

FARM NEWS

County Agent's Office

County Representation Good at Valley Ram Sale

By N. C. ANDERSON

Morrow county was well represented at the 21st annual Willamette Valley Ram Sale which was held at Albany on Saturday. The large selection and numbers offered at this sale gave our growers a fine opportunity to purchase some top rams for use in their flocks. Purchasing lambs at the sale were Kenneth Wright, Heppner, purchasing a Suffolk; Gary Van Blokland, Heppner, a Hampshire; Terry Ann Greenup, Heppner, a Southdown; and N. C. Anderson two Southdowns. Gary Van Blokland

will use his Hamp ram on a small group of registered ewes which he purchased this spring and Kenneth Wright his Suffolk in getting a start with a small flock of registered Suffolks. The other rams will be used for crossbreeding for mutton lambs.

Inspectors for the U. S. Food & Drug Administration are visiting the county this week checking for residues in crops and food stuffs. Because the U. S. Food & Drug Administration are checking more closely on residues which might be harmful to the health of people, it behooves all of our ranchers to follow instructions and recommendations in the use of pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals as well as safe guarding stored grains by the control of rodents and birds.

The four boys who represented Morrow county at the Youth Range Camp which was concluded Saturday came back with a lot of good from the week-long camp. While I haven't had an opportunity to visit with Billy Weatherford and Gene Wallace, Roger Doherty and David Anderson report a good time as well as learning a lot. The camp, attended by 48 boys from eastern and southern Oregon counties, was held at the headquarters of the "P Ranch" which is part of the old Pete French operation that has a lot of Oregon history connected to it. This ranch and the camp is located on the Malheur Wildlife Refuge. The boys "roughed" it by sleeping outdoors in an abandoned orchard on the ranch. However, they ate their meals at the French Glen Hotel located a mile or so away. The week was spent in the field in that range area learning about wildlife, plants and soils which is the main object, coupled with ranch management and some recreation. The week is con-



WASCO RANCHER Larry Kaseberg heads for the phone in response to a call from Mrs. Kaseberg over their new Farm Interphone. Installed by Pacific Northwest Bell on the Sherman county ranch, the system provides complete intercommunication around the ranch buildings as part of the regular telephone service.

cluded by a plant identification contest with the boys graded according to the number of plants which they can identify out of a possible one hundred given to them in the examinations. David Anderson had fifth place of the 50 boys. Roger Doherty was rated top in his description of plants held earlier in the week. A part of the evening programs is a "Liar's Club" contest. While Roger denies that he has ever told a lie yet, his story was rated as the top one of the contest. Boys attending the annual Youth Range Camps must be between the age of 14 and 18 years. While all of the boys attending this year were enrolled in 4-H club projects two were selected from ranches and two from town.

Rudy Bergstrom of the Gooseberry community reports that his fish are doing "wonderfully." Sunday evening he checked them for growth and found that he had some six inch fish. These were planted in a new farm pond on the Bergstrom ranch in early May as one and a half to two inch fingerlings. At this rate of growth the Bergstroms should have some good fishing late this fall and early spring.

How quickly conditions can change. The severe drought in parts of the Plains country has caused USDA to restrict sales of Commodity Credit Corporation stocks of rye and cut out export of the grain in order to conserve supplies. There ought to be food for thought here for those who have been lambasting our reserve supplies. An extended drought over a large part of the country would make a big difference. With the short wheat crop in Morrow county and the Pacific Northwest, wheat reserves will dwindle quickly. With stocks of wheat in the Pacific Northwest states at about 59 billion or 30% smaller this last year and with a 10% reduction in wheat acreage in 1962, as has evidently passed the House at this time, our wheat reserve may deplete itself sooner than some have expected.

Wheat producers will vote on August 24 on whether or not marketing quotas will be in effect for the 1962 wheat crop. Quotas for the crop were proclaimed by the Secretary of Agriculture on May 12 with setting of a wheat referendum date deferred pending action to provide an improved wheat program for the crop. While action has not yet been completed on a new wheat program, the date for the referendum on 1962 wheat marketing quotas is being set now in order that as many producers as possible may be apprised of the voting time. All eligible producers will be encouraged to participate in the referendum making their desires known through a free vote. If quotas are approved by at least two-thirds of the farmers who vote in the August 24 referendum cooperators will be eligible for 1962 wheat price supports at a level to be determined later. If quotas are not approved by the necessary percentage of votes there will be no limit on marketings,

and price support—at 50% parity—will be available to those farmers who comply with the acreage allotment.

