

# Ag Board Requests Water from Dams

Salem—The state board of agriculture, meeting in Salem September 24 and 25, elevated Loyd Key, Milton-Freewater, from vice chairman to chairman and named Ralph W. Wither, Junction City, as vice chairman.

The board took formal action on seven matters:

1. Water problems. On motion of Robert Pierce, Ontario, the board requested Robert J. Steward, director of agriculture, to contact appropriate agencies to seek relief from the acute water problem confronting farmers in the summer season of low water level. The board wants water released from dams for multipurpose use.
2. Origin labeling. After hearing a report on proposed legislation to require state-of-origin labeling of broilers sold in Oregon, the board recommended that the department of agriculture and all others concerned "make a very careful study of this problem." Members said the study should take into consideration the effect origin labeling could have upon Oregon's large export business in farm products. (Motion by Ward Spatz, Medford.)
3. Conservation practices. Based on reports that certain agricultural areas with drainage, land leveling and irrigation needs are hampered by lack of funds and personnel in the Soil and Conservation Service and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation programs, the board asked an investigation. It asked the director of agriculture and Dean F.-E. Price of Oregon State college to explore the possibilities of more funds for Oregon on more equal distribution of funds now available to service needy districts. (Motion by Ward Spatz, Medford.)
4. Freight rates. The board asked Director Steward to keep abreast of the freight rate problems as they affect Oregon agriculture and suggested that he appear and testify at the Oct. 23 meeting of the ICC. This action followed a review of the freight rate and transportation situation with respect to Oregon farm

exports and imports and the current status of rate hearings before the ICC. (Motion by R. A. Long, Fort Rock.)

5. National cooperation. The board urged stepped up and continued interest with the next Congress on the premise that Oregon's agriculture is closely related to the national program. The members recalled that upon their appointment, Governor Holmes had charged them to establish closer liaison between the board and Oregon's congressional delegation. Director Steward reported the department of agriculture has worked closely with the congressional delegation on many items. These include onion futures trading, crop estimating on canberries, extension of the national wool act, Canadian embargo on turkeys, freight rate hearings, and wheat and seed export programs under P. L. 480. (Motion by Ward Spatz, Medford.)

6. Insecticide legislation. The board recommended that the department of agriculture assist the Nyssa alfalfa seed growers to develop necessary legislation to control insecticide damage to alfalfa and honey bees. This motion, by R. A. Long, resulted from a plea for help presented by Wayne Garner of Nyssa.

7. Department budget. The board approved the department of agriculture's proposed budget for the 1958-61 biennium. The proposed budget is \$6.2 million, which the board said was conservative and necessary in view of the increased activities placed on the department by law, inflationary trend and the importance of agriculture to the state.

The board will hold its next meeting in December.

Stationed along the routes of early stagecoaches in the United States are posts for changing horses. Mail was taken off or on at these posts. Hence the present name of "post offices" for handling mail.

New Jersey is the source for about 25 per cent of clay, zinc and magnetite in the United States.

# Farm Courses Set For Crater High

Central Point—First veterinary practices class at Crater high school starts at 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 13, announced Ed Griggs, vocational agriculture instructor.

Material for instruction includes care and use of common veterinary instruments, diagnosing, preventing and treating common livestock diseases, Griggs said. Films will be shown for illustration.

Another course in the agriculture instruction series starts at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 16, when the farm mechanics course will be held. The course will include instruction and practical experience in working with motors, the high school teacher said. Several motors will be used for practice demonstrations.

Each of the courses will run for 10 weeks with instruction scheduled for one night a week, Griggs said. Those interested in either course should contact the Crater high school vocational-agriculture department by calling Normandy 4-1103 in Central Point.

# Deadline Oct. 3 ASC Rate Request

Oct. 3 is the deadline for filing a signed request for rates in applying for contract by Oct. 17, 1958, according to Jackson county ASC committee.

Harry Martin, ASC office manager, explained that a farmer wishing to take land out of production for a period of years may do so and draw annual rental payments by either offering his whole farm and receive 10 per cent incentive for doing so, or by offering part of his farm by reducing his soil bank base acres.

Martin also mentioned that before coming to the County ASC office to make application, farmers should list information about the acreage of each crop on the farm for the past two years and the average yields of the crops.

