

3-Year Wheat Agreement To Raise Minimum and Maximum Price Levels

By N. C. ANDERSON

Representatives of 48 countries, all members of the International Wheat Conference, concluded another three year agreement to become effective August 1, 1962. This agreement raises the minimum and maximum price levels 12½¢ a bushel over current levels. This means the price range within which regular commercial wheat trade between exporting and importing countries is carried on, will be advanced to \$1.62½ minimum to \$2.02½ maximum per bushel, basis number 1 Manitoba Northern Wheat in bulk in store, Fort Williams and Port Arthur on Lake Superior. Under the current agreement, which expired July 31, this price range is \$1.50 to \$1.90 a bushel. The agreement will be open for signature by member nations in Washington D. C., from April 19 through May 15. Ten countries including the Soviet Union are exporting members. The other 38 countries are importing members. In view of higher support prices on 1962 crop wheat, cash market prices are expected to rise proportionately; so it would seem that the higher world wheat price may not result in lower export payments on white wheat.

The new brand inspection program of branded cattle both beef and dairy, whenever a change of ownership occurs, got underway throughout Oregon March 15 as previously scheduled. Even though hearings were scheduled for livestockmen to voice opinions there has developed a lot of opposition by some cattlemen to the new program. Petitions have been filed protesting the regulation as not in the best interest of the cattle raising industry with petition signers mostly from Gilliam and Wheeler counties with some

from Jefferson and Grant. Assistant Director J. W. Southworth says that he will reopen hearings on the subject within the next month. Such a hearing will be held in Condon in early May. We will inform livestock men of the definite date as soon as we have it.

The USDA estimates that by 1980 American farmers will be producing enough food and fiber for all domestic and foreign needs including expanded food aid programs, on 50 million fewer acres of cropland. Last year's output of farm products hit a record high, more than a fourth above the 1947-49 average. This came from ten per cent fewer acres than in 1947-49. About 40% less labor was used but machinery and mechanical power was upped 50%. Farmers also bought about 50% more feed and livestock than during the 1947-49 period, and doubled their fertilizer use.

Plans are shaping up for a very interesting program for the International Convention and Beef Congress of Performance Registry International in Corvallis on June 19, 20, and 21. A number of noted livestock specialists from throughout the world will appear on the program.

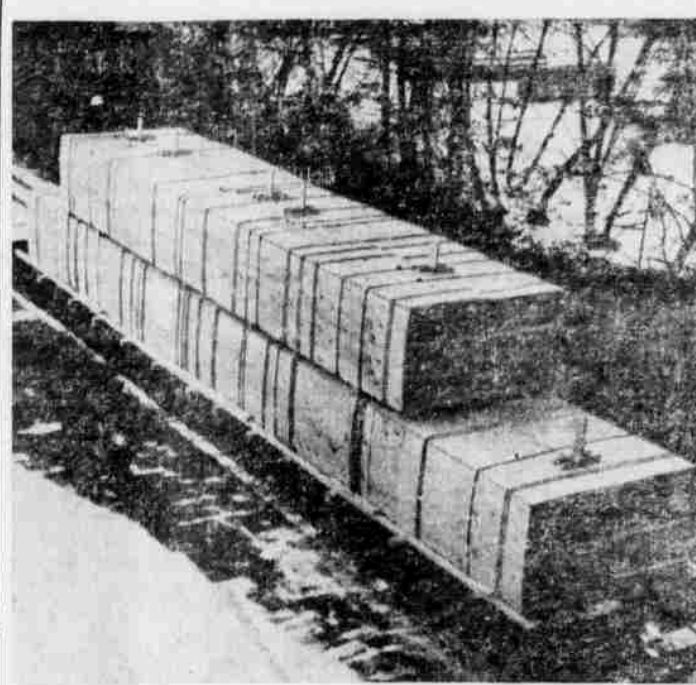
The official monthly publication of Performance Registry International is "Magic Circle Stockman." Each month a report is shown indicating the breeders of the 15 highest rating cattle in each breed according to the IBM analysis for the month. In the February issue Oregon was represented as follows: Double M Hereford Ranch, Adams, had fourth highest rating bull calf at weaning time on BH Domino Heir 48, average daily gain 2.7 pounds and thirteenth highest rating bull was

