

Irrigation Course Popular With Jackson County Farmers

Last week's short course on irrigation co-sponsored by the Jackson county extension service and Pacific Power and Light company was well attended with 64 people the first day and 74 the second day, according to County Agent Bert G. Wilcox.

Farmers learned how the water moves through the soil, how the plant absorbs water, how various water measuring devices can be used, and irrigation equipment available and its proper use.

Marvin N. Shearer, OSU irrigation specialist, illustrated the proper and improper methods of irrigation with colored slides. The slides of poor irrigation showed water flooding farm land and puddling up. Other slides showed proper use of a distribution system and controlled use of water.

Water has to be supplied at a plant at the same rate it is used and given off, Shearer said.

Wilcox explained how water is stored in the soil as films around soil particles. The finer the soil particles, the greater the surface area covered, he said. An acre furrow slice of silty loam soil when irrigated would provide a surface which would cover Illinois and part of Indiana.

He states, "There is a solution for each ranch, most of them varying a little." Here again the office is ready to give help.

Charts showed the increase in weight of individual animals both in the growth and the fattening period with various types of feed and combinations of feeds. Nelson cited the types used by many of the stockmen who were present in the audience, who were ready to discuss their operations after the meeting.

Other business included the appointment of additional delegates at large to serve with George Williams. They were Gary Townley and Carl Rice.

Mrs. George Flock reported before the State Farm Bureau convention in San Diego in November. Carrol Streeter, editor of Farm Journal, told the conferees that California was ten years ahead of many states in crop production and use of machinery. W. Cleone Skousen spoke on the threat of Communism and that we must be ever mindful of its infiltration into our government.

Forage and Feed Farm Bureau Topics

Montague - Farm Advisors Dave West and Sedg Nelson spoke on forage production and feed utilization, respectively, during the recent Shasta Valley Farm Bureau meeting in Montague.

John McMurry, center chairman, introduced the speakers, both of whom are with Farm Advisor's office in the county court house.

West showed pictures and charts of statistics worked out on a forage experimentation on the C. A. Grissom ranch in Edgewood. West stated "We should gear our production to the forage we can produce." Therefore it is wise to determine how to get the greatest production for the least amount of outlay.

Siskiyou county ranchers are hay and barley exporters as well as shippers of about 30,000 head of cattle annually, West said.

The experiments at Grissom's were with fescue. West pointed out that once fescue gets started no legumes will prosper, therefore some nitrogen fertilizers should be used to stimulate growth.

Other experiments were those conducted on the Star ranch in Fort Jones with Lantana alfalfa. Frost and weather conditions have a great bearing on production of all forage, as well as the timeliness when fertilizers are used. Availability of irrigation water is also a serious consideration, it was pointed out.

Soil testing will help in determining what type of forage each rancher should develop. The testing will also help in deciding what type and the quantity of supplementary fertilizers would be the most effective. West emphasized that personnel from the farm advisor's office are always willing and ready to help each rancher with his individual problems.

Nelson pointed out in his presentation, also done with statistical charts, that farmers should find the best way to feed their own cattle, thus "hooking" the problem of utilizing the large weaner calves which are often not in demand by the buyers.

Chit Chat

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Sunday night, like George Wilson on the TV program, "Dennis The Menace," we cleaned up our study and discarded a ton of notes and various papers, most of it on agriculture.

This convinces us that American agriculture is kept out front by almost as much paper as seed and fertilizer. Of course, chemicals have helped considerable, too, to make the United States a leader agriculturally. Many of the papers and articles we stacked up dealt with the question, "Agricultural Chemicals—Boon or Bane?" as so aptly phrased by Dr. V. H. Freed, chairman of the OSU department of agricultural chemistry.

An article in the National Hog Farmer, June, 1960 stated: "America's abundant food supply—the world's safest, cleanest and most wholesome—currently is being threatened by sensation-seeking administrators of hastily-passed laws." It referred to the Delaney clause of the food additives amendment to the Food, Drug and Cosmetic act. This was the provision under which tons of cranberries were destroyed during the Thanksgiving season of 1959.

Currently, Rachel Carson is being criticized for being a sensation seeker in her book, "Silent Spring" which sounds the alarm over application of agricultural chemicals. However, we think her book might have been more sensational if it had a title like "The Silent Women."

Our little pile of printed material contained several articles by prominent authorities on agricultural chemicals and chemicals in general. Each one generally agreed (few scientists agree exactly on anything) with Dr. Freed's statements.

"Significant advances in agriculture over the past 50 years have allowed 12 per cent of our people to feed and clothe the nation leaving 88 per cent of the people to produce the present high standard of living enjoyed by all," Dr. Freed stated.

