FARM

Woodlot Facts

By DICK OLSON
Oregon State
Farm Forester

SMALL WOODLOT CASE

"We need to give special emphasis to the improvement of the 256 million acres of small, privately owned farm woodlands and other small forests.

"This is an important sector of our agricultural economy in which rate of progress and production is far from satisfactory. Yet, here is a crop which is not in surplus and to which many farmers should turn, for their benefit and the nation's. If our grandchildren are to have the same continuous supply of timber products as we now have, growth of timber on these farm woodlots and other small holdings will have to be doubled within the next 40 years."

This statement was taken from a message by the President of the U.S. on March 16, 1961. Small woodlands in the United States present a major problem today. They hold over half our commercial forest (although only 15 per cent in Oregon), and their management lags. Production from cropland is shooting "out of this world" but the small woodland remains sputtering on the launching pad.

OPTIONAL TIMBER TAX

Small woodland owners interested in classifying their holdings under the optional small woodland timber tax law should remember that they have only until Aug. 9, 1963 to do so. However, owners that acquired eligible forest land after Aug. 9, 1961 must make application for classification within two years after this date or within one year after acquisition, whichever is later. More information about this optional tax can be obtained by contacting your farm forester at the state forestry headquarters in Medford.

TREE PLANTING

People interested in tree planting this winter should begin now to plan for it. The Oregon State Forest Nurseries will have 6¾ million tree seedlings for sale this fall.

Heading this list is Douglas-Fir with more than four million trees available. Second is Ponderosa Pine with somewhat less than a half million, followed by Noble Fir with 376 thousand.

Copious quantities of both Shore lodgepole and Eastside lodgepole pine are also available. The Shore lodgepole in particular is becoming the favorite pine for Christmas trees. Other species for this purpose which are abundant include Grand fir, Shasta fir and Knobcone pine.

Good supplies of several other conifers and broadleaves will be available. Order blanks are not yet available but should be by the first of November. For an order blank contact your farm forester or extension agent.

FORESTRY TOUR

An adult forestry tour is being planned for Jackson County's small landowners this fall. All interested landowners should keep watching this column for further information about this tour. It is hoped that this tour will be well attended so that everyone who comes will benefit just that much more.

IDEAS COMPARED WITH DOLLARS

If I had a dollar and you had a dollar, and we exchanged dollars, we would still have a dollar each. But if I have an idea, and you have an idea, and we exchange them — we each have two ideas.

SLOSHING THROUGH — Two unidentified cattlemen slosh through a lagoon of water in front of the livestock barns at the Jackson County Fairgrounds during the recent Cal-Ore Hereford association's Range Ready Bull sale. The picture further illustrates the need for more adequate fairgrounds for such events.

PRESIDING — Darrell Brown, American Hereford association fieldman (left) and Sherman Guttredge, of the Western Livestock Journal (right) assisted at the recent Cal-Ore Hereford Association Range Ready Bull sale at the Jackson county fairgrounds. Bill Bray, owner-manger of the Midway Auction yard, Table Rock rd., was auctioneer with Bob Bever of the Rogue Valley Livestock Inc., Phoenix. Ralph Cook, Medford, of the American Polled Hereford association, was also present.

FROM THE GROUND UP

By BART BARTLETT

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The elections are to be held Nov. 6, 1962.

The ballot is rather large as it contains several measures in addition to a long list of candidates for the various local, county, state and national offices. After attending the candidate fairs, and making a study of great volumes of campaign literature as well as the publication that is issued by the League of Women Voters, we have in some instances arrived at decisions as to where our vote should be cast. In other instances our research efforts have only increased the confusion.

It is regrettable that not one candidate for any office has at this point spoken up in regards to what his program will cost. The statements and speeches are vague in that most of the office seekers will wait and see what develops or they are for youth programs, or that the farmers and lumber industries are in need of help. This type of platform usually means that once elected the official can find his own easiest way out. He made no definite promises in the campaign.

What we like to hear in a campaign are promises to give essential government services and cut non-essential services. Such things can be done if only an official has the courage to act. Most officials bow willingly to pressure groups as he wishes to be reelected. What a patriotic act it would be to see just one public official act to curb government rather than retain it as is or work diligently to enlarge its functions.

What They Didn't Say

No candidate offered to cut government transportation costs through the establishment of motor pools. There was no mention of using existing areas of county owned lands for the establishment of an open county fair. They propose something on the order of a hen, rabbit and calf fair at the old site near Medford which everyone knows is inadequate. In other words the disposition of the old experimental areas near Talent are never mentioned. We suspect that an easy out is to permit "Pickle" Taylor to continue to grow hogs and cabbage on these areas.

We admit that the general farmer is in trouble. The government helped him get into this trouble and can't seem to find a way out. For 20 years we have produced huge surpluses of such items as corn, cotton and wheat and yet in both the federal and state budgets will be found large sums of money that is devoted to research by our land grant colleges for the purpose of increasing the per acre production of these far crops.

The line to follow in the selection of a candidate for your vote is to find the man who has the courage to offer to work for a minimum of government. The more that is offered, the more that will take place. It all costs money and we the people must pay the bills!

