

Farm & Garden

Fertilization Study Made On Corn Here

By H. H. WHITE
Superintendent of Southern
Oregon Branch Experiment
Station

A fertilization experiment on sweet corn for fresh market conducted on the New Hanley Research Farm of the Southern Oregon Branch Experiment Station in 1958 indicates that yield of marketable ears and income to the grower may be increased by fertilization and increasing the plant population, according to H. H. White, Superintendent of the station.

In the 1958 experiment four fertilizer elements: nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and sulfur were used in various combinations on a total of 60 plots. The lochie variety of sweet corn was used on all 60 plots. Except for the variation in kind and amount of fertilizer, all plots were given the same treatment throughout the season.

Seed was planted May 15 in rows 38 inches apart with a spacing of 11 inches between plants within the row. This spacing gave a plant population of 15,000 plants per acre. On May 23 fertilizers were applied in a band 4 inches from one side of the row and 3 1/2 inches deep. No weed sprays were used during the season but the plots were cultivated on June 12 and again on June 26. All plots were irrigated by sprinkler six times from wells adjacent the planted area. The corn was dusted with 10 per cent DDT four times for control of corn ear worms. The first dust was applied when the first silks emerged. Other dustings followed immediately after each sprinkler irrigation. Harvesting began Aug.

15 and was completed Aug. 20.

Plots Harvested Separately

In order to obtain reliable research information each of the 60 plots was harvested separately. Ears were counted, husked and measured for length and diameter. From these data it was found that certain fertilizer treatments affected total number of ears produced and may affect the percentage of ears of desirable length and diameter for the fresh market trade.

The difference in yield due to fertilizer treatment was not as great as it has been on some other crops. Such differences as did occur were mainly due to nitrogen. Check plots produced 1,521 dozen ears while the highest yield, 1,688 dozen ears, was obtained from plots which received 100 pounds of nitrogen plus 40 pounds of sulfur per acre. Under this treatment 4 per cent of the ears were 4-5 inches long, 13 per cent were 5-6 inches, 28 per cent were 6-7 inches, 46 per cent were 7-8 inches, and 9 per cent were 8-9 inches. This means that 83 per cent of the ears were over six inches long and 74 per cent were in the six to eight inch range which is the most desirable market size.

Pipeline milkers with leaky valves cause acid to form in the milk and give it an unpleasant taste. Extremely long pipelines with many risers cause a churning action that gives milk a rancid taste.

Land used for crops increased by less than 12 per cent since 1940. Yet total farm output increased by 36 per cent.

Cow Totals Drop To 32-Year Low; Beef Prices Up

Corvallis — The number of milk cows in Oregon dropped to a 32-year low last month as dairymen took advantage of higher beef prices in 1958 to rid their herds of low-producing cows.

Total number of milk cows in the state last month was estimated at 215,000. Stephen C. Marks, Oregon State college extension agricultural economist, said as he studied reports from the U. S. department of agriculture. This was down 2 per cent from the year before, and the lowest number since 1927.

Across the nation, the USDA reports showed national milk-cow numbers on farms declined 3 per cent in 1958, more than in any of the previous 10 years. This left the nation's dairymen with the smallest number of milk cows in 38 years.

Last year was also the first time in six years that U. S. milk production didn't set a new record. Smaller number of cows was given as the primary reason, since average production per milk cow hit a new record level.

Prices of meat animals increased sharply last year, Marks noted, and this seems to have influenced dairymen to take advantage of the higher meat prices to get rid of low-producing cows in their herds. Higher production costs have been forcing dairymen to take advantage of every chance to produce milk more efficiently, Marks added.

Some dairymen have actually dropped out of dairy farming and switched to the more profitable business of producing beef for meat.

Looking ahead, Marks reports that Oregon dairymen are keeping more calves and heifers, however. This could mean they intend to rebuild their herds in the future.

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

A number of good bills pertaining to agriculture have been placed before the state legislature. It would pay the farmers of this area to make a thorough study of all of them. This is particularly true of Senate Bill 237 as it has now been modified.

This bill provides for the appointment of a state director of agriculture, the organization of the various divisions of his department and the appointment of the advisory state board of agriculture. Main purpose of this bill was the removal of the state department of agriculture and the advisory board from politics. However, as the bill has now been modified, it would seem to us it merely plunges the board and department deeper into politics.

