

Farm & Garden

Chit Chat

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

The Dec. 2 flood did point out one thing — the vital need for better drainage systems.

With the deluge of water which streamed over some areas, drainage systems could not have carried it all off, but they would have helped, in the opinion of some observers. Those who worked that long, dark day to stem and rechannel flood waters noticed they followed their natural drainage channels in spite of asphalt streets and houses which stood in their way.

Harold Sexton, Rogue River Valley irrigation district manager, is among the most insistent backers that something be done about drainage. He introduced Resolution No. 17 at the recent annual meeting of the Oregon Reclamation Congress here.

In its modified form it points out that industrial and residential development in the more populous Oregon counties has resulted in material changes in the run-off pattern of small natural drainages in certain areas. Interference with the natural pattern has had a "serious adverse effect" on adjacent properties, the resolution stated.

Since such industrial and residential developments in Oregon will continue to expand and compound drainage and flood problems, the Congress recommended that the 1963 Oregon Legislature adopt a resolution to appoint an interim legislative committee to study and make recommendations. Such a committee would make recommendations as to procedures to be followed by various counties and agencies affected to deal with drainage problems.

The new interstate freeway cut through many farms up-setting their drainage systems. Often this was not considered by the courts as a factor for consideration in reaching settlements in condemnation suits. The storm did point out the importance of these drainage patterns. It even showed that in one case, at least, the highway engineers had not provided sufficient drainage for the new freeway.

The question arises whether or not houses should be built in a natural drainage channel. Perhaps drainage patterns should be charted much as you would chart the course of a stream. Certainly adequate underground drainage systems — tiling — should be legally required in every subdivision.

If the drainage problem wasn't discussed at the Eagle Point meeting on the recent flood damage it should have been. We mention it here because this important phase of water development was overshadowed what with all the discussion on recreation and irrigation at the recent Congress.

One of the things which disappointed us the most was the lack of attendance at the Congress meeting. If a businessman should be offered a free course on how to display his goods more attractively to draw more people into his store, new business trends and how he could adopt a major new sideline to make more profit, he would jump at the opportunity. Here was a major discussion, or series of discussions on irrigation, the lifeblood of local farming, of recreation related to reclamation projects and one of the best panel discussions of recreation vs. irrigation we have heard for a long time. Yet, very few people attended from the local area.

Recreation is fast becoming a major business in this area and those farmers with land in reservoir areas haven't yet begun to realize their potential. The farmer's part in recreation is detailed in a special USDA pamphlet. A western university gives a short course on dude ranching and more and more meetings on natural resources include several discussions on rural recreation.

The most recent of these is the Pacific area convention of the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation districts.

The three day program included workshop sessions on recreational planning in the soil conservation program and movies and slides of local projects.

The local cattlemen are putting on the pressure for better range improvement projects, more of them and a more realistic program of range allotments than the proposed cuts. They sent County Commissioner Ed Taylor to Las Vegas to represent them at the public lands conference there. They plan to send two cattlemen to the Portland meeting on the same subject sponsored by the Oregon Cattlemen's association.

Cherry, Prune Trees Storm Hit

Corvallis (Special) — The windstorm of Oct. 12 caused tremendous damage to existing Oregon prune, walnut, filbert and cherry orchards, but it also created an opportunity for the prune industry to rebuild on a sound basis with young orchards.

However, the planting of too many young prune orchards could lead to more years of poor prices, commented R. L. Stebbins, Oregon State University extension tree fruits specialist, as he reviewed storm damage Friday for the stone fruits section of the Oregon Horticultural Society meeting at OSU.

Storm damage was experienced all the way from California to Washington, but the Willamette valley was the hardest hit, with walnut, prune and filbert orchards devastated. Pie cherry growers also suffered serious losses, but sweet cherry, pear and peach trees survived with relatively little damage.

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Serious Disease Hits Cherry Trees In Three States

Corvallis-First report on what appears to be a serious new disease in Oregon commercial cherry orchards was made recently to the stone fruit section of the Oregon State Horticultural Society meeting at Oregon State university.

Dr. J. A. Milbrath, OSU plant pathologist, reported the disease appeared in 16 orchards in three different areas during the 1962 season. It was first reported in one orchard in 1961.

The mysterious ailment shows up suddenly in orchards and stricken trees bear little, if any, fruit after producing apparently normal crops the year before, the researcher said. The disease hits only certain trees in an orchard, with a "sick" tree having perfectly healthy neighbors as yet unaffected.

