

FARM

County Agent's Office

Organic Matter Important In Conservation of Soils

By GENE WINTERS
County Extension Agent

The importance of organic matter in our soils as a means of providing more fertility, greater water holding capacity, better soil tilth and a check against erosion is generally recognized by most persons concerned with soil management and crop production.

Soil nitrogen, being closely associated with organic matter, has pointed out the need for returning plant residues to help retain the organic matter in the soil.

In a recent issue of the Agronomy Journal an article entitled "Conservation of Soil Nitrogen in a Wheat Summer Fallow Farming Practice," with Merrill Oveson as author, reported on comparisons of wheat straw management from 1931 to 1964 on tests at the Sherman and

Pendleton Branch Experiment Station.

Treatments included straw plus manure, straw plus peat, straw plus nitrogen, spring burned straw utilized and fall burned. Wheat yields for 34-year average followed the order of treatments listed with highest yields with straw and manure; lowest yields with fall burning.

When some form of nitrogenous fertilizer either as legume straw, straw manure, or commercial fertilizer was added to the wheat straw before plowing, the results were improved nitrogen retention and increased wheat yields.

Fall Fertilizing Best

Fall is the ideal season of the year to fertilize alfalfa stands in Morrow county. The obvious advantage is ease of application. More important is that alfalfa, to benefit from phosphorous and sulfur fertilizer, needs adequate precipitation to take these materials into the root zone.

Phosphorous is not mobile like nitrogen and will not be lost through the leaching action of rainfall or irrigation.

Needs for phosphorous can best be determined with a soil test. When the need has been established annual applications are recommended.

Sulfur is quite generally needed on alfalfa throughout eastern Oregon. Include 20 to 30 pounds of sulfur in the alfalfa fertilizer program each year. Sulfur can be generally found with other fertilized materials (such as phosphorous) or in elemental form as gypsum. In general applying as gypsum is preferred to elemental sulfur.

Clover Mites are Unwanted
During the fall months clover mites frequently become unwanted household visitors.

Robert Every, OSU Extension entomologist, explains that these small, brown spider mites are common pests of clover or alfalfa and fruit trees. Sometimes they migrate from these plants and trees into the home and can be found around the foundation or window sill.

They can be controlled by spraying the lower foundation of the home and surrounding lawn and vegetation with malathion, diazinon or Kelthane. For best results spray an area of at least 10 feet wide around the home using plenty of spray. With a hand sprayer at least 12 gallons of spray is needed to treat around a two bedroom home.

Repeat applications are often necessary if the infestation is heavy.

Mites indoors can be killed with common insecticide aerosols. Do not brush freshly killed mites from curtains or drapes. If mites are crushed, they will stain fabrics. After the mites have been dead for a couple of days, they can be brushed off and the dried bodies will not cause objectionable staining.

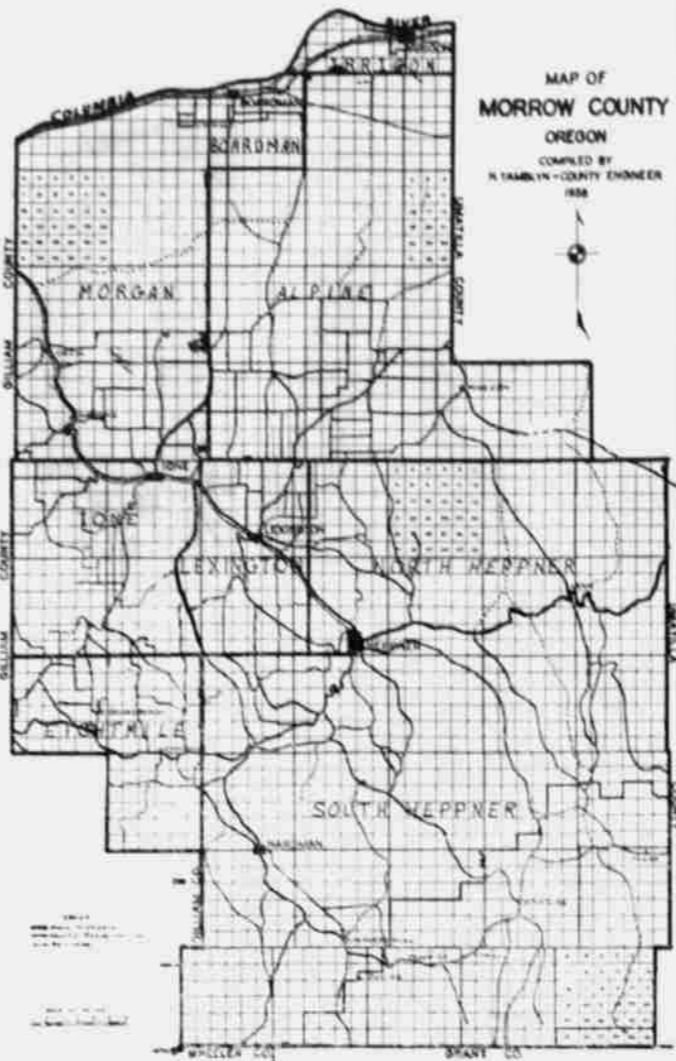
Spiders frequently become abundant around the home in the fall months and this nuisance can be reduced by using a chrolodane spray.

