

FARM NEWS

County Agent's Office

Crops Look Better Here Than in Neighbor States

By N. C. ANDERSON

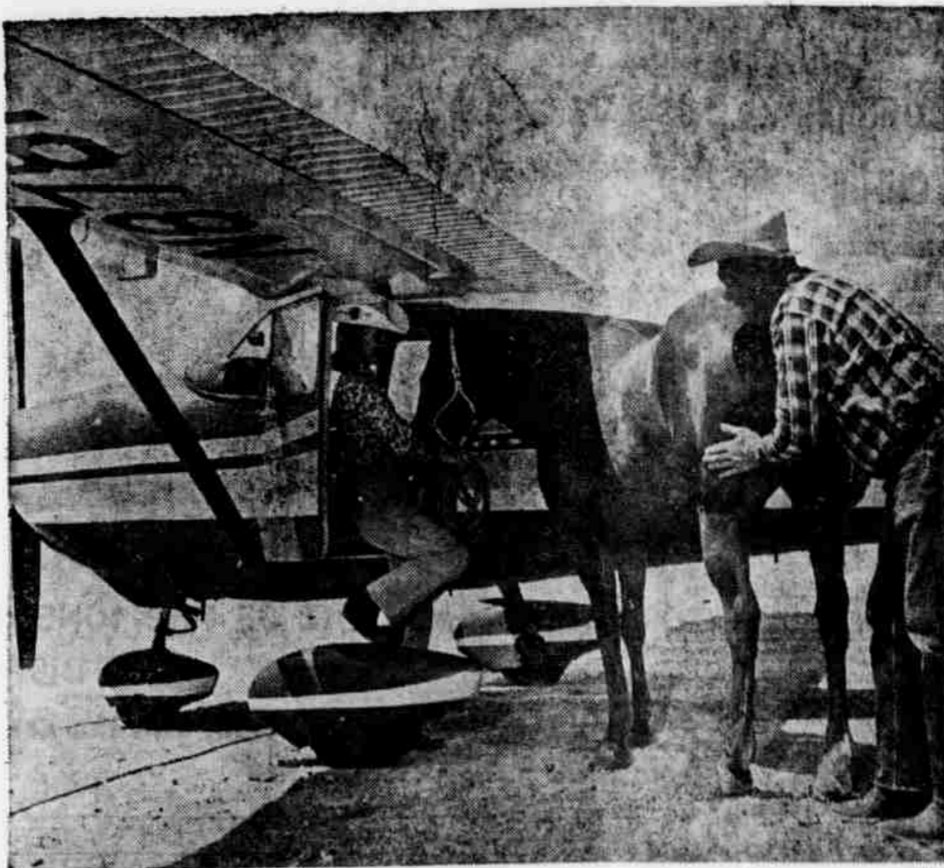
It's good to be back in Morrow county after an absence of three weeks which I feel was a profitable one in reacquainting myself with some of the principles needed in the county agent profession. It is especially good to see the excellent crops compared to the areas which I visited or passed through in other parts of Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah and Colorado. There are a lot of discouraging looking fields of all types of grain, corn and sugar beets. An extremely cold winter in Colorado and Wyoming was hard on the permanent hay seedings which is reflected in a very poor hay crop in those areas. A dry spring followed by heavy rains and an exceptionally wet spring has resulted in poor stands of corn and sugar beets; later hail storms have destroyed or set back many crops in a lot of the area in Colorado and Wyoming. On a tour of the Wyoming Hereford ranch on June 29, our caravan of 34 cars was held up for over half an hour due to one of the worst hail storms I have seen. The ditches were full of hail, later washed away by a downpour of rain with water two feet deep over the gently rolling area near Cheyenne. On a trip through the Fort Collins, Greeley and Fort Morgan areas in Colorado on July 4 we saw fields of grain completely destroyed from hail. Reports from Nebraska county agents that they had from home was that as much as ten inches of rain had fallen in a twenty-four hour period in some areas and in the wheat belt there was as much as six inches of rain on the crop with hail just as it was time for harvest. They have had as much as twenty inches of rain in the past six weeks in areas in Nebraska. Again, Morrow county looks good to return to!

Ranchers are reminded that it is time now to file for the Federal Gasoline Tax Refund for the past fiscal year. Gasoline

which was used on the farm after June 30, 1961 and before July 1, 1962 for farming purposes should be included. The Federal rate of tax is 4c per gallon of gasoline. Everyone who has filed for their federal tax refund in the past should have received form 2240, "Claim of Refund of Federal Tax on Gasoline used on a farm, 1962." New applicants or those who have not yet received this form may get these from the District Internal Revenue Service office, Portland. We will try to keep a few on hand at the office for the convenience of those who wish to call for them here. Remember that in order to claim this tax refund it must be sent in before September 30, 1962.

The USDA has announced the award of contracts to process nearly 518,000 bushels of CCC owned wheat into twenty seven million pounds of bulgar. This brings the amount of bulgar acquired so far to eighty-seven million pounds from 1.7 million bushels of CCC wheat. Bulgar is processed by boiling wheat, drying it, removing some of the bran, and cracking the grain into meal. The bulgar is for donation abroad through U. S. voluntary welfare agencies. It is intended to assist in greater use of wheat and wheat products by needy persons in foreign countries primarily the middle and far East. Talking about the use and disposal of wheat it is interesting to note that when final figures are in we may find that more wheat was exported during the year ending June 30 than was used domestically. This would mean a new record in wheat exports and the second straight year that wheat exports topped domestic use. Government programs appear to be the main reason for the heavy exports.

