

County Agent's Office

Grasshoppers Threaten Gardens; Steps For Pest Control Given

By N. C. ANDERSON

Heavy concentrations of grasshoppers have been reported for the past couple of weeks and upon checking there are a lot of them in most communities of the county. According to John Stewart, Bureau of Entomology, USDA, early hatches of grasshoppers were killed by the cool damp weather. The grasshoppers now showing up are from a mid-June hatch and will not do too much harm only in later areas where the crop is still green and in late crops, gardens and plantings of that type. There have been a number of town and country people call for recommendations for their control where they are getting into flowers, gardens and new alfalfa seedings. For those who wish to do control work several insecticides are recommended. Aldrin is perhaps the most commonly used and is applied at the rate of 4 oz. of actual toxicant per acre or when mixed for small home garden spraying, one tablespoon of the 25% emulsion in one gallon of water. Toxaphene is another effective spray; it should be used at the rate of 1 1/2 lbs. actual toxicant per acre. When Toxaphene is used in the garden six teaspoons of the 40%-45% emulsion in one gallon of water is sufficient. Another spray, Dieldrin should be used at the rate of 2 oz. actual toxicant per acre. It is not recommended for home garden spraying. Chlordane may be used in home gardens at the rate of 4 teaspoons of the 40%-50% emulsion in 1 gallon of water. Borders of fields, yards, or gardens should be thoroughly wet to stop the grasshoppers before they move into the area. Where they are already in the area to be protected spraying the foliage will do the job.

Inquiries come in from time to time regarding Medusahead including identification and control. For those who cannot identify Medusahead we would suggest that you be on the lookout for an annual plant similar to cheatgrass, or foxtail with slender stems, 8 to 24 inches tall. The leaf blades are narrow and short, the flowers are in a very bristly spike from about one to 2 1/2 inches long. The beards are awl-shaped smooth, hard below and tapering into a slender awn which may approach one inch in length. If there is a question about a grassy plant we would be happy to identify it if you would bring it to the office or let us know so that we might stop by and check the infestation while visiting in the community. We know that there is a scattering infestation in the foothills of the mountains and hope that ranchers will identify it and control it before it becomes a widespread range weed. Barton Clark found this spring that spraying Medusahead with 2 lbs. of Dalapon per acre just as it was green-up did an excellent job of control. They plan to treat other infestations on their range in the foothills. Now is the time to be on the lookout for this range pest and plan your control program for early next spring.

It was interesting to note the rainfall by communities for the month of June. Those reporting rainfall to the office are Raymond Lundell, South Ione, with 1.22 inches; Louis Carlson, also South Ione, 1.50 inches; Don Heliker, West Ione, 1.02 inches; and Harry Proudfoot, Butt creek

It is interesting to note that even though these two ranchers report precipitation above a year ago, especially for the growing period that yields can still be low. Rainfall is not always the determining factor of yield and quality of grain. Even though most fields showed adequate moisture on the 12th of June, that week of hot weather did not respect soil moisture. Those far enough along with harvest to be able to determine yields report lower than average with low test weights.

It is again time for farmers to claim their Federal Gasoline Tax refund for the period June 30, 1960—July 1, 1961. The claim can be filed only by the owner, tenant, operator of a farm on gasoline purchased for farming purposes. Farmers and ranchers who have previously filed for refunds will get the new forms in the mail soon if they have not yet received theirs. We will keep a small supply on hand at this office for the convenience of those who are applying for the first time this year.

With many of our beef growers thinking about the price of weaner calves and a good market for them this fall, an article came to me a few days ago which I will pass along. While this story came out of Oklahoma there were questions of this exact nature asked last fall in Morrow county. It is a question that many more will be asking as they upgrade their cow herd, selecting the mothers that turned off heavy calves when mated to a particular sire. I don't know if the story answers the question but it is interesting.

A story out of Oklahoma has it that cows down there differ in their ideas regarding the weight of calves they should Junction, 1.20 inches. Harry reports an extreme temperature of 106 degrees and a low of 40 degrees during the month. His total rainfall since September 1, 1960 was 11.55 with 8.86 coming after the first of January. Raymond Lundell reports an even 11 inches since September 1, 1960.

wean. Some aim for 600 pounds and make it, while others are content with 500-pound calves. Then we have another group that apparently doesn't give a hoot . . . they put "all the fat on their own backs and kick off calves each year from 300 to 400 pounds."

