

Heavy Seeder Built by OSC For Pastures

Corvallis—Ten new heavy-duty grass seeders are being built from plans developed at Oregon State University for use in seeding range lands next fall.

These are the first copies to be made of the OSC machine, according to Dean E. Booser, OSC agricultural engineer. Six of the new seeders will be used in Oregon, around Prineville, Burns and Lakeview. The other four are for use in other states.

The rugged Oregon press seeder can be operated over rocks, brush, and rough range land. In 1959—the year OSC built its 12-row seeder—the bureau of land management borrowed it for field seeding of 1,500 acres in southeast Oregon and northern Nevada.

Seem to Like It

"Apparently they liked it," Booser commented, "since six of the new seeders being built are for them."

The OSC agricultural engineering department built four different models of the seeder while they were developing it. The last two models are operative and are located at the Squaw Butte branch of the OSC agricultural experiment station.

Plans for the seeder have been turned over to the inter-agency range seeding equipment committee for further testing and development.

A new OSC publication called "The Oregon Press Seeder," tells how the machine was developed, its operating characteristics, where to obtain plans for it, and whom to contact about using the two OSC machines. Oregon residents may obtain single, free copies of the bulletin from county extension offices or from the OSC bulletin clerk, Corvallis.

Soil Stewardship Week Proclaimed By Gov. Hatfield

Governor Mark Hatfield has urged that all Oregon citizens honor agriculture and farm families during Soil Stewardship Week, May 7-14.

"Not only during this week, but throughout the year, we should all honor the stewards of our soils, in whose capable hands has been placed a sacred trust—that of assuring that our great natural resources are so managed and utilized as to furnish benefits to future, as well as present generations," Hatfield said.

Soil Stewardship Week, a national observance, is conducted in Oregon under the sponsorship of the Oregon Association of Soil Conservation Districts.

Association president Elmer Peterson, Portland, said local observances have been planned throughout the state by soil conservation districts, including celebration of Soil Stewardship Sunday, May 7, in many churches.

"Even persons who own no land can be a strong influence in behalf of the prudent use of our soil and water resources. The spirit of responsible people at work, as evidenced by Oregon's Soil Conservation District activities, becomes most fruitful in terms of soil stewardship, through cooperation of all our citizens," Hatfield concluded.

ARRIVES IN U.S.

New York—(UPI)—Prince Rainier of Monaco has arrived to join his wife, Princess Grace, and their two children for a month's vacation at her mother's home in Philadelphia.

State Ag Agency Protests Ham

Salem—The federal department of agriculture will hold a hearing in Portland at the U.S. courthouse, on May 11 on its "watered" ham order of Dec. 30.

At this time the Oregon Department of Agriculture will enter a protest on the federal order, which allows 10 per cent added moisture in uncooked smoked hams and other smoked porks shipped interstate.

Dr. M. L. Houston, supervisor of meat inspection for the Oregon department, says the federal order is directly opposed to Oregon laws for consumer protection which aim to prevent misbranding, mislabeling and adulteration.

The federal regulation on moisture in hams was adopted without giving consumer groups an opportunity to present their recommendations.

The hearing in Portland, one of five hearings over the country, opens up the question to consumers and others interested may present their views. Meanwhile, the order continues in effect, with no requirement that the added water "pumped" into hams be shown on the label.

In actual practice, Dr. Houston says the weight added to ham may be 13 per cent, including 10 per cent water and 3 per cent curing salts.

Irrigation Aid Tried By OSC To Help Farmers

Corvallis—A scheme to help farmers use irrigation water more efficiently is being tried this spring by Oregon State College agricultural engineers and soil physicists.

They've designed an evaporation pan to place in pastures in early spring when the soil is still full of water from winter rains. If their scheme works as hoped for, evaporation from the pans will equal moisture extracted from the soil, reports Dr. John W. Wolfe, agricultural engineer at the OSC agricultural experiment station.

Eight-inch-deep pans full of water are being placed around an OSC dairy pasture this month. (The pans are protected from animals with a wire mesh cover.) When filled, the pans will hold the same amount of water as is available to plants in the top three feet of soil.

A mark is made on the pans about four inches below the top. The irrigator is instructed to irrigate with rotating sprinklers when the water level drops to this mark.

Indicates Excess

If too much water is applied and the pans run over, excess water will be wasted. This is also what happens in the soil, because any excess runs off the surface or percolates down below the root zone when field capacity is reached.

