

Extension Events... with Birdine Tullis



Union Pacific Honors Scholarship Winners

Winner of Union Pacific scholarships and their parents were honored Sunday evening with dinner at Indian Hills, Pendleton, where each was presented with certificates of the award. Host for the dinner was a representative of Union Pacific from Omaha, Neb. The dinner honored both FFA and 4-H winners from Eastern Oregon.

Morrow County was lucky this year, having both a FFA winner, Scott Witt, Irrigon, and 4-H winner, Cathy Palmer, Heppner. Other recipients of the scholarships were from Baker, Burns, Fossil, and Pendleton. We were the only county with two winners, and I felt very proud of our two as they expressed their appreciation for the scholar-

ship and told of their plans for the future.

The Union Pacific scholarships have been made available to youth in counties serviced by Union Pacific since 1921, beginning as an incentive for young people to further their education and become more successful in agriculture. Recently the scholarship program has undergone changes, with larger grants, but fewer in number. Many young people in our county have benefitted from the scholarship program, and my history research leads me to believe that Rod Thompson of Heppner was the first Morrow County recipient. Our host for the evening told us that 85 per cent of the youth receiving Union Pacific grants finish college.

North Morrow Tour... May 23rd

Plans are coming right along for the tour of north Morrow! Reservations are coming in fast, so if you plan to attend, call soon. Luncheon will be no-host at Dodge City, Boardman. Cost for transportation will be about \$1.50, which will be collected on the bus. The bus will leave Heppner from the Fairgrounds at 8:30, pick up passengers at Lexington by the school house at 8:45 a.m., and plan to pick up Boardman-Irrigon passengers from Dodge City parking lot at 9:45 a.m. Some developments at Boardman will be toured prior to lunch, with the Cartz site tour planned for the afternoon. Bus Clough of PGE will serve as guide for that part of the tour, bringing us up to date on progress of the coal fired plant.

It is such a beautiful green spring in our county—a good time to bring along your camera and record some of the sights you'll enjoy the 23rd.

Did you notice that May 23rd is the day to vote? Put that on your calendar as a must-do before or after the tour!

Summer Week Orientation

Orientation for those planning to attend OSU Summer Week will be held Thursday, May 11, 8 p.m. at the conference room, extension office, Heppner. Delegates will select classes and receive information to assist them in preparation for the week of June 12-19 at Oregon State University.

FFA rates first

Heppner's Future Farmers of America livestock judging team outscored eight other regional FFA chapters to take first place honors in the Blue Mountain Community College judging contest held May 6 in Pendleton.

Heppner finished 19 points above second-place Vale, followed by Pendleton, Union and LaGrande.

Heppner FFA judging team member Geri Grieb won first place in overall individual judging, as well as taking top

Planting a Garden?

Our OSU specialist tells us that May is the time to plant dahlias, spray for aphids, and in mid-May, transplant tomato seedling. For eastern

Oregon and high elevations, plant beans, beets, sweet corn, cucumbers, dill, kohlrabi, onions, parsley, parsnips, peppers, white potatoes, summer

and winter squash, and tomatoes. If you are gardening, and have questions, extension has a wealth of information available to you at no charge. Come by and pick up bulletins, or consult with your county agent for advice on controlling all those pesky little bugs that bother your garden; fertilizer needs, or other helpful information.

4-H Leader Salute...

Eddie Brosnan and Dexter Miles

We welcome two new livestock leaders to the program! Kids get involved, and involve their parents, and soon we have new leaders. Eddie Brosnan and Dexter Miles have recently signed on to assist Jim Hayes with the large group of members in the Hoof and Horn Club in Heppner.

We can't speak for Dexter, but we know that Eddie was a Morrow County 4-H'er when he was younger, and know he wants his kids to grow up with the experiences offered in 4-H membership.

The Miles kids have been active for a couple of years in Hoof and Horn, and we are sure happy to have their dad joining them! We are happy to welcome both to the "4-H family" and hope they'll be with us for a long time.

Spring rains give crops good start

Late spring rains have given Morrow County field crops an excellent start, according to the Oregon Crop and Livestock Reporting Service.

Spring seeding has been completed and winter wheat is

in good condition, the crop service reported, adding that growers are beginning to

fertilize summer-fallow land. A total of 1.05 inches of rain fell on Heppner April 25-27, boosting the soil moisture supply to the "adequate" level.

