

Need for Seed Acreage Shift Noted Or Financial Loss May Result

Corvallis — Major adjustments are needed in acreage Oregon farmers are planting to some kinds of seed crops if financial losses are to be avoided, Ray H. Teal, Oregon State university extension seed marketing specialist, points out in the new Oregon Farm and Market Outlook circular.

Teal points to the ryegrasses as an example where acreage must be reduced to avoid loss. Although no harvest time estimate is available, Oregon growers reported last spring they intended to increase acreage by eight per cent over 1961.

Although U. S. ryegrass seed carryover on July 1 was

Farm & Garden



ENGINE INSPECTED—An engineer inspects a new rocket engine which was developed by Honeywell's Aeronautical Division at Minneapolis, Minn. Purported to operate on a "new principle," fuel for the 50-pound thrust engine enters the combustion chamber from one side and oxidizer from the other, with a "detonation combustion" occurring when they meet, in 1/500,000,000th of a second. Honeywell engineers state the new engine will provide an astronaut with "four times as precise" control as conventional reaction rocket engines. (UPI)

GARDENING TIPS

APPLES AND PEARS
Homeowners who are having a first experience growing apples or pears frequently ask the question of when to pick the fruit. There are several indicators that can be used to determine the proper time to pick apples and pears. It's best if you use a combination of these indicators rather than just one.

One of the best indicators for apples is to observe the natural fruit fall of the tree. When the first unblemished, worm-free and disease-free fruit falls, the apples are ready to pick, especially if they are to be placed in cold storage. However, delaying harvest for a week or two will result in better size and better quality apples for immediate eating. Some varieties of apples are prone to fruit fall before they attain best quality. Applying a stop-drop hormone as soon as the apples begin to drop will hold them on for two more weeks.

The ease of separating the fruit stem from the spur is another indicator. When you pick an apple, hold it gently, lift it slightly and give it a little twist. The stem should remain attached to the fruit and the spur to the tree. If the stem pulls out of the apple or the spur breaks, the fruit is probably too green. This also applies to pears.

Self Help Unit Set by Growers Of Orchard Grass

Salem — Members of Oregon's ninth commodity commission will soon be appointed by Governor Hatfield as result of a favorable vote by growers to create an Oregon Orchardgrass Seed Producers commission.

By a close vote of 45 to 22 — in light of the requirement for a two-thirds majority — orchardgrass seed growers favored this self-help approach in a mail referendum conducted between Aug. 20 and Sept. 1 by the state department of agriculture.

Fulfilling a dual requirement for creation, the voting growers represented 369,231 pounds of the 1961 production of 309,994 pounds of this forage seed; this is 76 per cent compared with the required one-third of total production last year.

Although slightly more than two-thirds of the voters favored the commission, the greater number of affirmative votes actually represented less pounds of seed than the negative vote: 125,376 vs. 283,855 pounds of production.

Production Increases
Spurred by the development of new strains, production of orchardgrass seed is on the increase in Oregon with the forecast for 1963 acreage about 300 per cent of the 1961 acreage. This indicates that seed growers recognize that orchardgrass could be one of the crops to replace the fescues and ryegrass now in overproduction.

The new commission will include seven members. One will be a handler from either Marion or Linn county; the other six will be named on this basis: one each from Linn, Benton, Polk, counties, two from Marion county; one at-large. Other producing counties are Lane, Washington, Yamhill, Jefferson, Klamath, Union, Clackamas and Josephine counties.

FROM THE GROUND UP

By BART BARTLETT

The fact that autumn is here by the calendar does not necessarily mean that an abrupt change will take place in terms of weather.

It is true that the days are noticeably shorter and that cooler night and day temperatures can be expected. There will be reports of light frosts from the higher elevations of this area.

These phenomena of nature also indicate that time is running out for certain truck crops such as peppers, cucumbers, corn and tomatoes. Watermelons of local origin should be at their peak as far as quality and quantity are concerned. Squash and pumpkins will continue in good supply for several days.

Clover Price Higher
Crimson clover seed prices should be higher next year if seeding weather improves in the south, Teal writes. The Oregon crop is forecast at 10 per cent larger because of acreage increases, but the southern states expect 30 per cent less.

Use was the lowest last season in several years because dry weather in the south prevented fall seeding. Unless this is repeated this year, use should increase, with present low prices encouraging increased use, he noted.

Hairy and common vetch are among the few seed crops bringing good returns to growers this year, the specialist stated. Since supplies of hairy vetch, including carryover and new crop, are below last year's use, prices may be expected to be favorable again next year, he adds.

