

Area farmers asked to aid in survey

More than 20 farmers and ranchers in Morrow and neighboring Gilliam and Umatilla counties will be asked to take part in an important farm expenditure survey this month, R.M. Pallesen, statistician in charge of the Oregon Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, said.

The survey will cover total production expenditures between Feb. 11 and Mar. 4 of this year. Along with questions concerning outlays for equipment, services and other production needs, some farmers also will be asked about their marketing patterns for wheat and grain crops as an aid to accurately estimate farm income.

Other producers will be questioned about pesticide usage on crops and livestock. "While participation in the

survey is voluntary, cooperation is vital to the development of reliable indications. All information collected will be combined to produce National summaries," Pallesen continued.

Farm production expenditure information is a major ingredient in determining net farm income and is used as a guide in computing the parity index and other factors which measure the position of farmers in relation to the rest of the Nation's economy.

In 1975, farmers in the United States paid out nearly \$82 billion to produce crops, livestock and poultry. Production expenditures averaged more than \$29,000 per farm on a nation-wide basis.

State-wide, the survey will sample a total of 289 Oregon farmers and ranchers.

On civil liberties

POW Benge speaks out

The most publicized prisoner-of-war from Heppner is Mike "Butch" Benge. He is now working in the Philippines with the AID agricultural development program. A dispatch from Manila appeared in the Feb. 3 Oregon Journal in which Mike revealed his feelings about amnesty and other issues. This may not have been seen by many of our readers.

Mike's mother, Mrs. Terrel Benge, just told us that Mike had expected to be home last October, but that leave was cancelled. "Now he expects to come home this April," Mary

said. Before he comes home, Mike will celebrate the fourth anniversary of his release from the Hanoi prison where he was held from January 1969 until March 1973. He last visited here with his parents and other family members that year.

Victor Laniauskas, who wrote the Manila story, quotes Mike, "From my own experience living in a Communist regime, I came to realize that we owe a lot to America," he said while suggesting the U.S. should refrain from self-righteous preaching to de-

veloping countries.

"I think our stance on civil liberties stinks. We are very hypocritical when it comes to civil or human rights. My own answer is that democracy and development are not compatible.

"When the U.S. was developing, there really was no democracy. Look what happened in Selma. How long ago was that?"

Mike said he campaigned for conditional amnesty and approves President Carter's recent pardon of Vietnam draft evaders. He feels there should be some conditions set

for some pardons, especially for some of the more vociferous "peaceniks," among whom he mentioned Jane Fonda.

Using the Philippines, a former U.S. colony, as an example, Mike questioned the wisdom of large American loans through various international and U.S. agencies without studying carefully the projects being financed.

"We are so eager to loan money that many times surveys or feasibility studies are ignored or not even conducted," he said.

School board positions open

Petitions for election to the Morrow County School District Board in Zone VII, Heppner, and advisory committees are available at the school district office in Lexington. Zone VII is defined as the city of Heppner and a 3 mile radius outside the city limits.

Vacancies on the various advisory committees are: Heppner-Lexington: Position No. 1, 3 year term; Position No. 3, 3 year term; Position No. 5, 3 year term; Ione: Position No. 1, 3 year term; Position No. 4, 1 year term; Position No. 5, 3 year term; Boardman-Irrigon: Position No. 2, 3 year term; Position

No. 5, 3 year term. Signers of petitions and the candidate must reside in the zone or attendance area from which the candidate is to be elected. A minimum of 25 signers is required for the district board petitions and a minimum of 10 signers is required for advisory committee petitions. All signers must be registered voters in Morrow County.

The last date for filing of petitions is Tuesday, Mar. 15, 1977. Completed petitions are to be returned to the school district office or to the county clerk's office before that date.

The annual election of directors and the budget election is Apr. 19, 1977.

Round 2 for farmers

Butter Creek farmers, and possibly those in the Ordinance area, will get another crack at a proposed critical ground-water order this spring, according to James Sexson, director, state Water Resources Department.

The first order, which would have affected 270-square miles in Umatilla and Morrow counties, was reversed by the Oregon Court of Appeals Jan. 24.

