

Irrigation Projects Need System of Financial Help

One of the main problems in Oregon's water resource program is "the growing need for an established system of financial assistance in repayment of projects costs allocated to irrigation." Harold T. Nelson, regional director of the bureau of reclamation, told members of the Oregon Reclamation Congress at Baker last week.

He listed The Dalles and Rogue River as projects requiring assistance, also Baker, Merline and Illinois Valley divisions of the Rogue River basin. He said the proposed basin account system would approach assistance on a regional rather than a project-by-project basis.

A second problem facing reclamation, Nelson said, is the inability within reclamation law to meet increasing recreational use by providing enough facilities to meet the demand. Construction is now based on congressional legislation.

During the annual meeting of the Oregon Reclamation district manager, Walter Hoffhuhr, Talent irrigation district manager, was appointed chairman of the project review committee for the reclamation congress, and his brother, Jack Hoffhuhr, Medford irrigation district manager, chairman of the public relations committee. Also attending the meeting from Jackson county were Harold Sexton, manager of Rogue River Valley irrigation district, Albert Hellness, MID board member and Homer Moore, TID board member.

Multiple use of water does not mean the end of agriculture's water problems, but does mean agriculture can live with them, said Dr. E. N. Castle, associate professor of agricultural economics, OSC.

Speaking on "What is Water Worth," Castle said in absence of a market for water it requires thorough economic studies to provide the basis for putting water to work to its best use. He dismissed development costs, incremental values, what people pay for water and relative uses as measures of water value.

The rise of non-farm population, the development of industrial use of water, the increase of power development and the advent of recreation demand compels agriculture to become concerned with and support multiple use concepts, he declared.

Increasing efficiency of production, increasing diets and lowering food costs were listed as goals of reclamation even though the tag of surplus may be applied to agriculture generally, he continued. In concluding, he said there is little agreement in what is the best use of water, but agriculture has a stake in trying to find out.

Irrigation projects have come to provide important flood control benefits, said Neil Meadowcroft, chief of the Army Corps of Engineers' report section, Walla Walla, Wash.

Flood control in 1936 became a proper federal activity on navigable waters by legislation, amplified in 1958, he remarked. But these also fix local responsibility for rights-of-way.

"The proposed projects must be justified in that benefits will exceed the costs, be the best means of accomplishing the job, and will not have serious adverse effects," the engineer said.

The congress public relations committee approved a report that there is definitely a sales job necessary to continue to sell reclamation to the public. Increasing competition of other uses makes it necessary to get the facts to the public regarding the benefits of the reclamation program.

The discussion suggested this could be accomplished by local districts working through newspapers and other media and by local schools and in attempting to work with the recreation groups to avoid conflicts in issues. The report feels there is room for multiple-use of the resources developed.

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Agriculture must be identified as ruthless, cold-blooded, big-business exploitation of people and the land.

This statement was quoted from a manual of suggestions from a labor union staff man to Norman Smith, California director of the AFL-CIO Agriculture Workers Organizing committee. This is the group which has been organizing farm help and picketing farms in California this summer. In other words, the aim will be to destroy the warm, family farm idea and the impression that the American farmer is the sturdy, independent cornerstone of our citizenry.

Two paragraphs about this manual appeared in the last edition of the Farm Journal. It "shook up" two small orchardists and farmers in the valley. After considerable fence and fireside talk, they came up with a revised picker program. You may not agree. If you don't, we would like to hear some other proposals.

Generally, these two fruitgrowers feel transient labor should receive the same guarantees and as good, if not better, treatment than the Mexican Nationals which are brought in here each season. These two men have worked as crew foremen and on orchard "pick-up" trucks all over the valley. They say good transient pickers can pick just as well as Mexican Nationals. (Now that many large growers and packing house operators are growling and gnashing their teeth we will continue...)