from M. M. Royal Dhu 86, average daily gain 2.53. The Mountain Ranch Mitchell, had fifteenth rating weaner bull calf on MTR Beau Donald 135, average daily gain 2.51. In the January issue Frank Monahan, Condon, had eighth highest weaner bull calf rating of JY Real Silver Domino 2 with an average daily gain of 2.73. This same bull had a high rating yearling with 2.65 gain. Frank Monahan also had the tenth place Hereford bull calf while Charles Sandoz, The Dalles, had the eighth highest rating Angus on Ravemore SAF 121 with an average daily gain of 2.64. It is interesting to note that there were some of the highest rating bulls from this immediate area. This means that our breeders have some choice breeding stock to select from.

An interesting field tour was made by Eastern Oregon agents, including this agent, meeting with Forest Service and Oregon State Game Commission personnel on Thursday evening and Friday morning of last week. The tour, to the Bridge Creek elk wintering range and the North Fork deer wintering unit of the Oregon Game Commission, was made to observe uses of these winter ranges and to discuss big game management and the effect on providing recreation for the ever-expanding population as well as the effects on the deer seen grazing on the Bridge Creek flats and numerous deer in the North Fork range area. Some statistics given by the State Game Commission were interesting. This included the fact that there were 306,000 licensed hunters in Oregon in 1961 and that these hunters took 160,000 deer, 12,000 elk and one and one-half million game birds. This number reflected a 40% increase in hunters since 1960.



FARM NEWS



THIS UNIQUE "temporary boxcar" is among the first of thousands that soon will be seen along the nation's railways. With steel-truss roof and plywood sides and roof, it protects its dry lumber cargo in any weather. Developed by Georgia-Pacific Corp., one of the nation's major forest products manufacturers, the system is an improved "floating load" designed to cut shipping and handling costs. Both the weatherproof protective plywood sheathing and the protected load of "factory fresh" lumber are ready for construction use in homes and other buildings at the end of the line. When unloaded, the "boxcar" becomes an ordinary empty flatcar ready for another load from G-P's western timberlands. The new idea has been labeled by both customers and railroad men as an important answer to recurring U. S. boxcar shortages, plus a substantial savings in packaging and unloading.

April 30 Deadline On Wool Signup

Monday, April 30, is the last day for filing applications for payments for the 1961 marketing year under the wool payment program, growers were reminded today by David McLeod, office manager, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. The payments for the 1961 marketing year cover shorn wool and unshorn lambs marketed not later than March 31 of this year. Later marketings will be eligible for payments for the 1962 marketing year. McLeod stressed the fact that the payments on wool and lambs are not made automatically—growers must file applications which are supported with all the necessary sales records in order to receive payments under the program. Since these sales records will be the basis for calculating the national average price received by farmers for wool during the entire marketing year, it is to the growers advantage to file his application early. When the average price can be determined, the payments rates for shorn wool and unshorn lambs sold during the 1961 marketing year will be announced. The payments will be made to growers during the coming summer. Wool program applications should be filed at the ASCS county office in the Gilliam and Bisbee Building, and this should be done as soon as possible but no later than Monday, April 30.

