

# Proper Field Care Vitally Important for Venison

By DONNA GEORGE

The steady traffic of Jeeps, Scouts, campers and Hondas through Heppner these days reminds us that venison time is here. While homemakers are busy getting out their favorite venison recipes, hunters are reminded that selection of a good quality animal and careful field care and aging are of prime importance.

Expert hunters know the importance of cleaning and cooling the game immediately. Especially when weather is warm, immediate skinning is recommended for quick cooling. Do not drag the skin over the carcass or get loose hair on the meat as skin or hair can give it an undesirable flavor. As for any meat, bruising should be avoided and injured portions trimmed away before spoilage begins. Do not wash game, however, until immediately before cooking.

In transporting home, the following practices are suggested for keeping the meat cool:

1. Cook venison like low quality beef. Most game has little fat and corresponds in quality to beef carcasses with little or no extreme fat. The tender cuts, like the loin and rib, can be broiled or roasted. Round steak, meat from the leg, and the less tender cuts are best when cooked by moist heat—braising, stewing, or pot roasting.
2. Do not overcook. Deer meat has short fibers that toughen quickly if overcooked or cooked at too high temperature. Plan to serve venison medium to well done, never rare or overdone.
3. Use acid to tenderize. Vinegar, tomato sauce, and French dressing sauces are good for tenderizing venison. Cover slices or chunks of meat and allow to stand in the marinating sauces for at least 24 hours. Broil if possible.
4. Reduce the sugar in sauce recipes. Venison's natural flavor is sweeter than other meat. Sauces made for domestic meats may be too sweet. Use 1/4 less sugar.
5. Remove all venison fat before cooking. The gamey flavor is most pronounced in the fat and venison fat becomes rancid quickly. If fat is desired, ground pork or beef fat may be substituted.
6. Venison is a dry meat so add a moistener. Chunks of beef may be added to self-baste it or the surface may be covered with bacon strips.

The following bulletins on wild game care and use are available from county extension offices: "Treats With Venison," "Game Foods."

Such everyday materials as flour, water, food coloring and magazine pictures are used by Mrs. James Sampson of Athena to make clever posters, and visual aids for every occasion. Sharing her secrets at the Project Leader Workshop in Heppner, October 5, she brought inspiration to home extension unit members and 4-H leaders, looking for new teaching ideas. Stressing the importance of visuals in keeping attention of an audience, she showed how simple materials could make even a financial report more meaningful.

Mrs. Walter Wright, Heppner, showed examples of good sewing equipment and materials as well as offering many suggestions she has found useful in her years of experience as a teacher of clothing to both adult and 4-H groups.

"In foods and home management, we deal with problems all homemakers have to face," said Mrs. E. M. Baker, lone. She discussed demonstration techniques and challenged project leaders to make their presentations so appealing the audience will want to try the methods themselves.

Suggestions for getting along with people were given by Mrs. Warren McMay, Irrigon, as the focal point of her presentation. She also stressed the importance of effective communication and enthusiasm for successful teaching.

Rural families and city families are coming closer to one another in the way they spend their money, and if economists' predictions come true, they will come even closer in the future, according to OSU's family finance specialist, Alberta Johnston.

The reason for this trend is that rural and city families are now more closely associated in the way they live; at work, at school, and in their recreation. To illustrate, more farm operators work off the farm than used to be the case, and more farm wives have jobs or are looking for work. The number of farm children in isolated rural schools has been dropping, and older boys and girls remain longer in school.

With changes such as these has come a greater similarity in manner of living and dress. Expenditures of a personal nature are also becoming more alike.

As for food, indications are that the use of home-grown products by farm families is on the decline. Among other things, there has been a substantial drop in the number of meat animals used for farm household consumption per farm family, and in the volume of milk and eggs produced and used on farms.

Enrollment Needed To Assure Workshop

Any women who hope to take the home extension workshop in "Pattern Alterations" are asked to contact the county extension office at once.

While some entries have been received, the present enrollment does not make the workshop worthwhile and unless others are received it may be cancelled.

This instruction is available to any interested person except that they should have some experience in sewing with patterns to make the information meaningful.

# FARM

## Local Homemakers Give Demonstration Tips at Workshop

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## Specialist Urges Cleaning Cheat Grass from Fields

Wheat growers can avoid some real headaches by cleaning cheat grass out of their grain fields, according to Oregon State University extension farm crops specialist Rex Warren.

Cheat grass can be controlled through a new program known as "chemical fallow." However, if growers aren't prepared to spray their entire field, Warren urges them to at least spray fence rows borders and other waste areas which provide a source of field infestation. The cheat grass, or downy brome, as it is sometimes called, can be knocked out of fence rows with atrazine or Hyvar-X, according to Warren.

