



PLANT TREES—These Campfire girls assisted by a little brother of one of them, helped plant 2½ miles of trees Saturday on Medford city property along Whetstone creek. It was estimated that approximately 1,000 trees were planted on the city's land and about 250 trees around the Hoover

Campfire Girls Plant Trees Along Creek

Eagle Point Grange's tree planting project extended to the Rogue Campfire Girls' council as 200 girls planted an estimated 1,250 trees in the Camp White area Saturday.

Stringing out in small groups the girls paced off the area along Whetstone creek on Medford city property and planted 1,000 golden willow and weeping willow cuttings in the marshy soil.

C. C. Hoover, committee chairman of the project, said this falls short of the 5 miles of plantings planned but is considerable for the time allowed. A total of 300 girls had been expected to plant 1500 tree cuttings along a five-mile stretch which would extend over onto the Hoover property. Other groups may finish the planting if they desire by contacting Hoover at Talbot 6-9221.

The girls also planted 250 of the willow varieties by the Hoover lakes. They were assisted by Boy Scouts of this area who set up traffic control points along the highway as the caravan of cars gathered and generally assisted the girls through barbed-wire fences.

Many Trees Distributed

Hoover estimated yesterday that approximately 20,000 trees of many varieties have been distributed to service groups and rural residents and farmers since the Eagle Point Grange started its project in February. Every Grange in Jackson county has been given a large number of trees, he added. This includes the 4-H groups, Boy Scouts, state and county garden clubs, Gordon Kershaw, Camp White area nurseryman, has contributed thousands of golden weeping willow cuttings to the project, it was noted.

The Eagle Point Grange tree planting committee recently sent 500 letters to the Granges of the state to plant.

The department's feed situation report said production of feed grains this season may range between 150 and 155 million tons. The forecast was based on the assumption that of a normal growing season and on the guess that yields will be above average.

Washington—UPI—President Eisenhower has accepted the resignation of Wilbur A. Dextheimer as commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation. Dextheimer is quitting May 1 to go into private consulting work. He will be replaced by Floyd Dominy of Hastings, Neb., who has been Associate Reclamation Commissioner.

Washington—UPI—President Eisenhower has signed a bill authorizing the Agriculture department to spend an extra three million dollars on school milk subsidies in this fiscal year which ends on June 30th. The milk subsidy program normally gets 75 million dollars a year. Congress voted the extra three million because of reports that some states were running short.

Washington—UPI—Sen. Homer E. Capehart (R-Ind.) plans to introduce broad farm legislation next week aimed at curing agriculture problems.

Capehart declined to spell out in advance the contents of the omnibus bill which he drafted after a series of conferences with midwestern senate colleagues on farm issues.

However, he indicated Friday that one key feature would be a proposal he has made before to set up a federal agency to find new industrial uses for surplus farm commodities.

Washington—UPI—The Agriculture Department predicts that total supplies of feed concentrates may set another new record in the 1959-60 marketing year.

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Economy seems to be the key word these days. This is especially true when people think of government and the income tax forms they have been filling out.

Speaking of economy makes us think of the old Iowa farmer who neighbored to us some time ago. To him there was economy and false economy. He used to tell the story of the farmer and the jug of oil.

It seems a farmer was sweating to get his hay in before it rained. The Iowa sun was so hot that he needed a cold swig of water. Mistakenly he reached under a hay stack and got a jug of oil for his tractor instead and a mouth full of water. Being a thrifty man he slid under his tractor and spat oil on all the joints. This may have been thriftiness but it certainly left a bad taste in somebody's mouth.

Now the state government finds itself in the same position. The governor is attempting to make the state forestry department self-supporting. He's doing this by proposing a lopping off, for one thing, any requests for additional service or farm foresters.

This seems articularly unfortunate because lumber is the major industry in Oregon. And because the great timber stands are rapidly dwindling the state's timber source is becoming more and more the private stands of timber or commercial forest lands serviced by service foresters or farm foresters. Timber like corn, potatoes and pears has become a crop. People who raise this "timber crop" need the technological advice which can be provided by these foresters.