Domesticated animals also caused farmers losses. Dogs were responsible for loss of 438 sheep; five calves; 11 goats; 276 turkeys; 252 geese; and 53 chickens. Forty turkeys and seven ducks were reported killed by housecats.

In addition to killing sheep, bear killed one goat and mountain lions killed one calf. Adding to the farmers' losses by destroying their poultry were: Bobcats 238; raccoon, 382; skunk, 118; badger, 4; eagles, 3; owls, 38; weasels, 53; oppossum, 35.

In some areas farmers also suffered extensive losses to crops as a result of predators. Major damage was to 55 acres of sugar beets by groundhogs, with the loss estimated at \$38,500. There was an estimated \$1,044 loss from damage to 261 fruit trees. Damage to an acre of strawberries was set at \$576 and losses in seven apiaries listed at \$300.

Commenting on the predator control program, which the past fiscal year cost counties, the state, and federal government a total of only \$338,701, Nelson stressed the fact that it is needed not only for protection of livestock, farm crops and wildlife, but as a public health measure. He pointed out that nine counties had confirmed incidences of rabies in wild animals and an over population of animals known to be susceptible to rabies could result in an outbreak of the disease that would be hard to control.



THIS MAP shows the nine areas of the county from which ASCS committee members are elected. Three regular members and two alternates will be chosen from each community to represent producers during the ensuing calendar year.

ASCS Committee Elections Slated Soon in County

Election of Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation community committeemen is to be held soon in Morrow county. David McLeod, manager, ASCS office, announces.

Present committees will select a slate of nominees from eligible producers in each community, choosing those who are willing to serve as committeemen for the 1967 calendar year.

Nominations may be made by petition. Each petition must name one nominee and be signed by at least six eligible voters. A voter may sign as many petitions as he likes. Petitions must be in the county office by November 5.

"The county and community committees have responsibilities which include the conservation of natural resources, the stabilization of agricultural commodities, and price support activities which protect and improve farm income. We need the best possible cross-section of farmers to insure effective administration of the various measures," McLeod said.

Community cattlemen will attend a convention held to elect the county committee on December 9.

The county is divided into nine communities. Producers living within each community elect committees made up of five men, three regular members and two alternates, to represent them during the following calendar year.

Each eligible voter will receive mailed ballots sometime before November 18 with instructions on voting. Further details may be obtained from the ASCS office in the Gilliam and Bisbee building, Heppner.

Chamber Eyes Trees Along Linden Way

Possibility of planting trees along Linden Way (the highway) entering Heppner from the north was discussed by members of the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce at its meeting October 3.

President Harley Young said that all but two or three of existing power poles along the main artery will soon be removed, and trees could be planted in the holes left.

Gene Winters, county agent, said that both evergreen or deciduous trees are available.

"It's just a matter of getting coordinated on the project," he said. It was suggested that youth organizations and garden clubs might assist with the project. Cooperation of the city government would be sought.

The trees would help screen traffic from any unsightly areas and would enhance the entrance to the city, Young said. He turned the matter over to LeRoy Gardner, chairman of the beautification committee, for further consideration and report.

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Wheat Growers Busy at Workshop

By JOHN WELBES,
Executive Vice-President,
Oregon Wheat Growers League

One of the largest workshops of the Oregon Wheat Growers League in recent years was held last Thursday at the Elks Club in Pendleton according to Don Woodward, president. The morning sessions were highlighted by talks of Marion Thomas, Rex Warren and Dean of Agriculture Wilbur Cooney, all of Oregon State University. Marion Weatherford went into detail on the Agri-Business Council proposed for the state of Oregon and Milt Morgan showed slides of the proposed program for the Wheat and Wheat Foods Foundation. The committee recommendations will now go to the respective wheat county meetings for their recommendations to be considered at the state meeting in December.

The League fully endorsed the program of the Agri-Business Council, which is a program for commodity and allied agriculture businesses to help place the importance of Agriculture before the citizens of Oregon. This will be developed by speakers, furnished by the council, developing a movie to give the importance of Agriculture to the state, radio and TV programs, and programs for the young and elders, along with

other programs to get the story of agriculture to the people of Oregon. Surveys have shown that the average person does not know the importance of agriculture to the economy of the state.

The taxation committee is recommending that the League secure a man to represent it during the coming legislature. There are many problems this year in the legislature that will affect wheat growers. They also went on record that the League favor legislation that farm land will be assessed on its ability to produce rather than true cash value. This committee also recommended the League favor a closer re-evaluation of the authority of the State Tax Commission of its power over the county assessors and the county board of equalization. This committee went further to recommend to the counties that all school board elections be held at the same time of the general election.

