wheat. Applications will be taken at county agricultural conservation offices.

Will Steen of Milton, chairman of the state agricultural conservation committee, said that nearly one-half of Oregon's 1940 crop will be protected from all risks by the federal insurance, according to the present outlook.

"This means a lot from a financial standpoint, since it opens a new source of credit," he declared. "Any farmer who has assured himself of three-fourths of a normal crop by taking out insurance is a much better risk to creditors than the farmer who is going it on his own. Banks and other lending agencies are a lot more willing to advance him money."

Crop insurance was in effect in 17 Oregon counties in 1939. Out of the 708 policies sold, 181 paid loss claims to their holders because of poor crops. Five counties had no losses.

Federal crop insurance is unique in that premiums and losses are handled on a "wheat basis." Farmers who insure their wheat crops can pay the premiums in wheat, and in event of a loss can be repaid in wheat.

The premium rate that each grower pays is calculated from actual losses that he has experienced during the base period, a 13 or 20-year period, depending on the area. In other words, the grower's premium payment represents his average annual cost of crop failure. Insurance won't reduce the amount of loss a grower may expect over a similar period of years, but it enables him to pay his cost of failure in annual installments rather than in one ruinous loss.

Snowfall Light in Umatilla Forest

Snowfall in the Blue mountains south of Heppner has been unusually light this winter, according to information imparted by the forest ranger's office here. Before the light snowstorm Tuesday night, depth of snow at Ditch creek was seven inches. This is below normal, although December and early January rainfall made up the deficiency in snowfall to quite an extent.

Deer are reported plentiful in the local forest area. Mrs. Margaret Justus states that 150 head have been counted on her range on upper Hinton creek. So far the animals have been grazing and have not been considered a burden. Should they have to be fed, or rather help themselves to the hay, it may be necessary to appeal to the game commission for assistance.

LAND USE MEETING

A land use meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday evening, Jan. 21, at Willows grange hall in Ione. All districts adjacent to Ione have been asked to have representatives present. Preparation of a land use map similar to that in use by the grazing district will be taken up and committees selected from the farmers will be named to carry on the work, according to plans outlined by the county agent's office.

BIRTHDAY BALL WEEK-END EVENT

Drive for Infantile Paralysis
Fund to Receive Impetus at
Big Dance Saturday Evening

Saturday evening will mark the climax to the drive for funds for the fight against infantile paralysis. That is the date of the annual President's Birthday ball which will be held at the Elks hall in Heppner. Plans for the big social event, which has always been the source of raising much of the county's contribution to the national fund, have been completed, according to the committee in charge.

The Troubadors, an 8-piece swing band of Umatilla county, has been retained to furnish the music. In behalf of the committee it might be explained that the orchestra was selected by bid and not from preference.

Throughout the state and nation final plans have been made to bring to a successful conclusion all participation in the 1940 campaign against infantile paralysis. The drive will be climaxed by the birthday balls, parties and other events designed to raise funds and to make the people infantile paralysis conscious.

Locally there has been some contribution of funds through means other than the dance and there are still packets available for sending in dimes. Fifty per cent of all funds contributed from the county will be returned for use here, it is pointed out.

Sunday, Jan. 28, has been set aside as Infantile Paralysis Church Sunday, when churches of all denominations will offer prayers for those who have been afflicted with the dread disease. The idea was originated by the churches last year and is endorsed and supported by them.

IF MAD BULL ATTACKS YOU, BULLDOG HIM

It may not have been cricket, as the English put it, and probably would not have passed the censors at a Mexican bullfight, but it proved effective, according to Frank Lindsay, rancher of the north Morgan section, when a mad bull attacked him at his ranch last Friday evening. The reason: Lindsay wrestled with the bull in the manner accepted in the modern rodeo arena and commonly known as bulldogging.

Quick wit probably saved Lindsay from serious injury. He figured that the closer he could stay to the animal the less risk there was of being gored. After wrestling around the lot for some time he was able to free himself from the bull and reach safety. When examined by a local physician it was found he had suffered nothing worse than two fractured ribs.

Grazing District Board Meets Here

Members of the Morrow county grazing district board met with Virgil Starr, district grazier, at County Agent C. D. Conrad's office in Heppner Monday on matters pertaining to operation of the unit.

