

Farm and Garden



BACK TO PASTURE—These two old veterans of the furrow plod down a Phoenix street as they are returned to pasture after being used to plow up a back yard garden.

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

A bill before the state legislature specifies colors for the state.

Now everybody knows this in kinda silly. Oregon is a blending of several shades of colors. Traveling through the state a visitor, and some of the residents, if they look for it, would see in one section in the spring, row on row of white fruit blossoms with the blue and white of the mountains in the distance against a pale blue sky.

Or, in the same season—the most colorful one for Oregon—yet in another location might be seen the green of new grain fields later to turn golden. The white froth whipped up by angry waves against rockbound Oregon beaches provides yet another color or colors.

Freshly tilled earth about this time of year feels, smells and looks fresh as the spiciness of spring. Rich green pastures dotted with the darker colored shapes of cattle make a pleasing pastoral scene and combination of colors.

One, two or three colors can't adequately represent Oregon. Oregon is a many-colored state.

A number of bills have resulted from the legislative interim committee's investigation of migratory labor's condition in Oregon. One of the worse abuses found in the investigation was that of housing. Aimed at correcting this is House Bill No. 159 "relating to sanitary conditions in farm labor camps, creating new provisions, providing penalties; and declaring an emergency (This means the bill becomes law immediately upon being passed by house and senate and signed by the governor.)

The bill provides that an ample supply of "safe and potable" drinking water be provided in every farm labor camp for drinking and washing. The law is stringent as to the facilities for providing this water even specifying that drinking fountains "shall have an angle jet type with adequate water pressure."

Other regulations require one toilet for every 15 employees with sewer connection to a community sewer system. All refuse or garbage in such a farm labor camp must be put in "durable, watertight containers" to keep out flies and rodents, according to another provision.

Other regulations pertain to adequate sleeping places if provided by farmer or farmers, regulations on food, sanitation and disease control.

The state board of health is required to establish a health code for regulation of such farm labor camps including the required public notice and hearing.

Violation of such a code could mean closing of a labor camp, according to this bill. However, operator of such a camp may demand reinspection. The camp must be rechecked within 24 hours after such a request. Then, if the closing order is found to be wrong the camp must be reopened by the local health officer who closed it.

These are the main provisions of the bill, which we understand is now in committee. Some other bills in the state legislature's hopper cover licensing of labor contractors, education of children of migrant workers and the creation of an interagency committee on migratory labor.

Systemic Grub Treatment Said Good Control

Agricultural scientists have given the stockmen one more tool to better farming. Systemic treatment of cattle for cattle grubs has proven easier and more effective than any previous methods of control, according to Earle Jossy, County Extension Agent.

Before the development of the systemic materials, systemic means they work through the animal's system to kill the tiny larvae before they emerge, rotenone administered as a dust or spray was the only successful treatment known, Jossy said.

Cattle in the herd which had not been treated were observed to have from a few to many grubs in their backs. Results of the local grub control test are consistent with trials in other areas.

Research Offers Proof
Research in Iowa indicates that cattle treated with systemic materials for grub control made substantially better gains than untreated cattle.

As a bonus these systemic treatments give good control of lice and ticks. They show considerable promise as a control for stomach worms also. Treatment with systemic materials must be made after the grubs have entered the animal and before they get to the back—October seems to be a good month for treatment in Jackson county, Jossy added.

A cattle grub or ox warble is the size of a .45 caliber slug. It gathers around the gullet and travels to the back. For four to six weeks it and its fellows forms a hump under the animal's hide. When it matures it emerges, falls to the ground and three months later becomes an adult fly. Eggs from this fly are laid on the hairs of the legs and belly of the livestock. When the grubs hatch they move to the animal's inside.

A rotenone slurry was used to spray or brush over the holes these grubs made for breathing when they ate through the animal flesh and hide. This was the only time he could be attacked.

However with modern systemics the grub noses into poison as soon as it wriggles into the animal tissue. Circulating through the animal's body fluids this poison is harmless to the cattle but sure death to the grub.

Can Be Spray
Trotene as a pill or bolus and Co-Ral as a spray are on the market. Several others are now being experimented with. Both are said to be equally effective, although the bolus has had wider commercial

Young Gardeners To Have Contest

Corvallis—Oregon green-thumbed-ages 14 to 21-can have an added purpose in getting gardening projects underway this spring.

Entries are now being taken for a national fruit and vegetable production and marketing contest for boys and girls, said R. Ralph Clark, Oregon State College horticultural specialist.

The contest, now in its 20th year, is sponsored by the National Junior Vegetable Growers association with cash awards, gold watches, NJVGA jackets, pins, and other awards.

