

# FARM

County Agent's Office

## Control Measures Urged For Undesirable Plants

By GENE WINTERS  
County Extension Agent

The control of undesirable plants growing on rangeland is an important range management practice. Undesirable plants use space, moisture and nutrients which could better be utilized producing forage for grazing animals.

Both rabbitbrush and sagebrush species compete with more desirable forage plants on Morrow county rangelands. These brushy species frequently occur on deteriorated ranges. A successful job of control on selected sites should increase forage production two or three times. Methods for control of such undesirable plants include raking, churning, discing, raking, chaining, burning and with chemicals. Only ranges with a satisfactory remnant stand of forage grasses should be sprayed. Such grasses should be close enough together to step from one bunch to another.

Lesser stands should be controlled mechanically and reseeded to adapted species. Otherwise the release of brushy competition will permit the invasion of undesirable grasses such as Medusahead or cheatgrass and broadleaved weedy species in the treated area.

Following chemical treatment grazing should be deferred for at least one growing season. Unless proper grazing management can be practiced following treatment, spraying is not recommended.

Timing of treatment is critical. Unless properly chosen will result in complete failure.

Cost sharing for sagebrush and rabbitbrush control is available from the county ASCS office under the B-3 practice listed in the Morrow County Agriculture Conservation Program Handbook. Information as to treatment and timing is available from the County Extension Office.

### Knapweed Gives Problem

Another undesirable range plant, diffused knapweed, is listed for cost sharing in the ACP Handbook under the amended B-12 Weed Practice. A special allocation has been received by the Morrow County ASCS Committee to encourage the control of what has been called the county's number one weed problem. Future allocations for diffused knapweed control will to a large extent depend upon its use this year.

### Toxic Plants May Prove Poisonous to Livestock

Yearly livestock losses from plant poisoning in Morrow county warrants calling attention to the better known toxic plants. A complete list of possible or probable causes of all animal deaths from plant poisoning is not possible. Some plants are toxic at only certain seasons of the year. In others, conditions not readily understood may modify toxicity of plants of the same species. Many species which appear harmless if grazed casually in good pasture, may prove poisonous when taken alone or in quantity.

### Avoidance of Poisoning in Pasture and on the Range

The lone 4-H Super Stitches club met at the home of Cheryl Hams. The meeting was called to order by the vice president, Karen Crowell. Old business was discussed. It was decided that demonstrations were to be shown. Get-well cards were sent. Refreshments were served by Teena Stefani and Christine Lindstrom.

Cassy Chapel, reporter

pears to lie in wise handling of both feeding areas and stock.

Many poisonous plants can be controlled with 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T however, such treatment may take the plant more desirable to the grazing animal. Extreme care should be taken to keep livestock from treated areas.

Specific chemical treatments are available from the County Extension Office.

Poisonous plants to watch for now are Buttercup, Cocklebur, Death Camas, Horsetail, Larkspur, Poison Hemlock and Water Hemlock.

## Rise in Imports Of Beef Concerns Producers Here

The present rise in beef imports is becoming a matter of concern for U. S. beef producers. The primary source of supply for beef brought into this country is Australia, according to Donald M. Taylor of the Oregon State University cooperative extension service.

The Australians will continue to pose rough competition for producers in the U. S. as well as for products that the United States exports to other countries, such as beef, veal, variety meats and tallow, according to Reuben Albaugh, Extension Animal Husbandman, University of California at Davis.

Albaugh will be a featured speaker during the ninth annual beef-cattle day at Oregon State University May 5. Drawing on his experiences during a year spent studying the Australian beef industry on the ground, Albaugh will present a well documented discussion of the livestock and meat industries "down under," complete with a slide presentation.

Beef day will also provide an opportunity for Oregon cattlemen to see and hear the latest developments in the Animal Science Research program at OSU. Scientists from the department will discuss subjects ranging from reproductive problems of the brood cow to electrolyte balance, from mineral deficiencies to a new approach to pasture and range management. Tours of the beef barn, nutrition barn, and beef cattle research facilities at Adair will be conducted by Al Ralston who is also in charge of putting together the beef day program at OSU. Geneticist Ralph Bogart will outline the OSU program of performance and progeny testing, and trials utilizing both sheep and cattle on the same pasture area will be explained by Tom Bedell.

A highlight of the annual beef day will be a talk by Oregon Director of Agriculture Walter Leth. The director's banquet talk "Bull or Bum Steers" will focus on freight rates and what they mean to the Oregon cattle industry.

