

# Winters Writes of Project Work in Jordan

Gene Winters, former Morrow county extension agent, has written under date of March 6 to tell of his work as agronomy specialist and chief of project on an Agency for International Development (AID) wheat research project in Jordan.



He and his family left here in September, 1968, for Amman, Jordan.

The letter follows:

We received the December editions of the Heppner Gazette-Times today which brings us up to date on the goings and comings of Morrow county to the first of the year. Pat and Stephanie enjoyed seeing the Christmas cards made by some of their former schoolmates.

The other copies of the "Times" caught up with us the latter part of January. I don't know whether the time lag is due to the dock strike or the normal order of things. But out sea freight hasn't arrived yet so suspect the latter to be true. Regardless of when our two home papers arrive they are current issues in Jordan. (We have been taking the Eastern Oregon Review from La Grande since I went into the Army in 1940).

We are finding our tour Jordan extremely interesting. Living conditions are remarkably good. Processed foods available from all over the world. Fresh fruits and vegetables have been available during the winter. The oranges and bananas deserve special praise. Apples from Lebanon are surprisingly good and compare quite favorably with those produced in the Pacific Northwest. The bread is quite different, but we like it. It hasn't bothered us lately to see bread handled like cordwood. Local lamb and chicken are in plentiful supply. Fresh beef comes chiefly from Holland but wouldn't grade Choice or Good in our rating scheme. Some frozen beef and pork is available from the USA in the four or five supermarkets catering to the trade of foreigners.

**People Friendly**

All in all and considering some adaptation to the culture there hasn't been much more difference than moving from one part of our country to another part. The people are extremely friendly and courteous whether in the villages or down town Amman.

Amman is quite an interesting city. In appearance it looks much like Heppner with a population of Spokane and the buildings built of stone. The hills in town are just as steep as those found surrounding Heppner.

The climate is pleasant. Especially pleasant after hearing

soil active materials are another story. More research is necessary to find the proper rate.

In addition to working with extension workers and farmers we are training research people to help find answers to problems in weed control, tillage, fertility, and varieties of wheat. Without a land grant type University such as we have in the USA, there is no pool of agricultural scientists ready to help solve problems as they may occur.

From afar it seems like Morrow county is making progress with the development within the county. Perhaps several of the proposed projects will be well along to reality when we visit the county in 1970.

**Appreciation Sent**

The Ministry of Agriculture has asked that we convey their appreciation to Ralph Crum and others in Morrow county who have helped make Mike Nazrawine's stay so pleasant and productive. We benefitted too. Mike's parents invited us to a menses (native feast) with all the trimmings.

Lee has been active with the Bible Lands Study Group. She has organized a tailoring class which has Jordanian, English and American ladies. Both of us have been taking Arabic lessons one hour a day five days a week. With spring field work underway I have been unable to continue with the class, but hope to start again this fall.

Best regards to your family, our neighbors and friends.

## Wheat Plantings Down in County

Morrow county's wheat acreage may be down by as much as 20 per cent in 1969, according to Dave McLeod of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) office here.

The figure would be in line with a statewide estimate of 20 per cent less wheat acreage compared to last year's planting.

"The figure of 20 per cent sounds like a fairly accurate one," McLeod said this week, but he added it was "just an estimate."

The reason for the reduced acreage stems from the fact that there is a diversion program this year, where last year there was not. Farmers last year could substitute wheat on their feed grain acres, thus growing all wheat.

This year, however, there is a 13 per cent county allotment, which means less wheat can be harvested. Also this year, only 80 per cent of the feed grain acres may be planted in wheat. Another factor is that wheat and barley prices are nearly equal, and few farmers want to give up acreage that could produce barley, according to McLeod.

"Far less than half our farmers are substituting wheat for barley," McLeod estimated.

Statewide, an estimated 826,000 acres of wheat are expected to be planted. Last year, total acreage was 1,036,000 acres. This year's crop would be the smallest in acreage since 1962, aside from the 1966 seedings.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Adamson and family left Friday on vacation, going first to Hood River to visit with the parents of both Mr. and Mrs. Adamson, continuing to Albany for visits with friends, and then to Corvallis. They planned to take a trip south for several days with Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Lefley. Adamson is manager of Pennneys here and Lefley is associated in the Corvallis store of Pennneys.



**GETTING THE EAR** of Robert Brogoitti, special adviser to the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, are Pacific Northwest wheat men. From left, seated are Tom Vaughan, Pendleton, president of the Oregon Wheat Growers League; E. L. Hatcher, Lamar, Colo., president of the National Association of Wheat Growers; Brogoitti, standing from left, Dick Skiles, Sherman County, first vice president of OWGL; Glen Brogoitti, Helix, second vice president of OWGL; Jack Felgenhauer, Fairfield, Wash., vice president of OWGL; the Washington Wheat Growers Association; and Lyle Smith, Felt, Idaho, president of the Idaho Wheat Growers League.

## Growers Name Brogoitti Advisor to Ag Secretary

By JOHN WELBES  
Executive Vice President  
Oregon Wheat League

Bob Brogoitti, a Union county farmer and for many years a wheat farmer in Umatilla county, will serve as one of ten people as an advisor to Secretary of Agriculture, Dr. Clifford Hardin. Brogoitti is now serving as the League's chairman on public affairs.