The Canadian packing industry exports meat and by-products to 81 countries.

# --- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE G. COWLEY  
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Water has always been sought after by man. Since it is so valuable it has also been the cause of many controversies.

Not long ago the long standing legal hassle over use of the Colorado river waters ended. Locally, management of water hit the headlines during the present controversy over the Eagle Point irrigation district.

Those managing the Eagle Point irrigation district know, especially now, that managing water for people is far from easy—many problems result. As one manager of a local irrigation district said, "Storage water is money in the bank!" Water is to farming what blood is to a man. Often people think of it that way. I remember seeing two ranchers, one in his 60's and the other in his late 50's slug it out over irrigation rights. So it goes.

Thinking the other side of the coin should be shown also, we asked two managers of local irrigation districts some of the problems involved in managing water. Their answers showed human nature or just plain human ornerness cause a good many of their problems—some funny and some not so funny. As a local attorney remarked, "Questions over irrigation waters can be highly emotional."

How do you figure how much irrigation water can be portioned out to your customers, we asked. It takes a lot of figuring and second guessing, we were told. The irrigation men figure how much storage water is available at the start of the irrigation season and they pro-rate it considering what might be needed for hold-over for another season. Naturally, the weather has to be figured, for storage reservoirs will not fill every year. The carry-over is the big factor. It's the cushion.

Weather is a big factor, particularly during the summer when the canals are full of water flowing down from the foothills into the irrigation ditches or into the arteries of Rogue valley agriculture. A sudden cloudburst may cause a flash-flood and take out a section of canal. The irrigation district personnel must foresee the danger and be there to spill the excess roaring through the canals until it spends its fury. This means the irrigation district people stay pretty close to home during the summer.

Trickiest job is pre-determining the demand for water. It takes 32 hours to bring the water down to the bottom of the valley from Fish lake, for instance. The water must be released from Fish lake to fit the demand here. A few degrees in the weather can make the difference in demand. Everything must be figured 32 hours in advance since the managers don't like to start the water down unless someone needs it.

Now, take a deep breath, this is only part of it. That's only part of it and probably explains why good irrigation district managers are held in such high esteem—most of the time. Here in the Rogue valley water demands are split between orchardists and those raising pastures. Those farmers with clover pastures want the water as soon as the hot weather hits in April and May right down to the first rain in fall. Pastures use the water every 10 to 14 days. (Every 14 days up to and after the peak demand in July and every 10 days in July.)

Pear orchardists used to irrigate in May with at least one irrigation made with the first water down the streams or the flood water. Since the start of pear decline in 1955 this practice gradually ceased. Now orchardists wait until after the stream flow. The irrigation water supply has been building up gradually.

Spraying demands cause another problem. It seems as if all orchards want to irrigate either before spraying or want to hold off until after spraying. When showers hold up a haying operation all the farmers with hay are delayed and want the water at the same time. To satisfy all those who want their water at the same time it would take a flow of 1,000 cubic feet per second feet compared to the present 150 c.f.s. There just isn't that much capacity available in the canals.

"Of course the ideal situation," one manager said is to set up an uninterrupted rotation system early in the spring. This way the water users stagger their water use. On this staggered basis district managers could more easily figure their water demands through the summer.

The hardest season comes when the water delivery is all set up on schedules, then the rain come. This means some water users must irrigate while their lands are still rain-wet to avoid others from becoming too dry.

Still talking about the water users—new tract owners with no experience with irrigation make many district manager wrinkle their brows. They don't realize how much water their particular type of soil will take. It should be stopped right at the saturation point. Plants have root or growing zones. After the water passes those zones it ceases to do the trees or plants any good. The new irrigators have to learn "to put the water over fast, penetrate the root zone and shut it off, to avoid waste," one manager said. Twenty-four hours of irrigation is plenty for heavy clay soil as is found in much of the valley.

The "sticky," as the Bear creek adobe soil is called, holds the water tenaciously. The local managers have little booklets which explain they are legally entitled to shut the water off if it is being wasted by a farmer. But how are you going to tell when a farmer has taken all the water he actually needs?

