

Petersons Host Conservationists

By HAROLD KERR
Conservation practices on the ranch of Herb and Bob Peterson were seen last week when the two winners of the State Conservation Man of the Year award hosted over 100 visitors. The tour, sponsored by the Oregon Wheat Growers League, was directed by Tad Miller, president of the Morrow County Wheat Growers League.

Hosts for the day were Mr. and Mrs. Herb Peterson and children, Jan, Tod, and Treve; along with Mr. and Mrs. Bob Peterson and children, Dawn and Ricky; also Mr. and Mrs. Henry Peterson, parents of the winners.

During the noon program, Bob Peterson explained their ranching operation to the attentive crowd present. Louis Carlson, 1967 State Conservation winner and chairman of the state selection committee, complimented the brothers for the excellent conservation program they have developed on their ranch.

Tom Vaughn, president of the Oregon Wheat Growers League from Pendleton, spoke briefly on the present wheat situation and current legislative action of interest to wheatgrowers. He also complimented the Peterson brothers for the excellent job they are doing.

Kirby Brumfield, Agricultural News Director for KATU-TV in Portland, was present and took many feet of film which will be used at a later date. Date and time will be announced.

The tour of the Peterson Brothers ranching operation began with a visit to the Eightmile place, scene of some of the heaviest

rainfall in the county during the recent storm. At this first stop, tour participants were able to see some real advantages to using a combination of strip cropping and diversion ditches to hold the soil in place even with the extremely high rainfall which hit this area. Erosion still occurred, but not nearly as bad as areas with less protection.

Trucks were used to transport participants around the ranch with buses to haul the tour participants from one part of the Peterson ranching operation to another.

Over 17 miles of diversion ditches are in use on the Peterson Brothers ranch, with over 10 acres of sod waterways to carry the water off the fields from the diversion ditches. Bob Peterson emphasized that they liked to plant their sod waterways two or three years before they build diversion ditches so that there will be little washing in the waterways. At the Eightmile place, Bob also mentioned that subsiding to break up the hard surface seems to help also.

After viewing the Eightmile ranch, the tour returned to the Peterson home place where the delicious lunch provided by Paul and Helen Pettyjohn of Ione, and served by the Willows Grange ladies.

After lunch and the noon program, the group visited the feedlot where Herb and Bob fatten cattle to make use of some of the ranch grain produced and to round out their ranching operations.

Following a couple stops at the home place the tour proceeded to the Gabbert Ranch

where grass waterway covered many miles of diversion ditches and stubble mulch farming all contribute to a well managed and attractive ranching operation.

A total of 6,000 acres of cropland with 2,500 in stubble mulch and 3,200 in wheat and barley provide the setting for the 1968 State Conservation Man of the Year, the second state winner in two years from Morrow county.

Morrow County CROP-WEATHER SUMMARY

(For week ending June 20)

Most winter wheat showing. Rain helping on fill. Haying is in progress, but slowed by showers. Grass seed in wind-row. Potatoes look good. Livestock in good condition.

NW Feed Grain Expansion Seen

Historically, Oregon grains and livestock have not been competitive with those grown in the Mid-West.

But with greater demand for choice cuts at the supermarket and grains in the feed lots, Oregon grain and meat producers are enjoying more competitive market conditions with their Corn Belt counterparts, writes S. C. Marks, Oregon State University Extension agricultural economist, in the June Farm and Market Outlook circular.

It is time, Marks believes, for an expansion in meat animal feeding in Oregon and the Northwest. The market for meat in this region is vast, he explained.

"We produce only part of the beef we consume each year and much of it is shipped in as live slaughter cattle from neighboring Idaho," Marks said.

Oregon, Washington and California, with 26 million people to feed, are beef and pork deficient.

Only about 20 percent of the local pork consumption is produced in these states. Less than two per cent of the nation's hogs are produced in the western region. And, few live hogs are shipped in. Most of the pork consumed in this region is brought in as primal cuts such as bacon, loins and picnic shoulders ready for consumption.

More meat animals could be grown, and fed for local slaughter, using surplus northwest grains, Marks writes.

Although wheat acreage and production are smaller than in the past two years, the Pacific Northwest has surplus grains due to expanded world production and declining wheat and barley exports.

The Northwest's winter wheat crop, estimated at 153 million bushels, might be down 15 per cent from last year. Spring wheat acreage was cut about 16 per cent. Such a reduction in wheat output would help offset part of the expected increase in wheat stocks carried over from previous years. The challenge is to find a market for the larger supply caused by greater world output, Marks explained.