Stockmen, Wives To Hold Meeting

Approximately 85 to 100 people are expected to attend the annual fall meeting of the Jackson County Stockmen's association in the Central Point Grange Hall at 10 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 25.

The Jackson County Cow-Belles will meet at 10:30 a.m. in the Grange hall, also, according to Mrs. Rolland Smith, Applegate, president. New officers will be elected and beef promotion programs discussed.

The cattlemen will discuss the state of their industry, elect officers and consider some resolutions for the Oregon Cattlemen's meeting in November in Lakeview.

Garden Tips

By JOHN W. McLOUGHLIN
Jackson County
Extension Agent

Compost For Home Gardens

Preparation of compost is an important part of the year round gardening program for many home gardeners. Wise use of compost can play an important part in renewing organic matter and fertility in flower beds, around shrubs, and in the vegetable garden.

Usual time for starting the compost making process is in the fall when there is a surplus of fallen leaves, matured and dead plants and lawn clippings. Several points are important in preparation of compost to be sure its use will help and not hurt next year's plant growth.

Selection of materials is important and most gardeners have a choice. Usually the garden, the lawn and the trees produce more organic material than can be effectively used as compost. Grass clippings rate Number One as the basic compost ingredient. Clippings are high in mineral nutrients — nitrogen, phosphorus and potash. They are succulent and tender, relished by the batceria responsible for the compost-making process, and they are less likely to become a haven for the hibernation, incubation and multiplication of insects, other pests and diseases.

Leaves from deciduous trees rank second. They do not supply as much of the mineral nutrients as do grass clippings and require more supplementary fertilizer and more time for the composting process. Like grass, they do not greatly aggravate the disease and insect problems.

Dead Plants Bad

Third on the list are the mature dead plants from the flower and vegetable garden. This type of material will develop into compost as judged solely on improvement of the fertility and physical condition of the soil. But use of this material can lead to disaster. These mature plants serve as over-wintering hosts for a wide range of plant diseases and as warm, comfortable winter headquarters for insects. Unless there is absolutely no other source of organic material, it is best to burn or otherwise dispose of the mature flower or vegetable plants.

Two procedures can be followed in making compost. The lazy man's way is the easiest and really the best. Just take the leaves or the grass clippings or a mixture of the two, spread them in layers two to four inches thick over the area to be treated next year. Over this mulch, spread a pound to a pound and a half of a good complete garden fertilizer such as a 10-10-10 or a 10-16-8 to 100 square feet. Nature will take care of the compost making process from here on. Spade or till the area at the proper time next spring and the job is done.

For the more time-consuming conventional method of making compost, the compost pile is built up layer by layer. First a layer of four or five inches of compacted organic material. Cover this with a heavy sprinkling of top soil along with good complete fertilizer at the rate of one pound for each compact bushel of organic material. Wet down and start repeating the process.

Additional layers can be added in a similar manner, as high as desired. If the material is thoroughly wetted at the time the pile is built, winter rains in western Oregon will keep the pile moist during the winter months. Compost heaps built in this manner should be broken down to a point for direct use in flower beds or gardens by April of next year. Some compost connoisseurs like to grind, pulverize and condition the material before using. This doesn't really help or really hurt. It may lead to neater flower beds but make a mess somewhere else.

Two Pear Shippers Impressed With Bartlett Promotions

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Two Medford area pear shippers and growers went to market early this month.

They learned (1) field men for the Oregon-Washington-California Pear bureau are well received by retailers and wholesalers, (2) Pacific Coast pears are well received in eastern, mid-western and Atlantic seaboard markets, (3) the current crop of small-sized Bartletts are being pushed (4) lower prices for the small sized Bartletts are being passed on to the consumer.

Don Root, of Myron Root and Company, Medford, toured the market areas of Boston, Montreal, New York, Chicago, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis.

The shipper's market trip sponsored by Pacific Mountain Bartletts, Portland, Ore., which contracts for promotion of Bartletts with the Pear bureau, covered such retail outlets as the Super Valu Stores, Red Owl Stores, National Tea company in Minneapolis; Roundy's, National Tea, Godfrey's and Karmbo (Kroger) in Milwaukee; A&P, Red Owl and Jewel Tea in Chicago; Berlet Fruit company (I G A stores), Steinbergs, Dominion Stores and A&P in Montreal; Star Markets, Stop and Shop, Triple A Packing and Peter Condakes company in Boston, plus a number of wholesale and brokerage houses.

Lynn Newbry's (Ashland grower and shipper), market trip included Washington, D. C., Philadelphia, New York City and Jacksonville, Fla. New York is the largest market the pear people have.

Root reported: "Practically everyone was definitely interested in increasing Bartlett volume and many actually did some figuring and made some plans to do so during the period of our visit."

Field representatives were suggesting sales of pears 12 or 13 to a unit. After some figuring merchants said they could "do a real" job on Bartletts if they could be purchased so they could be retailed at 29 cents a dozen in Minneapolis, Milwaukee and Chicago or 39 cents a dozen in Montreal and Boston, Root said.

Due to the duty and devalued dollar in Montreal merchants have to have a higher retail price. Because of pre-packaging retail prices will average somewhat higher in Boston, Root learned.

