

# FARM NEWS

County Agent's Office

## County Extension Dates From 1918

By N. C. ANDERSON

The 50th anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act on May 8 which created the Extension Service gives us opportunity to reminisce a little on accomplishments state wide and in Morrow county specifically. In Morrow county we have had 11 men agents and 6 women agents that have "aided in difusing useful and practical information relating to agriculture and home economics" since the Cooperative Extension work started here in 1918. This was 4 years later than extension work was authorized on a national scale.

Taking information developed by research and showing people how to apply it to increase their income and to improve their standard of living has been a major objective of county extension agents over the years. The first county agricultural agent was Frank R. Brown who came to Morrow county on January 15, 1918. He stayed little longer than a year and was replaced by Lawrence A. Hunt who stayed 2 years and 2 months. Claude C. Calkins arrived in the fall of 1921 and left during the winter of 1923. It was during his time here that he did, I am told, quite a little experimenting with treating seed in the back part of the Gilliam and Bisbee Hardware store. As a result of this experimentation, the Calkins seed treater along with other farm equipment was "born." Present Dean of Agriculture and a Director of the Experiment Station and the Extension Service—F. E. Price served for a while in 1923. He was followed by Roger Morris who remained for 4 years.

Roger later became extension dairyman at Oregon State. Charlie Smith followed Roger Morris and spent 7 years in the county leaving in 1934. It was during this period that the old Triple A program got started and he left the county to head up coordinating work in this important program of the mid-30's, during a period of drought and depression. He later became county agent leader and retired as Assistant Extension Director last year. Charlie was followed by Joe Belenger who is known here for his work in pushing trashy fallow. He spent 4 years, leaving to work for the Soil Conservation Service in the stubble mulch conservation program in 1938. Cliff Conrad followed Joe Belenger from 1939 to 1944. Arnold Ebert was here until 1946 at which time I came. Joe Hay was employed for 4 1/2 years until this past January 15.

Women agents have included Grace Gadekers, now Mrs. Douglas Drake, Katherine Monohan, now Mrs. Homer Hughes, Mabel Flint, Maude Casewell, Beverly Bradshaw now Mrs. Charles Doherty and Esther Kirms. The home agent program was started in the fall of 1945 and has continued during these years with exception of a one year interval when no budget was appropriated. We will make further comments on the significance of the Extension Service to Morrow county in future columns.

Approximately 50 saddle horse members, their leaders, and some parents participated in a field day at the Wrangler club grounds last Saturday. There were 30 saddle horses on the

field receiving instructions and working through showmanship and horsemanship activities. Groups were divided into small fry with Floyd Jones in charge; Juniors with Charlie Daly, Intermediates with Everett Struckmeier, and Seniors with Gene Harryman. After a sack lunch at noon, Roice Fullerton gave an interesting demonstration on training a saddle horse to break to right and left leads. He also demonstrated care of the hoof which created much interest. During the afternoon the boys and girls participated in barrel racing, flag races, and ring races by small fry, junior, intermediate and senior classes. The 4-H saddle horse club leaders are really well qualified and do an excellent job in working with these small boys and girls. I think a remark that Roice Fullerton made during his demonstration fits well into the program. He commented that he had done a lot of riding from the time that he first started many years ago, but did not actually know much more than to jump on a horse and ride away. He commented on the value of horsemanship training that the boys and girls are getting through 4-H. I thought the field day was a real good opportunity for some further training.

Nineteen thousand, five hundred Eastern Brook and Rainbow trout were planted in 15 ponds last Friday. Those getting fish to various amounts were Jim Barnett, Ione; Elwynne Peck, Lexington; John Graves, Hardman; Bob Mahoney, Everett Harshman, Claude Cox, Jerry Dougherty, Fritz Cutsforth, Jerry Rood and John Hanna, Don Greenup, Hynds Brothers, and Dr. Tibbles in ponds at the W. W. Weatherford ranch. These fish averaged about 1 1/2 inches and will grow this summer at the rate of about an inch a month to make some good fishing in these ponds later this fall. Farm fish ponds have become real popular in Morrow county over the years with about 50 now stocked with trout and bass. Of interest to those getting fish was the new method of transportation which is being used by the Canyon Springs Trout Farm who made the deliveries. The fish which averaged about 1 1/2 inches were counted out into plastic containers before leaving the hatchery. They were put to sleep and a chemical put in the water to keep them from suffocating until they reached the pond. This makes a handy way of delivering and cuts down on expensive transportation equipment. As far as we could determine, there were no losses what-so-ever by using this new method.