The marketing committee recommended that 25% of the annual disappearance of wheat be set aside as an isolated reserve. This would amount to X number of pounds of wheat per person in the United States. This committee also favors the changing of the price structure from the bushel basis to the 100 pound basis or ton basis. It further recommended and urged that a standard and uniform inspection certificate be adopted and presented to foreign buyers, regardless of the issuing authority.

The Production and Land Use committee was very concerned about the money available for research, especially for new varieties that will more nearly satisfy our customers which must be brought to the attention of the Legislature this year. Not only this, but cereal disease-

es are a critical production problem in the Columbia Basin. At present, OSU does not have a full time pathologist to work on these problems and more research funds are definitely needed. It was announced that a new spring variety of wheat is being considered for release along with a more consistent yielding variety of barley.

The Transportation committee again voiced its support to the Pacific Northwest Grain & Grain Products Association to actively support the railroads in their struggle to maintain competitive rates. It was suggested that counties should study and consider giving solid support to the presently published port to port multiple car rates from points along the Columbia River.

The Domestic Wheat Utilization Committee recommended that a county cake baking winner would not be eligible for competition for one year if she had won the contest two years in a row.

Public relations urged that all wheat producers join, and unite in the voluntary membership drive. This money is used for expressing the League's views in many of the previous committee recommendations.

Addresses Feature Medical Meeting

Outstanding addresses featured the 92nd annual meeting of the Oregon Medical Association in Portland September 27-30. Dr. A. D. McMurdo reported after attending the conference.

Dr. R. S. F. Schilling of London spoke on "The Use of Epidemiological Investigation in Occupational Medicine," and Dr. Oscar Hampton, Jr., of St. Louis, Mo., gave three lectures on treatment of fractures. Many other speakers gave excellent presentations. Dr. McMurdo said.

Returning with him and Mrs. McMurdo for opening of hunting season was their son, Scott McMurdo. But the doctor reports that neither he nor Scott got a shot on opening week-end.

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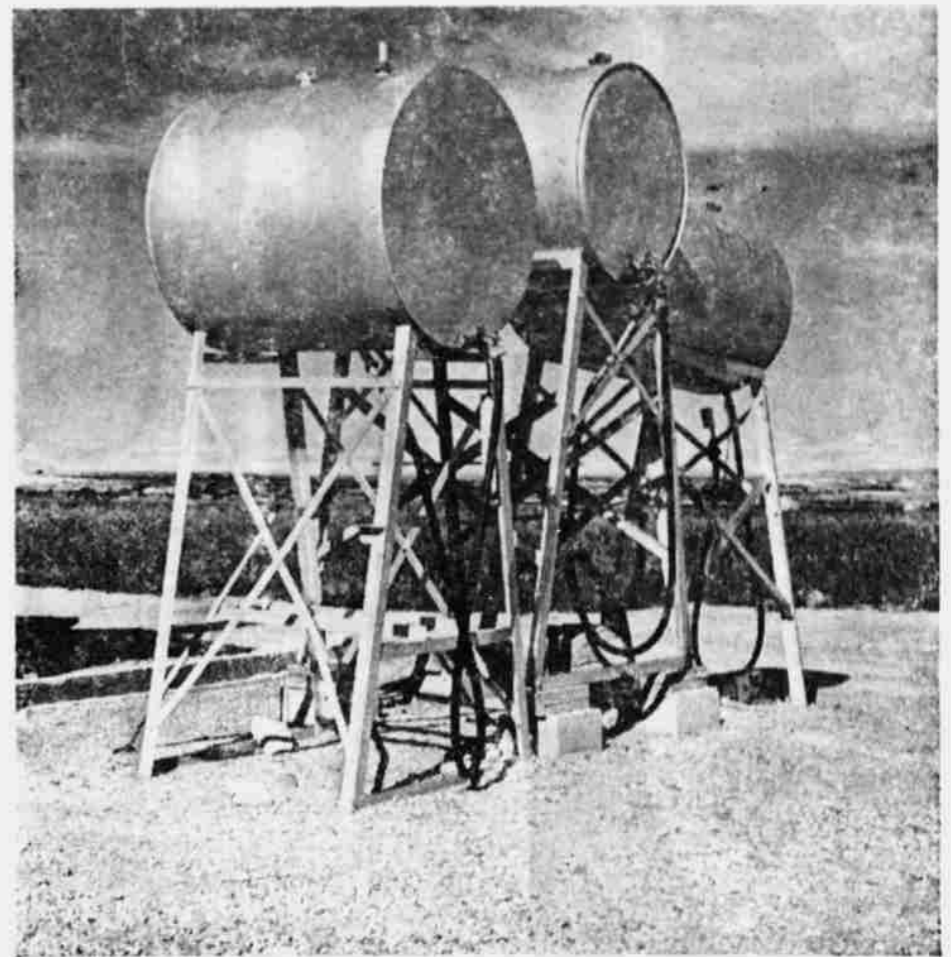
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