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BOARDMAN BEACON

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Potato production outlook is good

If current trends continue, potato production in the U.S. will settle in three or four major producing regions, and one will be the Columbia Basin, says Roland H. Groder, Oregon State University Extension fruit and vegetable marketing specialist.

Groder bases his prediction on a combination of factors that could make the Basin (Oregon and Washington sides of the Columbia River) one of the dominant producers of the Nation's potato crop.

There is new land, and water is available for irrigation, he points out. Potato growing is a profitable use for the land, labor and capital controlled by operators.

Other favorable factors: potato processing plants encompassing the latest technology are being built in the area; experienced growers from other areas are moving to the Basin and operating large plants; quality and yields are high.

Some conditions, however, could adversely affect the region's ability to increase its production, Groder notes. These include higher land use pressures from industrial developments, the energy crisis, water supply, and overplanting potatoes on the same ground.

In spite of present favorable conditions, the OSU market-

ing specialist has some words of caution for producers:

"As prices continue above previous years' levels, will the potato grower make sound business decisions and practice orderly marketing? Or will that gambling spirit break through and an over-expansion cause prices to fall below the cost of production so that we once again see supplies exceed demand?"

"This question can be answered only by members of the potato industry and hopefully will be influenced by the persons controlling the purse strings."

Ione auction, barbecue set for June 1

An organizational meeting of the auction and barbecue committee of the United Church of Christ was held Feb. 7 in the basement of the church. Mr. and Mrs. Keith Rea are co-chairmen.

The date for the annual event was set for June 1. The first Saturday in June is the

traditional date used for the affair.

Committee chairmen are: merchandise, Bill Rietmann, Mark Rietmann, Eldon Tucker, Jerry Martin; country store, Judy Rea; arrangements, Milton Morgan; pit crew, Fred Nelson; publicity, Dode Krebs; tickets, Jean

Land Bank officials elected

Groder's forecasts are included in a 1974 agricultural situation and outlook circular on potatoes prepared by the

OSU Extension Service. Co-authors are Grant E. Blanch, agricultural economist, and Lester R. Vough, Extension agronomist.

At the Federal Land Bank Association of Pendleton's annual meeting held Feb. 12, three directors were elected for a three-year term commencing Jan. 1. Bill Etter, Pilot Rock area, was re-elected; Don Hawkins was elected to represent the Pendleton area and Edwin "Tad" Miller was elected to represent the Heppner area. Hawkins succeeds Elmer Pahl, who was president of the board for several years, and Miller replaces Harold G. Campbell, who retired from the board. Other directors of the association are Milton Morgan, Richard Wilkinson, Herbert March and Don A. Woodward.

WAC plans card party, Feb. 22

The Committee for Women's Activities of Willows Grange met Feb. 15 at the Grange Hall.

Cynthia Osterlund, Irene Dalzell, and Wilma Martin were hostesses for the all-day meeting. Fifteen members attended.

The group planned a card party to be held Feb. 22 with Dot Halvorsen and Ida Coleman as chairmen. Other business included sending a donation to the CWA scholarship fund. A card was sent to Pansy Seehafer, who is ill.

The next visitation will be at Lexington; Willows is to bring dessert.

Mary Ann Palmer announced a benefit dinner for Bill Gates will be sponsored by the Ione Cardinal Club on March 10, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

House OKs plan for irrigation

Rep. Jack Sumner carried the first measure passed by the Oregon House of Representatives in the February special session.

He won approval by a vote of 56 to 4 for a bill to allow port districts to provide water for farm irrigation or the recharging of wells as well as for domestic and industrial purposes.

Sumner said the bill was of great importance to his district because it will enable the Port of Umatilla and the Port of Morrow to divert waters from the Columbia River during runoff periods to refill ancient wells which have been drained for irrigation and other purposes.

Filling the wells with excess river water would be a way to conserve this valuable resource by storage in natural underground reservoirs, Sumner pointed out.

If passed by the senate and signed by the governor, the new law will go into effect immediately.

Sumner, a Morrow county farmer, is vice chairman of the Environmental-Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee which requested introduction of the bill. He is also a member of the Committee on Economic Development and Foreign Trade.