Washington Hit

There have been reports on a similar disease hitting cherry trees in Washington and Montana, he told the group. Claims have been made of stopping the disease by adding boron to the soil around the affected tree, but Dr. Milbrath believes that the "pattern" and development does not follow that of a deficiency disease.

Dr. Milbrath expressed concern that the disease may also infect other tree fruits and even nut trees, as such trees next to affected orchards have similar symptoms.

Because the course of the disease suggests a virus infection problem, inoculation trials have been started by OSU on an isolation plot at The Dalles and in campus greenhouses, with Dr. O. C. Compton, OSU horticulturist, and J. F. Reynolds, OSU plant pathologist, cooperating in making soil and virus tests.

Other work being done in the Willamette valley includes the addition of boron to the soil as well as zinc in a few cases.

"Unless a satisfactory control, such as boron, is found immediately, this could be the most devastating disease ever to affect a tree fruit crop," he warned.

Horticultural Men Adopt Resolutions

Corvallis — The Oregon Horticultural Society during its recent meeting in Corvallis adopted nine resolutions, three of them dealing with export markets.

The society went on record opposing reduction of all protective measures now in effect which safeguard Oregon's apple and pear industry and other horticultural products from imports of like products grown at lower costs in foreign countries.

The society also urged U.S. officials to utilize all their power and authority to overcome "unjustifiable" restrictions imposed by certain European nations on the importing of American fruits and fruit products. They urged that all appropriate and feasible steps be taken to obtain reasonable opportunities for the U.S. to export fruit and fruit products.

The society also suggested the government take steps to assure the continuance of the historical apple and pear market in the United Kingdom, even if that nation joins the European Common Market.

Negotiations should be directed toward assuring the common tariff of the European Economic Community reflect the traditional U.K. low tariff history if the United Kingdom joins the Common Market, the society recommended.

The society went on record to assist in establishing an agricultural wing of the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland. The society also went on record favoring a new building for the State Department of Agriculture and urging that money be allocated for it as soon as the necessary funds are available.

A resolution addressed to the Columbia Broadcasting System and members of the Federal Communications Commission asking that the upcoming CBS documentary be factual and not "sensational" about the use of agricultural chemicals was approved.

The society also asked the Portland office of the Crop Reporting Service to make a complete survey of all Western Oregon counties and Hood River and Wasco counties to determine the number of new fruit and nut tree plantings made in the last five years.

Featured speaker during a morning session was Sen. Wayne L. Morse, who spoke on the implications of the 1962 trade expansion act in relation to Pacific Northwest horticultural products.

Passed primarily to meet the competition presented by the European Common Market, the act gives the President the power to negotiate the reduction of tariffs by as much as 50 per cent in exchange for lowering reductions by other countries.

Together, the United States and Common Market countries account for over half of the combined total of world export and import trade and for 45 per cent of the world agricultural trade.

The U. S. is the world's largest exporter of agricultural products and second only to the United Kingdom as an importer, he noted.

Agriculture amounts for about one-fourth of the total U.S. exports and he continued, "it is needless to say that American farmers require these outlets for their abundant production and as one element of income. For people in other lands, our agriculture provides a significant source for food and clothing."

The Pacific Northwest exported agricultural products valued at \$181 million in fiscal year 1961, with \$68.1 million from Oregon and the rest from Washington. Exports showed \$136.3 million in field crops; \$25.3 million in fruits and nuts; \$4.9 million in vegetables and \$14.5 million in livestock and livestock products.

Horticultural products of the Pacific Northwest may face serious problems because of the rise of the Common Market. For a number of products, including some fruits and vegetables such as produced in this area, the outlook is reasonably good.

But, he explained, as the Common Market tariffs against outside nations become effective, "our fruit growers will face more serious threats, primarily from Italian fruits."

Many European nations maintain seasonal embargoes and restrictions on apples and pears which, in recent years, have limited U.S. shipments. "Conceivably," he stated,

"the Common Market agricultural policy could shelter an agricultural industry of some nine million small farms which would be sub-divided into inefficient, scattered locations. While advantageous to welding an agricultural union, such a policy could be a definite disadvantage if maintained after such an economic union is achieved."

"Consumers in Common Market countries could thus be required to pay higher prices and U.S. producers would suffer from reduced exports."

Pesticide Course Planned For OSU

Salem — Some 360 Oregon licensed chemical applicators will have an opportunity soon to do some cramming for their 1963 state examinations, which will cover the wide field of pesticides.

While attendance is not compulsory, an intensive school for pesticide applicators will be held Dec. 17-19 in Withycombe hall on the Oregon State university campus, announced J. D. Patterson, who is in charge of pesticide programs for the state department of agriculture.