The original bill provided for a state board of agriculture composed of seven members who would be appointed by the governor. These appointments, according to the original proposition, would be made on the advice of agricultural industry and "other interests of the state." Now this phrase has been left out and the governor doesn't have to consult anybody. He just makes the appointments. The phrase referring to "other interests of the state" should be eliminated.

Agriculture should be consulted on appointments which vitally affect all the farmers. Gov. Mark Hatfield was not a farmer and has no agricultural background as far as we can determine so he should not be allowed to make appointments such as these.

Another part of this bill which now has a line drawn through it also pertains to the board. It states that the advisory board members "shall be appointed as far as practical and possible from various geographic areas." Since the appointment of Ward Spatz under the former governor's administration southern Oregon and Jackson county in particular has had its first representation on the board. If this vital sentence is to remain scratched out on the bill, southern Oregon can easily be overlooked.

Incidentally, Ward is still on the board as far as he knows. The various agricultural groups should write the governor to make sure he stays there. It takes at least a year for a man to become even halfway acquainted with all the main facts of agriculture in an area.

His Experience Should Be Kept

The state can be represented agriculturally only by areas to ensure efficient coverage. After all, it takes time to build up a "who's who" list. It cannot be done in a short time and is almost impossible to do with on a broad state coverage. An agriculture representative must understand the local situation.

A provision in the current bill states that not more than four members of any one political party may be on the state board of agriculture. This merely restricts political influence it does not eliminate it. If agricultural people are appointed to the board comparatively little politics will be felt since on the whole the farmers do not care about party politics.

Selection of good men should not be bound by party ties. Often the majority of active people in a community may represent one party. Another time members of the opposite party may appear the most active leaders of an area or community. Farmers want active leadership on the board regardless of what party may supply it.

The present Senate bill also provides that the governor can make an appointment for state director of agriculture without considering the board. We feel that representatives of state agriculture should be considered. The board would naturally be the most logical source for such recommendations.

Chiefs of the various department divisions should be appointed by the state director of agriculture with the approval of the state board of agriculture. The present bill does not stipulate this. It should, if only for the protection of the director. The recent hassle between the former state veterinarian and the former director of the division of animal industries is a good example of how the state director of agriculture needs board support and help with dealing with division heads sometimes. Board approval of division heads would give them an opportunity to exert more control over these men.

Nothing in this bill provides for consumer representation on the board. This is a big mistake since the people who must eat what is produced should have some say on state regulations affecting their food. The present consumer representative we understand is doing an excellent job in active participation.

One provision now in the bill is good. This states that the state board of agriculture "shall encourage and work to long time planning to develop and promote agriculture research." We would like to see this authority used more extensively.

Minnesota has completed recently a study and report on agriculture. This report, according to a farm editor of the state, refutes some of the pet Farmers' Union and Democratic claims on the farm situation. (This last bit should give our Republican governor added incentive to make such a study in this state.)

This report, in effect, shows the number of Minnesota family farms is decreasing but those remaining are growing larger. The percentage of family farms today is greater than 10 years ago. Of an estimated 160,000 farms, about 35,000 are in the poverty group. These latter farmers are making less than \$2,500. This Minnesota farm editor points out that higher prices would do little for these people. They are more of a social problem.

Another interesting fact — farm income, generally, was found to average only about 40 per cent of the urban income. The survey reveals that of the farmers in the poverty class one-third can solve their problems only by leaving the farm and getting into some other line of business.

It seems Connecticut dairy farmers also have their problems in marketing their milk. They now have their federal milk price order, however, which sets up the state of Connecticut as the marketing area. We understand powerful forces in New York state had tried to get Connecticut included in a New York-New Jersey order. Reason for wanting the federal control is that dealers of that section had been buying cheap milk out-of-state which the former state order couldn't control.

Cattle Grub Trial To Get Check

Control of cattle grubs by use of the new systemic materials has proven very successful in trials over all of Oregon, according to Robert Every, Oregon State college Extension Entomologist.

