

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Farmers and ranchers should take advantage of the big drive toward recreation, according to the Oct. 1 issue of the Oregon Cattleman.

This is true! We have thought for some time that Jackson county farmers should take advantage of and get some credit for present recreation developments in the valley. The editorial in the cattleman's publication points out that "the basic producers receive only about 10 per cent of the largesse distributed by this lush outdoors trade—the remaining 90 per cent goes to the merchantmen."

The editorial continues to point out how hardware and sporting goods store merchants stay open at night and on Sundays so they can get their "bucks" before the hunters get theirs. There's nothing wrong with this. However, perhaps the farmers could get more direct benefit from these outdoorsmen by charging uniform hunting fees for use of their lands. This might even be carried over into fishing season, picnicking and camping season.

Economists, chiefly the chamber of commerce kind, insist that the recreation dollar eventually spreads out to all segments of the population. The farmer has been waiting for this to happen to the food dollar for some time without much success. He can't seem to do anything about that, but he can get his bite in as soon as anybody else on the recreation dollar through a little organization and planning.

As we said, the farmers should charge a uniform fee for use of their land. Farmer representatives should meet with the Jackson County Parks and Recreation commission so any basic facilities provided would be the kind designed to attract most sportsmen. Then, too, farm land recreation sites should be tied in with the overall county system including Howard Prairie, Hyatt Lake, Emigrant and Willow creek reservoir and the proposed Mt. Ashland winter and summer recreation spot.

Through mutual development and promotion, both private and public recreation sites would benefit. This might be something the Granges and Farm Bureaus could work on.

In other areas, farmers have long realized some side profit from recreational use of their lands. A number of commercial bird hunting spots have been developed in the Klamath basin. Farmers in other states have used their farm ponds for lease to hunting clubs and for rental to fishermen. For many years skiers, who could not afford the lush accommodations of Sun Valley in Idaho, stayed at nearby farmhouses. This could happen in the Mt. Ashland area, too. Skating, ice-boating and tobogganing are possible in the Howard Prairie reservoir area. Winter sport enthusiasts might make good boarders at outlying farms in this area, too. Call these ideas silly or ridiculous, but after watching Ed Sullivan's show on TV last Sunday night, we concluded a lot of silly dollars are being made in this world.

Something we have never seen or heard mentioned before is that people of the Rogue Valley are indebted to the farmers for creation of all major recreation facilities here, Howard Prairie, Hyatt and Emigrant reservoirs all were constructed primarily for irrigation.

The public gets all this free! For instance, at Howard Prairie reservoir are planned a possible riding academy, coffee shop and restaurant, piers for small boats with service facilities, trailer park with trailers for rent and the present swimming, fishing, picnicking and water-skiing area. Hyatt lake will continue to be a spiny-ray fishery and Emigrant will serve afternoon and evening water-skiing and picnickers.

Too often, it seems that when the farmers either try to aid their production or protect it, some sportsmen's group becomes unhappy. Now the Hound Owners association is baying. This group doesn't like the use of Compound 1080 poison stations. The Jackson County Stockmen's association last year requested erection of three poison bait stations in the Lake Creek area. They were needed to protect livestock, particularly sheep, against coyotes. This poison, according to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, does not kill three or four times. It does not have a chain reaction. Land is carefully posted in areas where poison is used and it is well advertised.

Only one man, the supervisor of rodent and predatory animal control in southwestern Oregon, is authorized to use this poison. The carcass in which the poison is placed is chained down. Coyotes eat it, then while it takes four hours to work, hide in caves or in the brush, which makes it difficult, if not impossible for anything to feed on their bodies. It could kill dogs. However, if farmers keep their dogs on their place as the county dog control ordinance requires, they have nothing to worry about.

The Jackson county sheep population has increased from 23,500 to 31,000 during the last few years. It's important that this growth be protected. In fact, the law requires rodent and predatory animal control on farmlands. It's interesting to note that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service was considered a boon to sportsmen when it insisted fish protection be considered in constructing dams on the Rogue river. Now that it wants to protect the livestock in the county, due to some false and misleading information, some sportsmen are apparently all "agin" it.

One of these days the farmers are going to climb down off their tractors, point at the tractor seat and say to the sportsman: "Here, you know so much about it, you take over." And nobody will blame 'em!

There are a few Black Angus ranchers in the valley. They have done such a good job in breeding and promoting this breed that we have often wondered why more farmers don't use the Angus. Anyway, the American Angus association held a research conference on Oct. 4-5 in St. Joseph, Mo.