Common vetch prices for next year should be as high or higher than this year, he continues. Supplies, including carryover and the 1962 crop, are much below last season's use. Seed growers might well consider an increase in vetch acreage on rotation land that has not produced vetch recently, he stated.

There seems to be no reason for Oregon seed growers to increase acreage of Austrian winter peas because yields have not averaged high enough to make them profitable at prospective prices, the specialist said. Use of Austrian peas did increase greatly last season, but low prices were probably the cause, he noted.

Highway Routes Given at Meeting
Montague — Mr. Herb Miles, Mr. Fred Saunders and Mr. George Perry of the State Department of Highways, all of Redding at the Shasta Valley Farm Bureau meeting at the Montague clubroom recently explained the proposed routes of the new freeway between Grenada and Henley Way.

It is part of the Interstate Highway No. 5 which is to be completed by 1969. Mr. Miles, who gave the talk, explained and answered questions pertaining to the four tentative routes to be considered. The four plans with their relative merits, costs, distance and nature were ably presented and freely discussed by everyone present.

The group, led by its chairman, John McMurray, went on record endorsing adoption of the Blue Line Route which goes from Grenada to a half mile west of Montague. It then crosses Shasta Valley and circles the west slope of Black Mountain crossing the Klamath river and the Southern Pacific railroad downstream from the existing county road bridge. It is the shortest in distance and a great deal less expensive than the other three routes. Copies of this endorsement will be sent to 1. the public hearing to be held in the Elks Hall, Yreka, Sept. 26; 2. Senator Collier; 3. state highway commission; 4. state engineers.

Thanks were received from Stanley Sears for the scholarship given him by the bureau to further his education at the California Institute of Technology at San Luis Obispo in animal husbandry.

Members were reminded of the State Farm Bureau convention to be held in San Diego, Nov. 10 to 15. Blanks and information may be obtained from the County Farm Bureau Office in the Warren's building in Yreka.

The county Farm Bureau board recommends a yes vote on Proposition No. 4 which deals with the reassessment of property values according to productivity instead of potential value. Financial aid for a successful campaign is also sought.

Eastern Oregon Cattlemen Want Vet's Services
Salem — Losses to the Oregon cattle industry from parasites, disease and insects may reach \$28 million annually and for this reason eastern Oregon ranchers need the state's on-the-ground help in coping with the situation.

To help local veterinarians handle serious outbreaks of disease, the Oregon Cattlemen's association has requested the state department of agriculture to establish a veterinarian in eastern Oregon to work on disease problems.

The need, says OCA Executive Secretary George W. Johnson, is for a veterinarian of experience and ability and who is a clinical pathologist well trained in laboratory work and with a practical background of field diagnosis.

New diseases are cropping up that confound even the specialist and those working on disease problems daily, the association points out. Baker county has suffered losses by calf scours ranging from 12 to 17 per cent in the last three years, with individual losses as high as 36 per cent of the calf crop. This is rectified by the association to point "the gravity of the situation."

Plug Earlier
Baker county stockmen plugged earlier this year for a diagnostic laboratory in eastern Oregon but cattlemen have decided to seek first the proposed field veterinarian and rely upon this step to determine whether a diagnostic laboratory is feasible.

Since this veterinarian will usually work on a local disease problem upon request of a private veterinarian in the area, it is important for him to possess exceptional professional skill and competency.

Chit Chat

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

As you read this we will be returning from the regional land and people conference in Portland. This conference covering a series of discussions and explanation of the new rural area development program (RAD) may well be the most important meeting of the year in this state.

This comparatively new program is aimed at developing ALL of the human and natural resources of rural areas. Its purpose is to help those farm families who are on the edge financially because their farms are too small to support them. But, this program does not stop at agricultural development. It helps rural residents and communities.

Importance of this program is illustrated by the 1959 agricultural census. In Oregon, 9,140 farms reporting ranged from one to nine acres, according to the census. The same census shows that in Jackson county 369 farms are under 10 acres and 642 from 10 to 49 acres.

This program is important to communities because new industry develops new industry. As a North Carolina power official pointed out: Using a hypothetical factory employing 200 people with a direct payroll of \$450,000 a year, area restaurants could expect \$22,500 annual gross increase. Over 200 cars could be sold each year. Service station earnings would rise \$15,000 annually. Bank deposits would jump more than \$200,000. Clothing and shoe store cash registers would ring up an additional \$19,000. Drug stores would get over \$37,000. Four new stores would be needed to supply additional goods and services, and at least 200 additional new jobs would be created.

This program is particularly important to Jackson county. How many small lumber mills have shut down during the last two years, how many larger ones have had to curtail their operations and how many are eagerly seeking profitable uses for byproducts from the forest industry? How badly hurt is the pear industry from pear tree decline and various economic factors? Answers to these questions point up the need.

