EASTERN OREGON WHEAT LEAGUE CONVENTION - DECEMBER 4-5-6, '41

# Heppner Gazette Times

SECTION TWO

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## 'All Risk' Insurance Gains Popularity

By N. C. DONALDSON

Showing a constant growth since its introduction in Oregon in 1939, federal all-risk wheat crop insurance is headed for its greatest year in 1942, from the standpoint of number of farms covered by policies.

Applications for insurance on winter wheat have been received from 5563 farms, with a considerable number of spring wheat policies yet to be written. For the 1941 crop year, 4691 policies were in force for both winter and spring wheat.

The loss record for 1941 presents a sharply contrasting picture between western and eastern Oregon. The unusually good crop conditions in the major wheat counties resulted in a very small percentage of loss claims and indemnity payments.. On the other hand, rust, foot rot, Hessian fly, and excessive moisture took a heavy toll in western Oregon, where indemnities paid out to growers far exceeded the amount of premiums paid.

Most of 1228 loss claims approved as of November 15 by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation came from western and southern Oregon, with only 122 coming from the nine Columbia basin wheat counties. Indemnities totalling 127,975 bushels have been paid on these claims.

The state summary for the causes of the loss claims paid so far demonstrates why wheat crop insurance is called "all-risk." Almost every kind of crop hazard is represented in the loss record. Here are the state totals, showing the percentage of the total indemnities paid for each cause of loss:

Drought, 8.4%; lack of water, .3%; wind, .5%; excessive moisture, 18.2%; flood, .4%; hail, 9.9%; frost, 5.6%; dust storms, .05%; insects, 16.9%; plant diseases, 29.2%; rodents, 1.2%; stray stock, .1%; weeds, 2.5%; poor farming practices, .1%; crusting, .7%; migratory birds, 1.4%; volunteer vegetation, 2.5%; winter kill, 1.1%; fire, 1%.

Despite the fact that indemnity certificates afford opportunity for choosing the most favorable market, only 307 of the claimants selected this method of receiving indemnity payments, while 921 asked for cash on the spot.

While the amount of indemnities paid out to date is only 59 per cent of the amount of premiums paid in 1941, the premium rate is based on long-time histories, and on long-range basis, premiums and indemnities will average out the same.

The increase in applications for 1942 insurance indicates that growers recognize the value of crop insurance, despite a good crop year with camparatively few losses. Most growers are aware that next year might be a different story.

## Surplus Wheat May Be Fed to Livestock

By H. A. LINDGREN
Extension Specialist in Livestock, O. S. C.

Since the surplus wheat has become a problem in the Northwest, many questions have been asked regarding its value as a feed for livestock.

Wheat has long since been considered equal in value to barley and corn in putting on gains in weight for hogs, lambs, and beef cattle. In fact, the Union experiment station has shown that wheat is slighty more valuable than the other grains mentioned for fattening purposes.

If the wheat price was on an equal basis with corn and barley, a feeding program could be developed in Oregon. It requires approximately 450 pounds of wheat to produce 100 pounds of gain with hogs. It reguires approximately 800 pounds of wheat and 2400 pounds of hay to fatten a yearling steer for the coast market. It requires approximately 1000 pounds of wheat and a ton of hay to fatten a weaner calf for the same market.

In fattening lambs experiments

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## "Give Us This Day..."

## *SHERMAN EXPERIMENT FARM CONTRIBUTES TO INDUSTRY*

By M. M. OVESON

The Sherman Branch Experiment station, located at Moro, Oregon, was established in 1909, under a cooperative arrangement between the state of Oregon and the United States department of agriculture. The people of Sherman county purchased the land and built the permanent improvements, In selecting the site for the station, the committee, which consisted of H. D. Scudder, agronomist, Oregon Agricultural college, and William M. Jardine, agronomist in charge of experiments with dry land grains, U. S. department of agriculture, was very desirous that it be located so as to do the greatest number of people the greatest possible good, and that it be located under soil and climatic conditions representative of the actual conditions under which the largest percentage of the farming in the region was done.

H. J. Umberger was the first superintendent, taking over his duties during the summer of 1909. In the spring of 1912, Mr. Umberger was replaced by D. E. Stephens who directed the progress of the station until 1938 at which time he was transferred to Washington, D. C. Since 1938, M. M. Oveson has been in charge of the work at the station.

The Sherman branch station serves a farming area of 1,250,000 acres distributed over six counties in which wheat production is the major crop. The elevation at the station is 1800 feet and the average rainfall 11.09 inches. The soils range from fine sandy loam to a silt loam, which classes prevail throughout the entire area. The depth of these soils range from two feet on the south and west slopes to well over six feet on the north and east slopes. In addition to the experimental research carried on at the station, outlying cereal varietal nurseries are conducted at two locations in Jefferson county, three in Gilliam county, one in Wasco county, and two in Sherman county. From these nurseries additional information is gathered on each of the promsing cereal varieties.

