

From The County Agent's Office

By N. C. Anderson

Applications for payment for 1953 conservation practices done by farmers are being processed now at the local ASC office. Sign-up for 1954 practices has begun and many farmers have called at the office to get prior approval for practices which they intend to complete soon. Sign-up meetings will be held in all communities to give everyone a chance to sign their request for assistance. The first two such meetings to be arranged will be held on Thursday, January 21. The first is at the Irrigon school house at 1:00 p. m., the second one at the Greenfield Grange hall in Boardman at 8:00 p. m. Sign-up meetings will follow in other communities.

There are several range improvement practices in the 1954 conservation handbook which should be of interest to range operators who are interested in improving their range operation. The first is B-5, which provides federal cost sharing payments for construction or deepening wells for livestock water to obtain proper distribution and encourage rotation grazing and better grassland management. The practice provides that adequate storage facilities must be made. Pumping equipment must be installed except for artesian wells. There will be no payment for wells constructed at or for the use of headquarter. The payment is \$1 per linear foot of well with bore taking a casing of less than four inches in diameter and artesian wells or \$2 per linear foot for a well taking a case of from four to six inches in diameter, and \$3 per linear foot for the casing of six inches or more in diameter.

B-6 is the payment for developing springs or seeps for livestock water to obtain proper distribution. The federal cost share payment is 50 cents per cubic foot of excavation in rock and 30 cents per cubic foot for excavation in soil or gravel, or 50 cents per cubic foot of storage capacity.

The B-7 payment provides for constructing, enlarging or ceiling dams, pits or ponds for livestock water to obtain proper distribution of livestock. Livestock will use heaviest that grass that is handy to water. Parts of the range with no water may not

be utilized even though there is a good stand and better grasses. On the same range the better grasses may be killed out on land surrounding the water places.

Where springs, streams or wells are not available, ponds can sometimes be used to provide a supply of water, at least during part of the year. Each new water source may actually mean so many more acres of range land available to stock. The payment provides for 50% of the cost for earth moving, concrete rubble masonry or other materials such as pipes, troughs, reinforcement steel and sealing materials. Also included is 50% of the cost of materials in installation of riprap or revetment. To protect the dam, pond or pit, a payment of 50% of the cost of fencing materials is provided.

B-8 provides for installing pipelines for livestock water to obtain proper distribution of livestock. The federal cost share payment is 50% of the cost of pipe, not to exceed 25 cents per foot.

The handbook provides the B-9 practice again this year, which is the construction of permanent cross-fences or drift fences to obtain better distribution and control livestock grazing. Fences may be built only where fencing will contribute to better distribution of livestock and seasonal use of the forage. Boundary fences, fences between pasture and other land and the repair, replacement, or maintenance of existing fences will not qualify. The practice provides that posts shall be of standard size, and of steel or other durable material that have been treated against decay. They shall be spaced not more than 20 feet apart. Barbed wire shall be of not less than 12 1/2 gauge material. No fence will qualify with less than three strands of barbed wire. Woven wire will qualify when at least one strand of barbed wire is placed above. Payment cost calls for 50% of the cost of the fencing material used, not to exceed 75 cents per rod of barbed wire fence or \$1.10 per rod of woven wire fence.

One of our popular fair exhibits that has caused much competition between the lady exhibitors has been discontinued for the

WASHINGTON AND "SMALL BUSINESS"

By C. WILSON HARDER

The philosophy of Attorney General Herbert Brownell toward anti-trust violations of "a confession is all that's necessary to square things" takes a strange turn in the used battery case.

In February of 1950 the government filed charges, both civil and criminal, against some 48 firms and individuals charged with conspiracy.



The conspiracy unfolded by government investigators was far reaching.

Several battery manufacturers, battery retailers, scrap metal dealers and National Lead agreed that the retail conspirators would sell used batteries received as trade-ins on new batteries only who were in the deal.

The scrap metal companies agreed to destroy these batteries, sell the salvaged lead only to the National Lead Company smelter. In turn, National Lead sold resmelted lead only to battery manufacturers conspiring.

