

# FARM NEWS

County Agent's Office

## Seed for Spring Use Is Still Available Here

By N. C. ANDERSON

Questions continue to come to the office about the advisability of seeding winter varieties of wheat in the spring. As I have indicated in past discussion in this column, we do not recommend these varieties to be seeded after February 15.

This past week, in discussing results of spring seedings of winter wheat, Ernest Kirsch, Gilliam county extension agent, told us of an April seeding of Gaines in 1963. While the fall seeding of Gaines yielded 50 bushels that year, Gaines seeded in the spring yielded about 20 bushels per acre. Federation seeded in the spring yielded 19 bushels per acre. Keep in mind this was one year's experience, 1963.

Dr. Charles Rohde, plant breed-

er, Pendleton Branch Experiment Station, reports that in 1962, wheat at the station seeded on March 9 yielded as follows: Omar, 23.8; Gaines, 26.7; Idaed, 43.6; Federation, 39.6 bushels per acre. Keep in mind that these are Pendleton yields; however, the comparison might be the same in differences in yield for Morrow county.

While we believe most everyone who is interested in spring seed wheat has made arrangements for it, we do have lists of sources of spring seed in Oregon and Washington. The main sources of supply are Marfed and Baart.

A few days ago we received a copy of the Washington State Crop Improvement Association news letter which listed quite a number of growers of certified barley and wheat. Varieties listed were barley: Belford, Gem, Traill, Unitan, Velvon II. Wheat: Idaed, Idaed 59, and Marfed. There was also a listing of Markton and Park Oats.

### Special Report Is Strong Promoter of Agriculture

A limited distribution of special report No. 183, "Oregon's Agriculture is Everybody's Business," has been made by a number of groups, including the Agricultural Research and Advisory Council and Oregon State University. Distribution has been made to all banks, Chambers of Commerce, state legislators, junior and senior high school principals and superintendents, state and county officers of farm organizations, the Oregon congressional delegation and others.

The special report authored by Gerald E. Korzan, professor of Agricultural Economics, OSU, is an excellent public relations document. It tells a story of the importance of agriculture to the economics of Oregon.

Dr. Korzan points out that in addition to the 65,000 persons who work on farms and ranches, another 18,000 work at processing and handling farm commodities, 5,200 work at supplying agricultural equipment, supplies and services and 4,500 work at transporting and exporting farm products.

These 93,000 people in turn spend most of their incomes in Oregon providing jobs and retailing commerce in the profes-

# District Works on Watershed Control



THIS AERIAL PHOTO, reprinted here through courtesy of the East Oregonian, shows flooding from Willow Creek at Ione in the Christmas flood. Much of the water came from ramming Rhea creek converging with Willow Creek. Water on the northeast side of town was also fed by Rietmann canyon runoff. The proposed

Willow Creek multipurpose dam and the proposed Rhea Creek small watershed projects probably would have taken the crest off the flood and prevented the inundation visible in the picture. Both projects are considered important in the county's future conservation program.

## Flood Shows Need For Dam Project On Rhea Creek

By RALPH RICHARDS

As many know, the farmers on Rhea Creek met some time ago with the supervisors of the Heppner Soil and Water Conservation district to talk over ways of conserving the excess winter moisture and hold for summer use. An application was made to the Soil Conservation Service for a Small Watershed project (P. L. 566) on Rhea Creek. Under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act the government shares in the cost to the amount of 100 per cent of that portion determined flood control and 45 per cent of the irrigation benefits. The question then arose, "Is there enough runoff water on Rhea Creek to justify a storage project, and if so, how large?"

A steering committee was elected and through the continuing efforts of the committee and the supervisors of the SCD, a study is now being made to determine the water yield of Rhea Creek. Gauges were placed along the creek to measure the amount of flow of each of the tributaries to try and determine the location of a storage dam.

By taking a ride down the road anyone can see the need for flood control. This past Christmas week flood is considered to be one with the most extensive damage, and is thought by some to be one of a 200-year frequency, but we get flood damage yearly. Last year hardly a farm bridge on Rhea Creek was left safe to cross. The Small Watershed planning party reported flood protection on the five projects near completion saved the state more money than has been spent to date on all watershed projects including planning and construction.

The farmers living along the creeks of the county know the need for more irrigation water. They are still reading the signs of a short water year last year. They know water stored will cost money but some feel that flood prevention will more than pay the storage costs, at least some years, without the increased yield additional water will give. Ownership to the water, at a suggested price of \$3.00 per acre foot made by the Bureau of Reclamation for water stored in the Willow Creek Dam, may be cheap when water is desired in this state and other states at a price of \$65.00 per acre foot.

### Reward Offered After Horse Shot

Jack Sumner called the Gazette-Times from Corvallis Monday to report that a saddle horse had been shot on the Sumner ranch, three miles west of Eightmile. The wound was in the shoulder and apparently was not fatal.

Sumner offered a \$100 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the party responsible and asked that any with information call 676-9259. The horse was in the pasture when it was shot, he said.

## RANCHERS! SELF FEEDERS FOR CATTLE



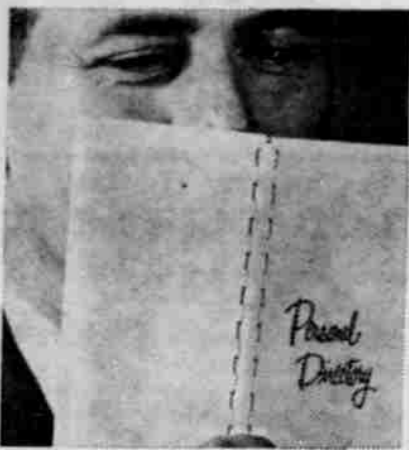
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RANGE BULLS BEING OFFERED ARE THE TOPS FROM THE HERFORD HERDS OF OREGON. THERE WILL BE NO SALE IN THE NORTHWEST WHERE THERE WILL BE THE SELECTION OFFERED SUCH AS THIS.