One thing which helps in the valley is the unique system of the various districts picking up the surplus water from each district as it flows down. Talent Irrigation district may start it flowing from one reservoir high up, Medford Irrigation district picks it up farther down at a diversion point, carries it through its ditches, then Rogue River Valley district picks it up at its diversion point.

The irrigation district managers give a pat on the back to men of the Soil Conservation Service and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committees who have taught many of the valley farmers to properly "level and drain" their lands to get the most use of their water. These practices are being applied to the newer orchards in the valley. Many of the older orchards were set up as dry orchards. Irrigation water was applied later as it became available. In fact more new orchards have been going in during the last two years than in all the previous 20 years.

An increasing problem to irrigation districts is suburbanization. Sixty acre tracts are being chopped up into one-acre tracts or less. The addition of streets and other improvements alters the drainage and irrigation patterns. Medford Irrigation district, for example, started with 400 units. It now has approximately 2,000 units. Talent Irrigation district started with 600 units and now has 1,200 units.

The worst of it is that the best land is in the bottom of the valley. This is the land that is being rapidly subdivided and these subdivisions are reaching deeper into the irrigation districts. So what happens? Normally, the farmers with the poorer lands are forced to bear more of the irrigation costs. That's why local irrigation districts don't exclude the non-agricultural land. And that's why Talent Irrigation district will be bringing 5,000 additional acres under irrigation. The district needs all the customers they can get to spread the indebtedness for the Talent project development.

"Promising Pete," the huckster type of real estate salesman, is the bane of the irrigation district managers. They sell tracts promising clients that the water flowing past in the adjacent irrigation ditch or creek is free. The property may not be under irrigation. As the lawn gets brown under the searing July sun the new owner suddenly realizes this. He should have checked with the irrigation district managers, but he didn't. (They are the only ones who can tell what property comes under irrigation district water.)

# Director Named For Pear Bureau, Manager Reports

Portland—M. L. "Les" McMahon, formerly sales promotion manager of Calavo Growers of California, has been named merchandising director for the Oregon-Washington-California Pear Bureau, it was reported by Richard A. Patterson, bureau general manager.

In this newly-created position, McMahon will have direction of the bureau's field representatives supervising the merchandising program for the marketing of winter pears, Mr. Patterson said.

McMahon has had a varied experience in the fresh food field. It was while he was a student at Cornell university, where he was specializing in the storage, transportation and marketing of fresh fruits and vegetables, that he was hired by the Dole Pineapple company to become assistant superintendent field maintenance department for a 15,000 acre plantation in Hawaii. He left Dole late in 1949 to become market economist for the Industrial Research Advisory Council of Hawaii. In October, 1950, he joined the Calavo Growers of California, working out of the San Francisco sales office.

Worked in Los Angeles

In November, 1951, the new Pear bureau merchandising executive was transferred to the Los Angeles calavo sales office, where his work involved direct selling with major emphasis on arranging for special promotions and installations of point of sale advertising material. He became assistant sales promotion manager in 1954 and was elevated to the top job in 1955. In this position, he worked in all 33 branch cities for the Calavo group.

McMahon held the office of treasurer and later secretary of the Los Angeles Sales Promotion Executives association and was first vice president when he moved to Oregon this year. He has authored several articles on the merchandising of fresh produce and is well known to trade audiences for coining the phrase, "The Last 20 Inches." This is the length of the average housewife's arm which he contends to be the most important distance traveled by any fresh fruit or vegetable. He also is a member of the American Society for Horticultural Science.

He holds a degree in agriculture from McGill university, Montreal, and a master's degree from Cornell university. He is married and the father of a son and daughter.

# People Reminded Of Tree Planting In Soil Bank Plan

Corvallis—Oregon farmers planning to put land into the Soil Bank's 1959 conservation reserve are advised to consider tree plantings for profitable, long-range conservation.

Douglas fir, pine, or other commercial trees planted on marginal cropland can increase land value rapidly and provide an excellent investment in the nation's future timber needs, says Charles Ross, Oregon State college farm forestry specialist.

Current estimates point to a 25 to 40 per cent increase in timber demands by 1975. Trees planted now under the Soil Bank program can be harvested when they reach small sawlog size and return a per-acre income comparable to that from much of Oregon's cropland, Ross explains.

