

# FARM NEWS

County Agent's Office

## Gaines Yield, Purity Test Show Excellent

**By N. C. ANDERSON**  
Gaines wheat continues to be harvested and those ranchers I have visited with are happy with the yield results even though most fields were planted under extreme conditions. Keith Rea reports that the Gaines grown on the Howton ranch yielded about 3½ bushels above the average yield of Omar and Burt wheat. Bill Doherty reports now that he has wheat yields averaged and Gaines outyielded his regular seeded wheat by three to four bushels. Louis Carlson reports a 38½ bushel yield also about 3½ bushels over other varieties on his ranch. One field of irrigated Gaines completed at the Kenneth Peck farm near Lexington yielded 48 bushels per acre. Green "spots" in other fields have hindered completion of harvest on this ranch. First purity tests from bin samples have been received. Purity continues to be as excellent as evidenced in field inspection. Tests on lots harvested by William J. Doherty, Fritz Cutsforth and David Baker show 99.39, 99.14 and 99.30% pure seed respectively. Inert matter which runs less than ¼ of one percent consists of broken seeds and chaff. None had other crop seeds or weed seeds of any kind. This is remarkable.

**Production Expenses Reach Record High**  
Farm production costs on Oregon farms in 1960 were one third higher than 1949, the first year production costs were recorded in this state. About 70% of the gross farm income went to pay for production costs in 1960 compared to 62% in 1949. As a result Oregon's total net farm income in 1960 was 4% lower than 11 years earlier. With increasing technology the pattern of production costs has changed. In 1949, Oregon farmers spent 74c on operation and maintenance of machinery and other capital items for each \$1 spent for hired help. By 1960, this ration had risen to \$1.03 paid out for such operation of every \$1.00 of hired help. Expenditures for fertilizer

and lime in Oregon in 1960 were more than double the 1949 outlay. This means a sizeable increase in amount used as prices show little change. Property taxes, too, in 1960 were 55% higher than in 1949, an average increase of 5% a year. Production expenses in 1961 are not yet available for Oregon but nationally such expenses reached a record high last year, and an even higher bill is looked for this year.

**Results Given On Use of Avadex**  
Results of the trial for the selective control of cheatgrass in wheat this year at the Harold Beach farm did not reveal any startling discoveries which might be recommended for general field use in the future. Avadex and Avadex B. W. were the only treatments giving a reasonable amount of control with little or no injury to the grain. Avadex must be incorporated into the soil before seeding. One reason that the effectiveness might have been less than expected was that with the dry fall and loose soil that the disk used to incorporate this material might have penetrated too deep placing the Avadex too deep for control of cheatgrass. Shallow incorporation has been most effective in the past. The plots were a cooperative venture of OSU and the Pendleton Branch experiment station, Arnold Appleby, in charge of weed control from the Pendleton station, conducted the trial.

**Fire Fighting Units Are Ready For Use**  
The three fire-fighting units which the Morrow County Fire Control committee authorized this year have been placed in communities. These units are 100 gallon tanks equipped with a three horsepower motor and a six roller pump with a 50 gallon length of high-pressure hose and nozzle. They are placed in the various communities with the understanding that they will be available for fire-fighting there. They are to be mounted in the

rancher's pickup who is responsible for them, or be handy so that they can be picked up in case of an emergency. Harold Wright, Ruggs, Jerry Brosnan, Buttercreek; and C. K. Peck, Sanford Canyon, have the units. Harold Wright has reported that this unit is on a loading ramp at his corral between Ruggs store and the elevator. He has a 1000 gallon water tank mounted on a truck with transfer motor and pump to be used in case of fire. His transfer pump can pickup from reservoir or other source of water filling the tank quickly. Ranchers in these communities should keep the units in mind in case of an emergency and call or pick them up at these places. These units were recently completed by Gerald Jonasson and his group of Vocational Ag boys.


**Wool Referendum Coming Up For Vote**  
Wool and lamb producers will vote in a referendum September 10 to 21 to determine whether they wish to continue to finance the ASPC's advertising and promotional program on lamb and wool deductions from their wool incentive payments. If sheepmen approve the new agreement, deduction would be made at the rate of 1 cent a pound on shorn wool and 5 cents per hundred lbs. of lamb. That's the same as in other years.

**Commodity Commissions Budget \$619,870 For Year**  
Oregon has become a leader in commodity self-help commissions. There are eight of them that have budgeted to spend \$619,870 in the 1962-63 budget year. Only one budget is larger than the wheat commission, that of the dairy products commission whose budget is \$205,000. The wheat commission has a budget of \$122,711.35. This group will expand its far east market development program through Western Wheat Associates with establishment of an office in the Philippines. This will supplement offices already operating in Japan, India, and Pakistan. Other commissions and their budgets are potato commission, budget \$85,560; filbert commission \$24,897; fine fescue commission \$42,500; fryer commission \$44,797; beef council \$76,000; Highland bentgrass commission \$18,405. In the case of the beef council their budget calls for extensive in-state beef education and programs through the Oregon CowBelles support of Oregon cattle industry service programs, including efforts on the current feed grain price handicap faced by Pacific Northwest Livestock and Poultry feeders.

**Slight July Rainfall Recorded in High Country**  
Raymond French, Johnson Creek community rancher, can brag on being the only weather research cooperator to report rain at his gauge in the month of July. In fact records we have received in the office for both June and July show no precipitation whatsoever at any of the gauges. Raymond was in Saturday with his July record which shows .30 rainfall between 12:30 and 1:30 P. M., July 25. Evidently this was one of the showers that hits the high country as a local shower. Raymond reports that his Gaines wheat which was "green as grass" on July 19 when it was field inspected to be maturing well with no pinching. Evidently this rain helped some to bring it to maturity. We are looking forward to receiving the August rainfall reports as the showers we received this past week-end were reported quite heavy in some areas.