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Fairgrounds, La Grande

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED BY UNION COUNTY COWBELLES

Show At 9:30 a.m., Feb 10

Free Delivery Up to 150 Miles

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sions for many others. We have a few copies left in the office for those who might not have yet seen one.

### Applications Available For Sheep Shearing Course

It is becoming more difficult year after year to find sheep shearers, especially in the areas where small farm flocks are located. There is little choice anymore in selecting a sheep shear-

er. Because of this, OSU has for a number of years, offered sheep shearing short courses. These short courses are aimed at getting the basic principles of sheep shearing so that someone who had limited experience or is interested in shearing sheep might develop this as a business. This has been done in many communities and has been a real good source of income for someone who is interested in this seasonal job.

Again this year, these sheep shearing schools will be held. All will be held at Corvallis and are two-day events. There will be three to be held on March 15 and 16; and 17 and 18, and 19 and 20. We have enrollment applications which must be in by March 1. Anyone interested should get an application at our office.

### White Pocket Gopher Is "Trapped"

Lewis Halvorsen, Ione rancher, was quite surprised one day last week when he caught a white pocket gopher in one of his traps he had set out cleaning up some gophers that had slipped by when he had used the "Gopher Getter" earlier this fall. The white pocket gopher was not an albino as there were brown areas over each eye resembling somewhat a Guinea Pig. He brought the gopher to the office so we could see this "freak of nature" or a new breed of pocket gophers, whichever it may be!

### Annual Agent's Report Available

Copies of the 1964 Morrow county agent's report are available from this office. Those who are interested in having a copy for their files, might pick one up here. A few copies of the 1963 report are also available.

### Flood Fact Sheets Available

A number of "fact sheets" providing emergency flood information were mailed to many of our farm families immediately after the Christmas flood. There has been demand for other fact sheets which are now available. Those of which might be of interest to our people is one on "Feed Substitution Values for Livestock"; "Income Tax Deduction Due to Casualty Losses on Business Property"; and "Income Tax Deductions Due to Losses on Personal Property." These can be picked up at our office.

### Feed Cattle Increased 25%

The latest Oregon crop and livestock report on cattle and calves on feed show Oregon numbers are up 9% from a year earlier. It is interesting to note that the Columbia Basin and northeastern Oregon area of nine counties show the highest number of cattle on feed. There were 43,200 head on feed on January 1, 1965, compared to 34,500 a year ago. This is an increase of 25%.

### Hay Hits Top Income Spot

Hay ousted wheat from the top income spot in 1964, thanks to lower government support prices on wheat. The top 10, in order of value, were hay, wheat, potatoes, barley, strawberries, snap beans, pears, ryegrass seed, sweet cherries and oats. These 10 crops accounted for nearly \$3 out of every \$4 in Oregon's Agricultural income last year.

### Freedom from Hunger Proposed

Proposals are being made by important people in government for the purpose of helping the

## Oregon to Host NACD Convention

Something of interest for everyone concerned with natural resource conservation is promised during the 19th annual convention of the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Portland Sunday through Thursday, February 7 to 11.

Meetings, tours and special events are planned for the 800 to 1,000 delegates expected at the first NACD convention in Oregon, according to Elmer Peterson, Portland, president of the Oregon Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, host for the meeting.

Registration will be on Sunday, with the first general NACD session scheduled Monday morning. Meetings of committees concerned with the various areas of resource conservation will highlight the early days of the convention, Anderson said, with the second general session slated for Wednesday morning. The NACD council meeting, open to all interested persons, will be Thursday morning.

### Filing Deadline Set

February 1, 1965, is the deadline for Price Support Loans and Purchase agreements on wheat, barley, oats, and rye harvested in 1964. Eligible producers filing for loan or purchase agreement must make application to the county ASC office by February 1.

ing when Marion Monk Jr., Batchelor, La., NACD president, will make his report. Oregon Night, an evening of fun and entertainment, will conclude the day, according to N. C. Anderson, Morrow county extension agent.

Meetings of committees concerned with the various areas of resource conservation will highlight the early days of the convention, Anderson said, with the second general session slated for Wednesday morning. The NACD council meeting, open to all interested persons, will be Thursday morning.

Guest speakers scheduled to address delegates from the nation's 3,000 soil and water conservation districts, include Oregon Gov. Mark O. Hatfield; Donald A. Williams, Washington, D. C., soil conservation administrator; Bernard Orell, Tacoma, Wn., vice president of Weyerhaeuser Co.; Charles Stoddard, Washington, D. C., Bureau of Land Management director; A. Lars Nelson, Seattle, National Grange overseer, and U. S. Sen. George McGovern, South Dakota.

Special tours, luncheons and other events are planned for the ladies attending the convention which will be headquartered in the Portland Hilton Hotel, he added. Mrs. Peterson is in charge of the women's program.

Ralph Saylor, Echo, a NACD director, will preside over the Wednesday general session.

Lexington Oil Co-op

# ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, Feb. 9

Beginning at 10:30 A. M.

LEXINGTON GRANGE HALL

- Election of Officers
- Door Prizes
- Free Dinner at Noon Served

By Lexington H.E.C.

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**LOCAL MEETING . . . YOU ARE INVITED**

**MORROW COUNTY LOCAL**

Meets Tuesday, Feb. 9, 8 P. M.

Old Library Building, Heppner

ATTEND THE NEXT MEETING IN YOUR COMMUNITY or Write—

Bob Elkins, Pres., Oregon-Washington Farmers Union, 215 Front St., N.E., Salem, Oregon