

Weed Control Need Growing In County

By N. C. ANDERSON
One of the responsibilities of the extension program is that of weed control. Over the years a lot of emphasis has been placed on this important project, however, there are many inquiries each year as to why weed control has not progressed more rapidly. Many feel that the county control program is moving slowly and that many ranchers are not as concerned as they should be with weed control on their ranches.

The county court declared the county a Weed Control District in 1937. While there are many "teeth" which can be used to force control, it is still up to the individual to carry out control practices on his own ranch and to make it a point to see that weeds growing on public road right-of-ways, and threatening infestations on adjacent private land are being controlled. This concern is quite justifiable when we take into consideration that a "whopping" 4 billion dollars is spent annually in cost of labor and materials for weed control, added to losses from reduced yield and lower quality in crops throughout the county. It is also estimated that the average cost of cultivation alone for weed control amounts to 8% of the total value of crops produced.

It is easy to see from this that it is not a good management practice to let weeds go to seed on your farm or to permit your land to be infested from carelessness of neighbors. Because we have a definite responsibility in planning research on specific weed problems; planning research and development programs on new herbicides; planning long range basic research that will open "new frontiers" for practical weed control development; predicting problems that may be encountered in recommending herbicides for use by farmers, and developing educational programs, the weed control project is one of the very important ones here.

Research and education in weed control is especially important since new herbicides are coming on the market at an unbelievable rate each year. Since 1950, the number of basic herbicides has increased from 14 to over 100. In planning weed control practices for 1964, this responsibility was given to Joe Hay who has met with our County Weed Control committee during the past several months in working out an accelerated program including the county operated weed sprayer and experimental, demonstration and educational work with our farm people. While Joe will be leaving very shortly, we do plan to continue with a weed control shortcourse which was planned by him and the weed committee recently.

A letter is in the mail to all of you at this time asking that those interested return a registration form indicating his interest in attending the shortcourse. The shortcourse has been well planned. During the two days, there will be some good basic materials presented which will help our ranchers to better understand how weed chemicals work and why they get good control of weeds on one occasion and poor control on another. There will be a discussion on some of the new herbicides and why there has been such a rapid introduction of new ones during the past few years.

Believing that many of our ranchers do not understand fully the weed problems of the county, nor can they identify many of the important perennial noxious weeds, there will be some time spent on this. I would suggest that you study the agenda for the weed control shortcourse scheduled for February 5 and 6, then plan to attend. Your registration form will help us in planning for interest and participation.

Line-breeding Improves Weight

The USDA announced recently research showing that an extra 25 pounds of weight can be expected on your weaner calves by line-crossing Herefords. USDA work shows line-crossed bull calves to be about 20 pounds heavier and heifers about 30 pounds heavier than the pure breeds produced within lines. This indicates that the wide genetic variance available within the Hereford breed makes it possible to obtain cross-breeding advantages, yet stay within the breed. While some of our ranchers have discussed this and have been aware of the possibilities for several years, few have practiced it. I am sure that the increase in weaning weights in some of our herds have been partially, at least, due to line-crossing, perhaps accidentally.

Major Breeds Compared

Some additional research by USDA on breed differences in cattle is interesting. The USDA conducted research on 7 breeds of cattle involving beef type, dairy type, and Sebu type (Brahman) steers. Hereford gained faster, had higher cutting yields, and scored higher on plattibility tests than Angus. Angus carcasses had the most marbling and, therefore, graded higher on USDA carcass grade, but they had lower cutting yields due to a higher percent of fat. Both Herefords and Angus scored higher on plattibility than dairy type or Brahman crosses.

Holstein steers made high daily gains, produced carcasses with fairly good cutting yields, and ranked about average among

all the breeds on eating quality. Jersey steers produced the most tender carcasses, but were very low on average daily gain and were least efficient on production. Brahmans had the highest percentage of separable muscle, had very poor feedlot performance, and ranked lowest on plattibility. Brahman crosses had acceptable gains and carcass cutability, but ranked next to bottom on plattibility scores.

Farmer Efficiency Increased Twice as Fast as Industry

Here are some facts that few people realize. Did you know that in the past 15 years the efficiency of the American farmer has increased at twice the rate as has industry? On about 300 million harvested acres we produce all the food and fiber needed for our 190 million people, plus all we can sell for cash to our neighbors overseas, plus other millions of dollars worth of food and fiber shipped each year to needy countries under special disposal programs. Food is cheaper today than at any other time in history. The average family today spends over 19% of its income for food. No other group in history has used such a small percentage for food.

During the same time that we have produced all of this food, we too, have had droughts. In the 50's this country experienced wide-spread droughts over large areas of our wheat and livestock country but never a shortage of any agricultural food products. We hear so much about the problems that surplus seem to create, that we seldom stop to think just how much worse it would be to have just 10% less than we need in any commodity, that we have only a 6 month's to a year's reserve of many commodities.

I know this information is of little benefit to the people that read this column. Many times I have been asked how we can get city people to realize some of these things. It would be a good project for each farmer to clip out such facts as these and mail them to their city cousins from time to time. Little by little these people might become better informed of things they take for granted about agriculture and the price of food, clothing and other things they use in every day life that come from the soil.