Irrigon

Pastor Charles Ashby of the Irrigon Community Baptist Church held its annual business meeting recently. Elected to offices were: Mrs. Elbert Eppenbach, Sunday School superintendent; Peggy Price, Assistant superintendent; and Mrs. Wayne Eppenbach, treasurer. Those elected to the disconate were Sam White, Elbert Eppenbach, Sylvia Morgan, Eva Anderson, Betty Baird and Evalina Ingalla. Trustees are Wayne Eppenbach, Elva Sanders and Mary Adams. Pianist is Cindy Zehner.

Roda Maddox and Mary Stephens visited Vern Geisler in the Walla Walla General Hospital on Friday. Mrs. Geisler had surgery on her knee recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Batie Rand visited their old fishing partners, the Lindieys, in Yakima, last week.

SP4 John Eppenbach was discharged from the Army at Ft. Eustia, Va., Jan. 24. He had been stationed there since July of 1972 as a maintenance clerk. He returned to the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Eppenbach of Irrigon, Jan. 28.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Marshall, Lexington, were Sunday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Crabtree, Cecil.

Marlene Magill, Portland, visited at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Magill, Cecil, over the weekend.

Mrs. Keith Rea, Craig, Christopher and Gary, were in LaGrande Sunday to visit Mr. and Mrs. John Howton. Mr. and Mrs. Howton are parents of a girl, Amy Elizabeth, born Feb. 9.

Jerry McElligott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don McElligott, broke his leg Saturday while skiing at Arbutle. The leg has been put in a cast and it was expected he could return home in a few days.

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Water improvement bonds authorized

The Irrigon City Council authorized the holding of a bond election for needed water-system improvements at the Feb. 12 council meeting.

At least a dozen interested citizens attended the lengthy discussion.

An information bulletin and questionnaire was mailed out to 75 local homes a week ago concerning the need of upgrading and improving the present water system. Of the questionnaires returned 60 per cent favored financing by general obligation bond and a majority favored using lot assessments to help pay for the bonds. The amount of the bonds to be voted upon is \$100,000. They would provide 200,000 gallons of additional storage, a standby well, upgraded pumping facilities and standby electrical facilities.

Further information will be made available through bulletins, and a public meeting will be held before the election, according to Mayor Chester Wilson.

In other business, an improvement assessment ordinance was read and adopted. A complaint about careless speeding on motor bikes within the city was registered. The council agreed that the problem was general and possibly a result of parental unconcern. The city marshal will be asked to look into the complaint.

The council authorized a letter to the county court endorsing a request by Justice of the Peace Ernest Jorgensen to move the Justice of the Peace office into town from its present location.

Because of the length of the meeting several items were tabled until a later date, among these were appointments to the budget committee and the planning commission.

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Sorority's public dance is March 23

Plans are under way for the March 23 formal public dance to be held by Beta Omega chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha sorority.

The dance will be held at the Legion Hall in Ione, and will feature the music of Rod Esselstyn. Proceeds will be used for philanthropic projects during the coming year.

The February business meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Del LaRue and the hostess for the evening was Karen Beck. A pledge ceremony was held for Gail Herrmann. Beverly Doherty received the third degree of Pallas Athene in honor of her service to the community and the sorority.

Janet Lindstrom and Sandy Murray were in charge of the evening's educational program.

Mrs. Dorris Graves, Heppner, was speaker at the February meeting of the Cardinal Club, Feb. 14, in the high school cafeteria. Mrs. Graves, who spoke on "Life in India," had several items of clothing on exhibit in addition to the colored slides she showed. She was a guest in a private home while in India.

Teresa White and daughter, Sabrina, were weekend visitors at the home of her father, Eldon Tucker, and family. Teresa is attending Clackamas Community College in Oregon City.

Policy on livestock scale use

New policies concerning the use of the livestock scales at the Morrow County Fairgrounds were set up by the executive members of the Morrow County Livestock Growers which met last week.

New rates for use of the scales will be 20 cents per head for members of the Morrow County Livestock Growers and 25 cents per head for non-members.

Persons wishing to use the scales for weighing cattle at the fairgrounds should contact Jim Monahan (676-5593) or the County Extension Office to arrange for the scale house to be opened.

Additional information concerning the scales or other policies of the Livestock Growers are requested to contact Ed Brosan, president of the group.

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Mrs. Al Marick and Mrs. Stan Magill were in The Dalles last week.

Kevin Gutierrez broke his ankle and is on crutches. He expects to be wearing a cast for six weeks.

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