Pine City Saddle Club Sets Playday

Pine City Saddle club met April 9 at the school, with six members and four visitors attending. We discussed a 4-H trail ride with a Hermiston club, and set May 5 as a definite date for a Playday for the club. Charlie Daly, our leader, told us about a clinic for judging horses to be held in Portland April 19. He also told us of the requirements for advancement steps in 4-H horsemanship and the coveted E. L. "Dad" Potter senior horseman award. Mrs. Leo Ashbeck, assistant leader, gave us suggestions on demonstrations that may be given at the Fair, and told us the necessary steps: know how; show how, and know why. Connie Coppinger, reporter

Irrigation Time To Find Water Supply Adequate

The 1962 irrigation season begins in the Umatilla-Walla Walla area with a close to adequate water supply outlook for most lands, according to a report released today by W. T. Frost, Snow Survey Supervisor for U. S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating with Oregon State University and State Engineer. McKay water users, however, have less stored water than last year.

Water content of the mountain snowpack is 7 percent below the 15 year average (1943-57) but it is 47 percent greater than last year on this date. Moisture in the top 3 to 4 feet of the soil immediately under the snowpack is now about 87 percent of capacity—just slightly more moisture than a year ago today. This moisture is adequate to favor runoff from melting snow.

Cold Springs reservoir is now full but McKay reservoir had only 35,000 acre feet in storage on April 1st compared with 53,700 acre feet last year. Inflow to McKay for the balance of the season is expected to be only 31,000 acre feet. Present storage of 35,000 acre feet plus expected inflow totals 66,000 acre feet for this year compared with 69,000 acre feet "in sight" in 1961 at this date.

The forecast for inflow to McKay reservoir is 100 percent of average for this irrigation season. Flow of the Umatilla at Pendleton is forecast at 93 percent of the 15 year average (1943-57) and at Gibbon is 95 percent of the average.

Flow of the South Fork of the Walla Walla near Milton is forecast at 86 percent of average for the April-September period. The Hudson Bay and Pleasant View water users have a "short" season unless good spring-summer rains are received. Other small streams such as Birch, Butter, Willow, Rhea and Rock Creeks will have much better water supply than last year.

All forecasts are made on the assumption that average conditions of temperature and rainfall will prevail in the runoff period.

Statewide, all of Oregon's 1,400,000 acres of irrigated land can expect nearly adequate to adequate water supplies in the 1962 season. Lands served from McKay reservoir in Umatilla county and Drews reservoir in Lake county, where stored water supplies are extremely "short," will have sufficient water for most crop requirements if careful water management is practiced.

Expert Reviews New Farm Bills

More than 40 bills relating directly to farmers and food are now before the 87th Congress, with many of the measures proposing some kind of land retirement program, according to M. D. Thomas, Oregon State University extension agricultural economist.

Thomas gives a brief review of the legislative situation in the new Oregon Farm and Market Outlook circular, now available at county extension offices.

Currently receiving the most attention are administration proposals (HR 10010 and SB 2786) aimed at improving and protecting farm income, reducing federal program costs and excessive stocks of farm products, maintaining reasonable and stable food and fiber prices, providing adequate supplies of farm commodities for domestic and foreign needs, and conserving natural resources, he noted.

Most farm bills have similar objectives, but methods proposed for achieving them vary widely, Thomas points out. Somewhat in common with many other bills, the administration proposal includes provisions for adjusting considerable land out of agricultural uses. It also proposes expanded use of food in promoting foreign trade and peace.

Other highlights of the administration proposals include specific authorization for turkey and milk producer allotments when marketing orders are in effect, authority for marketing quotas and acreage allotments on feed grains as well as wheat, substantial changes in methods and levels of wheat supporting prices, and provisions for many changes in the dairy support program, he notes.

County extension agents, county agricultural stabilization and conservation offices and farm organizations can supply much additional information to anyone wishing to study the proposed legislation, Thomas adds.

