

Plan to attend the Merchants' Moonlight Sale, Oct. 18, 7-9 p.m.

Protection from organic foods

Beginning Oct. 1 "organic foods" sold in Oregon must comply with labeling regulations adopted a year ago by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

The one-year delay in the effective date was set to allow the food industry time to take whatever steps necessary to bring its products and labeling in compliance.

Oregon is the first state in the nation to adopt regulations defining organic food.

State Director of Agriculture Irvin Mann Jr. said most states have backed away from any effort to define organic foods and others have attempted, but became bogged down in controversies in which eminent authorities claimed there is no such thing as truly "organic food" primarily because synthetic chemicals have been in the environment so long that it would be virtually impossible to produce food that does not show at least a trace of man-made chemicals.

Mann said, "We sidestepped the issue of whether there is such a thing as organic food, at least by traditional definition, and established criterion for producing and labeling that at least will tell people what they are purchasing."

"We realized it is virtually impossible to produce food without any trace of synthetic chemicals nowadays, so we dealt with the problem by establishing a synthetic pesticide tolerance in organically grown foods of 10 per cent of the residue allowed in other

foods by the Federal Food and Drug Administration."

He said, "Our intent is to eliminate the mislabeling of foods as organically grown when in fact they were produced in the same manner as other foods."

The standards set down in the new regulations make it unlawful to label any animal product or by-product as organically grown food. This includes meat, milk, eggs, cheese and honey. The reasoning is that animals and bees are so mobile that their backgrounds and the chemicals to which they have been exposed cannot consistently be determined.

The regulations do establish as acceptable the labeling of meat and poultry products and by-products as "produced in an organic environment" when the product meets these criteria:

That the animal be maintained in a limited area that restricts uncontrolled movement... an area in which the grasses, feeds and water supplies are free from intentional application of synthetic pesticides or chemicals.

That no artificial growth stimulants, hormones, drugs or antibiotics are administered to the animals unless they are prescribed by a veterinarian for treatment of a specific disease, and that in no event administered within 90 days of slaughter of the animal.

Under the regulations "organically grown food" means food which has been grown

without synthetic pesticides, fertilizers or chemicals; in soil in which the humus content is increased only by the addition of natural matter and in soil in which the mineral content is increased only by the application of natural mineral fertilizers or other natural matter.

There also is a definition for "organically processed food" and that means food organically grown which in the processing has not been treated with preservatives, artificial coloring, artificial flavoring, or any other artificial or synthetic additive.

The new regulations will place foods labeled as organically grown, organically processed or grown in an organic environment under the state's food labeling and advertising laws. The failure to comply with these laws is a Class B misdemeanor for the first offense and carries a penalty of up to \$500 fine or six months in jail. There also is a provision calling for the seizure of mis-labeled food by the State Department of Agriculture.

The department of agriculture has the authority to request that the growers, processors, or sellers of these foods prove through laboratory analyses the organic nature of these foods.

If labels claim the food to be certified, a reproduction of the certificate, including the name and address of the person or organization issuing the certificate, must be available at the retail store upon demand of agriculture department inspectors.

CCC increases interest rate

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced an increase in the interest rate on price-support commodity loans and on storage facility and drying equipment loans made by Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

The increases, from 7.25 to 9.375 per cent per annum on commodity loans and from 8.75 to 9.375 per cent per annum on storage facility and drying equipment loans, will more nearly reflect the cost of borrowing money to CCC.

In making the announcement the Department said that the new interest rates will be applicable to all such loans for which applications are received by CCC on or after Oct. 1, 1974.

Also announced today is a change in the policy regarding interest on price-support commodity loans and on storage facility and drying equipment loans made by CCC. The interest rate on loans for which applications are received on and after Oct. 1 will be subject to changes, twice a

year, during the time the loan is outstanding. Loans for which applications were received prior to Oct. 1 will continue to bear interest at the rate stated in this loan agreement until maturity. In addition, loans on storage facilities and drying equipment, for which applications are received after Oct. 1, will initially bear interest at the rate in effect on the date the loan is disbursed instead of the rate in effect at the time of application.



Youths register

The office of Local Board No. 31, Selective Service System, serving Morrow, Wheeler and Gilliam Counties, has announced that the office is now open full-time.

The office is located at Rm. 25, Post Office Bldg., The Dalles. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sparky says
OCTOBER 6-12 is FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Fire Prevention check list

- Wiring and electrical systems
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- Clutter-free attic, basement, workshop and garage

Ruggles-Boyce Insurance Agency
Heppner 676-9625
228 N. Main

Notice to Contractors

Sealed proposals for the construction of Water System Improvements, Phase 2, addressed to The Honorable Mayor and Council, City of Heppner, Oregon, originally to be received until 2 p.m. on the 21st day of October, 1974, will now be received at the office of the City Hall, Heppner, Oregon, until 2 p.m., on the 4th day of November, 1974. Bids will then be publicly opened and read.

The work consists of the installation of a new pump, motor, and well house for Well No. 6, installation of a booster pump and level control device on City Reservoir No. 4, construction of 5400 feet of 8 inch water distribution line, 5300 feet of 6 inch water transmission line, 2250 feet of 10 inch water transmission line, 2600 feet of 12 inch water transmission line, 28 Hydrants, and Miscellaneous appurtenances.

