

County Agent's Office

Forestry Tour Holds 6th Graders' Interest

By EUGENE WINTERS
Morrow County Agent

Approximately 230 6th graders from nine grade schools in Gilliam, Morrow, and Wheeler counties recently attended the 3rd annual school Forestry Conservation Tour at Bull Prairie.

As in previous years, the Morrow county extension agent coordinated the planning for the three county groups participating and served as tour conductor.

The tour is a joint effort by federal, state, and county agencies, as well as private concerns and individuals, to acquaint youngsters with the forest, its uses and the nature of the forest community.

The eight stations of the tour were manned by Ralph Richards, William Fatcher, soil conserva-

tion services; Les Marks, Wheeler county agent; Bob Jepsen, local outdoorsman; Henry Dahill and Clinton Ray, State Board of Forestry; Jim Hilderbrand and Chuck Rouse, U. S. Forest Service; Glen Ward, Oregon Game Commission; and Dick Graham and Allen Nistad, Kinzua Corporation.

Sixth graders from Morrow county grade schools in Heppner, Ione and Irigon in attendance totaled 110 pupils.

Immediately prior to the tour, Sam Miller, district ranger, U. S. Forest Service, and Game Biologist Glen Ward related the planning and construction which have resulted in the facilities now available at the Bull Prairie recreational area.

Four Events Highlight Schedule for October

There are a number of events scheduled during October that may be of interest to residents of Morrow county. Four of these are:

1. The Pacific International Livestock Exposition at North Portland, October 9-17.
2. The Executive Committee of the Morrow County Grain Growers Association will meet October 11.
3. The Oregon Wheat Growers League Workshop in Pendleton, October 18.
4. The Oregon Reclamation Congress in Hermiston, October 21 and 22.

The reclamation meeting program is of particular interest to members of irrigation districts and water resources committees. Recent interest in irrigation development in the county suggests that there may be considerable interest in a report to be given by G. T. "Bub" Newcomb in the afternoon session on October 21. Newcomb will report on privately developed projects in Idaho ranging in size from 1500 to 12,000 acres. These projects have been placed in operation the past three or four years and feature high lift pumping plants.

The first of a series of weed control plots in grain was put out early this week on the Kenneth Turner farm by Don Rydick, and the crops agent.

The winter wheat and winter barley variety trial was planted on the Frank Anderson place by Chuck Rohde and the crops agent.

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FARM

Chats With Your Home Agent

County Home Units Plan Study of Food Spoilage

By DONNA GEORGE
COUNTY AGENT

Deaths resulting from food poisoning from canned tuna and smoked whitefish have made national-wide headlines in the U. S. during the last two years. In 1963 deaths from botulism, the most deadly type of food poisoning, rose to the highest figure in recent years.

The October lesson for Morrow county home extension units will be "Food Spoilage." The unit members will receive instruction on safe food handling to prevent food poisoning.

Some of the topics included are rules for food storage, recommended temperatures for storage of various foods, causes of spoilage, and suggestions for keeping food hot or cold as for picnics.

Colored slides developed by the Lane county home agent and health department will be used to illustrate the appearance of food infected with various types of spoilage.

The "Food Spoilage" lesson will be taught at each home extension unit meeting by Donna George, county extension agent. Other persons who do not belong to units but wish to learn more about food spoilage are encouraged to contact the extension office to learn where and when it will be presented. It will also be available for other group meetings.

Tips Aid in Selecting Top Quality in Bacon

When you shop for bacon, remember that bacon must have some fat to be good. The fat gives it the flavor and texture. You probably will find three or four levels of quality and price.

Top quality has uniform slices and the best ratio of lean to fat. Width and thickness are uniform, and usually there are more slices to the pound.

Bacon slices in the next quality grade have the same flavor as the first. But the slices are less uniform and may be less tender or slightly coarse in texture and may have a less even distribution of fat and lean.

Slices may be wider and thicker, making fewer slices per pound.

Bacon in packages labeled "ends and pieces" is just that. Ends and pieces left from slicing bacon. These are good for casseroles, soups, scrambled eggs, and seasoning other dishes.

You can distinguish between the grades of bacon by the appearance and the difference in price. A packer uses a different package for each type of bacon and puts his name prominently on his first quality, says Velma Seat, extension food marketing specialist at Oregon State University.

Buy only enough bacon for one week, she suggests, and for the best flavor, use within the week.

Store bacon in its original wrapper in the refrigerator. Bacon slices separate easily if the package is removed from the refrigerator a little while before using.