The OSU professor traced the settlement of the country and evolution of farm mechanization. This tended to develop specialized crop areas making it possible for one particular crop pest or disease to cover hundreds of acres in one locality and do serious damage on a national as well as local crop scale.

Scientists estimate that North American crops are attacked by over 3,000 economically important species of insects and an equal number of plant disease agents, and an unestimated number of nematodes, rodents, weeds and other destroyers, according to another article.

In 1954 the USDA estimated that to offset pest losses an extra 88 million acres must be cultivated. Losses following harvest would be equal to production from an additional 32 million acres, it was estimated. Various independent agencies have estimated pest destruction in the U.S. each year ranges between 8 and 15 billion dollars. This is equal to a quarter of the nation's annual production despite use of the chemicals now being so severely criticized.

But why can't we use biological controls? some of the better informed people ask—why not find insects which will feed on insects, or weeds and plant diseases? There has been some success with such controls as the Klamath weed beetle on northern California range lands. But, a chemical must be available to control the controlling insect in case it becomes so numerous it gets out of hand.

The European corn borer is a good example. It came into the U. S. in 1908. For over 20 years scientists worked hard to find a cultural control—resistant varieties of corn, better planting dates, parasites and other non-chemical methods of insect control. When it became impossible for mid-western sweet corn canners to process corn without permitting a few borers in the cans, the Food and Drug Administration seized such cans as unfit for human consumption—the same agency which seized the cranberries with spray residue. Insecticides became necessary for the corn.

"Pesticides are frequently accused of upsetting the balance of nature, when in reality it would be more accurate to say that pesticides are used to suppress organisms already out of balance," wrote George C. Decker, principal scientist and head of the section of economic entomology, Illinois.

People don't condemn the automobile because of the numerous serious accidents and traffic fatalities. Nor do they condemn aspirins. Yet, according to authorities, the misuse of aspirin and aspirin-like products alone will account for almost the same number of deaths as do the misuses of all pesticides put together. Pesticides are tested and retested, by chemical companies producing them, by agricultural laboratories in various universities and by government laboratories.

Also, there is a comparatively new law called the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. This specifies required label language for many common household products. Drain cleaners, cleaning compounds and many household products are not dangerous if properly used, but can be highly hazardous if misused. Women would learn if they read the hazard tables in "Clinical Toxicology of Commercial Products" that their favorite perfume "Tantalizing Terrifier" has a misuse potential equaling and even exceeding, perhaps, the misuse potential of common insecticides like chlordane and DDT.

We could cite figures and statistics to illustrate the comparatively few people who die or are injured by insecticides, but you wouldn't remember them and probably wouldn't even read them.

What is even more important is the growing responsibility the scientists who develop these chemicals feel toward the public. The organization fostering this feeling is the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Scientists have descended from their ivory towers, if they were ever there, and individually and as a group accept the responsibility to help see their fellow citizens are fully informed of scientific advances that may affect their environment and lives.



REVIEW GOVERNMENT—Jackson county 4-H club members received a view of the Oregon state government from legislative Fiscal Officer Kenneth Bragg, center, during the annual "Know Your State Government" conference in Salem Feb. 7-9. Bragg was one of the speakers at the banquet which ended the first day's session. Talking with him are Carol Foote, Central Point, and Mike Elmore, Applegate.

Poultry Increase Seen This Year

Corvallis — Increases in national production of eggs, broilers and turkeys can be expected in 1963, reports Charles M. Fischer, Oregon State University extension poultry marketing specialist.

Vegetable Crop Outlook Given

Corvallis — Oregon vegetable growers and processors should take a careful look at stocks on hand when making 1963 planting decisions, points out Roland Groder, Oregon State University extension fruit and vegetable marketing specialist.

Groder makes his comments in an article in the new OSU Farm and Market Outlook circular. Copies are now available at county extension offices.

Yields of most major vegetable crops for processing were larger in 1962 than in 1961. This could lead to lower pricing or heavier carryover in 1963, the specialist notes. During the early part of the current marketing season, buyers in general were buying on current needs and waiting for the market to adjust to the new supply and demand conditions.

Although most 1962 packs finished in heavier supply, increased costs of raw product, processing and distribution may prevent the price-cutting needed to speed up sales and the anticipated price adjustment may not occur. If this happens carryover could be troublesome as the 1963 pack gets underway, he points out.