Results of a Jackson County demonstration using these materials will be observed March 6, starting at 10 a.m., at John Bohmert's winter pasture at the corner of Upton and Gibbon rds. northeast of Central Point, according to Earle Jossy, Jackson county agent.

These cattle were treated with two different systemic grub control chemicals, part of the cattle were left untreated for a check.

People attending the meeting will have an opportunity to examine the animals and to talk to Every about the various grub control methods.

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C. C. WILLIAMS

Rogue Valley Proved Sire Service

Two 4-H Members To Visit Salem, See Legislature

Corvallis — Nyla Murray, Medford and Jack Esp, Eagle Point, will be among the 60 top-ranking Oregon 4-H club youths observing state government in action this week end in Salem.

They will compete also for four expense - paid trips to Washington, D. C. Teenagers from 35 counties will assemble Thursday evening, March 5, to open the second annual State 4-H club conference. Youths attending the conference must be at least 16 years old, have completed three years of 4-H club work, and rank in the upper third of their high school class. Two boys and two girls will be named from this group Saturday noon as delegates to the National 4-H Club Conference in Washington, D. C., next June.

Tracing a bill until it becomes a law will be explained at the opening session by Mrs. Rita Renfro and Richard Eyma, house clerk; Mrs. E. M. Cole, senate clerk; and Sam Hale, legislative counsel.

Delegates will visit the house and senate, observe a regular joint session and means committee in action, meet with supreme court judges, and lunch with Senate President Walter Pearson and House Speaker Robert Duncan. Governor Mark Hatfield will address the group Friday.

Friday afternoon, a special panel has been arranged to explain the role of lobbyists in development of legislation, led by Estes Snedecor Jr., lobbyist for Portland General Electric. Other panel members and the groups they represent are George Brown, AFL-CIO; John Misko, Oregon Medical Society; John Lansing, Pacific Power and Light; Irving Luiten, Weyerhaeuser Timber; Elmer McClure, Grange; Ivan Congleton, Associated Oregon Industries; and Alexander Brown, Portland attorney.

Sig Unander, state treasurer, will discuss state finances Saturday morning, followed by a tour of the Supreme Court. The program will end at 3 p.m., Saturday.

Vegetable Meet Set For Friday

Both commercial and backyard vegetable growers are invited to attend a meeting in the Jackson county courthouse auditorium Friday, March 6, at 1:15 p.m., according to the Jackson county extension office.

The program will include talks on onion maggot and corn ear - worm control by Robert Every, Oregon State college entomologist; weed control in onions and sweet corn by Andrew A. Duncan, OSC vegetable specialist; pink root in onions by Iain Mac Swan and experiments conducted by the Southern Oregon Branch Experiment station this year by John Yung, agronomist.

Although this area will not be a great truck crop section for a good many years there are a few growers of the Rogue Valley who make "a pretty good income," it was explained. This type of agricultural enterprise is used mainly as a transition activity. Farmers often use truck crops for income until they can save enough money to enter other phases of agriculture.

Don't plant tree seedlings when the ground is dry. Either moisten the ground artificially for planting or wait until it rains before planting. Moisture gets seedling germination off to a fast and healthy start.

To prevent flavor loss in eggs, they should be kept in the refrigerator and removed only immediately before use.

Klamath Rancher Heads Division

Salem—Appointment of Fred L. Pope, 54, Klamath county cattle rancher, as chief of the division of animal industry was announced the past week by Frank McKennon, director of agriculture.

Pope succeeds M. E. Knickerbocker, who resigned after almost 13 years as chief to accept a farm advisor post with the International Cooperation Administration. He

Lower Support Prices Helpful

left Salem Feb. 24 to train in Washington, D. C. for three months preparatory to assignment in South America.

The new division chief served two terms as county commissioner of Klamath county. Prior to going into the cattle ranching business at Fort Rock in May, 1935, he had a varied business experience including association with the business end of a slaughter plant in Klamath county and meat buyer for a large grocery concern in Portland.

He spent four years at Oregon State college, with a major in civil engineering and a minor in accounting.

Pope was for 18 years the department's livestock brand inspector in Klamath county and in that time inspected and shipped more than 503,000 head of cattle.

He attended schools at Merrill and Franklin high in Portland.

