

Sheep Feeding Project Proves Wheat Unexcelled

By WALTER HOLT,
Umatilla County Agent

That wheat is without a superior, corn included, as a grain for fattening animals has been conclusively proved by experiment stations quite generally scattered over this nation. Feeders, too, have demonstrated a superior quality of cattle, sheep and hogs fed with wheat as the principal concentrate in the ration. Those who have been watching the progress of this grain are fully aware of the truths mentioned above.

However, wheat has not become generally used in the fattening rations of the West in particular and it is apparent that the problem now is one of convincing livestock feeders of its fattening value. Oregon State college recently published a bulletin showing how it would be possible to remove the wheat surplus from the northwest by feeding it to fattening animals for consumption along the Pacific slope. It seems only reasonable then to conclude that there should be a vigorous campaign to vastly increase the utilization of northwestern wheat as feed for domestic animals.

Most naturally, then, the Eastern Oregon Wheat league has taken the lead in an effort to show the farming public how practical is the wheat feeding recommendation. Visitors at the wheat league convention in Heppner next month will be given an opportunity to see a great many pens of ten lambs each which will have been finished by that time with wheat as the only concentrate in their rations. These pens of lambs will be exhibited by 4-H club members from practically all of the wheat league counties in eastern Oregon and it's our guess that these 4-H

clubbers will put on a great lamb show.

In taking the initiative in this demonstrational program, the wheat league arranged for a uniform group of top-notch feeder lambs originating from one summer range to be distributed equitably among the young feeders, who since the 23rd of August have been following the most approved practices in lamb feeding operations with wheat as the staff of life. The wheat league has arranged for livestock experts to grade all the pens of lambs upon the basis of modern packing house requirements as to quality. Following the show at Heppner, the lambs will be loaded and shipped by rail to the Portland Union stockyards where they will be offered on the open market. It is planned to take the 4-H club feeders of the lambs to the Portland market to observe the marketing processes, this phase to be followed by a trip through the packing plant, providing all of the boys and girls an opportunity to see the tremendously interesting operation. Lamb feeders in the various counties are as follows: Gilliam county, Joan Morgan of Lonerock and Billie Jaeger of Condon; Umatilla county, Harold Smith of Pilot Rock, Phillip Hoon of Milton, and Glen Wilcox of Hermiston; Wallowa county, Donald Vance of Enterprise and Jim Nobles of Wallowa; Morrow county, Freddy Rugg and Bobby Van Schoiack of Heppner, and Donald Peck of Lexington; Wasco county, Wilbur Hendricks and Clifford Bergen of Dufur, Norman Morrow, Wesley Magill, and D. A. Harvey, Jr., of Wamic, Bill Thomas and John Miller of The Dalles; Baker county, Ralph Leonnig, Jr., Royal Vanderwall, Bert Vanderwall, Bob Young, Jim Young and Glen Daugherty, all of Haines.

lege extension service and experiment station, there would have been nothing to expand.

Crested wheat grass was first grown in Oregon at the Moro Experiment station, where the first planting was made more than 20 years ago and where a field is still in existence, under continuous pasturage for 23 years. The way this grass stood up through good years and bad at the station turned the attention of eastern Oregon county agents toward it.

With continued experimentation and small field trials with this grass, the acreage expanded gradually until by 1932 there were 250 acres seeded. By 1936 the total had reached 7000, since which time it has increased at the rate of nearly 10,000 acres a year.

Several large blow areas and many smaller ones have been "tied down" in Morrow county by planting crested wheat grass. Seeding it in alternate strips with wheat and fallow on the contour, in contour strip farming programs has also proved successful as an erosion control measure on the steeper lands in this county.

In eastern Oregon as a whole the crested wheat grass acreage has increased steadily from 583 acres in 1926 to 202,854 acres at present.

From 1930 on the acreage of crested wheat grass gradually moved into commercial production so that when the opportunity for wholesale expansion came under the agricultural conservation program, Oregon was the only western state where every county had completed its own testing and where adequate seed was available. As a matter of fact, the Oregon work paved the way for the rapid use of the crop in all other western states.

The state highway commission is beginning to use the grass on newly constructed highways in order to reduce fire hazard, control weeds, prevent erosion, and in order to improve the appearance of the highways. Mile after mile of green, waving grass is certainly more attractive to the tourist than jumbled masses of unsightly, partly dead weeds.

Land use committees of this and other eastern Oregon counties have uniformly recommended the planting of crested wheat grass as a means of insuring continuance of farming here on a stable, long-time basis.

Wheat and livestock have always been, and must continue to be the mainstays of eastern Oregon agriculture. With the loss of foreign wheat markets and necessary limitation on wheat acreage, the use of crested wheat grass on these poorer wheat lands and on steep slopes where erosion has become serious is going far to maintain the long-time stability of eastern Oregon agriculture.

