

# HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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## From The County Agent's Office

By H. C. Anderson

**Dates To Remember:**  
February 16-23—National FFA Week; February 24-25, Oregon Polled Hereford Association show and sale, State Fairgrounds, Salem, March 1-9, National 4-H Club Week; March 27-29, State Agricultural Conference, Oregon State College.

So many requests for information on grass and grass-legume mixtures for hay and pasture

have been received lately that this weeks column will be devoted entirely to that subject.

Improved pasture and hay seedings have progressed rapidly here most progress shown during the past four years. This is due to several reasons. First, there is a state and nationwide shift to more permanent agriculture, such as is afforded through grass and grass-legume seedings and rotations. Second, new grasses and

improved legumes are providing such enormous productions of forage that many farms find it more economical to switch to this type of agriculture. Thirdly, through established seedings, carrying capacities and advantages of these high producing pastures and hay seedings have been demonstrated to local farmers and ranchers.

Availability of technical help and adapted seeding equipment such as provided through the Heppner and Boardman Soil Conservation Districts; practice payments provided through the P. M. A. program, needed due to higher costs and newer seeds used in mixtures; and continued education on higher feed value, higher returns per acre and newer practices through the Extension Service and various agricultural organizations have done much to encourage ranchers to demonstrate the value of these practices to themselves and their neighbors.

First in establishing a new grass or legume seeding, whether for hay or pasture, proper seedbeds must be prepared. Grasses and legumes, like all farm crops, get off to a better start when soil moisture conditions are good, competition from weeds kept at a minimum and soil structure firm for best growing conditions. Farmers would not think of seeding their wheat without a well prepared seed bed, and few are seeding anything but summerfallow to provide moisture and eliminate weed competition for the crop. Grasses and Legumes being smaller seeded have much less chance for survival, when competition is great, than does a big seed like wheat.

Many various grasses and legumes, alone or in mixtures are used. While it is impossible to give recommendations here, to meet every need and condition, some of the more commonly used ones are given.

The most commonly used pasture mixtures for irrigated creek bottoms in Morrow County is: Mancher Smooth Brome or Intermediate Wheatgrass, 6 pounds; Orchard grass 4 pounds or alta fescue 8 pounds; alfalfa 5 pounds per acre. Ladak alfalfa is most commonly used where irrigation waters are limited. Orestan and Ranger are other varieties recommended. Where irrigation waters are not limited and irrigations can be made every 10 days or two

## 4-H CLUB NEWS

### IRRIGON 4-H CLUBS

Irrigon 4-H Clubs hold monthly meetings at Irrigon school. Mr. Earl D. Goldan, Superintendent of Irrigon school has given one afternoon each month for 4-H club meetings.

weeks, Ladino Clover, 2 pounds per acre can be substituted for alfalfa in the mixture. The above mixture provides a sod grass, bunch grass, and legume for higher protein. By using a sod and bunchgrass the grazing period is extended over a longer period of time the sod filling in as the legume goes out, due to gopher damage, etc.

At times, ranchers and farmers wish to seed a mixture that they can use for hay and pasture, cutting a crop of hay then pasturing during the summer and fall. This practice calls for a little different mixture. Mainly, it means taking out the bunchgrass to get away from mature grass in the first hay crop. A good mixture is Intermediate wheatgrass 10 pounds per acre; Ladak alfalfa, 5 pounds per acre.

Under dry-land conditions (8-15 inch rainfall areas) several grasses or grass and legume mixtures are recommended. For pastures, the most common mixtures, giving better soil cover and erosion control than straight seedings of single species are: Crested wheatgrass 5 pounds, sheeps fescue 4 pounds and Ladak alfalfa, 1 pound per acre. Bulbous bluegrass, 2 pounds per acre, may be substituted for sheep fescue. Whitmar beardless wheatgrass a new grass that many have been hearing of is adapted to the same conditions as crested wheatgrass. It can be seeded in a separate pasture from crested wheatgrass and used to good advantage. Crested wheatgrass reaches grazing readiness about three weeks earlier than Whitmar beardless wheatgrass. The beardless wheatgrass is palatable at the end of the season, when the beardless wheatgrass is used it should be seeded at the rate of 8 pounds per acre with 4 pounds sheep fescue and 1 pound Ladka alfalfa.

For dry-land hay, while little acreage is seeded to grasses for this purpose, Sherman big bluegrass, 4 pounds per acre or crested wheatgrass, 5 pounds per acre or Whitmar beardless wheatgrass, 8 pounds per acre; with Ladak alfalfa, 2 pounds per acre produces well. While Intermediate wheat grass has been recommended for irrigated pastures and dry-land of over 15 inches rainfall, experience has shown that it can be successfully grown here under dryer conditions. It could be planted in a dryland hay or pasture mixture, on deeper soils in the 12 inch rainfall area. When seeded under these conditions 6 lbs. per acre should be seeded in alternate rows with Ladak alfalfa 4 pounds per acre.

