



FARM NEWS

County Agent's Office

Added Funds Sought For County Program

By N. C. ANDERSON

A real good example of the interest to develop conservation on the land is a recent meeting that the County ASCS Committee arranged with the State ASC Committee to attempt to work out an agreement on the greater use of county ACP funds. The meeting, attended by ASC, SCS and Extension representatives, was a result of a request from some ranchers who were interested in establishing contour, or cross slope strip cropping, and diversion ditches in an attempt to curtail soil erosion.

While Morrow county has taken the leadership in strip cropping throughout the Pacific Northwest, further progress has been hindered due to limited ACP funds that provides cost sharing to help defray the expenses of establishing this practice. In developing the strip cropping, it has been necessary for the rancher to either double crop or double summer fallow, both of which are expensive in comparison to the regular rotation.

The \$1500 ACP farm limit would allow only 250 acres of strip cropping to be established in one year. In more cases than not, this would not complete an entire field in one year which necessitated a resurvey and many times corrections which could have been avoided in the beginning had an entire field been completed at once.

The Heppner Soil and Water Conservation District and ASC County Committee both realized this problem and went to the State ASC Committee to appeal for a change in ACP funds that would allow an operator to earn up to \$2500 in one year when establishing strip cropping alone or strip cropping and diversion ditches where the ditches were needed. The State ASC Commit-

tee, realizing the limitations on this practice, agreed that such a change would provide more of an incentive for using these practices and it is hoped that official notice will be given soon.

Making the trip to Portland to meet with the State ASC Committee were Paul Jones, rancher, Roy Partlow and Hershaw Townsend, ASC Committee members, David McLeod, ASC Office Manager, Ralph Richards, Soil Conservation, Service, and myself. Maps showing the problem, as encountered by several farmers throughout the county, were used in explaining the situation. The State Committee was very receptive to this request and indicated their interest in getting this changed. While County ACP funds are limited, we believe that they will take care of these interested in this practice in a given year. We are hopeful that some operators will make use of this practice yet this year.

Coyote Den Yields Seven

Gerry Rood, fish and wildlife service trapper, reports digging out his first coyote den in early March. The seven pups, which he found in the den were born about February 15. The den, taken near the old blacksmith shop in the desert, was near one dug out very early last year. As we recall, this was the earliest den taken in the state, and we believe this might be a record again this year.

Windblow Calls for Proper Care of Ground Cover

Ranchers not only in North Morrow county but throughout much of the area have been real busy the last couple of weeks in stopping wind blows. Officers of the Lexington Blow Control District have been helpful in assisting with equipment for the control of blows created by the extremely dry winter and persistent winds of the last few weeks.

Fred Nelson reported late last week that lister shovels had been in great demand by many in the North Lexington, North and South lone areas in getting blows stopped. With the many good years which provided lots of ground cover in the form of stubble, newer implements for stubble mulch farming have prevented a lot of blows that the old timers can remember quite vividly. With the winds of the past few weeks, many who are new to the area or have forgotten past years, have found that these fields will still blow if not properly cared for.

Weed Control Handbook Available

Ranchers attending the Weed Control workshop held in Heppner on February 5 and 6 were quite impressed with a weed control handbook which Sherman county had put together and which was on display at that time. The handbook which had planned to be a Columbia Basin project was abandoned after budgets were cut last fall. Because our ranchers were so

Growers Urge Bipartisan Action On Wheat Problem

By JOHN WELBES
Executive Vice President
Oregon Wheat Growers League

About every conceivable angle has been used to delay action on the wheat-cotton bill. In the Senate over twenty amendments were attached to the bill including the limitation of meat imports. About this time, over in the House the Agricultural Committee voted down the Food Stamp Plan. This, the urban Congressmen did not like, therefore, they would not support the voluntary program for wheat. Sometime later the Food Stamp Plan regained new life and was again brought up in the House Agriculture committee. This time it passed and is now in the rules committee along with the wheat-cotton bill. Both are expected to be reported out the week of March 23 with the vote on the Food Stamp plan coming first.