Clark says Oregon's leadership in commercial production of many fruit and vegetable crops should make the contest especially attractive to local youths. The contest is set up for "educational value," showing how to keep records on crop production costs and returns, and marketing methods.

Details of the contest and enrollment cards are available from county 4-H agents, local Future Farmers of America leaders, or from Ralph Clark, extension horticulturist, Oregon State college, Corvallis.

Laying Hens Show Downward Trend

Corvallis—The number of laying hens in Oregon dropped for the second straight year, reported Stephen C. Marks, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State college. However, larger supplies of both eggs and fryers in the state and over the nation are selling at prices well below a year ago.

In contrast to the local situation, the number of hens and pullets on the nation's farms at the start of 1959 showed a moderate increase after dropping to a 23-year low in 1957, Marks said as he studied reports from the U.S. department of agriculture.

testing according to authorities. The oiled bolus is injected behind the hump in the animal's tongue with a balling gun. The spray, applied at high pressure, blasts through the hair and wets the animal's skin which absorbs the chemical. This same spray will kill grubs and screwworms as a systemic and lice and flies on contact, authorities state.

In running from the adult heel fly which lays the eggs for the grub, cattle lose many pounds. They may also show reduced gains in feed lots and by standing in deep muddy water to avoid these flies make themselves susceptible to various virus breeding in such moisture. This includes Bangs disease.

Phoenix FFA Gets State Recognition

Phoenix—Five members of the Phoenix Future Farmers of America chapter returned Saturday from the annual state FFA convention in Corvallis. They were accompanied by their advisor Jack Dube, Phoenix High school vocational-agriculture instructor.

Leon Small, chapter president, placed third in the state FFA public speaking contest held Thursday, March 19. His speech was entitled "Consequences of Carelessness"—a talk on farm accidents. It was given before an audience of approximately 600 FFA members, parents and guests.

Bill Rasmussen, also of the Phoenix chapter, and Small served on the state Star Farmer committee which reviewed applications and interviewed applicants for the highest state FFA award.

Jack Hoffbuhner and Gerald Sloper served as official delegates to the convention. They were assisted by Mike Lowery who attended as an alternate delegate.

The Phoenix chapter also received the Master Chapter award Friday at the state FFA convention. This award is issued to those chapters having a record of an outstanding program and achievement. This is based on attendance at national and state convention, community service and general accomplishments by the chapter.

Boron Required In Area Soils

Corvallis—New "borated" fertilizers have set the stage for western Oregon farmers to apply badly-needed boron for some of the area's key crops, reports Oregon State college agricultural experiment station.

More than 80 per cent of OSC soil samples from southern Oregon and 90 per cent from the Willamette Valley show need for boron to get best production of forage legume crops. Boron shortage has not yet been established in the coastal area.

Beets, carrots, broccoli, and cauliflower require adequate boron for good market quality, reports T. L. Jackson, OSC soil specialist.

Nyla Murray Named Outstanding 4-H'er

Miss Nyla Murray, 18-year-old Medford High school senior has been named the outstanding Jackson county 4-H club member for the month of March.

She is completing her tenth year of club work this spring and summer and plans to enter Oregon State college next fall.

Nyla, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Murray, 3734 Crater Lake highway, began 4-H activities with dairy and swine projects, raising a registered Milking Shorthorn and a Hampshire gilt her first year as a member of the East Side club. Later she joined the sewing club. For the following five years she continued with an annual dairy project.

In 1953, when she joined the Antelope club, she took dairy and sewing. Two years later she won the county junior championship with her Shorthorn heifer.

Forestry and cooking were added to the dairy and sewing activities in 1954 and Nyla is now raising her fifth guide dog for the blind, a Chesapeake Bay Retriever named Zandra, as a member of the Sis-Q Guide Dog club.

Awards Listed
Outstanding awards earned during Nyla's long 4-H career include a home economics judging trip to the Pacific International Exposition at Portland in 1955, forestry team demonstration at the state fair in 1956, and participation in the state fair style review in 1956-57. Also in 1956-57 she won the Jackson County Style Review trophy.

For two summers Nyla has been a counselor at 4-H summer camp and was a junior counselor before that. Another example of her versatility was her selection as the Jackson county 4-H girl to attend the "Know Your State Government" conference to the state legislature in Salem, March 5, 6, and 7.

Besides her long stint with 4-H, Nyla played French horn in the Medford High band her sophomore and junior years. This year she is vice-president of the Future Teachers of America club and also was co-chairman of two projects for "Teens Against Polio."

Oregon Second in Pear Production

Salem—It should come as no surprise to Oregonians but guests within the state this year may be interested to learn how Oregon ranks among the "top ten" in United States agricultural production, especially since the state accounts for more than 36 agricultural high points. The figures here are on 1958 production.