Annual Meet Set For Soil District

The annual meeting of the Sams Valley-Beagle soil conservation district will be held in the Eagle Point Grange hall, March 16, at 8 p.m., according to Elwood Abbott, chairman of the board of supervisors.

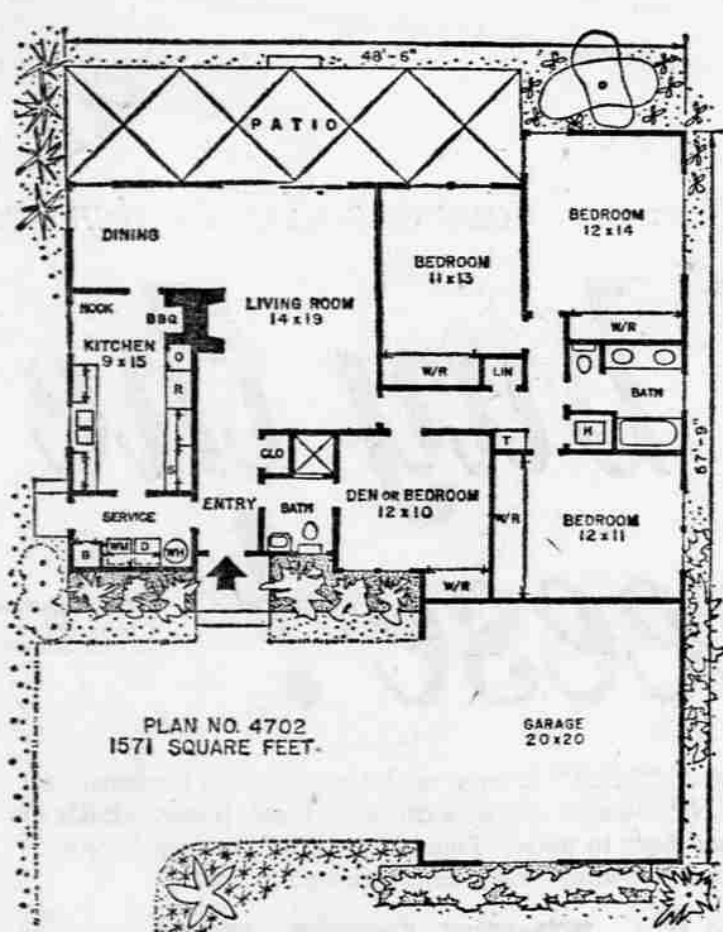
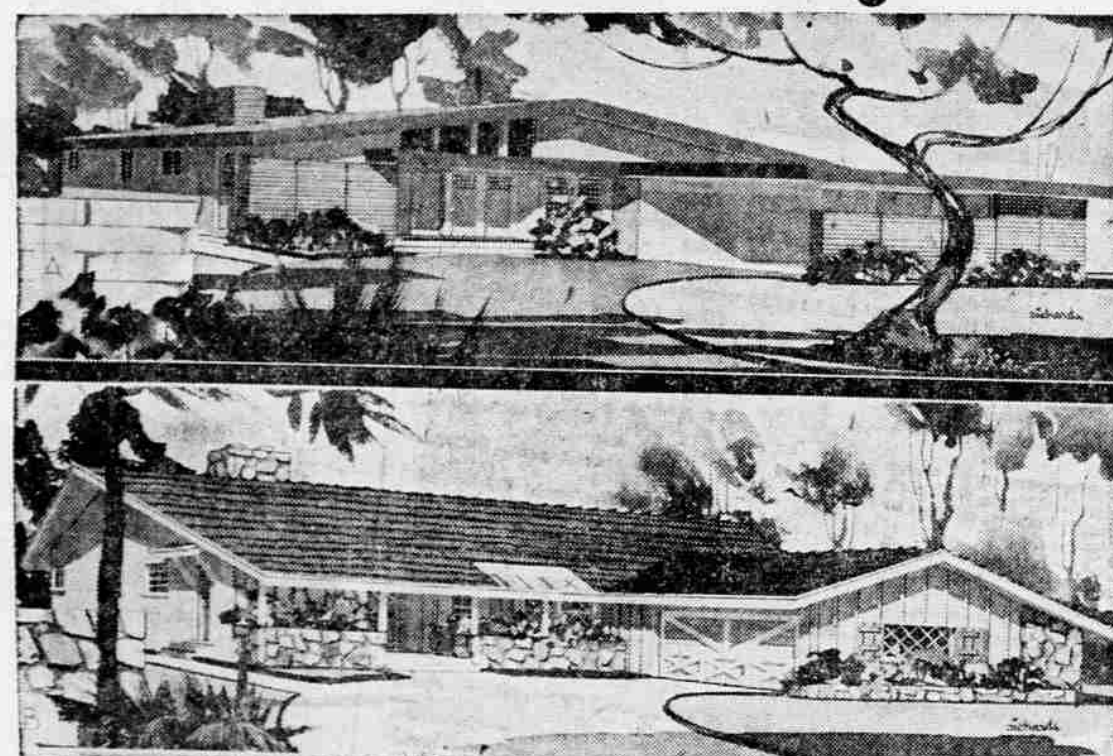
Guest speakers will be Don Lane, Secretary of the Oregon water resources board, and E. R. Jackson, farm crops specialist, Oregon State college.

