

Snow Lack Brings Gloomy Outlook On Water Supply

Farmers, ranchers, and other water users in Umatilla, Morrow, and Gilliam Counties, hoping for relief from the costly water shortages of 1966, will find little encouragement in the current snow surveys which report snow-stored water is now only 55 percent of the January first average compared with amounts about 45 percent of the 15-year average (1948-62) one year ago, according to a report released today by A. J. Webber, State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, Portland, and prepared by W. E. Frost, State Snow Survey Supervisor, representing cooperating federal, state, and private agencies.

Reservoir water supplies are encouraging for areas served from Cold Springs Reservoir but very discouraging for users from McKay Reservoir.

About one-third of the total annual snowpack is normally accumulated on the watersheds of this region by January first, but the current snow surveys now indicate only about half the usual amount is now ac-

Extension Given Cargill Elevator

The Army Corps of Engineers has granted a four-month extension of time for the closure of the Cargill grain elevator at Arlington, scheduled to be torn down ahead of the raising of the John Day pool.

In a letter to Arlington Port authorities today, Colonel Frank D. McEwee, Walla Walla District Engineer, said, "A review of our construction schedule previously requiring vacation of the elevator on April 15, 1967, shows a potential hardship for grain growers who will depend on the elevator for storage of the 1967 crop.

"This warrants a revision of our construction schedules in the public interest. We are extending the deadline for hauling grain to the elevator until August 15 in order to accommodate handling of the 1967 wheat crop."

accumulated. The U. S. Weather Bureau reports December precipitation was about 175 percent average but it came more as rain rather than snow because temperatures averaged 4 or 5 degrees above normal.

Moisture in the top four feet of the soil mantle under the snowpack has increased rapidly due to excess rainfall and unusually warm temperatures and has reached 76 percent of capacity compared with 68 percent a year ago on this date. Stored water in Cold Springs Reservoir was 24,200 acre feet on January first compared with 15,200 last year on this date and the average figures of 20,900 acre feet.

McKay Reservoir contained only 11,300 acre feet on January first compared with 24,500 a year ago and the average of 19,900 acre feet for this date.

Flow of the Umatilla River near Umatilla (provisional data furnished by the U. S. Geological Survey, Portland, Oregon) has totalled only 39,800 acre feet or 69 percent of the 15-year average (1948-62) from October 1, 1966, to January 1, 1967. These figures indicate the upper watersheds have not been sufficiently recharged since the 1966 drought.

Total winter snow accumulation in the Columbia inland areas will need to exceed average accumulation this winter by 45 to 50 percent to assure average water supplies in this region in 1967.

February Programs To Feature Speaker On Horticulture

Special programs on modern landscaping and horticulture guidance will be brought before residents of this area on Monday, February 6, by three men who have a vast store of knowledge and experience in these fields.

Claud Mills, horticulture workshop chairman for Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs and also a member of the Federated Nurserymen, will hold three speaking appointments here on February 6. He was also formerly associated with Miller Products, producers of home gardening insecticides and herbicides.

Accompanying Mr. Mills will be two other horticulturists, who are authorities on trees, shrubs and roses for this area.

After speaking to the Chamber of Commerce at its noon meeting February 6, they will present their program in Ione in the social rooms of the Ione United Church of Christ at 2:00 p.m., and in Heppner at 8:00 p.m. at the First Christian church. Refreshments will be served.

Both meetings are free to the public, and a good attendance is urged.

Plans for the special program were presented to the Ione Garden Club members, and supported at their January 10 meeting in the home of Mrs. Omar Rietmann in Ione, by Mrs. C. C. Jones, president.

Success of the club's annual Twelfth-Night project in which the Christmas trees of Ione were gathered and a festive occasion made of their burning, was reported by Mrs. Rietmann.

Various civic beautification projects were suggested by members and a committee chosen to select and develop one of these.

Mrs. Wallace Wolff was chosen to work with Mrs. Frederick Martin and Mrs. Bill Rawlins to stimulate activity in the schools and in the community towards entries in the many contest awards offered by the National Association of Federated Garden Clubs.

In answering roll call, members named some song in which a flower is mentioned, in keeping with the theme of the program presented by Mrs. Wolff, "Flowers in Music."

Recordings of such songs were played while refreshments were served by Mrs. Rietmann and Mrs. Herman Winter.

FARM

Safe, Efficient Record Keeping Aids Homemaker

By MARJORIE WILCOXEN
County Extension Agent

If you're one of those homemakers who can put together information for income tax returns in a few minutes, you're among the efficient minority.

But if you have to search through bulging envelopes, kitchen drawers, or shoe boxes to find those receipts for medical bills, income from part-time jobs, or what you paid for last year's property taxes, you need help.

The County Extension office has a new bulletin that gives tips on arranging, equipping, lighting and using a home business work area. Supplies to keep on hand to save time and steps are also listed.

Deciding what records and papers to keep is often difficult. The bulletin answers this question, and suggests the best place to file paper, and how long to keep them.

