



FARM NEWS

County Agent's Office

Weather Records Aid In Cloudseed Research

By N. C. ANDERSON

Over 50 Morrow county ranchers who have been cooperating over the past two years in a weather observer's program received last week a Research Report No. 1 summarizing weather patterns, rainfall maps for non-cloud seeded periods, rainfall maps for periods when cloud seeding occurred, rainfall by each recorder and rainfall data on special storms of late May, 1962. Storm patterns were traced with radar which was tied into detailed weather records kept by a scattered representative group of ranchers on these special storms.

As a preface to the report, Dr. Fred W. Decker, chairman, atmospheric science branch, OSU, had this to say, "During 1961 and 1962 a number of ranchers and others in Morrow county organized a program of weather data collection for the purpose of establishing the basis for possible future scientific experiments in weather modification to increase rainfall. The data collected by these observers came to the Atmospheric Science Branch of the Science Research Institute of OSU. Here the data tabulation and analysis occurred. In the spring of 1962 the U. S. Air Force cooperated by photographing the radar scope at the Condon AFS Radar Unit and the OSU analysts attempted to correlate the precipitation data on the radar with the rain gauge data of the ranchers. This analysis will appear in a subsequent report."

The project will continue with hopes that a proposed experiment for cloudseeding can be soon realized. These approximately 50-rancher-observers are doing a good job in collecting weather data which has been and will be, a great help in carrying on an orderly research of the weather patterns in this area and how they might be modified.

Squirrel Poisoning Available

Now that squirrels are beginning to be quite active as the spring progresses, ranchers may wish to thin down the pests. We have a good supply of poison grain available at cost at this office.

Brook Trout Deliveries Made to Farm Ponds

Ten Morrow county fishponds are 11,000 fish richer this week as a result of deliveries to these ponds last week. For the first time Eastern Brook Trout have been introduced, all of this latest delivery being of that species. Sizes vary from an inch and a half to four and a half inches with Elwynn Peck, Lexington, taking the majority of the big Eastern Brook, 2500 of these. Others who received trout were O. W. Cutsforth, Darryl Padberg, Harold Wright, Elmer Palmer, Barton Clark, Albert Wright, Luke Bibby, Dick Meador and Don Greenup.

Another delivery will be made late this month. These will be mainly Kamloop that will be delivered to the W. W. Weatherford, Fritz Cutsforth, Harold Wright and Phil Mahoney ponds. Anyone who would like trout in this last delivery of the season should contact Dr. L. D. Tibbles or this office.

Fire Emergency Calls Need Cooperative Effort

From the many comments we have had after mailing a recent letter to all farm cooperators relative to plans for the 1963 farm fire control program we are sure that this program is doing some good and that there is a lot of conscientious effort going into preventing and controlling farm fires.

In the letter we commented

about the problem of communication for the best results in quickly controlling a farm fire. We discussed the need for contacting the right person and receiving back when a fire was under control. One of the big problems in country telephone lines is in getting the line in case of an emergency. This has become more difficult with the installation of dial telephones.

A good suggestion came from Mrs. Bill Bergstrom of the Gooseberry community. Ann told us that there was a means for determining whether the line was busy or out of order. By dialing operator she can verify the status of the line and in case of an emergency ask that the line be released until the proper calls are made. This is an emergency means only and might be helpful to others who have not been able to get through. Mrs. Bergstrom told of a fire last summer and how this procedure was used. I would suggest that anyone who has had this trouble call the operator and get details now in case that the occasion ever arises to make an emergency call whether fire or otherwise.

Wool Markets on Increase

Considerable quantities of wool were reported sold in the west the past week. Meanwhile, the Boston wool market remained steady and overseas, wool auction reported a strong undertone. Reported Oregon wool sales included medium valley wools in a range of 49 to 52 cents a pound, grease basis to growers. The Idaho Blain County Pool of 35,000 pounds sold at 56.8 cents, f.o.b. there.