The conservation reserve program pays up to 70 per cent of the cost of getting tree seedlings planted on cropland, according to Arnold Bodtger, administrative officer of the agricultural stabilization and conservation state committee.

Receive Rental

In addition, farmers receive yearly rental payments averaging \$16 an acre in Oregon but varying according to value of the land. The contracts run for 10 years.

Ross says Oregon forest nurseries have a good supply of seedlings to meet expected demands for Soil Bank plantings this year in contrast to a year ago when the demand ran ahead of supplies.

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# Farmers' Questions Answered On Conservation Reserve

By GENE WINTERD  
County Extension Agent

The following questions on the 1959 Conservation Reserve program came from Jackson County farmers and were directed to the County ASC office and County Extension office:

- Question:** What is the productivity index?
- Answer:** The productivity index represents the County ASC Committee's estimate of the productive capacity of any one farm compared to the average productivity of all non-irrigated land in the county. The maximum amount of annual lease or payment the government is willing to make for soil bank acres on any one farm is based on the productivity index.
- Question:** Does the government, represented by the ASC office make an offer to lease my farm for placement in the Soil Bank, in part or all of it?
- Answer:** No. The individual farmer offers to lease to the government at a certain price. Offers above rates shown by the productivity index will be automatically rejected.
- Question:** Can I make an offer to lease my place in whole or in part below the figures represented by the productivity index?
- Answer:** Yes. In case there are more offers than money the lower offers will be accepted but not the higher ones.
- Question:** After obtaining the original form from the ASC office between Sept. 2

and Oct. 3 am I under any obligation to offer a portion or all of my tillable land to the Soil Bank?

**Answer:** Absolutely not. The information received is for you to take home and study. In fact, no contract will be accepted prior to Oct. 17.

**Question:** After offering a lease agreement may I change it?

**Answer:** No. The first offer on your part is final for the program beginning in 1959. There will be no arbitration or adjustment.

**Question:** Can I obtain help in properly filling out the initial papers and the final contract?

**Answer:** Yes. Trained personnel will be available at the ASC counter for this purpose.

**Question:** Will signing of a contract for participation in the 1959 conservation soil bank reserve affect conservation reserve contracts now in operation?

**Answer:** No. Nor will the rate of payment of previously signed contracts be affected. However, existing contracts may be expanded to include additional eligible land.

**Question:** How long will Soil Bank contracts run?

**Answer:** In case of a previously established cover, 3 years. When a new cover is established, a minimum of 5 years, a maximum of 10 years at your discretion at time of signing the contract. Forest tree plantings must be under

10 year contracts.

**Question:** Are previously established grass lands eligible for lease to the government under the 1959 Soil Bank program?

**Answer:** Under certain conditions. Older than five year plantings are acceptable provided hay has been taken, at least once, during the previous two years. Plantings made after 1953 are acceptable provided the planting in question was made on an area in the farm in tillable rotation prior to the planting.

**Question:** Will nonillable land be accepted in the new conservation reserve?

**Answer:** No. The land must have been in recent cultivation. One of the objectives of this program is to reduce total crop yield as an aid to reducing surpluses.

**Question:** Is the planting of Christmas trees acceptable under this program?

**Answer:** Yes, provided there is no harvest as long as the contract is in effect.

**Question:** In what way can I utilize the land which I may have contracted under the soil bank?

**Answer:** In no painful way, whatever. You may use approved management practices, for instance, in a tree planting. But again, the general idea is to remove the contracted acres from production.

**Question:** Suppose I live in the hills, does the soil bank hold any promise for me?

**Answer:** Forest tree planting is suggested especially on part time farms. Liberal cost sharing is provided for planting either trees or permanent ground cover. When reforesting what better can one ask than a rental payment for 10 years during which trees are unproductive?

**Question:** What happens to my contract with the government in case the land in question changes ownership?

**Answer:** The original signer must return all previously paid practice payments to the government, unless the new owner takes over the contract. This is allowable.

**Question:** How may I obtain more detailed information relative to the 1959 soil bank program?

**Answer:** Go to the County ASC office for literature and an application for a contract. You must make a written request for rates by Oct. 3, although the application for a contract does not have to be filed until Oct. 17.