Cheat grass is a common winter annual grass in Eastern Oregon. It provides early spring pasture in some range areas. The rub comes when it spreads from range to crop areas. In winter wheat fields, it competes with the wheat for soil moisture and plant nutrients.

Agronomists at the land grant universities have tested many herbicides in attempts to find a chemical that will selectively control cheat grass in grain, without damaging the grain. So far they haven't had any success.

However, researchers have developed an effective measure, known as chemical fallow, to control cheat grass, according to Warren.

In the chemical fallow program, stubble fields are sprayed in late fall and early winter. The herbicides kill or hold back the cheat grass, so that it can be controlled through the normal tillage program. Warren points out that cheat grass which isn't sprayed often produces seed before summer fallow tillage is completed.

Recommended for use in the chemical fallow program is one-half pound of atrazine plus one-half pound amitrole-T.

The herbicides mixture should be applied between October 1 and January 1. Best results are obtained when herbicides are combined with at least 10 gallons of water per acre. Ground spray equipment with mechanical agitation has proven more effective than air application, according to Warren.

The extension crops specialist cautions growers that atrazine is a soil sterilant. If more than one-half pound is applied per acre, it can cause some damage to the following grain crop.

Application of one pound amitrole and two pounds 2,4-D ester between October 1 and April 30 will also suppress cheat grass growth. The amitrole-2,4-D spray should be applied before the weeds are six inches tall. Warren recommends this practice where fields are to be planted to spring grains. The grain should not be seeded for at least three weeks after spraying.

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## Hermiston Hosts Irrigation Meet Slated October 21

The current surge of interest in irrigation and the number of legislative moves underway on both a national and state level that could have some impact on agricultural water use and policies in Oregon should make the 4th annual meeting of the Oregon Reclamation Congress one of the most vital in the group's history, predicts Marvin Shearer, extension irrigation specialist at Oregon State University.

Shearer, who serves as Congress secretary, says the meeting will feature discussion of opportunities for new developments in irrigation in Oregon, and legislative moves that could affect these developments. The two-day meeting will start at 8:20 a.m., October 21, in the Civic Recreation Center at Hermiston, Oregon.

Luncheon speakers will be United States Representative Al Ullman, luncheon speaker on the 22nd, and Harold Nelson, Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation at Boise, on the 21st. One of the highlights of the two-day meeting will be a symposium on current water legislation, featuring State Representatives Irvin Mann, Pendleton, and Edward Branchfield, Jackson County.

There will also be several presentations on water development in Oregon, including changes and new developments in potato irrigation, potential for ground water development, and a report by G. T. Newcomb, Twin Falls, Idaho, of high life irrigation on the Snake River.

LaSalle Coles, Prineville, current Congress president, will preside over the annual meeting. Johnny Stewart, Klamath Falls, chairman of the legislative committee, will discuss legislative actions that affect operation of Oregon Irrigation Districts.

## Brand Inspections Showing Increase

More livestock requiring brand inspection were on the move in Oregon last month than any previous September, according to State Department of Agriculture brand inspection figures.

Department brand inspectors checked 116,997 head of livestock during the month and brand inspection receipts for the month totaled \$35,145.

Using past brand inspection figures as a guide for the estimate, the department now predicts the inspection figures for the year will total 1,159,737 head.

## Wheat Growers Set Annual Workshop

The Oregon Wheat Growers League announces that it will hold its annual fall workshop on Monday, October 18, in Pendleton.

John H. Welbes, executive vice president, said that the session will be used for discussing business of the various standing committees and formulating plans for the Wheat League's annual state meeting in December.

All Wheat League members and their wives are requested to be on hand, and prospective members and other visitors are invited to attend the workshop. The all-day meeting will be held at the Pendleton Armory and will commence at 9:30 a.m.

## Cattlemen Schedule Annual Convention

Donald Ostenson, Portland public relations executive and manager of the Oregon Beef Council, has been named general convention chairman for the 52nd annual Oregon Cattlemen's association convention to be held in Portland, November 4-5-6, according to William Marshall, Klamath Falls, president of the Oregon Cattlemen's association.

More than 600 persons are expected to attend this three-day convention. Headquarters hotel is the Portland-Hilton. The Oregon CowBelles, an auxiliary of the Cattlemen's association, will hold their annual meeting in conjunction with the Cattlemen's convention.

## 261,252 Tons Grain Checked for Export

Grain inspectors for the Oregon Department of Agriculture checked more grain for export from Portland and Astoria in September than any month this year, except April.

The September figure was 261,252 tons and the April inspections covered 296,267 tons. In August 208,840 tons were inspected.

Inspections on grain receipts in Portland dropped from 435,226 tons in August to 292,884 tons in September. Protein laboratory work also slumped in September, with 3,653 analyses made compared with 4,955 in August, which was a record month.

The Pendleton office of the grain division made 542 track inspections on grain and at Merrill inspections were made on 29,095 tons of grain.

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