



County Agent's Office

Conservation District Elects Raymond French

By N. C. ANDERSON

Newly elected officers of the Heppner Soil and Water Conservation District, which met last Wednesday evening, finds Raymond French back in the seat as chairman, a position that he has held since 1957; Kenneth Turner, vice president, and W. C. Rosewall, treasurer. I continue as secretary. Two new supervisors, Vernon Munkers and Roger Palmer, who were elected at the annual meeting to replace Raymond Lundell and Bob Jepsen, were welcomed.

Meeting with the board was Paul Jones, ASC County Committeeman, who explained the need for the conservation district supervisors and the County ASC Committee to meet frequently to review and council on the wise use of conservation cost-sharing ACP funds.

Plans were made for representatives of each of the two groups to meet with the State ASC committee this week to request help in encouraging more strip cropping and diversion ditch "companion" practices which are sorely needed in the district. As an incentive, the group will ask for an increase in the maximum amount of ACP payments that each individual might earn while establishing these practices.

The two groups also made plans to meet jointly at their April 7 meeting to study the present conservation handbook and analysis practices that might be put to more use within the district.

Conservation Tour Planned

Plans were made for observing Soil Stewardship Week during the period May 3-10. W. C. Rosewall volunteered to again chair this activity with special emphasis on church activities on Soil Stewardship Sunday. Posters and church program insert purchases were authorized.

Plans were also made for annual conservation tours which are generally held during Conservation Week. Raymond Lundell and Vernon Munkers will make arrangements for the annual 5th grade school conservation tour while the adult conservation tour will be planned by Ralph Richards and the county agent.

Progress Report Heard

A progress report for the past two months revealed five new conservation cooperators including Paul Maley, Don Pointer, Dallas McDaniel, Darrel Harris and William J. Kenney. Two conservation plans were completed; 58 acres of land leveling, 32,270 feet of diversion ditches established, 318 acres of brush control; one stock pond, a stock well, 11,880 of irrigation ditch and

channel change and an irrigation flume were established. Surveyed were 40 acres of land leveling, 7 acres for land smoothing, 600 feet of channel change, 11,300 feet of diversions, 3 erosion dams and sod waterways.

Sixteen ranchers used the gopher getter machine to bait over 700 acres. This machine has been real popular all fall and winter with several on the waiting list until recently. Those who have used the machine report it as an economical, easy and effective way to rid their irrigated alfalfa fields of gophers.

4-H Judging Day Scheduled March 21

Plans have been made for the spring 4-H livestock judging day to be held at the new livestock barn at the fairgrounds in Heppner Saturday, March 21. This is one of several livestock judging days arranged to be held during the year to give 4-H livestock members an opportunity to learn how to judge livestock, how to give oral and written reasons and the fundamentals for selecting livestock for their own 4-H projects.

Scores from these livestock judging days are used as a means of selecting judging teams for State Fair and Pacific International Livestock Exposition contests. Several classes of breeding beef and sheep will be judged on March 21.

Study Underway to Find Cause of Scour Disease

A meeting last Thursday night of interested cattlemen and veterinarians resulted in the drafting of a plan of procedure for study of the contributing cause of disease manifest by scours. Severe losses all over Eastern Oregon have prompted cattlemen to request assistance from the National Animal Disease Laboratory, Ames, Iowa, in determining the cause of the disease. In some areas 14 to 20% of the calf drop has been lost.

It has been noted that this disease is not the same as typical calf scours and there seems to be more than one factor involved with scours just a symptom of the disease. It is hopeful that as a result of the meeting that the study can eventually come up with the answer, however, veterinarians do not expect an early one.

Hay Gets Service Award

Joe Hay, former Morrow county agent, was honored last Tuesday evening at the annual meeting of the Boardman Soil and Water Conservation District, held in Irrigon. At this time supervisors presented Joe with a distinguished service award for his efforts in district activity as secretary for the period 1960 through 1963.

Selection of Good Replacement Ewes Necessary To Good Flock

The progress a sheep operator makes in the improvement of his flock depends a great deal upon the selection of replacement ewe lambs. This is the time of year that the sheep man should be taking a close look at prospective replacements.