General points of the program are: (1) provide a modern, centrally located pickers' barracks, (2) higher and guaranteed wages, (3) stop labor from shifting from orchard to orchard, (4) establish a large labor pool.

The two orchardists suggested establishing a modern barracks building on the county fairgrounds south of Medford. The interior would be of concrete with large windows high off the floor to provide plenty of light and ventilation without allowing breakage. A cafeteria would serve food to single men. An adjacent trailer park and blocks of small family houses of the same basic construction as the barracks could serve transient families.

Pickers like to have their housing near town where they can go for a beer or buy some of the things they need. Present labor camp in the White City area is too far out. A sub-office of the employment service could be located in the center of the housing at the fair grounds, or if the barracks would be in Medford, as part of the barracks.

One of the two growers, who was a picking crew foreman last season, said transients come in on Front st. and have no way to get to the fairgrounds. It's too far to walk, he pointed out. During last season, orchardists and packing houses agreed not to hire off Front st. However, this proved impractical, so some began hiring off Front st. near the end of the season when the labor was harder to get.

Construction of a centrally located labor camp near town might be financed with some of the money paid into the pear promotion program, the two growers suggested. "No sense in spending a lot of money for promoting pears you don't have," they pointed out. (Screams of anguish now from officials of the Pear Bureau.)

"The fairgrounds is being cut up anyway. We might as well finish the job and do some good for the fruit grower and picker," one of the growers said.

Before picking starts, a packing shed superintendent, orchard owner and picking crew leader could survey the fruit crop and set a price, the two orchardists suggested. Orchards with a full crop would not require as high a picking price as one with a partial crop. An orchard with a partial crop is much harder to pick, the two men explained.

Picking prices, depending on the crop, would be uniform to prevent playing one orchard or packing house against another. Current rates vary from 14 to 17 cents a box. This is not enough to support a family on, these farmers insisted.

Common practice among orchardists and packing houses is to pay as little as possible for pickers, the two local orchardists pointed out. The standard agreed price was dropped at the first of last season when growers saw they had a labor surplus. This was not fair, one of the orchardists remarked. Also, it doesn't really pay to undercut the picker, he pointed out. One or two ruined boxes of fruit here and there due to careless picking more than makes up for the low wages. Fair wages attract good pickers who more than justify the additional expenditure, one of the growers said.

Wages should be paid at the end of each day, one of the orchardists said. Pickers would prefer it. And many of them come in the first day hungry without any money to buy food. Central California pays off its labor daily so it must be workable even if it means more constant paper work, a grower pointed out. A daily pay schedule could be worked out easily, he added.

Good transient pickers are better than the average Mexican crew on one point particularly, it was pointed out. The average Mexican crew tends to skimp on filling the boxes. Local orchardists who pay a little more find they get the same good crews back every year, it was pointed out.

"This farm labor committee in California is bound to work its way up here next season or the better after," one of the two orchardists pointed out. "We'd better be ready for them by guaranteeing the picker better living conditions and worth the extra money it takes. (Remember the pears which dropped off the trees the season before because not enough pickers could be obtained when they were vitally needed?)"

One of the two small orchardists we quoted has two acres in pears out of a total of 10 acres and three dairy cows. The other has 40 acres of orchard and operates on 300 to 400 acres of farm land, runs 100 head of cattle and owns two crawler tractors and three wheel tractors.

These two farmers also believe the county should turn the 425 acres to be added at Howard Prairie recreation area into a youth camp. Here the youth from four or five southern Oregon counties might be taught a trade in mechanics or machinery. Part of their time could be spent on improvement and repair work around the Howard Prairie recreation area. A large farmhouse and barn and stables already in good condition on the property would provide plenty room. School teachers could be hired in the summer to supervise these youngsters.

One of the two farmers has had some of the local juvenile wards paroled to him. He said they have a natural mechanical bent, are hard workers and have turned out well.

