

FARM NEWS

County Agent's Office

Slides, Report Headline Conservation Program

By N. C. ANDERSON

Supervisors of the Heppner Soil and Water Conservation District have arranged an interesting program for their annual meeting which will be held at the Lexington Grange hall on the evening of Tuesday, February 4.

Gar Swanson and Raymond French, who represented the district at a week-long outing at the Goodyear ranch near Phoenix, Ariz., will give a report on their trip illustrated with colored slides. A preview of these slides showed that they will be a good attraction to the program. The Heppner District was selected this past year for their outstanding conservation program which won these men this trip.

In addition to a progress report of accomplishments of the district and an election of supervisors to fill expired terms, there will be a discussion on current watershed development projects in the district and an explanation of financing the development of such watersheds through low interest loans available through Farmers Home Administration. William Coffield, Soil Conservation Service Watershed Planning leader, and Ken Keudell of Farmers Home Administration, will discuss these aspects.

Last, but not least, the group will enjoy refreshments provided by Lexington Implement Company and Bristow's Grocery, Inc.

Farmer-Retail Ratio Widens

A USDA report says that the retail price of corn flakes and rolled oats increased by 54% from 1947-49 to 1961, while the farmers share of the amount paid for corn flakes decreased from 9 to 4% and his share of the price paid for rolled oats dipped from 34 to 17%. This is what is happening in the rising cost of production compared to the price received in the market for most commodities produced by farmers.

Field Trip Wednesday

The Gilliam county agent's office has extended an invitation to Morrow county ranchers to participate in an organized visit to the Portland Grain Exchange and the Federal Grain Grading Laboratory on Wednesday, February 5. This trip is a part of a short course on Grain Marketing and Public Policy is being held there on January 27, February 5 and February 13. The February 5 trip to Portland will provide ranchers with an opportunity to hear representatives of the industry explain how grain markets are established and the group will witness the daily Portland grain auction. Commodity Credit Corporation will explain CCC sales and related topics. The group is arranging for a bus that will leave Condon in time to be at Portland at 9:45 a.m., returning that same evening. Anyone who is interested should call the Gilliam county agent's office.

Weed Shortcourse To Start

Talking about shortcourses, this is a last minute reminder of the Weed Control Shortcourse which will be held at the Fair Annex building in Heppner on February 5 and 6. We have a good enrollment but there is room for more. The two days session will cover all aspects of weed control and should be time well spent for all ranchers who can spare the time on these two days. First session gets underway at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday morning, February 5.

Smut Percentage Held Below 1% in Northwest

A report on a survey for smut in wheat varieties in the Pacific Northwest in the 1963 crop is quite encouraging. More than 62 million bushels of wheat representing 32 varieties were sampled. This represented a little more than half of the estimated total production for Washington, Oregon and North Idaho. Only 11,851 bushels rated smutty. This is the lowest percentage of smut on record for the Pacific Northwest and the fifth successive year that less than 1% of the crop graded smutty. The last year of serious smut incidences in this region was 1957 when 16% of the crop traded smutty. Smut was reported in 6 varieties including Brevor, Golden, Bart, Orfed, Omar and Elmar. Almost half of the bushels grading smut represented one lot of Orfed. Gainses was the leading variety followed by Omar, Brevor and Bart.

For the second year in a row, smut was confined to the white wheats. Monetary loss to the region due to smut was negligible and should continue at this level in future years if current control measures are maintained and continued to be effective.

Livestock Men Add Quality Angus Stock

While I did not attend the Oregon Angus Association show and sale at Hermiston last Saturday,

evidently Morrow county was well represented as buyers of fine quality Angus offered at the sale. Harold Peck, Heppner, stopped by Sunday morning with a young bull that he purchased at the sale for my inspection. I was real pleased with the quality of this bull, one of the better Angus bulls I have seen. Harold reported that other buyers were Ervin Rauch, Lexington; Delbert Emert, Ione, and Don Greenup, Heppner. There might have been others. Delbert bought several bulls, Irvin a bull and female, and Don took top selling bull of the sale.