Zinc Phosphide Treated Grain Controls Field Mice

During the fall and winter months, meadow mice do damage to orchards, lawns, pastures and other agricultural crops. These are the mice that caused so much damage to range lands only a few short years ago and whose population seem to be building back up again this year. Their presence may be detected at this time of year along ditch banks, fence rows and in weed patches. Occasionally, they invade flower gardens and lawns in town.

Meadow mice can be controlled with 1% zinc phosphide treated grain. To be effective as well as safe, 6 to 12 kernels of the poison grain must be placed in the mouse holes, or runways—this is an average of 3-5 pounds per treated acre. This grain should not be applied by broadcasting. The bait can be applied by using a quart jar with a small hole in the lid, the hole to be large enough to allow 6-12 kernels of grain to be easily shaken out. It can be applied just about as fast as a person can walk. There should be a space of 10-12 feet between baited places.

When applied correctly, this rodenticide is considered safe for wildlife and other animals. The best time to control meadow mice is when a small colony is starting to develop. This colonization, or presence of even a few mice, can be identified by a group of holes, runways and in some soils, fresh diggings. A thorough job of baiting these small colonies can safely and effectively prevent agricultural damage and it can be done at a reasonable cost. The meadow

FARM NEWS

Canadian Wheat Pricing Concept Concerns Growers

By JOHN WELBES

Executive Vice President Oregon Wheat Growers League

A new and daring concept in wheat marketing has been initiated by the Canadian Wheat Board which should be of interest and concern to the entire U. S. wheat industry. Known as Guaranteed Forward Pricing it contains two features which are extremely desirable from the point of view of the foreign buyer. (1) The buyer is given a long-term commitment on the price of the wheat. Assurance is given that the agreed upon general price will not change despite delivery periods of as much as three years. (2) Desirable credit terms are offered to the buyer. The major sales efforts have been in the balance-of-payment building cash markets of the world where credit terms are important.

These increased efforts by Canada to sell wheat, point out again a problem which must be faced by U. S. wheat producers, the grain trade, and the government itself. Basically and somewhat oversimplified the problem is whether the U. S. should take steps to become aggressive competitors for the world wheat markets. The alternative, which exists to a large extent today (except for the special efforts of wheat producer groups) is to continue only as residual suppliers.

The foreign wheat sales offensive has been made possible to some extent at least by the policies of our own government, which has assured other exporting countries that it will not flood the world market with our wheat by selling below the International Wheat Agreement range. In fact, the world price may be maintained at a level somewhat above the IWA minimum. This assurance was given following the defeat of the wheat referendum last May.

Since then, Canadian wheat salesmen have been working overtime in the wheat importing countries of the world obtaining orders for as much as three years in advance. A recent estimate of commitments by Canada for the next three years is 779 million bushels in the cash markets of the world.

Just how significant is the aggressiveness of the Canadians is best answered by the manner in which it has affected the wheat producer. On the strength of increased sales, Canadian growers increased acreage in 1963 and production reached an all-time high. The same thing has happened in Australia—record acreages, record production, record exports, and record income. Since the 1959-60 crop year, Australia's growers have increased their wheat acreage by 88%. Meanwhile, U. S. producers are restricted to an acreage allotment of one-third of their capacity. Canadian wheat farmers are being urged to go all out in 1964, to plant from "fence-line to fence-line."

There are other implications as well. A concerted move is underway to drastically change the international agreements between countries in regard to wheat trade. One proposal is a system of international marketing quotas whereby each exporting country would be allowed to sell only to a designated importing country. The amount which could be sold would be based on "traditional" history of sales, which explains the present

mice do not roam the fields in search of food, but mostly stay confined to holes or established runways. The 1% zinc phosphide treated grain specially prepared by Fish and Wildlife Service can be obtained at cost from this office.

Federal Income Tax Aid Offered

Period for filing 1963 Federal income tax returns will extend from January 2 to April 15, inclusive. A. G. Erickson, district director of the Internal Revenue Service for Oregon, has announced.

In this area, help is offered in offices at Pendleton and The Dalles. They are to be open for information to taxpayers each Monday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:45 p.m. Office at Pendleton is at 611 E. E. Emigrant and in The Dalles at 26 Post Office building.

The Portland office, 827 N. E. Oregon Street, will provide information service Monday through Friday, from January 2 through April 15, with office hours set at 8 a.m. through 4:45 p.m.

Boardman News

Mr. and Mrs. Dewey West and children Larry and Dewena, and Keith Gronquist spent the weekend visiting in The Dalles at the home of West's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Russell. They also visited in Lyle, Wn. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Hamm, former residents here.

Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Forthman and daughter, Cathy Loop of Payette, Ida., visited last week at the home of Mrs. Forthman's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Claud Worden. Week-end visitors at the Worden home were Mr. and Mrs. John Roberts of Klickitat, Wn.

feverish activity of Canada and Australia in foreign sales. We feel some very pertinent questions arise if the U. S. is to actually attempt to overcome the offensive of our competitors in world wheat trade. We recognize the wheat industry and marketing structure of each competing country differ considerably from that of the United States, and especially in the area of government backing of credit and government participation in the actual trade transaction. It is well that the entire wheat industry be aware of the situation discussed in the preceding article.

Unit Meetings To Study Lesson On Will Making

By ESTHER KIRMIS

During the month of January, the extension unit women will turn their attention to "Wills" and their importance.

The lesson provides information about legal matters important to every family.

Ask yourself these questions: How do you own your property and what effect does type of ownership have on transfer at time of death?

Under Oregon law who would receive your property if you did not leave a will?

Why have a will?

What requirements must a will meet in Oregon?

Do you need a lawyer to prepare your will?

What is Probate?

What does an executor do and what does he get paid?

What about property held in other states and wills made in other states?

These and other topics lead finally to the steps of making a will, which are clearly outlined for easy use.

The lesson closes with a game of "legal lotto" designed to help everyone check on how well he understands the language of law.

Oregon State Bar Approval

The lesson material, prepared by Dorothy S. Miller, former OSU family finance specialist, has been prepared in cooperation with the Oregon State Bar.

Mrs. Paul Slaughter, Irrigon, told me that their lawyer gave them a copy of this bulletin to read before they made out their will. He said it was the best lawyer's manual he had ever come across. When it came off the press a year ago every lawyer in Oregon was sent a copy. Herman Winter, our district attorney, told me he had a copy.

If you want answers to questions about your property and heirs attend one of these unit meetings in your community.

January 8—Rhea Creek, Grange hall, Mrs. John Graves and Mrs. Emma Cecil, leaders.

January 8—Pine City, Pine City school, Mrs. Weldon Witherite, leader.

January 9—Tone, Norman Nelson home, Mrs. Norman Nelson and Mrs. Bryce Keene, leaders.

January 9—Irrigon, Old school building, Mrs. Charles Mead, Mrs. Andrew Skiles and Mrs. Don Kenny, leaders.

Angus Sale Set For January 25

Oregon Angus Association is sponsoring the Oregon Trail Angus sale at the Umatilla County Fairgrounds in Hermiston on Saturday, January 25. This is expected to be a quality bull and female sale from leading breeders in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and California, and will include a few calves for the 4-H and FFA boys and girls.

Angus calves and cross-bred calves with angus bulls have been selling at top prices through the year among breeders.

There will be a no-host get together and dinner Friday, January 24, at 7:30 p.m. at McCabe's Cafe on Main Street in Hermiston.

The one day show and sale will start with the show at 9:00 a.m. on January 25, with the sale following at 12:30 p.m.

January 14—Heppner, R. G. Watkins home, Mrs. William Heath and Mrs. Ray Massey, leaders.

January 21—Boardman, Art Allen home, Mrs. William Seehafer and Mrs. Hazel Carpenter, leaders.

All meetings begin at 10:30 a.m.

Other Uses of This Lesson

Mrs. Norman Nelson, Lexington, tells me that she will also give this lesson to the Topic club of lone.

District Attorney Herman Winter will assist me in giving this lesson on wills at the Money Management shortcourse in Irrigon on February 3.

Three Inescapable Events

Three inescapable events which everyone should recognize, says Mrs. Miller, are (1) You are going to die, (2) You can't take it with you, and (3) Someone else is going to get your property.

A sensible person makes suitable plans to pass on his estate.

Training To Project Leaders

Project leaders for "A Will of Your Own" will be trained on January 7 at the Lexington school, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Mrs. Alberta Johnston, OSU Family Finance Specialist, will assist me with this training.

She is in the county to speak at the Money Management shortcourse in Irrigon on January 6 and will meet with a steering committee from this part of the county, to investigate possibilities of having a money management shortcourse in Heppner this winter.

Wheat Group Names Pakistan Director

Western Wheat Associates today announced the appointment of Fred Schmitter, Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce Manager, as Director of their marketing program in Pakistan.

Richard K. Baum, Executive Vice President of the organization, said Schmitter will join their staff as of January 1, 1964 and would move to Karachi, Pakistan with his family in February. He will be responsible for the organization's wheat marketing program in both East and West Pakistan.

Western Wheat Associates is the foreign marketing arm of the wheat commissions and grower associations of Idaho, Oregon and Washington.


The new director for Pakistan is a 1952 graduate of the University of Oregon. He has worked for newspapers in La Grande, Pendleton, Portland and Boise. Before joining the Walla Walla Chamber of Commerce as Manager in 1959, he was manager of the La Grande Chamber of Commerce for four years.

Christmas day found Mr. and Mrs. Merritt Gray, David and Harold, in Hermiston spending the day with Mr. Gray's mother, Mrs. Jean Gray.

The Nels Anderson family spent Christmas day in The Dalles with Mrs. Anderson's brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Yackley, and family, former residents.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lynch and their son, Mike, departed Friday for their home in Eugene after spending Christmas in Heppner with family and friends.

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