

# Fertilized Rain Science Weather Wonder

By N. C. ANDERSON

Precipitation is perhaps the least of the ranchers' worries at this time, unless it should be how much falls now while conditions prevail that could keep little on the land.

There is an interesting editorial in the December, 1964, Western Crops and Farm Management magazine. Many ranchers have no doubt read it but Clarence Rosewell, Heppner, called my attention to it several weeks ago. For those who have the December issue at hand it would be worthwhile reading.

For those who might have misplaced their copy or are not a subscriber, the editorial comments on a series of atmospheric experiments that are being carried out far up in the Pyrenees Mountains of France which may affect the future of every farmer of this nation and the world.

The editor points out that a French physicist has succeeded in seeding fertilizer into the resultant rainfall. The fertilizer was produced by volatilizing a ton of ammonia in the center of a meteorite, a giant heat generating device.

The Frenchman is devoting his life to manufacturing clouds, making rain, creating tornadoes and pursuing a dangerous and exciting scheme to tame lightning. His experiments were started years ago and his research led to the discovery of sodium chloride crystals and their part in producing rain.

The editor ends his column with this comment: "The ramifications to agriculture are endless—and some scientific observers believe that the time is not too far distant when it will be easier to control the weather than to predict it."

### Top Spring Wheat Varieties Compared for Best Yield

During the past few weeks there have been many calls at the office to discuss reseeding wheat fields that are undoubtedly going to need reseeding as a result of the past months weather. In these discussions, there are questions on the seeding of winter wheat, cut-off dates and comparison of various spring wheat varieties.

Most everyone agrees that even under the best of conditions yields are reduced when growing a spring variety. Some ranchers have done exceedingly well the last few years, whether these years have been normal or not, with Idaed and Idaed 59. This variety seems to have the ability for greater yields than other varieties we have grown in the past.

As we have stated in a prior column, results show that winter wheat varieties can be safely seeded until February 15 and maintain yields as good or better

than spring wheat. Several have called giving the experiences of their neighbors or reports they have heard from neighboring counties that winter wheats have been successfully seeded even in April. Seeding winter wheat after February 15 is a "gamble" and I believe that most people would rather not take this chance with their crop.

In the case of spring wheat varieties, there are five of which there seems to be varying amounts of seed available. The old standby, Federation, is the one that we use as a comparison, while Idaed has been real popular the last few years and most of our acreage has been seeded to this. Orfed, which is a variety seeded commonly in late fall or spring, is well known in Morrow county.

While we do not have any information on field yields of these varieties, we do have a summary of yield data tested in Northeastern Oregon over a number of years in several nurseries. Average of these showed Federation at 100%. Marfed with a 3 1/2 bushel higher yield and 106% of Federation. Idaed 98%, Baart, 97%, and Orfed 89% of Federation. Our experience has been that Idaed has out yielded Federation here. At the Pendleton Branch Experiment Station, the highest yielder was Marfed with 40.4 bushels per acre, Idaed 30.0, Federation 39.2, Orfed 36.1, Baart 34.7.

As these inquiries come in there is much controversy over spring wheat prices. There are almost as many prices as there are sellers, however, it depends upon the variety, purity of the seed, which includes whether it is certified or uncertified. I think it is well to remember that when you buy seed, these growers that have clean seed have spent considerable time in regulating fields, keeping it clean. It must be remembered that they have the seed and you are the buyer. A lot of us could put ourselves in their position when it sounds as though they might be asking too great a premium for this seed.

### Care and Feed of Lambs Important to Good Growth

Providing supplemental feed to lambs while they are nursing will help bring them to slaughter condition more quickly and will probably result in a higher net return per ewe. The lamb creep should be in an area where ewes tend to congregate either in a shelter, loafing grounds, feeding grounds or near water. The feeder should be protected from the weather, as well as constructed so the lambs cannot get into the feed trough with their feet. Some digestive disturbances in young lambs may be a result of lambs getting into feeders

with dirty feet. By all means, the creep area should be enclosed so that ewes cannot get to the feed.

Feed for lambs should be relatively high in protein. Soy bean oil meal is the most palatable protein supplement. Feed can be mixed one part soy bean oil meal supplement and 10 parts of grain. It is not necessary to grind the grain for lambs, however, there may be a separation of the feed grains from the oil if the feed is not ground or rolled. Fast growing lambs may be subject to intertoxemia or pulpy kidney disease. Vaccines are available and are successful in preventing these diseases. Linseed oil meal can be used as a protein supplement if white muscle is a factor. Linseed oil generally contains enough selenium to help prevent white muscle disease.

