

# FARM

## Pesticide Drift Causes Forty To Complain

Drift of pesticide into alfalfa fields in the Heppner area, one with minor damage and the other with no loss, accounted for two of some 40 complaints received by the Oregon Department of Agriculture's chemical applicator supervisor, Tom Harrison, by June 12.

The Dalles area accounted for 25 of the complaints. There the cause was vapor from 2,4-D spilled last December along the railroad track from a tank car containing the pesticide. Steps have now been taken to neutralize the pesticide and control the vapor that has been damaging growing things in the track area.

The two Heppner complaints resulted from application of 2,4-D. Other such complaints included a field of peas at La Grande, two incidents of damage claims to ornamental trees in Dallas, an alfalfa field at Dufur with some damage, and drift onto ornamental trees in the Salem area from a pesticide application being made by a farmer. Other complaints were of damage to a pasture, lawn, and garden in the Kings Valley area from a soil sterilant, damage to a crimson clover field in the McMinnville area from a herbicide, and loss of bees by a Silverton area beekeeper.

Visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Rood on Thursday of last week was her son, Emery Gentry, of Weston.

## Morrow County CROP-WEATHER SUMMARY

(For week ending June 13, 1969)  
Adequate soil moisture. Some damage to hay crop. Very little damage to wheat and barley crops. Severe soil erosion loss in some areas due to heavy storms.

## 4-H Camp To Be Cleaned, Set Up

Plans are complete for the annual 4-H camp June 25-28 at Cutsforth Park for members 9-12 years of age. A pre-camp cleanup and setup is scheduled for Sunday, June 22, starting at 1 p.m. All 4-H parents are invited to assist with the cleanup. Empire Builders are also reminded they are included in the plans for pre-camp activities.

Older 4-H members who will be serving as counselors at the four day camp are Tom McElligott, Terry Cannon, Herbie Ekstrom, Kris Peterson, Kris Nelson, Becky Doherty, Sandi Carlson, Debby Warren, Sue Chally, Dee Ann Pettyjohn and Gwen Drake.

There are still openings for a few more campers. Any member who failed to send in an application may still do so. Cost of the camp is \$6.50 per camper. Trucks will leave the fairgrounds at 2 p.m., Wednesday, June 25.

The camp will end Saturday, June 28. Families are invited to visit the camp on the final day for a potluck lunch and may pick up their campers at that time, or can meet the trucks at the fairgrounds at 2 p.m. to pick them up on their return.

# State Grain Growers Face Foreigners

The following article by Steve Marks, Extension Agricultural Economist pretty well sums up the domestic world wheat and feed grain situation notes Harold Kerr, Morrow county extension agent.

"The Oregon grain industry, from the producer to the elevator operator and exporter, will continue to meet intense market competition from foreign counterparts. Thus the presently depressed world wheat and barley market conditions pose a real challenge to the industry to seek out and develop effective market outlets for Oregon-grown grain and to recover or find substitute outlets for markets lost to foreign competition.

The adage "there is a gold mine in your own backyard" has direct and meaningful application in the grain market of the 1970's. Industry attitudes need to be attuned to the realities of present and potential market conditions. Traditional food wheat markets at traditionally high support prices are only a happy memory now. Reality dictates a reappraisal of market opportunities at home as well as abroad. This appraisal includes a look at Oregon production of wheat varieties other than soft wheat which are suitable for

milling and livestock feed at prices more nearly competitive with those in major grain-growing areas of the United States.

Grain supply-demand relationships are such that wheat sold for feed purposes returns growers as much per ton as they can expect to receive for non-certificate wheat in the export market. There is no export market for barley, so, except for sales to malsters, feed prices are the best barley growers and dealers can expect to get.

**Supply Imbalance to Continue**

The unbalanced supply-demand situation in the grain markets is likely to continue in the foreseeable future, barring adverse weather conditions or man-made disaster in the major world wheat and barley producing areas. While the major wheat exporting countries are either trimming acreage for harvest this year or invoking more rigid quotas on export wheat, these moves will not soon offset the effects of the buildup in world wheat stocks.

Larger world carryovers of wheat and barley this year are a certainty. And another round of bumper harvests is in prospect, although smaller acreages than last year are indicated for harvest. In the United States, the

present buildup in wheat supplies is the result of several market developments, some of which will continue to limit PL 480 concessional turnover of white wheat for years to come. Among them are the introduction of higher yielding Mexican wheat into India and Pakistan, increased acreage in Australia and France, and the general push toward food-grain self-sufficiency by national undergoing economic development. The current excess in U. S. wheat supplies stems from this competition, following two years of increased production at the same time that world wheat output set new records each of the past three years for a gain of 25 percent.

**Smaller U. S. Wheat Crop This Year**

For the 1969 harvest, U. S. wheat acreage will be about the same as it was in 1966, prior to the increase in acreage allotments for the 1967 and 1968 wheat crops. Prospects as of May 1 were for record yields and a winter wheat crop of 1 billion 127 million bushels. A crop this size would be 100 million bushels less than the record 1968 winter wheat crop, but it would still be the fourth largest ever produced in this country.

