

★ *Heppner-Gazette-Times* ★

Farm Review AND Forecast

1972 Wool Payments Announced

The incentive payment rate on 1972 marketings of shorn wool was announced April 5th by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, according to David McLeod, ASCS Director. The announced payment rate, based on the incentive price of 72 cents a pound, is 105.7 percent of the national average price of 35.0 cents a pound received by producers. Payments to wool growers are required by the National Wool Act of 1954, as amended.

The 1972 payment rate compares with the 1971 rate of 271.1 percent and reflects the recovery in market prices for shorn wool in 1972. USDA officials said. Wool prices improved last year throughout the world as a result of a change in the supply-demand situation. For the fourth consecutive year, world wool production declined. At the same time, mill consumption of wool picked up in 1972 and exceeded production.

There will be no payments to growers on their 1972 sales of mohair. The average of 81.4 cents a pound received by growers who sold mohair in 1972 was 1.2 cents above the support level of 80.2 cents a pound. With growers receiving more than the support level in the market place from the 1972 sales, no government payment will be required. Payments on 1971 marketing of mohair were at the rate of 166.4 percent of dollar returns when growers received an average of only 30.1 cents in the marketplace.

Payments on 1972 marketing will be about \$65 million, all of which will be to wool growers. This compares to payments on 1971 marketing of \$103 million to wool growers and \$10 million to mohair growers. There likely will be no payments on 1973 marketings. Reported prices received by producers during January-March averaged more than 75 cents a pound for wool and \$1.58 a pound for mohair. Prices in March were even higher.

A grower's wool payment on 1972 marketings is determined by multiplying his net dollar return from the sale of wool by the payment rate of 105.7 percent. The percentage method of payment is designed to encourage growers to improve the quality and marketing of their wool. In any marketing year for which incentive payments are made, the higher the price a grower gets for his wool the larger his payment will be.

A payment rate of \$1.46 a hundredweight on unshorn lambs sold or slaughtered in 1972 also was announced by USDA. The 1971 rate was \$2.10. This payment is designed to compensate growers for the wool they market on live lambs rather than as shorn wool. The payment is based on the shorn wool payment rate, average weight of wool per hundredweight of lambs, and value of lamb's wool relative to the national average value of shorn wool.

Deductions of 1 1/2 cents a pound from 1972 shorn wool payments and 7 1/2 cents a hundred pounds of liveweight from 1972 lambs payments will be made to finance advertising, sales promotion, and related market development activities.

These deductions provided for in the National Wool Act, are at the same rates as for the six preceding marketing years. The deductions were approved by an 87 percent favorable vote by sheepmen voting in a June 1971 referendum.

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service county offices will begin making the payments early in April.

The 1973 incentive price for wool announced November 17, 1972, is 72 cents a pound, the same as for 1972. The 1973 support level of 80.2 cents a pound for mohair is also the same as the support level for 1972. On the basis of prices now being received in the market place by wool and mohair growers, it appears that no incentive payments will be required on 1973 marketings.

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Farm Labor Survey

The Oregon State University Extension Service, in response to many questions and expressed interest in Morrow and Gilliam Counties, is presently beginning a survey of the farmers who employ and their employees, according to George Johnston, County Extension Agent. The cooperation of those

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OREGON PRICE REPORT (As of March 15, 1973)

INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED CONTINUES RECORD

The March 15 Index of Prices Received by Oregon farmers was 356, a record high, according to the Oregon Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. The Index was 17 points higher than on February 15 and 102 points, or 40 percent, above a year ago.

The All Crops Index, at 300, was 3 percent above February 15 and 51 percent more than March 15, 1972. The Livestock and Livestock Products Index at 450 increased 7 percent from a month earlier and 30 percent from a year earlier. Sub-indices for all commodity groups were substantially higher than a year ago.

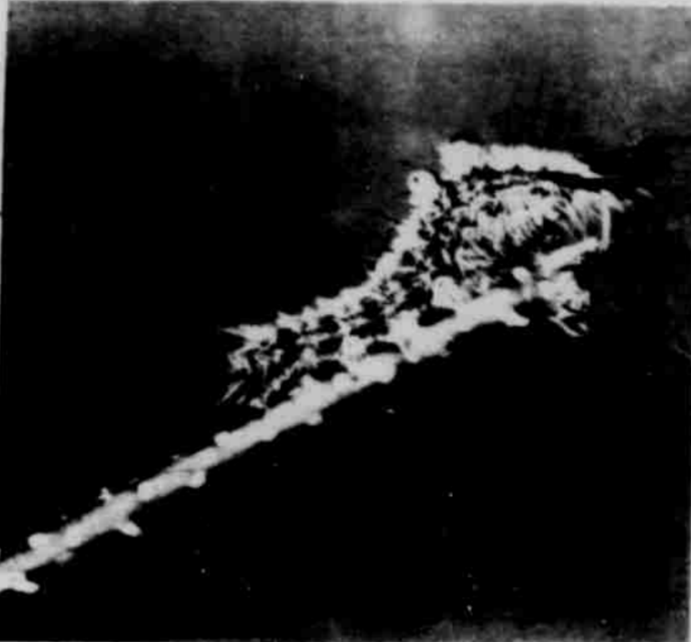
contacted will be greatly appreciated, for the results of the survey will hopefully provide the farmers and ranchers of this area better labor management techniques, and thus a better return for their labor dollar. The employees should also benefit from better management.