Oregon's annual sheep day will be held May 6, providing producers who are interested in an opportunity for livestock both beef cattle and sheep to take in the two programs. Beef day will start at 8:30 a.m. in Withycombe Auditorium under the sponsorship of the Department of Animal Science at OSU, the Western Oregon Livestock Association, and the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

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## Stock Producers Attend Field Day At Squaw Butte

More than 170 livestock producers attending the annual research field day at the Squaw Butte Branch of the Oregon State University Agricultural Experiment Station saw and heard agricultural results of current research during the all-day meeting.

Program topics during the field day ranged from production of fall calves to a discussion of returns from range improvements. H. A. Turner, assistant in animal science at Squaw Butte, summarized crossbreeding work done there. Using a Charolais sire on straight breed Herefords, weaning weights were increased 48 pounds from the first cross and 97 pounds from the back cross.

When calves were sold as weaners additional returns of \$8.20 and \$19.08 per cow were reported from the first and second crosses respectively. If carried and sold as yearlings, expected returns from the crossbred animals were \$14.13 from the first cross and \$27.39 per cow from the second cross.

The biggest advantage of the crossbreeding program were higher calving percentages and more growth potential of the crossbred calf as well as high bred vigor of the crossbred dam which increased fertility, milking ability, and mothering ability. Weaning percentage and weaning weights were both increased by the crossbreeding program.

Extension range management specialist Dillard Gates, OSU, told those attending the field day that spraying properly selected sagebrush areas will double production of forage and beef from the sprayed area. Return on the investment in brush control is 50 per cent or more.

Seeding depleted range areas can return as much as 100 per cent on the investment through increased feed production.

Agronomist C. B. Rumburg reported that early harvesting of native meadow hay can increase net returns by about \$3.00 per acre if the nutrients lost by late harvesting are replaced with cottonseed meal and barley.

Reports of trials using urea as a substitute for protein in the diet of growing calves were summarized by Robert J. Raleigh, Squaw Butte Station. Urea was used at two different levels in combination with both cottonseed meal and alfalfa. Trace minerals were also added to some of the rations.

There were no significant differences in rates of gain between any of the treatments, however, in all cases the animals receiving equal amounts of natural protein from cottonseed meal gained more with less feed and less cost than those receiving alfalfa pellets. There appeared to be a small advantage in feed efficiency and cost of gain from addition of trace minerals when alfalfa was not included in the ration.

Raleigh also reported results of trials comparing fall versus spring calving for the second group of call calves in the experimental program which is still going on. Average weaning weight was 507 pounds. Cost of a creep ration was \$2.48 per head for the entire season. The fall calving animals also receive a pound and a half of barley from January 1 until they go on range. This amounts to 160 pounds of barley at a cost of about \$4.00, making a

## Weekly Market Review

By STEPHEN C. MARKS  
Agricultural Economist  
OSU Cooperative Extension Service

### Midwest Drought, PNW Stripe Rust Pose

Hard red winter wheat prices are still edging upward as the wheat trade anxiously awaits the April crop report for an appraisal of crop condition and estimate of drought damage in the Midwest.

Most traders feel that the winter wheat crop has definitely been hurt. Kansas, leading wheat producing state in the U. S., received only spotty moisture from a recent storm, which did not correct the drought condition, according to the Kansas crop reporting service.

Progress of the 1967 white wheat crop in the Pacific Northwest is rated good to excellent. However, incidence of stripe rust in the mid-Columbia wheat growing area is becoming a major concern to growers. While there has been no severe damage to date, there is still the possibility of a serious stripe rust epidemic this season.

### Barley Prices Up, Acreage Down

Improved domestic demand is bringing barley prices out of their long doldrums. Barley buyers are out in force looking for supplies, but growers are generally holding firm in the face of better prices and prospects of a much smaller 1967 barley harvest. Oregon growers plan to harvest less barley this year than last, while total U. S. acreage looks like it will be down nine percent, based on the March 1 planting intentions survey. Particularly sharp acreage cuts are indicated for Montana and Washington.

Despite the price rise, barley is still a lower cost feed grain than any of its competitors. Supplies of oats are limited and may become even scarcer because of acreage reductions this year, which means higher prices.

### Oregon Wool Production Drop

Oregon wool production in 1966 at 4,509,000 pounds was down 3% from 1965 and 28% below the 1960-64 average, according to the Oregon Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. The average fleece in 1966 weighed 8 lbs. and brought 56¢ per pound for an average of \$4.48 per fleece. This is contrasted with 1965 prices of 52¢ per pound of \$3.95 per fleece.

The higher average fleece weights and higher price per total extra feed cost of \$6.48 for the creep feed and extra supplements for the fall calving cow.