The court declared that property owners weren't notified of a hearing by registered or certified mail. They were notified by regular mail.

Sexson said last week his department will send out the proper notification, rehear the testimony and make another decision. Asked if there was anything new that could change the outcome of the hearing, Sexson mentioned an additional year's records on water usage in the Butter Creek area and the possibility of hearing testimony from persons who didn't make it to the first hearing in February 1976.

He anticipated that a new hearing would be rescheduled this spring. The last hearing was held at the Umatilla County Fairgrounds.

Because of the court's decision, the Water Resources

Department is leaving open the possibility of including the two critical ground water areas in the Ordinance area in the Butter Creek rehearing. There was no appeal filed by water users in this area.

NW wheat prices increase 20 cents

Premiums for white wheat in the Pacific Northwest were sharply higher at 20 cents per bushel over Chicago March options for February shipment, the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service reports. March shipment indicated 20 cents to 1 cent lower per bushel.

Exporters are actively pressing to cover nearby sales and continuing to show lack of interest for any lengthy period ahead. Some traders were working at a flat price of \$2.95 per bushel to arrive, coast. According to traders, country selling in January was the

poorest they can remember.

Selling improved when levels reach \$2.95 and seem to be the Plateau that some wheat would trade at. The pipe lines are thin and most terminal positions are short. The Japanese Food Agency bought during the reporting period 32,142 metric tons for April shipment. There are 8 ships along the Columbia River presently loading, with destinations Japan, Korea and Iran.

Weather conditions across the Pacific Northwest growing areas are mild and lack moisture.

Extension service news

4-H STYLE SHOW A VALENTINE'S DAY FEATURE

"It's all Sewn Up!"...Spring fashions for the young and the young at heart will be featured in the free style show which will be presented Monday evening, Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. at Riverside High School. Models for the event, which will include all the new looks and fabrics on the fashion scene this spring as Simplicity Pattern Company sees them, will be 4-H members from north end clubs. Following the style show, a tea will be served by the Irrigon 4-H members.

Everyone is invited...plan to attend and get a preview of spring '77!

Extension Specialist to Share Thoughts on Homemaker's Role

"Not Just a Housewife" will be the thought behind the special message by Marcelle Straatman, OSU Extension Human Development Specialist, as she presents a program specially requested by young homemakers of this area.

Everyone is invited to attend the special program, Thursday, Feb. 10, 2:00 p.m., Heppner Methodist Church basement.

Ms. Straatman will examine the role of women today, the many challenges and opportunities available to women, and present the positive side of being a homemaker who remains at home with family as first priority, when so many other homemakers have chosen employment outside the home.

This is a program in keeping with Valentine's Day, according to Birdine Tullis, Morrow Extension Service, it will help all women feel good about being themselves!

IFYE Coming

Valerie Madison, Echo, International 4-H Youth Exchangee who spent last summer in Switzerland will share her experiences with Morrow County audiences next week when she visits schools and clubs to report.

Ms. Madison is scheduled to visit Ione Elementary and High Schools, Heppner Elementary, and A.C. Houghton Elementary School in Irrigon. She will also be guest speaker at the Soroptimist Club meeting on Feb. 17th. Anyone interested in hearing of her exciting experiences as an IFYE is welcome to attend her presentations at the schools.

Correspondence Course "Your Food"

There is much concern worldwide for food! Will there be enough to feed the hungry planet? Who will control food? What about the consumer, and the farmer's fair share?

To help you understand the current and possible future food supply situation in the world, OSU Extension offers a five lesson correspondence course. Anyone may register by sending name, address, and one dollar to cover expenses, to Morrow County Extension Service, Box 397, Heppner, or Umatilla County Extension Office, Box 1107, Pendleton. Final date to register for "Your Food" is Feb. 18.

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Nalley's Chili con carne 40 oz. \$1.09

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Diet Pepsi 16 oz. 8 pak 99¢ plus deposit

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IT'S HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY FEB. 14th

Prices effective Thur., Fri., Sat. Feb. 10, 11, 12,

Central MARKET

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