Projects at Squaw Butte Show Beef-Cattle Progress

Ranchers Ebb Hughes, Jerry Bronson, Ron Currin and Terry Thompson and this agent attended the beef cattle field day at Squaw Butte Experiment Station last Monday. During the day a progress report of research at that station was given and a visit made to the various research projects at section 5, the winter headquarters, as well as a visit out in the meadows where the cows are now calving. For those who were not able to attend and are interested, we have a few copies of the progress report which gives research results on levels of protein and energy supplementation of yearlings on crested wheatgrass; wintering mature cows on short rations; energy protein and urea on weaner calf rations.

At the station those attending saw 12 lots of weaner calves wintered on early and late cut hay where several levels and types of supplementation, crossbred and straight bred steers on fattening rations, eighteen heifer calves and eighteen yearling heifers on feed to study the effect of nitrate on performance and on conversion of carotene to vitamin A; pregnant cows wintered on various rations, some as low as eight pounds of hay with one pound of supplement, which were calving; caged sheep being used to evaluate meadow hay harvested at various dates; closed herd breeding in performance tested bulls; crossbred and straight bred heifers calving for the first time and miscellaneous cow management discussions.

Forests Offer Lifetime of Hiking

The National Forests in this country have enough trails for a person to hike 50 miles a week on different terrain for the best part of his life. There are 106,830 miles of trails on 154 National Forests through this country. If a person hiked 50 miles a week, he could hike for 2,136 weeks, or 41 years.



BRINGING PHYSICAL therapy to Oregon's physically handicapped in areas where it is not available is a part of the Easter Seal Society's program. Here John A. Bower, a registered therapist, gives a treatment to Cristie Locke, 12, a victim of cerebral palsy, while her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. Locke, watch and learn so they can continue treatments between visits of Bower.

Wheat Effects Studied On 'No' Referendum Vote

Last week we discussed the 1964 wheat program with a "YES" vote. Since then the Secretary has announced that the referendum will be held on May 21 which does not give too long for wheatgrowers to study this program and decide how to cast their vote. Today we will discuss the program with a "NO" vote.

If more than one-third of the wheatgrowers voting in the referendum vote "No" wheat price supports will drop to 50 percent of parity, about \$1.20 per bushel, for growers who plant within their acreage allotment.

The announced national acreage allotment of about 49.5 million acres will not be changed. Wheat growers who plant more than their allotments will not be eligible for price support loans, but there will be no penalties.

With a "No" vote by growers, here are some of the things that may be expected:

Domestic Effects

Growers might plant 70 million acres or more of wheat, compared with 49 million acres in 1962; harvested acreage would be around 65 million, compared with 43 million acres in 1962.

Wheat production is estimated at about 1,500 million bushels, about 300 million more than can be used at home or exported.

Wheat prices will drop to a level based on wheat's value as livestock feed; probably about \$1.10 with a feed grain program in effect, and as low as 90 cents with no feed grain program. At these price levels, feeding of wheat to livestock might increase by about 100 million bushels a year, causing additional corn, sorghum grain and barley to be placed under Government price support.

At these prices and quantities, total farm income from wheat would drop from \$2.3 billion in 1961-62 to about \$1.6 billion.

International Effects

A "No" vote, with its resulting increase in production and drop in U. S. prices, would have repercussions felt throughout the world. For the first time in many years U. S. prices could be lower than the minimum prices under the International Wheat Agreement. This would result in various problems relating to U. S. rights and obligations under the I.W.A. Fulfillment of U. S. commitments in case of a "No" vote might necessitate an expanded Government role in wheat exports.

Livestock Valued At \$216 Million In Oregon Report

The value of livestock counted on Oregon farms and ranches as 1963 started totaled \$216 million with more beef cattle and turkeys than at the same time a year ago, reports Mrs. Elvera Horrell, Oregon State University extension agricultural economist.

The value of Oregon livestock was up nearly 4 per cent from a year earlier. However, the state counted fewer milk cows, sheep, hogs and chickens than at the same time in 1962, according to U. S. Department of Agriculture reports and other information.