"They are currently purchasing and selling the smaller sizes, but not at retail prices which would produce spectacular volume. Many merchants pointed out currently quoted prices on fancies and small sizes were so close to what they had been paying for larger sizes of U.S. Ones there was not much chance to offer them at retail at a substantially cheaper price," Root noted.

Good Volume Prospects

Field men reported there are good volume possibilities available in all of these markets but it will be necessary to keep sales pressure heavy. Two to four weeks elapse after a promotion is planned before anything happens at retail levels.

Root and Newbry noted, in a few cases, retailers were selling pears at 10 cents a pound which is right at the retailer's cost of $4.50 a box in Chicago figuring 45 pounds of pears to a box.

Usual price, however, was two pounds for 29 cents which gives the merchant a 26 per cent mark-up compared to the usual 33 to 40 per cent mark up.

This made the Bartletts competitive with other fruit on the market. In the Philadelphia area, for instance, Bartletts were selling for two pounds for 25 cents to 19 cents a pound. Delicious variety apples were bringing 19 cents a pound, peaches 29 cents a pound, Tokay grapes 10 cents a pound, seedless grapes two pounds for 29 cents, oranges 59 cents a dozen, cantaloupes two pounds for 49 cents, honeydew mellons 59 cents each and prunes two pounds for 25 cents.

Sponsoring Contest

Pacific Mountain Bartletts is sponsoring a contest for retail promotion of pears, both Newry and Root noted. Early in October in the Stop and Shop stores in Montreal, pear sales were tied in with an S&H stamp promotion. Fifty stamps were given for each dozen pears purchased.

Newbry noticed that all chain stores he inspected were highly competitive in selling pears.

"Personnel of one Brooklyn store were actively selling fruit, not just displaying it," Newbry said. "That area has large populations of people of foreign birth so sells more fruit than some other areas," he said.

"These people don't object to smaller sized fruit. However, chain stores on Madison and Park aves. in New York City want the biggest and best fruit available in contrast to the usual chain store demand for medium - sized fruit," Newbry remarked.

"These merchants and wholesalers are acquainted with pears, know how to handle them, where to get them, the profit expected and any service which can be provided through the Oregon-Washington-California Pear bureau," Newbry said.

"This was a working trip. We were on a tight schedule of appointments with the retailers and wholesalers. There was no time for entertainment," Newbry concluded.

For Safety's Sake Read the Label, Weed Man Says

By RAY HUBBELL
Weed Control Supervisor

Excerpts from an article in the October issue of Nation's Agriculture magazine:

A large part of America's great abundance comes through the increasing use of chemicals. They stimulate, retard, control farm crop pests and animal pests and disease. The word is continually out to users, warning that directions should be followed to the letter, or serious consequences may result.

A dramatic illustration of this importance took place in June in Tuscarawas county, Ohio. Flies were bad so dairyman John McMillen rummaged in his barn, found a part of a bottle of fly spray. Had he wiped and read the label he would have learned three things: (1) The material was a 25 per cent concentrate of organic phosphate. (2) It was to be diluted before use. (3) It was not to be used on wooden walls or stalls and NEVER to be used directly on cows.

Since the label was not read, he sprinkled about half an ounce along the backs of each cow. Within 10 minutes the cows showed discomfort and were turned out of the barn. In 20 minutes one cow was dead. Veterinarian Dr. Stanley Tschantz of New Philadelphia was called and soon three more cows had died. The veterinarian, realizing he needed help, contacted the manufacturer through his car radio and was advised steps and precautions to be taken.

Cows Die

Within an hour 11 of the 19 cows were dead. The remaining cows were driven into a creek and scrubbed, then treated with atropine and tranquilizer solutions. As an extra precaution, all eight persons who had worked with the cattle went to the hospital. Owner McMillen, most seriously affected, was there for two days.

The name of the firm or product is not important. Many firms are producing products containing organic phosphate materials, and any material can be dangerous if misused.

This "straight - from - life" warning is for anyone who uses chemicals. Be sure you know what you're dealing with. Keep them plainly marked and never let them get old. Check with someone of authority on how to dispose of unused material safely.

Before these chemicals are approved for use, they are checked and rechecked. The label relates recommended rates, dilutions, where, when, how and why it should be used. They're perfectly safe if directions are read and followed. Just like a hatchet, knife, gun or car, they are dangerous only if they are used in the wrong way or for the wrong purpose.

FOR SAFETY'S SAKE — READ THE LABEL — FOLLOW DIRECTIONS.

Sprinkle some salt in the frying pan before cooking fish. It will keep fillets from sticking.

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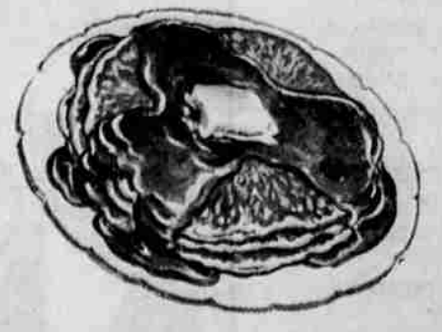

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