There has been a lot of interest in this breed over the past few years in Morrow county, like many counties in the state. Much of the interest is in cross breeding using Angus bulls. Many report weaning heavier calves with great demand from buyers for these black, whiteface calves to go into feedlots where they make good gains.

Cattle Reactors Held Low

Percent reactors of cattle from Bangs infection during the calendar year 1963, was less than one-half of the state total for the calendar year, 1963. In Morrow county, 547 cattle were tested in 19 herds with only 1 reactor herd. There were 9 suspects; the percent of reactors was 0.182 compared to county totals of 0.465 which is an excellent record for the state. One hundred and three owners had 2,603 calves vaccinated for Brucellosis in this same period. Total for the state was 159,173. During this same period there was no tuberculosis infection in cattle here.

Polled Show Draws Many Morrow Buyers

Don Robinson was in this morning to report on the Columbia Empire Polled Hereford Show and Sale held last week at Walla Walla. This show and sale is a big event in the Pacific Northwest and has created interest of polled breeders—so much so, that they invited the National Polled Hereford Show to be held in Walla Walla next year.

Because there were over 4,000 persons at the polled show this year, it was determined that Walla Walla couldn't handle the show but they have agreed now that it will be held at Portland on December 7, 8, and 9, 1964. While it has been moved to the Pacific International building at Portland, it will be hosted by the Columbia Empire group. There are many polled breeders and those interested in the breed are anxious to come to the Pacific Northwest and the group expects that there will be a record attendance at this 1964 show.

Reporting for Morrow county, Don was happy to announce that he had three blue ribbons in the calf classes and second in his junior get-of-sire. Leo Barnett, Boardman and Condon, had the reserve champion show bull which he will take on to the Top Cut Sale in Montana next month. Among the Morrow county buyers that Don knew of was Pat Cutsforth who purchased a lamp-lighter breeding bull bred by the Minkoff Hereford ranch and the Wagenblast boys who bought a Goldmine bred bull from Leo Barnett for their registered herd. Herb Ekstrom, Ione, bought one of the sale heifers consigned by

League Officials Go To Washington To Talk on Wheat

Due to the pressing need for grower representation in Washington, D. C. at this time, a group of Oregon wheat producers are in the national capital this week. Problems dealing with grain standards, marketing, establishments of a soil and water research laboratory at Pendleton, and wheat legislation will be discussed with USDA officials, members of the Oregon congressional delegation and others.

Making the trip are Milton Morgan, Ione, Wheat League president; Don Woodward, Pendleton, 2nd vice-president; L. E. Kaseberg, Wasco, past president, and Floyd Root, Wasco, chairman, Oregon Wheat Commission. Accompanying the group to Washington will also be Frank Tubbs, Adams, newly elected president of Western Wheat associates. Tubbs will be in Washington on WWA business but will have time to assist the other Oregon producers in their contacts with key people.

Congressman Al Ullman's office has scheduled a number of meetings with various government people to help the Oregon group make the necessary contacts.

Of particular interest to the Oregon group will be an attempt to designate a test weight of 58 lb. for No. 1 Club Wheat having superior milling quality. Public law 490 will be reviewed with government personnel as two sections of the law will be coming up for appropriations this year. Rumors have reached Oregon that the priority ratings for the establishment of soil and water laboratories will be changed and maybe even put into another department of the government. Some years back the proposed Pendleton station was 22nd on the list but at present is third. The group is interested in at least maintaining this position, but also to take a firmer stand so that this laboratory could be located at Pendleton in the very near future.

A resolution was passed at the recent convention of the National Association of Wheat Growers that member wheat states send producers to the capital to talk with congressmen and agricultural department officials concerning the development of a sound, sensible wheat program for 1964. The appearance of this group there will fulfill Oregon's part of this resolution.

