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Morrow County Livestock Growers meet

"I would like to welcome the livestock growers, the CowBelles and their guests to the 26th annual meeting of the Morrow County Livestock Growers Association," said Morrow County Livestock Grower Association President Ed Brosnan.

Following his welcome address to the members at the Heppner Elks Lodge Friday, Brosnan introduced the first speaker of the day, Bill Farrell, Grant County Extension Agent.

Farrell told of the study conducted by the Grant County Extension service in their fight against ground squirrels. "Last year a study was conducted by two college students on the type of foods the squirrels preferred most. Some of the foods used were apples, cabbage, oat groats, and others. This food was fed to the squirrels without any poison added, and it was interesting to note that many of the squirrels would not eat the food."

"The apples and the cabbage were messy and the squirrels just wouldn't eat it," said Farrell. In February they continued their bait research work using strychnine, and the squirrels refused to take the bait.

Other poisons were used with little or no effect on the pesky squirrels, as they were not getting the kill they expected.

Farrell knew of a rabbit problem in New Zealand where 10-80 had been used effectively. Reports of 10-80 were studied on both sheep and dogs. The sheep had purposely been fed enough 10-80 to kill them, then their entrails had been fed to

dogs with no ill effects to the dogs.

The poison 10-80 was mixed with oat groats and proved to be a successful combination. Only .9 milligrams per weight of 10-80 is required to kill a ground squirrel, while the amount needed to kill birds and other animals is considerably higher.

10-80 was used on 20,000 acres in Grant County and it was found the 10-80 is slower acting than strychnine. The squirrels will also go back to their holes to die after eating the mixture.

In some areas in Grant County, it was estimated that the squirrels were responsible for the loss of a ton of alfalfa per acre. These highly infested areas contained between 450-500 squirrels per acre.

The 10-80 mixed with the oat groats was spread over the area in much the same manner as fertilizer is placed on the soil. In most of the treated areas a 90-95 per cent kill was estimated. There were some problems with the younger squirrel, which will continue to present a problem this year.

"The best time to apply the poison is when the squirrels start coming out of their holes," said Farrell. 10-80 tends to break down when it gets into the soil and unlike most poisons, it does not build up in the soil.

"Some of the same bait was used on gophers with fine results," continued Farrell, and he stated they will continue the project this year. They are presently continuing a survey regarding the life habits of the squirrels. They found the male is the first to leave his hole. He will later come back for the

female and when the males and females reach a certain weight they will hibernate. It was also found that squirrels are capable of eating one-half of their weight per day, every day.

10-80 received a bad name for its use on the coyote program as it was discovered that an over amount of 10-80 was being used.

"To date with the use of 10-80 there has been no reported loss of livestock or birds in Grant County," said Farrell.

A style revue show of interest to both men and women was presented by the Morrow County CowBelles. Many 4-H youngsters in the county modeled their clothing made with wool. The men also participated in the style show showing some of the latest fashions for men. Ron Currin, modeled a wardrobe complete with a sterling silver snuff box.

Approximately 125 people attended the Farm City luncheon. During the luncheon a presentation was made by the Soroptimists Club of Heppner to Rachael Harnett for the Outstanding Woman of the Year. She was praised for her valuable contribution to the Morrow County Museum and for the endless hours of work and effort.

The Chamber of Commerce presented Virginia Whitaker and LeRoy Gardner scrolls for their contribution to the city. Both recently remodeled their stores and received recognition for their work.

Bruce Jones presented Roland Bergstrom with a plaque for being named Morrow County's Conservation Man of the Year.

Ed Brosnan presented Paul Hisler Sr., and Paul Jr. with a trophy as he named them the outstanding Livestock Growers of the Year.

Ron Daniels, president of the Blue Mountain Community College was guest speaker and he told of the role the college is playing in agriculture. BMCC recently went through a period of rapid growth and they were forced to develop new guidelines. There are presently three programs in agriculture at BMCC: Agriculture production, Agri-Business and Technical Agriculture. BMCC is presently offering 30 classes in agriculture, with their program rated among the top in the state.