From this should come information which might help promote Angus development here. Twenty-seven beef cattle research men attended the meeting. They organized four committees: carcass evaluation, herd classification and Angus herd improvement record, herd records and statistics and heredity in beef cattle. The committee recommendations will be made to the AAA board of directors and when approved, will be released.

L. R. Bradford, 110 Tripp st., Medford, called Monday to say he has tomato vines growing 1 1/2 feet high. They are Early Annas. We have received so many reports about "the largest squash," biggest pumpkin, highest growing corn and tomatoes that we are going to have to call a halt. Nov. 14 is the deadline for all reports and pictures of the biggest, best and highest.

Hoots Angus Farm High at PIE Show

Except for top-most honors, Cow Palace Grand Champion going to the Haystack Ranch in Colorado, the Hoots Angus farm of Grants Pass took all other honors among Pacific Coast Angus breeders at the Pacific International Livestock Exposition show in Portland on Oct. 11, it was reported.

Competition centered on nine Angus breeding herds of Oregon, Washington, California and Colorado.

Named reserve grand champion was Hoots Bummers Maid 2, sired by Eileenmerr 1350th. This senior heifer calf is a full sister to the 1959

GARDEN TIPS

By JOHN McLOUGHLIN
County Extension Agent

TRAILING BERRIES
Leaf and cane spot can be severe on the leaves and canes of trailing blackberry, youngberry, boysenberry and wild dewberry.

At first the spots on the leaves and canes are about one-eighth inch in diameter and purplish in color. Older spots have a whitish center with brown to red borders. Numerous cane spots cause girdling and killing of the canes.

In plantings where this disease has been severe prune out old fruiting canes as soon as possible. Fall rains will wash the disease causing spores from the old canes down to the new canes resulting in a spread of the disease this fall.

After pruning spray with Bordeaux 8-8-100 or Copper A, 2 tablespoons per gallon of water. A thorough spraying is necessary for control.

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Tuberous begonias should be lifted before heavy frosts injure them. Remove the foliage to within six inches of the tubers. When the tubers have dried thoroughly, remove the remaining foliage and shake off excess dirt. Do not remove the roots.

Place the tubers in a flat and cover with dry peat moss or sawdust. Store the tubers in a dark, humid location at 45 degrees.

CONE DECORATIONS

The collection of cones for winter arrangements often presents a problem with the cone pitch. Pitch is controlled by the following measures: If a natural dry appearing cone is desired, place the cones on a tray covered with aluminum foil. Put the tray in the oven for three hours at 150 degrees. Upon removal the cones will be ready for use in arrangements.

A shellac-like finish may be obtained by immersing the cones in boiling water for a minute. Then lay the cones on paper until they are thoroughly dry. Since the complete removal of the pitch from the container may be difficult, the use of an old pan or bucket is suggested.

GERANIUMS

Geraniums may be overwintered in the following ways: Cut the main stem back to a height of six inches, dig and pot the plants and place the plants in a frost free, cool, moist location. Low light intensity is desirable since we are trying to keep the plants in a semi-dormant condition through the winter months. Be sure to keep the soil moist throughout the storage period. Another method is to dig the plants and shake the loose soil from the roots. After the plants have dried, store them in boxes or hang them in a cool garage or basement. Cuttings may be taken and rooted over the winter months in flats of sand, sawdust or peat. Pot the cuttings after they root and keep the plants growing vigorously. This method affords good plants for spring plantings but requires more care and room than the two previous methods.

A fall spray for control of cornucopia blight should be applied now. Leaf symptoms of this disease are small tan to purplish spots that become raised and scurfy and often produce a shot-hole effect. The infection causes the bark to rupture in a ring on buds and twigs. On current season and one year old wood, infections consist of round reddish spots that are slightly sunken.

Rough smoky appearing cankers up to two to three inches in length appear on two to four year old wood.

A Bordeaux 8-8-100 mixture

Meeting Airs Coyote Poisoning Program

Most of the people and all of the stockmen present at Friday's meeting in the county court hearing room seemed to favor the present U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's program. A public meeting is set for Friday, 8 p.m. in the courthouse auditorium on the program.

Farm Prices Hold For State Farmers This September

Corvallis — Prices received by Oregon farmers held steady in September at a slightly higher level than a year ago. But the price-cost squeeze continues to be one of the thorniest farm problems, reports Mrs. Elvera Horrell, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State college.