We attended the Democratic Farmers for Kennedy luncheon meeting last week when Harold Edwards, treasurer of the Western Wheat Growers Federation, spoke. It is the same kind of talk you will hear at any political meeting when there are a number of farmers present. Facts presented were interesting, but not new-costs of the government wheat surplus program, the effects of the soil bank on farm town merchants, etc.

One thing, was interesting, though. We asked him if the Democrats could give wholehearted support to both farmers and organized labor in view of the recent drive in California to organize orchard labor.

"The time is soon coming when organized labor must be under the same type of controls as corporations," Edwards said. "But, there is no reason why labor and the farmer cannot walk down the same street side by side, both prosperous through adequate labor and farm programs."

Weed Conference Slated for Salem; Growers Invited

Corvallis—New ways to control costly weeds in vegetable and small fruit crops will be spotlighted at this year's annual Oregon Weed conference, reports Rex Warren, extension crops specialist at Oregon State college.

The ninth annual conference will be held Nov. 15 and 16 in the Veterans of Foreign Wars building in Salem, Warren said. The meeting will start at 10 a.m., and all growers, industry people, and others interested in new ways to control weeds are welcome to attend, he added. Phil Bellke, Brooks, is president of the conference.

First speaker will be J. D. Patterson, chemist for the state department of agriculture. He will discuss chemical residues on crops, and tell how his office cooperates in the national program on residues.

Other speakers will be Virgil Freed, OSC agricultural chemist, who will outline ways farmers can make agricultural chemicals their "cheapest hired hand," and Claron Hesp, spray and equipment dealer from Athena, who will tell how to save money by buying equipment that can be used in a variety of ways.

Two panel presentations will discuss weed control in strawberries and small fruits, and in vegetable crops. A special report on new weed control chemicals and how to use them will also be presented at the conference. Representatives from at least 10 major chemical companies will take turns discussing their newest herbicides.

Other program topics include a progress report on ragweed control by George Moose, state department of agriculture; how to control brush in forest areas by P. G. Lauterbach, Weyerhaeuser company; weed control in fish ponds by Carl Bond, OSC, and a series of research reports by OSC scientists.

Business meeting of the conference will be held Nov. 16. More information on the conference is available at local county extension offices, Warren said.

Shipping Men Give Statistics

Salem - During platform inspection at processing plants over 108,000,000 pounds of potatoes, onions and pears were inspected by the state department of agriculture in September.

Federal-state grade inspections took care of 2129.7 carlots which contained apples, prunes, plums, filberts, garlic, parsnips, strawberries, corn, walnuts, and nectarines. About 20.5 cars of brine cherries were inspected.

All districts reported favorable weather conditions during the harvesting period. Apple producing areas need more cool weather for color.

In the Hood River area, red varieties of apples are not coloring well but size is about normal. Most orchards have been hit very hard by scab and more misshapen fruit has been noted than in former years. In the Milton-Free water area quality is up to normal and a yield of about 30,000 boxes (some from Dayton, Wash.) will be processed in this district.

The crop in the Willamette valley consists of the Danver variety and yield will be down about 30 percent from last year with an estimated 1500 cars compared to 2200 in 1959. Quality ranges from poor to average.

All pears in the Medford area should have been packed by Oct. 8. The Comice variety is showing fair quality and much better than other varieties. Approximately 28,000-000 pounds were inspected for processors. Bartlett's have moved out fast and there is some increased movement of Bose and D'Anjou.

In the Hood River area yield is 15 per cent below estimates and 20 per cent below last year. Quality is reported as the poorest ever noted in this area.

Pear Decline, Labor Society Features

Pear decline and the labor problem will be two main topics which will draw a large number of fruit growers from Jackson county to the annual Oregon State Horticultural Society meeting Nov. 17 and 18 at the OSC campus in Corvallis.

Clifford B. Cordy, county horticultural agent, and Prof. Henry Hartman, OSC horticulturist, and nationally recognized authority on pear decline, are scheduled to speak on a pear decline panel, on Thursday, Nov. 17. Also scheduled to participate are one or two speakers from California and one or two speakers from Washington, not yet named.

