

FARM NEWS

County Agent's Office

County-wide Fire Control Urged by Committee

By N. C. Anderson
The Morrow County Farm Fire Control committee meeting last

week praised ranchers for their enthusiastic interest in farm fire control methods and urged that educational activities continue to prevent a minimum of loss from farm fires in the future. The group appointed by the Morrow county court in 1968 has organized an effective farm fire warden system by committees and have continued to encourage ranchers to obtain fire fighting equipment and to use care in preventing fires during the fire season.

Originally, the group, through a small county budget, acquired surplus property which they developed into fire fighting units. Finding this expensive they concentrated on urging everyone to acquire his own equipment and use it wisely. County owned equipment has been located at strategic points throughout the county and consists of a 6 x 6 pumper with 800 gallon tank at the Walt Jacobs ranch south of Lone; Jeeps with 100 gallon fire fighters at Rietmann Brothers ranch north of Lone, and Roy Martin's in the north Lexington community; 100 gallon fire fighter units which are mounted on privately owned pickups located at ranches of Harold Wright in Ruggs, Darold Hama, in Hardman, Jerry Brosnan, at Buttercreek, Kenneth Peck, in Clarks Canyon, Don Heliker, at West Lone and Andy Van Scholack, in Heppner. Back pack pumps are located with each of these units.

The committee asked that consideration be given by all ranchers in equipping pickups and

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PICTURED ARE acting Governor Harry Boivin, Senator Glenn Huston, Rep. Robert F. Smith, Republican from Burns and Rep. Irvin Mann, Republican from Stanfield at the signing of HB 1797 requiring labeling of foreign meats. Mann and Smith sponsored the bill and Huston carried it on the floor of the Senate.

trucks with approved fire extinguishers pointing out that small fires which are not quickly extinguished many times are the cause of wide spread damage. Combines, too, can carry a fire extinguisher and suggestions have been made that a handy extinguisher for this machine is a discarded hot water tank equipped with an air valve filled with water under air pressure. Such a tank can be conveniently mounted on a combine and could be of much value in putting out small fires which may start at the combine during harvest time.

The committee agreed to request a \$250 budget this year from the county court to use in continuing this county-wide voluntary fire control program.

Beef Certificates Available

Mary Beamer, president of Morrow County Cowbelles, called a week or so ago to remind me that the new beef certificates are now on sale in Morrow county. The cowbelles are offering them for sale through the First National Bank at Heppner and remind everyone that a beef certificate is excellent for the occasional gift throughout the year. The cowbelles have done an outstanding job in promoting use of beef and should be given support and encouragement in this project to get more people eating beef.

Wheat Growers Executive Groups Plan Area Of Discussion

Morrow County Wheat Growers who might be interested are invited to attend a quarterly executive committee meeting of the Oregon Wheat Growers League which will be held on Monday, April 26, at the Condon courthouse. The committee meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. and will last all day. Executive committee meetings are held throughout the Columbia Basin in order that wheat growers might easily attend these committee meetings.

The April 26 meeting agenda includes items relative to financial considerations with a review of the 1965 budget, reports on Western Wheat Associate activities, 2-4-D research, formation of an area soil conservation project, grain standards and Pacific Northwest crop improvement legislation, national nutrition research, progress of plans for a membership drive, group hospitalization insurance and other items that might come up at the time.

There will be a joint no host luncheon at noon with the Condon Chamber of Commerce at which time executive committee members will have the opportunity to view slides recently purchased on foreign market development. It is reported that these slides are excellent.

Bob Jensen, president, Morrow county wheat growers association, has called a meeting of the executive committee for Thursday evening, April 21. This meeting, to be held in the conference room in Heppner, will be aimed at making plans for activities of the association in the weeks ahead which includes plans for a membership drive here, selection of Conservation Man of the Year, discussion on bills now before Congress for a new farm program, a review of last year's resolutions and plans for the annual spring meeting. The executive committee will discuss matters which might come before

the Wheat League committee on the 26th.

Grass Nursery Checked After Nine Years' Growth

A visit made to the site of an old grass legume demonstration nursery at the Bernard Doherty ranch in Blackhorse last week was interesting. The nursery, weeded on March 20, 1956, has been fenced from livestock during these nine years and is a good example of what can be expected of grasses and legumes grown in the area.

Thirty-two different grasses were seeded with four alfalfas. A heavy infestation of rodents took out the alfalfa in the early years. Mice tend to congregate in these nurseries and are hard on many of the grasses. Mouse damage is bad because the forage is not grassed and it makes an excellent nesting area for these rodents. The few grasses that are left in the nursery are therefore hardy ones that can be depended upon.

Grasses that can be found in the nursery in any quantity and are doing well are long stemmed wheat grass, tall wheat grass, Sherman big blue, pubescent wheat grass, sheeps and hard fescue. We would have expected Whitmar beardless wheat grass to have stayed since it is a native of the area but no signs of it could be found.

There is an excellent pasture of pubescent wheat grass just outside the nursery which is doing quite well under the heavy grazing. The small flock of sheep kept by the Dohertys as a 4-H and FFA project for Nancy, Becky, Maureen and Tony do real well by this pasture. They have had prime lambs at the Wheat League sponsored Show and Sale held at The Dalles in early June each year with no grain being fed.

Above Normal Rainfall Predicted

The U.S. Weather Bureau's 30 day outlook for April is for much below normal temperatures and above normal rainfall. Average rainfall for the past 35 years at Heppner is over 1 inch. With above normal predicted, our moisture situation should be excellent as we go into the month of May.

Work on Shear Cases

The Hardworking Bees 4-H club met at the home of our leader, Mrs. Williams, on April 3. There were three members absent. Cindy Ekstrom led the flag salute. We cut our felt for our shear cases and then sewed them together. Christina Lindstrom and Kathleen McElligott served our refreshments. Our next meeting is April 24. Cindy Ekstrom, reporter

Plan Demonstrations

The Ruralette 4-H club met March 25 at the home of Christine McCabe. We held the business part of our meeting and then each club member gave a demonstration that she is preparing for the fair. Refreshments were served by Mrs. McCabe, then games were played. Chris McCabe, reporter

Morrow County CROP-WEATHER SUMMARY

For Week Ending April 9

Soil moisture supply adequate. Summer-fallow operations in full swing throughout the whole county. Some late wheat being seeded. Grain and hay making slow growth due to cold nights and cool days. Fall and winter grain all emerged and in staling or lesser stage.

About 85 percent of spring wheat and barley seeded but not emerged. Still 20 percent of spring oats to be seeded. Fruit all killed from frosts and December weather. Asparagus slow and not yet ready to harvest. Most of sheep sheared; cattle out on range, though grass is poor. Cattle pastures and ranges growing some but still below normal.

Attends Tax School

Judge Paul Jones was in Salem last Thursday to attend a school of instruction for boards of equalization, sponsored by the State Tax Commission. He returned to Heppner Friday. He is attending the grand chapter sessions of the Royal Arch Masons in Portland this week on Wednesday and Thursday. Judge Jones is grand royal arch captain.

Examiner Coming

A drivers license examiner will be on duty in Heppner Tuesday, April 27, at the courthouse between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. according to an announcement from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

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