

4400 Soil Samples Tested By OSC Lab As Aid To Farmers

Nearly 4400 samples of Oregon soils have been submitted to the Oregon State college soil testing laboratory since January 1953, reports Dr. L. A. Alban, OSC soils scientist in charge.

The laboratory was established at that time to aid farmers in conducting their fertilizer programs and to help others in determining fertilizer needs for their lawns, vegetable, small fruit, or flower gardens.

The soil laboratory testing has proved that many of the ideas people have had concerning soil deficiencies on their own land were wrong, says the scientist.

Present testing work consists of two phases—testing of soils for growers and the testing of soils and plants for research personnel. Growers obtain information sheets and soil cartons from their county extension agents and send them into the soil testing laboratory where the soils are tested. Results are sent back to the county agent along with the information sheets. The county agent then makes out a fertilizer recommendation for the grower.

Results of soil testing in 1954 won't be analyzed until the end of the year, but on the basis of 1953 results the following infor-

ation came to light concerning soils in the five geographic areas of the state.

Eastern Oregon: Few soil samples have been submitted from this area, but sufficient phosphorus and potassium have been found in most cases. Samples tested were from irrigated areas so this situation may not apply to Columbia Basin wheat land soils.

Alban stresses these general conditions may not apply to individual farms in the areas listed above because of soil variations found in most fields. To set up a proper fertilizer program, representative soil samples need to be taken. For information concerning the taking of soil samples and the cost of testing, check with county extension agents, he suggests.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Rosewall were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Key at Weston.

Harry Wilson of Hopewell, N. J. arrived Wednesday for a visit at the homes of his son, Tom Wilson, and daughter, Mrs. Avery Taylor.

Mr. and Mrs. Garland Swanson of Lone left by train Monday for Detroit where they will pick up a car and continue on a month's vacation.

The Christian Church has installed a new furnace and is undergoing a thorough redecorating inside.

4-H Clubs Numbers Show Big Gain

Oregon's 4-H membership jumped more than 6 percent this year, according to Burton S. Hutton, state 4-H club leader.

Enrollment figures just compiled show an increase of 2680—from 32,976 to 35,656. The number of clubs also went up from 3238 to 3402.

Biggest gain was in clothing projects. Including Knitting, the clothing numbers were 7787 in 1953 and 8896 this year. The knitting membership alone came close to doubling itself, going from 531 to 978.

Junior leadership percentage gains were outstanding. In this project, which is designed to develop leadership ability in 4-H club members, only 53 were enrolled last year. It was available in only a few counties. Expanded throughout the state this year, it attracted 452—more than 8½ times as many as in 1953.

Entomology also showed a great gain in popularity as enrollment climbed from 157 to 335. Other quick-gainers were marketing, which grew from 180 to 300 in a year's time, and photography, which expanded from 47 to 127.

Home economics project showed their appeal to the boys too, as 1508 of them enrolled. Camp cookery and breakfast preparation projects attracted 559 boys each. Another 122 signed for luncheon preparation. Bachelor sewing had 140 boys enrolled and 33 took knitting.

But even greater numbers of girls signed up for livestock projects—2314 of them. They even outnumbered the boys in the saddle horse project, 314 to 258. Girls made up nearly half the membership in sheep, rabbits and goat projects and nearly a third in the beef and dairy work.

Marksmanship apparently appealed only to the boys, however. Not a girl was signed up for junior rifle club or archery.

Among the projects that attracted lesser numbers were safety, fish conservation, mineralogy, bird study, soil and water conservation, pigeons, pheasants, mink, dog training, science demonstration and folk dancing.

Mr. and Mrs. James J. Farley left Saturday for a few days in Portland. While there they attended the Oregon State-Washington football game on Saturday evening.

Careless Smoking Top Fire Threat

If your house should go up in smoke this year, chances are one in three that careless smoking or handling of matches will be the cause, reports Charles Ross, Oregon State college forestry specialist.

Ross, who heads the OSC fire prevention campaign, reminds all home owners that this week, October 3 to 9, is National Fire Prevention Week and the time to check for major causes of fires in Oregon.