Speakers are yet to be arranged for Thursday's panel on farm labor. However, they may be similar to those speaking on a panel scheduled for the small fruits section on Thursday. This panel includes Joe Bianco, agricultural editor, the Oregonian, moderator; John Zuckerman, Council of California Growers, Stockton, Calif.; Louis Krainock, Agricultural Workers Organizing committee, Stockton, Calif.

Other talks Also scheduled for the apples and pears section are, tentatively: pear scald experiments, Elmer Hansen, OSC horticulturist; pear nectar research, W. A. Sistrunk, OSC food technology department; Bartlett pears report on increased plantings in Willamette valley, Don Rasmussen, county agent, Salem; pesticide residues and regulations, Justus C. Ward, chief, pesticide regulation branch, plant pest control division, Washington, D.C.

Bulk handling of stone fruits, a panel, is expected to be one of the main features of Thursday's stone fruits section. Moderator is Mike Huber, OSC agricultural engineer; Don Langmo, OSC agricultural economist; George Jones, Gerber Products horticulturist; Al Randall, United Growers manager; and Jack Stiles, Polk county grower.

Other Thursday talks are: horticultural practices affected by mechanical harvesting, by George Jones; Brown rot in 1960 by Norman Doble, OSC plant pathologist; mechanical harvest of sour cherries, movie narrated by Wayne Roberts, Yamhill county agent; and marketing of fresh stone fruits, by Roland Groder, OSC marketing specialist.

In a letter to the deputy administrator of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, ARS, Taylor expressed the opinion that federal, domestic and foreign quarantines be instigated. Taylor also suggested that, since the Northwest states are primarily interested, hearings on such quarantines should be held in Portland.

Oregon has issued an order for complete destruction of all host material of the European pine shoot moth which was discovered in one Portland nursery. Adjacent property has been surveyed with negative results.

Information and recommendations about the pine shoot moth problem have been sent by Taylor to meetings this month of the National Plant Board and the National Association of Nurserymen.

Thursday's vegetable section will include: soil and leaf analysis, movement of moisture in soils, a film; varieties and strains of bush and pole snap beans, mechanical harvesting of snap beans, a panel; new ideas about sprinkler irrigation; new vegetable crops processing; problems in insect control, a panel.

Bangs Tags Given By State Ag Dept.

Oregon cattle owners should become familiar with two tags. Both are used in the Bangs' trace-back program to give the county of origin credit on brucellosis certification when cattle are slaughtered here or in another state.

The oval or upper tag is needed for all cows three years or over shipped out of Oregon to slaughter. Farmers and ranchers should get this tag from brand inspectors, department area veterinarians, or the federal or state veterinarian office in the state department of agriculture headquarters, Salem.

The tags are free, with glue supplied. The upper tag should be placed on animals just behind the shoulder by the owner when animals are shipped direct to another state.

The lower tag is the Oregon tag used in the market cattle slaughter program and is applied at auction yards in Oregon.

The upper or interstate tag is white with red and black printing. The lower tag is orange with black lettering. On both tags the key number 92 indicates Oregon. On the lower tag, the two key letters, as PN, identify the auction yard and the big numbers, as 999, identify the animal through brand inspection.

Bulletin Analyzes Production Costs

Corvallis - Results of a 10-year study on the cost of producing apples and pears in Oregon's Hood River valley are reported in a new bulletin published by the Oregon State college agricultural experiment station.

The new bulletin is based on a study of records kept by about 20 Hood River orchardists each year over a 10-year period. For this information, OSC agricultural economists analyzed the costs involved in apple, winter pear, and Bartlett pear production to the point of delivery to the packing house door.