Rosewall Attends Farmers Home Meet

W. C. Rosewall returned last Friday from Portland, where he attended a two day meeting of the state advisory committee for the Farmers Home Administration. Rosewall was recently appointed to this committee to represent Eastern Oregon in this area. The Agriculture Act of 1962 greatly broadened the scope of the Farmers Home Administration, allowing it to make loans not only to family farms, but to anyone in a rural area, which includes towns up to 2500 population and to small watershed projects. The Farmers Home Administration is unique inasmuch as it only makes or insures loans when credit is not available at reasonable rates from private sources.

Don Robinson as well as a part interest with Clayton Mann, Eugene, in a CBR bred bull. Don joined Jim Campbell, Lone Rock, in buying the champion sale bull which was of Double I breeding out of Modest Junior 17, who's offspring have been quite popular.

National Wheat Growers Back Voluntary Plan

By JOHN WELBES
Executive Vice President,
Oregon Wheat Growers League

At its recent meeting the National Association of Wheat Growers endorsed a program very similar to the one suggested by the Oregon Wheat Growers League. Eight steps are proposed as workable in a voluntary certificate plan. It reads as follows:

"1. The Association reaffirms its position of approval of a certificate program for wheat. Specifically, we propose a voluntary certificate program with the proper incentives to insure maximum participation, and to be effective with the 1964 program and subsequent crop years.

"2. The program should be financed, preferably in the marketplace, through a system of marketing certificates.

"3. The income objective for wheat should be substantially above 1962 levels, due to continually increasing capital and production costs. If agriculture is to help maintain a healthy and stable national economy, its income must be comparable with labor and industry.

"4. The substitution clause, permitting substitution between wheat and feed grain planted acreage, should be a part of the voluntary wheat program for 1964 and subsequent crop years.

"5. If an individual farmer elects to use the substitution clause, he should be subject to all the requirements of both the voluntary wheat certificate program and the voluntary feed grain program. If he does not choose to use this clause, he should have the privilege of qualifying for either program or both programs.

"6. The provisions of the 'An-fuso' amendment should apply in 1964. After 1964, whenever the program is on a voluntary basis, there should be no increase or decrease in the size of the allotment because of non-compliance.

"7. Amend the act to permit the issuance of marketing certificates if:

"(a) A producer is unable to seed his crop because of adverse weather, and he cannot later

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Ron Baker, reporter

seed another crop in the same marketing year.

"(b) If the producer owns sufficient wheat from previous crops whether or not it is penalty wheat stored under bond, to cover his marketing allocations, Section 379 (a) (c)

"7. We recommend that provisions be made for a grower, who harvests acres in excess of his allotment and normal conserving, to store at his own expense and under bond, this production, and still be eligible for price support and certificates for 1964 and subsequent years.

"8. If penalties are provided in the new legislation, there should be no small farm or other exceptions."

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Vaccinations Up; Brucellosis Down

Calf vaccinations for brucellosis by cattlemen in Morrow county showed an increase in 1963 and the incidence of brucellosis among cattle tested was reduced.

Statistics on the state-federal disease eradication program released recently by the Oregon Department of Agriculture show calf vaccinations in the county totaled 2,603 in 1963, compared with 2,135 in 1962.

The 547 brucellosis tests given in 1963 revealed 1 reactor or 0.183 per cent. In 1962 tests in the county totaled 1,218 with eight reactors or .656 per cent.

During the past year no tuberculosis tests were given Morrow county cattle.

Statewide figures show 1963 was the third highest year for calf vaccinations for brucellosis, with 159,173 calves vaccinated. The all-high year was 1962, with 170,163 calves vaccinated. Second high was 1959 when 161,808 calves were vaccinated.

Brucellosis tests were given 132,160 cattle in 1963 with 420 reactors located for 0.317 per cent. In 1962 the tests were given 158,668 cattle, resulting in 761 reactors for 0.479 per cent.