Other speakers will be Robert Baum, Administrative Officer for the state soil conservation committee and Bob Longway, district work unit conservator.

Two district supervisors will be elected to fill vacancies.

Benefits from 62 pilot watershed projects which started in the United States in 1953 are beginning to show up: 1. In sharply decreased soil erosion; 2. Less flood damage; 3. Fewer drought losses; 4. Bigger crop yields.

This Week's Home For Living



By HIAWATHA ESTES

What your preference contemporary (Exterior "A") or traditional (Exterior "B") — this plan offers an exterior to suit your taste.

Smart, clean, almost several lines mark the contemporary version of this four bedroom home. On Exterior "A" wide barge rafters enclose the gables of the low-pitched roof emphasizing the horizontal lines. A large amount of the front wall is covered with brick veneer. Double slab doors and louvered windows lend textural contrast. The flat roof of the carport extends to shelter the front entrance of this home. Fixed windows in the gable serve to light the entrance hall and bath.

In the traditional Exterior "B", stone is combined with

board and batten. The stained cedar shake roof has extended gables and low eaves that cover and protect the entry. Shutters frame diamond - paned windows, and stone planters provide a place for your favorite shrubs.

With the exception of the window placement and the garage-carport, the floor plan is the same for either exterior. The floor plan illustrated here is for Exterior "B". The living room faces the rear yard with sliding glass doors that open to make the patio a part of the activity area. The fireplace is centrally located and a barbecue has been planned for the kitchen, but may be omitted during construction, if desired.

The four bedrooms are secluded for quiet and privacy. Wardrobes are exceptionally

large. The family bath has double lavatories, and a bath off the den also opens to the entry hall, to double as a powder room for guests, and is still located near the rear entrance and kitchen.

Traditional and contemporary — these are the two ways of looking at it. Which of these homes would you like to own? Regardless of whether you are planning to build now or not, why not mail me a card and let me know which YOU prefer.

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 404-T, Northridge, Calif.

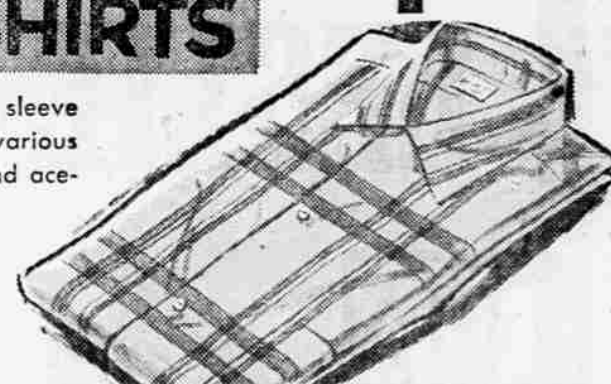
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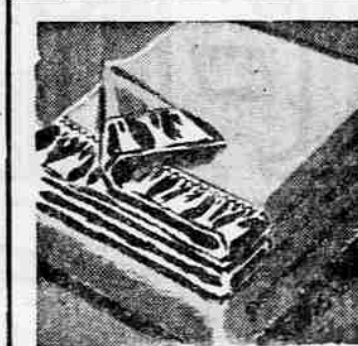
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