"The house holder can't remove all risk," Ross says, "but he can and should take steps to correct those fire threats that strike Oregon homes and farms repeatedly."

Thirty-two percent of Oregon's 11,303 home fires last year, as reported by the Oregon fire marshal, were caused by careless smoking and matches. Next were overheated or defective heating plants and flues that accounted for 22 percent of home fires. Oils and hot grease in the kitchen caused 15 percent. Use of kerosene to start fires led this group.

Other major causes of home fires were 10 percent by hot metals, sparks from friction and combustion, and explosions; 8 percent from hot ashes and open fires; and 7 percent from electricity and defective wiring. The six groups accounted for 94 percent of Oregon home fires.

As an accident killer, fire in the United States and Canada is topped only by fatal motor vehicle injuries and by falls. Children under 4 years run about three times as much risk from fire as do people 14 years and older.

Ross pointed out, however, that Oregon is reducing both life and property loss from fire while losses are climbing nationally. Deaths from fire in Oregon dropped from 89 in 1952 to 53 in 1953, and property loss from fire was reduced 6 percent. Nationally, property losses climbed 15 percent from 1952 to 1953 and are now close to one billion dollars annually.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Ferguson left Sunday for Seattle accompanied by their daughter, Mrs. Robert Kelly, who is going to join her husband who is attending the University of Washington. They will make their home in Seattle during the school year.

Crop Controls To Influence Farm Plantings

Crop controls will have a direct influence on plantings on Oregon wheat farms this year, says H. D. Thomas, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State college. Indirectly, controls may affect plantings on many other farms this fall and next spring.

These controls, Thomas explains, mean generally that oats, barley and sorghum acreages will be decreased in 1955 while hay, pasture and idle acres will increase.

Despite controls, a few crops may be planted-harvested freely on all Oregon farms. Among these are hay and pasture, including wheat cut for hay; fescue, perennial ryegrass, bentgrass and wheatgrass seeds; alfalfa, red and ladino clover seeds; alfalfa and lotus seeds; tree fruits and nuts; peppermint, fiber flax, nursery and flower crops, and cover crops. There are no restrictions on acreage planted to these crops.

Controls have been tightened on farms with more than 10 acres to be diverted from wheat in Oregon or from wheat, corn, cotton, peanuts and tobacco in other states where allotments apply. The economist further explains. Essentially, these farms can plan on more than their 1955 allotments of these five basic crops and must "roll-back" to the acreage of most other crops that they grew in 1953, if they wish to qualify for price supports.

They may grow as much hay and pasture and a few other crops as they wish.

These new compliance conditions will no doubt change the nation's acreage and production of several crops, says Thomas. In turn, these changes affect the price outlook for many Oregon crops.

According to a USDA announcement of August 27, the new program requirements—known as "cross-compliance" and "total acreage allotments"—are designed to influence the use of "diverted" acres. They are intended to help prevent shifts from surplus crops to other crops which might soon be in surplus trouble.

Mrs. Dave Wilson of Corvallis is visiting at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Blake. Other guests at the Blake home over the weekend were Mr. and Mrs. Ray Gallucci and daughter of Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Parrish and two sons of Portland visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Parrish, over the opening hunting weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Beardsley of Portland spent the weekend hunting and visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Swaggart.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller of Lone, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Orwick and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Orwick of Heppner drove to Lone Rock last weekend to visit with Mr. and Mrs. Guy Huddleston.

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From where I sit... by Joe Marsh



"Blind Man's" Bluff

You know how Handy Turner down at the hardware store goes in for weird advertising stunts. Well, when it came to plugging his new Venetian blind department, his enthusiasm nearly landed him in trouble.

Handy painted a warning on the tailboard of his truck: "Caution—blind man driving."

"Had driven about a mile," Handy says, "when a state trooper stopped me and told me that sign might cause trouble. Guess he was right. From now on I'll advertise in the Clarion."

From where I sit, I agree—the highway is no place for jokes. We all ought to be considerate of the other fellow when we're driving. In fact, let's respect our neighbor's right of way always. Then, when we have differences of opinion—say about the best route to Centerville, or whether beer or buttermilk is better with lunch—there will be less chance of anybody developing any "blind" spots.

Joe Marsh

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