

AS



Have lunch with Santa
 Sunday
 Lunch 12-1
 Movie 1-3
 Heppner Elks

SWCD improves Morrow Co. range conditions

Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District is working to improve range conditions in Morrow County. Morrow SWCD has contracted with Soil Conservation Service and U.S. Navy, to monitor range conditions on the Boardman Bombing Range. SWCD personnel work with James West (permittee) on range utilization and management. The permittee grazes approximately 2200 head of ewes and 750 pairs of cattle plus yearling steers on 45,000 acres from Feb. to June annually.

The range is divided into 15 pastures ranging in size from 600 acres to 5000 acres. SWCD reviews weekly to see that livestock is being rotated. Water troughs and salt placement is also changed to reduce over-grazing. Both SCS and SWCD personnel were involved in helping the permittee design and install a pipeline for watering the livestock which reduces the need to truck water. Two wells have been developed on the south end of the range and pipelines will be extend-

ed northerly in 1990. At the end of the grazing season a range analysis review is conducted with SCS area range conservationist, SWCD, and Department of the Navy Natural Resources Branch personnel. With this cooperation, the range has turned the corner from an average northwest rangeland to a more highly productive rangeland.

With the assistance of SCS area range conservationist Alan Bahn, and Plant Materials Center, Morrow SWCD is establishing a range evaluation plot on two locations on the Bombing Range. One plot will be located near the north end on very fine sandy loam soil and the second plot will be on silt loam near the south boundary. The grasses will consist of both native and introduced species and will include forbs (broad leaved flowering plants) as well. The district has also acquired a range drill from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and will possibly contract with the Navy to reseed critical areas from the pipeline installation.

Farmers face tough fight over chemicals

Farmers face a tough fight in Congress in the coming year over the use of chemicals in agriculture. Pacific Northwest grain growers were told.

While wheat and barley growers of Oregon, Washington and Idaho favor the development of uniform national chemical regulations, a public movement is afoot to eliminate the use of farm chemicals altogether, said Judy Olson, an eastern Washington farmer who is a vice president of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers.

Olson is among Oregon, Washington and Idaho grain growers who met this week in the first tri-state convention of wheat and barley growers. Among the topics of this year's meeting is preparation for the 1990 chemical arguments.

Already, at least one bill is expected to go before Congress by next summer that would deny the use of any chemical that induces cancer in laboratory animals, said Olson. The bill, HR 1725, also called the Kennedy/Waxman bill, "could regulate us just about out of business, and just about eliminate the use of pesticides," said Olson.

The bill promotes the newly popular idea of "zero tolerance" of carcinogenic or cancer-causing chemicals in any aspect of food growing or production.

The problem with such a bill is that it addresses only public fear, she said, failing to take into account how the chemical is used and whether any portion of it would actually ever reach users or consumers.

A different approach is taken in another bill, sponsored by the House Agricultural Committee, said Olson.

The de la Garza/Madigan (cq) bill, HR 3292, retains the current federal practice of determining whether a chemical poses an actual risk, and if so, whether a small risk might be worthwhile when weighed against the benefit to the public.

Under current law, a tolerance is established for every chemical, based on the benefit weighed against the risk. Tolerances, which vary from product to product, are established by extensive testing related to how it is to be used.

Olson said both bills represent an attempt to "restore the credibility of our regulatory agencies." The Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency after this year's major public scare regarding apples said to be tainted by the chemical Alar.

Alar, a trade name for daminozide, was a legal, registered chemical used by growers to reduce cracking during ripening and maintain firmness for storage. The chemical had been under medical review by the EPA since 1985, during which time grower reduced their use of Alar to 5 to 15 percent of the crop.

The Alar scare "showed us in agriculture that we are not immune to public opinion," said Olson. "And public opinion dictates what happens to us in legislation."

Many supporters of the Kennedy-Waxman bill "think all the risks are to the consumer and all the benefits are to agriculture," said Olson.

"We're going to lose in some areas," Olson said of the upcoming debates. "What we need to do now is draw the line on how far we can go."

Alumni tournament will be fun



Dorian Forrar holds the trophy which will go to the winner of this year's alumni basketball tournament. The trophy is a revolving trophy and will be displayed from the high school trophy case. Dorian's team won it last year.

The Sunday schedule for the second annual Heppner alumni basketball tournament Dec. 29 through 31, begins at 1 p.m. with a game between Condon and Heppner.

The exhibition game will match ages of players and will be for fun only to start off the last day of the three-day tournament.

The second game of the day will be the Inlaws vs the Outlaws. The Inlaws are Heppner graduates over 40 years old, and the Outlaws are non-Heppner graduates over 40. The Outlaws will be lead by captain

Harley Sager, and the Inlaws by Archie Ball.

Before the game special recognition will be made to the girls who played on the 1985-86 girls basketball teams.

At 5 p.m. on Sunday there will be a girls game with the odd graduating years taking on the even years.

At 7 p.m. will be the championship game to determine the winner of the three-day alumni tournament, and will match the winner of the young team bracket against the winner of the old team.

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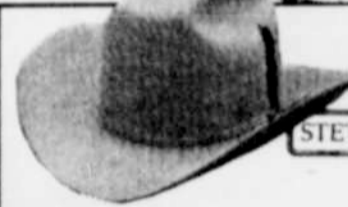


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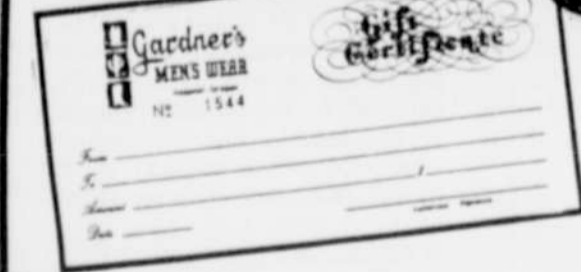
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