Tuberculosis tests given in 1963 located 67 reactors among 70,299 cattle in the state that were tested, compared with 107 among the 81,628 tested in 1962.

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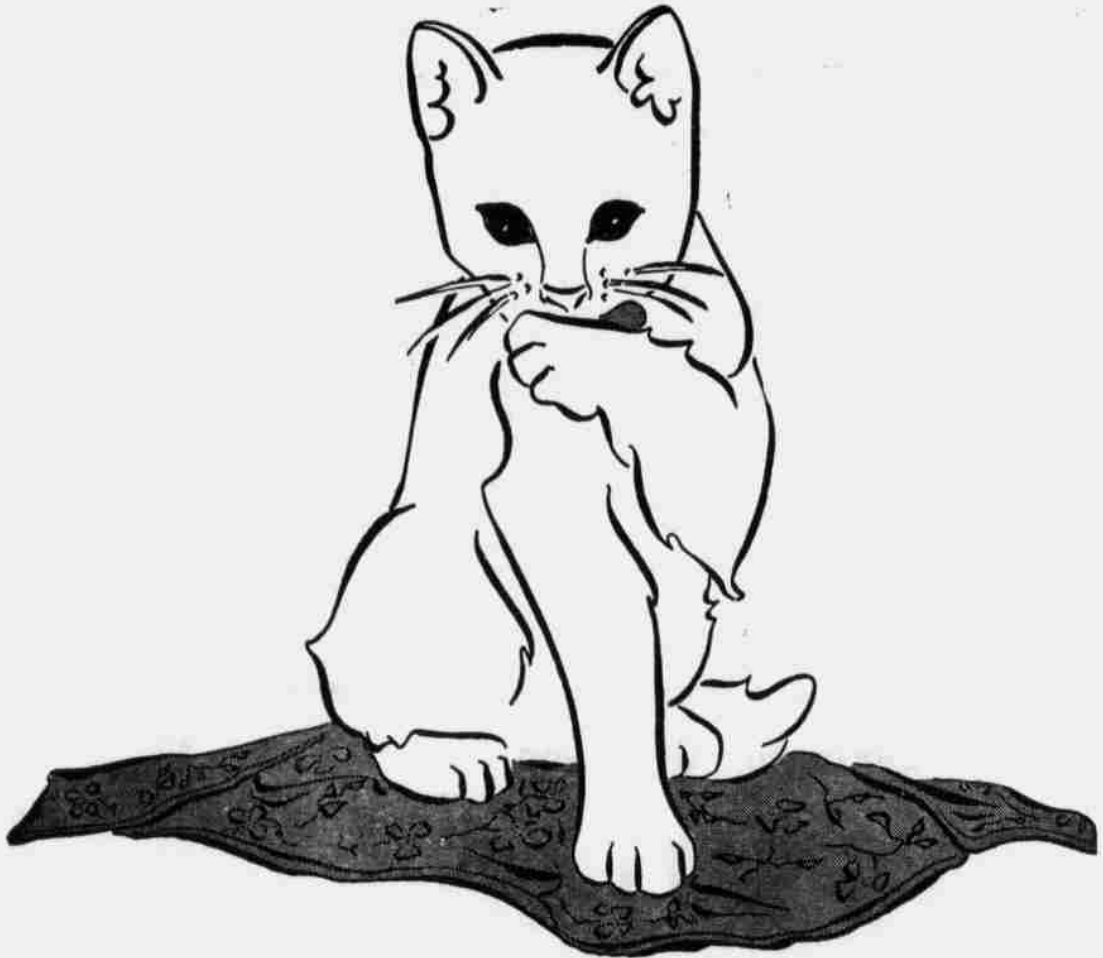
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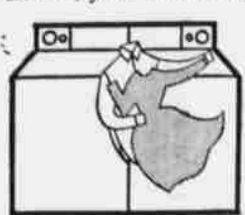
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