**Runner Shovels Aid Wheat Seeding**  
Newt O'Hara, Lexington rancher, is the first that we know of to seed his winter wheat. He called us on Saturday to inquire about some Gaines seed wheat and was to start Monday morning. He has a set of the new runner shovels which were developed for seeding Gaines wheat. With the use of this new type shovel he hopes to get his grain placed in moist soil and up soon for a good ground cover. Interest is running high in this new type shovel and a number of ranchers have indicated that they plan to equip their drills with them this fall enough to provide some good moisture for summer fallow.

**LITTLE SUZY SAYS:**



THIS IS A GUN AND MY DADDY GOES HUNTING WITH IT AND MY MAMMY SAYS POO ALL YOU EVER BRING HOME IS DIRTY CLOTHES AND LONG WHISKERS AND MY DADDY SAYS HUNTERS SHOOD ALL HAVE INSURANCE AT

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### Chats With Your Home Agent

## Safe Practices Needed In Using Power Mowers

**By ESTHER KIRMIS**  
With the advent of the power lawn mower, the lawn care is being relegated to homemakers and children in many cases. Power mowers can be dangerous if not properly handled and cared for, or if proper thought is not given to who will be using the machine, the type of cutting to be done, and the size of the area when the machine is purchased.

Be sure that the mower you buy conforms to the safety standards set up for mowers (look for seal on base of machine). Regard your mower as a piece of power equipment and teach this regard to each one who will use it. Children or young teenagers should not be allowed to operate it or should not be near during the operation.

Before starting the mower, clear the entire lawn of all debris that could catch on or be thrown by the blade. During the cutting operation, cut in such a pattern that it is never necessary to pull the mower toward you, particularly on a slope, or to stand on the grass-discharge side of the mower.

When mowing rough terrain or in high grass or weeds, the blade should be set at the highest cutting point to minimize debris being thrown from the mower. Another strong point to consider is the conditions of the grass and your clothing while mowing. If the grass is wet, slipping and falling into the mower is a possibility, or being pulled in the rotar blade by long shoe laces or cuffs, etc. One should not operate a power mower while barefoot or wearing open sandals. Protect yourself by wearing denim slacks or trousers and brogues.

Remember to keep full command of the machine at all times, keep up with it, don't let it pull you. Do not run while operating the mower. To be sure that your mower will give you a long life of service, give it a few minutes' maintenance each time you use it. Clean off all grass and debris each time you use it and at least once a year have a competent serviceman make a thorough inspection of the mower. Store it in a cool, dry place and keep both machine and gasoline in a place that can be locked and away from children.

Sometime in the process of mowing that beautiful acreage, shut off the mower completely and try this version of iced tea for a quick pick-up. In Mexico tea is made by adding a stick of cinnamon to the

### Collections for Beef Council are Upheld

On what may prove to be only the first round of court action, the 10-cent collections for support of the Oregon Beef Council have been declared constitutional.

The decision was handed down by Judge Jeff Dorroh, Jr., of the Malheur Circuit Court at Vale in a friendly suit to collect Beef Council contributions from John Stringer, a rancher. The matter was tried on briefs.

The suit was brought by the state department of agriculture which is required by the Beef Council law to collect the dime on each animal brand inspected. The department turns the dimes to the Beef Council which uses the money to promote the beef industry. Dimes are refunded by the Council to cattlemen who request the refund within a stipulated time.

In early August, department officials at Salem had received no information on whether the Malheur judge's decision will be appealed to the Supreme Court.

### OSU Achievements In Research Told

Benefits to Oregonians from Oregon State University research that "touches nearly every person and industry of the state" are told in a special new OSU publication.

"Oregon State not only teaches; it learns..." is the theme. Title is "OSU Learns through Research."

Included are stories of how radiation-resistant bacteria discovered by OSU scientists may some day protect man against radiation damage; how Eastern Oregon ranges are being "rescued" from sagebrush; how oceanographers are probing the ocean depths off Oregon for the first time; and how midge hens have been developed that lay as many eggs with 35 percent less feed.

Copies of the 36-page color booklet are available on request free from the OSU Publications Office.

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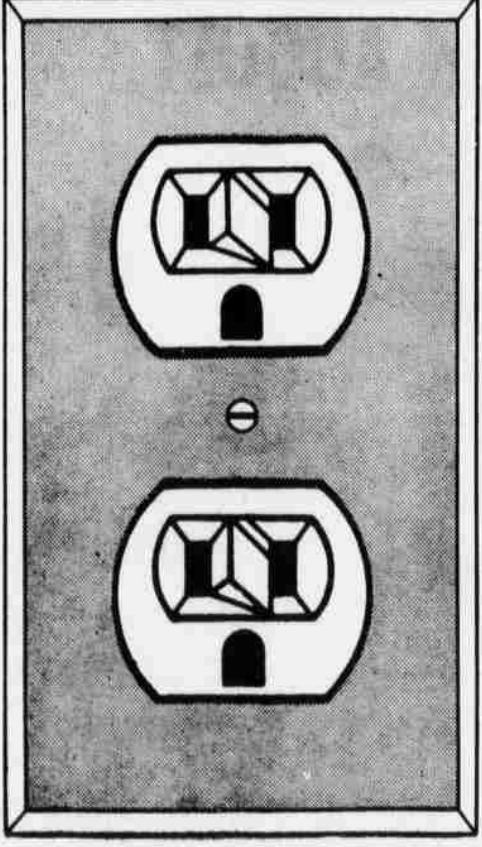
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