One meeting has been held with the secretary and another is expected in the very near future. Meetings will be held at least once a month.

Wheat producers from Idaho, Washington, and Oregon, along with representatives from grain dealer and exporters met recently in Pendleton with Brogoitti. Also in attendance was E. L. Hatcher, Lamar, Colo., president of the National Association of Wheat Growers. Guidelines were set up as a beginning for Brogoitti to carry to Washington. These are as follows: 1. Seek increased foreign sales. 2. Establish a strategic grain reserve. 3. Increase export payments to the farmer. 4. Extend the Soil Bank another year and permit waiver of the regulation that requires planting of 75 of a wheat allotment not less than once in three years. This will keep 1969 wheat acreage down.

5. Early part payment of wheat certificates. 6. Extension of the 1969 sign-up date. 7. Re-evaluate the International Grain Arrangement. 8. No limits on farm program payments to any one farmer.

Longtime objectives were also discussed. All agreed that the problem is a lot of wheat and very low prices.

There was no disagreement with the statement by E. L. (Shug) Hatcher that world production controls are necessary. "Canada, Australia and France are anxious to talk about world production controls," Hatcher said.

"Meaningful production controls" are one of three items Pendleton rancher Don Woodward said are needed right now. He is a vice president of Western Wheat Associates. His other reserve points were that a workable reserve should be established and payments on export certificates increased to meet the world minimum price under the International Grains Arrangement.

The group agreed with Tom Vaughan, Pendleton rancher and president of the Oregon Wheat Growers League, that a "meaningful" strategic reserve would be 200 to 400 million bushels. No one disputed Woodward's statement, echoed by others, that the Department of Agriculture should be farmer-oriented and non-consumer oriented.

One producer in attendance said wheat growers should start talking the language of economists. People have to realize that the farmers return on investment is 1 - 2 per cent and not a dime for wages. Other businesses in the U. S. can understand the return on investment but not fully the price per bushel, he said.

## Overseas Markets Said Promising For Beef Cattle

Dressed beef and breeding cattle from Oregon and other western states should find ready markets in Japan and other Asian countries during the next few years, predicts an extension economist at Oregon State University.

Rising consumer incomes and changing tastes and preferences are bringing with them more demand for red meat, particularly beef, according to Don Taylor, OSU extension international marketing specialist. One of the major barriers to expanded trade, according to the OSU specialist, is the present lack of any organized industry-wide marketing development program.

"One of the best means of getting an export drive started for beef cattle and dressed beef would be to form a trade association organized for marketing development, representing the entire U. S. cattle industry or that portion of the industry in the western states," says Taylor.

Writing in TRADE, a monthly newsletter published by the OSU Extension Marketing and Utilization Sciences group, Taylor points to the successful overseas market development programs conducted by trade associations such as Western Wheat Associates and U. S. Grains Council.

"Under U. S. Department of Agriculture cooperator programs, trade development groups representing the major portion of the industry conduct marketing development programs for various commodities including wheat, feedgrains, soybeans, poultry meat and others."

"Programs are financed through a combination of producer dues and money generated through Public Law 480 concessional food sales. A similar program organized by the American Cattlemen's Association would provide an excellent means of promoting beef exports," it was noted.

Taylor also quotes the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which recently predicted that future import demand for beef in Western Europe and Japan will exceed the ability of beef exporting countries such as Australia, New Zealand and Argentina to supply. This should open up even more market opportunities for beef produced and processed in the United States.

In the near future, it may be necessary to market some of the Pacific Northwest wheat crop by feeding it to hogs and exporting the meat, according to Taylor.

The extension specialist cites the current record world wheat crop and pressure on world wheat prices as one reason for looking at the possibility of marketing wheat through livestock.

Taylor also says that many Asian and Latin American countries are in the market for beef breeding stock, and points out that the United States is the largest remaining reservoir of purebred beef cattle of the English breeds.

Rev. and Mrs. Melvin Dixon returned March 8 from a brief trip to Frazier, Mont., where they went to attend funeral services for Rev. Dixon's cousin, Mr. Paul Schmidt.

## Signup Extended On Grain Program

The severe weather, with deep snow drifts staying on fields, has made it advisable to extend the Wheat and Feed Grain Program signup. The extension for two weeks ends Friday, April 4, at 5:00 p.m.

The additional time will permit farmers to make a better appraisal of their cropping plans for the 1969 crop.

All farm operators who intend to participate, must have signed their intentions no later than April 4 in the County ASCS (Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service) office. It is announced by David McLeod, director.

Mr. and Mrs. Carey Hastings will go to Portland early Saturday where Mrs. Hastings and Mrs. Grace Buschke will attend a market showing of back to school fashions for their MILADIES Apparel shop. The showing will be held at the Plaza Hotel and in the Royal Building. While his wife is attending the market show, Mr. Hastings will visit with his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Connor, and family in Forest Grove.

Mrs. Don (Joyce) Townsend and three children of Elgin were house guests last week at the home of her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Padberg, in Ione. Mrs. Townsend, a former resident, enjoyed visiting friends and former neighbors while in Heppner. Also staying at the Padberg home last week for several days during spring vacation were their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Rea, and three children of Condon.

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