

Chats From Your Home Agent

Exchangee Says Ireland Showing A New Awakening

By ESTHER KIRMIS

The "Green and Misty Isle" of Ireland became alive before our eyes last week when Dean Wimer, Oregon's IFYE (International Farm Youth Exchange) visited our county to tell of his experiences with 11 Irish families in 1963.

"The people of Ireland are living in the past," he explained. "They are just beginning to awaken to modern farm machinery, conveniences, and customs. I believe you'll see more of a change in the Emerald Isle in the next ten years than they have seen in the last hundred years."

He spoke of the Irish easy-going nature, their thatched homes where they burn turf (no central heating), and their eating six times a day (tea-time is very important to them). Also he told of their farming under moist conditions, their transportation, their languages, schools and churches.

American Image

"Not everyone loves the Americans, as we like to believe," was his comment when we asked him about the "American Image" overseas. "No country likes to be considered inferior. Our foreign aid, American tourists, and American soldiers have done much to damage our influence in many countries. Of the American IFYE students I met over half of them had witnessed the same thing," he added.

House Guest of Van Bloklands

While in Morrow county he was the house guest of the Wilbur Van Bloklands of Ruggs, good supporters of the 4-H program in the county.

Oregon Trail Memories

The Old Oregon Trail kept cropping up in many of the conversations I had with Cecil, people last week. F. M. McClintock, owner of the store in Cecil, told me that Cecil was a watering place and an overnight stop for the wagon trains. Mrs. Henry Krebs, Cecil, told me that they had also buried their dead there.

Your agent was in the area because Mrs. Ewing Hynd has started a 4-H club for children in that neighborhood. They are called BEA's Busy Buddies and number six strong, both boys and girls. Four are taking knitting, one leather, and one wood-working. One of the knitting girls is doubling up and taking Phase 1 of 4-H Clothing also. These children are at the end of the school bus line and it makes it a little difficult for them to participate in the Ione 4-H clubs who meet after school. I found them eager and excited to start a club of their own.

Getting back to the store at Cecil, they told me that in the early days it was used for Saturday night dances which would attract people from far and wide. On Sunday morning they would sweep it out and hold church in the same place. A dual-purpose building, I'd say.

Mrs. Walter Hays Hosts County Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee for the Extension Units met with Mrs. Walter Hays, Boardman, last week. (What a nice sunny day it was).

High on the list of business was the planning of the annual Homemaker's Festival to be held this year in Ione on May 13. The theme, "ACWW-Down Under" was chosen to compliment the speaker, Mrs. Athale Lage, who visited Australia as Oregon's delegate at the 1962 ACWW Triennial. (Homemakers from all over the world attended). She has colored slides to illustrate her talk about the country she visited.

The committee recommended that the festival could be improved if all six units assisted

with the annual day. Otherwise the hostess unit had all these duties:

A rundown of jobs for each unit include: Luncheon arrangements—Ione unit; Table and stage decorations, Ione unit; Special music for the program—Ione unit; Registration and program covers—Irrigon unit; Hostesses and collection boxes for coupons, stamps, and pennies—Boardman unit; Arrangements for display of all units' mosaics—Heppner unit; Coffee hour at the beginning—Rhea Creek unit, and Display of Australia—Pine City unit.

Because of too much expense for the Ione unit, child care will again be arranged by each unit as they see best.

Announcement was also made of the mechanics of the Oregon Home Economics Council meeting to be held in Corvallis on May 5-7. This year Morrow county will elect a District Director for District VII, a four-county area.

Members of the county advisory committee are Mrs. Joe Wright, Mrs. John Graves, Heppner; Mrs. Weldon Witherrite, Echo; Mrs. Jim Pettyjohn, Ione; Mrs. Paul Slaughter, Irrigon; and Mrs. Walter Hayes, Boardman.

Water Outlook Down

The satisfactory outlook for 1964 irrigation water supplies in the Umatilla-Walla Walla watersheds, foreseen one month ago, has been "dimmed" slightly by clear, cold February weather, which brought near record-low precipitation and greatly reduced streamflow, according to a report released by Bob L. Whaley of the Soil Conservation Service, (USDA), cooperating with Oregon State University, Oregon State Engineer and others. Inflow to the areas' all-important storage reservoirs has been very inadequate.

