

Conservation Practices Encouraged by PMA Grants to Farmers of County

Maximum Usage Of Farm Acreage Is Aid of Program

Local Budget Totals \$54,600 This Year

Are you a "producer who operates as either owner-operator, landlord, tenant or sharecropper a bona fide farm in Jackson county in 1952 . . . ?" If you are, you are eligible to participate in the Agricultural Conservation program which is carried on in Jackson county through the Department of Agriculture's Production and Marketing administration office in the courthouse.

This is one of the programs with which the department is working to achieve its basic physical soil conservation objective, or the use of each acre of agricultural land up to its full capabilities, and the treatment of each in accordance with its needs for protection and improvement. Said "Partnership"

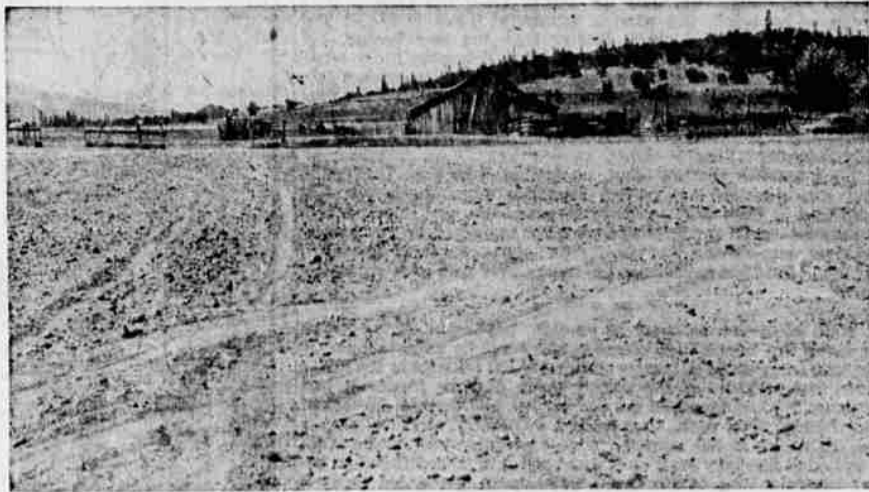
The conservation program is described in the county handbook as a . . . government-farmer partnership—not only for improving our soil and water resources, but as insurance that those resources will not be depleted. The government's contribution through the program represents a small part of the total cost of conservation activities carried on by the farmers. It is a means by which non-farmers as well as farmers invest in the future of America."

In general, conservation measures approved under the program are to be performed by individual farmers on their own farms. Assistance payments from the PMA are limited to \$750 for any individual. However, producers in any local area may, with the approval of the county and state committees, formulate a written agreement to perform certain practices affecting several farms by a pooling agreement and gain the maximum payment for each cooperator.

During 1952, the total allocation to be used in the county is \$54,600. Responsibility for administration of these funds lies with a three-man county committee. This committee is made up of Jackson county farmers serving on a yearly basis. The



BEFORE AND AFTER IN PROGRAM—Shown above is an illustrative example of the practice of preparing land for irrigation. Pictured (left) is a portion of a 50-acre tract which, according to estimates by the Jackson county extension service, was only supporting five or six head of cattle for a period of two months. After the project was okayed for federal assistance, which was limited to 50 per cent of the cost or \$15 an acre, under the Agricultural



Conservation program, the job was contracted to the Tru-Mix equipment company which went to work with a carry-all and ripper in leveling the ground. The picture at right shows the results of the leveling work which took the top soil off the rises and covered up the rocks. After all the ground is leveled, seeded to permanent pasture and applied to irrigation, it is estimated it will support 100 head of cattle for eight months.

elections, held each fall, are open to all eligible farmers and their wives. In addition to the county committee, a three-man community committee is also elected at that time to represent each of the seven communities into which the county is divided.

An office is maintained by the county committee and all office personnel are hired by it. Included on the local staff is an assistant secretary, engineer, one full-time stenographer and one part-time stenographer.

The county committee is made up of David B. Lowry, chairman; Albert L. Straus, vice chairman; Chester H. Wendt, regular member; Robert B. Fleming, first alternate; David S. Blair, second alternate; Talbert D. Sehorn, assistant secretary (administrator); and County Agent W. B. Tucker (ex officio), secretary.

Committee members for the individual communities are as follows: Applegate—F. H. Smith, chairman; James F. Corson, vice chairman; Lewis T. Buckley, regular member; W. H. R. Nosttrand, first alternate; and Francis A. Krause, second alternate. Ashland—Clarence C. Williams, chairman; John S. Billings, vice chairman; Ben Dawson, regular member; Joseph M. Rapp, first alternate; and Phillip Feddersohn, second alternate.

Central Point—Homer A. Conger, chairman; Robert O. Wolff, vice chairman; Dixon Saltgaver,

regular member; Ray Vogel, first alternate; and John Bohnert, second alternate.

Eagle Point—Robert B. Fleming, chairman; F. H. Moody, vice chairman; R. L. Conger, regular member; K. L. Oliver, first alternate; and R. R. Bitterling, second alternate.

