

### Good Water Management Said Benefit To Economy

Water, like timber, is a renewable natural resource and when properly managed can be a source of continuing economic benefit to southern Oregon, according to Harold Sexton, manager of Rogue River Valley Irrigation district.

Sexton made the assessment as part of a talk presented to the members of the Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association, Friday evening in Medford.

Drawing a further parallel between the irrigation districts and the forest products industry, Sexton noted that both are vitally concerned with conservation of the resources in their stewardship, interested in managing the resource in an economic fashion and obligated to work toward greater utilization of the resource for recreational and other bonus community benefits.

#### History of Irrigation

Sexton traced the history of the development of the various irrigation facilities in the Rogue River valley and gave a progress report on the proposed Agate dam. He noted that its prime function is a holding dam for irrigation purposes to be repaid by water users, but that an item for recreational development has been included in the budget.

The irrigation expert pointed out that western water users, as western states forest users, are alarmed over the reintroduction of Senate Bill 174 as Senate Bill 4 and called for community support in pressing for more realistic legislative action in the wilderness and conservation field. It was noted that House Resolution 776, as amended by the House committee on interior and insular affairs, introduced last session, is a better approach in the eyes of western conservation leaders.

#### Rural Areas Changing

One of the biggest problems facing the irrigation districts in the Rogue River valley in the years ahead is the increasing costs of operating facilities in rural areas which are fast approaching urbanization, Sexton said. The time will arrive when agricultural use of water on the valley floor will diminish rather than increase as it is now doing, he continued.

In the long run, Sexton concluded, irrigation districts will be looking toward other uses of water resources to sup-

#### New Heat Circulator May Help Orchardist

In 11 nut and fruit orchards, jet-tipped rotor blades are heating and circulating the air to prevent frost damage, and the machines are likely to catch on fast. They are part of a new generation of agricultural machines now transforming production of many of the nation's table delicacies, according to Fortune magazine.

In California particularly, invention has been rampant and incentive high for the machines' development. The state has the soil and climate to produce a \$36 million strawberry crop, a \$37 million almond harvest, and \$59 million worth of peaches in a year. But farm labor is usually in short supply. Now a farmer may prepare his land, plant, clean, and pack the produce—all mechanically, according to an article in Fortune magazine.

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### Midway Auction Sells 458 Cattle; Market Lively

A total of 458 cattle were sold at the Midway Auction yard on Table Rock rd. at the regular Friday, Feb. 8 sale, according to Bill Bray, owner-manager.

"The market was active and higher on stocker calves," Bray reported.

Good to choice steer calves sold for \$30 to \$33. A pen of three brought \$33, a pen of five \$32.75, a pen of three \$31.70 and a pen of three \$31.10.

A pen of six Angus calves weighing 462 pounds average sold for \$28.10 and a pen of nine head of Angus calves averaging 544 pounds went out at \$27.60.

Most good calves weighing between 400 and 500 pounds sold from \$26 to \$29.50. Heifer calves were in good demand, going from \$25 to \$27.70.

Yearling steers are not as high now as they have been for the past three months, Bray said. Most 600 to 700 pound steers sold between \$23 to \$25.

Heavy feeder steers weighing 800 to 900 pounds were slow at \$21 to \$23.

"Holstein steer calves are hot now. We sold good 300 to 400 pound Holsteins at \$25 to \$28.75. Steers weighing 400 to 500 pounds sold at \$23 to \$24 and 500 to 650 pound yearlings sold at \$21 to \$23.

"Our cow and calf market was good," Bray said. Good, young pairs sold from \$220 to \$262.50 per pair. Medium aged cows with calves went out at \$200 to \$220 and several pens of aged cows with calves sold at \$190 to \$217.50 per pair.

A load of 42 standard low good Holstein heifers shipped in from Idaho, sold from \$20 to \$22.40 and averaged \$21.50.

"There was a good run of slaughter cows this week," Bray said. "About 75 head were in the sale. Good, fat, young cows sold from \$17 to \$19.40. Heavy utility cows sold for \$15 to \$16.90. Cutters sold for \$13 to \$15 and canners went out at \$10 to \$12.50," Bray said.

"We expect a good run again this week. Already consigned to this week's sale are 25 cows with calves, 50 head of stocker calves and 30 head of feeder steers and 25 head of Angus springer cows," Bray announced.

### Conference Set For Forestry

Corvallis—Woodland owners facing increased competition in marketing of forest products can study new methods and approaches to forest management at a special Feb. 27 to March 1 conference at Oregon State university.

Market outlook, improved harvesting methods, problems caused by the Oct. 12 blow-down, and possible ways of meeting increased competition are among key topics.