Morning Glory Land Grows More Wheat Than Weedless Soil

By WALTER HOLT,
Umatilla County Agent

More wheat from an acre of morning-glory-infested land than from an adjacent weed-free acre while killing the weeds will constitute one of the most startling facts to be presented to Eastern Oregon Wheat leaguers at their convention in Heppner in December. There was no application of stable manure, no alfalfa plowed down, no commercial fertilizer used to produce accurately measured yields of 60 to 68 bushels of wheat to the acre in 1941 upon land that three years ago was renting for 50 cents an acre, covered with a tightly-woven blanket of morning glories. Nearby weed-free land under the usual summer fallow system produced 12 to 15 bushels less.

How come? Just tillage and cropping. No weed killing chemicals. No fancy gadgets or patented ideas. And a slick angle of the whole deal is the fact that in most cases the present allowance under AAA will take care of the extra cost.

At the wheat league convention

Lynn Harris of the Oregon experiment station will tell, by words and colored pictures, how farmers may rid their lands of the grasping morning glory while growing better-than-average crops. Harris will base his information upon facts developed at the Oregon morning glory control experiment in Umatilla county, bolstered by findings of other experiment stations. He'll tell the folks how to plow in the spring, when to cultivate in the summer, and it's pretty certain the advice will include fall plowing, maybe once—maybe twice. Since this is a tillage and cropping method of weed control, Mr. Harris will bear down on such points as what to seed and when to do it. How much seed to plant will be important if quick destruction of the weed is sought, as well as the management of the land during the year it is being cropped. All these points, and more too, will be covered in this most important discussion.

So, if you are using high-cost soil-destroying methods and still have this clinging vine, or if your neighbors are threatening to give you the work as a community spreader of this pest because you are waiting for a cheaper, more effective method of control to be developed, may it be suggested that you let the hired man run the outfit for a few days while you go to Heppner for the wheat league meeting? It seems like a smart thing to do.

Gilliam County Cuts Loss From Smut

By W. F. MARSHALL
County Agent, Gilliam County

Within the past six years almost unbelievable progress has been made in reducing losses from smut in Gilliam county. A survey of the records indicates that prior to 1936 approximately 40% of the crop graded smutty representing a loss to farmers of approximately \$35,000 annually.

In 1936 a project was adopted by the Extension Service to reduce this loss. The campaign was based on the use of clean, smut free seed, thorough and careful use of approved seed treatments, demonstrations of the use of New Improved Ceresan, and the introduction and use of smut resistant varieties. Farmers were quick to realize the possibilities of such a project and the first year, 1936, wheat grading smutty was reduced to 20% of the crop in the county.

Since 1936 the project has been continued without interruption and smut losses have continued to decline. In 1937 approximately 18% of the crop graded smutty; in 1938, 8%; in 1939, 12%; in 1940, 6%; and from all indications not more than 4% of the 1941 crop will grade smutty. In the past six years farmers in the county have saved themselves at least \$125,000.

The highest percentage of smut is found in the varieties, such as Forty Fold, that are not smut resistant. The use of clean, smut free seed and careful use of approved seed treatments will, as a rule, reduce the loss to a minimum in such varieties. Smut resistant varieties, such as Rex, Oro, and Rio, very seldom grade smutty if proper treatment is used. New Improved Ceresan has proven to be the most effective smut treatment now available and is used more extensively than any other method.

Experience in Gilliam county has proven conclusively that if farmers follow the relatively simple precautions of using clean, smut free seed, thorough and careful use of approved smut treatments, and smut resistant varieties the loss from smut can be held to a minimum.

Morrow Second In Raising Wheat Grass

By C. D. CONRAD,
Morrow County Agent.

Morrow county, with approximately 37,000 acres of former wheat land now producing crested wheat grass, has become the second county in the state in area devoted to this crop. This popular dry land grass has now "arrived" as a major crop in this region, where its use constitutes one of the most striking examples of the advantage of being ready in advance of an agricultural emergency.

Here in Morrow county the first crested wheat grass was seeded in nursery trials in 1925. Its use has grown steadily since that time, first as a seed crop and more recently for hay and pasture purposes. The AAA program with its wheat acreage limitation and emphasis on soil conservation has provided the opportunity and financial assistance for expanding the acreage, but without the pioneer work of the state col-

WHITE FOR SAFETY AT NIGHT

Nearly 85% of the pedestrians killed in traffic accidents during the first six months of 1941 were dressed in dark clothing, indicating the need for persons on foot to wear or display something white while walking at night, according to the state traffic safety division.

In winter time, wear white rain coats, carry white umbrellas, or display a lighted flashlight.

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BLOSSOMS IN THE DUST
(In Technicolor)
Greer Garson, Walter Pidgeon, Marsha Hunt, Felix Bressart,
Fay Holden, Samuel S. Hinds
An inspiring, heart-warming story that should be seen by every man, woman and child.

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Friday-Saturday, December 5-6
WHISTLING IN THE DARK
Introducing **RED SKELTON**, the stage's most brilliant comedian. He's a mile-a-minute whirlwind of laughs, giggles and guffaws! With Ann Rutherford, Conrad Veidt, Virginia Grey.
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