The time of year that these ewes will come into heat when they reach maturity depends a great deal upon heredity. There is a close relationship between the time the mother ewe comes into heat and when her daughters will come into heat. This has a definite bearing on the time that lambs will be born.

IFYE to Speak At 4-H Leaders Dinner Saturday

Two friends of 4-H, Columbia Basin Electric Co-op and U. S. National Banks of Oregon, will join in honoring over 50 4-H leaders of 1963-64 with a banquet and recognition pins at Rhea Creek Grange hall on Saturday evening, March 14, 1964 at 6:30 p.m., according to Esther Kirmis, Morrow county extension agent.

Leaders will hear Dean Wimer, Oregon's IFYE to Northern Ireland tell of his experiences on foreign soil and a report from Arleta McCabe, Ione and Dale Van Bokland, Heppner on the Oregon 4-H conference they attended in February, says the agent.

Dean Graves, vice president of the south Morrow Leaders Council, will be toastmaster for the evening and members of the Rhea Creek Home Economics club will serve the dinner.

Rhea Creek Grange hall is 11 miles south of Heppner on Highway 207, informs Miss Kirmis.

Many sheep operators make a practice of selecting their replacement ewe lambs from the first third of the ewes in the flock to lamb.

Balance of Nitrogen, Sulphur Phosphorus Needed in Pastures

Irrigated pastures are usually composed of a mixture of improved grasses and alfalfa or clover. Maintaining the proper balance between grasses and legumes, it is essential to obtain the maximum production. If legumes are allowed to dominate the stand, a bloat hazard may develop. If the mixture is dominantly grass, supplemental nitrogen will have to be added to maintain high production. The composition of the pasture can be changed by the method of grazing and by fertilizer management. Nitrogen has a tendency to stimulate grass in a mixture. Continued use of high rates of nitrogen will drive legumes out of the stand. On the other hand, heavy nitrogen should be applied annually.

Heavy nitrogen applications can correct the legume-grass balance in pastures where bloat is a problem. To keep pastures in an optimum balance between grasses and legumes, 40-60 pounds of nitrogen should be applied annually. Split applications of nitrogen spring summer and fall, give better results than single applications. In establishing seedings, an application of 30 pounds of nitrogen will assure a good stand of both the grass and legume. Applications of nitrogen are seldom economical on legume blue-grass meadows. Legumes in a mixture will respond to applications of phosphorus while soil tests indicate definite levels of phosphorus needed, most Morrow county soils have shown that 40-60 pounds of P205 are needed.

Sulfur is generally needed in all Morrow county soils as the alkaline content runs fairly high. Sulfur is utilized mainly by legumes. In only a few isolated cases has sulfur stimulated grass in any measureable degree. Twenty to 30 pounds of sulfur annually is sufficient if bloat is a problem because of excess legume growth, do not apply sulfur. Sulfur applications should be made in the fall or early spring.

A good source of fertilizer for irrigated pastures of grass and legumes would be 100 pounds of 16-20-0 fertilizer used in early spring, mid-summer and fall. Where irrigation water is limited, an early spring and late summer or early fall applications would be sufficient. This would furnish the required amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and sulfur.

Agent Attends Shortcourse On Range Management

Morrow county extension agent N. C. Anderson brought home a number of new ideas on range improvement, gathered during his attendance of a five-day range management shortcourse at Oregon State University.

The shortcourse was a joint effort that included speakers and participants from the Cooperative Extension Service, the OSU Experiment Station, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Oregon Game Commission, Soil Conservation Service and the U. S. Forest Service. It was organized by OSU Extension range management specialist Dillard Gates.

The range management shortcourse was one of a series of training meetings held by the extension service to keep their personnel as well as those of other agencies up to date on the latest techniques in agricultural production. County extension agents use the OSU workshops as a means of keeping their technical ability current with the rapid changes in modern agriculture.

Wheat Bill Fate Due for Decision

Ken Kendrick, executive vice president of the National Association of Wheat Growers, said today, "The next two weeks will determine the fate of wheat and cotton legislation for the 1964 crop."