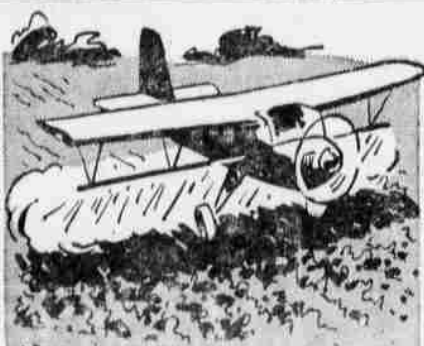
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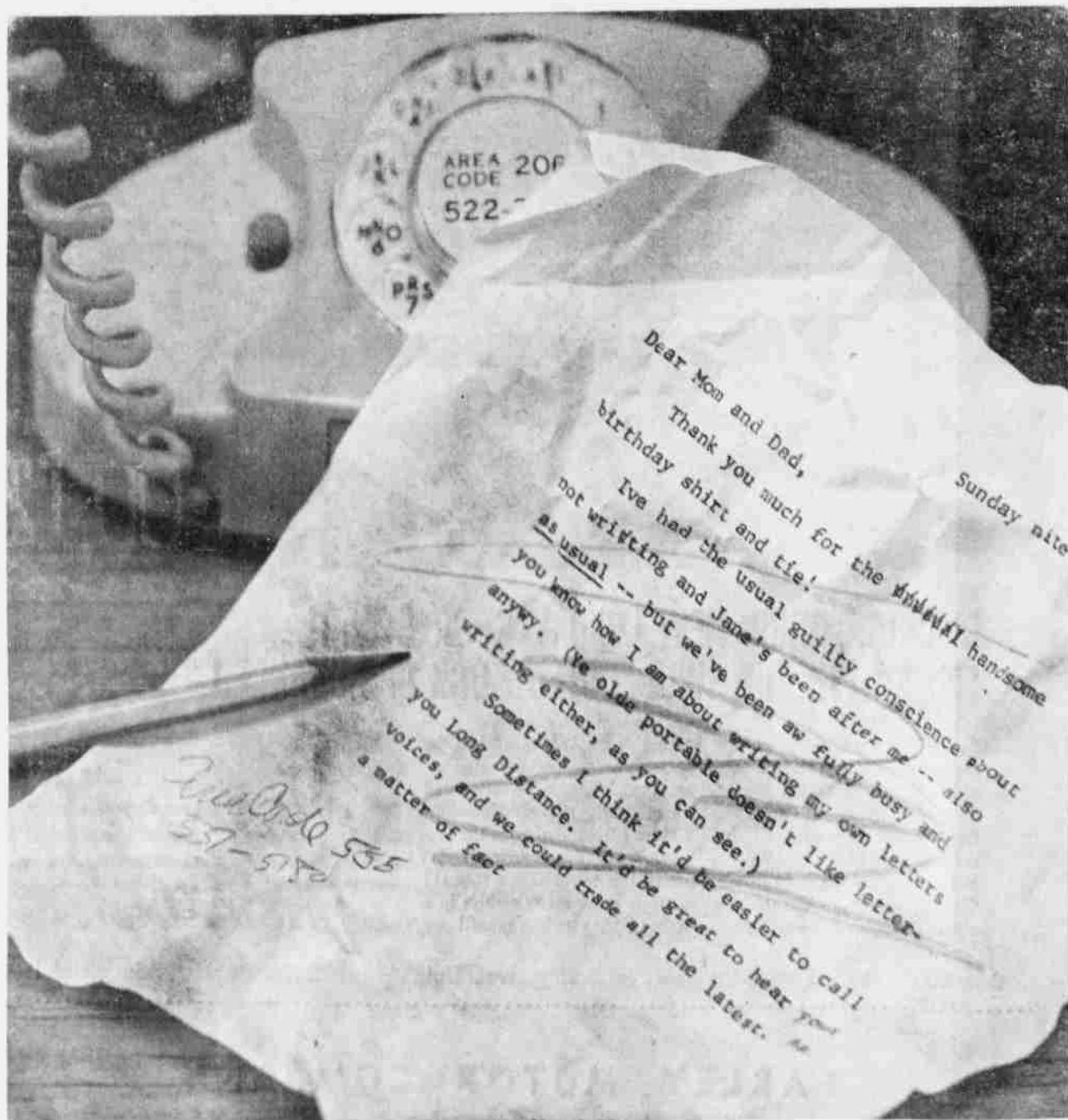