Oregon's winter wheat crop is estimated at 25.6 million bushels—down more than three million from 1968. The other two Pacific Northwest states expect to produce fully 24 million bushels less this year. Thus this region's winter wheat crop, estimated at 153 million bushels on May 1, might be down 15 percent from last year's crop. Spring wheat acreage will be cut 16 percent in this region if growers fulfill their March planting intentions. While such a reduction in white wheat output expected increase in carryover would help offset most of the stocks, the challenge remaining is to find a market for the larger supply after July 1.

**Cash Price at Loan Level Likely**

Current wheat market conditions are not favorable to price improvement. Chances are that cash white wheat prices will continue to hover at or near county loan rates this summer and fall. Since the 1968 harvest, Portland cash prices ranged mostly two to four cents a bushel above the gross terminal loan rate at that port.

Oregon county loan rates for 1969 crop wheat have been increased from one to four cents a bushel in eight counties, but five counties received a one to five cents cut. The loan rate is \$1.29 a bushel in Morrow county; it ranges from a high of \$1.33 in Hood River county to a low of \$1.01 in Harney county. For details, check with your county ASCS office.

The national average wheat loan rate remains at \$1.25 a bushel or \$11.67 a ton. Marketing certificates will be issued on projected production from planted acreage up to 43 percent of the farm allotment, compared with 40 percent in 1968. The value of the certificate will be the difference between the July, 1969 parity price for wheat and the loan rate. In April, the parity price was \$2.75 a bushel.

**Feed Grain Remain Plentiful**

Feed grain market prospects also lack luster, mainly due to lagging exports. Domestic use for livestock feeding has increased. Barley, corn and sorghum grain prices improved from winter-time lows, but only corn markets maintained the advance in late May. Stored corn stocks are smaller than they were a year ago, but the other feed grains are more plentiful. The indicated national acreage for harvest this year is practically the same as in 1968. Loan rates remain unchanged, except for a moderately lower rate on barley and a slightly lower rate on sorghum grain.

With only minor changes likely in U. S. feed grain acreages, prospects for larger carryovers of barley, oats, and sorghum grain, and a \$2.92 cut in the U. S. average loan rate per ton of barley, Oregon grain prices will be hard pressed to stay above last year's harvest-time levels. At that time, Portland cash barley prices fell \$3 a ton under the gross terminal loan rate. In last May, the Portland cash price for feed barley was equal to the 1968-69 terminal loan of \$47.50 a ton, but it was still \$2.50 above the terminal loan rate of \$45 a ton that goes into effect July 1. Oregon county loan rates on 1968-crop barley average \$284 a ton less than for the 1968 crop. Morrow county rate is \$39.17 down from \$41.67. Discounts remain unchanged.

While feed grain producers nationally reported intentions to plant about the same acreage for 1969 as they did last year, some significant increases were being planned by western growers. Oregon grain growers indicated a small boost in oat acreage and a 32 percent increase in barley plantings. Montana growers said they planned 30 percent more acres of oats and 42 percent more barley this year. Hefty increases also are indicated for Washington and Idaho.

## Wheat Situation To be Discussed

There will be an important meeting covering the wheat situation, new changes in grain grades and standards; grain sanitation; Pacific Northwest Wheat quality survey; and the use of visual device for separation and binning wheat of different protein levels, announced Harold Kerr, Morrow county agent.

The date and place for the meeting is Willows Grange Hall, June 25, 1 p.m.

The agenda is as follows:

1:00—Introduction by County Agents and Ray Teal.  
1:15—Market Review by Ralph McEwen.  
1:30—"What's New in Grain Grading"—A. Plummer & Merle Demert, Grain Inspection.

2:30—Pacific Northwest Wheat Quality Survey—Dale Stuart, Ore. Dept. Ag. Service.

2:45—Grain Sanitation—Leroy Warner—Pendleton Grain Growers.

3:15—Protein percentage segregation with a visual method allowing separation to be done rapidly from trucks unloading at farm or country elevator stations. This is very important because of the experience last year of too high a protein content of Northwest soft white wheat. It is important that at least two separations be made, one above and one below 9 or 9½ percent protein white wheat.

Similar meetings are scheduled in Wasco, Pendleton and Rickreall.

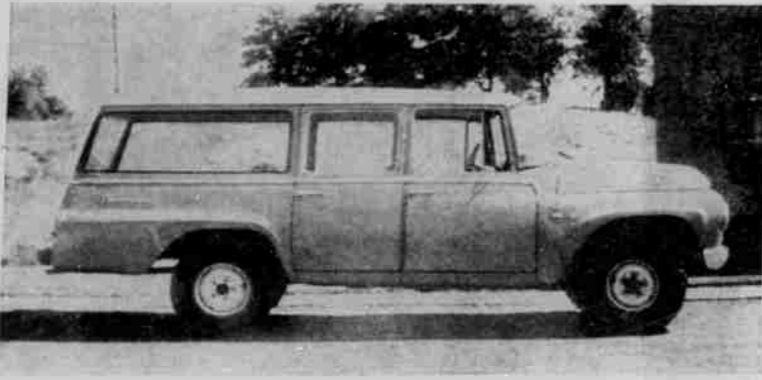
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