Jacksonville-Medford—Paul Culbertson, chairman; John Dunlap, vice chairman; and W. H. Arnold, regular member.

Rogue River—David S. Blair, chairman; C. H. Tjoelker, vice chairman; F. R. Sanders, regular member; Vern Orr, first alternate; and William Krauss, second alternate.

Sams Valley—R. E. Nealon, chairman; Earl Peffley, vice chairman; R. A. James, regular member; and C. W. Duggan, first alternate.

The practices for which money is allocated in Jackson county this year were chosen by the county and community committees, soil conservation service, extension service, and representatives of other agricultural agencies, from a list of practices approved by the national PMA office. Local approved practices are the ones this group considers to be the most needed in the county and from which the greatest benefit could be derived in view of the size of the county allotment for this year.

The practices chosen include construction of diversion ter-



LEVELING EQUIPMENT—Shown above is a 10-yard carry-all being pulled by a caterpillar from the Tru-Mix Equipment company which contracted the leveling job under the conservation practice of preparing land for irrigation, described in the accompanying article. The carry-all scoops the dirt off the high points and dumps it over the lower places which in the accompanying picture were covered with rocks. This implement is followed in the leveling procedure by a "ripper" which evens up the ground consistency so it will all settle at the same level rather than unevenly at the soft spots. The ground is then land-graded and ditched before seeding to permanent pasture.

aces or ditches to collect or divert excess water, establishing permanent sod waterways to dispose of excess water without causing erosion, and constructing erosion control dams to prevent or heal the gully of farm land and to reduce run-off of water. Others are constructing permanent riprap; stream or shore control to prevent erosion or flood damage to farm land; seeding or reseeding of permanent pastures on cropland for erosion control;

controlling perennial weeds as a necessary step in soil and water conservation; artificial reseeding of grazing land; controlling competitive plants and shrubs on non-cropland; reorganization of farm irrigation system; preparing land for irrigation; constructing or enlarging dams, pits, and ponds for irrigation water.

Construction and enlargement of drainage ditches; installation of drainage tile; and installation of permanently located mainline pipe and stand pipe for sprinkler irrigation, are others.

In no instance does assistance for any of these practices exceed 50 per cent of the cost, and usually it will fall below this figure as a result of various restrictions applied to the practice.

One use of the program in this county is called "Individual Practice, Prior Approval Method," and under it the producer is required to file a request for approval with the county committee for each practice just before performance is carried out.

An inspection of the proposed work is then made, and if the committee approves the practice, it will give formal notification to the producer of the units approved (in acres, feet, or other measurement), a date when the practice is to be completed and reported on, and the amount of money set aside for assistance.

As soon as performance is completed, the farm operator

must submit a report of completion to the county committee, and the farm operator must submit all necessary evidence, such as sales slips, invoices, and receipts, to substantiate the report.

The accompanying pictures show work in progress on a job approved by the committee under the practice of preparing land for irrigation. Following through on this particular project will serve to illustrate the step by step procedure to be followed by farmers in obtaining PMA assistance.

The operator in this case contacted the local office at the time he decided to do the work. There the requirements for this type of project were explained and it was pointed out that assistance for this practice is limited to 50 per cent of the cost or \$15 an acre, whichever is less.

After the application was made, the office arranged for an on-the-farm inspection. As a result of the inspection, it was decided that the proposed work was a needed practice and would meet with all committee requirements, and a prior approval for 50 acres was issued.

The farmer was free to make whatever arrangements he pleased for equipment to do the work, so long as the completed job met with PMA requirements. In this instance, the Tru-Mix

Equipment company contracted for the job. When work is completed, the operator will report back to the office, and a final inspection will be made. If work has been completed according to specifications, the committee gives final approval.

The project illustrated will cost approximately \$35 an acre to complete, or a total of \$1,750 for the 50 acres. Of this amount, the farmer will receive the maximum assistance allowed by the committee (\$750), and will pay the rest himself.

According to rough estimates by the county extension service, this acreage which previously supported five or six head of cattle for a period of two months, will, after leveling, seeding to permanent pasture, and application of irrigation, feed 100 head of cattle for eight months.

In addition to administering the conservation program, the county PMA office has three other activities. These include the price support program, other specialized loan programs, and defense activities.

In the price support program, loans, purchase agreements, and other aids are available to the farmers. On the loan basis, the farmer is loaned up to the support price on his commodities. For satisfaction of the loan the farmer can forfeit the commodities. If the price should happen to raise above the support level, the commodities can be redeemed and sold and the loan paid off at the agreed interest rate.

Another program set up is for specialized loans. Here, loans are available for the construction or purchase of storage facilities for certain farm commodities. This loan program for storage facilities has been extended through June 30 of this year.

The county PMA committee is also responsible for carrying out certain defense activities delegated to PMA by the secretary of agriculture. It has been named the claimant agency for agriculture to the National Production authority, and, as a result, the local committee works with problems of supply and priority requirements as they relate to farming.

Provisions of the operation of PMA in the county are set forth each year in a handbook issued by the county committee. Copies of these, as well as any particular item of information concerning the programs, are always available at the county office.

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