Now, an attack has been made on Governor Hatfield for sending telegrams to Congressmen urging a bi-partisan vote on the wheat-cotton bill, and also recommending a favorable vote on the wheat-cotton bill. Anyone familiar with the situation knows what wheat means to the economy of Oregon, not only to the rural areas, but also to the City of Portland. It has been stated by the USDA that if no new wheat legislation is enacted the wheat producers' income over the nation would drop between 600-800 million dollars. In Oregon this would be a drop in income to the producer of approximately 35%. By taking 35% of the income off the largest cash crop in the state, it would economically affect car and truck sales, farm equipment companies, fertilizer companies, and many other segments of industry. One must remember that 40% of the employed are directly or indirectly connected with agriculture. The Governor fully realizes this and his attempt to maintain the economy in the state should be applauded.

Many have stated the wheat producer does not want government control after the defeat of the referendum last May. This is not true in Oregon. In the

interested we have compiled such a handbook which is now available at this office. We will mail it to our complete mailing list because of its cost, but will make copies available to anyone who wishes to have one. Copies are available in the office and can be picked up at any time. The handbook includes pictures, descriptive information and perennial weeds found in Morrow county. We will add to the handbook as new weeds become evident and as new control practices are developed.

Signup Deadline Friday

If you have forgotten to sign up for the 1964 feed grain program, we remind you that there may be a few hours left yet. If this is read early on Friday, March 27. That is the final day for signing at the County ASCS office.

County Meets TB Tests

A few days ago we received our certificate that Morrow county has met requirements for a modified accredited area in livestock tuberculosis. Dr. Stanley McGough, Federal Veterinarian, has recently completed testing all Grade A dairies as well as registered beef herds which in combination with TB testing done in other herds during the year, qualified the county for this accreditation. This accreditation is good until March, 1970.

National Laboratories Seeking Solution To Calf Disease

Recently we reported a meeting of livestockgrowers held in Baker where a request had been made for research to determine the cause of the disease that has been killing so many young calves in Eastern Oregon. Because of the intense interest and large turnout of livestockgrowers at the March 5 meeting, action has been taken by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to start a research project at once.

Pushed by the Oregon Cattle-men's Association, the formal application for a long term research program by the Federal Government was given immediate consideration. The group turned to the Federal Government since they had exhausted all available resources at hand. Veterinarians from the National Animal Disease Laboratory at Ames, Iowa, are already in the field making studies of the problem. Not only Oregon, but Idaho has also had a problem with the disease. While scours is one of the symptoms of the disease, veterinarians who have worked with the calves say that more than one factor is involved. Oregon representatives including Federal Veterinarians, State Veterinarians and veterinarians from the National Animal Disease Laboratory will work on the problem at once. To get at the seat of the disease, there will be soil scientists, nitrologist and pathologist resource help available.

According to an item in the January "Weed Preserving News," the National Lumber Manufacturers Association is mapping strategy to counter the latest building code discrimination against wood. A Kentucky law requiring nudist colonies to be enclosed by 20 feet high walls of concrete, stone, or brick. Glass bricks are also banned.

Chats From Your Home Agent

Symbolism Dates Back Thru Years

By ESTHER KIRMIS

The Saturday before Easter is the annual "Easter Egg Hunt" day for the young fry of Heppner. When talking with Mr. Bill Gentry, Heppner, we find this is an occasion for her young family and they look forward to it every year.

Jessalee Malaieu, OSU recreation specialist, has supplied us with some interesting history on the Easter egg.

Symbol of the Season—The Egg

From the pagan rites celebrating the return of spring to our Easter festivities the egg has been the symbol of the season the world over. The egg has been hard "boiled," colored and decorated, too.

It is said that the original purpose in coloring eggs was to imitate the brilliantly-hued foliage that came with the first flush of spring. In northern Europe the eggs were dyed red for Thor; yellow for Eostre, the goddess who lent her name to our Easter. In the early days of the Christian church, eggs were colored denoting the blood of Christ. Medieval English folk used red, blue and violet dyes. The Persians like the Russians, created elaborate works of art out of the intact eggshell.

Egg Rolling

Games and frolicking have long been associated with springtime and eggtime. An early English custom of rolling down Greenwich Hill at Easter later

nine large wheat producing counties in Oregon, who produce over 85% of the wheat, the referendum carried slightly over 70%. Morrow county alone voted favorably by over 90%. Umatilla county which produces about 27% of the wheat in Oregon voted favorably by 76%. The referendum was defeated by the 15-acre producer who has the opportunity in most cases to plant a diversity of other crops. In the wheat producing area they have one choice—wheat.