Among her eleven "firsts", Oregon tops all 48, 49, or 50 states, in these fields: filberts, 6,800 tons; cherries (sweet), 25,000 tons; snap beans for processing, 88,000 tons; mint for oil, 978,000 pounds; and eight first in seed crops, the state department of agriculture reports.

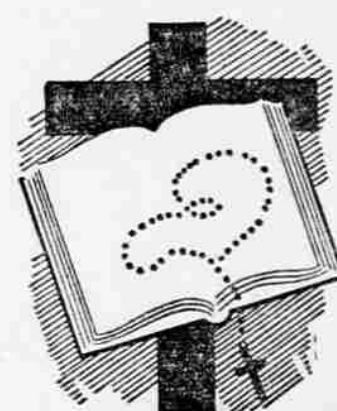
Included in seed crops: Austrian winter peas, 17,000 harvested acres; common vetch, 14,000; common ryegrass, 72,000; perennial ryegrass, 36,000; chewing fescue, 21,000; red fescue, 7,500; bentgrass, 24,000; Merion bluegrass, 5,500 acres.

Oregon ranks second in pear production with 5,300,000 bushels; second in walnuts, with 6,500 tons; and second in strawberries, with 66,600,000 pounds. The state is third in beets for canning, with 16,900 tons; and third in broccoli, with 143,000 hundredweight.

FIREARMS PRESIDENT

New York—(UPI)—Roger T. Kenna, president of the Marine Firearms Co. of New Haven, Conn., died Wednesday at his home here. He was 49.

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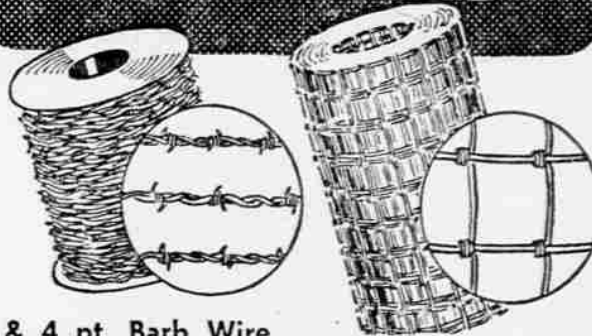
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FARM NOTES

Washington—(UPI)—The current abundance of pork on retail grocery counters is expected to continue well into next fall.

The Agriculture Department said Thursday hog farmers in nine Corn Belt states intend to breed 9 per cent more sows in the June-August period than a year ago. The resulting pigs will be butchering size next spring.

Washington—(UPI)—Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson has submitted a broad-scale conservation program to Congress calling for stepped up development and management of timber, water, recreation, range, and wildlife resources on the 181 million acres of national forest lands in 39 states and Puerto Rico. Highlights of the program include increasing the annual timber harvest from the record of seven billion board feet in 1957 to an annual harvest of 11 billion board feet within the next 10 years.

Washington—(UPI)—The Foreign Agricultural Service said today the United States imported 512 million dollars worth of livestock, meat and meat products, excluding wool, during 1958.

This was 78 per cent above 1957 imports and 97 per cent above the 1951-55 average.

Washington—(UPI)—Sen. John Sherman Cooper (R-Ky.) today urged Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson to launch a "home gardens" program to help needy unemployed families feed themselves.

Washington—(UPI)—The Agriculture Department reported that fire damage on American farms rose to a new record high of 156 million dollars last year, up four million dollars over 1957.

The total loss figure included livestock, machinery, crops and farm buildings.

Springfield, Ill.—(UPI)—President James Patton of the National Farmers Union planned today to call a strategy conference in the Corn Belt next fall or winter to bring as many farm organizations as possible into agreement on plans for a new federal farm law.

Washington—(UPI)—Agriculture Secretary Ezra Taft Benson had added honey to the list of farm products with lower support prices in 1959.

Benson set honey supports for the 1959 marketing year, which begins April 1 at 8.2 cents a pound, down to the legal floor of 60 per cent of parity.

Honey supports for the marketing year now coming to an end were 9.6 cents per pound, 70 per cent of parity.

Washington—(UPI)—A House committee has turned down an extra appropriation of \$600,000 for the Agriculture Department's poultry inspection service.

Department officials indicated this means they won't be able to hire inspectors for more than 260 processing plants before mid-Summer. Funds already available will cover inspectors for 485

Suggested Varieties Hybrid Corn Noted

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

Corn planting time is just around the corner. Have you selected the variety best suited to your conditions and told your seed dealer the kind and amount of seed you will need? If you haven't, then you better get busy.

