

Africa Calling

Nels Anderson Reports On Progress in Africa

By N. C. ANDERSON

N'Dounga, Niger, West Africa

It has been several weeks or maybe even months since I have taken time to report on the activities of CFJA N'Dounga (the CFJA standing for Centre Formation Jeune Agriculteurs or, in good old English, Young Farmers Training Center). I will attempt to bring you up to date hoping you are still interested in the doings of the Andersons.

Guess everyone has the report that Esther and Rick have departed for Oregon and enjoying the luxuries of America like good steaks, ice cream and cottage cheese, as well as fresh air and cool nights. I'll never complain of a hot day in the U.S.A. again. It is cooling off now with the rainy season, though, and I even had to move in off the terrace a few nights ago because it was chilly. It is quite a change to be sleeping without air conditioners on all night, mainly because there aren't any at the farm house where I am now living since Esther left. I am batching at the new plush house that was recently completed at the Center, but as yet have no water or electricity. It is nice to be out in the country away from the filth of the city, but the days get pretty long knocking around in this big house alone. I am busy, however, from early morning till late night and it isn't hard to sleep after a hard day on the farm.

We now have the full enrollment of 60 young farmers and the Center activities are in full swing. Our first harvest is finished and the students are enjoying the feast of their efforts. We are feeding them the corn, rice, sorghum, okra, onions, but not the wheat they raised during the irrigation season. Right now we are well into the rainy season crop planting and have in our millet some broom corn, sorghum and peanuts. While it is getting near the safe planting period end we hope to get in rice, corn, more sorghum and broom corn, peanuts, okra, pimento, sesame, and complete the gardens that are well under way. We have our millet weeded and thinned, and are ready for fertilizing soon.

Our ten teams of oxen as well as two horses have been busy preparing fields for these crops and it seems we just get them all ready then we have a sprinkle of rain that requires them to be recultivated—a slow process by oxen and 10 inch plow or 24 inch springtooth. Our students have, though, become quite expert with the machinery and oxen, and progress is improving. If the rains cooperate we hope to have in 22 acres of millet (in and up), 15 acres of rice, 5 acres of broom corn, 10 acres of corn, 5 acres of sorghum, 1.5 acres each of sesame, okra and pimentos, 8 acres of peanuts and 4 acres of green manure. It will be a busy summer caring for these crops and especially at harvest time threshing all of this with flail after picking up by hand. I hope we can build us some kind of threshing for at least the rice before harvest.

The main construction of the Center is almost complete, a great relief to me. We have been going like mad for months getting our dormitories, shop, livestock barn, etc., out of the way. If someone would have told me a year ago that I would be involved in some of the jobs I have ended up with, I wouldn't have believed them. Our laborer crew is down from an average of about 50, during full construction, to eight, four of whom will be permanent.

We are involved in laying an underground electric cable to the houses from our generators, pouring a concrete reservoir and laying pipes to the houses not to say anything about the slow process of completing well to supply water to our houses. We have been quite fortunate in the water situation in our other four wells until the one was drilled for the houses. We are down 106 feet with a four inch casing and can't get any further—rock. We don't have a sufficient reservoir to pump enough water to supply the needs, so now we are pondering over how to pull the pipe and start over. I have to figure this out by tomorrow. Being an electrician, well digger, welder, rice production specialist, etc., etc., is quite far from my training but I seem to get by each day.

By the way, Bill Weatherford would be real proud of his efforts as an adult night class instructor in welding if he could see my welding (not as good as his), even though he told me I'd never be a welder. I found out a person can do lots of things if they have to and there are many opportunities in this Niger. I wish I could just have him around for a day to ask questions of him as it seems a day never goes by without some welding. Right now I'm involved in making 12 gates from pipe, welding hinges, etc. I could also use a good electrician for a day to show me the correct way to hook in my electric generators to run 110 volts and 220 on another circuit.

Well, I've gone on for some time so better quit. I am sending some pictures I hope you can use of a couple of real import-

ant events that took place at N'Dounga this spring. Thought some of the good Morrow county people would like to see some of the notables of Niger and how things look at the farm. Hoping to see all of my friends back there within the next few months.

Food Freezing Time at Hand; Methods Given

By MARJORIE WILCOXEN
County Extension Agent

Summer is vacation and harvest time—it is also freezing time—freezing of those summer fruits and vegetables, that is. Freezing is a simple, time-saving way to preserve fruits and vegetables for a cold winter day when summer is only a memory, as many of you know. This process does not improve the quality of food, so choose only high quality fresh foods to freeze to make your investment of time and money worthwhile.

