

Farm Machinery Course Set Feb. 25-27 at Fair Grounds

Ever since Cyrus McCormick patented his reaper in 1834 proper care and operation of farm machinery has been an increasing part of a farmer's job.

Now, safe and efficient methods of maintenance and operation of farm machinery must be demonstrated to the farmer. This is the purpose of the farm machinery course scheduled for the Jackson extension service auditorium Monday, Feb. 25 through Wednesday, Feb. 27.

The first session is lubrication of farm machinery by R. H. Feeley, Mobile Oil company, Portland. He will explain during the first morning session, at 9:40 to 11 o'clock, how engine parts built to fine precision and close tolerance must be properly lubricated to relieve friction, carry off heat, create an oil seal between rings and cylinders and prevent blow-by and loss of power.

Farm & Garden

Pear Promotion Set Nation-Wide

Fresh winter pears, "The Sweetest Fruit in Season" will be the message told to the nation in the current advertising and sales promotion

campaign for west coast D'Anjou pears. Included in the nation-wide promotion will be fresh pears from the Rogue River area.

Strict Planning Followed Through FFA Activities

Editor's Note: The following story on the supervised farming program in Future Farmers of America and the high school vocational agriculture program marks National FFA week being observed this week.

Supervised farming is a very important part of Vocational Agriculture and the FFA.

A few of the things supervised farming does is provide a boy with some spending money, but before he can earn money he must spend some to acquire the animals and to feed them. In this way he learns something about financial responsibility and how it is to be spent and how hard it is to earn it.

Also this keeps the boys from running around town after school. They have something to do at home such as working fields or cleaning barns or taking care of animals.

If a boy wishes to go into farming his project will give him a good start. He may have to work elsewhere for a while, but eventually he can become a full time farmer.

As an example of the start toward full time farming or a college education, 85 Crater High FFA boys in 1962 had a supervised project inventory worth \$32,000 or average of \$400 per boy. Phoenix has in their chapter, 56 members and a total inventory of \$18,000. In the Eagle Point chapter there are 52 members with a total of \$30,000.

I feel that one of the most important parts of supervised farming is "learning by doing." You may ask "if a boy is not going to be a farmer what is important about raising crops or livestock?" To answer this, many people are now living and will be living in rural areas. These people may raise calves for locker meat in which the farming experience will be of great help.

Also, these people will have lawns and shrubs which will need fertilization. From project experience they will know what kind and how much fertilizer to apply.

I feel as many other people that supervised farming is a very important part of Future Farmers of America.

"Salt in California," a report by the California Division of Mines and Geology, will be used as a manual on salt production for Korean students. The book describes in detail how more than a million tons of salt a year are taken from California waters.

The campaign opens Feb. 21 and will continue through March, reports Dick Patterson, general manager of the Oregon-Washington-California Pear Bureau, Portland, Ore. More than 75 radio stations in 35 of the nation's largest consuming areas, including Toronto and Montreal, will be used.

Winter pears are grown especially for this time of year. Once ripened, they are the juiciest and sweetest fruit available on the market, the Bureau claims.

"February and March promise to be extra big sales months for pears this year. While other fruits and vegetables are in short supply due to freezes and strikes, D'Anjou pears are more plentiful than usual," Patterson pointed out. "Retail produce men have already found that pears are a good feature item for maintaining volume."

Remaining supplies of D'Anjou pears are of unusual good condition and the sizes are in the most desirable and merchandisable range 100's to 150's, Patterson added.

An example of a 30-second radio spot, including a 10-second tag, is: "Listen, fresh fruit lovers! The sweetest fruit in season... fresh Anjou pears are now at their peak of goodness. They're THE fresh, sweet, fruit grown especially for this time of year. Enjoy pears often now in lunch boxes, snacks, salads and desserts. Eat lots of fresh pears and stay slim. They're sweet and juicy, but low in calories."

