

FARM NEWS

Chats From Your Home Agent

Changes Noted For 1964 Feed and Grain Program

By N. C. ANDERSON

On July 18, the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture announced the major provisions of the 1964 voluntary Feed and Grain program. The 1964 program will be basically the same as the 1963 program. There are a number of provisions, however. In brief, you will find that, barring new legislation and possible changes in administrative positions: (1) loan rates will be raised slightly from 1963 crop levels for barley, corn, and milo; (2) support payments will be reduced to offset the increases in loan rates, leaving the total support the same as for 1963; (3) Diversion payments will be increased for the heavy diverters. A producer may divert as much as 50% of his feed grain base acreage and those who divert from 40 to 50% will receive diversion payments at the maximum rate for all acres diverted for those who divert at least 20% at a lower rate and those who divert more than 20% up to 40% at a higher payment. Those who divert 50% will get the maximum rate on all acres diverted. (4) Substitution on feed grain acres has been ruled out despite advantages that might result in limited areas.

Undoubtedly the "substitution decision will be disappointing to many of our wheat producers. On the other hand, barley producers may take some small comfort from the slightly higher loan rates. Perhaps the state's grain growers and grain feeders alike can be thankful that corn and milo loan rates were raised instead of lowered. At least these decisions, plus the wheat vote, appear to have substantially improved prospects for developing a local feed market for Northwest wheat and barley.

Cattlemen Need Pictures

A plea comes from the Oregon Cattlemen Association for old pictures or newspaper clippings that can be used in their convention issue of the "Oregon Cattleman." This year, the state association will observe its 50th Anniversary at their annual con-

vention, to be held in Baker on November 6-7-8. George Johnson, executive secretary, who is putting together the convention issue would like the loan of these old clippings or pictures which need not be necessarily old OCA history, but scenes of old time haying methods, cattle drives, and other ranch operations.

Unitan Barley Shows Good Test at Barclay Ranch

Max Barclay, North Lexington rancher, recently reported to us the results of his new spring barley, Unitan. We have watched this with interest since Max picked the seed up from the Montana Experiment Station at Bozeman last fall. A spring barley, Max seeded it last fall, but because it looked too thin, tore it up this spring and reseeded. Later he was sure it would have been good enough to leave.

The barley looked awfully good this spring and summer and we are happy to hear that the test weight was 48 pounds and the yield 3,330 pounds per acre. This was in comparison to a little less than 2,400 pounds per acre, from Flynn, with a 44 pound test weight. Max has saved some seed and intends to see what the Unitan will do another year. If it performs this way another year, this may be another new barley variety for Morrow county. Max reported no snapping of heads, like some of our barley is inclined to do, but that maturity is a little later than Flynn.

Single Wheat Head Multiplies

On a recent visit to their ranch, I was interested in a small seedling of a wheat selection that Kenneth and Delwin Nelson, north Lexington ranchers have. A bearded club wheat head was found in one of their fields a few years ago that looked so good that it was seeded in the garden and observed with interest. Continuing to look good, they seeded it on several acres last fall. This year they will be able to determine yield and plan to have some milled to determine milling qualities.

Stenches Improve In Grass Seedings, Weed Control

Two interesting days were spent last week on range improvement and weed control tours with ranchers, Jerry Brosnan and Terry Thompson. On the Jerry Brosnan Five Mile forest allotment in the Ukiah district, we inspected a range land seeding made over several hundred acres by the Forest Service in August, 1961. This seeding was made with the Forest Service heavy range land drill that has been so successful in establishing stands of grass on public lands. The stand obtained in this seeding, however, was very disappointing. On the other hand some excellent stands of grass were broadcast in skid rows, landings and logging roads, both on Kinzua owned land and Buckaroo Flats, which is leased by the Brosnans. Some excellent water developments have been made on both these areas so cattle have very short trips to water. Evidently this, and other range improvement practices are paying off by the looks of the cattle on the allotment. Not only the Brosnans, but the W. E. Hughes, Raymond French, Don Greenup, and Bob Mac-

Laughlin cows were in "slaughter" shape on their calves were looking excellent and above average weight for this time of year.

At the Terry Thompson ranch we saw what persistence will do in holding out the spread of Branching Knapweed, which has infested a number of ranges in the area. On Skinner creek, where the Thompsons have about 20 acres of branching knapweed on range land, we found that the program of persistent spraying of roads that go through the range has paid off. Steve Thompson began this program many years ago doing much of the spraying by small knapsack sprayer on a saddle horse, as the first plants began to creep in on Skinner creek. Since then, each year Terry has sprayed the road and has done a good job keeping out this invading weed. This spring the 20 acres was sprayed by plane when applications were made by Kenneth Cuisforth and Dick Wilkinson in the immediate area. Roads will have to be closely watched, however to keep down the invasion.

Refund Forms Available

Farmers are reminded that it is time now to claim refund of federal tax on gasoline used on their farm for the past fiscal year. For those who have claimed this refund in the past they have received forms in the mail from the Internal Revenue Service, which are due back before September 30. For those who have never claimed this tax refund, form 2240 is available by writing to the Internal Revenue Service or can be picked up at this office. Don't forget the deadline date, Sept. 30.

Albany Ram Sale Aug. 3

At least two persons plan to purchase lambs at the 23rd annual Willamette Valley Ram Sale to be held at the Linn County Fairgrounds in Albany on Saturday, August 3. Howard Pettyjohn, Heppner, and Mrs. William J. Doherty, Lexington, have indicated this interest. Scheduled for sale are 225 head of Oregon's finest yearling stud and range rams and ewes. Breeds in their order of sale are Romney, Lincoln, Corriedale, Columbia, Cheviot, North Country Cheviot, Shropshire, Hampshire, Southdown, and Suffolk.

Grand Champion at Doherty Ranch

A few days ago while making a visit at the Bill Doherty ranch in Sandhollow, we were pleased to see the excellent quality Shorthorn bull, purchased this spring. On further inquiry we found that it was the grand-champion bull of the Inland Empire Shorthorn sale, which is held in Spokane each March. In addition to this top quality Shorthorn, which will be used in a cross-breeding program on the mainly Hereford herd, owned by the Dohertys, we also liked an excellent type registered shorthorn heifer that Mary Doherty bought at this sale. She is anxiously awaiting for the heifer to calve any day now.

Major Donald Drake Completes Training

Army Reserve Maj. Donald E. Drake, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Drake, Heppner, completed two weeks of annual active duty training at Oakland Army Terminal, Calif., July 20. Major Drake is assigned to the 6237th U. S. Army Reserve School in Sacramento, Calif. He is a 1940 graduate of Oregon State University in Corvallis and lives with his wife, Shirley, at 115 E. Robinhood, Stockton, Calif.

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