BMCC is offering a three-year farm management course. The first year is devoted to the establishment and keeping of farm records. The second phase of the program is spent processing the records, to determine any weakness in management; the third phase is spent trying to implement the program for higher efficiency.

A two-year transfer program is available to Oregon State University with all of the subjects transferable. The Agri-business program is not completed as yet, however, a new four-year program is to be developed in the near future.

Daniels said, "There is a need for welding classes in Heppner and Ione, however, there is not adequate facilities and equipment to offer the classes." Perhaps with the completion of the new shop facilities at Heppner and Ione, these classes will once again be offered.

"Moment of Truth for the Cow Man" was the topic Dean Frischknecht, Livestock Specialist of Oregon State University, used in his speech to the audience. "The moment of truth for the cow man is when he discovers he has the courage and the ability he should have," said Frischknecht. The real moment of truth for the cattleman is when his cow has a calf each year and she has a good calf. When the calf is raised and sold and the animal grades choice, this is the moment of truth for the rancher," he said, as it is getting tougher to get calves to grade choice each year.

Oregon has many types of terrain, with about one-half of the land area classed as either fair or poor. Most land in the United States is suitable for grazing, however, the farmers are continually trying to improve their pastures in Oregon by seeding the land. Farmers in Oregon have spent millions of dollars trying to improve their pasture land with water and seeding projects, and today the land is in better shape than when we had undeveloped grazing land. Some of the land is best suited for grazing sheep, but it is being used for cattle ranges.

The beef most in demand is the USDA grade choice, and when the farmers steer grades choice, this is his moment of truth, as there is a difference of about \$100 per carcass for a choice grade of beef. Most beef is graded for quality as well as for the yield grade. The yield grade depends on the size of the rib eye area, the amount of inside fat and the carcass weight.

The beef industry would like most of the beef to be yield grade 2, choice and this is what they are striving for. Here in Oregon there is some beef that will yield a grade 3 and with some grades a yield 4, however, the yield 4 are very few in number.

A few years ago steers with two inches of outside fat were winning blue ribbons at many of the shows, today the judges



BERT HAWKINS

are more selective.

We have to get the smaller cattle to market faster, as keeping them for a longer period of time only adds more fat, and they should not be allowed to get too large. These cattle should grade choice at 1,100 pounds with a carcass weight of 650-700 pounds.

He told the cattlemen, "Go out and purchase good cattle and good bulls and they should produce good calves." He urged cattlemen to place some of their cattle in the testing station in Hermiston. A record of their weight per feed allowance is kept along with the carcass weight of each steer.

Henry Krebs, president of the Oregon Sheep Growers Association, spoke briefly to the membership and said, "We are pleased with the relationship with the Oregon Cattlemen's Association and we are beginning to realize we must be united to get our points over to our legislators." "We in agriculture and livestock growers are a minority group today. Once we were a majority," said Krebs. We have gone together with the cattlemen and the Oregon Wheat League and we must be better informed in all organizations to get the message to our representatives. When this is accomplished, they will be able to act in our behalf in Salem.

In the absence of Phil Murphy, Bill Farrell related to the membership the importance of the Order-Sell Marketing system.

"Marketing is a problem as we must make sure the farmers gets a fair price for his cattle," said Farrell. There is a lot of cost involved in marketing and although a few new ideas have been tried, there are many more that must be explored.

In some cases buyers are offering the cattlemen prices under the market value. In a few days another buyer will offer the farmer a better price for his cattle; however, this price is still below the market price. We should see that the farmer gets a fair price for his cattle.

Last year Grant County sold 25 million pounds of beef to consumers. If the price were raised only two cents per pound, Grant County farmers could have raised their income \$250,000.

All of the new money that comes into Grant County turns over 2-1/2 times in the county, if we can take care of our economy, we can take care of the other problems.

We should have a better way of communicating to indicate our goods. In the case of marketing by phone, we find buyers are hesitant to accept the grade of cattle over the phone. Perhaps we need a marketing specialist, one who will keep us informed of the current world market.

"Although the membership is down within the State, I am pleased with the amount of support and backing received from the farmers in Morrow County," said Oregon Cattlemen's Association President Bert Hawkins.

