

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Ways to Stretch Livestock Feed Given by OSC

Corvallis — A tighter-than-usual hay crop this year in Oregon is creating no serious problem, but does mean farmers will need to stretch livestock feed supplies, Dean Frischknecht, Oregon State College extension animal husbandry specialist, pointed out.

Wild hay crop is 18 per cent smaller than normal. On the other hand, corn production is up nearly a third, and lots of poor-quality roughage that is normally wasted can be fed to beef cattle, the specialist added.

One solution to the feed problem is to feed more grain and less hay. Frischknecht said the whole corn plant makes good feed, and also a lot of cereal grains could be saved for livestock feed.

Mint silage, straw and grass aftermath often are wasted throughout the state, he noted. This is a good year to save and feed them.

Use Low Quality Feeds

Lower-quality feeds can be used for wintering breeding or stocker cattle. But when these low-quality feeds make up a major portion of the ration, a protein supplement must be used to give livestock an adequate ration. Frischknecht suggested cottonseed meal, soybean oil meal or linseed meal depending upon prices locally. Yearling cattle and mature cattle need between one-half and one pound protein supplement per head daily.

Frisknecht said farmers would be wise to let animals graze in the field as long as possible to save harvested feed this year.

In cold areas, it's a good idea to warm drinking water with an electric heater so cattle will drink more, he added.

Another feed-stretching trick is to give cattle a shed or other protection from the cold to keep them from burning up excess energy just keeping warm.

Soil Sterilants Control Weeds

By GENE WINTERS
County Extension Agent

Difficult weed, grass and brush problems around farm buildings or in fields can be controlled by soil sterilants, said Jackson County Extension Agent, Gene Winters. Soil sterilants are definite, the county agent points out, and those who apply these plant killers should be careful of where they are used. Hard-to-kill weeds such as quack grass, wild morning glory and Russian Knapweed can be killed in open fields. All grasses, berry vines and brush can be eliminated around machinery sheds and other buildings. Some folks use soil sterilants to eliminate grasses and weeds along fence rows. There are other possibilities for the use of sterilants.

The effectiveness of soil sterilants is essentially dependent upon maintaining the various compounds in the root zone. Fall applications of the materials is satisfactory for most of Jackson county. In the higher rainfall areas of twenty or more inches of annual rainfall, better control can be had with late winter applications.

Available soil sterilants are numerous. They include sodium chlorate, borate-chlorate mixtures, and the urea chemicals. Rates of application per square rod vary considerably from one-quarter pound up to eight or ten pounds.

Crater Schedules Farm Classes

Central Point — Adult education classes in veterinary medicine and livestock feeding start on Monday, Oct. 19, at 8 o'clock, according to Ed Griggs, vocational agriculture instructor for Crater high school.

Interesting films will be shown during each of the sessions in the v-o-a department classroom, Griggs said. The classes will be held each Monday for 10 weeks. Refreshments will be served during the two-hour meetings, he added.

A class in beginning electric welding will start at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 21. This class is limited to an enrollment of 15 persons, Griggs added.

Those persons interested in other class should contact Griggs by calling NOrmandy 4-1103.

U.S.D.A. reports one farmer may take care of 50 milking cows today. He could handle only 15 to 20 in 1939.

David H. Cameron, commissioner for the state department of employment, is investigating means of improving the fruit picker situation for the valley's pear people. We haven't heard anything yet.

We still believe that more of the valley's youth could be used during summer vacation for farm labor and particularly for pear harvest workers. Immediately the pear growers object. "Some of the kids are real hard workers, but they aren't strong enough for the heavy work in the orchards. Or, too many of them just aren't reliable."

Properly supervised by, say high school teachers, we think this only partly tapped labor reservoir would be reliable and could solve a difficult situation. We know many teachers would like to pick up a few extra dollars during the summer. Working in the fields and orchards would certainly be a healthy change from the classrooms.