Over the years, many wheat growers have been a bit puzzled by the differences in response to nitrogen fertilizers. Early experiences showed that nitrogen fertilizer gave quite a boost in wheat yields but decreased proportionately in comparison to the number of years that this fertilizer was used. This has led some to believe that there were other elements that contributed to the

yield and that these elements were used up as nitrogen increased yields through its application. Several wheat farmers have called at the office to visit about this problem over a past few years and some effort has been made to get some research in an effort to pin point the problem. As a result of this constant urging, the Sherman Branch Experiment Station has established plots using phosphorus, sulfur and nitrogen in various amounts; in various combinations. We have not been able to see any results in this work. This led some to believe that there were minor elements that contributed to the problem. In order to make an attempt to determine if this could be determined, Frank Anderson, Eightmile rancher, volunteered to set up a rather complex set of plots that would use these various minor elements alone and in combination so that they could be harvested next fall to determine effects on yield. Fourteen plots, 42x1,060 feet were established using chelated Zinc, Magnesium, Copper and Iron in one and one-half pound rates as well as combinations of each of these in various amounts. Across one end of all the plots an application of 1/2 pound of iron was sprayed. It will be interesting to see what has happened through this foliage application by harvest time.

Plans have been made to hold the annual Conservation Tour on Thursday, May 21. This is a week earlier than we have held it in the past, but because of the spring, the committee working on the plans feels there might be more to see now than later. Why don't you mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend? We will give further details as the agenda is developed.

By the number of rain gauges that have been sold out of the office this past week, some ranchers may feel that purchasing a rain gauge might contribute toward making it rain. Bob Peterson, Gerald Bergstrom, Dobyns Pest Control, Holmes Gabbert and Eb Hughes have picked up rain gauges which we keep on hand as part of the Morrow county weather observers program.

Ranchers, Paul Tews, Fred and Norman Nelson, Gar Swanson, and Walt Jacobs of the South lone area have done a real effective job of cleaning up fence rows and ditch sides where cheat grass, rye and other obnoxious weeds produce seed spreading into the field. Such a cooperative effort as this deserves much recognition. Using various rates of Atrazine, Simazine and Amitrole T a real effective job can be done inexpensively. Four pounds Atrazine with 2 pounds of Amitrole T applied during the winter months is the general recommended practice. If Russian Thistles and Sandbar are to be controlled, an early spring application of 6 pounds Atrazine, 2 pounds Amitrole T is necessary. With this higher chemical rate, spraying needs to be done only about half strength the next year in order to hold sterility in these



MRS. AL ULLMAN, wife of Oregon's Second District Congressman, was an enthusiastic observer at the recent kick-off of the Food and Home Fair, an exhibit of the various activities of the Department of Agriculture. Mrs. Ullman and Secretary of Agriculture Freeman are shown here discussing the various grades of American beef available to the consumer.

## Program on Beef Set at Pendleton

The Oregon Beef Council has been invited by the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce and the Umatilla Livestock Association to present a program entitled, "Beef Imports—a Threat to Everyone's Economy," Friday, May 8, at Gunther's Restaurant in Pendleton, according to Irvin Mann, Beef Council member.

Presenting the program will be Mann of Stanfield; Larry Williams, John Day, Oregon Cattle-men's Ass'n. representative, and Donald Ostensoe, Portland, executive secretary of the Oregon Beef Council. This program was presented last week in Ontario and La Grande. Other cities in which this program will be presented this month include Bend, Eugene, Lakeview and Klamath Falls.

The luncheon meeting will start at 12:00 noon and is open to the public.

