

Weed Control Chemicals Seen At OSC Field Day

Corvallis - Tests with new chemicals to control weeds in many of Oregon's main field and horticultural crops were on display July 6 at a public field day near Corvallis.

A tour of experimental plots was held at the OSC Hyslop farm, midway between Corvallis and Albany on Highway 20.

Trials underway at Hyslop include selective control of thistle in crops, and control of such perennial weeds as morning glory, yellow nutgrass, and sheep sorrel, W. R. Furtick, research agronomist, discussed chemical control of grassy weeds in winter wheat.

The tour moved before noon to the OSC east farm - about one mile east of Corvallis on the old road to Albany - where Furtick is testing new chemicals for control of quackgrass and for weed control in corn.

Control of annual weeds in vegetable crops will be seen at the OSC vegetable farm adjacent to the east farm. Gravin Crabtree, horticulturist in charge of the trials discussed weed control in sweet corn, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, tomatos, and other main row crops in the area.

The afternoon tour ended at the OSC Lewis - Brown horticultural farm where trials are underway with the new chemicals, simazin and eptam, to control broadleaf and grassy weeds in strawberries.

Seed Crop Market Outlook Better

Corvallis - Market prospects for several Oregon-grown seed crops looked up this week with reports of "short" crops in the midwest and south.

Crimson clover and seed production in the south is estimated to run less than one-half last year's harvest, according to Ray Teal, Oregon State college seed marketing specialist. With bolstered price prospects, Oregon growers' main concern now is getting the crop harvested without rain damage.

Early reports from the midwest also predict a shorter Kentucky bluegrass crop with central states now expecting to harvest only one-fifth as much seed as last year, the specialist said.

Hairy vetch seed harvest may also be lighter than expected with reports of a smaller crop in Oklahoma, a key competitor with Oregon production.

Teal also reported a "firming up" of perennial ryegrass prices as a result of the smaller bluegrass crop and drought conditions in some foreign countries.

Canada Thistle Controls Given

Corvallis - Latest methods to control Canada thistle, a common weed found in most areas of the state, are explained in a newly revised bulletin published by the Oregon State college extension service.

New chemicals and soil sterilants that have been found effective against Canada thistle are discussed in the new edition of the bulletin, "Canada Thistle." The bulletin also discusses control of the weed by cultivation, and by use of perennial crops.

A colored illustration makes it easy to identify Canada thistle in various stages of growth. The bulletin, written by Rex Warren, extension farm crops specialist at OSC, also contains a full description of the weed, tells where it came from, and how it spreads.

Oregon residents can obtain a free copy at their county extension office, or from the OSC bulletin clerk, Corvallis.

Homemade Sheep Equipment Told

Corvallis-Homemade equipment to ease the job of handling sheep in farm flocks can be constructed from simple building plans published in bulletin form by Oregon State college extension service.

Free copies of the new bulletin, "Sheep Handling Equipment," are available from county extension offices or from the OSC bulletin clerk, Corvallis.

Bulletin plans include such items as portable feed racks and troughs, woolpacking rack, portable loading chute, panels for making pens, foot bath, shepherd's crook, and a portable shelter.

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Flaming gasoline shot five feet in the air from a tractor and severely burned a construction worker. A barn burned to the ground destroying many family possessions.

The first accident didn't happen on the farm but it could have. Spontaneous combustion was blamed for the barn burning down. It could have been prevented. There are all kinds of weeks such as, perhaps a National Feed Monkey's More Peanuts Week. But, Farm and Home Safety Week July 21-27 is important. SO READ THIS. IT MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE OR THE LIVES OF YOUR FAMILY!

The construction worker removed the gasoline tank cap while the tractor was still running. The exhaust from the tractor ignited the fumes from the tank. A few seconds deliberate thought to turn off the motor and then uncapped the gas tank would have saved this man many hours of excruciating pain.

The hay in which the spontaneous combustion started could have been safely stored to prevent it.

Tractor accidents are all too common. A number have happened in this area. The experts say about 50 per cent of Oregon's fatal accidents occur in use of tractors or tractor operated equipment. These accidents happen when the tractor is tipping backwards, sideways, from neglect in putting on the power take-off shield, adjusting machinery without stopping and operating machinery while tired or fatigued.

It looks cute to see little Johnny riding on the tractor with Dad. But should he fall off the tractor he wouldn't look so cute in splints or bandages. Do your worrying about such accidents beforehand. Take the necessary precautions. A tractor can only seat one.

