

From The County Agent's Office

By N. C. ANDERSON

Considerable interest continues in the Oregon swine testing station located at the Umatilla branch experiment station near Hermiston. This testing station has run near capacity for three test periods now. The fourth test is about to begin. Standard dates for entry of pigs into the station are from April 15 to May 15 for the spring test period. Applications for this test period are received from February 10 to March 20, but a few additional applications will still be considered at this date. For those breeders interested in the testing station they are urged to farrow for early entry to keep size and age of pigs in the station as uniform as possible. The fall test period will take pigs from October 15 to November 15. Pigs must be between the age of 49 and 63 days when delivered

to the station. Applications for this fall test period will be taken between August 10 and September 20. Entrance requirements now specify that pigs will be accepted if the litter size is at least 8 pigs weaned, that the 35 day weaning weight must be 128 pounds for sows under 15 months and 144 pounds for sows over 15 months. An entry consists of four pigs by the same sire and may be from the same litter; three from one litter and one single; or two from one litter and two from another. The entry consists of two boars and two market hogs. Application blanks are available at this office for those who are interested.

A visit to the Hinton Creek ranch of Howard Cleveland last week revealed an interesting

project that Howard has set up to raise the level of Hinton Creek and gradually change its course further to one side of his alfalfa field. Howard has constructed a series of "catch basins" dams which slow down the water depositing silt behind these dams. As these dams are gradually filled in with silt they are raised until the low area is completely level with the surrounding field. While this is a slow process it is surprising how much silt might be deposited in a year with such an arrangement of dams.

The first spring lambs of the season arrived on the North Portland market this week about two weeks earlier than last year. This small number of spring lambs sold for \$20.50 to \$21.50 Monday. While these prices are around \$2.50 below the price paid for the first of the spring lamb crop in April, 1960 it is still considerably above the price that lambs will bring later this spring, I am sure. Lamb prices dropped off quite rapidly in late May and early June, 1960. This is an argument for growing out and finishing lambs as rapidly as possible to get them in on this high market price. One way to speed these lambs along is by creep feeding. The time to begin creep feeding lambs is soon after they are born. According to much research that has been done 125 to 150 pounds of grain and 100 pounds of roughage fed in a creep to lambs nursing their mothers will produce 100 pounds of lamb gain, where

as three times as much feed would be required to produce this gain on older feeder lambs. Success in creep feeding lambs probably depends as much on providing the right conditions as on having the right feeds. Since the lambs are not especially hungry for extra feed, at least when young, the creep must be made in an attractive place which will entice them in. It must be located close to a place where the ewes will be, since young lambs will not stray far from their mothers. Close to the ewe feeder or water, if no pasture, is a good location. Better results will be obtained if the creep pen is warm and dry. Many successful operators have located the creep in a barn or shed and used infra red heat lamps to make it more attractive to the lambs in getting them started to eat in cold weather.

A trial conducted at the Utah experiment station comparing creep feeds for lambs resulted in 0.56 pound average daily gain when rolled barley only, was fed as the creep ration. 0.63 pounds average daily gain, was made on a 70% rolled barley and 30% molasses dried beet pulp ration; 0.60 pounds on 50% rolled barley, 30% chopped oats, 10% molasses dried beet pulp and 10% cottonseed oil meal. Relatively simple feed rations for creep feeding will often give good results if the creep pen is well arranged, if the feed is kept fresh, if the ingredients are of high quality and palatable. Pelleting increases consumption and will pay where pelleted feed can be obtained economically.

A visit last week at the Don Greenup ranch on Hinton Creek revealed that he has evidently met many of the requirements in creep feeding as indicated by the looks of the lambs and the amount of creep that they are consuming. The creep is located in a building where the sheep are kept at night and close to the feed racks for the ewes. Lambs evidently are using the creep freely and appear to be making good daily gains.

The month of March marks up a nice record of rainfall which makes crop prospects considerably more optimistic than they looked two months ago. Rain record cooperators, Don Heikler, of the west lone area reports 1.30 inches while Harry Proud-

Chats With Your Home Agent

By ESTHER KIRKIS

Forty Morrow County homemakers came back from Pendleton on March 28 with a broader view of a healthy respect for Pendleton's industries and State Institution after touring the Pendleton Woolen Mills, Igleheart Brothers, Jello Division of General Foods Corporation, and the Eastern Oregon State Hospital.

The tour, directed by members of the county advisory committee for home economics, included members of all eight extension units in the county. The morning was spent in touring Pendleton Woolen Mills which was started in 1865 by Thomas Kay whose family had long been associated with woolen business in England. Here the women saw the processes of

foot, of the Butercreek Junction community measured 2.05; At these two farms the greatest amount of rainfall received in a 24 hour period was a third of an inch. This was not the case in some communities in the county where heavy rainfall caused considerable runoff and soil erosion. Generally, however, all was welcome and damages done was not too great. With over five inches of rainfall since the first of the year in most communities, all we are hoping for now is periodic rains in the next three months.

carding, spinning, weaving, dyeing, napping, and finishing. Only the Pendleton blankets are made in this mill. The famed Pendleton jackets and other ready-to-wear is constructed in Portland, Ore; Washougal, Wash; Omaha, Neb; and Sellersville, Penn. The fabric for some of this ready-to-wear is woven here, however, and shipped to these places.

Needless to say the ladies did some purchasing while there. At 1:30 p. m. the group split up with about half going to the Igleheart Brothers Flour Mill and the rest to the State Hospital.

Mrs. Warren McCoy, Irrigation County Committee women, took her party to Igleheart's where they were taken in a freight elevator seven stories up, and then proceeded to walk down from floor to floor watching the steps in making flour out of wheat. The many siftings through silk screens and the "shakers" that mixed the flour and the sacking proved very interesting. The prepared doughnut mix which the mill manufacturers seemed to demand the largest attention, however. The large scale preparation of the doughnut mix, with the attendant shovelling out shortening from a No. 400 barrel really made the unit gasp. Each batch of doughnut mix is tested in the mill's test kitchen—so there's doughnuts and coffee all day long. The mill expressed its good will to the mothers by giving each of them a box of Swans-Down Cake flour.

Mrs. Ed Baker, Ione County Committee member, was group leader for the housewives that went through the Eastern Oregon State Hospital. Mrs. Vera Johnson, educational director of the state institution, guided the homemakers through the women's wards of the hospital, the admission and therapy building, and the "Out-Patient" clinic. They were impressed with the strides that have been made in treating of mental patients and the high percentage of recoveries.

This tour proved to be one of the most popular events of the Extension Unit's program for this year.

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