

County Agent's Office

Fertilizing Good Economics, Test Check Plots Show

By N. C. ANDERSON
On many different occasions we have had questions from ranchers on the economics of fertilizing dry-land grass and alfalfa seedlings. With the limited moisture in the area, there have been questions as to just how feasible fertilizing might be. About a year and a half ago the college agreed to gather some information on rates and time of seeding, stands and forage production on soil banks seedlings throughout the Columbia Basin. It was agreed to do this, since these seedlings that had never been utilized, were an excellent opportunity to observe.

Earlier this spring, I established two fertilizer plots, one in the lower rainfall area on crested wheat seeded alone, and one in the higher rainfall area on intermediate wheat grass and alfalfa. Nitrogen alone and combinations of nitrogen with sulfur and nitrogen with phosphorus were used in the two plots.

The low rainfall area crested wheat grass field was located at the Max Barclay ranch in the North Lexington area. Max mowed an area where the plot was to be located, so there would be no past year's forage residue to affect the yield. The higher rainfall area plot was located at the Frank Anderson farm on a soil bank seeding at the old Vic Lovgren place, southeast of Eightmile. Plots were harvested recently and yields determined on an air-dry weight basis. It was interesting, in this year of high spring rainfall, to see the results of the fertilizers.

At the Max Barclay ranch the check plots where no fertilizer was used yielded 300 lbs. per acre. Thirty pounds of nitrogen per acre increased the yield to 1,390 lbs. but 60 lbs. of nitrogen reduced the yield to 1,080. Sixty pounds of nitrogen and 72 lbs. of sulfur gave a yield of 2,020 lbs., while 60 lbs. of nitrogen, 80 lbs. of phosphorus and 60 lbs. of sulfur gave a yield of 1,860 lbs., were especially surprised and interested to see the response from sulfur on grass alone. There has been some indication that sulphur is helpful on areas where grain is annual cropped, and evidently this held true in the grass fertilizer plot.

At the Frank Anderson ranch the check plot yielded 1,630 lbs., 40 lbs. of sulphur yielded 2,790 lbs., 60 lbs. of nitrogen, 80 lbs. of phosphorus and 40 lbs. of sulphur yielded 2,790 lbs., while 80 lbs. of phosphorus and 40 lbs. of sulphur yielded 2,170 lbs. We can't account for this difference in yield in these three plots but the most significant thing is the increase with fertilizer over the check plot. Additional fertilizer trials should be run in this case to screen the value of phosphorus and sulphur. In this planting, the yield was cut back somewhat, I am sure, by heavy disking late this spring, to destroy the past year's residue. I am sure the stand was set back enough that the check yield was lower than would have been normally, with the good stands of grass and alfalfa growing in the field.

There have been many comments about the excellent stand

4-H Knitting Club Entertains Mothers

At the June 24 meeting of the Knit-Wit 4-H club we planned a Mother's Tea to be held at the home of Jeri Keithley on July 8.

Those present at our Mother's Tea on Monday were Janet McCurdy and her mother; Jeri Keithley and her mother; Delbert McLachlan and his mother and two brothers, Jim and David, and also present was their leader, Jo Simmons and son, Terry. Terry Pettyjohn was unable to attend because of sickness. Refreshments of cake, ice cream, tea and coffee were served by the 4-Hers.

Delbert McLachlan, reporter

obtained on the soil bank seeding near Eightmile, on land owned by Alfred Anderson, seeded by Lawrence Becket seven years ago. To satisfy my curiosity, a yield was taken in this field, which is predominantly alfalfa. While the alfalfa was past the good hay stage and many leaves had dropped off, calculated yield was 3,730 per acre, which is lots of hay on any land. Because there have been accumulated growth for many years, and since it was impossible to sort this out of the collected materials before weighing, I am sure that this yield would not be maintained after the first year, as this was removed from the ground. My estimate would be however, that the yield would be at least 1 1/2 tons.

As harvesting gets underway in scattered areas throughout the county, unofficial reports come in that this year's crop will be above normal. Among the first fields to be cut was a 15 acre seeding of Hudson Barley at the Loyd Howton ranch south of Lone. It was reported that the barley yielded 2500 lbs. per acre with a test weight of 52 lbs. The seedlings of Hudson Barley in Morrow and adjoining counties that I have looked at, look excellent.

Over a several year period that Hudson has been compared with other varieties in the cereal nursery at the Frank Anderson ranch and outlying cereal nurseries in Wheeler, Gilliam and Sherman counties as well as the Sherman Branch Experiment Station at Moro, the test weight has been exceptionally good with an average of around 50 lbs. While we have not had an opportunity to give an awfully good test for winter hardiness, it does appear that it would compare favorably with the winter varieties we are not growing. Since the biggest problem with our barley varieties is to "make" test weight, it appears that Hudson would be worthy of watching. There will be a limited amount of seed available this year for seed increase.