A farm owner or rural resident has to be particularly careful on fire prevention. If he can't prevent a fire the fire truck may be too late to put it out. Looking back through our files we found news stories of houses burning down before the nearest authorized fire truck could reach the scene. Do you know who to call in case of fire? During this dry season do you have at least one hose connected to a water faucet and ready for operation? Do you have other sources of water supply clearly marked on your farm so the fire-fighting crew can quickly spot them? Have you made arrangements with the neighbors on what to do in case of fire? Is your family trained and organized?

Miriam Hall, OSC information specialist, has compiled a number of suggestions for fire prevention checks in the home and on the farm. Defective chimneys or flues are one of the biggest fire causes. One of the chimney danger spots may be the attic where an unlined chimney goes through the roof. Mortar and bricks may be dissolved or cracked through freezing and thawing and acid in smoke and soot. Check the chimney from top to bottom each year. A yearly cleaning is necessary, too.

Above all, when reporting a fire give clear, concise directions and repeat them to make sure the fireman understands. Take an interest in your small town or rural fire department. The local firemen need your help and support and perhaps your membership as a volunteer. Do you have adequate fire protection? Maybe you need a rural fire district. Get busy. See your neighbors. Organize one.

Also, in the home keep combustible materials away from heating and cooking units. Heating of these materials alone can set them on fire as surely as hanging your socks too close to the fireplace. Electric frying pans, grills and coffee pots are convenient. But the cords sometimes are too convenient for the little ones to reach. Make sure baby stays away from the cords while using these appliances. Then disconnect the cords as soon as you are through.

Many farmers have power saws, especially those farms having wood lots. Common sense in using these powerful labor-savers can prevent a lot of accidents. Read the handbook before using the saw, clear out underbrush before cutting, don't smoke when filling the gas tank, don't wrap the cord around your hand when starting the engine, set the saw's "fingers" tight against the log or tree, stop the chain when the saw is not in a cut, shut off the motor when not actually using the saw, keep the clutch engaged only when sawing. When bucking with a power saw, make sure the place is clear of stones, earth and bark, plan each cut before starting the saw, stand with legs well apart or to one side of machine so if it kicks back it won't hit you in the leg.

Sharp axes and hatchets cut easier and are safer than dull ones. It's the dull ones which bounce off the wood instead of cutting into it. We have seen some mangled hands to prove it.

About this time of year the funny-papers carry cartoons of bulls charging picnickers. Every good farmer knows bulls are safe if treated with respect and caution. A separate, well-constructed pen with gate facilities so that they do not have to be handled by personal contact should be the rule.

Fruit harvest time isn't far away. When you are picking or having others do it for you set three simple rules to prevent loss of time and painful accidents. Set ladders carefully and solidly. Do not reach too far to the left or right to pick fruit. Set straight ladders so if they fall they will fall into the center of the tree. This is good advice by C. O. Rawlings, OSC extension horticulture specialist.

A few farm notes here and there. The interim agriculture committee appointed by Gov. Mark Hatfield is due to hold at least one session in Roseburg the last of July. If you have problems which the state legislature or state department of agriculture can help you with, jot 'em down. Then, visit with the committee. If you don't have a problem, then you must be a banker.

A local lumber firm is interested in putting out a bark mulch. Properly treated experts say this could be an answer to fuller use of the local lumber industry's waste products. Many mills in other sections of the country specially package it for the home gardener. More on this later.

We are not trying to be alarming, but the hay picture in the state is not good. A traveling agriculture expert tells us this week that he toured throughout the state last week and visited many hay producing areas. Hay prices are high and going to be stiff. The yield is "very, very short." Hay raisers in central and eastern Oregon have a "tremendous fear" of drought. They feel that lack of water will be a serious problem. Most of the dairy people are trying to put in a good sizeable tonnage now and not take a chance on a second crop.

Hay prices, according to the OSC grain and hay market review for the week ending July 3, are still up there. Northwest alfalfa markets reported steady to slightly higher prices under a continued good demand from interior dairy and other livestock feeders. (This bears out our friend's report.) Supplies of first crop hay are ample and growers are reportedly stacking for later disposal.

Prices-In the Hermiston-Echo-Stanfield area growers were paid \$25 a ton for good top quality alfalfa behind balers. Madras district hay sold for \$23 a ton baled in the field if good quality first crop alfalfa.

