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- 1ST COURSE:** urea nitrogen and nitrate nitrogen (3/4 of total content) move down into the soil for immediate use by roots. Also, ammonium nitrogen (1/4 of total) is fixed in the top few inches of soil for continued feeding by shallow roots.
- 2ND COURSE:** Soon, remaining urea nitrogen is changed to ammonium nitrogen which complements the original ammonium nitrogen in the top layer of soil in providing long-term feeding.
- 3RD COURSE:** Gradually, bacterial action converts the unused portion of ammonium nitrogen into the nitrate form. These nutrients penetrate further into the soil to feed even the deepest roots.



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Land Leveling Set For Demonstration

Land leveling will be demonstrated starting at 10 a.m. Friday at the Fred West farm 2 1/2 miles above Ruch, announced Clem Ault, work unit conservationist, Rogue Soil Conservation Service.

The demonstration is sponsored jointly by Hubbard-Wray company and the Rogue Soil Conservation district, Ault said. Signs will mark the way to the farm.

Purpose of the demonstration is to show the benefits of land-leveling or reorganization of irrigation systems. This results in irrigation and labor saving.

Level land can be properly irrigated without wasting water, it was pointed out. Low areas are filled, preventing standing water, humps are removed permitting good coverage. Portions of fields idled by erosion or other means can be reclaimed or put into production.

However, equipment to level land has required such a large initial investment few could afford it. This initial investment has forced contractors to charge high prices for their services, a spokesman said. A new tractor and companion elevating scraper will be shown in operation to demonstrate the lower cost land leveling equipment.

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

We spent what you might call a typical old-fashioned country week end last Saturday and Sunday. This included a family-type dance in our small town, church Sunday morning, early afternoon dinner out in the country and a game of catch afterwards.

The dance, which about 100 people attended, was the kind you might have attended in Oregon's Centennial days. Whole families turned out. Pop danced with sis some of the time and mom with brother. As the evening got longer and longer the kids became sleeper until two or three stretched out on the long wooden benches around the wall of the little community club house. Their folks and the older boys and girls kept on dancing.

You couldn't call this the social event of the year and it wasn't the kind of thing the highball crowd attended. Some of the men drifted out through the kitchen door to a cluster of pickup trucks and cars where the bottle and town gossip was passed around. Nobody became drunk, though. One of the husky men invited us on a 'coon hunt some night. And like the pioneer days plates of huge frosted cakes and sandwiches lined the kitchen counters and steaming black coffee was handed out in thick mugs.

Everybody we knew had a good time dancing to the music provided by a group of town musicians playing an ancient piano, a guitar, fiddle and base viol. Some people of this community not far from Medford would like to promote more such events, but it takes people to organize them and very few seem to have the community interest even though the result is fun for everybody.

At one time this town was the crossroads village and trading center for all the farmers of the area. Then it was important to the people who lived in or near it. The older generation, many of them with pioneer names, built the community hall and did other things to try to keep the town alive. However, now they feel "the young folks can take over. It's their turn." Trouble is few seem to want to leave their "one-eyed monster"—the television set.

The older people have left plenty of problems yet to solve, need for more fire protection for the outlying areas, perhaps a better paid or enlarged police force, sidewalks, city planning, zoning and building codes, need for a teenage recreation program, more adequate water and sewer system. If everybody's "too busy" who is going to do it?

Due to the current Congressional arguments over farm surpluses and farm price supports people who don't make their living at farming are apt to get the wrong idea. An elaborate welfare program isn't being run for the farmer as too many people might imagine. For instance the U. S. department of agriculture's \$7 billion annual budget pays for the agricultural commodities which the U. S. ships overseas in foreign aid programs, for salaries of agricultural experts who work toward boosting the economics of foreign countries. This money also pays for the surplus farm products used by the Armed Forces, by schools and other public institutions.

This subsidization by the government doesn't make the average farmer rich, as some people seem to think. U. S. per capita farm income in 1957 was \$967 while per capita nonfarm income was \$2,082. People also claim farmers own at least two cars and these are mainly Buicks, Oldsmobiles, Lincolns and Cadillacs. However a farm magazine points out from a sample survey of Iowa farmers in 1957—that 15.6 per cent had two or more cars, 5.7 per cent owned Buicks, 6.7 per cent owned Oldsmobiles and .3 per cent owned Cadillacs.