Titled, "Cost of Producing Apples and Pears in the Hood River Valley," the new bulletin uses tables, graphs, and charts to analyze the factors affecting costs of production. Sections in the bulletin also examine the more important factors responsible for economical production of apples and pears in the area, and determine the relative profitability of apples, winter pears, and Bartlett's produced by the growers in the study.

Another section of the bulletin helps readers estimate yearly cost of producing apples, winter pears, or Bartlett's under present production conditions and practices.

The bulletin was written by OSC agricultural economists D. Curtis Mumford, Arthur E. Irish, and Warren J. Green. Oregon residents can obtain a free copy at their county extension office, or from the OSC bulletin clerk, Corvallis. Cost of the publication will be 20 cents per copy to out-of-state requests.

Fall Grain Export From Portland Down

Salem - Grains brought in to Portland in September to not measure up to the amount of grain brought in August, according to report from the division of grain inspection of the state department of agriculture.

Total bushels brought in came to 5.5 million for September. Truck receipts showed a large drop and there was a somewhat smaller drop in barge movement. Export shipments increased to approximately 17 full cargoes. About 4.3 million bushels of wheat were brought in and over 1,000,000 bushels of barley. Corn and mill run around 66,000 bushels, oats, 23,000 and rye, 6,000.

A panel on financial aids and programs for the grower at Thursday's general session, and before the sectional meetings is also expected to be a feature of the meeting. Erwin Patton, Production Credit association, Medford, is one of the speakers. Other speakers are Louis C. Chestnut, vice president, federal land bank, Spokane, Wash.; Rex Gibson, vice president, U.S. National bank, Salem; and Walter L. White, loan officer, Farmers Home Administration.

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Stolen, Strayed Animals Listed

Salem - Reported lost, strayed or stolen to the division of animal industry of the state department of agriculture this month were three bulls, eight steers, and two quarter horses.

Missing from the Rogue River range is a two year Shorthorn bull with no horns, blackish with a redish strip on his back and no brand. But his ear is marked.

Portland owners report the loss of a four to five year old bull with a branded left hip, between Springfield and Ames.

From Enterprise comes report of the loss of six steers, some possibly Holstein, branded on the right hip and near Wallowa, the loss of two steers is reported. The last have a left hip brand.

3rd Annual Purebred Ewe Sale

Sponsors—Oregon Purebred Sheep Breeders Ass'n

SATURDAY, NOV. 5

Polk County Fairgrounds

1/4 Mile S. Rickreall, Ore., on Highway 99W

160 Head Bred Yearling and 30 Head Open Ewe Lambs

Continuous Sale Starting 10 A.M.

ORDER OF SALE

Dorset, Romney, Lincoln, Corriedale, Columbia, Cheviot, Hampshire, Southdown, Suffolk, Shropshire

AUCTIONEER—Howard Brown, Woodland, Calif.

For further information contact N. John Hansen, County Extension Agent, Box 348, Dallas, Oregon

GARDENING TIPS

By JOHN McLOUGHLIN
County Extension Agent
FALL PLANTING

Fall planting of trees and shrubs has the advantage over spring planting in that the root system has a better chance of becoming established before leaf growth begins.

The same precautions should be taken with both fall and spring planting. Dig each plant carefully so as to disturb the root system as little as possible. Evergreen shrubs require a ball of earth around the roots when moved. Do not let the roots dry while transplanting. Have the planting holes ready before you dig the plant.

Dig the planting holes about 25 per cent wider and six inches deeper than the root spread. Enrich the bottom of the hole with compost or fertilizer and cover with an inch of soil. A well drained location is desirable.

Place the tree or shrub as near to the same depth as it was previously planted. Carefully spread the bare roots in a natural position. Sever any broken or bruised roots.

Work the enriched topsoil around the roots so no air pockets are left. When the hole is half full, tamp the soil around the roots and fill the hole with water to settle the soil.

When the hole is completely full again tamp and water the soil for settlement. Leave a slight depression or saucer around the tree to facilitate future watering.