The conference will open at the OSU Forestry building, Feb. 27 at 1 p.m., according to Charles Ross, OSU extension forestry specialist.

Conference chairman is Dan D. Robinson, professor of forest management in the OSU School of Forestry, which is co-sponsoring the event with the extension service.

Advance registration is requested by Feb. 10. A small registration fee will be payable at the conference. Complete information may be obtained from local county extension agents or from Ross, OSU Forestry Building, Corvallis.

### Orchard Facts In Publication

Corvallis—Three fact sheets designed to help prune growers with basic decisions about orchard sites, rootstocks and management of young orchards have been prepared by Robert L. Stebbins, Oregon State university extension horticultural specialist. Copies are now available at county extension offices.

The first, "Site Selection and Planting of Prune Orchards," outlines factors such as soil depth which should be considered in selecting a prospective orchard site. Information about designing the orchard and how to plant young prune trees is also included in the one-page leaflet.

"Prune Rootstocks for Western Oregon" reports on three rootstock varieties collected from experiments at the OSU Lewis-Brown Experimental Farm near Corvallis. No one rootstock can be recommended, Stebbins writes, since choice of rootstocks depends upon the orchard site where trees are to be planted. Information about peach roots, Myrobalan Plum seedlings and Myrobalan 20-C roots is included in the fact sheet.

### FARM Woodlot Facts

By DICK OLSON  
State Farm Forester

Last week in this column the subject of deer damage to trees was examined. This week's article will deal with probably the most enemy of young Pine seedlings—The rabbit family.

Of the eight native and introduced rabbits or hares that occur in the Pacific Northwest, four are reported to cause damage to young conifers. In Southwest Oregon our main rabbit pests are the black tail jack rabbit and the brush rabbit. In general, their living habits, the damage done by them and the control are the same.

The rabbit is primarily nocturnal, foraging in open clearings at night and spending the day under cover of logs or dense vegetation. Damage done by these animals to reforestation or Christmas tree plantations in this area is heavy because of the surrounding brush habitat.

The damage done by rabbits is easily distinguishable from other wildlife because of their unique eating habit. All rabbits produce clipping injuries which are similar in appearance. When clipping a conifer, rabbits leave a clean, knife-like oblique cut on the remaining portion of the stem. Repeated clipping suppresses height growth and in some cases completely kills seedlings. I have seen entire one acre plantations which were damaged in a single night by rabbits. One angry plantation owner blamed the damage on boys with knives. The damage that a band of hungry rabbits can do to your crop is endless.

Control Methods  
Several methods of control can be activated. It has been found that one method of killing rabbits in an area works, but it does not necessarily work in another area. Also, one method might not work one season, but will work at a different season. For this reason, I suggest you call your county agent's farm forester's office at the time your problem occurs and discuss controlling methods for that specific season. Poison grain, strychnine on carrots and salt mixtures are only a few examples of controlling methods.

A successful Christmas tree plantation or reforestation planting and, in some cases, survival of natural reproduction is dependent on these rabbit control techniques. Do not sell this pest short or he is liable to cut your trees short.

Remember Feb. 16 and March 9. These are the dates for the Jackson county farm forestry field trip tours. This Saturday's tour will depart from the State Forestry headquarters on Table Rock rd., Medford, at 9:30 a.m.

Subjects of discussion and viewing will be Christmas tree growing and timber stand improvement. Also, after lunch at the Riverview Cafe in Shady Cove, the group will tour Teppers Treeseed Inc. in Shady Cove. An interesting day's program is planned and it is hoped by the counties' farm forestry committee there will be a good turnout. For more details—please call your county agent—773-8215—or your farm forester—664-1213.

### Fertilizer Law Now in Force

Salem—The state department of agriculture calls attention to feed and fertilizer buyers and sellers to revisions in regulations which became effective Jan. 1 as result of hearings held last October.

Two supplement elements, chlorine and sodium at minimum amounts of 1/10th of 1 per cent, were approved for addition in fertilizers.

In fertilizers offered for sale, labels must show the percentages of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash. But supplemental elements may be labeled only as to name because when added they must meet minimum amounts specified in the regulation, which also names the supplemental elements which may be contained in fertilizers.

### Grain Program For Local Farms Related by ASC

Farmers who grew corn, grain sorghum, or barley on their farms in 1959 or 1960 are now able to sign up to participate in the 1963 feed grain program, Albert Straus, chairman of the Jackson county agricultural stabilization and conservation committee said today.

Sign up period for the voluntary feed grain program has been set for Feb. 1 through March 22.