Here in the Rogue River valley people tend to think of farmers and pear orchardists in particular as Cadillac owners. So we checked the local Cadillac dealer and learned most sales of this big car are made to businessmen, lumbermill owners, brokers and some to the larger packing house owners. Orchardists like a car they can drive both in and out of orchards, then if it gets too beat up they can trade it in and get a new one without taking too much of a loss.

When people think of economic waste they like to point to overproduction in agriculture. Federal government figures show the farmers overproduced about 2 per cent. This means an economic waste of about \$4,000. However, industry overproduced about 5 1/2 per cent. Total unemployment averaged 6 1/2 per cent. And we all know how much there was when the steel industry was hit by strikes earlier this year.

If all this farm surplus could be sent to people throughout the world who are seriously hungry, would there be a farm surplus? At the same time people point to wealthy wheat farmers in this state and in the mid-west as examples of how the farm subsidy program is making a few people wealthy at the expense of the average taxpayer. However, the wheat farmers in this state are working on a self-help program by developing markets in the Far East and in other countries.

A midwestern garden editor suggests that Saran Wrap can be used around pots for house plants to keep the soil from drying out while the homeowners are away. The soil should be watered thoroughly before wrapping the pot. Then the pot should be wrapped smoothly around the sides and gathered loosely around the plant. A semi-shaded or cool spot will help, also.

Recent rains have improved the pasture situation in the valley considerably. However, stockmen who are finishing out their animals will have to continue to shovel the feed to them. Dairymen can start tapering off in the feed department some but should not do so too sharply, according to a local feed expert. He also pointed to a local farmer who is buying top quality feed but is getting a ratio of 20 cents worth of feed per pound the animal is gaining. This is often the case when farmers figure if from the standpoint of idn. (total digestible nutrient).

A local feed dealer reports feed prices about the same as they were a year ago. There was even little variance through the winter. However the lower support price for corn announced on Feb. 19 is expected to cut the cost for feeders. Average support on the 1960 crops will be \$1.06 per bushel, according to the Ford Motor company's High Dollar Farming. This is 6 cents per bushel less than last year. Since the corn support tends to set the feed grain market, it will weaken the position of grain sorghum, barley and other grains, it was predicted.

Honors Program Starts In 4-H Livestock Work

Corvallis—An "honors" program for the state's youngest livestock producers — 10,000 4-H club members—may open unknown careers in agricultural sciences to Oregon youth, Oregon State College 4-H extension leaders believe.

A new 4-H livestock advancement program has been developed to meet needs of youngsters who want to go beyond usual 4-H project offerings and learn more about livestock production, genetics, breeding, and marketing of animals.

In the past, a livestock member's main accomplishment has been to raise an animal and show it at a fair. Although fairs and contests provided recognition for performance in livestock classes, there was no credit given for knowledge in some of the other livestock studies.

College Prep Type

The new program is almost a college prep course, explains Cal Monroe, state 4-H agent. It's designed to invite interest in off-the-farm jobs in research, technology, marketing, veterinary medicine, animal breeding and teaching in any of the broad livestock fields.

The 4-H livestock member enrolls voluntarily in the advancement program, and agrees to fulfill certain requirements. When he is ready to advance to more difficult stages, he appears before a livestock "graduate committee," made up of local 4H leaders and livestock breeders and his work is reviewed.

The advancement program outlines a year's program of work, which makes it easier for 4H leaders to teach, says Monroe. Under the program, the member has a chance to "shine" because he is able to advance into "graded" levels of accomplishments according to his ability.

The first "honors" program in livestock was started several years ago in the 4-H projects. It received such favorable response that this winter advancement programs for beef, sheep, swine, dairy and rabbits were provided.

Farm and Garden Swine Test Station Plans Large Sale

Corvallis — The first boars to pass rigid performance tests at the Oregon Swine Testing Station will be sold April 2 at the Umatilla Branch Experiment Station near Hermiston.

The sale, scheduled to start at 12:30 p.m., will see about 20 top-quality boars of seven different breeds put on the auction block, reports Dr. David C. England, Oregon State College animal husbandman in charge of the swine testing station.

To be entered in the sale, boars had to gain at least 1.6 pounds per day from the time they were weaned until they weighed 200 pounds, make this gain on not more than 360 pounds of feed for each 100 pounds of gain, and have less than 1.4 inches of backfat when the test was completed. Tests were carefully supervised by OSC research and extension personnel.

