

State Board Holds Review On Agricultural Legislation

Salem - Legislation affecting agriculture and the Oregon Department of Agriculture was reviewed by the Oregon Board of Agriculture at its April 19 meeting in Salem. Director of Agriculture J. F. Short told the board the department's budget had no fat and had had one reduction of \$20,000 by transfer of starting control from the department to Oregon State University. This transfer was made to permit research on the problem.

A reduction was also made in the meat inspection funds on the theory two slaughterhouses now under state inspection would be transferring to federal inspection. Short said if this transfer did not materialize the department would have to go to the State Emergency board for emergency funds to cover

these two plants. New this year in the budget was \$25,000 for a virologist at the state animal diagnostic laboratory at Corvallis. The board reviewed the progress of HB 1376, which is the milk stabilization bill, and the board chairman, Frank Rood, North Bend, reported the board had gone on record at a hearing on the bill as supporting it. Director Short reported that

Spray Berries Now, Agent Says

Both home gardeners and commercial gardeners should spray strawberries for leaf rollers, according to Don Berry, Jackson County Extension agent.

These pests are quite serious during the spring and summer in strawberry patches and cause trouble by rolling and killing the leaves on the plants. The damage is caused by a small worm which develops from an egg laid by a small buff-colored moth. These moths are easily spotted when walking through the strawberry patch because great numbers of them fly close to the surface of the ground during dark infestation.

Control measures consist of spraying during bloom with DDT, or later up to harvest with Malathion or Methoxychlor. A heaping tablespoon of 50 per cent DDT powder in one gallon of water will generally control these pests for the season. If they recur, one heaping tablespoon of Malathion or Methoxychlor powder in two gallons of water may be used up to within three days of picking providing the berries are washed before eaten.

Senate Bill 103, dealing with mobile slaughter units had been tabled. He said the bill had not been requested by the department but would have partially solved the mobile slaughter problem. Meat slaughtered by these units is not inspected and the department is concerned that some of it might be sold to the public as inspected meat. Mobile slaughter units have been licensed to make available to farmers on-the-farm slaughter service.

J. W. Southworth, assistant director, in charge of Livestock Industries, reported on the survey and tests being made in an attempt to determine the cause of calf scours among the young calves in Baker county beef herds. State veterinarians have been working on the survey and Dr. Glenn Van Ness, from the National Animal Disease Laboratory at Ames, Iowa, was called in to study the problem.

Southworth also reported on the state-federal brucellosis control program. He told the board the control was improving but not moving as fast as was needed to eradicate brucellosis in the state.

Gypsum Blocks Used To Check Moisture

Corvallis - Oregon State university studies show that many farmers can irrigate more effectively by measuring soil moisture regularly with electrical resistance gypsum blocks.

Marvin N. Shearer, extension irrigation specialist, has written a new bulletin describing how to use gypsum blocks and the wide variety of meters and equipment that can be used with them.

Farm & Garden

Chit Chat

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Considerable has been written about chemicals and public health during the past year. Considerably more probably will be written.

One of the best publications we have seen on this is the new Du Pont Chemical company publication, "Chemicals and Public Health." Summing up its case for chemical safety this well-illustrated pamphlet states: "The greatest force for safety is industry's regard for its own good name. Industrial institutions have struggled over the years to merit high regard; their integrity is the public's greatest assurance."

"Chemical manufacturers are strongly motivated to work for greater safety because their own hopes of prosperity require it. It would be folly indeed for manufacturers to suppose safety can be sacrificed to profit opportunities. It is equally fallacious for observers to suppose industrial organizations dare play fast and loose with the public health. The business leader more than the social critic recognizes the necessity of operating as safely as he knows how, for his daily experience confirms his need for public acceptance of the way he conducts his affairs."

"Public enlightenment, sensible legislation, and governmental vigilance all have necessary though limited roles to play in safeguarding the public health," the pamphlet continues.

The pamphlet points out also that demands of a rapidly increasing population and industry require a wide range of new developments. But some risks will always remain no matter how careful the chemical industry tries to be.

"Certainly no chemical company can assure the safety of users and handlers who fail to read carefully and follow the manufacturer's instructions on labels and in descriptive literature," the pamphlet continues. "To insist on absolute guarantees of safety is to require the impossible and to deny progress. A society that does not continue to grow through adventure and willingness to take chances is not likely to survive long in the modern world. With regard to health as to all other fields, society must be willing to take educated and calculated risks inherent in a technological civilization."

The fact remains that chemical controls are necessary. As the pamphlet points out, dangerous insects not now resident in the U. S. are stopped from entering at the average of one every 17 minutes by government inspectors. It takes more than 230 million pounds of insecticides each year to control this pest threat.

"Without chemicals, cotton yields would be reduced 50 per cent. There would be no commercial crop of apples or peaches two out of three years, and a poor one the third. The ultimate pesticide has not been and may never be found but chemists are developing newer and better techniques all the time," the pamphlet points out.