### Care of Poinsettia Plants Important After Blooming

We have questions from time to time about handling plants that were received as a gift to get more "mileage" after they are through blooming. At this time of the year, there are questions about poinsettia plants which might have been bought or given as a gift this Christmas.

First, did you know that the bright colored parts are not flowers? They are leaves or bracts. The flowers of this plant are very small and can be found on the growing tips of the plant. A temperature of 60 or 65 degrees seems best for longest life of a poinsettia. The plants should be kept out of drafts or places where temperature fluctuates quickly. Water only as the soil feels dry.

If you care to keep the plant after flowering, place it in a cool place and stop watering. About May 1, prune it back to a sturdy framework, replot in fresh soil, and start watering. When summer comes, sink the pot in a protected spot in your yard where it gets moderate sunshine.

Before frost, bring the plant inside and from then until flowering, give it absolute darkness from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 a.m. A closet or a heavy black cover helps with this. The least bit of light during this time will throw off the blooming period. Feeding at weekly intervals with a mild liquid fertilizer will produce a healthy green foliage.

### Examiner Coming

A drivers license examiner will be on duty in Heppner, Tuesday, February 2, at the courthouse between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., according to an announcement received from the Department of Motor Vehicles of Oregon.

# Training Class For 4-H Officers Set at Riverside

HOME AGENT NEWS  
By DONNA GEORGE

Did some of your 4-H club officers miss the officer training class at Heppner in December on that cold day just before the floods? If so, they are welcome to attend the 4-H Officer's Day to be held for clubs in north Morrow county. It will start at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, January 23, in the Riverside school at Boardman. Four-H leaders and other interested members may attend.

We have already observed improvement by 4-H officers who attended the December meeting. At officer's day they are given training in manners for meetings and officer's duties. This is a good time for reporters and secretaries to check their records and be sure they have the up-to-date materials needed.

Registration and name tags will be supervised by members of the Irrigon 4-H Community club. County agents and 4-H leaders who will teach the officers in separate sessions include Agent Nels Anderson, (presidents and vice-presidents); Mrs. Andy Skiles, (secretaries and treasurers); Mrs. Floyd Hobbs (song and recreation leaders), and Agent Donna George, news reporters.

The Milk and Steak 4-H club of Boardman will present a model meeting for the officers of other clubs.

### "Early Marriage" Topic For Home Extension Units

Project leaders for Morrow county home extension units' February lesson, "Early Marriage" include Mrs. Hazel Carpenter and Mrs. W. Seehafer (Boardman); Mrs. Louis Carlson and Mrs. Herbert Peterson (Ione); Mrs. Doug Steen and Mrs. J. G. Welker (Heppner); Mrs. W. E. Graybeal, Mrs. Elmer Zehner (song and recreation leaders); Mrs. E. B. Boyd and Mrs. Barton Clark (Rhea Creek) and Mrs. Douglas Drake (Pine City).

The lesson focuses upon the causes of early marriage and what can be done by parents, educators and other citizens who are concerned about its often unhappy outcome. The project leaders will attend either of two training meetings held by the home extension agent at which they will be briefed in current research, including a recording made es-

# Relatives of Parsons Greet New Arrival

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Parsons of Beaverton are receiving congratulations on the birth of their second daughter, born Friday, January 15, and weighing 8 lbs., 3 oz. She joins a small sister at home, Terri Lee, who will soon be 2 years old. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln Nash of Heppner and her paternal grandmother lives in Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. Nash accompanied their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Connor and small daughter Deann, to the Parsons home in Beaverton last week-end. The Connors also visited his brother, Keith Connor in Hillsboro, and his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Williams in Portland.

pecially for the lesson by Mrs. Roberta Frasier, extension family life specialist at Oregon State University.

The training meetings will be at 10:30 a.m. January 26, in the county agent's conference room, Heppner and January 27 at the Irrigon school. Other organizations wishing to send leaders to train for presenting this lesson are encouraged to contact the county extension office to make arrangements.

### Make Christmas Last All Year

Bernice Strawn, extension home management specialist at Oregon State University offers suggestions for keeping your Christmas presents looking new. Upholstered chair—first spray with a silicone product, then let dry thoroughly. You can get the silicone product at a furniture or hardware store. It won't affect the color. This finish helps the chair fabric shun grease from hair and hands.