In this state small forest or woodlot owners number over 36,000. Sixty per cent of these are farmers, according to U. S. Forest Service figures. These state tax payers own more than 5 million acres of commercial forest lands mostly in small parcels. These small woodlots also represent over half of the private commercial forest land in the state.

How these small forest lands are managed in the future may make the difference between an adequate timber supply for homes and other increasing population needs or a great shortage. As one forestry man put it, "We have to start a timber crop now to meet the demands 50 years from now."

"The poor condition of the majority of the land in small ownerships is most often caused by a lack of knowledge and technical assistance available to the owners," according to forestry men. This assistance is particularly important to approximately 5,558 owners in Jackson county of Class 3 commercial forest land or those having 10 acres or more but less than 5,000 acres of forest land.

Each farm forester can reach and assist from 110 to 150 additional woodland owners each year, according to official information. He services more than 200 owners annually including repeats. This man provides uniform professional forestry stimulation and assistance, aimed at getting idle or poorly stocked forest lands into full production as soon as possible.

Forestry experts claim that 41 years from now twice as much must be produced from forest lands as is now being cut from the small timber lands. Technical assistance is needed.

It is estimated that a 50 per cent increased production on three-fifths of the 5 million acres of small woodlands would mean increased annual production in Oregon by 1 billion board feet. At a stumpage value of \$20 per thousand board feet the added income to woodland owners would be \$20 million. Since all owners are making a living this total earning could be taxed at least at the basic income tax rate of 3 per cent for an annual net direct revenue to the state of \$600,000. Also, state and local taxes could be collected from truck licenses and taxes on those who haul and manufacture and need the product.

Eleven additional foresters are needed to adequately serve the farmers and other woodland owners in the 36 counties in Oregon, according to the proposed farm forestry program for the biennium of 1960-61. One staff forester would assist in project administration at the Salem office. Three foresters would be stationed in counties where the present personnel are not able to handle the workload such as at St. Helens, Albany and Coos Bay. Seven new project headquarters would be located at Tillamook, Roseburg, Medford, The Dalles, Prineville, Canyon City and La Grande.

Pointing up the need for such foresters, the budget request states that each farm forester assists nearly 300 woodlot owners a year.

During peak periods 30 requests per month for assistance pile up before they can be acted upon, foresters said. A study made in the eastern states showed that a farm forester can serve only 150 woodland owners a year efficiently. Forest protection district personnel have given limited assistance but, according to statewide reports, have served only 5 per cent of the woodland owners. District wardens have said they have been unable to keep up with the requests because of personnel and budget limitations.

The demand for farm forestry assistance has been steadily increasing the past six years, according to forestry men. Boosting this demand are the high prices for forest products, federal cost sharing programs (ACP and soil bank) and the conservation measures recommended by public agencies. Many thousands of acres of forest land were in agricultural crops years ago. Landowners have since found this land unprofitable to farm. This in turn has caused a heavy demand for nursery stock and technical forestry assistance to establish and maintain new tree plantations.

As outlined in the budget proposal, the present four farm foresters would serve seven counties where 14,136 owners have \$1,179,000 acres of woodlands. Three new projects would be established in five counties formerly served by them. There 8,040 owners have 958,000 acres of woodlands. One new county, Clatsop, with 788 owners and 76,000 acres, would be added. The remainder of the state or 23 counties having 13,147 forest owners with 2,810,000 acres would be served by the balance or seven new farm foresters.

All of the farm foresters would work closely with and act as forest consultants to local county groups such as county extension units, land use committees and federal agricultural stabilization and conservation programs. These men would handle also the special problems that occur in their assigned territories that demand the attention of the state forester.

Costs for the proposed farm forestry plan are estimated at \$267,414 for the biennium. However, from this can be deducted the federal allotments for cooperative forest management and the conservation reserve program totalling \$89,337. Total net cost to the state is estimated at \$178,077 for the biennium, according to official figures.

