

FARM NEWS

County Agent's Office

Farm Safety Emphasis Needed Throughout Year

By N. C. ANDERSON

This is National Farm Safety Week. The theme is, "Family Safety at Work and Play." Everyone will see and hear a lot this week about farm safety and how important it is. Since there will be so much national publicity we are not going to say much in this week's column because we think farm safety is an important year-around activity rather than to concentrate on one week per year. Let's keep in mind that America's most precious resource is people. Accidents involve people and frequently happen because people fail to take proper precautions. The best prevention is safety training for every member of the family. Parents and children alike need to understand why accidents happen and how to prevent them. Farm families are constantly exposed to accident hazards—on the farm, in the home, on the highway, at work and at play. Let's keep this in mind this week and every week during the year.

Bill Doherty First To Harvest Gaines

Bill Doherty, Lexington, has the distinction of being the first Gaines Wheat increase grower to harvest, clean, treat and sack this new variety. Some of us who estimated yields of Gaines in comparison to other varieties grown in the same field underestimated a little the ability of the new wheat. Yield at the Doherty ranch was 31 plus bushels per acre, a little over a bushel and a half more than the Burt harvested to date and somewhat over 2 bushels more than spring Federation. This field was harvested, cleaned and treated by Clell Rea, Ione, who has contracted with the majority of Gaines growers to do this work rather than each grower to clean up their combines and handle the wheat individually. By this time next week we will have a

number of yields from various fields that will have been harvested which will help us to determine a little better what variety will do under varying conditions in Morrow county. Gaines, the newly released, smooth-awn, stiff strawed, semi-dwarf variety will be available to everyone, perhaps in limited quantities, who wish to try this new variety this fall. All fields made the registered class with the exception of two which were ineligible for certification because of mixtures of other varieties of wheat and cereals. Those who will have seed for sale, if they have not already obligated theirs, are William J. Doherty and Kenneth Peck, Lexington; Louis Carlson, Lloyd Howton, David Baker, and Gar Swanson, Ione; Kenneth Turner, Fritz Cutsforth, Tad Miller, Raymond French, Melvin Boyer, Leonard Rill and Alvin Bunch, Heppner. These growers did an exceptional job in cleaning up their increase fields for Registration. With the strict standards for certification no one need hesitate to purchase seed that has passed these standards.

New Hay Equipment Pleases John Hanna

John Hanna, Hinton Creek rancher, is well pleased with his labor-saving haying equipment which he purchased in the spring. He says that he has just completed the easiest haying job that he has ever done with no additional help than his regular man. The new equipment consists of a farm-hand wagon which automatically loads and unloads when pulled behind the baler. A special attachment for his farm-hand loader picks up the eight bales, loading them on the truck or directly into the hay stack. Very little handling of hay is necessary, only to cross bales in "tying" the stack together. With this equipment they have been

averaging 165 bales an hour into the hay pile. John says he has his equipment paid for in the labor bill and groceries saved in feeding a big hay crew. A number of ranchers are putting their hay up in this same manner but have not yet taken the entire labor out of piling bales, in using a sled behind the baler and in stacking bales in the pile.

Fire Threats To Stored Hay Need Precautions

While we are talking about hay it might be well to remind growers that spontaneous combustion, grass-fires and careless smokers are threats to all stored hay. While it would be well to be careful still every hay stack should be insured to full value in case of fire. When stacking hay outside there are several ways to lessen the fire hazard and perhaps lower the premium rate. Build stacks at least 100 feet away from buildings and other combustible material. Make several stacks rather than put it all in one. Building a long narrow stack will enable a person to split apart the stack if the fire starts at one end. Keep the stack ground bare. Plow fire guards around stacks if there is grass. This is the time of year when all fire-fighting equipment should be in "A-1" running shape, the gas tank full of gas and the water tank full of water. It is a lot quicker to have a pair of wetted sacks ready to go than have to take the time to wet them after a fire starts. It takes only a matter of minutes to put some sacks in a pail, fill it up with water and let it sit where it is handy to get to.

Federal Veterinarian To Serve Two Counties

Dr. Henry Heffernan is the new Federal veterinarian just recently located at Pendleton who will serve Umatilla and Morrow counties. Dr. Heffernan called at the office last week and I enjoyed very much visiting with him in discussing the

Chats With Your Home Agent

Working Wives Aid Income

By ESTHER KIRMIS

"The Salary with the Fringe on the Top," is the way Dorothy Sherrill Miller, OSU family finance specialist, describes a working wife's salary.

We've become accustomed to the fact that "working wives," married women with jobs outside the home, have become an important part of the American scene. But it still may come as something of a surprise to learn that 40 percent of all families are now listed as "multi-earner" families, with the wife usually being the second job-holder in the group.

Studies have shown that the basic reason that married women work outside the home is to add to family income. Their earnings will help buy a house or a new car or a college education for their children—or even make such things possible in the first place.

Many women also have other, or additional, reasons for taking jobs. Many, once the major business of raising the children is finished, want to find new outlets in which they can profitably use their time and

talents.

Of course the full-time homemaker also pulls her economic weight in the family circle—and can also know the sense of accomplishment that comes of doing a job well. But her economic contribution to the family—as housekeeper, cook, nurse, chauffeur, and other jobs—is less easily counted than the dollars contributed in cash by her working married sister.

On one score, however, the working wife is likely to contribute more to over-all family financial security. If she has a steady job, she may do more than bring home part of the family bacon. She may also add to the family's economic protection through sharing in group life and health insurance plans, and possibly an employment pension plan, at her place of employment.

Freeze Main Dishes, Relax For Company

When preparing a main dish, it often takes little more effort or time to make enough for several meals. You can freeze it all in meal-size packages, or serve part of it the same day and freeze the rest.

For tiptop quality and economical use of freezer space, plan to use pre-cooked main dishes within two or three months. You can, however, keep these foods—if they are properly packaged and stored—up to six months without serious quality loss. After that, the food won't be as tasty but it will still be safe to eat.

Prepare the food just as you would if you were going to serve it right away. Do not overcook. In fact, some ingredients in main dishes that must be reheated for serving are better if

slightly underdone for freezing. Pastry crusts that are frozen unbaked will be more tender and flaky and have a fresher flavor than those baked and then frozen.

Crumb and cheese toppings are best added later when the food is reheated for serving.

Food for the freezer should be cooled quickly after it is cooked. This will stop the cooking and help keep the natural flavor, color, and texture of the food. It also retards or prevents the growth of bacteria that may cause spoilage.

As soon as the food is cool, put it promptly in freezer containers. Choose a container that suits the size of your family. You can figure 4 to 6 servings in a quart; 2 or 3 in a pint. If you use quart containers, you may want to pour the mix-

ture into the carton a layer at a time, separating each layer with double thickness of cellophane. This makes it easy to break apart the block while still frozen and shortens reheating time.

Also, be careful that you don't fill the containers too full. Casseroles and other main dishes often contain liquids, and liquids expand as they freeze. So leave them at 0 degrees, or below.

These tips, along with many more, are found in "Foods from the Freezer: Pre-cooked and Prepared," published by OSU cooperative extension service. Your county extension agent can supply a copy.

Metsker maps of Morrow county, \$1.25, at the Gazette-Times office.

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