The bureau's ten merchandising representatives, located in the large consuming areas, have colorful display material available, including: banners, die-cut pears, bin strips, and recipe folders. They also have merchandising kits and other sales aids to help retailers move more pears for bigger profits.

Sheep Care Told By OSU Expert

J. H. Landers, OSU extension animal husbandry specialist, instructed Jackson County sheep men in the proper care of sheep during the recent session in the county extension office auditorium. Instruction included internal parasites, trimming of feet, proper tagging of ears, docking, treatment of foot rot.

Landers displayed recommended sheep shelters, a new three-way cutting gate. Sheep for the demonstration were provided by Ernie Lathrop, Central Point and Dick Davis, Roberts rd.

The wool and lamb pool meeting scheduled for the same day was postponed to allow more farmers to attend. A wool and lamb pool meeting will be held at 8 p.m., Wednesday in the Jackson County Extension service auditorium, County Agent Earle Jossy announced. All sheepmen of Jackson county are urged to attend.

Chit Chat

By JOE COWLEY Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Not long ago a dignified little lady approached a local government official, slammed her small fist on his desk and exclaimed, "Get off your dead end!"

As might have been anticipated, this had rather startling results. The official turned pale and retorted, "Why, Mrs. —, if you were a man I'd ——" But this little lady's project became reality and is rapidly becoming an institution in the county. And what is even more amazing, those who were "agin" it are now all for it, including the forenamed official.

Now comes the water problem in the Rogue Valley — not enough pure drinking water for domestic use. But, instead of the citizens going to the local government for action, it is turnabout. Local government officials might well go to the local citizens, slam their fists down on their TV sets and exhort, "Get off your dead ends!" For if the problem is going to be solved the local citizens must form committees, then work with local, state and national governments for surveys and technical help. But, "from the people" is the key phrase here, not "for the people."

The machinery is available. U. S. Army Corps of Engineers will work out a domestic water allocation from Elk and Lost creek dams on the Rogue river. But how to deliver it?

This would require a metropolitan water district. Such is provided in House Bill 1343.

"A metropolitan water district may include territory located within the corporate limits of two or more municipalities. The corporate boundaries of municipalities whose territory is included in a metropolitan water district need not be contiguous," according to the bill.

This does not seem practical. It would seem to us the territory would have to be "contiguous" to avoid "islands." But, this provision does allow exclusion of, say, large landholders who would feel overburdened with a front foot assessment for water pipelines stretching along their acreage-farmers, for instance.

We feel this is a county matter, but the bill provides: "The board of a municipality may declare by resolution that public convenience and necessity require the formation of a metropolitan water district. The estimated costs and expenses shall include the amount to be paid by each municipality included within the district."

"Each municipality shall pay substantially the amount of the total costs and expenses as the assessed valuation of the property located within the municipality bears to the total assessed valuation of all property located within all municipalities included within the district." In other words, each city in the district would pay an amount based on the value of property within its city limits.

The city originating this proposal would call an election in all cities which have approved the resolution.

The bill would give the district the right to: "grant, purchase, bequest, devise or lease, and to hold, enjoy, lease, sell or otherwise dispose of, any and all real and personal property of any kind within or without the district and within and without the state necessary or convenient to the full exercise of its powers." This sounds too all-inclusive, and therefore a dangerous power.

One thing which is good and assures all towns participating the right to be heard is the provision which allows "the board of each member municipality" to appoint a delegate to vote for the directors of the district.

These are what we think are the more controversial provisions of House Bill 1343. Every citizen who is concerned with water problems and future growth of this valley should write the clerk of the house of representatives, Salem, for a copy of the bill and study it thoroughly; then write his legislative delegation expressing his opinions.

Should the small farmer, owner of a one-acre tract, be allowed to vote at irrigation district elections? A number of Josephine county people say they should have sent a petition to the state legislature proposing such a bill. The proposal is to allow one vote for one acre so a man with 40 acres would have 40 votes, etc.