Some lumber mills are selling ground bark for mulch, compressed ground bark for fire logs similar to Presto-Logs, chips to pulp mills. One lumber mill in central Oregon manufactures log blanks—wood shapes which can be developed into wood toys. The pear industry is experimenting with pear nectar. So local industry is trying self-help programs which form the basis of the overall RAD program.

But much more similar development is needed. Jackson county produces some of the finest quality peaches, spinach of such high quality one national chain store outlet here sells it, excellent tomatoes, sweet corn, onions and melons, to mention a few. But, how to create consumer demand? A locally developed RAD program could make an organized, concentrated effort, at least.

Yet another problem: Cattle grazing on public forestry lands is gradually being curtailed. This is giving many local cattlemen sleepless nights; not only here, but in other much larger cattle-raising areas in the state and throughout the west. In fact, Forest Service and BLM officials came away from meetings with cattlemen on range allotments convinced that this is putting the wild back in the west.

So what local people and natural resources do we have which will put the rural areas back on their economic feet again? A successful berry grower suggests raspberries by interplanting in orchards. High quality Rogue valley raspberries used to hit a profitable market in California. The extension service is suggesting interplanting of sweet cherries using a more disease resistant variety. One small manufacturing concern here is using peeler cores for log-cabin type buildings. Some ranchers are near enough to potential and existing local recreation areas to get into the tourist and recreation business. The Medford Chamber of Commerce has received many inquiries from tourists seeking dude ranches.

The dairy industry is also in trouble. And this is a problem nobody seems to have even a hazy solution for. Jackson county used to be one of the prominent fryer producing areas in the state. Now the cost-price squeeze has forced many such poultry operations to shut down. Yet, there seems to be a strong demand for efficient turkey egg producers. Perhaps there could be a conversion here. The local egg producers need help, too. They have taken the first step by organizing into the independent Southern Oregon Egg Producers' council.

AND we still claim that a GOOD, open class county fair is needed as a show case for local industry and agriculture. Perhaps this followed up a farmer's market such as San Francisco has could stimulate local consumer demand for local products.

RAD pamphlets from the U. S. Department of Agriculture stress training and re-training. This takes the program into the educational field and illustrates its broadness. This means a more adequate vocational-technical training program. Yet, the Eugene assistant superintendent of schools stated that not over 10 to 12 of the graduating high school class would enroll in the vocational-technical school. That's 10 of 700 or 800 students.

This is a problem local educators are now wrestling with. Yet, there appears to be considerable opposition from state legislators and from part of the state board of higher education. These economy minded people say a junior college or increased vocational-technical school program would cut sharply into funds already needed for basic school support and colleges and universities. So, how to convince these people there is a vital need for this technical training program.

And these same people deplore the bulk of national defense contracts going to California where they boost local economies. California had a broad junior college and vocational-technical school system which turns out the technicians needed for national defense industries. Oregon does not.

A glance at the land and people conference program shows further how broad it is. Speakers include the secretary of agriculture, to the president of a small rural community bank, to U. S. Forest Service, state Grange Master, to county commissioner, union official, minister, to farm owner, plus a host of officials of federal and state bureaus and departments.

An attempt has been made to start a RAD program here. It has been coupled with the Jackson county regional planning advisory committee. Election time, pressure of other county business and other factors has delayed a real start. The committee was fostered by the county which illustrates how important county court members can be to a county's economic well-being. As people vote, they should remember this and elect two county court members who not only have their feet solidly on the ground, but keep them moving in a progressive direction at a fair rate of speed. And this does not mean we are endorsing any candidate or candidates.

DOES THE TRICK
Cudahy, Wis. — Mrs. Nellie Kresser, 46, rescued Edward Mroz, 14, from a sand hill cave-in the other day in an effective, if unorthodox, manner. She said she "slo down the hill on the seat of my pants in my Sunday clothes" for 80 feet to reach Edward, who was nearly buried in sand. "I got bruises," Mrs. Kresser said.

FARM Woodlot Facts

This issue of Farm Woodlot Facts is devoted entirely to pre-commercial (or pre-merchandise) thinning. In at least a dozen communities, ranging from north to south and east to west, far-sighted Jackson and Josephine county land-owners are engaged in improving their young stands of timber.

Thinning should begin when trees are below head height. Catching stands at the pre-wee stage reduces costs and avoids stagnation. However, most woodlot owners will be starting in the older stands of sapling and small pole sizes because they have them. These older pre-commercial stands should be thinned if they are overstocked with resultant stagnation.

