



FARM NEWS

County Agent's Office

Grain Nursery to Test Spring Seed Planting

By N. C. ANDERSON

A spring grain nursery was established at the Frank Anderson ranch last Monday in cooperation with the Sherman Branch Experiment station. This spring grain nursery replaced the fall nursery that has been seeded at this location for the past 15 years. Because of a dry fall, it became too late to establish the regular nursery equipment used for such purposes. The spring nursery should be of interest to the adapted area, especially if there continues to be as much spring seeding as we have had the past two years. Several oat, barley and wheat varieties were seeded to determine yields and growing characteristics. This is the first opportunity we have had to observe oats in this locality and will be especially interesting to compare the varieties that are available. There are some promising spring barleys that should interest many also. One of the spring wheat varieties seeded was the new Idead-59, which some no doubt have read of as released this spring. Idead-59 is expected to replace the old Idead variety. Certified seed should be available for commercial plantings next spring. While Idead has not been used a great deal in Morrow County those who have seeded it have generally been well pleased with its performance. It is best suited to the heavier soil, higher rainfall areas. The new white spring wheat strain equals the high quality and yield of the old Idead and in addition to having stem rust resistance it is also resistant to mildew and stripe rust. It has a stiff straw and is early maturing. It has performed well in northwest milling tests and is considered a special wheat for certain millers due to its good properties for cake flour.

For those who might be interested in a good family milk cow or several head as dairy replacements, the dispersal sale of the Stearns Polled Milking Shorthorn herd will be of interest. This is one of the good established milking shorthorn herds in the Pacific Northwest. The sale, which includes 70 head, will be held at the Stearns ranch near Lebanon, beginning at 11:00 A. M. Saturday, May 5.

The first step in an intensive screening test of chemicals for the control of branching knapweed, was established on Wednesday of last week. Arnold

Appleby, weed research man, Pendleton Branch experiment station, and this agent laid out plots and put out the first chemical application at a site on the Wilkinson Ranch on Skinner Creek about three-quarters of a mile from the Willow Creek Junction. There will be approximately 250 plots measuring eight by thirty feet. There will be five dates of application of 2,4-D using five different rates. First application was made in the very small to well established rosette stage on Wednesday using one half, one and one-half, three, six and twelve pounds of 2,4-D per acre. Fifty-five plots which allow for a check and a replicate of each will use 55 plots for 2,4-D experiments. The approximate 200 other plots will be used to test new and existing chemicals at different rates on different dates through the spring and summer months. Adjacent infested range land will be used to compare helicopter, airplane and ground equipment on acreages up to 100 using various rates of 2,4-D will be established in the bud stage if plans of the Morrow County Weed Control Committee materializes. The entire project is one which was approved at the annual Morrow county weed meeting held in early February. Plans were worked out by the weed committee, the agent and Rex Warren Farm Crops Specialist, Oregon State University. Interest is high in controlling branching knapweed that is rapidly spreading over range and waste land throughout much of Morrow county.

Sometime ago we indicated plans for hearings to determine whether the change of ownership brand inspection program inaugurated March 15 should be revised, discontinued or continued temporarily. Dates for the hearings have now been set, two of them to be held in eastern Oregon, one in the courthouse at Condon at 1:00 p. m., May 3 and the other in the Grange hall at Vale at 1:00 p. m., May 8.

There has been a considerable amount of interest in chemical summerfallow this winter and spring, with some of the planned use a bit different from the original intent of the program. Frank Anderson, one of the ranchers to try a new innovation, began spraying Saturday afternoon at his newly acquired "Anderson Camp" property. Two pounds Amitrol and 2 pounds of 2,4-D were used to control a heavy stand of cheatgrass on steep ground where it has been difficult to turn over cheat completely while throwing furrows uphill. By spraying ahead of plowing Frank hopes to eliminate this cheatgrass problem. He will also spray out some draws in areas where a complete turnover of the grass might be difficult. Verner Troedson, in a much different type of country, sprayed an acreage in a field newly wind strip-cropped, the strips to be double summerfallowed. By spraying cheat, volunteer and broadleaves Verner hopes to get by with less tillage thereby keeping straw on the surface to protect the soil from blowing. Bernard Doherty, Blackhorse Canyon rancher, used chemical fallow on some light soil areas as a means of keeping more cover on the ground yet prevent grass from going to seed. As we observe these special uses this year recommendations should be forthcoming for others who have special uses for this new method of farming. Of interest to some who have observed the chemical summerfallow plots at the Harry Proudfoot ranch should be a recent report from

Hopper Infestation Threatens in Harney

A heavy infestation of grasshopper eggs in Harney county, south of Burns in the Malheur lake area threatens to triple last year's losses by grasshoppers of close to \$50,000.

An adult count last August showed 100 hoppers per square yard of egg bed area. Each female hopper is capable of laying roughly 60 to 80 eggs, entomologists say, so a hatch of 7,200 hoppers per square foot in the extensive egg bed areas is not out of the question.