The Governor in making his decision, no doubt took into consideration the wishes of the producers who produce over 85% of the wheat. His judgment was sound by doing this and also considering the overall economy of the state. The wheat problem, due to its importance to the overall U. S. economy as well as Oregon should be considered on a bi-partisan basis.

was abandoned and eggs were rolled down the Hill instead. The egg rolling custom has survived, but now it is observed by children. Interesting, isn't it that the rolling of eggs on the green has become for this country a White House tradition? Then, there was the game of tapping eggs—when boys try to break one another's egg without cracking their own. And, egg hunts have gone on and on from antiquity.

Mystic In Eggshells

The mysticism of the egg carried over into superstitions concerning the eggshell. Folk tales relate that the Dalmatians were careful to throw eggshells as far from the house as possible to create a boundary line which snakes could not pass. Germans burned the eggshells because they believed that witches, who could not ordinarily cross water, could do so in eggshell boats.

Easter Bunny

Enter now the Easter Bunny. According to one author this superstition is possibly of Teutonic origin. From the Teutons comes the legend that through some supernatural power a rabbit could lay eggs on the night before the Spring Festival and at sunrise leave the collection of eggs at the feet of a joyous child.

All these tales and all the religious symbolism from 'round the world burst into full bloom in the Easter Eggs of our country. The egg is still the symbol of the season—the newness and fullness of life.

Egg "Springtime" Recipes

Since this is, indeed, eggtime, here are two recipes all designed to make the most of the many eggs which have been hard-boiled. Nothing hard about the recipes though.

EGGS IN HAM BLANKETS

1 cup fine dry bread crumbs
1 cup milk
1 cup ground, cooked ham (firmly packed)
1 tablespoon horse-radish
1 tablespoon prepared mustard
8 hard-cooked eggs, peeled
1 (11 oz.) can cheese soup
Combine dry bread crumbs, milk, ham, horseradish and mustard. Press 1/3 cup ham mixture firmly around each egg. Place coated eggs in a shallow baking dish. Bake in a moderate oven (350 degrees) for twenty minutes. Serve heated undiluted cheese soup over each portion. Yield: 8 servings.

Ullman Presses For Import Bill

Congressman Al Ullman (D-Ore.) meeting in Baker Sunday with cattlemen throughout the state, called for the earliest possible action on the cattle import problem. Ullman is a co-sponsor of legislation recently introduced in Congress that would reduce beef imports to the average of the past five years.

Speaking to the cattlemen and other interested groups at a public meeting, Ullman noted that nearly 70 members of Congress have introduced the Herlong-Ullman bill, and that efforts are now being directed toward getting

ting hearings as soon as possible.

"The American economy cannot afford an ailing cattle industry," Ullman stated. "Everyone has a stake in this growing problem."

The Congressman also met with key leaders of the Oregon Cattlemen's association at a luncheon in Baker Monday morning.

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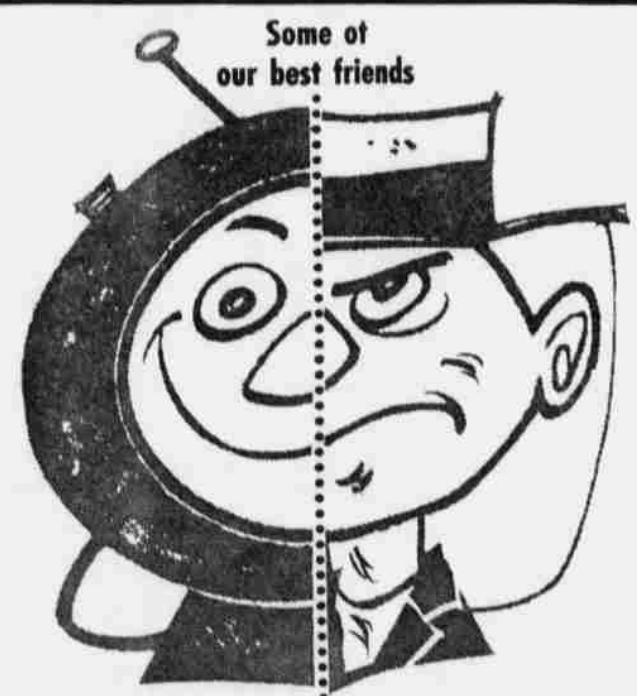
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