The federal range code was reviewed with a view to making recommendations for changes of policy. All grazing districts of the state as well as in other states have been asked to assist the department in revising the code. Allotments for 1940 also were discussed. Fee notices will be sent out to all allotment holders by the middle of February.

Members attending the meeting were L. D. Neill, Charles Bartholomew, John Krebs and Jack Hynd. William Kilkenny is the fifth member of the board.

AAA Committee Outlines 1940 Farm Program

District Meeting at Arlington Monday to Formulate Plans

County committeemen from six counties held a meeting at Arlington Monday to formulate plans for the 1940 farm work program under the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Representatives of the state organization were present and acted in an advisory capacity. These included Fred Entermille, representative of the state committee, Chas. W. Smith, assistant state county agent leader, C. L. Ludwig, state wheat loan advisor, and Clyde Kiddle, state crop insurance assistant.

An outline for work in 1940 was laid before the group and its various phases were discussed. Mr. Smith urged coordination of the different agencies working toward the same goal in attaining permanent conservation practices. He pointed out that the AAA gives the individual farmer an opportunity to carry out practices the extension service has been advocating for years.

Speaking on wheat loans, C. L. Ludwig stated that federal crop loans were made on 23,000,000 bushels of wheat in the western district, including the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Utah, in 1939, and that as of December 1, 1939, approximately 20,000,000 bushels were still in the growers' hands and estimated there was little change in that figure at present. All loans will mature on April 30. The present market price is from 15 cents to 18 cents a bushel better than the loan value, which averages 60 cents a bushel. The speaker stated that last-minute liquidation might affect the general market price and counseled a gradual liquidation. In this connection it is pointed out that Morrow county loans are about 30 per cent liquidated.

Clyde Kiddle reported Oregon well up to the top in percentage of seeded wheat insured. The latest reports indicate that 35 per cent of the total acreage seeded in the state is covered by crop insurance and with spring applications yet to come may reach 50 per cent. Spring seeding applications will be received up to Feb. 29, the closing date.

A follow-up AAA meeting for all community committeemen of the county will be held in Heppner Feb. 1, according to C. D. Conrad, county agent. The county program will be further broken down to community meetings for the purpose of educating the farmers in the different phases of the 1940 farm work schedule. May 1 is the final date for signing intention of participation in the 1940 program. This applies to both farming and grazing. November 30 is the closing date for completing the conservation program.

Those attending the Arlington meetings from Morrow county were the county committeemen, E. Harvey Miller, R. B. Rice and Henry Baker, County Agent Cliff Conrad and assistant secretary, Merle Cummings.

BENEFIT DANCE SCHEDULED

The Girls' League of Lexington high school is planning a benefit dance for one of their members, Erma Scott, who has been ill in The Dalles hospital for the last two months with pneumonia. The dance will be held at the Lexington grange hall on Saturday evening, February 3. The committee in charge has extended a general invitation for public support and promises that everyone will enjoy themselves dancing modern and old time dances to the music of an excellent orchestra.

SCOUTS PERFORM FOR LIONS CLUB

Youths Display Knowledge of
Laws and Handicraft Before
Sponsor Organization

Interest in Boy Scout work was heightened Monday when Martin B. Clark, scoutmaster, and three of his scouts appeared before the Lions club and demonstrated some of the work accomplished since the reorganization of the Heppner troop late last fall. A demonstration in knot tying and quoting of scout law, the scout oath and uses of the "Flag of the United States" were included in the program.

Wade Bothwell showed the Lions what he and other scouts have learned about tying rope into knots. The youth not only tied the knots but explained the use of each. He was followed by Tom Starkey who gave the scout oath and readily answered all points in it as well as explaining the points of the national flag and how it should be used.

Albert Schunk recited the scout law and readily answered what each of the 12 rules mean. A test given by the scoutmaster to the three boys showed that the principles of scout lore are being properly assimilated.

Announcement was made that the next court of honor will be held at Lexington, Feb. 8-15 is Boy Scout week and several functions have been planned, the most important of which to the local troop is the parents-sons banquet on Lincoln's birthday. Special emphasis will be placed on the flag and an invitation will be given the public to attend the meeting.