Packaging foods for the freezer is as important as the quality of the food itself. The package must keep food from drying out and preserve food value, flavor, color and pleasing texture.

Oregon State University's food and nutrition specialist, Marie Tribble, makes suggestions and some standards for packaging frozen foods. All containers should be easy to seal. They must be water-proof so they won't leak. Packaging materials must be durable and must not become so brittle at low temperatures that they crack.

To retain highest quality in frozen food, packaging materials should be moisture vapor-proof, to prevent evaporation. Glass, metal and rigid plastic are examples of moisture-vapor-proof packaging materials. Most bags, wrapping materials and waxed cartons made especially for freezing meet this standard. Ordinary waxed papers, household aluminum foil, and waxed cardboard cottage cheese, ice cream and milk cartons do NOT meet these standards and should not be used.

Care in sealing is as important as using the right container. Follow the directions given with the containers you buy and use. Tightly pack cold food and syrup into container. Having materials cold speeds up freezing and helps retain natural color, flavor and texture of food.

When food is packed in bags, press air out of unfilled part of the bag. Press firmly to prevent air from getting back in. Seal immediately, allowing the head space recommended for the product. With few exceptions allowance for head space is needed between packed food and closure because food expands as it freezes.

Freeze fruits and vegetables soon after they are packed. Put them in the refrigerator until all are ready to freeze. Then transfer them to the home freezer or carry them in an insulated box or bag to the locker plant.

Put no more unfrozen food into a home freezer than will freeze within 24 hours. Usually this will be about two or three pounds to each cubic foot of its capacity.

Keep a record of what you put in the freezer—write on the outside of the package what it contains, along with the date you place it in the freezer. It is a good idea to keep a written record somewhere that shows your deposits and withdrawals. It's easy to lose packages of frozen food in the back or bottom of the freezer. And sometimes it must be thrown away because it has been stored too long.

Fruits and vegetables should not be held more than a year. They will tend to lose much of their quality if kept for longer periods. More information on freezing fruits and vegetables is available at the County Extension office. Ask for Extension Bulletin 688, "The Freezing Preservation of Fruits and Vegetables."

State Fair Sets Stock Deadline

Deadline for entry in the 1967 Oregon State Fair livestock shows has been set for August 3, Mrs. Harold Hawk, livestock manager, said Tuesday. No entries will be received after that date, she added. Mrs. Hawk said that in addition to the regular prize monies, many other awards are being offered, including cash awards for neatness in each division, premier exhibitor and breeder awards and several special awards by the various breeder associations.

Robert L. Stevens, state fair manager, said that through recommendations of the various breed associations, an outstanding group of judges have been obtained for the livestock divisions this year.



ON A VISIT to the newly opened Young Farmers Training Center near the village of N'Dounga, Niger, President Hamani Diori tastes the water from one of the wells at the Center. A U. S. manufactured windmill provides the power for pumping from this unique well, a series of four four inch holes pumped from a central cylinder. Adequate water is one of the problems in

development of Agriculture in the country. Watching at far left is American Ambassador Robert J. Ryan; Nelson C. Anderson, director of the Center; Adamou Souma, Director of Agriculture; a security policeman, and Agricultural Minister Maidah on the far right.



AMERICAN AMBASSADOR Robert J. Ryan holds hand of Niger President Hamani Diori, as he is introduced to Nelson C. Anderson, director of Niger's second Young Farmers Training Center, a USAID project that has met with great success in this predominantly agricultural country. In background is Agricultural Minister Maidah Mamadou.

This was on the occasion of the President's visit to the Center where he inspected crops and facilities for the 60 Young Farmers who are spending a year at the Center getting practical training in "modern" agricultural practices. After working during the two crop seasons, irrigated and rainy, students will return to their villages with their own pair of oxen and implements to demonstrate the values of animal power and other practices learned at the Center.

Wheat Exports Show Increase Over Past Year

More wheat was exported from the ports of Portland and Astoria during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1967, than the previous fiscal year, but total grain exports were down the past fiscal year.

Oregon Department of Agriculture grain inspection figures show 2,542,255 tons of wheat inspected for export the past fiscal year, compared with 2,415,343 tons exported in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1966.