While range flocks of sheep in our county have decreased in numbers during the past few years, farm flocks have increased. These farm flocks are generally managed so that lambs can be sold in late May before feed begins to dry up with many of these lambs sold to go directly to slaughter. Those that are kept for later sale will generally not finish as slaughter lambs and are put into a feed lot bringing a lower price and subsequent lower value to the grower. Many of our farm-sheep operators have their rams turned in now for early lamb, crops so that these lambs will be finished for the early higher priced market. With the kind of weather that we have this time of the year special treatment needs to be given the lambs and the ewes. Rams are very sensitive to high temperatures at breeding time. Quite often they will be infertile during the hot part of the summer, becoming fertile later as the weather cools down. Shearing the ram before he is turned with the ewe flock will help to overcome this hot weather problem. If it is impossible to get the ram sheared, shearing of the belly and scrotum will help. Putting ewes on a better quality feed just before the breeding season will help to bunch the lambs as far as age is concerned, and some researchers say it will increase the number of twins born.

Flushing may be done by feeding one-half to three-quarters of a pound of grain daily to ewes for seven to 14 days before rams are turned in. Another method that sometimes works well is to put ewes in dry lot and haul green-chop to them.

First Interphone On Farm Installed In Sherman County

The Sherman county ranch of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Kaseberg recently became the first in Oregon to install a Farm Interphone, the newest Pacific Northwest Bell development in telephone service, according to D. Slusher, Heppner manager.

The new system is performing three major services for the Kasebergs, operators of Wheatacres Angus Ranch, some 25 miles southeast of The Dalles, near Wasco.

One is the regular phone service located at various points in the ranch home and outbuildings.

The second is communication between members of the family with special loudspeaker-microphones. If Mrs. Kaseberg wishes to relay a telephone message to her husband, call him to the house, or simply ask him a question, she can do so and he can answer wherever he is without pausing in his work. If preferred, they can talk privately on the regular phones.

The third major function is monitoring the sounds around the ranch buildings. During the night or at any other time desired, the sound of livestock in need of attention, an intruder, defective equipment, or even fire can be heard from the home.

The Kaseberg's Farm Interphone system consists of a master phone in the kitchen, an extension phone in their basement-office and a third in the machine shop. A couple of two-way loudspeakers are located outside in the work areas.

Each telephone is equipped with a special loudspeaker-microphone and a button which enables the phone to be used for intercom calls or regular phone calls.

Chats With Your Home Agent

Contests Will Be Added Features at County Fair

By ESTHER KIRMIS

Contests will be an added feature of the Morrow County Fair, August 22-25, Heppner. 4-H girls may not only exhibit their clothing, knitting, foods and take part in the Style Revue; but they may also take part in various contests to test their skills.

Looking over the 1961 premium book we find the following contests open to 4-H girls enrolled in foods:

1. Bread Baking contest (Junior Division);
2. Bread Baking Contest (Senior Division);
3. Food Preservation Contest (Junior Division);
4. Food Preservation Contest (Senior Division);
5. Dollar Dinner Contest (Junior Division);
6. Dollar Dinner Contest (Senior Division);
7. Cake Baking Contest (Junior Division) and
8. Judging contest in foods (Jr. and Sr.)

For girls enrolled in 4-H clothing there is:

1. Wool sewing contest; 2. Judging contest in clothing (Jr. and Sr.)

General rules which apply to all contests are:

1. All contests, except baking and wool sewing, are divided into junior and senior contests. Cake contest in junior only. Wool sewing is senior only.
2. Senior contestants must be 15 years of age or older by January 1 of the current year. Junior contestants must have passed their 11th birthday, but not their 15th birthday on January 1 of the current year. 3. Permanent records or standard report forms are not required for any of these contests.

The judging contest in foods and clothing has proved quite popular with the girls in the past years. There is a junior (ages 9-14) and senior (age 25-21) division in both classes. In foods the club members judge four or more classes based on construction and selection.

The three high scoring members from each class will be selected as a team to judge at the State Fair in Salem in September. Oral reasons in the county contests will be required. Team members going to State Fair do not have to be from the same club, but must be enrolled in a project relating to the contest.

We are especially encouraging girls enrolled in third and fourth year foods to consider the cake baking contest.

Here they prepare and bake a plain butter cake before the judge. They will be scored on their personal appearance, work habits, skill in measuring and mixing, and the finished product (appearance, texture, and flavor).

Contest monies run \$5, \$4, \$3, and \$2 for the first four places. First place winner in each contest will have the opportunity to take part in the same contest at State Fair.

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