The increase in beef cows offset the drop in milk cows, Mrs. Horrell noted, with total cattle and calf numbers holding unchanged at 1,435,000 head. Beef cows two years or older number 595,000, the highest on record. Milk cows two years or older totaled only 162,000 head on January 1, lowest for that date since 1910.

Oregon counted 271,000 turkeys on January 1, a seven per cent increase from a year earlier. Chicken numbers, not including broilers, were down two per cent to approximately 3,056,000, the lowest since annual records started in 1924.

Sheep and lambs, numbered at 777,000, were down eight per cent to the lowest since 1953, while hogs, at 158,000, were down six per cent, the lowest since 1958, Mrs. Horrell said.

Nationally, livestock trends January 1 were only a little different, the economist noted. The nation counted more beef cattle, hogs and turkeys and fewer milk cows, sheep and chickens. The combined value of all livestock was up five per cent over the 1962 total.

Speaker to Discuss Wheat Referendum

Milton Morgan, Ione, vice-president of the Oregon Wheat League, will speak at the regular meeting of the Morrow County Farmer's Union Tuesday evening, 8 p.m. in the old Heppner library building.

Mr. Morgan will speak and lead discussion on the issues of the coming wheat referendum, up for vote on May 21.

Work on Projects

The Knit-Wits 4-H club held its regular meeting at the home of their leader, Jo Simmons, on Monday afternoon. We practiced on our knitting projects.

Delbert McLachlan, reporter

Oregon Wool Price Outlook Fairly Strong, Says OSU

Economic forces influencing 1963 Oregon wool prices suggest a fairly strong market undertone, with the main uncertainties being the recent increases in U. S. wool stocks and the attitude of fabric makers toward buying wool at the higher prevailing prices.

This is the way Stephen C. Marks, Oregon State University extension agricultural economist, sees the outlook for wool. He makes his observations in the new Oregon Farm and Market Outlook circular now available from county extension offices.

Oregon wool prices in February averaged 21 per cent, or 9 cents a pound higher, than a year ago after prices advanced on all wool grades in late 1962 and in January, Marks noted.

Overseas wool auctions continued to display a firm undertone in early March, giving support to U. S. produced apparel wools. Prospects are that domestic and world wool prices will remain at recent levels until this spring when the U. S. shorn wool crop is available in seasonally larger volume, he adds.

Wool supplies in the year ahead may be smaller both nationally and worldwide because of smaller carryover stocks in 1962 and smaller production in the 1962-63 market year, the economist points out.

In February, the U. S. counted about 70 million pounds of clean wool on hand, an increase of 8 per cent over last year. The increase, reported by the Wool Associates, probably reflects recent large imports, Marks said.

United States mill use of wool in 1963 is expected to remain relatively stable at around the 279-million pound mark of 1962, the highest since 1956, he commented.

While supply and demand relationships suggest continued firm prices, chances are a slightly lower trend may develop after Easter, the economist warned. He noted that an unusual wool market feature this year has been substantial wintertime contracting by woolen mills in Texas and Wyoming, the leading wool producing states, as well as in Colorado and Idaho.

File folders on sale at the Gazette-Times.

Your Home Agent

Bulletin Gives Basic Funeral Information

By ESTHER KIRMIS

"When Death Comes," a bulletin giving information about funerals and post-funeral arrangements written by Dorothy Sherrill Miller, is off the press and now available at the county agent's office to interested people.

Mrs. Miller, OSU family finance specialist, has become quite a well known author, with her recent publications of this bulletin and a bulletin on wills. The advances she has made in writing about these subjects in laymen's language has made us in extension very proud.

It may come as a surprise to learn that there are 45 deaths in Oregon in an average day. Another vital fact is that, in total, women live longer than men. Life expectancy of women is 72 years and of men 66 years. At 75, seven out of ten women are widowed, while at age 75, only four out of ten men are widowed. Seventy percent of widows do not remarry. Because women marry younger than men, live longer than men, and remarry less frequently than men, the result is a greater number of widows at upper-age levels. The average length of widowhood is 16 years.