As mentioned at the fore part of this article different conditions prevail. These are many and varied. In next weeks column some of these special mixes for various conditions as well as recommended sod waterway practices will be discussed.

The monthly meeting for 4-H Club was held Friday 15, from 2 p. m. to 4 p. m.

Eighty-three 4-H members took part in club activities. The clubs are: Camp Cookery, Cookery I, Room Improvement III, Clothing II & III, Sew It's Fun Club, and Charmingly Yours Clothing Club, and two agriculture, The Electric Club.

Leaders are Mrs. Harriet Calliff, Mrs. Vera Cooley, Mrs. Hugh Grim, Jr., G. M. Gurley, Mrs. Ida Slaughter, and Mrs. Virginia Allen.

### 4-H CLUB NEWS

For many years 4-H pig projects were very unpopular in Morrow County. In fact, the first project of this kind came with the transfer of Michael Stalcup, former Union County 4-H member to Morrow County. This was only four years ago, but through Mich. aels enthusiasm for pigs and through the advent of the first 4-H pig scramble at the Morrow County Fair three years ago, projects grew to twenty members with 72 animals in 1951. Enrollment is down to thirteen this year.

Here is a pig story which should make many boys and girls envious of the 4-H member with a good pig project. The story is about George Smith, age 14, of St. Paul, Oregon. George was the 1951 winner of the George Eyr Trophy for the best Marion County swine project.

George starts his 4-H story in his record book—I started the year with one Yorkshire bred gilt. She had twelve pigs—six male, six female—What happened to the pigs? George's record book shows a profit of almost 4 hundred 45 dollars. This sum was helped along in September when Snowdrop, the original gilt, farrowed twelve more pigs.

During the year, George spent two hundred seventy four dollars for equipment, steel posts, a post pounder and 33 panels gave him a portable fence. A self feeder, water system, two A-type shelters and tattoo set completed his equipment.

Getting back to the pigs. Five went to market. The first—Juniper by name—was grand champion market hog at the Marion County fall 4-H show. The other four, Salomey, Jasper, Oscar and Sleepy—went to state fair as a pen of four. They were champions in the Valley Packing Company's 4-H pig feeding contest.

This is a story that any good 4-H member should try to equal.

The County Agents office has just recently completed the mimeographing of copies of the report prepared by Ronald Baker of his trip to the National Club Camp last summer. The reports were made available at the recent Eastern Oregon 4-H Leaders Conference held at LaGrande. After a brief report by Ronald, at this conference, everyone wanted a copy. The 100 copies originally run off were soon gone and requests made for 150 more. The State 4-H Office has asked for 65 copies to supplement the 10 they received from the first run.

In a letter from L. J. "Doc" Allen, State 4-H Club Leader, he stated that "he doubted that if ever before there has been as thorough and capably done report equal to this." Copies are

available at the County Agents office.

The "Lexington Cookers" held their 4-H meeting last Wednesday, February 13, at the home of Margaret and Janet Kendall. There were 4 members present and the leader Mrs. Breeding. The vice president Miss Anna Marie Winters took the place of the president Miss Dora Sue Davidson. Margaret and Janet Kendall are going to give the demonstration on salads at the next meeting. The program for the coming year was made out. Janet Kendall, Reporter.

One of the recent clubs to be organized is the "Chick and Bunny" Club of Ione. This Poultry and Rabbit club is being led by C. D. McCabe with Mrs. C. D. McCabe as assistant leader. President of the club is Alvin McCabe; vice-president, Wayne Ball; and secretary Ronald McCabe. The news reporter is Ellis Ball with song leader, Richard Morgan. Wayne Ball is carrying chickens as his project; with Ellis Ball, Alvin McCabe, Ronald McCabe and Richard Morgan carrying rabbits as their project.

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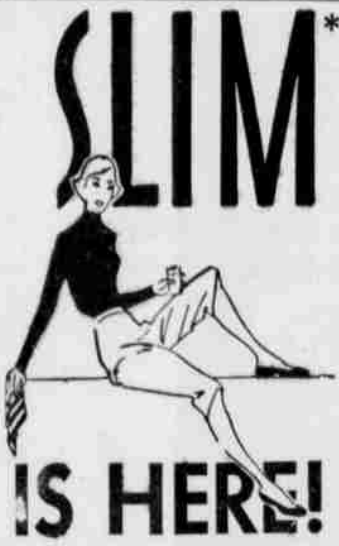
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