Oregon poultry growers were quite disappointed when the farm bill providing for a two price program in wheat was de-



Bonnie Nordman of Redmond, Oregon, doesn't seem to be getting much help from Ralph Fullington, as she tries to figure how to fly one of her riding ponies to Christmas Valley, Oregon where "Horse Swapping Days" will be held on July 21 and 22. While Ralph says "Wyatt Earp" never had a problem like this one, he assures us both he and Bonnie will make it to this event when all of Oregon is invited to the Valley to enjoy two fun-filled days.

feated. These growers were looking forward to the availability of wheat as a broiler and other type poultry feed. The feed price of wheat would have cut back the price of their feed about \$8 a ton and cut production costs about 1c a pound. It is interesting to note that in a recent report from the Oregon Fryer Commission that two of the three major processors of chickens in Oregon have closed their plants permanently in the past four months throwing about 200 plant and feed mill employees out of work. They also report that over 50 fryer growers have had to quit the business in the past two years and abandon their investment in their production facilities. This was necessary because labor returned to fryer producers became about equal to the labor rate of the deep south with no possibility of recapturing depreciation and interest on invested capital. They report that with no production costs cut a cent a pound that their spendable income would be doubled. With several segments of our agriculture in financial difficulties such as this our Morrow county ranchers can be thankful that while their income has been reduced considerably they can, with good crops, keep operating with a fair return on their investment.

The USDA has announced that shorn wool payments for the 1961 marketing year—to bring the average wool price of 42.9 cents per pound up to the previously announced incentive level of 62c per pound under the National Wool Act—would amount to 44.5% of the dollar returns each producer received from the sale of shorn wool during the year. This will result in an incentive payment to producers of \$44.50 for every \$100 received from the sale of shorn wool during the seventh year of the program. This compares to a payment of \$47.60 per hundred dollars of marketings for the 1960 marketing year. USDA also announced a payment rate of 76c per hundred weight on unshorn lambs to compensate for the wool on them. This payment on sales of live lambs that have never been shorn is based on the shorn wool payment and is designed to discourage unusual shearing of lambs before marketing. This payment rate compares to 80c per hundred weight for the 1960 marketing year. The county ASC offices will begin making payments soon after July 1. Applications for payment had to be filed with the ASC office by April 30. These payments will be made on shorn wool and unshorn lambs marketed from April 1, 1961 through March 31, 1962. The Wool Incentive program was originally authorized by the National Wool Act of 1954. Legislation last summer extended the program through the 1965 marketing year. The act directs the secretary of agriculture to support the price of shorn wool at an incentive level he finds necessary to encourage annual production of 300 million pounds of shorn wool. The act limits the cumulative payments to a amount equal to 70% of the duties collected on imports of wool and wool manufactures since January 1, 1953. Deductions of one cent per pound of shorn wool payments and five cents per hundred pounds of live-weight from lamb payments will be made for advertising, promotion and related development activities on wool and lamb. This self-help program (under Section 708 of the National Wool Act) is carried out by the American Sheep Producers Council, Inc., which was established for that purpose.

Needlettes Meet For Project Work

Karen Harns entertained the Needlettes at her home Saturday, June 30. The girls worked on their garments and judged fabrics and trims.

On July 7, Arleta McCabe was the hostess at an all-day work meeting. During dinner, which followed a morning of work on projects, the birthday of their leader was honored with a shower of hankies, cards, cakes and songs. After dinner, work was resumed until 5 o'clock.

Horse Swapping Days Scheduled

Expectation is keen in Lake County over the First Annual Horse Swapping Days to be held July 21 and 22 at Christmas Valley, Oregon.

Horse people from miles around are expected to gather for two days of old fashioned "whittle and spit" horse swapping.

Festivities planned for horse traders and spectators alike will include a barbecue, a square dance and a two day Jack pot Amateur Rodeo.

Rodeo Fever is running high and more than one hundred cowboys and cowgirls are expected to vie for the seven silver and gold trophy buckles to be presented to the winners of the Bareback Riding, Saddle Bronc Riding, Cow Riding, Calf Roping, Team Roping, Girl's Barrel Race and Cow Horse contests.

A \$250 Trophy Saddle will be

awarded to the All Around Cowboy.

Rodeo officials are scouring the countryside to bring the wildest and best of available bucking horses to the recently completed arena at Christmas Valley.

The kids haven't been left out either. Ribbons and trophies will go to the winners of a Key-hole Race and Pole Bending.

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SCS Booklet Out, 'Land Down There'

A new publication intended to help air travelers understand what soil and water conservation practices look like from the air has just been issued by the U. S. Soil Conservation Service.

A copy of the publication, "That Land Down There," may be obtained from the local ASC office over Gilliam and Bisbee Hardware Company Ralph J. Richards, Work Unit Conservationist said.

Richards said the publication consists of 16 pages well illustrated with pictures taken from the air along with some of the ground showing closeups of what is going on "down there." Unique patterns on the land may consist of curving bands of strip-

cropping or terraces. Orchards planted on the contour and wind-breaks to protect large fields in the Plains States have their own peculiar pattern. Ponds that dot the landscape illustrate a practice that has mushroomed among the Nation's conservation-minded farmers. And irrigation in the arid parts of the country has made striking changes in the appearance of the land from up high.

These and other land features are well illustrated in this new publication.

I dislike arguments of any kind. They are always vulgar, and often convincing.
—Oscar Wilde

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