Now these old "hoot cows," says the story teller, are kicking off the size of calves that some feeder wants. He will pay more per pound for that weight than he will for the 500 to 600 pounders. The question is: "Should I get rid of these other cows and just keep the 'hoot cows'?" Does a 350 to 400-pound calf make faster gains cheaper in the feed lot than a calf of similar quality and age that weighs around 600 pounds?

Says the head of the Oklahoma cattle group, "This has become a big problem for the man who runs a cow herd and sells feeder calves. Selling a calf at a 350 to 400-pound weight is just about the break-even point for the range cow herd. We cannot stay in business selling 350 to 400 pound calves. We will be forced to feed the fast-gaining calves ourselves and sell our slow-gainers (350-400 pounders) to the feeders."

"Many feeder calf producers . . . are spending much time and money in upgrading their mother cows and purchasing performance-tested bulls. In so doing we have been weeding out the so-called 'hoot' cows. If the feeder does not have a place in his feeding program for these fast gainers, we will be forced to feed our calves at home or in the local commercial feedlot."

The man who gets down and out has only one way to go—that is up.

The fast pace of modern living has much to do with the high cost.

Your vote is important—it decides whose conscience is to be your guide.

Chats With Your Home Agent

Special Ceremonies Highlight Sessions at 4-H Summer Camp

By ESTHER KIRMIS

Special ceremonies at 4-H Camp are always the highlights and remain in the 4-H boys and girls memories long after the educational programs.

This year at 4-H Summer Camp held at Cutsforth Park, 20 miles south of Heppner, July 6-9 we made use of the newly constructed log council ring. A campfire vesper was held each evening. The ring would be dark until all youngsters were seated. Then certain designated tents would light the fire. Martha Doherty, camp counsellor, and her tent presented a campfire ceremony featuring the 4-H's (Head, Heart, Health, and Hand). Kenneth Nelson's group did a nature appreciating ceremony, and Karen Lundell's little girls did one on camp appreciation. Singing and silent prayers were also a part of the ceremonials.

Jean Martin, Ione, another counsellor presided over the camp Sunday service which was also held at the council ring. David Bauer, pastor of the Seventh-Day Adventist church of Heppner, spoke to the boys and girls on how important each individual was in his family, club, school, church, and community.

Talent night, which is held on Saturday evening, is the Big Night! Each tent used all their talent and ingenuity to produce a stunt for the enjoyment of the others.

Such things as "Water, Water, Give Me Water," "The King with the Terrible Temper," (pantomimes) boys dressing up as

girls, Yogi bear foiled by a picnic basket, a visit to the doctor, queen for a day, and laryngitis, were given.

But the one that brought the most squeals of laughter was Howard Califf's group of small boys who presented a mock wedding for the benefit of Joe Hay, Morrow county agent, who will soon be married. Mrs. Velma Glass, county health nurse, and Mrs. N. C. Anderson, camp cook, assisted in costuming and prompting the boys. Bobby Skoubo, as the bride wearing a wig made out of shredded men's underwear, and Chuck Nelson, as the groom wearing a flowing blue scarf for a tie, were the stars. There was also the minister, the weeping mother, and the father of the bride.

Joe was so delighted with the

skit that he presented this tent the prize of the evening—a bag of Jellystones! (to go with our Yogi Bear Theme).

Sunday morning was awards and recognition time. Each counsellor selected the best camper from their tent and tied a red kerchief around their throat. Chosen for the honor of best campers were Mike Partlow and Linda Tatone, Boardman; Bobby Harris, Steven Pettyjohn, Nancy Doherty, and Sheridan Wyman, Heppner; Charles Nelson, Ione; Nancy Campbell, Jill Padberg, and Vicki Steagal, Lexington; and Toni Olin, Irrigon.

Flag raising and lowering were made more meaningful this year by having a bugler, Bob Rice, Ione counsellor, did the honors.

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-AL LAMB, Treasurer

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