"Unless this legislation is passed," he continued, "wheat grower income for 1964 will be reduced by 600 million dollars due to the drop in the support price level of about \$1.25 per bushel. Wheat growers simply cannot stay in business long with wheat prices at this level. The wheat bill under consideration now would restore at least

400 million of this expected drop in farm income.

"The Bill," Kendrick said, contains several features which wheat growers have long favored because they give the grower more freedom in operating his farm. Two outstanding examples are: 1. The substitution clause would be effective for the 1964 planting season. This would allow growers, after making the required acreage cuts in wheat and feed grain, to plant wheat on feed grain acres and feed grain on wheat acres. 2. In high risk areas the Senate bill allows farmers to overseed, store the wheat on their farms . . . and release in years of below normal production . . . and still be eligible for certificates. This provision will aid growers in maintaining stability of income.

"This voluntary wheat legislation provides the wheat farmer with \$2.00 on domestic consumption, (500 million bushels) and \$1.55 on wheat produced for export. The average blended price received by the farmer will be about \$1.78 per bushel," he concluded.

More Wheat Sales To Russia Doubtful

Information received at the Oregon Wheat Growers League office states that additional wheat sales to Russia are in the doubtful stage. This is due to two main factors: 1. There are brighter prospects for harvest in Western and Eastern Europe thus lessening Russia's interest; 2. U. S. exporters, because of many unforeseen delays and costs, are unwilling to make further commitments.

The strike boycotting the loading of ships with wheat to Russia was finally settled a few days ago. It appears now that the wheat sales already made to Russia will be delivered. These sales total about 75 million bushels. However in settling the strike, President Johnson assured the Union that all future deliveries would honor the 50% use of American bottoms.

All of this indicates that our total exports for this marketing year will probably be around 850 million bushels rather than the predicted one billion. This means that our carryover will be in the range of 900 million bushels instead of the 725 million bushels that had been indicated earlier.

The Foreign Agriculture Service of the U.S.D.A. estimated that average world yield per harvested acre in 1963 was 16.4 bushels. The U. S. average was 25.1—Russia's average yield for 1963 was only 9.2 bushels. Highest average yield was 62 bushels in the Netherlands.

Hitchin' Post Cafe Sold to Portlanders

BOARDMAN—Mr. and Mrs. Joe Tatone announced this week the sale of their Hitchin' Post restaurant and Saddle Room to Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Alexanian of Portland. P. A. Timpy of Baker and Portland will be manager.

The Tatones have operated the business since February 9, 1952, having built the building at that time.

Tatone states that he is not leaving Boardman, but after taking a vacation will remain here to assist in the moving of the town, and plans to establish a new business in the new city.

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Meat Agreement Said Unacceptable

George W. Johnson, executive secretary of the Oregon Cattlemen's association, speaking for the cattlemen of the state, said today the agreement made with Australia and New Zealand on meat imports was disappointing and entirely unacceptable to the cattlemen of this state.

"Continuing imports on the rate agreed upon could very well wreck the livestock economy of this state," Johnson said. "It is easy to reason why Australia and New Zealand would agree to these years as a base for they represent the highest figures on record. In addition our government has agreed to an expansion of 3.7 per cent as the market expands."

"On a national basis imports of meat in 1962 were nearly 10 per cent of the domestic production. In 1963 it was nearly 11 per cent of the domestic production. For imports coming directly to Oregon the amount increased in 1963 over 1962 by 2,300,205 pounds. Jeopardizing the livestock economy of this state is a serious blow to everyone

Teen Seamers Sew

The Teen Seamers met March 7 at the Walter Jacob home. We did not hold a regular business meeting, but started sewing as soon as everyone arrived. Our goal is to finish up as much as possible on our practice article by next meeting, March 24, and have our exhibit pattern and material purchased.

Karen Nelson, reporter

interested in the growth and welfare of Oregon. A more realistic quota is a must if this industry is to survive.

"Residents of this state in all walks of life have a real stake in this program and are urged to communicate with their Congressmen for adequate legislation that will establish a more realistic quota system," he concluded.

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