The present buildup in wheat supplies is the result of several market developments. 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 feed-grain self-sufficiency by nations 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, world wheat output set new records each of the past three years. The three-year period showed a world production increase of 25 per cent.

Although the volume of world production of all grains affected the world markets, local feed grain production directly affects meat animal feeding and processing in the Pacific Northwest. Marks noted that Oregon grain growers indicate a small boost in oat acreage and a 32 per cent increase in barley plantings.

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. Montana farmers plan 30 per cent more acres of oats and 42 per cent more barley this year. Increases are also indicated for Washington and Idaho.

So, with expanded feed grain production and an increasing consumer demand for meat, the Northwest has renewed opportunities of establishing a significant meat animal-grain production complex. Marks concludes.

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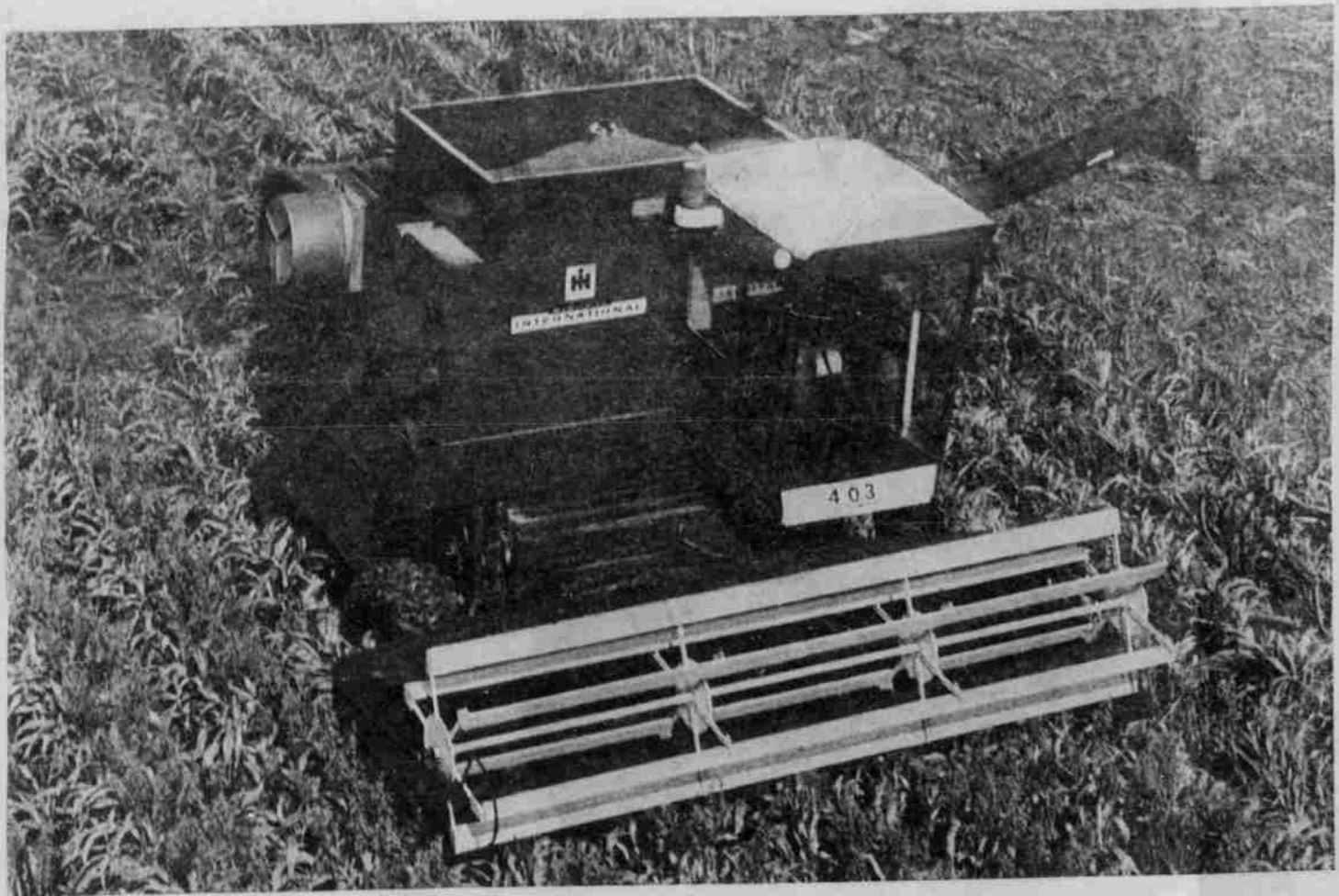
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