Bacon may be frozen for short periods of time without impairing the flavor.

Hunters Urged To Observe Ethics

The fall hunting seasons are here. Big game, upland game birds, waterfowl—all will be legal targets for the hunter's guns during the next several months.

And for this array of game, well over 300,000 hunters will be in the out-of-doors to enjoy the seasons to come.

Phil Schneider, state game director, extended his wishes for the best of success to this army of hunters, but urged all outdoorsmen to observe the highest standards of hunting ethics in their quest for game this year.

"We cannot condone unsportsmanlike conduct," Schneider said, "if we are to continue to enjoy the hunting privileges long traditional in Oregon." He advised hunters to watch their outdoor manners as insurance to continued public hunting.

Game is the property of the state, he said, but many of the hunting areas are on private property. Hunting on such property is a privilege, not a right,

and this privilege can be withdrawn by the landowner. Schneider said that a hunting license does not authorize trespass on private property and urged all hunters to ask the landowner's permission first.

Schneider asked hunters to be extremely careful with campfires and smoking while in the fields and forests. "We have an enviable record," he noted, but urged hunters to continue their fine cooperation to minimize the fire danger.

In regard to vandalism, the game director asked the cooperation of all hunters to report or stop any such acts noted. "Your cooperation is imperative," Schneider told hunters, "if we are to stamp this undesirable element from our ranks."

As a final word on hunting ethics, Schneider reminded all outdoorsmen of the hunter's creed—"To be Law Abiding; Respect the Rights and Property of Others; To be Careful With

Livestock Price Outlook Said Good

The old law of supply and demand will be a major influence on Oregon livestock prices in 1966 and the next three or four years, points out Stephen C. Marks, Oregon State University extension agricultural economist.

The prospective strong demand for meat on the part of American civilians and for the armed forces will cushion the price-lowering tendency of increased livestock marketings and larger meat output when they occur, Marks says.

Seasonally larger marketings of cattle and hogs along with record supplies of chicken meat are in prospect this fall. While this suggests lower prices, slaughter cattle prices may be no lower than last fall and hog prices should hold above the year-earlier level because there are about 10 percent fewer hogs than a year ago, Marks notes.

Feeder cattle prices will probably hold above last fall's seven-year low, Marks believes, because western range feed prospects for fall grazing are the best in many years. Feederlot operators may also be more friendly toward restocking after almost a year of positive feeding margins and prospects of a record corn crop and lower grain prices.

Cattle market prospects for 1965 indicate that total cattle numbers on Jan. 1 may be down from a year earlier, but feederlot inventories may be larger, Marks said. The beef cow population may not change much, but there will be fewer dairy

cows. If cattle numbers do show a decrease, it would be the first decline since 1957 Marks points out, adding that ranchers are likely to keep more cows and heifers on the range in 1966 in view of improved calf prices and greater abundance of range grass and stored roughage.

Feeding activity will probably continue at or near record levels in 1966, he writes, although profits from feeding margins probably will be slimmer. Prices of fed steers may be better during the first quarter than in the same period this year, but chances are that spring and summer prices will be less favorable.

Feed grain abundance is assured for livestock feeding during the year ahead, the economist said, with prospects of record production from 1965 crops pointing to a total supply larger than the past year. Only barley is expected to be in smaller supply.

This means that grain ration costs may be no higher than in 1964-65 and they could average lower, Marks said. Price-supporting loan rates are lower on all 1965 crop grains and lower freight rates are scheduled on corn, milo and soybean meal from midwestern supply areas to the Pacific coast.

Turning to hogs, the economist said that prices will probably drop some this fall, but still stay above year-earlier levels at least until next summer. Later prices will be influenced by the size of the 1966 spring pig crop, which will probably be bigger than the small one produced in 1965.

Lamb prices have averaged well above year-earlier levels so far in 1965 due to small marketings and less competition from other red meats, the economist points out. He expects that prices of fed lambs will probably develop about the same small seasonal fall decline

as in the fall of 1964. Profit prospects from winter feeding look about as favorable as last winter, Marks said, with lamb having less competition from pork. Lamb prices next spring will again be influenced primarily by the market supply and demand for lamb.

He notes that flock liquidation apparently has slowed in response to the up-turn in lamb and wool prices in the past three years, so that the early 1966 lamb crop may be about the same as 1965's. Even so, it is still likely to be smaller than any crop produced during the previous 18 years.

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