Wool Gets Incentive Price
The USDA has announced an incentive payment of \$30 for every \$100 of wool sold during the 1962 marketing year. This is in accordance with the National Wool Act and is intended to bring average wool prices up to the previously announced incentive level of 62 cents a pound. To compensate for wool on lambs that have not been shorn, the payment rate will be 57 cents per hundred weight on live lambs.

Chats With Your Home Agent

Colorado University School Session Most Rewarding

By ESTHER KIRMIS
Greetings from Colorful Colorado!

It is a beautiful state, and in many ways reminds me of Oregon.

I've been attending Western Regional Extension Summer School at Colorado State University since June 17. Summer School is exciting and very profitable. There are 225 students (county agents) enrolled in the extension summer school. They are from 36 states and 9 foreign countries.

The professors, brought to Colorado State for the ten courses offered, are rated high on the professional teaching scale. We find them from Texas A & M college, Iowa State University, Michigan State, Ohio State, University of California, University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin, and Federal Extension Service (Washington D. C.).

You're allowed to take two courses during the three weeks. So from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. you'll find me in "Principles of the Development of Youth Programs" and from 11:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m. in a class on Communications. I feel I am gaining many things from these classes that I can use in Morrow county extension service.

You'll get the most out of summer school in the following numerical order, says one professor.

1. Your association with other agents from all over the United States and foreign countries.
2. You'll get away from the "rat race" at home.
3. You'll have an opportunity to read, read, read!
4. You'll study under some worthwhile instructors.

About 150 of the county agents (men and women) are staying in Newsom Hall. Some agents have brought their wives. Agents with children under 12 are living in apartments, motels,

hotels, and some are even camping out in Roosevelt Park.

There's plenty of social life around here—if you could only fit it all in, and get your studying done, too.

"Learn by seeing" seems to be the motto of extension summer school and they have had a tour of Weld county feedlots, irrigation tour of farms nearby, and the annual Hereford Tour at the WRC ranch near Cheyenne, Wyoming.

I did take in the president's reception, the annual fish fry in Pourde Canyon, a tour to the Safeway Distribution center in Denver, and a mountain tour.

I was thrilled at the scenery of Estes Park, trailridge road, Grand Lake, and Central City (an old gold mining town). July 4, some of us took in a rodeo at Greeley.

Will leave here on July 5 and fly to North Dakota to visit my family for a week. There's a new grand-niece to meet. Will return to Heppner by July 15.

It's a small world—met a relative of the John Graves' of Hardman way. She's Mary Lou Graves, a county agent from Idaho. Also a Colorado agent who once traveled with the 4-H Simplicity Wardrobe. She was in Heppner in 1960. A man from North Dakota State, with whom I graduated, is also attending.

Mr. and Mrs. Theron Adlard and Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Farra were among those who went to Condon on the Fourth of July for the festivities and visiting relatives.

The R. G. Watkins family enjoyed a week's vacation sight-seeing on Vancouver Island and other Canadian points of interest over the July 4 week.

Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Gunderson and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Pratt vacationed last week at Lake Tahoe and Reno, Nevada.

Bill Olson Undergoes Surgery in Medford

Mr. and Mrs. Marlon Olson and son Mike, and another son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Olson and two daughters returned Saturday from Medford where they had been called by the serious illness of Bill Olson.

They had received word last Tuesday that Bill, resident of Heppner until three months ago, had undergone major surgery for a lung infection in Rogue Valley Memorial hospital in Medford, and was critically ill. He and his family are now making their home in Klamath Falls.

When the parents left, he had

Mary Shannon, Corvallis, visited her mother and family, Mr. and Mrs. Carl King, over the July 4 holidays.

Ricky Robinson, 10, Hermiston, is at the Jim Myers home visiting with their young sons, Jim and Andy.

Mrs. Tom Hughes journeyed to Newberg last week-end to pick up her daughter, Pam, who has been visiting her grandmother, Mrs. Dorothy Stearns, and great-grandmother, Mrs. Alex Boss, for the past three weeks.

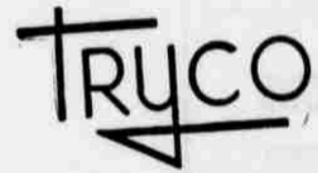
shown much improvement and through a telephone conversation with him Tuesday, they found he may be able to return to his home this week-end.

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