# Names Submitted For Vo-Ag Board Members

Eagle Point—A list of nominees for directors of the Eagle Point vocational agriculture advisory board was submitted at Monday's meeting of the board.

Four members of the seven-member advisory board will retire in November, it was announced. These include John Osterhout, Bill Jess, Gordon

Stanley and Darrel Stanley, present board chairman. Merton Bradshaw was elected new chairman for the coming year.

During the business session adult classes for the new school year were discussed. Arc and gas welding will again be taught this year. Instructor is Ed Leaming, head shop foreman for Steve Wilson. First session will be held at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 16. Registration for this class is limited to 15 people.

Another adult class—in tractor and machinery maintenance—will be taught by C. L. (Blacky) Gunter, machinery repairman for Hubbard Wray Farm Implement company. This course will consist of maintenance of tractor and machinery on the farm. Special emphasis will be placed on motor and tractor maintenance. This class will start at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 14 and be restricted to 15 individuals.

An adult class in livestock nutrition will start on Jan. 9. This will deal with practical livestock feeding of dairy, beef, sheep and swine in the Eagle Point area, it was explained. The course will be conducted by local feed salesmen.

# Predatory Animal Kill Reported

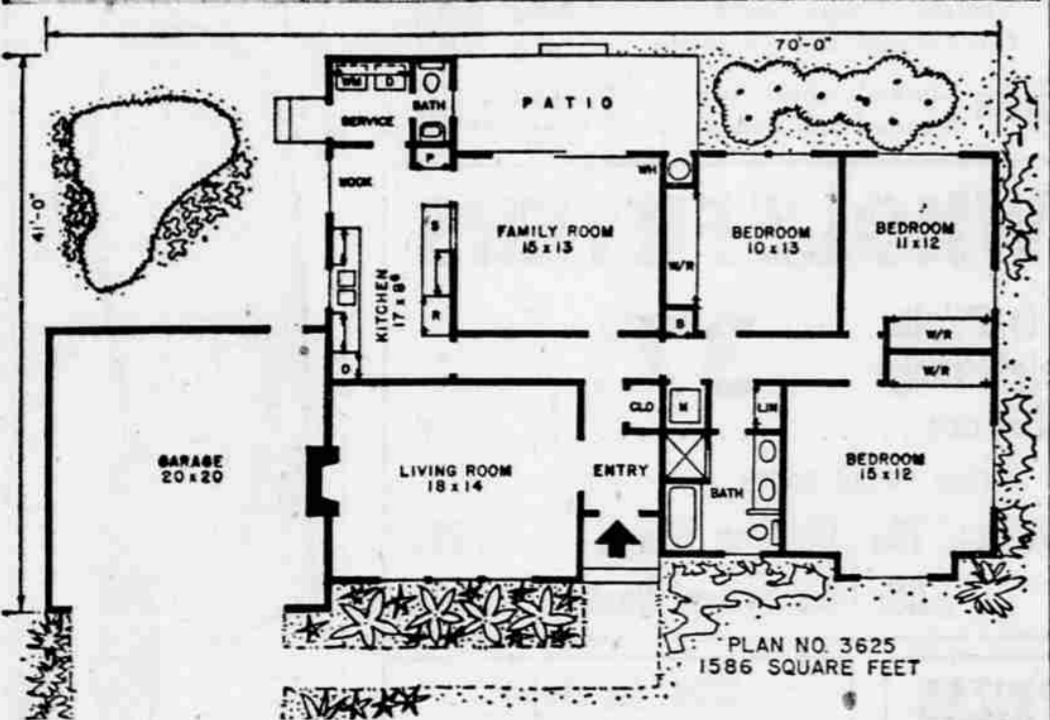
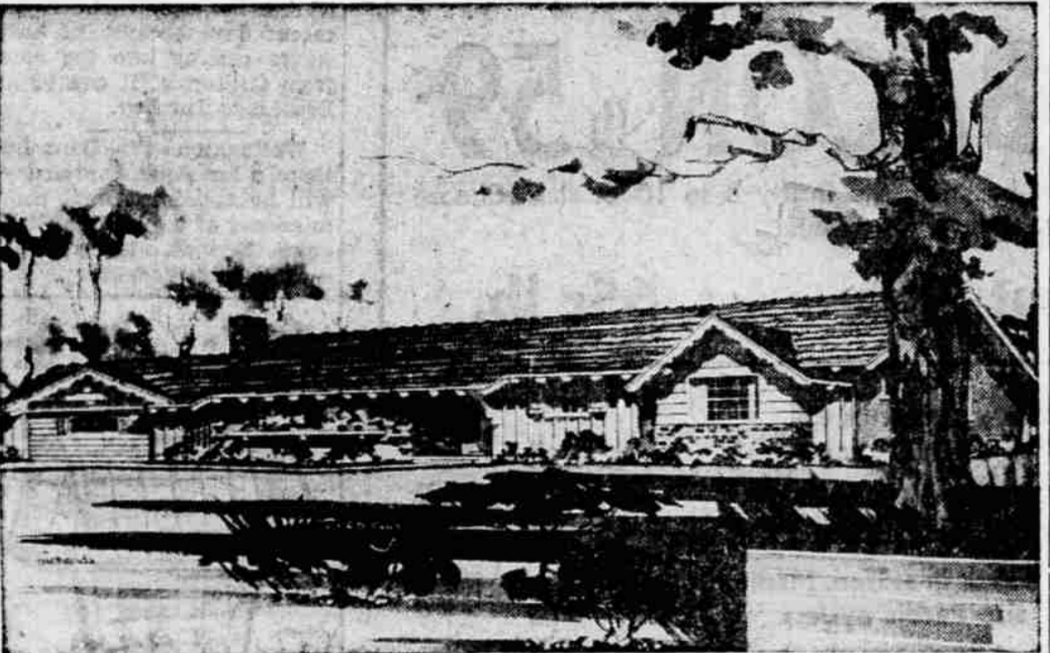
Salem—Kirby J. Tant, federal-state hunter in Jackson county, took 92 predatory animals here during a twelve-week, June 1 to Aug. 23.