Jackson County Weed Control Supervisor Ray Hubbard has pointed out in his article so many times that applicators should always read the label on insecticides and weedicides that one might assume such labels are difficult to read. But, that's not the case. Looking at the array of labels photographed in the Du Pont pamphlet you wonder how anybody could miss them. A label for flammable liquids such as anti-freeze, for instance, is printed in bright red with large black print: "CAUTION, KEEP AWAY FROM FIRE." Other labels are brightly colored with big readable print, also.

Human error is still the key to a good many accidents with chemicals. Yet, in the most critical area, the growing, harvesting and preparation of food, almost complete safety has been reached. This, in spite of the fact that more than 4,000 chemicals are now used in processing, storing and handling today's food. There are no fatalities on record resulting from use of chemicals as mentioned.

To make sure that all chemical products are properly tested, Du Pont founded the Haskell laboratory. It includes departments of toxicology, biochemistry, pathology and physiology. The toxicology section of the lab studies what harm chemical doses can cause living organisms. It covers not just one white rat but generations. Tests are made by mouth by inhalation, by injection and by absorption. This department has the final responsibility of evaluating the safety of a chemical product.

Biochemistry studies the changes in the body chemistry of animals tested. The pathology section examines toxicity in tissues. A dozen to 600 animals may be used for "guinea pigs" and 15 to 40 organs checked in each. Physiology studies the total environment.

How important is the chemical industry to the farmer. "A single chemist employing the advanced techniques of science provides the farmer the equivalent of a whole township of workers at a few cents' cost. Otherwise, it would require 26 million farm-hands and an additional \$15 billion to harvest what seven million people now produce," according to the pamphlet.

"Even with present improvement in controls, pests annually remove from the markets the equivalent of 120 million acres' production, the publication continued.

The pamphlet concludes: "Although one may yearn for the uncluttered and tranquil world he imagines as his youthful residence, very few people today can expect to return to any close-to-nature existence. The accelerated trend to urbanization is inevitable, and must be sustained by every bit of knowledge, imagination, boldness, prudence and determination man can muster."

Ninety Leaders Attend Meeting

Ninety leaders from Curry, Josephine, Douglas, Klamath and Jackson counties attended the regional 4-H leaders' conference at the Jackson county fairgrounds recently. Glenn Klein and Miss Ruth Brasher, both of the state 4-H office at Oregon State University, and James McAlister, OSU rural defense specialist, conducted the meeting. Two sessions during the day were spent on junior leader and empire builder projects. Main emphasis was on how to deal with teen-agers and their problems. McAlister gave a special lecture on how to obtain and use a medical self-help kit. The kits are available to rural groups through county public health offices, he said. Francis Krouse is regional chairman.

Livestock Market

Red Bluff Livestock Auction Report, Tuesday, April 30, 1963
CATTLE: Saleable 234, including around 120 calves. Represented classes active. Compared with last Tuesday's slaughter cows about steady; feeder calves steady to strong; yearlings scarce; stock cows steady. Bulk of supply comprised of stocker and feeder classes, around 48 per cent of the run was comprised of cows, the bulk of these being cow-calf pairs and about 20 cows selling onto slaughter accounts.
SLAUGHTER COWS: Few Utility 800-1150 lb. \$13.00-16.50, few Culler \$13.25-14.50, few Canner \$12.80-12.20.
FEEDER STEERS: Few Choice 210-400 lb. calves \$27.50-29.10, few Good \$24.00-25.10, few Choice \$20-22.50 lb. feeders \$22.50-22.75.
FEEDER HEIFERS: Few Good and Choice 280-465 lb. calves \$23.10-24.20.
STOCK COWS: Several shipments Medium and Good with small calves at side \$192.50-240 per pair.
HORSES: Saleable 3. Supply insufficient to test market.
SHEEP: Saleable none. Market untested.

From Dust Bowl To Valley Big Shift for Pear Foreman

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

O. E. (Opie) Frazier, Phoenix, learned the fruit business as a boy and supported his brothers, sister and mother the same time.

Like many Oklahomans this foreman is used to working long, hard hours for every cent he earns. And he has worked 21 years for Dave Lowry and Highcroft orchard. He's been in the business 26 years. He has worked for Rogue River Orchards and for Bear Creek.

The hard work started on his family's large farm in Oklahoma. He and his five brothers worked from dawn until dark and did their general chores before and after working in the fields each day. Farming then meant to him grain and row crops with some cattle. The Oklahoma drought caused the whole family to work hard to survive.

Opie was head of the family when he came to the Rogue valley at 17 years in February, 1936. He rented a small house on Camp Baker rd. The landlord was dubious at first about renting to a boy, but admitted later that few grown men paid the rent as regularly as he did.

"My first job was with Ted Fish in Phoenix. I worked in the tomatoes on the old Cortlas place. He raised good tomatoes and got a good yield. I told him if he could not afford to pay me I would work until he could," Opie related. "Figured I was better off working than just laying around. But, he never missed a pay day."