Siskiyou Farmers Hear of Weevil

Montague - Alfalfa growers of Siskiyou county were given instruction on the alfalfa weevil problem and control recommendations at two meetings on Monday, Feb. 4. One meeting at the Montague hall was at 2 p.m. and the second one the same day at the Fort Jones Elementary school at 8 p.m.

Dr. Carl Koehler, entomologist, from the University of California at Berkeley, worked with Dave West from the Yreka Farm Advisor's office.

The program included an explanation of the weevil problem in the county. The prevalence of the pest is becoming great in both Shasta and Scott Valleys. The danger is in the fact that the adult is so small and is not easily detected while in dormancy. Also, unless the fields are closely inspected the damage often resembles frost damage from the distance, it was pointed out.

Slides were shown to help clarify detection, and also actual specimens were shown in laboratory bottles. The weevil attacks the leaves of the young plants and sucks juice from the stems. Often the crop may be reduced by half from heavy infestation and the hay becomes inferior quality.

Research indicates that if a farmer found weevil damage last year, spraying or dusting is in order, before the new growth has reached a two inch height. A dosage of 4 ounces per acre of either liquid or granulars of Heptachlor has been found effective and stays within U.S.D.A. allowances to avoid residue damage if it is done early. Either ground or air broadcasting is recommended, both being of equal cost.

A small black wasp is the natural enemy of the weevil, but is not found in sufficient quantity to be noticeable in Siskiyou county, West stated.

Cook Pork Well Housewife Told

Salem — Consumers should take with a sizable grain of salt claims such as "just brown and serve" when they prepare raw pork products for the table.

This is the advice of Dr. M. L. Houston, supervisor of the state department of agriculture's meat inspection activity.

Undercooked pork, as everyone knows, may cause the human health problem of trichinosis.

The housewife can protect her family quite easily against possible trichina infection by thorough heating of all raw pork.

But the need to heat thoroughly may be overlooked when labels on many pork variety meats give the impression that they can be prepared in a jiffy. Thin fresh pork cuts, fresh pork patties and links as well as all other pork should be heated through.

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GARDENING TIPS

By JOHN W. McLOUGHLIN
County Extension Agent
Flower Forcing

One of the most rewarding pleasures gardeners have during the winter months is the forcing of spring flowering trees and shrubs for indoor decorations.

Forsythia, spirea and magnolia are just a few of the plants that may be forced. The flower buds of these plants are fully formed in the fall. If we supply some warmth and moisture to the branches of these plants, after they have had at least six weeks of cold weather, they will produce a profusion of bloom.

The branches to cut for indoor forcing can easily be determined. Most spring blooming trees and shrubs have an abundance of buds along the young shoots. The larger, fat-

ter buds are usually flower buds. The smaller buds are leaf buds. Select the branches that contain a good number of flower buds.

Many fruit trees bear their flowers on short branch's called spurs. Select branches with spurs for arrangements using apple, cherry, pear and ornamental crabapple.

Keep in mind the type of arrangement you plan to make. You will then be able to select the branches that are best suited for the arrangement. Branches with curves and angles can be effectively used in various types of arrangements. For ideas on the various types of arrangements and how to make them call the Jackson county extension office (773-8215) and ask for the bulletin on "Arranging Flowers."

Follow good pruning practices when cutting the branches. In addition to obtaining desirable branches for forcing, you want to retain the essential form of the plant. Prune the branches flush with the trunk or main branch. Paint the exposed wood of any cuts over one inch in diameter.

Treatment After Cutting
Pound the end of the stem with a hammer or large stone to encourage water uptake. Then moisten the bud scales by soaking them in a large tub overnight or spray them with water several times a day. Then place the stems in a pail of water.

Place the pail in a cool spot to allow the buds to develop (60 degrees F. is best). A cool cellar or pantry is a good location as no light is necessary during this stage. Higher temperatures will speed up bud development, but will reduce the size, color and keeping quality of the blooms.

Bring the branches into light when the buds are plump. Do not place the branches directly in the sun. An ideal location for this stage of forcing is a cool bedroom or a sun porch that is partly heated.

Arrangement
Remove the branches from the pail and arrange them when the buds are well developed and some color is evident. Branches removed from a crowded pail at this stage are less likely to have bruised or broken flowers than branches removed later. A list of some plants that are successfully forced and a description of their flowers may be obtained from the extension office.

ALL FOR SINGING
Pierre, S.D. — State Sen. Hoedley Dean introduced a resolution Monday to permit singing at the Mt. Rushmore Memorial in South Dakota's Black Hills. The Internal Revenue Service last fall prohibited students from singing before the memorial unless they paid an entertainment tax. Dean said the singing was "a manifestation of freedom's joys."

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