Of course, the ladders used for picking are heavy. A filled canvas picker's bucket also gets mighty heavy. But, why couldn't lighter ladders be devised and smaller buckets? After all, sports equipment manufacturers have designed lighter shotguns, bowling balls and other sports equipment for women. The Medford pear district is famous for the new wrinkles it has added to the fruit industry. Modified harvest equipment so more young people and women could pick might be yet another step toward advancing the local fruit industry. How do you know it won't work if you haven't tried it?

A list of the variety of jobs that the valley's v-o-a students hold during the summer convinced us that the teenagers could be used more as harvest labor. As a sort of sampling device, we asked Crater high school's v-o-a students to put down the work they had done during the summer. The small, handwritten slips which came back amazed us. They showed us these young men were tackling anything and everything to earn some spending money.

Here is a sample: rickety wood, four days; fought fire (Ashland forest fire) one month; helped build addition to house, three weeks; planted trees on Howard Prairie, two days.

And another: hauled hay, 60 days; hauled beets, five days; cut hay, 15 days; leveled, 14 days; hauled onions, five days.

And another: picked pears, 10 days; hauled hay, three days; irrigated, two days; cut wood; nine days; swamped, 14 days.

And another: packing house, 14 days; hay, four days; irrigated 10 days; and ranged cattle, six days.

Forty-nine v-o-a students reported on summer work. The majority of them worked in the pears or hay, or both. Some cut wood for fall sale. One worked at the House of Mystery all summer. Orchard work, unfortunately is usually of short season, meaning from one to two months work. The problem is to fill the rest of the spare time with money-earning jobs. To keep busy all summer some, who were lucky, worked in vegetable, hay and pear harvests.

Some of the more unusual jobs included fighting (the Ashland area forest fire), building an addition onto a house, and digging ditches.

Many of the jobs listed ran for four or five days, then the teenagers were forced to find something else; maybe there would be a string of jobs listed with work for only four or five days at each. You might say it is irrational that shortly before we received this summer job sampling state session on juvenile delinquency was held in Medford. It seems quite plain that young people busy earning money for what they want don't have time for mischief and seldom see the need to steal what they want. We might suggest a community-wide conference of farmers, youth leaders, school officials to solve the youth work problem.

The numerous hunter complaints received by the state police is not surprising to us. Warning signs showed up during the start of the dove season which came near the height of the pear harvest. Ranchers complained of pears pitted by bird-shot. So, it seemed only logical that a number of pear-grower complaints on wild-shooting would increase when more hunters took to the field. The first thing somebody thinks of is—"They should have a course in firearm safety in the schools."

"Yes they should," agreed a busy high school principal. "Now, let me look at our schools and see where we can fit it in," he said riffling through a stack of activity cards.

By the time he had checked each card and all school day hours, only the evening hours were left. School officials discourage extra-curricular activity during what should be evening study hours during the week.

So that leaves it up to other organizations—Kiwanis, Lions, Izaak Walton League and others. We know of an eastern Oregon police force which instructs youngsters in shooting and firearm safety. However, this put too much of a load on officers who were already holding down odd duty jobs to keep their families clothed and fed. We do know that Oregon state police here offer courses in shooting and firearm safety during the winter months. This instruction is given by the game law enforcement officers when sufficient people seek the instruction. Perhaps some service club or combination of service clubs could sponsor the instruction.

How To Select Melon? Thump, Slap, Plunk

The juicy sound of the watermelon thumpers, slappers, plunkers, knockers, rubbers, rollers, pluggers, and droppers will soon be heard throughout the land. Whether you're looking for a rind or a hollow, solid crisp detection by the novice. If you would graduate from the eenie-meenie minie-moe method of selecting edible specimens then hear this:

(1) If the melon is still attached to the vine, examine the tendril (curl) nearest to the melon—if it is crisp and near, chances are good that the melon is good; if it is green, the melon is green. Then as a double check, examine the "ground spot" or the area of the watermelon in contact with the soil—if this area is yellow, pluck one from the vine.

