

Oregon wheat growers could lose \$35 million in sales of white wheat

The Iranian crisis could cost Oregon wheat growers an estimated \$30 to \$35 million this year.

That's the figure Oregon State University Extension agricultural economist Jim Cornelius puts on the potential loss of sales of white wheat this year to Iran.

"Couple that with a similar loss of sales this year to Pakistan, and you have a

sizable impact on the state," Cornelius said. Pakistan has reduced imports of Northwest wheat because of a successful crop year in that country.

Oregon and the other Pacific Northwest states normally export around 75 percent of their wheat crop, and 40 percent of that usually goes to Iran and Pakistan. So far this

year, sales of Northwest wheat are off by 17 million bushels, and unless other countries pick up the slack, that figure could approach 30 million bushels by May 31 (the end of the marketing year).

Cornelius said it is questionable whether other major sales will offset the potential losses. "Japan and Korea are

the other two major importers, and their demand is stable from year to year. Taiwan, Yemen and the Philippines import relatively smaller quantities."

Two other countries hold some promise for sales of Northwest wheat. India's wheat crop was hurt by poor weather conditions, and Mainland China has shown some

interest in Northwest white wheat. The Chinese, previously reluctant to buy Northwest wheat because of concern with potential disease problems, have ordered 2.2 million bushels so far this year.

Russia also has experienced a poor crop year, but that country prefers the hard red winter wheat of the Midwest

similar to that grown in their own country. The Northwest's soft white wheat is lower in protein, and is generally not used in making bread. White wheat is preferred in noodles, pastries, and crackers.

The northwest states produced a little more than 200 million bushels of wheat in 1979, with Oregon accounting for about 25 percent of the

total, which at today's prices translates to a farm value of \$225 million.

Although sales of Northwest wheat to Iran before the current crisis was only 8.7 million bushels, Australia is reported to have sold them another 18 million bushels.

Cornelius advised Oregon wheat farmers to watch market conditions carefully before

deciding on how much wheat to plant in 1980.

"Loss of sales to Iran and Pakistan has had a sizable effect on prices, possibly as much as a 50-to-60 cents a bushel drop. Too much production without a pickup in export sales could lead to continued downward pressure on the price of white wheat."

Lexington news Delpha Jones

The Amicitia Club met at the home of Betty Mills in Heppner for their Christmas meeting. The home and garden was beautifully decorated in the Christmas motif. During the evening the ladies were delightfully surprised from a visit from Santa Claus delivering goodies.

Prizes were won by Barbara Cutsforth, high; Martha Munkers, second high; Beebe Munkers, low; and Barbara Cutsforth, pinochle. Door prizes were won by Gladys Van Winkle and Eileen Padberg. Besides those winning prizes players present were Betty Christman, Vonnie Lovgren and the hostess Betty Mills.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Jones and Mr. and Mrs. Pete Richards of Irrigon attended the State Fair Board convention at the Thunderbird Motel in Portland last week.

Mrs. C.C. Jones and Gladys VanWinkle entertained the Holly Rebekah Past Noble Grands Club at the Jones home on Tuesday with a luncheon meeting. The tables were decorated with the Christmas motif and a gold and red candelabra with red burning candles. The motif was also in evidence in the other rooms in the house. Following the dinner a short business meeting was held at which time election of officers was held with the following elected to office: Chairman Dorothy Burcham, vice-chairman Ruth Robinson, and secretary Leila Palmer. It was decided to entertain the clubs of Milton-Freewater, Pendleton, Stanfield, and Hermiston April 19 at the Rebekah hall. Those present for the afternoon were Catie Padberg, Florence McMillan, Irene Padberg, Dorothy Burcham, Freda Majeske, Ruth Robinson, two guests Joyce Buchanan and Virginia Peck and the hostesses Gladys VanWinkle and Delpha Jones. The next meeting will be in March at a no-host luncheon where hostesses Donna Papineau and Ruth Robinson choose.

Mrs. Mike Kane and small son Patrick have been visiting with her sister and family. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Bradd in Ontario.

Mike Kane, who has been spending several weeks with his wife Leora and son Patrick, is now in southern California where he will be employed for a few weeks.

The Lexington City Council has been busy the last meeting with the hiring of the Krumbein Engineering Co. of Pendleton, that will survey the city and set monuments for the use in further surveying of the setting of boundary lines for property holders in the city.

This project is carried on through H.U.D. that helps with matching government funds. The group voted to open C street between Depot St. and West St.

Lexington area citizens owe a great thanks to the business houses who are financing the street lighting and business house lighting in town.

Pat Cutsforth furnished the fine tree near the City Hall and decorated it.

It is nice that there are people who care enough to take time for these extra things that make our town a prettier place, and spread the holiday spirit.

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