Appliances—there's no better way to keep them looking new than to read the instruction book first, and follow the directions.

Silverware—keep flat or hollow ware in treated cloth bags which will prevent tarnishing, or in chests lined with tarnished resistant material.

Neckties and scarves—take these with you to the coin-op drycleaners frequently when you're taking a load. This will keep stains and grime from accumulating.

Nylon nighties, negligees and pajamas—wash in the machine with warm water and detergent. Use gentle action cycle if available on your washer. A fabric softener added to the last rinse is very important in preventing static electricity.

# Weed Problems Seen as Result Of State Flood

Flood waters are, unfortunately, a most effective spreader of weed seeds, according to Rex Warren, extension farm crops specialist at Oregon State University.

The silt deposited on flooded cropland also makes an ideal seedbed for germination of the weed seeds carried onto the field by the overflow waters, he points out.

Even though grass seed fields may have been sprayed with a herbicide as late as a month or six weeks ago, the water has probably washed away the spray material, or leached it down so deep it will not be effective. Warren advises growers of orchard grass, bluegrass, tall fescue, Highland and Astoria bent whose fields were under water to spray again with two pounds of Karmex (Diuron) per acre as soon as possible.

Due largely to the flood, this may be one of the worst weed years in some time, Warren predicts. He expects serious problems with weed such as annual bluegrass, bull thistle, Canada thistle, quackgrass, tansy ragwort, docks, and sheep sorrel. However, perennial weeds can be controlled as easily as annuals if they are sprayed in the seeding stage, he points out.

For grain fields and other seed and forage crops, Warren recommends spraying with 2,4-D or a combination of 2,4-D and Banvel D. These materials should not be applied until mid-March, when the weed seeds have germinated, since these herbicides do not have a residual effect.

A combination grass-legume pasture that is infested with weeds should be sprayed with one of the butyric formulations of 2,4-D, such as 2,4-DB.

Crimson clover growers encountering problems with rye grass or volunteer grain in their clover fields can use four pounds IPC per acre, until mid-February, according to Warren.

# Adults Take Bethel Bible Study Program

First phases of the Bethel Bible study program was begun last Wednesday evening by members of Hope and Valby Lutheran churches, according to Rev. Kenneth Robinson, pastor. The study involves a 2 1/2 hour session each week with eight to 12 hours of home work assignment, centered on study of God's revelation to man from Genesis to Revelation.

The ten trainees included in the class are Mrs. Elmer Schmidt, Mrs. Alex Hunt, Mrs. Pete Klingler, Mrs. Donna Bergstrom, Mrs. Kenneth Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Tews, Gerald Jonasson, Don Peterson and Roger Palmer. After two years of instruction, these teachers will begin the second phase which is instructing the remainder of the congregation in small group sessions.

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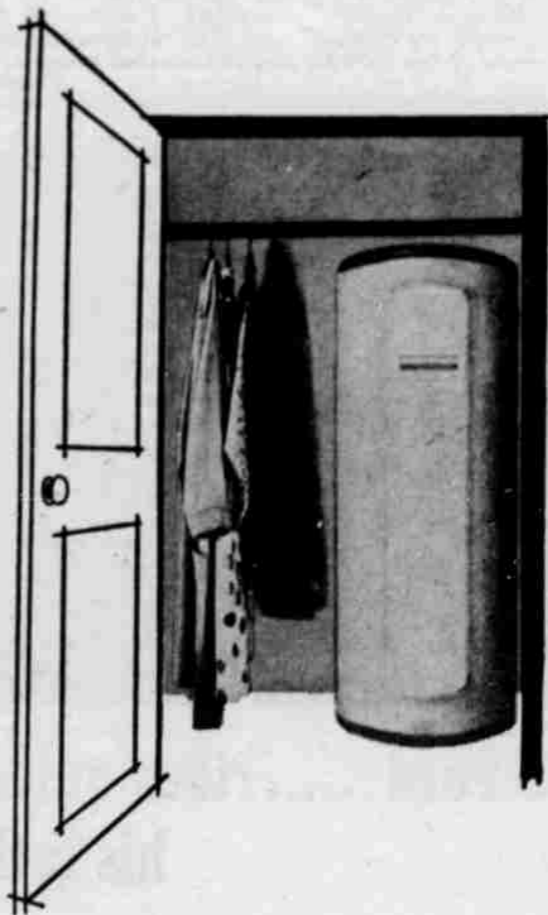
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