The prices paid for used batteries and for salvaged lead were firmly fixed by the conspirators.

There was also another ulterior purpose behind the conspiracy.

Some small firms specialize in rebuilding used batteries, offering consumers a lower priced product, similar to recapped tires. But this conspiracy prevented movement of used batteries of battery rebuilders who compete with new battery sales.

It is interesting that this artificial restriction on the battery

supply was being practiced when there was a shortage of storage batteries, due to Korea.

The conspiracy was deep. National Lead handled the refinery end of the racketeering arrangements. In the battery manufacturing end, four of the five biggest and best known manufacturers were party to the violation. On the retail side the two big national mail order and retail chains, the two big auto supply chains, and the three big tire firms were in on the deal.

And now the interesting part of this case inherited by Attorney General Brownell. In the Federal Court in Kansas City, all but two of the defendants signed a consent decree judgment in which they agree to stop racketeering.

In addition, 24 of the defendant companies pleaded nolo contendere to the criminal charge. So far no sentence has been imposed.

But criminal charges against the individual who perpetrated the conspiracy were dropped.

Obviously it is impossible to jail a corporation, so the only sentence the court can now impose are fines which will come out of pockets of stockholders, many of which were undoubtedly not aware the management was engaging in law breaking. And these officers who violated not only the law, but the confidence of their stockholders, will presumably escape all responsibility.

It now appears live conspirators can expect kind treatment from Justice Dept.

But alleged dead conspirators such as Harry Dexter White should quake in their graves not knowing what minute they will be dug up by Herb Brownell.

1954 fairs. Yesterday, a letter was received from General Mills, advising that they were discontinuing the Betty Crocker Chiffon Cake competition for 1954. The National Needlecraft and C & H Sugar Awards will be continued according to word received by each of these sponsoring companies within the last month.

With a Farm Bureau Week declared by Governor Paul Patterson for next week, Morrow County Farm Bureau is making a concentrated drive to add more members to its county organization. In Morrow county we have farm organizations to fit every need of the farm family. Active in the county are the Granges, the Morrow County Wheatgrowers League, commodity organizations, as well as the Farm Bureau. All fit together. Since the governor has proclaimed a Farm Bureau Week, and since a concentrated drive for membership will be held in Morrow county next week, it might be well to point out to those that do not know what the Farm Bureau is. It is a voluntary organization of more than one million farmers in 48 states and the island of Porto Rico. It claims the largest farm organization in the world. Its purpose is to secure and maintain equality for agriculture. Membership is composed of any farmer who receives at least 40% of his income from farming. Non-farmers may become associate members but may not hold office or vote. The Farm Bureau fits in with the rest of organized agriculture. The Grange and Farm Bureau have coordinated their programs where ever possible. Other farm organizations often sign the same statements as the Farm Bureau. If this is the organization that you have considered to join, some one will be contacting you next week to give you that opportunity.

With no relief in sight for our farm shortage situation, several farm organizations have asked the help of the extension service to carry out an educational and informational program and promotional campaign to alert every wheat and barley grower of the situation. The Oregon Wheat Growers League met with the extension service last week, asking that a meeting be held to make such plans, soon. It is scheduled to be held at The Dalles on Friday, January 29. Considered will be the 1954 wheat and barley crops prospects in the Columbia Basin area, the wheat supplies now on hand, amount of wheat

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under loan, and grain storage facilities.

We have a cereal meeting scheduled for February 9, which will have included on the program a discussion on farm storage. M. G. Huber, agricultural engineering specialist, Oregon State College, will be here to discuss that subject. Mr. Huber is making available additional plans that might be used for encouraging grain storage.

Recently received in the county agent's office were plans for a plywood grain storage and a grain storage and utility building plan from concrete blocks. We invite farmers to take advantage of any information that might be helpful to them in solving their grain storage. Watch this column for further particulars.