Recently, a beef information and research act was passed

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Livestock Growers of the Year Award was presented by Ed Brosnan, left to the Paul Hislers. From the left, Brosnan, Kathleen Hisler, daughters Joan Sumner and Francine Bristow, Paul Hisler Sr., and son Paul Hisler, Jr.

Local students in proposed study

Two Heppner students at Eastern Oregon State College, Benham Malcom and Gregory Green, are part of a science team that recently submitted a \$17,900 project proposal to the National Science Foundation. If the project is approved, the team will study the Alvord Basin in Harney County in Southeast Oregon. The study, according to Keith Roberts, Student Project Director, could influence future uses of the desert, as well as record information never before collected on the area.

Each year the NSF reviews student-initiated projects and funds those it considers worthwhile and feasible. Roberts selected the Alvord Basin because of its unique ecological features, and because it might be developed within the next few years.

"We are concerned that any decisions made about the Alvord be based on all obtainable information," Roberts said. "Even now," he continued, "oil companies are interested in the area for potential geothermal development, but their studies are private. Our data will become public information that the state of Oregon can use in deciding the Basin's future."

Besides the pragmatic value of the proposed project, the Alvord will be studied because it is unusual. "Many plants and animals in the Alvord Basin," said Prof. David Kerley, Faculty Project Ad-

visor, "are normally found much farther south. The geographic features making living conditions possible. This is a unique chunk of Oregon."

The Alvord project is a student-initiated study, as required by the National Science Foundation. Roberts was allowed 30 days to select a qualified team, commit outside support and write his 56 page proposal. This involved finding interested peers with the right experience and specialties, contacting environmental agencies and politicians for support, and estimating precise costs, equipment, and time. "As the deadline neared," said Roberts, "we were working day and night to complete the proposal."

The team of EOSC students includes aquatic botanist and Student Project Director Keith Roberts, terrestrial botanist Harry Hoogesteger, mammalogist Vivian Rayburn, generalist Benham Malcom, ornithologist Gregory Green, invertebrate biologists Steven Hamilton and Earl Perkins, and herpetologist Kelvin Brodersen. Others who helped with the proposal include Faculty Project Adviser David Kerley, typist Nancy Kerley, and researchers Leslie Bischoff, Merri Strayer, and Danae Yurgel.

By the middle of March, the NSF will announce whether or not it will fund the project.



Back row, from the left, Harry Hoogesteger, Earl Perkins, J.B. Malcom, Steve Hamilton, Keith Roberts, Vivian Rayburn, Kevin Brodersen and Greg Green. Front row, from the left David Kerley and Leslie Bischoff.

Notice of Power Interruption

Sunday morning, Dec. 21, 1975, approximately 2 a.m. to approximately 4 a.m.

To all Columbia Basin Electric Coop. members at: Heppner, Ione, Lexington, Sand Hollow, Butter Creek, Gurdane, Hardman, Ruggs, Ione Rural areas.

Necessary to cut power in at the new Columbia Basin Jordan switching substation. Sorry for this inconvenience.

COLUMBIA BASIN
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE,
INC.

Oregon Wheat Farmers President

Allan Pinkerton, Helix wheat farmer, has been elected president of the Oregon Wheat Growers League. The group made the election in Portland at their 48th annual convention.



ALLAN PINKERTON

Pinkerton will lead the organization which is composed of nearly 9,000 Oregon wheat farmers.

The Pinkerton family has a long history with the Oregon Wheat Growers League. His father, Harry B. Pinkerton, was president of the OWGL in 1931 and was the first secretary of the farm association. Allan's father-in-law, R.R. (Ruff) Raymond, was president in 1957.

When first married, the Pinkerton's farmed in the Sherman County area and moved to the Helix area in 1964. He now farms in Helix with his father-in-law and brother-in-law, R.R. and Roy-al Raymond.

He and his wife, Barbara have three children. Jim, employed by Union-Collier in Umatilla; Don, a junior at Whitman College; and Nancy, a junior at Helix High School.



DON OSTENSOE