If the pans do not fill during an irrigation, each inch not filled will correspond to an inch deficit in the soil moisture reservoir. The soil moisture deficit cannot be observed on the surface because it will occur at a lower depth, Wolfe explained.

If the water level in the pans (and therefore in the soil) gets below the four-inch mark, the plants will begin to suffer and their growth rate will be reduced. If the pans ever become empty, the grass will be in serious danger of permanent wilt for the season. It might take several weeks to recover after irrigation.

Wolfe reports that it's taken four years of testing to design a pan with evaporation equal to the rate of consumptive use of water by pasture.

Poison Dose Recommended for Gray Diggers

By EUGENE WINTERS
County Agent

The most economical and satisfactory method of controlling Douglas ground squirrels is the use of poison.

The gray digger appears in February or early March and remains active until October or November. This long period of activity and that it habitually stores food to last through the winter makes it a destructive pest.

The young usually are born in April and average about eight in number. So far as known only one litter is produced, but this is a fourfold annual increase which could result in an extremely high population buildup in a matter of two or three years.

The season for control is different from other ground squirrels in Oregon and for best results a poison bait should be scattered any time the gray digger is active.

Bait Available

Poison bait is readily available through commercial sources such as feed, seed and garden stores. The bait is a mixture primarily of barley or oats and strychnine with a sticker to hold the poison to the grain kernel. A formula for preparing poison bait is available from the County Extension office. Most persons prefer to use ready mixed bait.

Considerable bait has been wasted by being placed in piles or thrown down the holes. The bait should be scattered over a teaspoonful to a place along squirrel trails and about the holes. The squirrel will then hunt it up. Properly scattered there will be no hazard to livestock for they will not pick up enough to harm them.

This year a cooperative gray digger control program has been arranged with Jackson county, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Jackson county extension service co-operating. Poison bait will be scattered on publicly owned lands infested with ground squirrels and being adjacent to crop lands. An effort will be made to treat public lands bordering that of private operators who are poisoning their own squirrels.

Vets' Division Gets Assistant

Salem—Elidon F. Cross of Halsey has assumed new duties as administrative assistant for the veterinary services division of the State Department of Agriculture, announces J. F. Short, department director.

Cross will handle fiscal and business management functions for the veterinary division. The division handles the largest department programs supported by general funds of the state. These include the state meat inspection program.

Cross will work directly with the state veterinarian, Dr. L. E. Bodenweiser.

The Halsey man comes with an ideal background of business and livestock farming. The past five years Cross has operated about 800 farm acres, owned by him and his devoted to field seeds and two brothers, plus about 100 acres of his own which is used for beef and dairy cattle. For many years Cross was associated with a seed and grain warehouse at Halsey, serving from 1940 until it was sold in 1955 as manager and president of the corporation.

Homemade Cannons Recall Civil War

Banks, Ore.—(UPI)—Rudy W. Marek of Banks tested his home-made cannons Sunday in honor of the Civil War Centennial.

Battery A of the Oregon Volunteer Artillery fired their guns. The battery included Col. Walter F. Sargent, Oregon National Guard, representing Gov. Mark Hatfield.

Marek spent two years making the 1,800 pound cannon from 1861 specifications from the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

"Capt." Marek called for a bag of powder from the powder boy.

The guns went off with a splendid roar and the projectiles hurled 200 yards. A window in his house 60 yards away shattered from the concussion.

WRONG NUMBER

Pittsburgh—(UPI)—Attorney J. Norman Davis made a telephone call to Lewisburg, Pa., but got a wrong number. He was dumbfounded when the voice on the other end answered, "Lewisburg Penitentiary—Reservations."

How To Win Award On Horticulture

If you happen to have the knack of organizing and getting people together, you are just the person to start a community beautifying program.

There's a slight bit of work involved, but if you are civic-minded and concerned with the appearance of the community in which you and your family live and work, you'll find all your efforts in improving the situation more than rewarding to yourself. They'll be an inspiration to others also.

The National Garden bureau is here to help you by supplying a comprehensive blueprint on community beautification. There is also a 15 minute film which can be made available. Just write the bureau at 124 East 38th st., New York City.

In order to add impetus to all community programs started, the Popular Gardening magazine is offering gardening certificates of merit to groups conducting such a program who wish to give recognition and awards to participants of the project.

Write to Popular Gardening, 530 Fifth ave., New York City, giving them the details of your community improvement program. They will do the rest.

