



FARM NEWS

County Agent's Office

Soil, Seed Loss Heavy In County After Flooding

By N. C. ANDERSON

County extension officers, like many other agency officers during the past 10 days, have been operating on an emergency basis to assist with the many problems brought about by flooding conditions throughout the state.

Reports are that Morrow county might have been the least affected of most counties in the state. We have, however, had our share of responsibilities in assisting with the overall program and in passing on information to those who needed it.

One of the most difficult jobs was that of determining a figure of damage sustained here to add to Governor Mark Hatfield's state total which was necessary to be eligible for disaster emergency funds and programs which involve federal help. One of the most difficult estimates that was needed was not only the immediate, but the long-time effect upon the economy of the county.

While many contacts were made with community leaders and others who might be in a position to assist, it was difficult to arrive at a figure which would respect the value of soil losses and their immediate and long-time effects upon the crop yields.

Many whom I contacted agreed that it would be quite hard to determine actual losses and effects of the flooding waters until a more thorough study could be made and until work actually began on cleaning debris, shaping up fields, reseeding whole fields or areas as needed, which would depend a lot on the weather from here on out, actual structural damage to bridges and roads, including county, state and railroad. No two persons would seem to agree on the figures which might be used.

Ralph Richards, work unit con-

servationalist, Soil Conservation Service, commented after the storm that while there was considerable soil erosion under almost every condition in the county, conservation practices which employed strip cropping, diversion ditches and stubble mulch in a combination was the most effective in holding the soil. While there was much washing in summer fallow strips that have no cover, much of this soil was retained on stubble strips filtering the silt as it moved off of the bare summer fallow.

We have made these observations in the past when erosion conditions such as was present last week have occurred. It is surprising the amount of erosion that has occurred on the level land in north Morrow county with water erosion. Some ranchers are expected to reseed entire acreages in that area due to erosion in furrows which have washed out the wheat where silt deposits in other furrows cover the seed an extra 3 or 4 inches making it almost impossible for the seedling to make its way through unless the most ideal conditions prevail from now on out.

This led to many calls at the office for available spring seed. While Morrow county appeared to be in a real good position as far as available seed was concerned, this picture has changed overnight. Our local seed supply has been reduced also by demands from neighboring counties who have not been able to get their fall seeding done and who have contracted spring wheat feeling that they would need it to complete seeding.

I would suggest that those who have not lined up spring wheat, do so at once. There is still a fair quantity on hand here which I predict will not last long. Many in north Morrow county are hoping for an open spell which will provide the opportunity to seed winter wheat. Merrill Oveson, superintendent of Pendleton branch experiment station, says that his experience at that station and at the Moro station for many years has been that winter wheat can be seeded up until February 15 and still result in higher yields than could be expected from spring seeded varieties.

Glenn Campbell, county ASC committee member, in making survey of conditions in the Alpine and Buttercreek Junction area as a part of our report on conditions, indicated that ranchers in that area were about "50-50" on whether they would need to reseed or not. Some are planning to reseed entirely, others are undecided, and some feel that they can spot in areas that were hurt the most. Again, there was a feeling that they would need to wait and if ideal weather conditions prevailed that less seeding would need to be done.

Glenn was quite concerned with the possibility of blows which might get started in silt

Portland to Host National Meet; Freeman to Speak

Many Morrow county wheat growers will take advantage of the annual convention of the National Association of Wheat Growers in Portland next week and participate in the decisions that are to be made there. While many have made reservations for January 5, 6, 7 and 8, some may not have the program at this time.

Briefly, the event gets underway Tuesday, January 5, with five standing committees meeting from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

On January 6, there will be a welcome address with a key-note address from Congressman Graham Purcell who is chairman of the wheat sub-committee. During the afternoon there will be a general session on market development and Dorothy Jacobson, assistant secretary of agriculture for internal affairs, will be speaker. There will be a panel discussion on key decisions affecting wheat exports also that day.

On January 7, general sessions of committees will be held with related speakers. The annual banquet will be held that evening with Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman as speaker.