Covered in the bulletin under "The Funeral" are such facts as choosing a funeral director, funeral costs, what are standard services, what about actual burial costs, cemetery lots, markers, mausoleums, cremation and other basic information to help families give thought to funeral arrangements.

Another section is called "Post-Funeral Information" which tells about wills, bank accounts, safe deposit box, savings bonds, social security, life insurance, and veterans benefits. All of these are additional concerns of the bereaved family.

Another valuable section in the pamphlet shows how important it is to have a "Letter of Last Instructions" prepared by you at this time. This is above and beyond the traditional will. It is a letter giving vital family data, instructions as to funeral and burial, insurance, and savings you have, etc. It's a letter putting your house in order.

Oliver Creswick, of the Creswick Mortuary in Heppner, feels that this bulletin has done more to give the public an understanding of the mortician's field than anything he has seen.

He tells this amusing story that undertakers tell when they get together. (A Pat and Mike

Cooking Club Makes Fair Exhibit Plans

Our leader, Mrs. Robert Abrams, explained requirements of our fair exhibits at the meeting of Kettles and Spoons 4-H cooking club last Wednesday. We could then enter second year items if we wished.

Debbie Young, our president, told about the beauty clinic to be held at the grade school Saturday.

Francis Abrams read a letter from Esther Kirmis, the county agent.

We discussed asking the Golden Stitches club to be our guests. We decided to invite them the week after Easter.

We made brownies and ate them for refreshments.

Seven members were present at the meeting held at our leader's home.

Susan Melby, reporter

Knitting Club Takes Woolen Mill Tour

Knifty Knitters 4-H club met March 18. Jeanette Ledbetter showed the steps in giving a demonstration, then three girls, Jeannine Hunt, Linda Orwick and Jill Padberg gave demonstrations.

On March 20 the club went on a field trip to the Pendleton Woolen Mills. We left at 9:00 so we would be there for the 10:30 tour. Mrs. Cutsforth and Mrs. Ledbetter took cars. Mrs. Campbell also went with us. We found the tour very interesting and would all like to go back again.

Jeanette Ledbetter, reporter

story)

Pat was stating loudly; "I wish I knew exactly where I was going to die." "And why now would you want to know a thing like that?" replied Mike. "Because I'd never go near the place, that's why," replied Pat.

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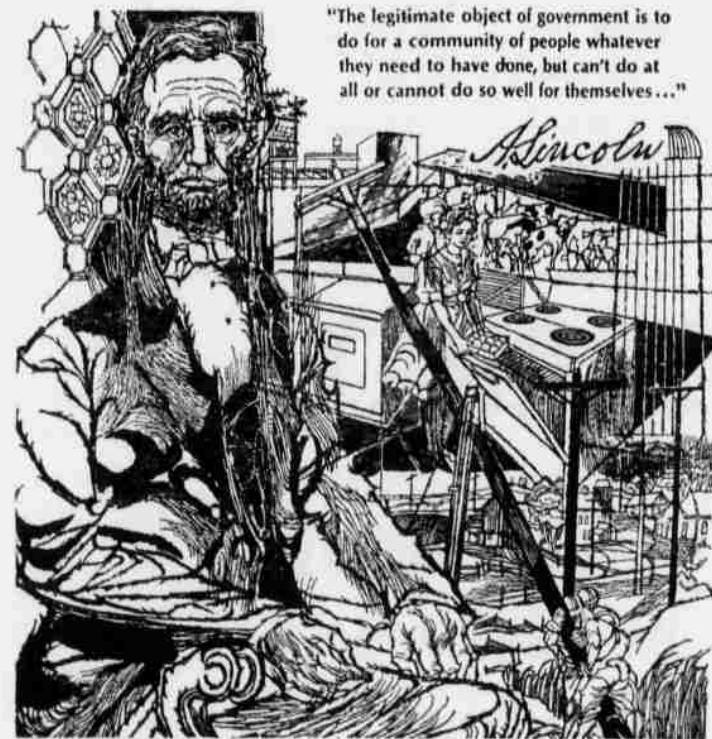
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