Mrs. Kenneth Brenner and her mother, Mrs. Al Bunch, were in Walla Walla, Saturday.

Morrow County CROP-WEATHER SUMMARY Week Ending May 1 (Compiled from Oregon Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.) Soil moisture supply short. Seeding completed. Initial summer-fallow work nearly complete. Fall grain developing well in spite of cold, dry weather. Feed short, but many wheat farmers fencing pasture land diverted from barley under the wheat program. Ranges poor due to cold, dry weather.

## May 15 Deadline For Wheat Signup

May 15 is the deadline for signing to participate in the 1964 wheat certificate program, David McLeod, office manager, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committee, states.

All wheat growers should consider signing up to participate and be eligible for certificates and diversion payments. Price support is available to any wheat grower harvesting within his wheat acreage allotment.

Producers who planted within their allotment, or intend to harvest within the allotment, have already met one of the most important provisions of the program. The remaining requirements are to divert an acreage equal to 11.11% of the 1964 allotment and maintain his normal conserving acreage for the farm. For these requirements, the participating farmer will receive price support loans for his production, plus marketing certificates valued at \$70 for 45% of his normal production and certificates valued at \$25 for 45% of his farm normal production. A diversion payment would be earned on acres diverted from production, also.

Every wheat producer should be sure of his choice before May 15, and if he chooses, be signed up to participate.

## '64 Price Support 'Eligibility' Told

Winter wheat producers who kept their 1964 crop wheat acreage within the farm's allotment have already qualified for a price-support loan or purchase for this year's crop, David McLeod, office manager, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee, said today.

Eligibility for price-support loans and purchases on the 1964 wheat crop will be determined only on the basis of the wheat acreage on each individual farm, McLeod explained, and not—as previously announced—on the basis of wheat acreage on other farms in which the producer has an interest.

The adjustment of program provisions in connection with administration or price supports for 1964-crop wheat followed discussions at mid-April meetings which were held throughout production areas to get the new wheat program under way.

As now provide wheat produced on any farm on which the 1964 wheat acreage is within the farm allotment will be eligible for a price-support loan or purchase, based on a national average of \$1.30 a bushel.

Thus, a wheat producer who was eligible for a price-support loan (or purchase) for his 1964 crop before enactment of the new legislation is still eligible for the new higher support.

More ranchers could follow the practice that these four ranchers have carried out. This does not mean that there are not others but such a joint agreement does much to protect their investment from weeds spreading from the neighbor.

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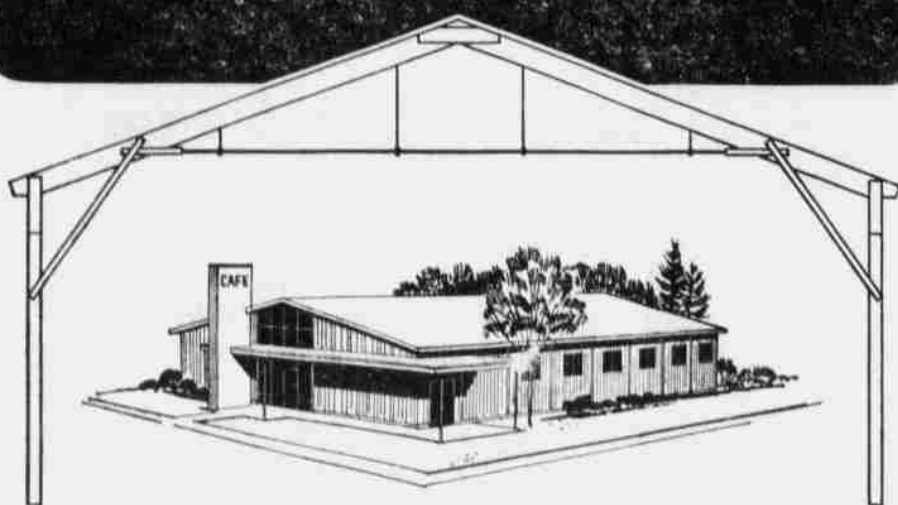
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