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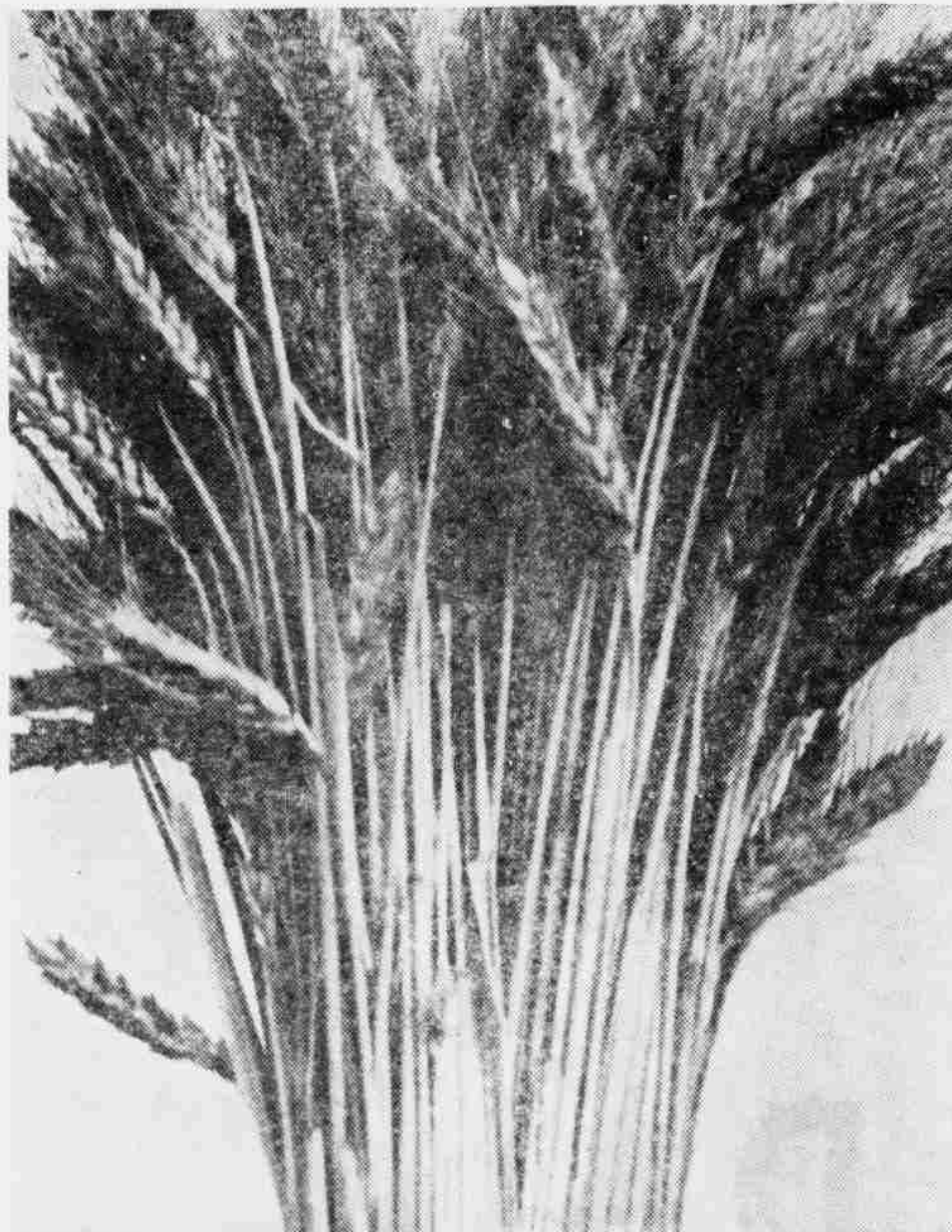
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