It appears that fall calving, while increasing the cost of wintering the lactating cow over cost of a dry cow, should provide a bigger calf to go on range in spring and make better use of the high quality range feed through May, June and July. This should permit weaning an eight to nine month old calf weighing more than 500 pounds. The trials with the traditional spring calves compared to fall calves will be continued, according to Raleigh.

The day's program also included a tour of research projects in progress at the Squaw Butte Station near Burns. According to W. A. Sawyer, livestock producer from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada and California were represented at field day.

With all the discussion about world food needs and the end of farm surpluses in the U. S., the public may not realize that the parity ratio is holding at one of its lowest points in 30 years.

The parity ratio is a measure of the purchasing power of the farm dollar. A parity ratio of 100 would supposedly put the farmer at the same level as the average of the other segments of our economy.

With a slight drop during the past month, in prices farmers receive, and another slight increase in prices that they pay for production inputs, parity ratio held at 74. This has been the approximate parity level since February, 1967. The parity ratio dropped this low only twice in the past 33 years.

Prices received by the nation's farmers started into their present down trend last August. Farm prices now average 7% below March 1966. The price farmers pay for family living items as well as farm operation items are both moving up with prices for all production items 2% higher than earlier.

## 4-H Field Day Set Saturday At Fair Annex

By MARJORIE WILCOXEN  
County Extension Agent

### 4-H Home Economics "Field Day"

A 4-H Home Economics "Field Day" will be held this Saturday, April 22, at the Heppner Fair Annex beginning at 10:00 a.m. and concluding at 3:00 p.m.

Professional people will be discussing foods, clothing, knitting, style revue, demonstrations and what judges look for. Also questions will be answered about other projects.

All interested persons and 4-H members are invited to attend. A time schedule has been set up as follows: 10 a.m. to 12:00, Foods; 12:00 to 1:00, Lunch (sack)—Drinks furnished; and from 1:00 to 3:00, Clothing, Knitting and Style Revue.

### Club Elects Officers

The Kettles and Spoons 4-H club held its third meeting at the home of Mrs. Robert Abrams, April 15, at 10 a.m. Officers were chosen as follows: Sandy Matthews, president; Linda Cooper, vice president; Frances Abrams, secretary; Susan Melby, news reporter; Sandy Flaiz, song leader; and Michelle Larkin, game leader. We had one guest, Mrs. Marjorie Wilcoxen, County Agent, who discussed menu planning with us. Our next meeting will be held at Mrs. Abrams' home, April 24, at 7:30 p.m.

Susan Melby, reporter

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MARY WILLIS, movie TV and stage costume designer, is shown at work in her Hollywood studio, with Oscar award in background. She will appear Thursday, April 27, at Pendleton Senior High School Auditorium, Pendleton, Oregon. Her appearance is sponsored by Pacific Supply Cooperative and member associations in the area, including Pendleton Grain Growers, Weston Grain Growers, Union County Grain Growers and Lexington Oil Cooperative. She won an Oscar for her costumes in the movie, "The Wonderful World of the Brothers Grimm."

## Diamondmen Drop Blue Devil Nine

Heppner High's diamond crew dropped the Condon Blue Devils at Heppner last Tuesday, 10 to 1.

The Mustangs picked up five runs in the first inning and coasted home as Condon could only come up with a lone tally in the seventh inning.

Heppner tallied another in the third, one in the fourth, and put the topping on the cake with three runs in the sixth inning.

Dennis O'Donnell started on the mound for the hosts as he went five innings before giving way to Russ Kilkenny. O'Donnell pitched scoreless ball while striking out four and walking only two Blue Devil Batters. Kilkenny gave up no runs on one hit while walking one batter in his brief stint, as Roger Leonnig went the last frame to allow the lone Condon tally as he walked Mike Gonholm and Lynn Shaffer single.

O'Donnell carried the big bat for the Mustangs, coming up with 3-4 at the plate. Mike Smith hit 2 for 3 and Gary Kemp went 2-2. Mike Gronholm was the only Blue Devil highlight with a 2 for 3 performance at the plate. Lynn Shaffer and Rob Jackson picked up the only other hits for the Blue Devils.

## Cpl. Merritt Gray Serves in Okinawa

Marine Corporal Merritt H. Gray, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Merritt H. Gray of Heppner, is a member of the Third Force Service Regiment, Fleet Marine Force, at Camp Foster on Okinawa, according to a release from the Fleet Home Town News Center, Great Lakes, Ill. The Third Regiment is composed of three battalions which support the Marine units in Vietnam and throughout the Far East with a constant flow of equipment and supplies.

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