Meeting in the county agent's office Monday evening, the executive committee of the Morrow County Wheat Growers Association planned its activities for 1954. First activity of the year will be an invitation to the Oregon Wheat Growers League executive committee to hold their next meeting here in the county. The executive meeting will be shortly after the return of representatives of that organization attending the National Wheat Growers Association to be held at Wichita, Kansas, in early February. If the executive committee accepts the invitation, arrangements will be made for them to stay over for an evening meeting open to our farm people for informal discussion. It is hoped that the new Oregon Wheat Growers film, "Give Us This Day", can be shown. It is hoped that it will be finished in time for the National meeting, and if it is possible to schedule it here, it will be one of the first showings in the state. It is hoped that all of the business advertisers supporting the Wheat League from Morrow county can be invited to this evening meeting. Dates were also set for other activities, including the annual spring meeting, which will be

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ONE School News

The lone basketball teams won both games here with Irrigon Friday evening Jan. 15. The score of the A string was 80 to 29. At Umatilla Saturday evening the B string lost but the A string won 61 to 30. The A string has played 8 games so far and have lost none. The B string has played 4 games and lost one. The grade school basketball team went to Condon Friday of last week and lost their game because of inexperience and because they were a small team. A welding school was held in the Shop Monday evening Jan. 18 under the direction of Grant Rigby. Arrangements were made at the meeting to hold classes during the winter for all men interested in the community.

Calvin Carson, Morrow County Weed Control Supervisor, is attending the third annual Oregon Agricultural Chemical Applicators short course in Corvallis this week. The program will discuss such items as discussions on the Oregon Weed Control Law, legal aspects of spraying with 2, 4-D, Sage brush control, problems of chemical applicators and new developments in herbicides.

Several good farm windbreak plantings have been established in the past few years in Morrow County. Those who have them are proud of them and are happy that they took the time to plan and care for their shelter belt. This is the time of year to be planning and ordering your windbreak seedlings. All orders must be made by March 15 and the earlier your order is sent in the sooner you will have them to set out and the less disappointment you will have in not being able to get all the types of seedlings you desire. Available for eastern Oregon plantings for this season are: White Fir, Ponderosa Pine, Scotch Pine, Lodgepole Pine, and Chinese Arborvitae in the conifers with Black Locust, Russian Olive, Caragana, Chinese Elm, and Russian Mulberry in the broad leaves offered. These cost slightly less than 1 cent apiece.

Order blanks and information is available at the County agent's office.

From a recent weekly price cost and weather review issue by the Oregon State College it pointed

CHURCHES

ALL SAINTS CHURCH
Episcopal
John R. Reeves, Rector
8:00 a. m. Holy Communion
9:45 a. m. Church School
11:00 a. m. Morning Prayer
7:00 p. m. Young People's Fellowship
First Sunday of Month—Choral Holy Communion
Wed. 10 a. m. Holy Communion
Wed. 4:00 p. m. Junior Choir
Thurs. 8:00 p. m. Choir practice

Superintendent Ward wishes to thank all the people of the community who took part in making the dedication of the new building a success. Such co-operation and partnership of the community will make the school a happier and a more profitable place for the children and young people. He extends a welcome to the parents to visit the school any time.

The lone high school will play ball at Lexington Jan. 22 and will play Heppner here Jan. 23.

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
Robert Becker, Pastor
Saturday Services:
Sabbath school, 9:30 a. m.
Sermon, 11 a. m.
Prayer Meeting Monday, at 7:30 p. m. Study of the Beatitudes.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Thompson, Mrs. Robert Thompson, Mrs. Claude Graham and John Wright, man were in Pendleton Saturday to attend the PCA meeting.

out that the 1953 year ended on an encouraging note for farmers as purchasing power of farm products rebounded from the November loss. Prices received by farmers increased one percent during the last month. This marked the first up-turn in the price index in seven months. Cost edged higher too but at a much slower pace. In fact only one-third of one percent. The parity ratio, that is the relationship between prices received and prices paid by farmers, again stood at ninety-one. This relationship while showing improvement is still around 5 percent below last year and 9 percent below the level set by congress as a fair exchange rate for farmers.

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