Like other leading orchard foremen in the valley Opie at first was handling the reins to a team of horses almost as much as pruning shears.

While working for Rogue River Orchards, Opie started pruning, mainly cutting out blight which was a big problem in those years. Spraying then was done by horse-drawn rig with two to four men per rig.

Now, Opie is in charge of 500 acres under Associated Fruit company in Phoenix. He operates 85 acres of his own.

Like other packing house field superintendents and foremen he has the problem of scattered orchards. The 500 acres consist of 25 separate fruit blocks requiring the field man to drive about 100 miles a day. Good help for each of the blocks makes the job easier, he noted.

Like the other foremen and superintendents, Opie works long hours, but not as long as he did in 1936 or 1937 while heating in the Medford Pear company orchards. Then he worked 36 hours without stopping. Hot coffee and sandwiches were brought to the crews in the orchards.

Bad Freeze
The veteran orchard man ranks the worst freeze night this season, on April 19, with the 1934 freeze. The freeze hit hard the first of May, but unlike this season few pots were in the orchards. A warm wind immediately following caused a rapid temperature rise and killed the buds.

Like others in the business he is concerned over the poor pollination this year followed by the intense cold spells. Opie noted the company's Dark Hollow rd. orchard had 50 pots to the acre with all pots going during the heavy freeze night, but had trouble holding the temperature to the safe level. "That's almost a pot per tree," he remarked. "Undoubtedly there has been a little fruit damage to most orchards," he added.

Like other orchard men, Opie feels the old open-burning slide-lid heaters are the most efficient although the most smoke-producing. The noticeably less orchard heater smoke this year is due to a better grade of diesel oil being marketed by oil companies now. "It's so clear it looks like water in the pot," he commented.

Wind machines can be used effectively in California with its much lower inversion (a layer of warm air stop cold air), but seldom in the Rogue valley with its higher inversion. Some orchards are so situated they can use them because they can draw the warm

air from nearby heated orchards through the trees.

Harvest season, generally another big problem time for growers, will probably see more and more "tote bins" being used in local orchards instead of lug boxes. The large bins which can contain the equivalent of several lug boxes of fruit reduces the fruit handling thus reducing possibility of stem punctures and other causes of pear blemishes.

Opie pointed out that one serious handicap in using possible pear picking machinery is that the D'Anjou pears have short stiff stems, making punctures easy.

"But, nothing is impossible. They used to think cotton would never be picked by machinery. Now it's an accepted thing," Opie commented.

More machinery will be used, however, to get a man into the pear tree and to leave his hands free for picking. Some sort of conveyor will be needed to carry the fruit down into bins.

The harvest problem isn't in numbers of pickers available so much as lack of consistent, steady pickers, the orchard operator said.

"More people come into the valley than we actually need for picking. Trouble is, most of them don't stick to the job. Fruit growers pay all they can afford. They can't pay much more," Opie explained.

"We've tried different ideas on the picking deal including bonuses, but the money doesn't seem to keep them any longer. When they are ready to move out, they move. Medford seems to be merely a stop-over," he added. "Another problem is those good at picking beans and corn aren't necessarily good with ladders needed for pear picking. They either don't know how to set the ladder, or are afraid of it and have to keep one hand on the ladder which reduces their picking capacity."

Nationals Steady
Mexican nationals are used the last two-thirds of the season. They stick and are steady workers, Opie noted.

Opie has to do a lot of instructing like other orchard supervisors. He is mainly concerned with proper pruning so the men will leave the younger, more vigorous pear wood which bears fruit. Thinning is another problem. Crews have to be taught to thin to size not space, he said.

Records are important in orchard work as in other types of agriculture, the orchard operator pointed out.

Calf Tattooing Now Suggested To Halt Thefts

Salem - Members of the Oregon livestock advisory committee have recommended that tattooing of new-born calves in the ear as a means of discouraging the theft of young calves.

The committee, which serves in an advisory capacity to the department of agriculture, made this recommendation at an April 23 meeting in Salem.

The committee also proposed that cattlemen with brands use the brand for the tattoo. Because as many as six persons may use the same brand by having it in a different location on the animal the committee suggested that numbers from one to six be used with the tattoo of the brand to indicate the position of the brand on the animal.

For those cattlemen without brands the committee recommended the use of a design, number or initial as an identifying mark to assist livestock inspectors in identifying stolen calves.

Other Suggestions
Other recommendations made at the meeting were:

That the department of agriculture redefine livestock running at large to mean cattle of different ownership grazing together or co-mingling in a particular area.

That the list of recognized livestock beef breeds be enlarged to include the most prevalent beef breeds and that the department also permit inclusion of community designation of additional beef breeds found in that particular community. (Hereford, Angus and Shorthorns are the breeds now listed in open range regulations.)

And, that a study be made on the possibility of requiring brand inspection at auction yards, stockyards and slaughter points of cattle moving into the state.

He uses his records to refer back to when problems arise. Experience is the best teacher, especially when notes are kept on that experience, he indicated.

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