The question is, could the small landholders muster enough votes to beat the large acreage owners at an election? Also, does a district with voters from a large number of small tracts have stability? Observers of one such district say it does not. Not being full-time farmers these small land-owners don't show the interest and don't turn out for elections, some observers say. This is an issue which might be worth kicking around for awhile.

Small farmers in California are also organizing to compete "more equitably with big-scale agriculture." In California they call it the Western Water and Power Users Council.

The idea is get federal loans to help "qualified small farmers" acquire excess land awaiting disposal in federal reclamation areas. The group supports public power development on reclamation projects, also. We question whether it is fair to close the gate on private power development from such projects.

Under the Federal Reclamation Act of 1902, beneficiaries of a federal irrigation project are allowed to receive only enough water to service 160 acres. And landholders with more than 160 acres must dispose of the excess land within 10 years after they sign up for the water. However, California's community property law would allow a husband and wife to retain up to 320 acres.

California's smaller farmers have contended vigorously that the Feather River project is designed to help the corporate holders of vast tracts and not the average or smaller farmer.

The first goal listed by the council should be particularly interesting to Rogue Valley residents: "Federal assistance for sound comprehensive resource-development projects to provide municipal and agricultural water and power supplies in the western states."

Well, more power to the small farmer. The Jackson county extension service and Pacific Power and Light company are to be commended on the recent irrigation short course. Even those well informed on proper irrigation practices say they learned a lot. Marvin Shearer, OSU irrigation specialist, was praised for his talk. Now the extension service has announced a farm machinery care and maintenance service short course organized by County Extension Agents Earle Jossy and Donald Berry for Feb. 25-27. It, too, promises to be a good one.

Series of Meetings Set For Valley Rabbit Growers

Rabbit growers of the Rogue Valley are attending a series of classes and meetings sponsored by the Jackson county extension service to assist this new and rapidly growing agricultural industry.

Peak shipments of rabbits as fryers from both Jackson and Josephine counties is expected to hit 3,000 rabbits this year.

One of the major outlets for fryers produced in this area is the Mt. Eden Rabbit company of San Leandro, Calif., whose Oregon agent is John

Trantham of Gold Hill. He buys and trucks rabbits on regular runs between southern Oregon and the San Francisco Bay area.

To Hear of Markets Thursday, at 7:45 p.m., in the Jackson County Extension service auditorium, rabbit men will hear about market-

ing and record keeping, according to County Agent Earle Jossy who is organizing the meetings and classes and acting as master of ceremonies.

Thursday, Feb. 28, Dr. Gil Dow, of Albers Feed, will talk on diseases, probable cures and feed conversion. The following Thursday, March 7, a representative of the Fontana, California experiment station will speak on research findings there.

Over 60 people attended the rabbit school last Thursday when Dr. Ralph Bogart, Oregon State university animal science department, lectured on genetics and breeding.

During the first meeting, Feb. 7, rabbit growers heard talks from other growers on various phases of rabbit production.

R. J. Ritchey, Medford, talked on the different types of rabbit housing. He used as an illustration the types that were used from the days of the warrens to the type now used by the commercial grower.

For example, a building 18 feet wide would house four rows of hutches, one single on each side, and a double row through the center with adequate space for the runways between.

He told of an extension service plan using peeled fir poles which would cut the cost to a few cents a foot. He also answered questions from the group concerning costs, methods and types of the several building programs. The Farmers' Supply had a pattern of the type of truss used in different types of building.

Hutches Explained John Truly, Beal lane, Medford, talked of the different types of hutches now in use, how to build them and the cost of several types. He also told of the kinds and types of nest boxes used, and the preference of growers. He also demonstrated how they were constructed.

Truly told of the types of separators used in making hutches, the coverings for nest boxes he found satisfactory and convenient. He recommends dual purpose nest boxes or boxes used by two does. One doe is shut out while the other uses it. To shut out the weather the floor of the box is covered by one-fourth inch mesh hardware cloth. In cooler weather paper or some other material can be used as a floor covering to help keep the young rabbits warm.

