

New Variety of Wheat Discussed at Field Day

A new "shorty" wheat variety that may be released this fall, and a chemical fallow program that could help farmers beat the cheat grass problem in a few years, were among research items highlighted at a special field day at the Sherman Branch experiment station, Moro, June 27.

Those attending from Morrow county were Bernard, Roger and Tony Doherty, Melvin Moyer, Kenneth Turner, N. C. and David Anderson all of Heppner; Kenneth Peck, Lexington; Lloyd and Jim Howton, Keith Rea, Verne Troedson, Paul Tews, Melvin Martin, Louis and Ed Buschke and Ernest Heliker, all of Ione.

Over 100 farmers from the Columbia Basin area attended the special day, set to observe the 50th anniversary of the Sherman station. The station was established a half century ago to work on agricultural problems of the lower-rainfall areas of the Columbia Basin. It is the second oldest branch station in the state.

The Sherman station serves about 1 1/4 million acres in Morrow, Gilliam, Wasco, Sherman, Jefferson, and Wheeler counties. The Moro site was chosen as it is representative of the soil, elevation, and climatic condition of this area.

The new semi-dwarf or "shorty" wheat variety was among the items of top interest at the station during the day. The variety may be released for commercial production this fall, said William E. Hall, superintendent of the station. Final release depends on tests of its milling qualities.

Shows Highest Yield
The new variety has been the highest yielding on the Sherman station to date, Hall said, with the added advantage of shorter straw length.

Last year, the shorty wheat yielded 44 bushels per acre with a test weight of 61.5 pounds, compared to Omar with 34.7 bushels per acre and a test weight of 58.7 pounds. The shorty wheat had a plant height of 23 inches, compared to 28 inches for Omar, and straw-grain ratio of 1.38 pounds of straw per pound of grain produced compared to a ratio of 1.79 for Omar.

Stripe rust resistance is on everyone's mind now, Hall added, and the shorty wheat has shown slightly more rust resistance than Omar, but less than Golden or Brevor. Omar, while rust susceptible, is enough better in yield than Golden or Brevor to make it unwise to change varieties when the odds of another rust epidemic are less than 50 per cent, Hall advised.

Greatest disadvantage of the

shorty wheat is its ability to emerge under unfavorable seedbed conditions. Plants won't come up when seeded too deep, since the sprout is also dwarfed.

Fallow Program Interests
The chemical fallow program, now in its first year of test at the station, also attracted great interest. In these tests, different combinations of 2,4-D, amitrone, and atrazine have been used to control weeds, particularly cheat grass and volunteer grains in wheat and barley fields.

This new technique shows great promise to help farmers practicing a stubble mulch farming system, Hall reported. In addition to controlling cheat grass, the chemical fallow system should be able to reduce the number of tillage operations needed in a summer fallow program.

Exact recommendations of the chemical fallow program are still several years off, Hall emphasized. Different soil types affect the way the chemicals act, he explained, and severe crop damage is possible in some cases.

In one of several talks given during the day, Dr. Walter Hendrix, head of the department of plant pathology at Washington State University, discussed where stripe rust started, and what farmers might expect in the future.

Rust Hits Southwest
Stripe rust became a major problem in New Mexico about 3 years ago, Hendrix said, and has been increasing in the western states. It was a major problem in Washington last year.

The rust organism can live on many green forage plants, Hendrix explained. The mild winter and cool moist spring this year have favored the rust organism and probably account for the severity of the disease at the present time.

The normal dry period in May would probably have stopped the rust disease, and the usual colder weather during the winter would also have helped hold it in check, Hendrix thought. To date, no effective chemical spray or dust program has been found that will control stripe rust.

Adding to the problem, however, is the fact that the rust has now been found on crested wheat grass. This will give the rust organism a ready plant on which to overwinter if weather isn't cold enough, Hendrix pointed out, and might cause a new threat in the future.

Right now, it's hard to tell just how important stripe rust will be in the future, Hendrix added. Weather conditions in fu-

ture years may hold the key. In another talk, Dr. G. B. Wood, head of the department of agricultural economics at Oregon State University, said that education to block the spread of communism in Southeast Asia must be stepped up to be effective.