A report of committees will be given on Friday, January 8. All sessions will be held in the Sheraton hotel.

deposits if the right conditions would prevail. Wind such as we had late last winter might cause considerable soil erosion unless the ground was worked up.

County Road Damage Estimate Set at About \$150,000
"Doc" Sherer, county road master, put his entire crew to making a survey for an estimate of road damage late last week and came up with a figure of about \$150,000 damage. No definite figure in dollars and cents was available from the State Highway and railroad people as they were still surveying their losses.

Several ranchers on the creek bottoms including Lewis Halvorsen, lone, and Kenneth Palmer, Lexington, felt that while actual damage figures were hard to estimate that there would be considerable work to be done on irrigated creek bottoms including cleaning up debris, working mud out of alfalfa stands, some re-leveling, ditch work, channel work including fills and dikes and repairing irrigation dams on the creek. The Halvorsens had considerable cutting on newly leveled land as well as a great loss of roads throughout their wheat land.

Herb Hynd, Cecil, estimated \$4,000 damage to ditches, dams, flumes, fencing and reclaiming fields.

Emergency Flood Fact Sheets Are Available
While actual damage to homes was slight here, we have had some inquiry at the office on what to do in cleaning up electrical appliances, furniture and other types of damage. The Oregon State University Extension Service publication staff has been working on a 24-hour basis to provide the information which might be most pertinent at this time.

There may be some in Morrow county who would be interested in copies of 13 separate emergency flood fact sheets which are available at our office. They include first aid for wooden floors, for clothing; home electrical equipment and appliances; bedding and household linens; rugs; smooth surface floor covering; salvaging furniture; household metals; walls; cleaning electric generators and motors; tractor and implement cleaning; leather and books and family papers; repair your house and farm building after the

Chats With Your Home Agent

Post-flood Care of Food And Furnishings Given

By DONNA GEORGE

As the water reached several homes and basements in the lone and Cecil areas, we've had inquiries from homeowners for information on use of flood damaged foods and water and clean-up of floors, household equipment and furniture.

Some cautions for flood clean-up are printed in this issue. In addition, our office has received a supply of leaflets from Oregon State University on post-flood care of household and farm equipment. We urge you to contact the county extension office for this information or other help we can give.

If Basement is Flooded
Unless prompt action is taken, some equipment and furnishings may be ruined. The following are household first aid formulas from the OSU extension service:

1. Disconnect all appliances and inspect individually before switching them on. Call in an electrician immediately to check the entire wiring system and equipment for any short circuits. Some heating appliances may be all right to use after cleaning and drying out completely.

2. Electric motors should be cleaned and inspected by an electrician before the current is turned on.

3. Flood-stained clothing and other household fabrics also require special treatment. First step in removing flood stains is to rinse the articles several times in cool water. When no more dirt can be rinsed out, the articles should be washed in warm soap suds.

4. Waterlogged rugs and carpets should be dried thoroughly before any attempt is made to clean them.

5. To rid floors of the flood smell, scrub with hot, soapy water followed by a clear rinse to which a sodium hypochlorite

solution has been added. Commercial solutions on the market include Purex, Clorox, B-K Solution and others. Use two tablespoons full to a gallon of rinse water.

Food Precautions
Food, drugs, or cosmetics which have been covered by floodwaters are potentially dangerous.

Families can help prevent typhoid and other dangerous diseases in the following ways:
Fresh and Packaged Foods: Destroy loose-skinned fresh fruits and vegetables, foods, medicines, and cosmetics in cardboard containers and other packages that are not hermetically sealed which have been in contact with floodwaters. This includes flour, cereals, and other commodities in bags or packages.

Fresh fruit and vegetable products which have an impervious or watertight peel or skin may be used if washed with detergent and water, rinsed in clear water and finally rinsed in clear chlorine solution. (3 tablespoons of hypochlorite bleach in 4 gallons of water).

If fruits or vegetables are to be cooked at boiling temperatures before being used, a thorough washing in soapy water and rinsing in clear water will be sufficient.