Charles W. Call, Medford, explained the types of feeders and watering equipment used. He told of the costs of implementation and upkeep. The most successful watering equipment used by many is the dew drop system with installation of a "Heatsun" cable. Although costly, once in operation with thermostat control there is little if any further trouble during cold weather. During warm weather the cable is not in use.

Gene Mars, Rogue River, demonstrated palpating does. This operation tells if a doe is with young before she is due to settle, thereby saving 12 to 14 days if it is found the doe has not conceived. Mars demonstrated he can tell to the day when the animal was bred. He stated it required lots of practice. If it is tried by someone who is not proficient it could easily injure the animal, he warned. He told of the growth of young rabbits and how each few days the size and position of the young changes within the doe rabbit.

Irrigation Ditch Weed Control Steps Outlined

By RAY HUBBELL Weed Control Supervisor

Ditch banks are commonly covered with various weeds and grasses that are especially troublesome.

They contribute to the spread of disease, harbor insects and rodents, and slow the flow of water. More time is required to irrigate and maintenance costs go up, not to mention the spread of weed seed that contaminate the cropland being irrigated.

All kinds of weeds find a home along irrigation ditches. Annuals and perennials, both grassy and broadleaf plants. Good weed control of this wide range of plants requires careful selection of the chemical, as well as the time of application.

Perennial seedlings are easily controlled. After they become established, specific chemicals are needed and costs go up. Annual weeds and grasses can be controlled with either pre- or post-emergent treatment of several chemicals. Simazine, Atrazine, Karmex and Telvar are most popular. Some areas may require a combination of two of the above materials and possibly the addition of Amino Triazole or Amitrol T (liquid form of Amino Triazole). In some cases 2,4-D can be added to an advantage.

Treated areas should not be disturbed following treatment. If ditches are to be cleaned or banks built up this work should be done prior to treatment. Use Moderation The theory of "if a little does a little good, more will do it better" has not proven out with chemicals. By putting our irrigation ditches weed control program on a yearly maintenance basis, it has shown light rates of these materials properly applied will provide good weed control, cut time in labor and maintenance, and keep costs within reason.

Annual applications will be required. We must face the fact there isn't any one time treatment that can answer all the problems. Plans should be made for this work as it is with fertilizing, irrigation or harvest. Wettable powders such as those mentioned require good mechanical agitation. Read the label and follow these instructions. Know what is being used and how it is to be used. Misused chemicals can be costly.

Wiring Booklet Published by OSU Corvallis — By carefully planning his electrical wiring, a farmer can save money, reduce hazards and make his work more convenient.

A good wiring system should be: Safe — preventing shocks and fires; adequate for present and future loads; convenient, with outlets where they are easy to use; efficient, so simple power can be obtained for the least cost; and easy to expand for future loads.

A bulletin available to Oregon residents from county extension offices or the OSU bulletin clerk, Corvallis, tells how to plan wiring for buildings as well as outside wiring (both underground and overhead).

Specific examples of typical building requirements are told, and work sheets are provided to guide farmers in planning their own wiring needs.

FROM THE GROUND UP

By BART BARTLETT

At this time of year many weed species are appearing in lawns.

The weed plants are usually seedlings and have at this time very simple root systems. This is the time to control such weeds as sour dock, dandelion and plantain with a hormone type weed killer.

There is less danger from drift of the weed killer onto valuable landscape plants at this time of year and the seedling stage of the weed plants are very susceptible to chemical control at this time.

Home owners also should think about scale and aphid control. It is possible that under the new pesticide regulations that they may not be able to buy and use certain materials for late spring and summer use as controls for these pests. Therefore, a spray now of such non-toxic materials as lime sulfur and oil may be necessary for adequate control. Consult your chemical supply dealer for advice and spray materials.