Plans and specifications may be examined in the office of The City Recorder, Heppner, Oregon, or at the office of Stephen C. Anderson and Associates, Consulting Engineers, Valley Realty Building, Island City, Oregon. A copy of said Documents may be obtained at the Engineer's Office at P.O. Box 1301, LaGrande, Oregon, 97850, for a deposit of twenty-five dollars for each set of Documents. The deposit will be returned if the Contract Documents are returned in good condition within 10 days after the opening of bids.

Bidders must be prequalified in compliance with applicable parts of Chapter 279 of Oregon Revised Statutes. Prequalification forms, completely filled out, shall be mailed to The Honorable Mayor and Council, City of Heppner, Oregon, five days prior to submitting a bid.

Work under this Contract shall be completed within 250 calendar days after receiving written "Notice to Proceed".

Dated this 23rd day of Sept., 1974.

City of Heppner, Oregon
By JERRY SWEENEY, Mayor.

Published Sept. 26, Oct. 3, Oct. 10, 1974



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City council . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Anderson noted that the city has been waiting for years for some cooperation from the Corps to help with relocation of water lines for the city. "Now we don't have to wait any longer for the Corps' participation," he said. "We can proceed without its help."

Anderson promised the city will have an adequate water system, and all of the money voted for the project will be spent "wisely." He presented plans to the council on Phase 2 of the water project, revised because of the dam failure.

He noted there are 44 persons wanting to bid on Phase 2, 30 of whom are general contractors; that waiting on the Corps' promise to share in the cost, there has been a delay of nine months; and that about \$50,000 has been spent to date in surveys, plans and related work on Well 3, which includes purchase of the Thorpe Well.

The estimated bid for the work on Phase 2 should be between \$200,000 and \$250,000, he said, leaving in excess of \$125,000 of the water improvement bond money for completion of Phase 3.

The three existing reservoirs will be fully utilized, he pointed out, and announced construction of another reservoir midway between the Lott Subdivision and the high school. There are two lines within the city, one at a high level and the other at a low level. Booster pumps may be added to lines now in operation.

The proposed 780,000 gallon reservoir, which would have been constructed had the Corps fulfilled its commitment, will now have a 200,000 gallon capacity, which would assure the city of sufficient water to meet the demand until the year 1995 at the city's present rate of growth.

The only difference, he pointed out, is in the reduced storage capacity previously planned for.

Necessary ties will be made on Elder and Riverside Streets, giving a greater water pressure to residents within the city. With the 200,000 gallon reservoir at the high school, pressure would be increased to 90 pounds static pressure which would take care of the Lott Subdivision and any future building in the area, with sufficient water at the high school for emergencies.

The city has asked for a grant from the Farmers Home Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency earlier in the year, anticipating that the Corps' "insincerity" in handling the Willow Creek project would leave the city with no place to go for help. Should either of these grants be approved,

transmission lines to the reservoirs could be enlarged and the complete system rounded out.

At present, Phase 2 consists of cross-ties in Riverside and Water Streets, with all fire hydrants installed. Anderson said the reservoirs serving the three hills would have to be isolated to make each one dependent on its supporting well. With a few changes, he said, the city will have enough water storage as it would have had with the 780,000 gallon reservoir.

Phase 2 will consist of installation of all pipeline work, with some specialty work including a 10-inch main to the new reservoir. Related work includes valves and booster pumps in the line. Phase 3 will deal primarily with construction of the reservoir and upgrading of valves and booster pumps.

Anderson noted that the scrapping of the dam has hurt Randy Lott and his subdivision property more than any other person in the city. "Lott has waited patiently for the Corps to make its decision, only to have his building project set back a year," Anderson said.

Sweeney speculated that the city might sue the Corps of Engineers for the nine-month delay. "Time is considered money," he said, "and they put us off for nine months when we could have made other plans had we known the Corps did not plan to participate in the proposed construction of the water system."

The matter is being studied in the legal department.

In other business, the council approved a traffic study to be conducted in the city by the State Department of Transportation. There would be no cost to the city for this study, and the state would leave any decisions on its findings to the council. The survey would include the feasibility of parallel parking on Main Street.

—A permit for a new \$20,000 structure at 690 West Sperry was approved for Bert Corbin, with the stipulation that, if necessary, it meet the flood zone standards.

—A letter by Robert C. Kelly was read in which Kelly asked removal of some solid waste on the property facing his. The property owner will be notified of the city ordinance violation regarding solid waste. A hearing will be held on the matter.

—Randall Peterson was confirmed as chairman of the Library Board, with Rita Wolff as vice-chairman. Myrna Johnson was named to fill a vacancy on the board.

Next regular meeting of the council is Nov. 4, at which time bids for Phase 2 of the water improvement program will be opened and read.

Hit, run charges filed

Friday, a vehicle belonging to Dean Hunt, Lexington, was parked in front of the Hunt property on Arcade Street, when another vehicle hit the Hunt auto and fled the scene of the accident.

The hit-and-run was investigated by the sheriff's department and Oregon State Police.

At 3:20 a.m., Robert Allen Hughes, 19, Heppner, was arrested and charged with the violation by Oregon State Police.

Hughes is scheduled to appear in Justice Court, Oct. 10.

I would appreciate the opportunity to continue working for Morrow County.

Re-elect
Joyce Bergstrom
Morrow County Assessor

(This advertisement paid for by Joyce Bergstrom)

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