Only about half the boars entered in the testing program met these rigid qualifications, England said.

Although many youths leave the farm and take other jobs, Monroe notes a greater interest among farm boys and girls to enroll in 4-H livestock projects.

Breeds represented in the sale will include Palouse, Hampshire, Berkshire, Yorkshire, Poland China, Chester White, and Landrace. Many of the boars are now eligible to be certified as meat-type hogs by their breed association.

Records Available

A complete record of the performance of each boar tested at the station will be available the day of the sale, England added. This will include results of carcass quality evaluations of litter mates of the boars, as well as information on their rate of gain, feed efficiency, and leanness.

Oregon now produces only about one-third of the pork purchased by homemakers in the state. Expansion of hog production in the state is critically dependent on more high-quality boars, however, England explained. The swine testing program at the new station will make it possible for swine producers to obtain high-testing boars for their breeding herds.

Lunch will be available at the station at 11:30 a.m. for those attending the sale.

A brief ceremony preceding the sale will see the new swine testing station dedi-

cated and officially presented to OSC authorities representing the state of Oregon. The testing station was constructed by the Oregon Wheat Commission to promote production of market hogs in Oregon and make more use of locally-grown feeds.

Visitors will be welcome at the station the morning of the sale to look over the new swine-testing facilities and inspect the boars to be sold, said Tom Davidson, superintendent of the Umatilla station. Educational exhibits and opportunities to talk over problems with OSC swine scientists and specialists will be featured during this morning open-house period.

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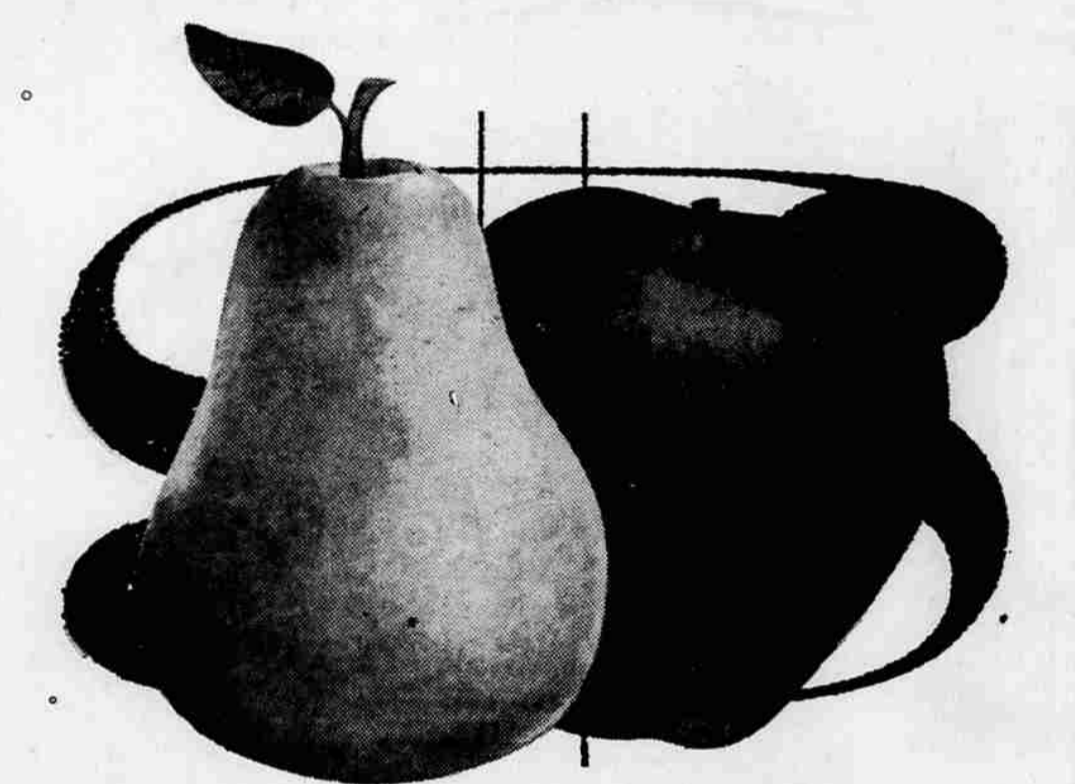


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