

Mechanical Monster Skims Over "Sticky," Tires Promising

A huge mechanical monster on tires 5 feet, 8 inches in diameter churned through heavy mud in Sticky Lane orchard Saturday noon as a small group of local orchardists watched closely.

Would the huge self-propelled spray machine bog down in the thick molasses type mud of the "Big Sticky" country near Vilas rd. and McLaughlin drive? The orchardists were out to see for themselves.

Ward Common, of the Ward Common Manufacturing company, Halsey, Ore., easily maneuvered the machine, carrying a water-filled 550 gallon tank, backward and forward. It skimmed over the aptly named "Big Sticky" mud as a water beetle over a mill-pond.

This was important to the orchardists since their crawler tractor - pulled spray rigs cut up the soft ground making it harder to work the orchard ground later. As one orchardist remarked it left only "footprints" in the mud.

They and Jackson County Horticultural Agent Clifford B. Cordy agreed such tires, perhaps on a smaller scale, have "good future possibilities." They had hoped to have Commons bring in a rig with smaller tires (more practical between orchard rows) but this was the only rig he had available for the quickly called demonstration.

Commons described the tires as 60 by 42 by 18 and full of air to make them as light as possible. He made his own wheels for the Good-year tires. Cost per tire is \$2,700, and for the entire rig \$8,500 to \$9,000 new.

The machine, custom-made by Commons, is called a Wolverine. It has a standard Oldsmobile 98 engine and standard parts to make part replacement easy. It burns, under average orchard use, 20 gallons a day compared to 50 gallons a day in the usual speed sprayer using a big industrial truck engine with 275 to 300 horse-power. The huge Wolverine will do 50 miles an hour on the road.

Commons towed it up here from Halsey with the front end resting on a truck especially equipped with large airplane type tires on the rear.

There are six such machines in use in Oregon. This is the first rig of its type in the United States, Commons said.

Such a machine which can maneuver easily in heavy mud without tearing up the ground is important to orchardists working the approximately 5,000 acres of "Big Sticky" country between Medford and Central Point. Orchardists indicated they were more interested in possibly adapting such tires to their own orchard - manufactured equipment than buying the complete machine, although some may do this.

Saturday's demonstration is a follow-up of one made last year with a rear-wheel drive machine on such huge tires towing a spray rig. This three - wheel drive machine Saturday appeared more satisfactory to the orchardists who had it put through every possible test including a drive through a swimming pool size mud hole alongside a road.



SPRAY RIG—This huge self-propelled spray rig was tested in the "big sticky" country off Vilas rd. and McLaughlin drive Saturday noon. The huge tires passed every test on the gumbo type soil. The "Wolverine" is custom made by the Ward Common Manufacturing company, Halsey. It carries a 550 gallon tank.



HUGE TIRES—This air-filled tire 5 feet, 8 inches in diameter easily rolls through the thick mud in the "Sticky Lane" orchard off Vilas rd. Yet, it did not dig up the ground. Each tire costs \$2,700.

FARM Woodlot Facts

By DICK OLSON
State Farm Forester

"THE TRUST IN TREES PROGRAM"

At present there are 31,178 woodland owners (about two-thirds of them farmers) who have control of some 3,637,000 acres in Western Oregon alone. With this acreage under good management there is a reasonable potential of 1,800,000,000 board feet of growth per year. The economic importance of these figures can be readily appreciated when it is pointed out that our present annual cut in the state is about 8 billion board feet.

The agriculture committee of the Portland Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the statewide "Trust in Trees Program." The purpose of this program is to give recognition to a forest farmer for outstanding work in Woodlot Management. The committee believes by sponsoring this program, they will be making a very substantial contribution to the welfare of the State of Oregon.

This is the first year that Jackson County will be participating in the program. The Kiwanis Club Agriculture and Conservation committee of Medford and the Jackson County Farm Forestry committee are co-sponsoring the local contest. The co-sponsors believe that by participating in this program, they can call attention to good forest management on small private holdings. The county winner will be given an award locally and his name will be submitted to the Portland Chamber of Commerce for the State level contest.

Nominations on the county level can be made by anyone to the local program's judging committee chairman, Dick Olson - Phone 664-3000. Nominations will be judged by local county judges, who will be qualified personnel of which three - fifths will be practicing foresters. The local winner will be given recognition at the Kiwanis' first meeting in May.

ADULT FORESTRY TOUR

On Saturday, May 4th, an adult forestry tour will be held in Josephine County for small landowners. The purpose of this tour is to promote interest by the private landowner to practice good forest management in his woodlot. An interesting and instructive schedule has been worked out to cover a variety of forest conditions and subjects. Qualified discussion leaders will be along to lead in pointed discussions.

Several private ownerships will be visited in the Sunny Valley and Grants Pass areas. Main subjects of discussion will be: Woodland Planning; Commercial Thinning; Pre-Commercial Thinning and Christmas Tree Growing.

Announcements concerning this tour will be released at a later date through the local news media.