Prices received by the state's farmers showed no change from mid-August to mid-September as higher livestock prices made up for a drop in crop prices, Mrs. Horrell found as she studied reports from the U. S. department of agriculture.

Livestock prices moved up two per cent during September, but are still below prices of a year ago by as much as five per cent, Mrs. Horrell said. Crop prices fell about one per cent last month, but still stand about 11 per cent higher than in September, 1959.

All combined, prices received by Oregon farmers for their farm products now stand about three per cent above a year ago, Mrs. Horrell indicated.

Meanwhile, prices paid by farmers over the nation held steady last month, as increases on farm machinery, feeder livestock, and fertilizer were at least partially offset by lower prices on used cars and trucks, new tractors, and field seeds. Most feeds used by Oregon farmers also rose during the past month, but with minor exceptions, were the same or lower when compared to a year ago, Mrs. Horrell said.

The prices farmers get for their products have a lot to do with the amount of income they receive, she explained. But the prices they have to pay for the things they need for their families and farm operations have just as much to do with where they stand in the price-cost squeeze, Mrs. Horrell pointed out.

And last month, the national parity ratio—the relationship between what farmers get for their products and what they have to pay for the things they need—stood at 80. This was one point above August, but one point below September 1959 and 20 points below what congress has established as a "fair" ratio between what farmers receive for their products and what they pay in production and living expenses.

or a neutral copper spray with a spreader sticker at the rate of two heaping tablespoons per gallon of water should be used. Thoroughness of application is most important.

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Tuberous begonias should be lifted before heavy frost occurs. Remove the plant tops to four inches above the tuber. Wash the tubers and dry thoroughly in a warm room for several days. The remaining stem will slip from the tuber when dry. Be sure to remove all the stem to prevent possible spread of rot.

Dust the tubers with an insecticide such as DDT and store in a cool dry place. The tubers may be stored in an open flat filled with dry sawdust, sand or peatmoss.

G. M. Patterson, supervisor of rodent and predatory animal control for southwest Oregon, was called in to explain the program after the county court received a number of complaints on the present and proposed program of putting out poison bait stations for coyotes in the county.

From 8 to 12 poison bait stations are planned for the Siskiyou area, Patterson said. Three stations were put out in the Lake Creek area last year. Citizens have complained that the baits are dangerous to humans, domestic dogs and removes all game from the area.

One sportsman said he saw bodies of bear, badger, bobcat and fox around a poison station at Keeno, but did not see any coyotes. He was not sure it was 1080 poison used such as the state game commission uses here.

Answering a question, Patterson said a child could not eat enough to kill him.

County Commissioner Chester Wendt said the 1080 poison station program was started last year here after the Jackson County Stockmen's association requested it.

Jack Reid, Lake Creek, association president, said he saw a lot of coyote signs around a poison station, but did not see anything dead. He said he and his organization favored the program. It takes the poison three to four hours to kill a coyote, he said he understood.

He added that coyotes will hide when they are dying and some ranchers in the area did find dead coyotes between rocks and in caves.

It's also effective on dogs, the predatory control officer said. However, if poison is used in an area it is well publicized and the area is posted. He explained he prefers 1080 to strychnine. Common practice is to lay out a carcass and bury the strychnine baits around it. It's too easy to overlook some of the baits after the operation is completed, he said.

The poison station operation is shifted from area to area each year so the coyotes won't build up an immunity to the poison, Patterson explained.

"I'm all for it!" one rancher exclaimed. "It's cheap and effective—much cheaper than hiring a second government trapper. I would like to see it used in the Jacksonville area where the coyotes are chasing the dogs!"

"The poison bait program is no panacea for all predatory animal problems," Patterson reminded the stockmen. Another rancher remarked that a government trapper has not been too effective in controlling coyotes in the central part of the valley where it is hard to get in and set traps.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife service man noted that it costs the county \$6,348 for

Orchardists Invited To Surface Water Meeting Wednesday

All orchardists are invited to attend a demonstration of gathering and running off surface water in an orchard Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. in the Don Clark orchard, County Horticultural Agent Clifford B. Cordy announced.

The orchard is reached by driving four miles out on the Crater Lake highway to Four Corners, and by turning east on Villas rd. for one mile.

"Wet feet" is a major contribution to pear decline, Cordy explained. The water can be drained off by surface drainage ditches or by putting in tile after it has soaked into the ground. The demonstration will be given by Cordy and County Agent Gene Winters.

a government trapper. Fringe benefits total \$3,565. The county, state department of agriculture, the state game commission and the federal government all contribute to the program, he explained.

