

Committee Seeks '62 Conservationist

By N. C. ANDERSON

Signs are evident throughout the entire county that our ranches are going forward rapidly with conservation practices. This was the decision made by a committee last Thursday when the annual tour for selecting the county winner, "Conservation Man of the Year" was made. Of special interest was the rapid expansion of wind-strip cropping which has been established in the last year. Leading the way was Andy Van Schojack with strips established in the Juniper Canyon are three years ago. This year strips can be seen at the D. O. Nelson, Verner Troedson, David Baker, Kenneth Smouse, and Gar Swanson ranches while others in the area are watching these with considerable interest with the thought in mind that this might be a good practice to follow in these dryer years. Establishing strips has been especially helpful as a practice in farm programs calling for high percentage of land to be diverted from crop. The committee found a high number of contenders for title of Conservation Man of the Year. The committee composed of Paul Tews, Bob Rietmann, Raymond Lundell and Vernon Munkers with Ralph Richards and I as advisory members found a large number of ranchers worthy of the 1962 title. Announcement of the county winner will be made at the annual meeting of the Morrow County Wheatgrower's Association, which is planned to be held within the next few weeks.

A summary of 1960 and 61 cash receipts and net income per farm listed by states received at this office recently is interesting. Many would not guess that Arizona led the list in both 1960 and 1961 with two and one-half times more income with the second ranking state, Florida. Net income in 1961 was \$19,598. This compared with the low ranking state, North Dakota, with only \$448. Oregon was farther down the list than we would have guessed, placing thirty-fourth with a net income of \$2,417, down \$500 from 1960.

The second application of different rates and dates of 2,4-D for the control of Branching Knapweed was made at the Knapweed plots on Skinner Creek last Wednesday. Arnold Appleby, weed man, Pendleton branch experiment station, assisted by this office, expects that Knapweed will have made sufficient growth by May 16 for first application of a variety of new and promising herbicides which will be used in the plots. Sixty-eight by thirty foot plots are being used to compare different rates and dates of application of 2,4-D with approximately 200 additional plots used for comparing other chemicals. Applications will be made at regular two week intervals over the next several weeks. This research is being carried out as a part of an attempt to learn the most effective and economical way to control Branching Knapweed.

Choice slaughter steers hit the highest price level in two and one-half years at North Portland this week. During the week, high, good and choice slaughter steers sold in a range of \$27.75 to \$28.50. The top of this range is \$3.25 higher than a year ago. A visit to the Hermiston livestock auction Friday showed that prices being received for all types of feeder cattle is definitely reflecting the high slaughter prices. We hope slaughter prices remain high or there will be some money lost in the prices being paid for feeders now.

Carl McDaniel, U. S. fish and wildlife hunter, had the distinction of catching 22 coyotes during the period of March 4-31. Robert Long, Malheur county, had a catch of 29, the only other hunter in the state with a larger catch. Mr. Long consistently has a high catch in his area in Malheur county. It was interesting to note in a report covering the period October 15, 1961 through January 6, 1962, that hunters reported 187 chickens, 318 sheep, 36 geese, sixteen goats, 213 lambs, 7 ducks, 256 turkeys, 1 hog, 18 calves, 1 house cat, 8 swan, 2 quail, 4 chucker, 59 deer, 1 grouse and 2 pheasants were killed by predators. In Morrow county largest loss was through dogs which killed 15 sheep. Bobcats killed 7 geese and one lamb, eagles 2 calves. Dogs also killed 1 deer. In Malheur county alone there were 16 sheep, 100 lambs and 1 calf killed by coyotes.

Bloat is considered by many scientists to be the most important disorder in livestock that feed on legume pasture. A conservative estimate is that farmers annually lose \$40,000,000 to bloat. This sum includes animal deaths and also milk losses from bloated animals that do recover. Low fiber content, high moisture content, and the presence of saponins (chemicals with properties to produce a soapy lather) are considered important bloat causes. Scientists at the United States Department of Agriculture and some land-grant institutions have come a long way in the past few years in finding the exact cause of bloat. However, there are still many areas of the problem that need more investigation. Dr. S. B. Guss, professor of veterinary science at the Pennsylvania State University, says the problem of bloat can be lessened by following these management practices:

1. Alfalfa seems to be the most important bloat producing plant. Because of this, it's wise to plant a grass with it and attempt to grow a 50-50 alfalfa-grass crop. Some farmers find pure stands of alfalfa easier to handle. These stands can be safely pastured if livestock have access to grass for at least half of each day.
2. Keep hay or straw readily available for cattle on lush, succulent pasture. They will eat an amazing quantity of this material if it's available to them when they need it.
3. Never turn hungry cattle into pastures likely to produce bloat. If animals are fed grain and dry roughage before they're turned out, they'll eat slower. And the dry material will stimulate their rumen activity which will remove any accumulating gas.
4. It's far better to keep cattle on the possible bloat-producing pasture at least half of each day than it is to remove them for a couple of days only to return them once again to the same pasture.
5. The use of a tablespoonful of ordinary laundry detergent in the daily grain ration of each cow for the first two or three days on a possible bloat-producing pasture helps prevent frothy bloat.
6. Penicillin-salt mixtures may be helpful in preventing bloat for a few days. Two years ago these mixtures were hailed as the answer to bloat prevention.

State Undertakes Rancher Survey On Leased Lands

Some 300 Oregon ranchers who lease lands from the state are being asked by the Legislative Interim Committee on Natural Resources to help it develop a sound, long-range land management policy.

Involved in the land use study are over 650,000 acres of land in 30 of the state's 36 counties. Some 600,000 acres are located in three southeastern Oregon counties—Harney, Lake and Malheur.

A questionnaire seeking the ranchers' suggestions on management problems is being sent to each leaseholder of State Land Board lands. Included are such questions as whether the leaseholder prefers to maintain the present system, and whether his leased lands could be improved by such projects as brush spraying, reseeding, and fencing.

The nine-member committee will make two tours of Eastern Oregon in May and June (Prineville May 25, John Day May 26, Lakeview June 22, Burns June 23), inviting ranchers and other individuals concerned with the livestock industry to testify on land management policies. All the information will then be weighed as a basis for recommendations to the 1963 legislature for a new land management program for the state-owned properties.

Under present lease policies and land conditions the state receives just under seven cents per acre per year on the average from its leased lands. The committee is seeking to determine if range improvement projects wouldn't produce long-

State Fair Auditions Billed for June 7-8

First auditions for the 1962 Oregon State Fair amateur show will be June 7-8 at Willamette University, Dean Melvin Geist, director, said today. Geist is dean of music at Willamette, and this will be the second year he has directed the amateur show

in the State Fair. Fair dates this year are August 31 to September 8. Dean Geist said that application for auditions have been many this year but more would be welcome. "We hope to have all the applicants we now have on hand heard in auditions during June," Dean Geist said. However, he added, "if there are others worthy of a spot on the programs, we hope to hear them, too, during the summer. If all of those who have now applied can't make it on the first two days set, the remainder will be heard on June 12."

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Reported wool sales in Oregon this week included 13,000 fleeces of ranch wool in the Tri-County Wool Pool in Northeastern Oregon with a top bid of 55.38 cents per pound, grease basis, f.o.b. cars Joseph or Baker, with delivery by June 15. Also around 3,000 fleeces of range wool sold at 52.3 cents per pound. Six buyers bid on this pool. The low bid on ranch wool was 50.53 cents and the low bid on range wool was 47.49 cents a pound.



range benefits to ranchers and the state's budget alike. Income from lands, about \$45,000 a year, goes into the common school fund for distribution to school districts all over the state. A single lease may range from a few acres to nearly 25,000 acres. The lands are a significant base for Oregon's widespread livestock industry. Long-term lease policies, mostly on ten-year bases, give ranchers virtual "ownership" of the lands.

A new publication intended to help the farmers and suburbanites select sites for private sewage disposal systems is now available from the U. S. Soil Conservation Service. A copy of the publication, "Soils Suitable For Septic Tank Filter Fields," may be obtained from the local SCS office at the Gilliam and Bisbee building. Richards said the well-illustrated, 12-page publication, written in popular style, tells why filter fields fail, how soil surveys show areas suitable for filter fields, how to use a soil map to select a filter field site, how to calculate the size of filter field needed and how to make a percolation test.

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