Contact your County Agent's Office in Grants Pass if you would like further information.

REMEMBER . . .

The state department of Forestry fire season is now in effect.

Contact your local fire protection agency for burning permits. Let's all do our part to reduce man caused fires. During 1962 there were by far too many smokers, debris burning, incendiary and miscellaneous fires.

REMEMBER . . . ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES!

Antibiotic-salt mixes such as Terramycin and salt offers a convenient way to get beef cattle to take continuous, low-level amounts of antibiotics. Growth rate increases, health is better, ranchers report.

Pregnant cows in iodine deficient areas must be fed stabilized iodized salt to prevent "big neck" or goiter.

1963 Crop Plans Set, Planting Shows Drop

Corvallis - Oregon farmers generally plan little change in 1963 spring planted crops from last year, according to the March planting intentions report issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Total acreage planned for spring planted crops in Oregon shows a one per cent decrease from 1962, notes Mrs. Elvera Horrell, Oregon State university extension agricultural economist.

Oregon Protests Trucker Requests

Salem - Proposed reduction by trucklines of rates on fresh meat hauled from Midwest meat packers to Pacific Coast markets is bringing a strong protest from livestock men of Oregon and Washington.

The Oregon Cattlemen's association, the Oregon Dairyman's association, Oregon Public Utilities commission and Oregon Department of Agriculture protested the proposed reduction recently at a hearing before the Interstate Commerce commission in Chicago. They were represented by Thomas W. Dench, chief rate analyst for the Oregon PUC transportation division.

Also at the hearing from Oregon was State Rep. Staffer Hansell, Hermiston, who testified in behalf of himself and other Oregon hog and cattle producers; and the Portland Freight Traffic association, which included data developed by the Oregon state department of agriculture.

In his report to the department of agriculture and livestockmen on the hearing, Dench said the decision on the reduced rate request appears to rest on the trucking firms' ability to show the proposed rates will be fully compensatory for hauling costs.

New Bulletin Out On Strawberries

Corvallis - A bulletin placing particular emphasis on factors affecting yields and longevity of strawberry plantings has just been published by Oregon State university under the title "Strawberry Growing in Oregon."

The bulletin, written by George F. Waldo, U. S. Department of Agriculture horticulturist stationed at OSU, and R. Ralph Clark, OSU extension horticulturist, gives a comprehensive picture of growing the state's most important small fruit crop.

Oregon's strawberry production is centered in Washington, Clackamas, Marion, Multnomah, Columbia and Yamhill counties. The counties of Linn, Lane, Polk and Hood River are also important producers.

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FROM THE GROUND UP

By BART BARTLEY

The weather for this area continues to be wintry in nature.

This means that the soils are wet and cold regardless of the brief periods of sunshine that sometimes occur between snow and sleet storms. When the weather is as cold in nature as we have experienced this spring, there is no advantage to be gained by early planting of either floral or vegetable seeds or seedlings. The soil is cold and wet and in most instances the seeds will rot or the seedlings will be damaged by damping off organisms. At best the plants will tend to stand still and make no growth. The most productive plants are those that grow off well after planting.

Some orchard soils are wetter now than they were a month ago. Even so, there is a need to get certain production practices done. Some diseases and insects are active at this time of the year regardless of the weather or in other words daily temperatures. These pests react more nearly to photo-period or length of day than to temperature. This is applicable especially to the ordinary insect pests more so than to the scab and rot diseases. However, in some instances the scab and rot diseases may get troublesome. Orchardists that have been clean for several seasons will get by easier.

Peaches should be sprayed for brown rot control and for peach twig-borer soon. It may be difficult to get 500 gallons of spray on each acre of peaches. In the event that about 250 gallons of spray solution per acre will adequately cover your peach trees, 2½ pounds of Diazinon and 15 pounds of sulphur per acre will be sufficient for the job.

We will repeat a spray recommendation that is worth practicing. When spraying a block of fruit trees, spray only every other row the first time over. When this is done, spray the row or drive that was not sprayed the first time. This method will give almost double coverage of the trees. At this time of year the average speedsprayer will deposit the spray solution about two rows from either side of the machine.

Farmers can get government loans to develop recreational areas on their acreage. In some instances this should be justifiable, especially where farms have areas for wildlife such as ponds or woods. We would prefer to see such farms used for recreation than to see them used for marginal farm production.

Farmers normally produce great numbers of upland birds that are harvested illegally by non-resident hunters. All farmers have had visitations by roadside hunters or by hunters that wrecked ditches and fences to get at the game.

Income Possible

Where farmers can develop some income from fishing or hunting rights, we think it is only proper. Go to town to get some item or service from the hunters and see what they have to offer shoplifters and trespassers.

Market Active On Light Run At Midway Yard

The market was very active on a light run of cattle during the regular Friday, April 12 auction at the Midway Livestock yard on Table Rock rd., according to Bill Bray, owner-manager.