Patterson remarked that a lot of erroneous information has been spread about Compound 1080. This poison is a very effective means of coyote control, he said. Last year the program used 75 pounds of meat. About 7 per cent of this was eaten. However, the kill is not known. It takes a minimum of 1 1/2 ounces to kill a coyote, he added.

State law requires rodent and predatory animal control, Patterson said. The sheep population increase in Jackson county from 23,500 to 31,000 the last few years makes this program vital, he indicated.

If the poison bait program is not used a second government hunter would be needed by July, Patterson emphasized.

Regulations issued by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service require that permission for placing poison stations must be obtained from the land owners, "including state game authorities when applicable."

"They are not to be employed in or near irrigated farming areas nor in locations commonly frequented by campers, lumberjacks, fishermen or hikers," the regulations stated.

Irrigation Outlook Noted, May Be Nip and Tuck Here

How much irrigation water farmers will have for the coming year is anybody's guess, according to a local irrigation district spokesman.

"We will be in no position until March 1 to make any estimates," this official said. "We will have to have considerably more rain than we have had. We rely on stream flow and use stored water to back that up. For next season we will have to have enough stream flow to compensate for the drop in stream flow last season plus additional flow to meet current needs."

Official figures on stream flow show that it dropped steadily from 23,643 acre feet of water in 1958, to 11,103 acre feet in 1959, to 3,888 acre feet in 1960. Both Hyatt and Emigrant reservoirs are dry now due to construction. Howard Prairie reservoir has 13,000 acre feet of available water.

A spokesman for one of the local irrigation districts summed up the situation by pointing to the 1960 fall water supply summary for 1960 issued by the U. S. Soil Conservation Service. This also sums up the local situation, he said.

One paragraph states: "Water sheds where snow will fall are extremely dry. Unless fall precipitation improves, much of next winter's snowpack will be used to replace mountain soil moisture before it is available for runoff. Water users should watch snow condition reports closely this winter."

What was the overall situation for Oregon in 1960?

Irrigation water supplies for the 1960 season were better than for 1959 where adequate storage was available to hold high early spring runoff, according to a report issued by the Soil Conservation Service, Central Oregon, which depends largely on stream flow, had extreme shortages, according to the report, even when compared to the poor season of a year ago. Crop reports indicate a substantial decrease in total yields.

Soils on mountain watersheds are generally dry over the state as a result of a deficiency in late summer precipitation. Carryover storage is only 67 per cent of aver-

age for 21 principal reservoirs. An above average snowpack will be necessary to provide normal water supplies next year.

Other States' Outlook
The California Department of Water Resources reports that the water year ending Sept. 30, 1960, was among the driest of record throughout much of California.

"Only through systematic development of additional reservoir storage and judicious use of existing storage facilities can the increased demand for water be met in California," according to the SCS report.

Chapter Sweetheart Crowned at Crater

By ALAN BRAY
Crater Chapter Reporter
Central Point — Sue Higinbotham, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clair Higinbotham, was crowned Crater FFA chapter sweetheart at the chapter's annual barn dance held last week.

Named princesses were Jeri Wick, Sharon Trautman and Bernadine Sharp. Dance music was provided by the Bill Hannaford trio and the Shadows.

Alan Bray son of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Bray, auctioned off the box lunches. Couples attending the dance bid high for each box lunch.

Red Eye's bar, manned by chapter members dressed as desperadoes featured soft drinks and other refreshments. It and the vocational agriculture shop were decorated in western style. Couples were also dressed in western clothes.

GET DEATH SENTENCE

Salgon, Viet Nam — (UPI) — A special military tribunal has convicted and sentenced three Communist insurgents to death in the Mekong river delta town of Vinh Long, the Viet Nam press agency reported Monday. The three were accused of assassinating a local villager.

About 80 per cent of the rye produced comes from Russia and other European countries.

Reservoir carryover as of Oct. 1 in the five Yakima, Wash., reservoirs was reported not as good as last year, but considerably better than in the fall of 1957 and 1958. (Yakima is a competing fruit area with the Medford pear district.)

What's the situation in the big livestock states? In Colorado heavy snows are needed this winter to insure adequate irrigation water next year. In Kansas summer precipitation was less than normal and soil moisture conditions fair. In Nebraska a heavy snowpack in the mountains of Wyoming and Colorado will be essential this winter for adequate water supplies in 1961.