Forty thousand acres have been preliminarily selected as a control area, 6,000 of which is federal game reserve. A committee has been formed and a report sent to the state's emergency board to see if state funds can be made available for that area. Costs of grasshopper control programs on range lands are split three ways. The ranchers pay one-third, county or state funds meet another third of the cost, and the federal government pays one-third.

A nymph survey, after the hatch, will determine whether control measures will be necessary. Cold, wet weather at the time of emergence could kill all the hoppers. State Department of Agriculture entomologists will assist other state and federal entomologists in making this survey sometime in May.

Power Company Gives Tips to Kite Fliers

With the coming of kite flying weather, junior guided missile pilots who will be putting their kites "into orbit" are warned by Pacific Power and Light Company about the hazards of flying their kites near electric power lines and poles.

F. L. Gimbel, PP&L's local representative, urged parents to caution their children to follow safe kite flying rules that are listed on posters distributed by the company throughout its system.

These safety precautions include:

1. Always fly your kite in an open field or playground, away from power lines or poles.
2. Do not buy a kite which has metal or wire in the frame or tail.
3. Use only dry string for kite lines, and do not try to launch a kite with wire or with string containing a metallic substance such as tinsel.
4. Never use a wet string, metal thread or fine copper wire for a kite line. These materials are conductors of electricity and bring about serious shock from accidental contact with overhead wires.
5. If your kite lodges in a power line, or in a tree near power wires, leave it there. Do not try to get it down. Power company linemen never take chances with live wires and neither should you.

Mr. Proudfoot. He reported that he could definitely pick out, right to the line, where chemical experiments of the previous year had ended. He says "there was volunteer and some weed growth in the 20 acres that had had chemical on it but none of the growth was large or abundant except in drainage areas where it had had an extra large supply of moisture." On the regular summerfallow the volunteer was large and "clumpy."

Ranchers will want to set aside May 24 for the State Conservation Man of the Year Field day which will be held at the Paulsen Kaseberg ranch west of Wasco in Sherman county. The program will start at 10:30 a. m. and be completed about 3:30 p. m.

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Farmers Plead For Tax Relief At State Hearing

Oregon's tax needs, solely for the support of local government and local services, will soar to \$230,000,000 for 1963. This represents approximately 125% increase in the amount of taxes collected over the past 12 years. Only eight states are listed as having a higher per capita local government cost than Oregon. Included are Alaska, Hawaii, Nevada, California, and New York. These were facts brought out in a hearing held at Medford, March 30, by a subcommittee of the legislative interim committee on agriculture. Attendance was reported as being weak; less than 50 persons were counted; however, opinions were strong. There was general agreement expressed that reliance for funds to carry local government functions, particularly the sky-rocketing cost of education, was to have to be shifted. Where? No one seemed to know exactly.

In the afternoon sessions William Marshall and Lloyd Nicholson of Klamath county, representing the Oregon Cattlemen's association, advocated a modified form of sales tax. This tax they emphasized, was to be a substitute for the heavy burdens now being borne by land taxes. A State Tax Commission economist attending the hearing testified that such a tax might raise up to \$70,000,000. Marshall said that today 44% of a rancher's net income goes to pay his land taxes for local government support.

Nicholson said, "The cash reappraisal value system is working unfairly for bona fide farmers because there is so much 'uninformed money' coming from

California. "These buyers seeking income tax refuge or making recreational purchases are paying inflationary prices for land. This makes unrealistic comparisons in land values."

Orville Cutsforth, Morrow County rancher and legislative committee member for the Farm Bureau, said that "true cash value on farm property just isn't true." He declared, "In my county farmers totalled only 8% of the population but they are paying more than 70% of the taxes." He said, "Farmers are being forced to mortgage their farms in order to meet their tax demands and this situation simply cannot continue."

Lester Adam, representing the Oregon Milk Producers, testified, "The present tax levy is out of balance; therefore, there should be an alternate plan in lieu of land taxes to take over some of the costs of services at the county level."

The testimony of Lloyd Nicholson on inflationary land prices was corroborated by Earl Sorenson, Oregon State Tax Commission appraiser, who said, "Farm sales have been recorded in the Bend area as being 71% above appraisal values of the land for farms."

The morning part of the session was devoted to a review of Oregon farmers' income-costs ratio during the past ten years as compared to California, Washington, and Idaho. This study was conducted by Dr. Grant Blanch of Oregon State University. Dr. Blanch said, "In comparing the incomes and property taxes paid in Oregon by farmers with those of Idaho, Washington, and California, and the United States as a whole, the Oregon farmers pay substantially more taxes per hundred dollars for full valuation of property. Similarly the Oregon farmers paid more taxes on every hundred dollars of net income than farmers of the

sales tax to be committed as a real property tax offset and allocated to education, thereby relieving other states. These high tax payments place the Oregon farmer's operation at a distinct disadvantage in competing in the interstate markets.

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