COUNTRY EDITOR Lauds Modern Trend in Farming

"It seems that in America at this time we are more concerned about man leaving the land than about land leaving the man," Giles French, editor of the Sherman County Journal, Moro, Ore., told the Oregon Reclamation Congress meeting at Baker last week.

French, editor of a weekly in the heart of Oregon's wheat country, is widely quoted throughout the state as an editorial writer.

"Men have been leaving farms for nearly 200 years. It is not a sign of failure, but of success. It means that farming is keeping pace in efficiency, that one farmer can do the work of a dozen, and it means that we can still supply labor for industry from our own people," he added.

He called the family-size farm "a shibboleth used by practicing politicians that has no meaning."

"A farm that will support a family may vary from one acre to 10 thousand acres," he said, "and in any case it would depend on the size of the family and of most importance on the management and labor and ingenuity of the family."

"Some families would wax fat where others would use up their credit and go on welfare," the country editor noted.

"I do not like monopolies. There is a monopoly I am afraid of; that is the monopoly of government. There is no handy government policeman to break that monopoly. The only way a government monopoly can be broken is by revolution and people stand for generations of abuse and subjection before they revolt."

Government should be the agent of the people, preventing monopoly, not be the monopoly itself.

Turning to the topic of reclamation, French said that as an advocate of profits he does not believe land should be irrigated which will not pay the cost of the improvements.

Boysenberries Require Pruning

By DAVE PASSON
County Extension Agent

Boysenberries and blackberries should be pruned now, suggested Dave Passon, Jackson county extension agent.

Old canes should be cut out as near the crown as possible in all cases. Once the old canes are removed, growers then have two choices. The new canes may be left on the ground through the winter or the stronger canes may be selected and trained on the trellis immediately.

There are advantages to both methods, but fall training is preferred in most cases, according to Passon.

Training is easier in the fall while the canes are limber and less damage is inflicted to the buds, spurs and the canes themselves. In addition, application of the necessary dormant sprays is easier and more satisfactory with the canes trained up.

Canes trained up through the winter may, however, be slightly more susceptible to winter injury.

There are a number of ways to train berry canes. The method used depends on the grower's trellis setup, the variety, and the grower's personal preference.

Further details may be obtained by calling or visiting the extension offices.

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Department Hires New Veterinarians

Salem - Three new veterinarians are working for the state department of agriculture now.

Dr. Robert John Day comes to Oregon from New Jersey. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania school of veterinary medicine of State Teacher's college in the same state. Dr. Day had his own practice in New Jersey and in Pennsylvania and was a poultry inspector for the U. S. department of agriculture marketing service in Washington, D. C. His wife and family have recently moved here with him.

Dr. Gerald Arthur is a native of Ohio. He graduated from Ohio State university and has been in private practice. His wife and child are with him in Salem.

Dr. Henry Hayes left a private practice in his home state of California to come to Oregon, with his wife and family. He is a graduate of a university in Auburn, Ala.

Dr. Phillip D. Cazier has recently taken over duties as the assistant federal veterinarian in charge of the animal disease eradication division. He served with the government in several states, the last five years in Texas. A graduate of Kansas State university, Dr. Cazier recently moved to Salem with his wife and four children.

Standards Changed For Bee Colonies

By JOHN McLOUGHLIN
County Extension Agent

Salem - Oregon's standards for strength of colonies of bees used in commercial pollination of crops have been amended by administrative order, effective this month, according to the state department of agriculture.

The amended regulations correct two errors carried through printings since the standards were originally adopted in 1951.

Current changes are in grade A requirements. They make the orchard colony requirement (1) 3,000 square inches of comb space of which 600 square inches would be live brood and (2) also in orchard colonies puts the bee coverage of brood at six standard Hoffman frames of comb.

In prior requirements bee coverage of brood had been the same, 10 frames, for both field and orchard colonies. No change is made in B grades.

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