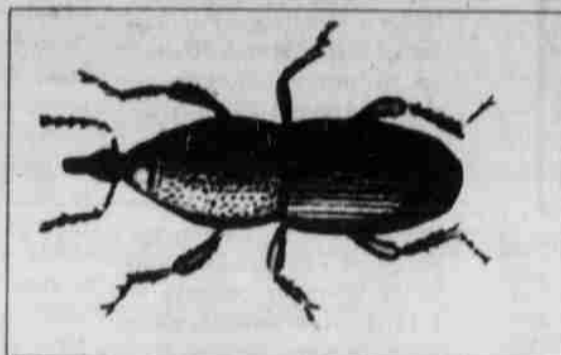


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W.C.C.C. members take part in playday at Kinzua

Willow Creek Country Club members were invited to participate in a playday at the

Muriel Palmer, second - Bev Wilson. Suzanne Jepsen took first low net and Wanda Willis took second low net. Wilson

Kinzua Golf Course last Sunday, July 31.

Taking low gross honors for the Heppner women were first

also had long drive.

Heppner men who took awards were Don Lott and Wayland Hyatt, a tie for first

low gross. Dave Green - first low net and Bob Jepsen - second low net.

Jepsen also had K.P. and

Lott had long drive.

Lunch was served to the golfers at noon in the clubhouse.

Conflict between farmers' program seen

The federal government has launched so many programs to help the nation's farmers and ranchers that perhaps conflict between some of them is inevitable. Such appears to

be the case where the S.T.E.E.P. (Solutions to Economic and Environmental Problems) program and the P.I.K. (Payment-in-Kind)

program are concerned, according to Darrell Maxwell, Oregon State University Extension agronomist for S.T.E.E.P.

Agricultural researchers working on the cropland soil erosion problem in the U.S.D.A.'s S.T.E.E.P. program in Eastern Oregon have come up with a way to limit erosion, but it may hamper the effectiveness of the

U.S.D.A. P.I.K. program, intended to boost grain prices.

Where the goals of P.I.K. and S.T.E.E.P. appear at odds is in annual cropping, a S.T.E.E.P. strategy, says Maxwell.

No-till annual cropping is recommended as an alternative to the summer fallow method that has been used in dryland wheat production for many years.

Summer fallow means leaving a field tilled with no crop planted in alternate years. This method is used in semi-arid regions because it helps control weeds, causes organic matter in the soil to release nitrogen and allows the soil to store water for the next year's crop.

The no-till annual cropping method consists of planting a crop, every year, directly into a seedbed not tilled since harvest of the previous crop, explains Robert Ramig, U.S.D.A. Agricultural Research Service soil scientist at the Columbia Plateau Conservation Research Center near Pendleton.

Leaving residue from previous crops on the soil surface helps prevent soil erosion caused by wind and water by holding the soil in place, he said. The residue also slows evaporation of water from the soil, thereby conserving water for crops.

The annual cropping strategy conflicts with P.I.K. because of the greater production realized from planting a field every year instead of in alternate years, Ramig explained.

A major purpose of the P.I.K. program is to reduce grain stocks by planting less farmland in grain producing crops. However, wheat growers who go to no-till annual cropping to slow soil erosion on their land produce more instead of less wheat, Maxwell said.

Over-production of grains was one cause of the adoption of the summer fallow system in the first place, he added.

In most cases a farmer won't use a cultivation practice if the return from it isn't likely to yield an immediate benefit, Maxwell said. This is especially true now because of low grain prices and high production costs.

No-till cropping has benefits other than reduced soil erosion, but farmers may not find them attractive enough to adopt.

No-till cropping lowers the cost of production by saving fuel, time, labor and wear on machinery, but there are additional costs for fertilizers, and for herbicides used in place of tillage to control weeds, Ramig said.

Agricultural researchers recommend no-till annual cropping where soils are shallow (less than three feet deep) and enough rain falls during the first winter after harvest to saturate the soil with water. Soils on about 60 percent of the

cropland in the Columbia Plateau and Palouse and Nez Perce prairies of Eastern Oregon and Washington are less than three feet in depth, he explained.

Successful no-till annual cropping requires careful residue management and weed control, proper seeding and fertilization and crop rotation, Ramig added.

Maxwell and Ramig said they believe only about five percent of the grain growers in Eastern Oregon and Washington will try no-till annual cropping.

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Thru August 8
Still Time To See!

Thursday
FAMILY & HOMEMAKERS DAY JUNIOR RODEO
ONE REEL VAUDEVILLE SHOW (2 Shows)

Friday
SENIOR CITIZENS DAY JUNIOR RODEO
MASTER SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST PEPSI DAY
ONE REEL VAUDEVILLE SHOW (2 Shows)

Saturday
PARADE 8K & 10K FUN RUN 7:30a.m.
RONALD MCDONALD OLD TIME FIDDLERS
JUNIOR RODEO DISCO CONCERT

Sunday
OPEN HORSE SHOW EXHIBIT RELEASED

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INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITS COMMERCIAL DISPLAYS
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