Keynoting the three-day course will be the address of Dr. G. F. MacLeod, Fresno, California, Niagara Chemical Division, on "What's Ahead in the Chemical Industry."

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BLOODED STOCK — This carefully culled herd of Herefords are the breadwinners for Day Hereford ranch in Little Shasta near Montague, Calif. The blood line is N. H. R. Donald Dominoe 42nd breeding. Day will explain how the California Beef Cattle Improvement association program worked for him when he talks to the Jackson County Stockmen's association Thursday night in the Central Point Grange hall. County Agent Earle Jossy will explain how the Oregon system works.

Siskiyou County Cattleman First To Use BCIA Program

Montague-Frank and Margaret Day of the Day Hereford Ranch in Little Shasta near Montague are the first registered breeders in Siskiyou County to use the California Beef Cattle Improvement association program and one of the few in the state to use it consistently.

Their operation comprises 320 acres, nearly all under irrigation. They credit their start in greater improvement to the help given them by Sedg Nelson, Siskiyou County Farm advisor and Dan Peterson, Shasta County Farm advisor. They helped cull out about half of their herd from 100 to 50 good ones.

Since that beginning they have constantly and consistently improved the quality, not only of the cows but of the herd bulls. Their blood line is N. H. R. Donald Dominoe 42nd Breeding.

They are very well satisfied with the results and say it works fine if applied with diligence. They are enthusiastic about it and plan to continue. They pride themselves on having over 95 per cent

of their own breeding in their heifers, with a complete record on each one.

Frank Day, who was named for his grandfather, remembers from early childhood in Lewistown, Montana that he always wanted a ranch.

His grandfather homesteaded near Lewistown in 1859, established the first post office, the building still stands and is commemorated as such.

Young Day got his start in cattle in 1922, when as a high school boy he cashed his war bonds and saving stamps, bought two registered calves. He still has the small notebook in which he recorded the transaction.

He recalls there was no ready market in Montana for the number of cattle in the numbers in which they were produced. The ranchers banded together contracted a train, shipped their combined herds, rode on the same freight trains, tended them on the way and took them either to Kansas City or Chicago. Upon arrival they had to be finished on corn and then sold to market.

His father, George Day,

following in his father's foot steps, instilled in the young boy a desire for good stock, always getting the best he could afford. George would often go to Iowa to purchase his stock of cows and horses.

After a number of hard years many of the Montana ranchers went broke. Young Day's father was among the unfortunate, so the bond-purchased heifers had to be sold, and he went to work for wages, for a time as a ranch baker. He still follows this avocation as a hobby when time permits.

Frank Day did considerable traveling both before and after his marriage. Finally, down they did so on two different ranches on the Oregon coast, there they began to acquire their herd which they brought with them to California in 1930. First settling on a ranch between Gazelle and Weed and in 1953 they settled on their present holdings.

Day feels confident that good cattle will always be in demand. "People will always eat meat, and will at all times buy the best they can afford," he states.

Mrs. Day helps with every phase of the enterprise. She enjoys the bookkeeping which is an extensive effort, but can help in the corral, too, whether day or night. She has been known to nurse a weakened calf by the stove in the dining room on more than one occasion. She is a charter member of the Siskiyou County Cowbelles, as well as many other fraternal and civic organizations.

Mrs. Day's affiliations are with the Montague Rotary, which he serves as membership chairman, the Elks Club of Yreka, Masonic and Shrine lodges Siskiyou County Cattlemen and the Farm Bureau.

Strawberry Plant Storage Discussed

Corvallis — Freeze damage, the ability to differentiate between mature and young plants and disease carrying organisms within the plants themselves are all problems facing Oregon strawberry growers who plant an estimated 45 million new plants each year, reported Oregon State university researchers.

Dr. Ralph Garren Jr. and Harry Lagerstedt, both OSU horticulturists, made their report to the small fruits section of the Oregon State Horticultural Society recently during the last day of its annual meeting at OSU.

About a third of the state's 15,300 acres of strawberries are re-planted each year, Dr. Garren said, at \$9,000 plants per acre.

Researchers some time ago determined that strawberry plants will store successfully at temperatures between 28 and 30 degree F. They are now working on other problems or areas where problems might arise, they reported.

One of the main problems facing the industry is freeze damage to plants which occur before they are dug, they noted. Freezing weakens vital plant tissues and the plant breaks down at low storage temperatures. Such plants also have low survival rates after planting.

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