This figure includes 59 coyotes, seven bobcats, 14 raccoons, two badgers, six porcupines and four skunks.

Tant also reported 22 sheep killed by coyotes and dogs during April, May and June. These livestock losses are only discovered by Tant in his routine operations. They do not fully picture total losses suffered by stockmen through predators in this area.

These figures come from a joint report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the state department of agriculture.

# This Week's Home for Living



By HIAWATHA ESTES

The charm of this 1586 square foot home lies in its simplicity of line and material. Soft toned used brick veneer lends color accent to the vertical board and batten. For contrast, horizontal wood siding faces the garage and the bedroom bay. A rough cut shake roof and diamond windows with shutters lend a rustic air.

Natural, functional, simplicity is the key to the floor plan as well. The center hall makes all rooms accessible from both the front entry and work center. With its deep brick fireplace and wide bank of windows, the front living room provides an attractive setting for either quiet adult conversation or group entertaining, leaving the family room for the younger members of the family to study or

to watch television undisturbed.

The family room will undoubtedly be the activity center for the children. Wide glass doors slide open to a broad patio, sheltered on two sides for privacy.

A half-wall above the range unites the kitchen and family room visually. Counter top stove and built-in oven, a deep pantry closet and well lighted breakfast nook make the kitchen a pleasant, as well as efficient, work center. Home laundry appliances with overhead cabinets are located in the service area. The service entrance is only a few steps from the rear door of the double garage.

The half bath provides a place for the youngsters to clean up after play without going through the house to the family bath.

The master bath in the secluded bedroom wing has dual lavatories, recessed tub and stall shower. The linen closet is conveniently near.

Wide sliding panel wardrobes and broad high set windows are luxury features of the bedrooms.

The water heater, forced air unit and family bath are centrally located to keep plumbing lines and air ducts short. For easy servicing, the water heater closet opens to the outside.

Complete working drawing of the above plan can be obtained at a cost of \$7.50 for the first set and \$5 for each additional set, when ordered at the same time. This plan will be available for a period of four months from this date. Please allow two weeks for delivery. If the above home does not entirely meet with your satisfaction, a new home plan book, Homes for Living, may be purchased for \$1. Send all orders for either plans or books to Hiawatha Estes, P. O. Box 407-7, Northridge, Calif.

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