Nevada has ended the 1961 water year with extremely dry mountain and valley soils and dry or near dry reservoirs, according to the SCS report. Unless fall rainfall is normal or better and is followed by heavy mountain snowfall, Nevada will have another drought year. In South Dakota, water outlook for the next year is not too favorable. Texas is generally poor, the report indicates. In North Dakota water storage is below capacity in its reservoirs but well above the average for 1943-57. Oklahoma is in good shape.

Overall Picture in U.S.

The overall water picture is not good, according to the SCS report. Reservoir storage is generally down, even in large reservoirs on the upper reaches of major streams.

Water Importance
How important is water? A University of Nevada agriculture expert has figured that it takes 7,721 gallons of water to raise the beef or one meal for a family of four.

He figures it this way, 1-140,478 gallons of water are needed to produce five tons of alfalfa hay, or 114 gallons per pound of weight. Live gain on a steer is only 62 per cent marketable beef. This means that 2,206 gallons of water is needed to produce one pound of butcher shop beef.

A beef roast for a family of four is figured at 3 1/2 pounds which figures out at 7,721 gallons of water to produce the roast.

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MARKET NEWS

Federal-State Market News Service
Red Bluff Livestock Auction Report, Tuesday, October 18, 1960.

CATTLE: Salable 1,719, including around 300 calves. Trading on increased supply active with all classes finding much improved demand over recent weeks. Slaughter steers and heifers scarce, slaughter cows fully steady to strong. Improved weighing conditions considered. Few slaughter calves steady. Stocker and feeder steers and heifers including calves, mostly 50c higher, instances \$1.00 higher. Market supply mainly of Northern California origin, but several lots from Southern Oregon included. Run included around 225 cows, and nearly 100 of these stockers and feeders, around 15 slaughter bulls 100 slaughter calves, remainder mainly stocker and feeder steers and calves, with proportion heifers increased over recently.

Slaughter heifers: Few Utility and Standard \$13.00-18.00.
Slaughter cows: Few Standard \$16.50-17.40. Commercial \$13.00-16.40. Utility \$14.00-15.25. Cutters \$12.25-14.00. Canners \$10.00-12.50. Few "shelly" Canners \$9.00-10.50.
Slaughter bulls: Few Utility \$12.10-13.10 lbs. \$17.70-20.10, 1,000 to 1,400 lb. Cutters \$15.00-17.50.
Slaughter calves: Mostly Good 300-300 lbs. \$19.00-21.25, including 13 head lot 470 lbs. at \$19.00, few \$20.00-23.10. Standard calves \$17.00 to 270 lb. Good vealers \$23.00-24.25. Standard calves \$17.00 to \$19.00. Utility down to \$13.00.
Stocker and feeder steers: Numerous lots Good and Choice 350-300 lb calves \$23.50-25.20, few Choice 290-400 lbs. \$25.20-25.75, including 32 head 300 lbs. at \$25.70. Few Medium calves \$19.00-24.00. Good and Choice 300-700 lbs. mostly yearlings, \$20.50-22.00, 700-875 lbs. \$18.50-21.00, including 15 head 700 lbs. at \$19.90, 28, 875 lbs. at \$19.30. Medium 350-800 lbs. \$17.50-21.50, few Common \$14.00-17.00.
Stocker and feeder heifers: Good and Choice 300-475 lb calves \$21.00-22.20, including 31 head 380 lbs. at \$22.10, 17 390 lbs. \$22.00, 18 360 lbs. \$21.85, few 300-350 lbs. \$20.00-21.50. Good and Choice 475-675 lbs. mainly yearlings, \$18.00-20.00, including 48 head Choice 600 lbs. \$19.90, 30 675 lbs. \$18.85, 13 635 lbs. \$19.00, 21 507 lbs. \$19.30, few lots 675-850 lb. Heavy feeders \$18.00-18.85, few Medium \$15.50-18.00.
Stocker and feeder cows: Several lots Medium and Good 800-900 lbs. \$11.75-14.00, few thin cows below \$11.75. Several Medium and Good with around 200-250 lb. calves at side \$14.00-18.00 per pair.
HOGS: Salable 38. Few Good and Choice 30-90 lb. feeder pigs \$17.00 to \$19.40.
SHEEP: Salable None.

Clyde A. Whitted, Actg. In Chg.
Federal-State Market News Svcs.

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