Good to choice steer calves sold for \$28 to \$30. Medium calves brought \$23 to \$27.50. Good to choice heifer calves sold for \$24 to \$26.50. Medium heifer calves earned \$21 to \$23.50.

Good yearling steers sold for \$22 to \$25.10 and medium quality yearling steers sold for \$20 to \$23.

Good yearling heifers sold for \$20 to \$22.75. Medium heifers went out at \$18 to \$20.

Holstein Calves

Holstein steer calves sold for \$22.50 to \$24.80. Yearling Holstein steers sold at \$19 to \$21.50.

Slaughter bulls brought \$17 to \$19.50. Veal calves earned \$24 to \$26.90. Fat heifers sold for \$20 to \$23.

Fat young cows went out at \$16 to \$18.50. Utility cows sold for \$14.50 to \$16.40. Cutters sold for \$12 to \$14.

Aged ewes with lambs sold for \$12.50 to \$14.50.

"Don't forget the annual machinery sale at Midway Sunday, April 28," Bray announced. "Bring in what you have to sell! All types of farm machinery and tools will be sold."

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Dual Grading, Range Areas On Thursday Meeting Agenda

Sedg Nelson, Siskiyou county farm advisor, will speak on the pros and cons of dual beef grading at the annual spring meeting of the Jackson County Stockmen's association at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 18 in the Central Point Grange hall.

The stockmen may follow the example of the Cal-Ore Hereford association at its recent meeting when it sent a resolution to the Oregon congressional delegation opposing dual grading.

The ranchers will discuss range allotments. No adjustments will be made until 1965, according to a recent announcement by Carroll Brown, supervisor of Rogue River National Forest. During the directors' meeting Friday night the stockmen agreed a series of "show me" trips should be scheduled with the forest service. The first would be a general view of the range with the general public invited, probably in July. Horseback trips with forest service personnel into the various allotment areas would follow.

The new range expert reported for work with the Rogue River National Forest Friday. Ralph Wiese, range control officer, plans to bring him to the Thursday night meeting.

The stockmen also will elect one man to the bureau of land management range advisory board. Raphael Gardner, Merton Bradshaw, both of Lake Creek, and John Bohner, Central Point, were appointed by President Gordon Stanley as a nominating committee.

The board of directors also went on record Friday night asking the county court to provide enough matching funds for one good government hunter.

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Home Orchard Sprays Listed

Corvallis - Homeowners who would like to keep their fruit and nut trees insect and disease free this year can get valuable information from a new Oregon State university extension circular, "Spray Schedule for Home Orchards."

Written by R. W. Every, extension entomologist, and I. C. MacSwan, extension plant pathologist, the circular contains a minimum number of recommended materials and times of application. If recommendations are followed, the fruit will not carry undue chemical residue, they stress. All fruits should be washed before eating, however, they added.

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Farm Career Day Planned at OSU

An Agriculture Career Day, designed entirely for high school students, will be held at Oregon State university April 27.

The program is designed to provide a special opportunity for those interested in university work to learn about career opportunities in agriculture and related sciences and occupations, according to Olan Ogle, Career Day chairman.

The program calls for registration from 8 to 9. Tours of the facilities, a luncheon program and individual and group conferences will round out the program.

The career day committee requests interested students notify their high school counselor or the county extension office prior to April 20 so that they will know the number to plan for.



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Ester Chemical Now Under Permit

Salem - Oregon no longer allows use of isopropyl ester of 2,4-D or any other ester of equal or higher volatility without a permit. That permit must be approved by three persons.

This amendment to the Oregon Chemical Applicators law was passed by 1963 session of the Oregon Legislature. It carried an emergency clause and went into effect March 29. Expiration date is June 30, 1965.

Charged jointly with approving permits for the use of such esters are the Oregon State Forester, State Director of Agriculture and a research specialist of Oregon State university.

The amendment states permits shall be issued only when it is determined they will not damage agriculture and forest products or susceptible crops. And, they will be issued subject to such conditions as the issuing authority prescribes.

Poundage fees are paid on all 2,4-D or 2,4,5-T type herbicides.

On those sold in Oregon the person selling to the consumer or retail dealer is responsible for reporting and paying the fee. On that purchased outside of Oregon for use in the state the consumer is responsible for paying the fee unless he has a statement from the out of state seller stating the fee has already been paid to the Department of Agriculture.

Many ranchers feed salt-protein supplements to sheep for three months or more out of the year. It helps keep the ewes in a healthy, vigorous condition.

State Ag Board To Meet April 19

Salem - Members of the State Board of Agriculture have scheduled an April 19 meeting at the state department of agriculture building in Salem.

During the session, which will convene at 10 a.m., the board will review the department's building project and discuss the budget passed by the Oregon Legislature and legislation affecting agriculture and the department.

The preceding day board members will join the Portland Chamber of Commerce Agriculture committee for a visit to the Port of Portland dock facilities. T. Ralph Harry, chief of the grain division of the Department of Agriculture, will be with the group and explain the grain sampling, weighing and inspection services of that division.



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