(2) If the melon is not attached to the vine and is still intact so that one cannot rely upon it, then one must rely upon the more subtle senses of touch and hearing. The popular varieties — Charleston Gray and Congo, have skins that feel slightly "sandy" when the melon is ripe. The gritty epidermis is caused by very small, raised corky spots. If the melon is completely smooth and glossy, chances are it has not yet reached the best stage for eating.

A casual rub over the melon will tell you if you are too early, too late, or just right.

Eagle Point Cow Top Seller At State Jersey Auction

A Jersey cow consigned by W. D. Mongold, route 1, Eagle Point, took top price at the 1959 Oregon select Jersey sale at the Linn county fairgrounds Oct. 3 at Albany.

Buyer was John Kopplin, Gaston, with Russ Palmer, Grants Pass, contending bidder. Second highest in the sale

was Standard Draconis, Rose Susie, consigned by James Cosner, Elkton, Ore., which brought \$1,050.

The top sale animal, La Pine Basil Sprite, consigned by the Mongold's was a member of the Shirley Cow family. The sire was La Pine Golden Designer also from the same

family, and was senior and grand champion at Josephine county fair in 1959.

The \$500.50 average at the sale is the best in 12 years, it was reported. This is also the second high state sale in the nation for 1959, observers said. The sale was advertised as the greatest congregation of breeding or foundation females ever assembled for an Oregon sale.

Karen of Wild Plum, consigned by Richard L. Wyant, 2099 Emigrant Creek rd., Ashland, sold for \$400.

The Mongolds bought Rossmere Design Sun Bonnet consigned by Rossmere Farms, Mt. Angel, for \$350, and Raders Trixie Viola, consigned by Carol Strand, Silverton, for \$375. Sun Bonnet was junior champion at the Marion county specialty show in 1959 and also a member of the group that won first prize junior get of sire at the Oregon state fair for 1959. Trixie was reserve grand champion cow at the 1957 Marion county 4-H fair.

Frank B. Hopewell v. of Bunnycrest Dairy bought Haskas Senator Jenny consigned by Frank Pinnicup for \$425, and Commando Advancer Elva, consigned by Everett Struckmeier, Scio, for \$325.

GARDENING TIPS

By DON BERRY
County Extension Agent

CONTROL OF BLIGHT IN HOME ORCHARDS

Home gardeners should apply a spray for peach blight before October 15th. This fungus disease, also called California blight and coryneum blight, forms cankers on the twigs and branches, holes in the leaves and spots on the fruits.

When the disease gets out of control, branches are killed, fruit production is severely reduced and of poor quality and the tree killed.

Spray with a fixed or neutral copper at the rate of 1/4 pound per three gallons of water. Spray thoroughly. It is important.

DISEASE OF TRAILING BERRIES

The fungus disease, leaf and cane spot, can be severe on the leaves and canes of trailing blackberry, youngberry,

boysenberry and wild dewberry. Himalayas, Evergreen and erect types of blackberries are more resistant to the disease.

At first, the spots on the leaves and canes are about one-eighth inch in diameter, purplish in color and later turn brown. The older spots have whitish centers with brown to red borders. When the spots are numerous, girdling and killing of the canes occurs.

Steps Given

In plantings were the disease has been severe:

1. Prune out old fruiting canes as soon as possible, rather than waiting for the normal winter pruning. This is recommended because fall rains can wash the disease-causing spores from the old canes down to the new canes on the ground. Such new growth may thus become diseased this fall.

2. After pruning, spray with one of the fungicides as follows: Bordeaux 8-8-100, or Copper A six pounds per 100 gallons, or Cyprex two pounds per 100 gallons, or Dyrene two pounds per 100 gallons.

If time does not permit pruning out the old fruiting canes fairly soon, the spray application is even more important. Apply a thorough coverage of spray to all canes both new and old.