We sat in on an interesting meeting in the courthouse this week on farmers' irrigation rights vs. proposed recreational use of an area. We hope the multi-purpose idea can be adopted in this case. However, this problem will be an increasing one for farmers and ranchers. We think considerable study should be given the farmer's side of the question, particularly as it affects grazing and irrigation rights. The farmer should set up his own study. Nobody will do it for him.

Jackman Praised By Fellow Workers

Corvallis - E. R. Jackman, one of Oregon's foremost agricultural leaders, retired June 30 after nearly 40 years with Oregon State College extension service.

As OSC extension farm crops specialist, Jackman blazed the trail for many of Oregon's major agricultural advances. He personified the "field worker" extension specialist, taking his teachings out to farm meetings and tours visiting remote farms and crossroads throughout Oregon.

He joined Oregon extension service in 1920 and has been most closely identified with the state's grassland and wheat program. He helped develop Oregon's multi-million dollar grass seed industry, promoted face - lifting of eastern Oregon's rangelands through sagebrush removal and seeding of grasses and grazing alfalfas, and has been a strong advocate of pasture improvement programs throughout Oregon.

Saturday Evening Post in 1948 recognized Jackman as the "Man With 20,000 Friends."

"The state of Oregon is about 300 miles wide and 400 miles long, yet E. R. Jackman knows it almost as well as most people know their home town," the Post stated. "Jackman has visited at

Wool Growers To Get Payment

By EUGENE P. WINTERS
Jackson Co. Extension Agent

The wool growers of Jackson county will receive an incentive payment of 70.3 cents for each dollar's worth of shorn wool marketed during the 1958 marketing year according to Don Nichols, chairman of the Jackson county stabilization and conservation committee.

The payment rate represents the percentage necessary to bring the national average price wool growers got for their wool during the year ending last March up to the established national incentive price of 62 cents per pound.

The payment rate on shorn lambs to compensate for the wool on them will be \$1.02 cwt. of live animals sold. This payment is designed to maintain the normal practice of marketing lambs with the wool on rather than shearing them to obtain the shorn wool payment.

The 1958 wool payment rate is the highest in the four years the program has been in operation, County ASC Office Manager Harry Martin said. This is the result of relatively low prices received for wool in the market last year.

Nurseryman Discusses Manures, Fertilizers

By J. VERNON MARSHALL
For Rogue Valley Nurserymen and Growers Association

This month I would like to talk about manures, fertilizers and soil drainage, two of the most important factors toward successful gardening.

There is no subject in connection with gardening more deserving of consideration and careful study than that of fertilizers and other forms of plant food. Actually, one can get along nicely with cow manure alone without paying much attention to so-called commercial fertilizers or chemical salts as plant foods. Cow manure can be used either fresh and in liquid form or well decomposed and mixed in with the soil or for potting. There are more cows in the county than ever only they are distributed differently and if the cow manure must be bought, it is as almost prohibitive.

Substitutes for such manure

least half the farms and ranches in Oregon, and there are some 63,000. Friends say he can call about 4,000 Oregonians by name, and he estimates that he knows at least 20,000," said the Post.

He taught common - sense farming practices with a blend of agricultural science, humor, and philosophy and with keen insight for the right crop for the right piece of land and circumstances, college officials noted.

A skillful writer with the human interest touch, he widened his circle of influence with articles in many regional and national magazines. His understanding of Oregon - its people and its resources - underlay all his teachings of new and better ways of farming.

Dr. A. L. Strand, OSC president, says "a man like E. R. Jackman comes along at rare intervals in any organization. Jackman has made an indelible mark on Oregon agriculture. He has lifted it by the strength of his ideas and the sincerity of his purpose to something it could not have been without him."

F. L. Ballard, OSC extension service director, credits much of Jackman's leadership to an unusual ability to keep ahead of the needs of agriculture.

Early in the 1920s, Jackman encouraged trial plantings of crested wheatgrass that was destined to seed millions of U.S. acres in the 1930s during the wheat reduction programs. Oregon was well - established with field demonstration plots of wheatgrass that set the stage for successful plantings throughout the state's wheat belt when the cutbacks came in wheat acres.

Arose As Teacher, Leader In this work, Jackman rose to the very top as a teacher and leader, Ballard said, as he shaped the programs for all county agents of the state in their work with farm crops.