The same sign up period also applies to farmers who want to take part in the 1963 wheat stabilization program. For information and to sign up farmers should call at the ASCS office on the third floor, courthouse annex, Medford.

The chairman listed the following principal features of the 1963 feed grain program: (1) The program is voluntary. (2) It applies to corn, grain sorghum, and barley, for which crops the base acreages are added together into one "feed grain base" for the farm. (3) Program participants must take at least 20 per cent of the total base out of production and devote such acres to a conservation use. (4) A program participant must not exceed the feed grain base for any other farm in which he has an interest in the feed grain crops. (5) Diversion payments will be made to participants for shifting acreage from production into conservation. (6) Price-support payments (18 cents a bushel for corn, 14 cents for barley, and 16 cents for grain sorghum) will be made to program participants on the normal production of their 1963 feed grain acreage, no matter what use is made of the grains. (7) Regular price-support loans and purchase agreements on the three feed grains will be available only to participants, and they will be available on the entire 1963 production of the three feed grains.

### Weed Infestation Caused by Flood, Control Required

By RAY HUBBELL  
Weed Control Supervisor

Much damage from our recent high water it still quite evident throughout the valley. Banks of ditches and creeks in many areas have disappeared and have been deposited elsewhere. Topsoil in many instances has been washed down stream or deposited at some down stream bend of the creek. Road shoulders were washed away into fields along with all sorts of trash and debris.

This is all evidence we can see, however still other prospects of possible damage are likely to appear later on this year. This damage will come in the deposits of weed seeds uncovered and spread by the high waters, unwanted weed seeds from creek banks and waste areas where no control measures have been taken, or from deposits of seed in creek bottoms and banks uncovered and spread with the erosion of these areas.

The possibility of some of our noxious weeds being among flood-distributed seed is quite likely. Known areas such as Little Butte creek and the possible spread of white cockle, ragweed and Johnson grass will be surveyed and control measures taken. White top in the Daisy creek area as well as Johnson grass in the Jackson creek area will be surveyed for needed control.

Many of these flooded areas will be exposed to new infestations of annual and perennial weeds. It will be to the property owner's benefit to recognize this fact and to keep an eye open for any unknown weeds that may appear this next spring. Check on the identity of these and use control measures to prevent them from becoming established. This will be a much easier job the first year and costs can be kept at a minimum. Delayed control of two or three years on some perennials will allow them to become well established, presenting both a problem of control and economy.

### Forest Practices Feature of Tour

Forest practices from processing tree seeds to thinning and pruning established stands will be seen on the forestry tour sponsored by the Jackson county forestry committee, according to Earle Josy, county extension agent.

The tour will be Feb. 16 and will start at the State Forestry Office on Table Rock rd. at 9:30 a.m.

Tour stops will include observation of pruning, thinning and tree planting on U.S. Forest Service land at Butte Falls. Lunch at the Riverview cafe at Shady Cove where Barney Douglas, Christmas tree specialist with the U.S. Forest Service will show colored slides and talk about Christmas tree culture. This will be followed up with a visit to Ed Tippen's tree seed processing plant in Shady Cove. The tour will conclude with a stop at the Robert Sage Christmas tree plantation at Table Rock. Anyone interested in tree culture will be welcome on this tour.

For further information call Dick Olson at the Oregon Forestry office or the Jackson County Extension office.

More than one-quarter of the world's supply of salt in 1960 came from the United States.

### Milk Production Hits 37-Year Low

Corvallis—Milk production in Oregon in 1962 dropped to the lowest level in 37 years, principally because of the decline in the number of dairy farms and total number of milk cows, reported Stephen C. Marks, Oregon State University extension agricultural economist.

With December's milk production still to be recorded, the state's milk output during the first 11 months of 1962 stood at 1 billion 18 million pounds, down 31 million from the same months in 1961, he noted. Total production for the year is sure to be less than 1.1 billion pounds for the first time since 1925.

In 1925, Oregon dairymen produced 1 billion 47 million pounds of milk. Production went up steadily until 1942 when it peaked at nearly 1.5 billion pounds. Since then, the trend has been downward in all but five of the last 20 years, the economist pointed out.

The total number of milk cows on Oregon farms dropped from a peak of 282,000 in 1934 to 157,000 in 1961 and a further decline occurred in 1962. At the same time average milk production per cow increased 1,740 pounds to a record high of 7,140 pounds in 1961.

**BLAST KILLS CAPTAIN**  
New York—(UP)—An explosion apparently caused by a propane gas leak blasted away the superstructure of a tugboat Monday killing its captain. Authorities said Capt. John V. Hanson, 46, Cliffwood Beach, N.J., triggered the fatal blast when he turned on the ignition and pressed the starter button of his craft.

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