It is also advisable to make plantings now of landscape plants. The season is rather early and some soils may be very wet, but even so new plants of woody species should be in place at this time.

Sill Too Early The season is still not right for frost tender plants. It is far better in terms of results to plant or seed frost tender plants at a time when they will grow off rapidly, rather than plant them early. Plants of this sort that are put out too early are subject to many diseases and at best only stand still. Last year many early plantings had to be replanted to insure a crop at all. At best the plantings and seedlings made in April produced flowers and fruits no earlier than those that were made late, during the month of May.

Peaches should be sprayed soon for control of leaf curl and other possible pests. Consult your chemical dealer for materials and information.

Orchardists should consider a late spray of an oil plus a phosphate where getting on a dormant lime sulfur plus oil is a difficult operation due to wet soil conditions.

Young fruit trees are very often greatly delayed in their growth by severe pruning that is calculated to train them properly. The most important crop young fruit trees can grow is leaves. It is the leaves that feed and build strong root systems. In turn, it is a good root system that later supports a vigorous, high producing fruit tree. It is wise to prune young fruit trees as little as possible. Their first fruit crop will spread the limbs so that an open centered tree will be the result.

A final word on deer. Everyone interested in this problem should recheck the column by Hank DeVoss in last week's Tribune. It would seem that there are plenty of deer. They are difficult to find sometimes right by the roadside and it is possible that this is what is disturbing the hunters on wheels.

409 Cattle Sold At Midway Yard; Market Active

A total of 409 cattle were sold at Midway Auction yard on Table Rock rd. at the regular Friday, Feb. 15 sale.

Owner-Manager Bill Bray noted the market continues active and strong.

Good to choice steer calves sold from \$29.50 to \$32. A pen of three head, 350 pound steers sold at \$32. O pen of six head, 325 pounds, sold at \$30.50. Other penlots and singles sold in the above range, Bray said.

Good to choice heifer calves went out at \$25 to \$27. Several penlots sold from \$26 to \$26.50.

Yearling steers, at 550 to 650 pounds, sold for \$24 to \$27. A pen of six head of 700 pound steers sold at \$24.

Medium to good yearling steers brought \$21 to \$23. Good yearling heifers brought \$21 to \$23. Medium to good heifers sold for \$19 to \$21.

Holstein steer calves mostly sold at \$25 to \$26 for the best. One extra good calf sold at \$27.50. Medium grade Holstein steer calves sold from \$23 to \$24.

A nice pen of 20 Angus cows with 13 calves at their side sold for \$226 a head. A pen of 19 head of big, medium aged springer cows sold for \$215 per head and a pen of 12 head of aged cows from the same ranch went out at \$200.

A pen of very old Hereford cows with big calves at their sides sold for \$192.50 and other pairs went out from \$185 to \$220 per head.

Slaughter bulls sold from \$19.10 to \$20.10. Choice veal sold from \$25 to \$27. Medium to good veal were going out as stockers for higher prices than the butcher could pay.

Good fat cows sold from \$16 to \$18. Most utility cows sold at \$14 to \$15.50 while cullers sold from \$12.50 to \$14. Cannors are still around at \$8 to \$12.

"We have some very fine consignments of stock calves and springer cows for this week's sale," Bray said. "Watch the livestock for sale column in this paper Wednesday and Thursday."

4-H'ers Active In Siskiyou County

Yreka — The number of 4-H project completions in Siskiyou county show a satisfactory increase, noted Bill Ruddiman, Siskiyou county farm advisor for 4-H.

Three club had 100 per cent completions: Big Springs, Butte Valley and Grenada. They were also among the highest the previous year. Big Springs had 93 per cent, Butte Valley 85 per cent, and Grenada 97 per cent. The county average for 1962 was 86 per cent compared to 82 per cent in 1961.

Jan. 26 is the 4-H leader banquet at the Edgewood Farm Center hall.

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