

Constant Battle Fought Against Erosion



TONS OF VALUABLE TOPSOIL were swept towards the Columbia River in the winter floods of 1964-65. In this photo, taken at the Willow Creek golf course, one can almost see the soil in the turbulent waters. It was during the flood of January, 1965, and shows the combined flooding of Hinton and Willow creeks. Heppner Soil and Water Conservation district is working consistently to prevent the disastrous erosion that such flooding brings. (G-T Photo).

54 Miles of Diversion Ditches Dug in Past Year

By RALPH RICHARDS

Again and again heavy storms and snow run-off on frozen ground has brought home to farmers that a complete conservation program is necessary to hold and conserve their soil and water.

285,460 linear feet (54 miles) of diversion ditches were constructed last year—1127 acres of strip cropping established, but erosion goes on. These alone are not enough. If all could see the number of fields on which it was hard to glean enough soil to make adequate fill for diversion ditches I am sure all would plan more conservation measures.

Soils are getting thin, erosion patterns are deeper, storms are extremes so it is a matter of fact that all conservation practices are needed if farming in the summer-fallow area continues as a way of life. Oh yes, most farms will out last present operators, but this soil is a God given resource and many more families will try for a living from this land. Greater demands from this land will be expected generation by generation. "To each among us a share."

Maybe through a complete conservation program on every farm we can continue the present cropping system or at least prolong the final day. We have proven no single practice will do the job of preventing extreme soil loss so with this list of practices how about each farmer studying the list to determine how many more and which ones he can add to his present practices: Grass-legume rotation with grain-fallow, Contour farming, Stubble mulch type of fallow, Minimum, rough

and deep tillage, Grassed waterway or outlet, Stripcropping, Diversion ditches and Buffer grass strips. For range protection and improvements: Deferred grazing, Range seeding, Rotation-deferred grazing, Range proper and timely use, Water development, Stock trails, Fencing and riding.

Let each practice assist some other practice to become more successful in controlling erosion.

Tell the advertiser you saw it in the Gazette-Times.

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MAIN ST. HEPPNER

Irrigation Offers Possibilities In County's Farm Development

By GENE WINTERS

Throughout the West there is concern about the availability, importance and value of water.

No one measure of importance of irrigation in the total agriculture picture in Morrow county can be devised.

With about half the county area primarily suited for grazing, the livestock industry is important. Something like 35,000 head of cattle and calves and 18,000 head of sheep and lambs are produced on the county farms and ranches.

Irrigation has had a major part in this livestock output, chiefly in the production of hay and to a lesser extent providing irrigated pasture. A reasonable overall estimate would seem to

be that irrigation means a 100 percent increase of hay over that attainable without irrigation. This increase is one of the factors in the larger cattle industry.

Irrigation offers the possibility of a new agriculture with a greater variety of crops to choose from, including adapted specialty crops. Other benefits include diversity in the farming enterprise and extending the growing season where water is now the limiting factor.

Irrigated crops now offering good returns with average to better management are grass seed and peppermint. Other seed and oil crops offer the same possibility.

The livestock operation can

be made more flexible with the production of annuals, such as corn for silage and sudans or sorghums for pasture, hay or silage. Such crops can also be used in the rotation between alfalfa stands to good advantage.

Where processing facilities are nearby, potatoes or peas, for example, are good possibilities.

In Morrow county nearly 15,000 acres are irrigated. This is about four percent of the cropland. In Oregon about 1/3 of the value of crops grown is under irrigation.

In the western United States 12 percent of the cropland produces 1/3 of the total crops. Thus in the west, one acre of irrigated cropland is on the average the equivalent approaching

three acres of dry-farmed land. In a summerfallow area such as Morrow county, this would be nearer to six acres—one irrigated crop every year, compared to one dryland crop every other year.

Vet Gives Tips To Save Calves

Loss of calves during winter months does not always mean they are diseased.

Dr. Glenn B. Rea, state veterinarian, Oregon Department of Agriculture, pointed this out after the department had received numerous reports of calf losses.

Rea said knowledgeable livestockmen and area veterinarians report that many of these calf losses could be avoided by proper diet and good housing. He said malnutrition and dehydration are often the cause for the loss.

Discussing the calf losses reported this time of year, Dr. George Coburn, of the livestock disease control section of the department, pointed out that animals in the western section of the state are not used to cold weather and calves need special care in near freezing weather.

And, the older calf can be a problem as well as the very young calf. The critical time for the older calf comes at two to three months of age when he begins to switch from a liquid type of food and calf meal to grass and hay and straw.

Coburn said that if the calf is to remain in good health it is important that it be given access to all the water it requires so that it will help digest the solid food. He pointed out that the water needs to be warmed during the very cold weather or the calf may refuse it and dehydration begins.

Coburn said insufficient water or water that is too cold could cause the calf to turn down even the best food, which will result in malnutrition.

The veterinarians also reminded that good housing is important for young calves. This includes dry and an adequate amount of bedding, freedom from drafts and frequent cleaning to prevent accumulation of ammonia gases from calf excretions.



Lexington Oil Co-op

ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, Feb. 8

Beginning at 10:30 A.M.

LEXINGTON GRANGE HALL

- Election of Officers
- Door Prizes
- Free Dinner at Noon Served By Lexington H.E.C.

ALL MEMBERS URGED TO ATTEND

To All the People Of Morrow County

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A

Public Meeting

ON THE

Willow Creek Project

Tuesday, February 8

At 1:30 P.M.

IN HEPPNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

Representatives Will Be Present From The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers State Water Resources Board, and Bureau of Reclamation

The District Watermaster Will Also Be Present

An Attempt Will Be Made To Answer All Questions of Potential Irrigators And Others In Regard to the Formation Of The Willow Creek Dam. This Meeting is of Utmost Importance And We Urge Attendance of All Those Interested.

SEVERAL HUNDRED COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE PROJECT ARE BEING PREPARED AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE COURTHOUSE AFTER TUESDAY, JANUARY 25.

--Morrow County Court