

Over 50 farmers attend lone wheat seminar

By **BOB COSTA**
Morrow Co. Extension Agent

The Oregon State University Extension Service Wheat Seminar made its annual journey to the lone Grange Hall early this month. The seminar, also known as the Dog and Pony Show, was co-sponsored by the Morrow County Wheat Growers League.

More than fifty wheat growers heard about current research and other items of interest to farmers.

Dale Wilkins, from the Experiment Station near Pendleton, discussed grain drill opener design for better seed distribution, fertilizer placement, residue management and soil moisture retention. Wilkins has modified a John Deere HZ opener to place fertilizer in a band below the seed. Wilkins reported that banding nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizer below the seed increased the yield of spring wheat more than the same amount of fertilizer broadcast on the surface. Wilkins also reported that banding of fertilizer will allow for lower rates of nitrogen.

"Fertilizer placement can be especially advantageous in no-till and minimum tillage situations because the fertilizer is placed near the seed and

4-H Dog Club begins

By **JOHN NORDHEIM**
County Extension Agent

Cheryl McBride of Heppner, is looking for dog owners to join her 4-H Dog Club. Members will learn the care and training of their dog. Members may start with a pup or an older dog. 4-H dog classes will be added at this year's Morrow County Fair.

Members may apply for the care and training of a guide dog for the blind. In this program, the 4-H member starts out with a puppy, breed for helping the blind. The puppy becomes part of the family and attends most functions that the family attends. At the end of the training period the dog is sent to "college" to learn specifically how to cope and care for a blind person.

To be in 4-H, the potential member needs to be in the fourth grade or above, not to have completed the 12th grade.

If you are interested in learning more about joining this new club, call either Cheryl McBride at 676-5254 or John Nordheim at 676-9642.



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away from crop residue," says Wilkins.

Terry Townsend, a graduate student at OSU, discussed changes in the price of wheat as it moves from the farm to consumers in Japan. Terry reported that the Japanese government pays Japanese wheat growers \$26 a bushel to encourage more wheat pro-

duction and less rice.

John Oades of the Oregon Wheat Growers League discussed the new Oregon Grain Lien Law. The bill places an automatic lien on grain sold by farmers for a period of 90 days. Farmers can extend the lien for an additional 90 days if they file the proper forms with the Secretary of State. The

law applies only to wheat that is sold, not wheat in storage.

"We're better off but not all the way home," Oades said.

Norm Goetze, OSU Extension agronomist, reported on STEEP research. STEEP stands for Solutions to Environmental and Economic Problems, and is a coordinated three state research effort.

Goetze reported that there was no difference in the nitrogen availability to fall planted wheat when the stubble was worked in the previous fall or in the spring.

Goetze discussed the work of research scientist Betty Klepper and Ron Rickman of the Pendleton Experiment Station.

Man has been growing wheat for 7,000 years, but not

until Klepper and Rickman delved into the plant's behavior has anyone come up with the basic information on exactly how it develops. Goetze said.

Jim Cornelius, OSU Extension economist, reported on his analysis of 73 wheat marketing strategies. Cornelius developed a computer program that outlines the risk versus the potential returns of

each marketing strategy. "Generally, the higher the return, the higher the risk," said Cornelius.

Cornelius reported that in the past, the lowest prices for soft white wheat have been during May and June. Sales late in the marketing year tend to give lower returns when storage costs are considered, but participation in farm programs may offset

this, said Cornelius. Cornelius is writing an Extension publication on wheat marketing strategies that will be available in a few months.

Dave Holst, OSU Extension economist, discussed the use of computers in farm management. Holst brought a computer with him and demonstrated some programs that are useful to farmers.

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