PRUNING HYDRANGEAS

The "macrophylla" Hydrangeas, the most common ones, can be pruned after blooming, preferably while plant is dormant.

The flowering stalks should be cut back low to 24 buds. They bloom on a one year old wood, that is, the new growth of 1959 will bloom in 1960. The "Pee Gee" Hydrangea, on the other hand, blooms on the current seasons growth. It should be pruned heavily in early spring, before leafing out, to encourage new growth.

TREAT BULBS BEFORE PLANTING

Treat bulbs before planting for Narcissus Bulb Fly.

The grubs (larvae) of this fly feed in bulbs and often destroy them. Soak bulbs in heptachlor solution (1-1-3 tablespoons-gal. water) before planting for 10 to 30 minutes to prevent infestation. Add fungicide, such as phenyl mercuric acetate (1/4 teaspoon per gallon), Ceresan (two tablespoons per gallon), or formalin (1 1/4 tablespoons per gallon) to solution to prevent basal rot. B.E.W.A.R.E! These chemicals are poisonous and should be handled carefully.

Proper Handling Of Game Meat Urged

Salem — Hunters who get their deer, elk or other game animals should be forewarned that they will run into state meat inspection when they submit carcasses to plants for handling and storage.

Retail markets, processing plants, locker plants and slaughterhouses under state meat inspection are required to meet certain conditions in handling what hunters bring to them.

Game animals are not themselves covered under meat inspection law but their comingling with inspected meats is of concern to the inspectors, says Dr. William L. Searles, supervisor of the program for the state department of agriculture.

So Dr. Searles makes these suggestions to hunters who are going to rely upon locker plants and other establishments for cutting and storage:

1. Skin the animal as soon as possible after the kill; the sooner the better.

2. Clean it.

3. Trim out all bruises and gunshot wounds.

4. Place the carcass in a clean game bag or other suitable material.

5. Cool it out before taking it in for chilling and cutting. Game animals can only be skinned, trimmed and cleaned on killing floors of slaughterhouses before or after each day's regular kill. And all kill rooms must then be cleaned and sanitized before meat animals are slaughtered. All this, of course, if the same kill room is used both for "regular" and game meats.

Nor may operators handling the hunter's kill store heads, hides or unskinned parts in any chill room or cooler. The

hoofs, too, had better be off before the carcass reaches the chill room or cooler.

And if a game animal carcass goes into the same cooler as the regular kill, it must be covered with a clean shroud (which is about the same as an over-all nightie), a game bag or similar protective material. Some establishments, big enough to have them, utilize separate cool rooms for game animals; in this event, no covering is needed.

The same equipment used for processing the regular meat may be used for processing game animals — provided the two types of meats are handled separately, at different periods, and with equipment sanitized after each use.

Pheasants, ducks, geese and other game birds must be plucked before being placed in a cooler.

The purpose of all this? Consumer protection.

Poisonous Stock Weed Found in Two Counties

Salem — Discovery of Halogeton, weed scourge of the range country, in two new areas in Malheur and Harney counties, should serve as warning to stockmen to be on the alert for this weed. The oxalate in the plant makes Halogeton poisonous to animals.

Late in September the weed was found over about 1/2 acre two miles north of Nenio by County Road Foreman C. L. Hare of Fields. This is the first infestation of any size found in Harney county, according to George Moose, assistant plant division chief, Oregon department of agriculture.

Farm Census Plan Ready in State; 400 Men Needed

Corvallis — One of your neighbors soon may be knocking at your door in his role as farm census taker.

About 300,000 census takers (enumerators) are being hired by the Bureau of Census to help gather information from farmers in their area. Oregon will need about 400 to take this count of the state's second most important industry, Marion D. Thomas, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State college, reports.