He was a founder of the Oregon Seed Growers' League and served as secretary for its first 10 years. During the early 1930s, he promoted planting of grass seed crops in rows for easier cultivation and fertilizing - a decade ahead of the rest of the county - giving Oregon early leadership in the industry.

Foreseeing a time when increased demands for meat will call for maximum production of rangelands, he recently led in development of grazing alfalfa trials at more than 125 locations on eastern Oregon ranches.

Following retirement Jackman expects to go right on traveling the state to the remote farms and crossroads, swapping stories with old and new friends, and writing articles about Oregon farms and ranches and people.

Hog, Lamb Prices Expected To Dip, But Beef To Hold

Corvallis - Cattle prices are likely to stay relatively high, but hog and lamb prices probably will dip as the year progresses, forecasts Marion D. Thomas, Oregon State College extension agriculture economist.

Pasture and range conditions are not as good as a year ago, but moisture shortage in some parts of the West doesn't seem serious enough to force price - depressing cattle on the market, he reports.

Markings of cattle off grass will pick up some during the fall, but are likely to remain a smaller - than - usual part of the total beef supply, Thomas believes. Meanwhile, the supply of fed beef is expected to stay relatively large, keeping the price spread narrower than usual between the lower and higher grades of beef.

Expects Firm Support

Strong and rising consumer demand will give firm support to beef prices through the summer, but Thomas says he doubts if feeder cattle prices will show the upward trend of the past two years. Higher prices of hay, poorer pastures and large supply and lower prices of pork and poultry all are against a further rise.

Probably the best cow prices of the current cycle already have been seen. Cow slaughter has been reduced further this year as herds are built up. After a moderate seasonal rise this summer, hog prices are expected to take another dip this fall. Hog-feed price ratios have been favorable enough to cause a further expansion in pig crops. This will boost the supply of pork this fall and next spring still more. By next spring, prices probably will be low enough to discourage some producers. Throughout the period, prices on the Pacific Coast should stay among the highest in the nation, but will rise and fall with prices in the Midwest.

Lamb prices probably will work lower much of the time during the second half of the year, Thomas says. Slaughter prices should hold close to last year's level, but feeder

Fertilization Experiments Told at Experiment Station

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

Alfalfa on soils with a high magnesium content respond sharply to applications of lime or sulfur alone or when both are applied. This is the conclusion reached at the Southern Oregon Experiment station, from data gathered over a three-year period.

Soil tests show that some soils in the southern Oregon area contain more magnesium than calcium. A desirable ratio is four parts of calcium to one of magnesium. The high magnesium ratio is generally found in soils whose parent rock material came from serpentine outcroppings. However, many of our heavy clay soils also contain relatively high amounts of magnesium.

Yield of alfalfa hay over a three - year period on a soil containing 3,954 pounds of magnesium per acre but only 1,940 pounds of calcium totaled only 11.88 tons per acre. An application of 1½ tons of lime per acre boosted the yield to 17.15 tons per acre or a 44 per cent increase.

Sulfur Gives Response

Sulfur also gave a marked

response. Areas treated with 60 pounds of soil sulfur produced 16.34 tons of alfalfa hay during the three-year test period which was 38 per cent above the untreated areas.

Hay produced on the variously treated plots was analyzed for protein content. Hay from plots treated with sulfur had a higher protein content, about 3 per cent more than those where no sulfur was used. There was no increase in protein content of the hay from plots treated with phosphorus or potassium alone or in combination but when sulfur was added to phosphorus and potassium, the protein content of the hay increased.

As a result of these and other data, the experiment station is recommending the use of sulfur on nearly all agronomic crops and especially on legumes. For many years legumes have been known to give a strong yield response to sulfur. During the past eight years the station has run many field trials both on station land and on soils of cooperating farmers in Jackson and Josephine counties. It has been found that cereals, corn, and grasses, as well as legumes, respond to sulfur.

Poultry, Egg Guide Published by OSC

Corvallis - A new illustrated guide for judging poultry an deggs has been published by the Oregon State college extension service.

The bulletin tells how to judge poultry for egg production, exhibition and meat production. Illustrations feature a culling chart, diagrams showing parts of the bird and stages in wing molt, and pictures of White Leghorns, Rhode Island Reds, New Hampshire and Barred and White Plymouth Rocks. Point scales for live market poultry and dressed poultry are included in the guide, written by Noel L. Bennion, OSC extension poultry specialist.

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