In the thirty years the Sherman branch experiment station has operated, many worthy projects have been carried on which have added greatly to the wealth of the wheat farmers throughout all of Eastern Oregon and a large portion of eastern Washington. Many of these projects include:

**1. Cereal Breeding Investigations.**

Emphasis has been placed on the breeding, introduction, testing, and distributing of higher yielding, disease-resistant varieties of wheat, oats, and barley.

The new varieties, Rex, Oro, Rio, Golden, Federation, White Federation, and Hard Federation 31 wheat, Markton and Carleton oats, Meloy and Flynn Sel. 37 barley, were tested, developed and released by the Moro station and now constitute the standard varieties in eastern Oregon.

The introduction of disease-resistant varieties such as Rex, Oro, and Rio together with the development of new improved methods of treating wheat for smut, reduced the amount of "smutty" grain at the Pacific inspection points from 23% in 1932 to 5% in 1939.

**2. Forage Crops Investigation.**

Crested wheatgrass, which now occupies more than 150,000 acres of wheat land in eastern Oregon, was started under test at the Moro station in 1914.

In 1933 many native grasses were gathered by Mr. Stephens and his assistants and placed under test at the station. In this way the better srains of native grasses were under test when the Soil Conservation nurseries were started in 1936. Since 1936 the Experiment station has cooperated with the Soil Conservation Service in testing all the dry land grasses of the Pacific Northwest as well as many selections and new imported strains. Many legumes have also been included in these trials. Among the grasses which have shown the greatest promise are: Crested wheatgrass, Siberian wheatgrass, Big bluegrass, Bluebunch wheatgrass, Beardless wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, and Little bluegrass.

**3. Tillage Experiments.**

Tillage experiments including early, medium early and late spring plowing with immediate clean cultivation, no cultivation and minimum cultivation have been in progress at the station since 1913. Land plowed early in the spring has pro-

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## Oregon Ranks High In 4-H Quality

By JOHN C. BURTNER

Oregon has established such an enviable record in its handling of 4-H club work that this state, despite its comparatively small rural population, annually excels most of the bigger states in percentage of membership and achievement of the members.

Year after year, the total Oregon club enrollment ranks right up, either at the top or among the top two or three states in the percentage of club members compared wih total rural population. In 1940 the total enrollment in this state was 30,578 organized in 2862 clubs.

Mere numbers wouldn't mean much, however, unless quality were there. Such quality of work is indicated in a number of ways. For example, of the total membership in 1940, 87.55 per cent carried the projects through to completion. The value of all products produced by the club members last year reached $373,046, with a margin above cost of $119,831.

Another measure of quality is how the best club members in this state compare with those from other parts of the country. Probably the highest single achievement in club work is to receive the Moses trophy, given annually to the most outstanding boy and girl in matters of leadership and general excellence in club work. In the 15 years that these awards have been given, Oregon boys or girls have won the trophy six times, a record equalled by no other state.

A similar high percentage of wins is shown in the major contests for which college scholarships are given. Last year Oregon won more of these than any other state, and again this year is finishing high in these contests.

Many reasons have been given for the unusual success of Oregon club work and doubtless many factors contribute toward it. Two of the chief reasons, it is agreed, are the devoted service of some 2000 volunteer local leaders who are in immediate charge of the clubs. Another major reason is the continuous state leadership provided by a staff of three who have worked together here for some 25 years. In between, of course, are the everyday services of the county club agents and the other county extension staff members.

With almost every activity being related these days to national defense, suitable attention has been given to the role of 4-H clubs in this field. Everyone has agreed that most of the ordinary activities of the club members in carrying out their projects are an important link in national defense, as most of them are concerned with producing the kinds of food now being emphasized.

If Oregon achieves its goal of raising some 16,000 additional rural vegetable gardens next year, 4-H clubs will have to account for a considerable number of this increase either directly or indirectly. They are also contributing to the production of more meat, milk and eggs, and are cooperating in the national drive for better nutrition. In the campaign for avoidance of waste, their work in canning and preserving is improtant in itself and also as an example to others.

Beyond these practical steps, however, the 4-H movement is going further and is sponsoring definite special training in the meaning of democracy as contrasted with the totalitarian forms of government. All over Oregon, club members, regardless of their projects, are spending some of their time studying this question of democracy versus dictatorship.

Just as the work of the extension service is recognized as one of the most outstanding developments in adult education, this branch of of the most sound and wholesome ofthe most sound and wholesome youth movements in the country.