Water content of the mountain snowpack increased slightly during the month and is now 105 percent of the 15 year average for March 1. Percentage-wise this is the best snowpack in the state.

The soil mantle under the snowpack is well re-charged and averages 84 percent of capacity. These moist soils will favor a satisfactory snow-melt runoff next spring.

Cold Springs Reservoir is now full at 50,000 acre feet compared with 43,900 a.f. one year ago at this date. The average is 38,600 acre feet. McKay Reservoir holds 16,000 acre feet com-

FARM NEWS

County Agent's Office

Stockmen To Observe Cattle Research

By N. C. ANDERSON

Range livestock growers will be interested in the recently announced Beef Cattle Field Day which will be held at the Squaw Butte Experiment Station at Burns on March 31. The program which will get underway at 10:00 a.m. at the Poison Creek Grange hall, two miles east of Burns on Highway 78, will cover such important subjects as effective early grazing on hay yields, early versus late cut hay for wintering calves, the productive life of beef cattle, cattle price predictions and the factors effecting them with personnel from the station and Oregon State University participating on the morning program.

After lunch there will be a tour of current research at the wintering headquarters on the station. Those attending will see two-year-old Hereford heifers that have been wintered on various levels of protein, now calving, weaner calves wintered on rye hay, the comparison of coarse and fine chopped and long hay for steer calves, weaner calves being fed short and full rations to determine rate and efficiency of production, digestibility studies, performance tested bulls and environment and carcass quality studies.

Several Morrow county ranchers have attended this field day during the past number of years and found it helpful to their operation. Programs have been mailed to those who have indicated interest, however, additional copies are available at our office for those who might not have received one.

Saw Aids in Ripping

A new chain saw attachment for making lumber right where the tree falls has been introduced by Nigran Industries. Called the "Alaskan Junior," the new one man tool makes possible lengthwise ripping to precise dimensions. It could prove to be a useful piece of equipment for anyone wanting to cut square posts, fencing, planks, beams, building timbers, and other shapes from 1 inch thick up to 12x12 or larger. It comes in three sizes, 14 inches, 20 inches and 26 inches, weights approximately 14 pounds without the chain-saw and is priced from \$55. We have further information at the office.

Forecast of streamflow have dropped off slightly since last month but remain in the 90 to 99 percent of average range.

Flow of the South Fork of the Walla Walla is forecast 74,000 acre feet of 99 percent average for the March-July period. This stream should furnish about average water supplies. Flow of Couze, Dry and Pine creeks should also be close to average. Flow of the Umatilla at Pendleton is forecast at 96 percent average in the April-July period. McKay Creek should flow 41,000 acre feet of 94 percent average in the March-July period—an insufficient amount for the season's needs. Butter Creek is forecast to flow 97 percent average March through July and other similar streams should produce near average water supplies.

Good Water Supply Predicted from Snow Pack Much concern has been shown

WANTED—Rags, Gazette-Times, Ph. 676-9228, 37-tfc

over the shortage of irrigation water for this time of year with many who normally irrigate bottom land by this time, still waiting for enough flow to reach their ranch. According to the outlook for the area, water is expected to be average for both spring season and late season on all of our creeks in Morrow county.

As of March 1, Buttercreek, near Pine City, was 97% of average for the years, 1943 through 1957. While the satisfactory outlook for 1964 irrigation water supplies foreseen one month ago has been dimmed slightly by clear, cold, February weather which brought near record low precipitation and greatly reduced stream flow, the water content of the mountain snow pack increased slightly and is now 105% of the 15 average for March 1. The soil mantle under the snow pack is well recharged and averages 84% of capacity. These moist soils will favor a satisfactory snow melt runoff next spring.

Buttercreek is forecast to flow 97% average March through July and other similar streams should produce near average water supplies. Many are surprised at the way the snow has stayed on in the mountains during this mild winter. In the years I have spent here, I cannot remember of having such conditions without a "chinkook" and high creek water sometime during the winter months, especially with such a mild winter as we have had.

Friday Marks Last Date For Feed Grain Signup

Friday, March 27, is the final day for signing up for the 1964 Feed Grain program. Those who sign before that date and make required acreage reductions, will be eligible for program benefits which include price supports and payments for diverting feed grain acres to conservation uses.