Usually, thinning in dense young stands amounts to removing suppressed (over-topped) or spindling trees, diseased, poorly formed specimens, and those competing with the future crop trees. The rule of thumb is "Cut the worst and leave the best."

Leave trees well usually be of the largest diameter and the best vigor. Future crop trees may include dominant or final crop trees, or codominate and some intermediate trees to be removed in future thinning. Any amount of suppressed trees may be removed without harming the stand. In removing trees which compete with those selected as future crop trees, care should be used not to open up the crown of the crop trees on more than one side in a single thinning.

This is particularly true of Douglas Fir which is easily shocked by too drastic a thinning, resulting in delayed response in growth which should increase following thinning.

The following rule refers to the removal of trees of about the same height as the future crop trees whose crowns are in direct competition with the crowns of the crop trees. Cut only one such competitor per crop tree in a single thinning. Get the others later.

Thinning can be approached from three different angles. They are: from above; from below; a combination of both.

In thinning from above, leave enough trees so that the "crown canopy" will close together again in about five to eight years. Look at the distance between the whorls on the side branches, use a little imagination and take a good guess. A rule of thumb to use in thinning from below is (D=2). "D" stands for Diameter of average leave trees at breast height in inches, plus two inches, changed to feet. This should be the average distance between future crop trees. For example if the average diameter was eight inches, the average spacing should be 10 feet. Probably the best method is a combination of both, plus using the old "bean."

In all three methods of thinning the outside trees on the sunny side of the stand should be left alone to prevent sun scald, especially if there is a large opening on the sunny side. "Take it easy" on less sunny sides and proceed close to normal on the shady north side.

More Thinning
The small woodland owner should plan more than one pre-commercial thinning if possible. Lighter and more frequent cuts are better for development of a forest stand.

The cost of early thinning will be more than repaid by shortening the time required to grow merchantable trees. Diameter growth of crop trees can be increased from 30 to 150 per cent. Height growth is also accelerated, but to a lesser degree.

Look for a future article on "How to Select Trees For Pruning," plus details on how to do the job.

Time Running Out For Milk Program

Corvallis—Time is running out for Oregon to develop a workable milk marketing program—and there is little evidence that the dairy industry has reached any agreement as to how such a program should operate.

H. P. Ewalt, Oregon State University extension dairy specialist, this week outlined alternatives facing the industry and predicted chaos in the milk pricing structure by the end of this year unless action is taken soon.

The present, temporary Milk Stabilization act will expire Dec. 31. It was established in 1961 when low milk prices to producers brought urgent requests to the Oregon legislature to help stabilize prices. Oregon had earlier voted out a state Milk Marketing act in 1954.

"Most conditions again reach the point they did when the rush was made to the 1961 legislature," Ewalt warned, in calling on the industry to move on a positive marketing program. He said that conditions are now at a point where it is to the advantage of both cooperative and independent producer groups to work together or face the danger of severe loss of income by dairymen.

There is little evidence that a majority of the industry is ready to set up and have in operation any kind of a regulated marketing program by Dec. 1," the specialist explained.

Industry Not Idle
This is not because the industry has been idle, he added. The Oregon Dairymen's Association called a meeting of representatives of 90 per cent of the fluid milk producers of the state last September. Oregon State University prepared a review of the marketing alternatives and the regulations in adjoining states as a guide for possible action.

Other steps included forming of a dairy industry committee, representing 25 organized producer groups in Oregon, to outline problems and formulate a plan of action. This group represented about 75 per cent of all milk produced.

In their next move, dairy producers employed J. P. Mason, milk marketing economist from Washington, D.C. to study the Oregon market and make recommendations for a marketing program.

Carson City, Nev., is one of the smallest state capitals.

Improvements Suggested
Mason concluded the market could be improved through one of three avenues.

1. A voluntary pricing and pooling agreement that would have the support of all producers supplying the market, and would be complied with by all handlers;
2. A pricing and pooling arrangement enforced by the state of Oregon; or
3. A pricing and pooling arrangement enforced by the federal government under a milk marketing order pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended.

The industry was told that each of the three methods of providing stability in the market would involve the same economic considerations. These four basic needs are:

1. The defining of an economic marketing area that can be made subject to a rational pricing and pooling plan;
2. A mechanism for establishing and enforcing an equitable system of classifying milk and pricing milk to handlers;
3. A mechanism for distributing returns equitably among producers; and
4. A mechanism for equating the available supply of milk with the effective demand.

Ewalt urges all groups concerned to move as quickly as possible in seeking an answer to their problem among these alternatives before expiration of the present temporary stabilization act.

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