Your dealer can serve you much better if he knows in advance what you need. There is no hybrid seed corn grown in this area and it takes time to bring it in from Idaho or the Midwest where most of it is grown.

There is a wide difference in the performance of the various hybrid varieties that are available to growers. Plant breeders are turning out new varieties at a rapid rate, each one tailored to fit particular conditions of soil and climate. No one variety fits all conditions. The Southern Oregon experiment station has been testing 25 to 30 of these varieties per year to determine which ones are best adapted to local conditions. Results of those tests are available through your local county agent.

Silage types that have shown up well under tests run by the station both on station and on the farms of cooperators in Jackson and Josephine counties include PAG 383, Idaho hybrid 680, KY4, KT6, Illinois 200 and Illinois 1570. Under good management on good land these varieties have been yielding 25 to 35 tons of silage with high ear content.

Would Produce 125 Bushels
Most of these silage varieties, if allowed to mature as grain, would produce from 100 to 125 bushels of silage per acre. That amount of grain in the silage makes rich feed. Outstanding grain varieties for this area include PAG 244, Western Improved 101, PAG 234, KO4, KS5, Western Hybrid 90, and Idaho hybrid 544. These varieties are capable of producing well over 100 bushels of silage per acre when properly handled.

Local growers of both silage and grain are getting yields several times those of only ten years ago. As late as 1949 the average yield of corn for grain in this area, according to the U. S. Census, was only 28 bushels per acre and the average yield of corn silage was less than 8 tons per acre. Such yields, of course, are not profitable and as a result very little corn was grown in the area. Several factors were responsible for these low and unprofitable yields. Principle among these were poorly chosen varieties, no fertilization or at best very inadequate fertilization, a lack of weed control, poor irrigation, and general management practices.

Where corn can be grown successfully, it is generally recognized as a basic crop for support of a sound livestock economy. It is high in nutritive value. For example, consider corn silage yielding 30 tons per acre. A 30-ton yield contains around 10,860 pounds of total digestible nutrients. It is these TDNs that put milk in the pail or growth on the animal. The value of corn as a feed crop can be shown by comparison of TDNs from an acre of corn with an acre of barley, oats, or alfalfa hay. To get 10,860 pounds of TDN from barley

would require a yield of 287 bushels per acre. Oats would have to yield 470 bushels per acre and alfalfa 10.8 tons of hay per acre. Such yields of barley or oats are not obtained anywhere near that figure. With modern farm machinery the growing and harvesting of corn for silage or grain doesn't involve the long hours of backbreaking labor that it did only a few years ago.

Should Plant Heavy
To get a yield of 30 tons of silage or 100 to 125 bushels of silage per acre it is necessary to plant heavy, fertilize properly, control weeds, and irrigate in proper amounts and at the right time. Tests by the experiment station indicate that the plant population should approach 22,000 plants per acre. Rows 36 inches apart with plants 8 inches apart in the row will give 21,780 plants per acre. To produce a 100 bushel crop of silage the plants must have access to 160 pounds of elemental nitrogen which is equivalent to 800 pounds of ammonium sulfate, 55 pounds of P2O5 (which is the amount contained in 290 pounds of superphosphate), and 110 pounds of K2O equivalent to 183 pounds of muriate of potash.

If these amounts of plant food are not available in the soil, they must be supplied from the bag as commercial fertilizers, otherwise yields will suffer. In practically all of the Southern Oregon soils nitrogen is the most limiting plant food element. Its abundance in the soil depends upon the previous cropping history but seldom will there be enough to develop a profitable yield. Tests run by the experiment station indicate that returns in increased yield from nitrogen is several dollars for each dollar invested in fertilizer.

A soil test obtained through your county agent will indicate the amount of available P2O5, K2O, and calcium there is in your soil. Then it becomes relatively simple to calculate the amount of these materials that needs to be added to give the crop the plant food necessary for profitable production.

Bee Inspectors Needed in County

Salem—Wanted: experienced beekeepers who can qualify to inspect bees for the next few months.

The state department of agriculture is running into a shortage of inspectors for the 1959 bee season, reports Kenneth Goeden, in charge of the apary program.

The shortage is acute in Jackson, Yamhill, Washington and Clackamas counties. Goeden also says that by early April all owners of bees—one colony and up—should register their colonies with the department at Salem. He urges owners who have disposed of all bees since last year to notify the department so their names will not appear on the delinquent list. Application blanks have been mailed to all owners of record.

DIES ABOARD LINER

New York—(UPI)—Donald Havens, partner in an admiralty and aviation law firm, died Wednesday aboard the liner Vulcania enroute to Lisbon, Portugal. He was 66.