Although similar to the 1963 program, there are three major changes. The maximum acreage which may be diverted on a farm has been raised from 40 to 50% of the base. The payment rate for diverting 40% or more will be substantially higher than in 1963. National average loan rates are higher for the 1964 Feed Grain crops, but support payments are lower. As in the past, the smallest acreage that can be diverted for payment is 20% of the base.

No payments or price support loans on feed grains, other than oats and rye, will be available to growers who do not divert at least 20% of their base. The entire base may be diverted for payment at the higher rate on farms where the base is less than 25 acres. Further details on the 1964 feed grain program can be obtained from the ASCS office.

Research Shows Angling Business Reaches Into Millions

Sport caught salmon and steelhead pump approximately \$18 million annually into the Oregon economy according to a study just completed by the Department of Ag Economics at Oregon State University. The research, planned in 1959 and initiated in the spring of 1961, was contracted with the University by the Oregon State Game Commission.


Results showed more than \$9 million was spent annually on items classed as "durable" such as boating, clothing and camping equipment. Current expenditures for such items as transportation, boat rentals, lodging, lures and food were estimated at over \$8 million. These totals do not include \$500,000 spent by the anglers for licenses and tags.

Trout Orders Needed Now As spring draws near, farm

fish pond owners are thinking of restocking their ponds so that a new crop of trout will begin growing. Several have called at the office to ask if orders will again be pooled for pond restocking. Trout farms in the area have announced a good supply of fingerling trout, including Kamloop and Eastern Brook at this time.

WANTED—Soft cotton rags, Gazette-Times Printing office.

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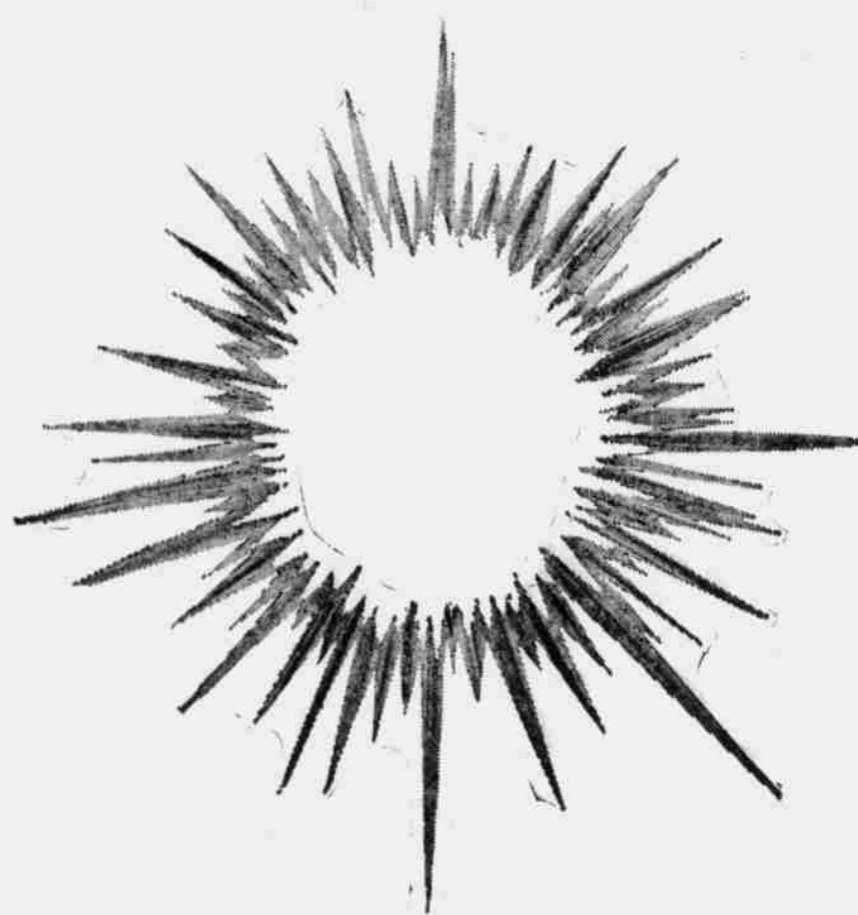
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