Witchweed Alert Sounded in West

Salem—Witchweed, a dangerous new plant pest which appeared a few years ago in the Carolinas, could reach this area, said Hugh Taylor, plant division chief, Oregon department of agriculture. In Oregon, prime targets would be corn, sorghums, many grasses and some broadleaved plants. The plant is a parasite and weakens and kills by attaching its roots to roots of host plants. The plants which it attacks look like a drought had hit them. They become stunted, wilted and yellowish.

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Irrigation Work Popular Under ACP

Greatest number of requests under the 1959 Jackson county agricultural conservation program has been for leveling land for irrigation on 34 farms according to Harry Martin, office manager, for the Jackson county ASC committee.

Farmers applying for this project may complete the leveling over period of more than one program year where the size cuts and fills means that a heavy leveling operation will be needed after the settlement of the original fills. Also, all leveling must be carried according to a plan approved by an SCS technician.

At least 8 inches of water per acre must be available for the land intended to level.

The federal government will pay 50 per cent of the cost of earth moving not to exceed \$30 an acre, 50 per cent of the cost of moving rock not to exceed \$1.50 a cubic yard, and 50 per cent of the cost of earth moving in the releveling operation not to exceed \$10 per acre.

Another popular project is that of reorganizing irrigation systems to conserve water. Twenty-six farms have applied for this project.

This project does not allow for cleaning a ditch or for installing structures at crossings.

Such a system must have been in use for two of the last five years. "This practice, too, must be approved by the SCS technician."

Hearings Announced For Grass Commission

Salem—Hearings in March on a petition of 152 Highland bentgrass seed growers to form a commodity commission have resulted in state department of agriculture approval to submit the proposal to a grower vote.

Frank McKennon, director of agriculture, said testimony at the hearings justified calling for the referendum. All but three of the many growers who testified at the three hearings urged organized research and promotion for the commodity.

Growers must register by April 30 to vote in the referendum. The department is mailing registration forms to all growers whose 1958 production was reported by seed cleaners.

Trapping Plans For Pollen Told

Salem—Oregon will widen the scope of ragweed surveys this year and in the process will gather new information on the wheat stem rust situation here, reports the state department of agriculture.

Key to the dual studies will be pollen trapping stations the department is setting up at Sherwood, Eugene, Klamath Falls, Grants Pass, Medford, Roseburg, Corvallis, Union, Baker, Hood River, Umatilla, Ontario, Burns, John Day, Redmond, Pendleton, Bonneville, The Dalles and Lexington. A part-time station will function at Cave Junction.

Most of the stations are now in operation. Information gained from three other stations, maintained by the American Academy of Allergy at Portland, Salem and Milton-Freewater, will be added to the new pollen, according to George Moore, department ragweed supervisor.

A "trapping station" consists of two nine-inch disks arranged 3½ inches apart and mounted on a 39-inch pedestal; microscope slides, greased to catch pollen, are placed between the disks. Stations are mounted on the highest point in the locality. Slides will be changed three times each week.

Other requests made by county farmers under the cost-share program include: pasture seeding on 22 farms, liming on two farms, planting forest trees on 12 farms, controlling competitive shrubs on 10 farms, improving a stand of timber on 2 farms, constructing sod waterways on one farm, constructing drop structures on three farms, stream control on five farms, open drainage ditches on seven farms, installing drain tile on 10 farms, shaping land for drainage on one farm, construction of irrigation reservoirs on 19 farms, lining irrigation ditches on eight farms.

"Soil and water resources of the farm and ranch lands of our nation must be protected and conserved so this land will continue to be capable of producing sufficient food and other raw materials for the nation," Martin said. "All persons have a part in protecting and conserving farm lands."

A handbook explaining this program was mailed a month ago to 1,200 farms in the county, Martin said. Anyone owning farm or ranch land in Jackson county who did not receive a copy should contact the ASC office in the court house, he added. A request for cost share must be made before the practice is started. This allows the work to be done, to be outlined and plans drawn up by the technicians of the forest service, soil conservation service and county extension office.

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