Miss Rachel Forsythe and a sextet of girls representing the seventh and eighth grades entertained with two vocal numbers. The personnel included Marjorie Sims, Louise Green, Jean Turner, Patricia Kenney, Betty Marie Coxen and Kathryn Howell. Mary Lou Ferguson was accompanist.

Fall Results in Death of John Kelly

John Kelly, for a number of years a resident of Morrow county where he engaged in the sheep business, met death in an accident at the Packard hotel in Pendleton Friday evening. He slipped on a stair landing of the third floor and fell some 30 feet to the roof of a storm door, suffering a basal skull fracture that resulted in instant death.

Kelly, 56, with two friends, James Higgins of Pilot Rock and Bernard Doherty of Echo, was leaving the hotel after being with Pat Bohan of Echo in his room.

Funeral services were held at St. Mary's Catholic church in Pendleton Monday morning, attended by many friends of Umatilla and Morrow counties, where the deceased was well and favorably known. Pallbearers were Walter Moore and James Petrie of Pendleton; Henry Cohn, of Heppner; James Higgins, Pilot Rock; Barney Doherty and Pat Bohan of Echo.

Mr. Kelly, born in Ireland, March 31, 1884, came to the United States in 1910 and to Morrow county in 1911. He followed the sheep business in this county, operating for a number of years on the George Perry ranch on Rock creek. He went to Pendleton five or six years ago, making his home at the Pendleton hotel. He represented Eismann Bros., of Boston, and became known as one of the best wool buyers operating in this district. Loyal to his friends, generous and kind hearted, his sudden passing has caused sincere regret.

Surviving are two brothers, James of New York, and one in Ireland. He was a member of the Catholic church and the Knights of Columbus.

Mrs. Frank C. Alfred has resigned her position with the Wasco welfare division and has joined Mr. Alfred at their home in Heppner.

New Buildings Projected to Rise On Main Street

Truman Babb Starts Work on First Unit for Penney Company

Signs of building activity in Heppner were evidenced Monday of this week when Truman Babb, local contractor and builder, resumed preliminary work on the lot recently acquired from Dr. A. D. McMurdock which was interrupted by the snow storm two weeks ago. Work now in progress is on the first unit of a projected building which will cover the entire frontage between the Masonic building and the Thomson Bros. building.

The first unit is to be a one-story building 30 feet wide by 100 feet long. Concrete and tile will be used in the walls. Joint use of the Thomson wall has been acquired and a concrete wall will be built from the end of the Thomson wall to the rear of the new building. Concrete flooring with a tile covering will be used in place of the customary wood floor. When completed, about April 1, this room will be occupied by the J. C. Penney company.

As fast as the work can be undertaken, Mr. Babb will extend the building to cover his entire lot. The second unit may be divided into four store rooms, depending upon the demand when the work is started. Renters are plentiful, he states, and prospects are good for continued building operations throughout the season.

Prospects for a general business moving have been opened with the start of building activities. It is understood that several business concerns desire different locations and when the Penney company moves into the new quarters it is likely that a succession of business moves will follow. With addition of four or five new store rooms to the business district it is possible that some vacancies will occur, unless the owners succeed in filling them with new enterprises.

Winter Holds on With Firm Grip

Following the January thaw that removed a large part of the heavy snow blanket of two weeks ago, Old Man Winter returned over the week end and has held this section in a firm grip. The temperature has not descended to a startling degree but has remained steadily below freezing for a week.

Tuesday and Wednesday nights were the coldest recorded by the U. S. thermometer at the Gilliam home. The mercury dropped to 14 above both nights. What appeared to be a cold snap on the way Wednesday evening was checked by a snow storm that left about four inches on the ground.

Lexington Children Given Health Tests

Fifty-seven children were examined at the Lexington school, January 18, by Dr. M. C. Davis from the State Board of Health. Twelve children were vaccinated for smallpox and thirteen were given their first dose of toxoid for diphtheria and two were given Schick tests, according to Lucille H. Vale, county nurse.

Forty-five children were examined at the Ione school, January 19. Nine children were given their first dose of toxoid for diphtheria and eleven children were vaccinated for smallpox. Two were given Schick tests.

Mrs. Lena Cox was hostess to the American Legion auxiliary at her home Tuesday afternoon. There was a large attendance.