A safe deposit box is recommended for storing some papers, such as marriage records, real estate deeds, and stocks and bonds. Bank records, insurance policies, and property tax records belong in a safe place at home.

Papers that can safely be discarded in three years, or six years, or kept permanently, are identified.

A systematic plan for filing records and papers kept at home is one of the most effective "organizers" a family can have, it is noted. The bulletin, prepared by a University of Arizona home management specialist, will serve as a guide to setting up a home filing system.

Ask your county agent for a copy of "Home Business Centers" and be an organized homemaker.

WEEKLY FARM MARKET REVIEW

By STEPHEN C. MARKS
Agriculture Economist
OSU Cooperative Extension Service

Oregon Farmers Produce Less, But Reap Higher Prices in 1966

Most Oregon farm commodity prices, with the notable exception of livestock, lurched into the new year in better shape than a year ago. Total tonnage shipped a little to 5.6 million tons in 1966 but many crops carried a higher price tag and the overall value was 9 per cent higher at \$303 million.

Oregon farmers remained the nation's leaders in value of snap beans for processing, filberts, and several kinds of caneberrries and grass seeds. The state also ranked first in value of strawberries for processing, but was second to California in total value of the strawberry crop.

Hay remained at the head of Oregon's top 10 crop value list, followed by wheat, potatoes, barley, strawberries, snap beans, cherries, pears, onions and rye-grass.

Wheat Prices Up, Record Acreage Planned

New PAs issued to India and Pakistan helped boost prices of soft white wheat up some seven cents a bushel last week with export subsidies hiked four

cents. The USDA's December report shows Oregon wheat growers have seeded 997,000 acres of winter wheat for an increase of 30 per cent over 1965. This puts Oregon 4 per cent ahead of the national 26 per cent increase. Production data released with the report shows that Oregon may produce 33,890,000 bushels of winter wheat this summer, 37 per cent more than 1966 and 45 per cent above the five year average.

No Gain in Livestock Markets
Oregon livestock markets slipped into the new year on a slow downhill skid from a year ago. The first week of trading in 1967 saw prices lower than early 1966 on all livestock, but feeder steer and cow markets maintained higher prices. Lamb prices are considerably lower, down \$4 from early '66. Portland hog prices were \$7.50 under the 18 year high reached a year ago.

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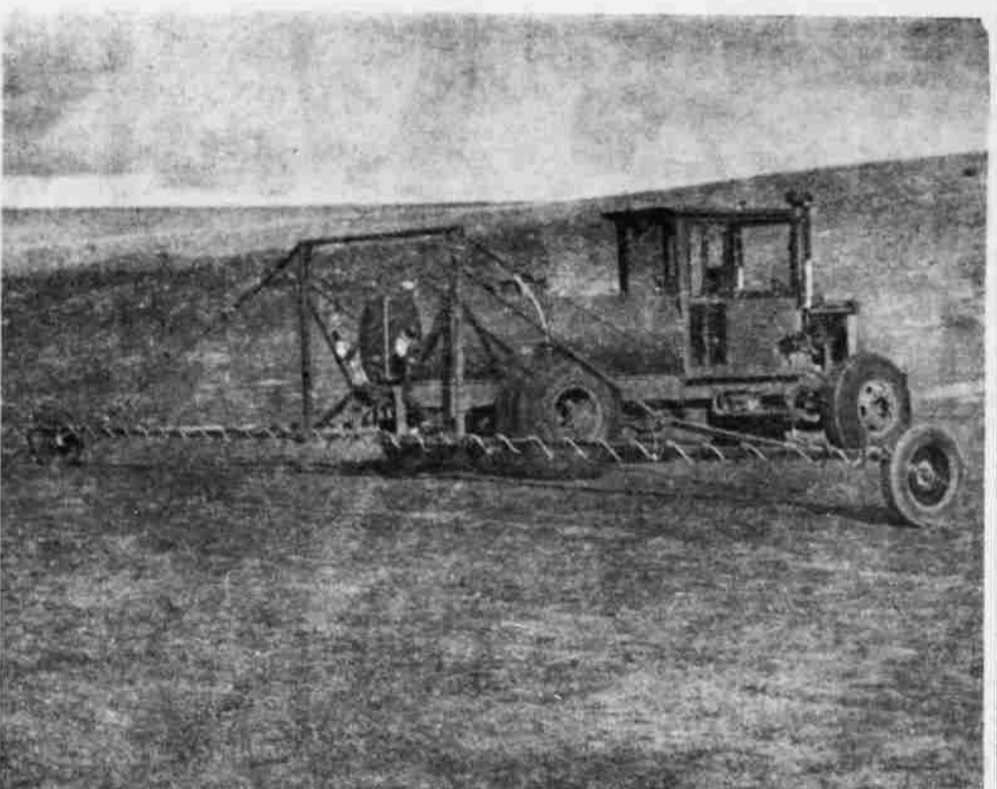
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