Edward G. Bates, Eugene, and Homer E. Rainey, Bend, have been named field assistants for the 1959 census. Bates will direct 20 crew leaders and 271 census takers in western Oregon this fall, and Rainey will be in charge of 10 crew leaders and 118 census takers in eastern Oregon.

Census taking will start Oct. 28 in eastern counties and Nov. 11 in western Oregon areas. Enumerators will be hired by local crew leaders in early October.

Assigned to Locality

Each enumerator is assigned to his locality. His job is to help record all important facts about agriculture. To do this, he will visit every home in his district that has any farming operations and get information from the person in charge. Enumerators first receive 12 hours of special training in census definitions, use of questionnaires, map reading and interviewing.

Who can become a census taker? Among other qualifications, an enumerator must be a citizen at least 18 years of age with a high school education or its equivalent. He must pass a test, be able to conduct interviews, have a knowledge of farming, have a car available and live in the rural area near his assignment. His most important responsibilities are to collect accurate information and to keep it confidential.

When crew leaders are chosen, their names will be announced in local newspapers so persons interested in becoming enumerators can apply to them.

Alkali Bees May Aid Seed Growth

Talent Alfalfa seed producers will meet in the courthouse auditorium next Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 8 p.m., to hear Dr. W. P. Stephen, entomologist, Oregon State college agriculture experiment station, discuss possibilities of introducing Alkali bees into the county to increase alfalfa seed yields.

Alkali bees, transplanted to man made beds, can more than triple alfalfa seed yields, according to Entomologist Stephen.

Oregon State college trials have been conducted since 1957 near Milton and Ontario. The increase in seed production has been caused by several thousand bee pupae transplanted into beds made of plastic, gravel, the right textured soil, water and salt. Jackson County Talent alfalfa seed production has averaged about 300 pounds per acre. Most of this seed is exported to Greece with present demand in excess of production.

One prominent seed producer has pointed out that Alkali bees may be the cheapest and easiest means to increase Talent Alfalfa seed yields.

Talent certified seed is produced only in Jackson County.

Deadline Set For IFYE Blanks

Young men and women between 20 and 30 years of age with farm backgrounds may compete for a trip as an International Farm Youth Exchange delegate, according to Glenn Klein, County 4-H club agent.

A people to people exchange, the I.F.Y.E. exchanges young farm folks from the U.S. with over 60 countries throughout the world. Delegates live, work, and play with host families in the country to which they are assigned as they share America's way of life with others and then return to the

Cattle and Wheat Lead in Marketing

Salem — Oregon's 1958 cash receipts from agricultural marketings at the farm level have been revised upward to \$400,567,000, up \$8 million from 1957, says Frank McKennon, director of agriculture.

Crops continue to lead livestock and animal products by a comfortable \$20 million — \$210,272,000 vs. \$190,295,000 — but the margin is down from \$42 million crop advantage in 1957.

McKennon says the figures are from the September USDA report on farm incomes which revises earlier state totals and carries the first full breakdown of last year's income.

He hastens to add that these figures represent the income before any costs. The net realized farm income in Oregon was \$131,800,000—or a net income per farm of \$2641 in 1958.

Cattle, Calves Lead

Cattle and calves continue to lead wheat as the largest single facet in Oregon's diversified agriculture. Cash receipts on cattle and calves reached \$80,473,000, up \$12,675,000 from 1957.

Although still in second place with \$46,956,000 of the state total, wheat accounted for \$4,532,000 less than in 1957.

Dairying was a short step behind wheat as third highest segment in marketings. Income here was \$45,329,000, off \$1.4 million from 1957.

Eggs (\$19.7 million) were the fourth top item last year, with barley (\$15.8 million) in fifth spot and potatoes (\$12.1 million) nosing out greenhouse and nursery products for sixth place.

Local FFA Youth Attend Convention

Kansas City, Mo.—The six delegates from Crater, Eagle Point and Phoenix Future Farmers of America chapters all arrived safely in Kansas City Sunday to attend the 31st national FFA convention, according to a telegram sent by the Crater delegation.