The crop service also reported that this year's record potato crop is emerging in

many fields in good stands, and added that cattle and calves are in excellent shape.

Eastern Oregon rangeland is looking good thus far this year, with grasses coming on strong and spring growth nearly a month ahead of schedule in some areas.

The report noted that a total of 12.56 inches of precipitation accumulated in the Heppner area between Sept. 1 of last year and the end of April, well above the average 8.96 inches for the same period.

ASCS advises farmers to sign now decide later about grain

The Morrow County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) office is advising county grain producers to sign up now, and decide later regarding participation in the 1978 federal

wheat and feed grain program. Farmers have until July 1 to become certified to take part in the program.

Signing up is necessary in order to be eligible for program benefits, including deficiency payments, should average national prices for wheat, barley and field corn fall below target prices set up

under the 1977 Farm Act. Disaster payments are also available to participating farmers if their yields for such grain crops become substantially reduced due to conditions beyond their control, such as hail, floods or drought.

Another benefit available to farmers in the program is eligibility for price support loans. These grain loans can be taken out after harvest and repaid when the grain is later marketed. Other options are now available to producers under the loan program.

Records at the ASCS office

in Heppner show that 272 farms produced grain in Morrow County during 1977. By the end of last month, 221 farms had signed up for the 1978 grain program.

"All grain farmers who have not already done so are urged to visit the county ASC office by May 15 to get the latest program details and sign up," said Judy Buschke, county ASCS agent. "This will assure them the greatest flexibility in farm decision-making."

The Morrow County ASCS office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Record potato crop seen by county growers

A record-setting 28,100 acre planting, combined with favorable spring growing conditions may well leave Morrow County rolling in potatoes this fall. More than 5,000 additional acres have been devoted to potatoes this year than during 1977.

While the 1978 season may be a record crop in terms of production, County growers will not likely see record profits for their efforts, since high spud plantings and good spring growing conditions are also prevailing in other potato belts across the nation.

"It'll be very much a buyers' market," said Darrell Maxwell, Hermiston-based area extension potato specialist, "unless we get some kind of a disaster" in terms of plant disease or severe weather. If a disaster occurs, he added, "preferably it will be somewhere else."

Morrow County, already one of the premier potato-growing areas in the nation, received its boost in acreage for three main reasons, according to Maxwell. First was the development of newly irrigated potato land from previously

dry grazing or wheat land. Second, the arrival of several new potato growers in the area. Third, a plentiful supply of relatively cheap seed stock.

Most of Morrow County's 5,000 acre increase will be devoted to the Russet Burbank variety. Acreage for the early Norgold Russet will remain

about the same, Maxwell said. Special spud varieties produced for potato chips amount to about three per cent of the total crop.

Umatilla County also experienced record-breaking potato plantings this year, with a total of 13,000 acres devoted to the tubers.

Norman Nelson honored

On May 6, Norman Nelson of lone was honored with a dinner in recognition of his birthday at the Nelson ranch home. Attending the birthday celebration were: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Don Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Gonty, Mr. and Mrs.

Bud Batty, Kenneth Peck, Kerry Peterson and Paul Peterson.

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Columbia Basin Electric Coop has continued to play the role of inflation fighter in recent years.

The farmers of the area have faced a high rate of inflation costs in their expense items.

The "farmers' electric home monthly rate has "declined" over the years. The role of Columbia Basin has been "so-o-o-o" important in the rural economy.

It was decreased to an all time low in 1974 and has remained there since that time.

CBEC Farmers Rate

| Year | Monthly usage level | Rate schedule |
|------|---------------------|---------------|
| 1949 | 500 KWHS | \$16.75 |
| | 1000 KWHS | \$21.75 |
| 1959 | 500 KWHS | \$16.75 |
| | 1000 KWHS | \$21.75 |
| 1969 | 500 KWHS | \$13.25 |
| | 1000 KWHS | \$18.25 |
| 1978 | 500 KWHS | \$10.00 |
| | 1000 KWHS | \$16.25 |

Under Coop Manager Dave Harrison the past few years, the farmers have enjoyed an all time "low" rate structure.

Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, Inc.
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