The figure for total grain exports out of the two ports in the fiscal year just ended was 2,833,711 tons. A year ago it was 2,962,768 tons.

Department inspection records on grain receipts in Portland also showed a decline this year with inspections for the past fiscal year covering 3,166,276 tons, while a year ago they totaled 3,544,198 tons.

Wheat was the major grain received both years. This past year 2,716,474 tons were received and in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1966, inspections covered 2,908,311 tons.

Grain from 10 Mountain and Midwest states moved through the Port of Portland the past fiscal year. Mountain was the major shipper. Other states whose grain came under department inspection were Iowa, Nebraska, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota and Wyoming.

Railroads still are the major means of transportation, carrying 2,347,666 tons of the grain received in Portland. River barges carried 613,295 tons and trucks transported 205,115 tons.

Protein analysis made by the department's grain division the past fiscal year numbered 34,533, compared with the 45,140 analysis made during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1966 the record year for analyses.

Inspection and weight certificates issued during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1967, totaled 156,812. The previous year they totaled 182,427.

At Pendleton 2,529 track inspections were made during the fiscal year just ending. A year ago they totaled 3,241. Merrill had 495 track inspections, 71 hopper car inspections and 23 truck inspections this year. A year ago there were 600 track inspections and 60 hopper car inspections.

At The Dalles inspections also dropped during the past fiscal year, compared with 29,522 tons year. They covered 24,540 tons of for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1966.

Mrs. Irene Atherton of Ontario and Mrs. Huldah (Tucker) Mortimore of Kent, Wn., traveled here from Pendleton on Saturday where they had visited their mother, Mrs. Mary Queenor. They were week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Padberg and helped their sister-in-law, Mrs. Padberg, celebrate her birthday. They also visited their brother, Woodrow Tucker and family at Stanfield, and, after a short stay in Ontario at the Atherton home, Mrs. Mortimore planned to continue to Eugene to visit her son and family, Mr. and Mrs. David Mortimore, and her daughter, Mrs. Frank (Gloria) Johnson. Mrs. Atherton and Mrs. Mortimore are both teachers in their respective home towns.

4-H Horse Show Slated August 13 At Fairgrounds

By MARJORIE WILCOXEN
County Extension Agent

The 4-H Horse Show, held each year in connection with the Morrow County Fair, is scheduled for Sunday, August 13, starting at 1:30 p.m. on the fairgrounds. The events will include showmanship, horsemanship, and horse judging contests. The judges are Mr. and Mrs. Percy Reynolds of John Day.

Regular fair premiums will be paid on the placings for the day, and payment made with the other premiums after the close of fair.

Winners from the county will be eligible to participate in the State Fair 4-H Horse show August 21 through August 24. The county contest was scheduled so that the winners would have a chance to attend the State Fair Horse Show.

Clothing, Knitting Entrants Urged to Register by Aug. 4

Four-H Clothing and Knitting members who wish to participate in the Style Revue are urged to pre-register with their leader or at the Extension office by August 4.

Registration forms for exhibits and other events should be returned to the office by the due date. This does not mean that members cannot participate in the fair if they don't have a registration in by the deadline, but it would be of great help to us in planning time for contests and demonstrations and space for exhibits.

Four-H Home Economics demonstrations will be held during the fair on Tuesday afternoon, August 22, starting at 3:30 p.m.

For other information consult your Morrow County Fair Premium Book, your leader, or contact Marjorie Wilcoxen at the Extension Office.

Cattle Marketing Committee Formed

The Oregon cattle industry's self-help program aimed at bringing stability of beef pricing through voluntary herd management has already won its spurs for unanimity of effort. Governor Tom McCall told a statewide group meeting in his office last week.

McCall said that the cattle industry must curtail the current rate of expansion and bring production into line with market demand. The result, he said, would be a price in the market place that would meet cost of production plus a reasonable profit.

At the governor's suggestion the group formed the Oregon Livestock Marketing committee and named Robert Smith, Burns, a rancher and House Majority Leader, its chairman. Irvin Mann, a Stanfield cattleman, was elected vice-chairman.

This new marketing committee will coordinate its over all activities with the national cattle marketing program which was recently organized by the American National Cattlemen's Association. Hermiton cattle feeder, Ron Baker, is one of 12 men in the nation who is heading up the national program. Baker said he was most pleased with the formation of this new state wide committee and was highly complimentary toward the selection of Smith as chairman.

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