Attending the convention Oct. 13 through Oct. 16 are John Caster and Don Ryan, from Crater chapter; Mike Lowery and John Whiteside, Phoenix; and Elvin Hawkins and Madison Patrick, Eagle Point.

Delegates toured the Allis Chalmers assembly plant and President Truman museum Monday afternoon. Sessions today were highlighted by a variety show sponsored by the Firestone Tire and Rubber company. Delegates will participate in FFA Omaha day in Omaha, Neb., Friday. They will return by train and arrive in Portland Sunday, Oct. 19.

Tuesday's FFA convention schedule included roll call of states and seating of delegates, conferring of honorary American Farmer degrees upon vocational agriculture teachers and administrators, national treasurer's report by R. E. Bass, state supervisor agricultural education, state board of education, Richmond, Va., and addresses by retiring officers, massing of state flags, and presentation of Star American Farmer awards.

Wednesday was scheduled to lead off with an interview with participants in the International Youth Exchange by John McDonald, farm director, WSM, WSM-TV, Nashville, Tenn.

Other highlights were introduction of Future Farmers of the Philippines by Jerry Ringo, national vice president, 1958-59, greetings by Ezra Taft Benson, secretary of agriculture, FFA pageant, committee appointments, presentation of Future Farmers of America Foundation, Inc. awards and honoring ceremony for parents of the 1957-58 National FFA officers.

Election of officers and their installation, presentation of past officers' pins, certificates and service plaques by new president and closing ceremony.

Other events include a meals judging contest and poultry production judging contest on Wednesday. A live-

U.S. to share their overseas experience.

Delegates must be single, high school graduates, in excellent physical and mental health and interested in understanding other people.

Applications are due Oct. 20 and selection will be made at Oregon State college by interview on Oct. 24. Anyone interested should contact the county extension office in the courthouse or phone SPring 3-6211, Extension 211.

stock judging contest was scheduled for today. Friday included a breakfast for judging teams, coaches and livestock exhibitors, special study committee meeting for FFA national judging contests and American Royal ball. Saturday highlights will include an American Royal parade and shore show.

The first National convention was held in the Baltimore hotel at Kansas City, Mo., on Nov. 20, 1928. Thirty-three official delegates representing 18 states were present. Sixty-four delegates from 33 states attended the second convention. By the 10th annual convention membership in the organization had grown to over 100,000 representing 4,000 chapters. The 1938 donation delegates authorized purchase of 22 1/2 acres of land which was part of the George Washington estate for the national FFA camp. When the World War II began, FFA membership totaled 245,830 in 7,542 chapters. By 1957 membership reached 377,922 in over 9,000 chapters.

Jersey Club Sets Plans For Meet

Eagle Point — The Rogue River Jersey Cattle club met at the W. D. Mongold farm on Agate-Dodge Road, Oct. 10 and tentative plans were formulated for the annual meet to be held early in January.

Chairman Mongold reported on the recent State Jersey Sale where 31 animals sold for an average of \$500. This was the second highest state sale in the nation.

One of the programs of the national club is the classification of Jersey cattle for conformation and breed type. An official classifier of the American Jersey Cattle club will be in the valley Oct. 17 to rate the herds of W. D. Mongold, Eagle Point, J. E. Parsons, Gold Hill, and H. L. McCollm of Grants Pass.

It was also learned that after a series of meetings held in Washington, Idaho, and Oregon by James Cavanaugh, executive secretary of the American Jersey Cattle club, the three states' All-Jersey milk program will be administered by a national fieldman selected by the national club.

The next meeting will be held in the Frank Schutzwohl home Nov. 7.

Shipping point inspections of fresh fruits and vegetables from July 1 to Sept. 1 stood at 4066 carload equivalents—exactly the same mark as a year ago. Ninety per cent of this year's total was potatoes, according to the state department of agriculture.

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