Bottled foods: Destroy the contents of crown-capped bottles and screw-top glass bottles, if the containers have been covered by flood waters.

Canned Foods: Experience has shown the only flood-damaged foods entirely safe for salvage are those in sealed containers. Such containers, however, should be carefully cleaned and disinfected before opening.

Inspect cans and lids of glass jars. Destroy any which bulge or leak.

Remove labels and wash containers in warm water containing soap or synthetic detergent.

Immerse containers for at least 2 minutes in a solution made by mixing 2 tablespoons of a 5 per cent sodium hypochlorite household bleach—Clorox, Purex, etc.—with a gallon of water. Rinse in clean water; to prevent

corrosion of the metal. Dry cans to prevent rusting.

Examine each glass jar separately. If the seal is still good, the food inside is safe. If the seal is broken, the food must be destroyed.

Frozen Foods: If the freezer is kept tightly closed, spoilage may not start for at least three days. If ice crystals are still in the food, it is usually safe to refreeze it. The quality may suffer.

Before using any of the food, be sure to follow the rule of boiling all non-acid vegetables for at least 10 minutes, both canned and frozen, before eating. Never taste to discover spoilage. All canned meats should be given comparable treatment.

If the freezer has been covered with flood water, the safest procedure is to dispose of all the food in the freezer. Do not dispose of it where chickens or animals will have access to it. Burn it or bury it deeply in the soil.

Milk and Water Can Be Health Hazard After Flood
Flash floods can be a safety hazard even after the water recedes! The high water may have contaminated water or milk supplies, cautions the OSU Extension Service.

The following measures in areas hit by floods are advised:
Pasteurize all milk and boil all water until positive assurance is received from health authorities that danger of contamination is past.

To pasteurize milk, heat it to 170 degrees Fahrenheit, then cool immediately. Or heat the milk to 145 degrees and hold it there for 30 minutes. If a thermometer is not available, bring the milk to a boil, then cool immediately.

Boil water for 10 minutes for all uses about the house including brushing teeth, washing dishes or foods.

Coffee and tea are only safe when made with water that has been boiled for 10 minutes.

If large quantities of water are required, or boiling is inconvenient because of power failures, use the following method of treatment:

Treat the water with ordinary liquid household chlorine bleach. The bleach, such as Purex, Clorox, etc., should be of approximately 5% strength. Add one tablespoon to each five gallons of water. Allow the mixture to stand for 30 minutes before using. Bottled bleaches that are improperly stoppered or sealed lose their strength. Be sure the bleach is fresh and full strength.

Cecil Club Elects Officers For Year

Bee's Busy Buddies 4-H club of Cecil held its first meeting of this year Saturday, December 19. They met at the home of Mrs. Ewing Hynd, the club's leader, to elect officers and discuss projects of members for this year.

The officers elected were Jane Krebs, president; Marlene Magill, vice-president; Clint Krebs, secretary, and Gary Thomas, club reporter. This year's club project is learning to be a good homemaker. Individual projects for the year are knitting for Jane Krebs and Marlene Magill and leathercraft for Clint Krebs and Gary Thomas.

—Gary Thomas, reporter

Testing Wells: A district health officer from Pendleton plans to be in Morrow county this week and will advise people on the safety of using water from wells that were within 100 feet of flooded areas.

Wells should be tested after the flood water has receded and the well has been cleaned and disinfected. In order to avoid recontamination of water samples, health officials ask that only authorized collectors take the water samples.

Disinfecting Wells: Dug wells should be thoroughly pumped out and allowed to refill. Then add one pint of sodium hypochlorite solution (common household bleach) per 100 gallons of water. (One cubic foot of water equals 7 1/2 gallons). Bleaches containing approximately 5% available chlorine should be used.

Well contents should be stirred with a long paddle and side walls washed down.

Then pump the contents through the entire water system until the odor of chlorine can be detected at each faucet. When the chlorine odor is apparent, the faucets should be closed and the solution allowed to stand for 24 hours.

For driven or drilled wells the same procedure is followed with this exception: the sodium hypochlorite is introduced into the bottom of the well through a long hose.



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