Farmland Values Now Levelled Off OSC Points Out

Corvallis—Farmland values in Oregon leveled off last fall, ending the steady upward climb of the past five years, reports Mrs. Elvera Horrell, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State College.

In November, the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) placed the index on Oregon's farmlands, with improvements, at 160 per cent of the 1947-49 average, Mrs. Horrell said. This was the same as the July 1960 index, but nearly 3 per cent above November 1959.

The national farmland index also leveled off during the July to November, 1960 period at a level less than one per cent above November, 1959.

During the last half of 1960, farmland values in 41 states either held practically unchanged or rose just a little. Decreases of 2 per cent or more showed up in the other nine states, mostly in the central part of the country.

The biggest dip—5 per cent—came in Iowa, and the sharp rise—4 per cent—came in Utah, Mrs. Horrell found.

Market Weaker

Land-value reporters generally agreed that the market for farmland was weaker last fall than a year earlier, the ARS report noted. Fewer farms changed hands, demand was slower, and prospective buyers seemed more inclined to resist prices being asked.

Land dealers in most areas said they had more farms listed, but made fewer sales. They also reported less demand for nonfarm uses.

When asked to give an opinion as to the trend of future land values, more of the reporters than last year thought prices would go down.

The ARS attributed the general leveling of farmland values to a readjustment in the unusual relationship between farmland values and farm income. In Oregon, Mrs. Horrell noted that farmland value per acre increased nearly 60 per cent from 1950 to 1959, while taxes levied on farm real estate rose 40 per cent and realized net income from farming dropped 15 per cent.

DIEM INAUGURATED

Saigon—(UPI)—President Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam has taken office for a second five-year term with a pledge to battle the "Communist imperialism" which has terrorized the country and turned parts of it into a no man's land.

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Ten Schools Participate In Music Contest-Festival

Ten southern Oregon high schools participated in the Southern Oregon high school music contest-festival held last week end at Hedrick Junior High school.

Plaques were awarded by the judges to outstanding bands, choirs and orchestras both in the junior high contest held last week in Ashland and for the high school event Saturday.

Plaques for the junior high school contest went to the Ashland Junior High school band, directed by Frank Kenney; the Klamath Falls Strings, directed by Hans Gippo; and the Briscoe School chorus, Ashland, directed by Mrs. Herbert Cecil.

Plaques for Saturday event were awarded to the Medford High School choir, directed by Lynn Sjolund; the Klamath Falls orchestra, directed by Dale Hallack, and to the Medford High School Senior Symphony band, directed by I. A. Mirick.

John Drysdale was chairman of the event with members of the vocal and instrumental staff of the Medford system assisting him.

Points by two school groups participating were Senior Symphony band, perfect score, 36 points; Choir, 35 points; Girls Glee chorus, 33; Orchestra, 34, all Medford; Orchestra, 32; Choir, 31; Band 32; and Girls Glee chorus, 25.

Personnel Staff Winema Forest

District rangers on the Winema National forest have recently opened new offices at Chemult and Klamath agency from which to direct management of the Winema National forest, with headquarters in Klamath Falls.

The Chemult offices are located in the Community club building on the north edge of town. Supervisor Smith stated that these are temporary quarters for the coming season. Forest service personnel at Chemult include District Ranger Doug Shaw, formerly assistant ranger on the Klamath district of the Rogue River, and Assistant Ranger Kenneth Eversole, who comes from the Blue River district of the Willamette National forest.

The Chiloquin district headquarters is presently located at Klamath agency with offices in a former administration building. Personnel on the Chiloquin district include Ranger Homer Faulkner, Assistant Ranger Ed Harshman, and Fire Control Officer Clarence Jennings. Faulkner was previously assistant ranger on the Ft. Rock district of the Deschutes. Harshman comes from the Rogue River National forest at Medford. Jennings moves to Klamath Falls from the Blue River district of the Willamette.

Opening of these new offices marks another step in organization of the Winema National forest.

Mission Team To Appear at Church

A General Mission Interpretation team will be at the First Presbyterian church Wednesday, May 3, to explain how the church operates, not only to foreign countries, but in the many missions in this continent.

Speakers will be the Rev. Raymond Nott, described by the Saturday Evening Post as the "pastor of the Big Horn Basin" and the Rev. Ralph D. Winter, Presbyterian fraternal worker in Guatemala. The Rev. Burton Alvis will speak on Christian education and Dr. Dwight Russell, Portland, Synod officer, will also talk about missions.

The talks are scheduled at 7:30 p.m. and will be preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a family night dinner.

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