Interest in the Farm Labor Laws and Management Workshop demonstrated in Manning Becker's (OSU Economist) talk on labor management, plus the labor situation as reflected in the last two seasons, led up to the formulation of the survey. Some of the questions which will hopefully be clear after the sampling are as follows: Is there, or why is there, a farm labor shortage? What are the skills needed and present in the labor force? Is there any relation between tenure and salary? Can and should the farmer offer incentive or bonus programs for their employees? How can the work be better organized to meet the needs of both the employer and employee?

Finding the answer to these broad questions by asking more specific ones, will provide for better overall management of the farm. With the cooperation of the local farmer and employee, Oregon State University will have the information available in the form of workshops and educational brochures as soon as possible.

The survey will be conducted by Robert Newman from Dallas, Texas, who is a student at the University of Oregon, in the Institute of Industrial and Labor Relations. He indicates that he hopes to contact the people concerned at their convenience and will be brief. The survey is expected to extend through the months of April and May. Questions and comments are appreciated. For further information contact George Johnston or Harold Kerr in the Heppner Extension Office, or Martin Zimmerman in the Condon Extension Office.

NEW RESIDENTS to Morrow County are Karen and Karl Pancoast, formerly of Portland. Karl is employed at the Kinzua Veneer Plant and it is reported they both really like Heppner. They have two children, Kerry, 1 1/2 and K.P., 3.



ENEMY OF THE FOREST - The small, hairy larva (caterpillar stage) of the Douglas fir tussock moth.

DDT Ban Exception Requested

SEATTLE - State Land Commissioner Bert L. Cole announced here today he will ask the federal Environmental Protection Agency to authorize an exception to its ban on the use of DDT in order to control a "disastrous" insect infestation that is ravaging forests in southeast Washington and northeast Oregon.

Cole said the spreading outbreak of Douglas fir tussock moth larvae, whose feeding causes widespread defoliation and death of vast tree stands, is causing "serious social concerns" in addition to obvious economic and environmental damage. Despite the emotional controversy surrounding the use of DDT, he said, "it is clearly the responsibility of my office to take this action in light of all the latest evidence available."

The announcement came at a meeting of the Forest Industry News Media Roundtable, which is sponsored by the Washington Forest Protection Association.

Dave Graham, Portland-based pest control expert with the U.S. Forest Service, told the Roundtable gathering that tussock moth damage currently involves nearly 200,000 acres of forestlands in the region, with the largest infestation center located in the Blue Mountains of southeast Washington and northeast Oregon. If not controlled the outbreak could cause tree mortality and damage on some 434,000 acres by this summer, with timber damage estimated at \$10 million, Graham said.

Hopes that a natural virus might control the infestation before the projected damage mounted essentially have been dashed, Graham said. Recent studies have shown the incidence of the virus to be "much

lower than we had expected or hoped for," he said.

There is only an "extremely remote" possibility that some unforeseen natural phenomenon such as a "freak frost" might cause sufficient mortality among the moths before the expected summer surge in egg-hatching, Graham said. All available alternatives - including application of approved pesticides - have been evaluated thoroughly, but results to date indicate that DDT remains the only effective control known, he said.

On April 20, the Forest Service will file a final environmental impact statement on the situation with President Nixon's Council on Environmental Quality. A preliminary draft filed in February deferred a final recommendation until after further scientific evaluation plus input being solicited for the public. The Forest Service has stated it will recommend direct control with DDT if the review now underway indicates "that it is acceptable and necessary in order to prevent further unacceptable damage."

Cole said that past experience "clearly demonstrates we can apply DDT under strict control to avoid the feared effects." A similar large-scale outbreak in Oregon in 1965 was effectively controlled using DDT. After years of intensive monitoring, "no significant or long-range environmental impacts" were observed, according to the Northwest Forest Pest Action Council.

Concern over the current outbreak "go far beyond the potential loss of \$10 million worth of timber," Cole said. He cited serious threats to wildlife and recreational values in the area plus future soil erosion problems.

COW POKES

By Ace Reid



"Now, I ain't got no weight problem, I'm a little thick around the middle but I'm gittin' just as thin on top!"

4-H

THE THREADERS SEWING CLUB met April 12 at the Heppner High School Home Ec. room. We worked on our projects. We are making smocks, skirts, vests, pants, and dresses. Refreshments were served by Marie Van Schojack and Susan Gray.

Reporte,
Julie Grieb

THE SNAPPY SNIPPERS sewing club met April 3 in the Home Ec. room of Lone High School. The Simplicity filmstrip "Super Fashion Plan" was shown with narration by Mrs. Peterson. After refreshments, Mrs. Tew showed us how to put in knit and gathered sleeves.

New Reporter,
Natalie Tew



EMPLOYMENT NEWS
The Cooperative Rural Manpower Project, with the help of the secretaries in the Extension offices in Morrow, Gilliam, Sherman and Wheeler Counties, has the following job openings:
MORROW COUNTY: Fence building, farm work, secretary-bookkeeper, housekeeper, cement work.
GILLIAM COUNTY: Two year around farm jobs.
SHERMAN COUNTY: Grain warehouseman, two ranch jobs (one with experience in welding & mechanics).
WHEELER COUNTY: Two maintenance-type jobs.
People with the following experience are looking for work: Heppner Area: Office workers, sales clerks; Condon Area: Office worker; Moro Area: Secretary.
For further information contact your local Extension Service: Heppner - 676-9642; Condon - 384-2271; Fossil - 763-4115; Moro - 563-3230.
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