Wood has just returned from a trip to that area to survey agricultural problems in that part of the world. The study for the Council of Economic and Cultural Affairs was sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation.

Station History Told
History of the Sherman Branch Station was outlined to those attending by M. M. Oveson, superintendent of the Pendleton Branch Experiment Station. Oveson was superintendent of the Sherman station from 1938 to 1948.

Over half of all wheat varieties grown in the dryland area of Eastern Oregon were bred, developed, or introduced by the Sherman station. Columbia, Rio, Rex, Golden, Federation, White Federation, and Hard Federation are a few of the varieties developed, tested, and released by the station.

The station also developed and tested the Flynn 37, Meloy, and Spray barley varieties, and the Markton and Carlton oat varieties.

These varieties now make up three-fourths of those recommended in Eastern Oregon.

The Sherman station also de-

Visits, Vacations Occupy Lexington Folks

By DELPHA JONES

Returns After Furlough

Pvt. Larry Henderson who has been spending his furlough with his parents and family, Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Henderson, left Pendleton Thursday night via plane for Fort Leonardwood, Missouri, where he will be stationed.

Jerry Messenger was in charge of the services at the Christian church on Sunday during the absence of the Rev. Walter Smith.

Jack Mounts of Maypin is visiting in Lexington over the holidays. He joined his wife and son Steve, who have been here for two weeks at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Majeske.

Wayne Papineau is a patient in Pioneer Memorial hospital in Heppner.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Marshall are vacationing in Bend and at a few of the lakes in central Oregon.

Mr. and Mrs. George Hermann, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Hunt and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bergen Ledbetter, Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Ledbetter and daughters, and house guests, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pickens, were visitors at Hat Rock on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pickens and

Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Messenger Sr. of Mitchell were Lexington visitors on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Cutsforth and daughters, Mrs. E. E. Peck and children and Mr. and Mrs. Armin Wihlon enjoyed a camping trip in the mountains over the 4th of July holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Jones and son Kenneth motored to Portland on Sunday taking Mrs. George Irvin and children there to meet Mrs. Irvin's husband of Winston, Ore. Valda Irvin returned to Lexington where she will spend two weeks with her grandmother, Mrs. Florence McMillan.

Mrs. Bertha Hunt and daughter, Mrs. Morris McCarl, were in The Dalles on Wednesday helping Mrs. Percy Connor, a sister of Mrs. Hunt, to celebrate her birthday.

Miss Phyllis Nolan is spending the summer with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. V. Nolan. She will be employed in Lexington during the harvest.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris McCarl are vacationing in Nevada.

Mr. and Mrs. George Hermann, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Hunt and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bergen Ledbetter, Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Ledbetter and daughters, and house guests, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pickens, were visitors at Hat Rock on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pickens and

son of Spokane are house guests of Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Ledbetter this week.

Mr. and Mrs. William J. Van Winkle and family spent the day Sunday at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Lowry, at Mt. Vernon.

Mrs. Frances McMillan is visiting relatives in Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Padberg and family are spending a few days at their cabin in Hideaway Springs.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hunt spent the week-end in Portland at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Waddill.

Vacation at Triangle Lake

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Munkers and family are visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Matthews at Triangle Lake over the Fourth of July.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Matthews and family of Triangle Lake were guests last week at the Munkers home.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Frink and family have moved to Pendleton and Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Groves and family of Heppner are moving into the Frink home.

Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Breeding motored to Prineville on business one day last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Harlow Cassitt and family are spending a few days vacationing in the mountains.

Luncheon at Waffington Home

Mr. Floyd Smith, Mrs. Eugene McCorkle and Mrs. O. G. Breeding attended a luncheon at the Waffington home in Heppner one day last week. This was honoring the W. M. C. group of the church.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene McCorkle and family have returned after a vacation spent in Springfield, Ore., and way places.

Vicky Irvin was a guest of Betty Henderson for several days last week.

Dinner guest of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Warner on Sunday was Mrs. Florence McMillan.



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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Mixer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Record Players—3 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oil Burner | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Griddle |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electric Blankets—2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pressure Cooker |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kitchen Vent Fan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shavers—2 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Portable Fan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Popcorn Popper |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toasters—2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knife Sharpener |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fry Pans—3 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Blender |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hot Plate | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vaporizer |
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