



Heppner, Oregon 97836

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1986 Annual Report

Supplement to the Heppner Gazette-Times - November 12, 1986

CRP is CPR for Morrow Co.



Farmers load up sacks of CRP grass seed at Green Feed & Seed in Heppner. Much of the seed will be used in the Conservation Reserve Program, as farmers turn wheat land into grass land in Morrow County.

by John Tunberg

The Conservation Reserve Program was established as part of the Food and Agriculture act of 1985. This program provides that farmers who are farming highly erodible land may enter into a contract with the government to plant that land to permanent cover. The farmer is reimbursed for up to half the costs of establishing the required cover. Farmers can earn up to \$50,000 per year in rental payments from this program. Each contract has a 10 year lifespan with signups to continue until 1990 or until the acreage limit is reached. In Morrow County the limit is approximately 110,000 acres with approximately 77,000 acres having entered into this program to date.

The benefits from this program are many and tangible for Morrow County residents as well as the rest of the state and nation.

One benefit is that land taken out of production will no longer be producing crops which contribute to a growing national surplus. This should have some positive effect on commodity prices. The major benefit from this program is the

removal of land from production that is highly erosive. This means that every year it is farmed it contributes a disproportionately large amount of wind and water born soil that cause problems throughout the country.

The soil that comes off this land is the major cause of severe bank erosion along creeks in this county. Soil entering the water causes it to act as an abrasive slurry chewing away at banks and valuable fields. This same slurry damages pumping and distribution equipment used by irrigators who pump out of the creeks. This same soil ends up behind the dams along the Columbia River and must be dredged out to clear lanes for barge traffic and to maintain the designed storage capacity of the dam. Of course this dredging program and bank repair cost all tax payers. With less soil moving around the costs should be less.

Another benefit from this program will be the tremendous wildlife habitat that will be created. With better habitat comes better populations of game which in turn will bring more hunters. These hunters bring

non-polluting recreational dollars into the county. Something that has the potential to benefit many county businesses.

As can be seen the CRP program has many potential benefits and can give this county a real shot in the arm when it needs it.

Annual Meeting Set for Nov. 21

Morrow County Soil and Water Conservation District is joining forces with other farm agencies by holding their annual meeting at the Heppner Elks Lodge on Town-Country Day, Friday, Nov. 21.

The SWCD annual meeting starts at 3:30 p.m.; everyone is welcome to attend.

Fred Lundin, Morrow County Extension Agent and chairman of the event, pointed out that the day will be full of activities that will feature annual meetings of many organizations, workshops, seminars and panel discussions throughout the day.

The day begins at 8:30 a.m. with a meeting of the Morrow County Wheat League followed by Livestock Growers, Small Woodland owners, and Morrow County CowBelles. Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District will end the day long meetings.

Farm booths will be set up during the day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. They will feature such topics as financial farm management, small business management, woodland management, and job training. Booths also will be set up by the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service and Soil and Water Conservation Service offices to answer ques-

tions about the CRP farm program and weed problems.

Marcelle Strattman, Oregon State University Human Development Specialist, will present workshops on coping with farming at 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Bill Zollinger, OSU Livestock Specialist, will have a special workshop for livestock growers at 10:30 a.m.

At noon a farm program is scheduled to include a panel discussion featuring ranchers, farmers, businessmen, and farm agencies. "This will give the audience a chance to ask questions concerning any farm programs," said Lundin.

Heppner Chamber of Commerce, commodity groups, and businesses are sponsoring the all-day program, which will feature Lee Pitts, nationally known editor, at the evening banquet.

"We are all in this together: farms and businesses alike are facing tough times. We hope this will help us all," said Birdine Tullis, Chamber president and Morrow County Extension Assistant. "Over \$225 worth of door prizes will be given away during the day."

A wine tasting is planned the preceeding day, Thursday, November 20, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Heppner Elks Lodge. Morrow County and Oregon wines will be featured, and is open to the public.

1986
15th Morrow SWCD
Annual Meeting
You're invited to attend.
3:30 p.m. at
Heppner Elks Lodge
Friday, November 21, 1986
During the Town-Country Day
 During the Annual Meeting an Audit Report will be given.