

Oregon Crop Production Hampered by Heavy Rains

Corvallis - Rains have now soaked western Oregon farm and orchard lands beyond the point where full production can be expected this year for many crops, report Oregon State university agricultural specialists.

Heavy May rains, coming on the heels of a cold wet April, are forcing drastic shifts in crop production plans for the coming season throughout the Willamette Valley.

Barley growers, especially, are looking for the alternate crops for lands that have been too wet for field preparation and seeding, says Rex Warren, OSU farm crop specialist. Virtually no barley has been seeded in the Willamette valley that normally produces some 85,000 acres.

Warren says alternate uses include corn for either silage or grain, although time is running short to mature a corn crop for grain before next fall. Some growers are also considering establishing alfalfa or red clover on the better drained soils. Sudan grass can be seeded for pasture anytime before June 1, he added.

Soggy weather has also raised the threat of rust disease spreading in bluegrass fields. Warren advised growers to check with local county agents for control measures.

Insect Problems
Disease and insect problems have also been heightened in horticultural crops, since orchards have been too wet to permit use of spray equipment. Iain MacSwan, extension plant pathologist, says major diseases encouraged by weather conditions are brown rot in cherries, apple and pear scab, blossom blight of black raspberries, walnut blight, and ascomycete blight.

MacSwan says spray that has a chance to dry the trees for four to six hours should be effective unless it is washed off by a drenching rain. He recommends use of a spreader-sticker in the spray to help guard against light rains.

Insect pests are also finding the weather to their liking. Robert W. Every, extension entomology specialist, explains that time of spraying is critical in the cycle of several pests such as aphids on strawberries, filbert leaf roller, and gooseberry maggot. He advises growers to capitalize on any short break in the weather - even a few hours - to apply control measures.

Strawberry planting is already a month behind schedule, foliage growth on established plants has been poor, and fruit rot is an expected hazard - all pointing to a short crop. County extension agents say irrigation will be a blessing to those growers who can help the set-back plants through the stress of summer weather.

Don Rasmussen, Marion county agent, says most vegetable growers in that key area plan to go head with plantings when weather permits. However, the result will be a rush to plant all available acreage in short time span which will mean most crops will mature at about the same time in late summer. This will put pressure on

growers and processors to handle the volume in a short harvest period.

Lack of Pollinating
Probably the biggest problem with all fruit crops has been lack of activity by bees and other pollinating insects in cold weather. Low temperatures have also frosted buds and rains have been washing pollen from the blooms.

Both prunes and sweet cherries in the Willamette Valley appear to have suffered heavily from the combination, reports R. L. Stebbins, OSU horticulture specialist.

But a silver lining has broken through at one point in the otherwise dismal Willamette Valley weather picture. Trees that were righted following the Columbus Day windstorm have enjoyed perfect conditions for reconstructing their root systems. Stebbins explained that tree roots grow faster in such weather while top growth slows down. Build-up of soil moisture, coupled with less top growth, will put less stress on the trees as they go into the summer dry spell.

State Plant Man To Go To Meeting

Salem - The Oregon Department of Agriculture will be represented at the 44th annual conference of the Western plant board in Sacramento, Calif., May 13-15 by Hugh Taylor, chief of the department's plant division.

Covered in the three day program will be plant pest control; foreign and interstate movement of soils; inspection of aircraft and treatment of infested aircraft; plant quarantine and pesticides and food.

Fifteen western states have membership on the board. Taylor will also attend the short business session of the Western Standardization Conference, scheduled in connection with the board meeting.

Grazing Land Closure Set For Brucellosis

Salem - Another step has been taken to prevent the spread of brucellosis in Oregon. Public lands in Oregon used as grazing land will be closed to brucellosis-infected herds under quarantine in which steps have not been taken to remove the diseased cattle.

The U. S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, who control federal lands in the state, have reaffirmed their intention to cooperate with the State Department of Agriculture in enforcing quarantine imposed under state laws.

Farm & Garden GARDENING TIPS

By JOHN McLOUGHLIN
County Agent

Mowing Lawns
Mowing the lawn should not be regarded merely as a means of removing excess grass growth. Actually, mowing is a maintenance practice that has far reaching effects on appearance and vigor of the lawn.

Mowing Height
The height at which a lawn should be mowed is directly related to the ability of the grass to produce sufficient leaf surface to carry on sufficient photosynthesis for good growth. This ability is related to the habit of growth of the grass.

The creeping type grasses, such as the bentgrasses, when properly fertilized and watered are able to produce adequate leaf surface at very low heights of cut. Bluegrass and fescue cannot produce enough leaf mass at low heights and must be cut relatively high (1 1/2 to 2 inches).

Frequency of Mowing
Frequency of mowing is also important in the maintenance of the lawn. Infrequent mowing allows the grass to elongate to such a degree that subsequent mowing removes an excessive amount of leaf surface.

The removal of an excess of leaf surface results in a shock to the plant, causes excessive graying or browning of the leaf tips and curtails the production of food with a

resultant depletion of root reserve. In addition, the accumulation of excessive clippings may smother the grass and provide excellent environmental conditions for disease and insects.

The frequency of mowing must be governed by the amount of growth which in turn is related to weather conditions, soil fertility, moisture conditions and natural growth rate of the grass. Regulate the frequency of mowing so as not to remove more than one-third of the total leaf surface at a given mowing.

Mowing Practices
It is essential that all types of mowing equipment be kept sharp and in good operating condition. Dull, improperly adjusted equipment will bruise leaf tips, which provide a ready access for disease and insects.

Turf grass areas regularly cut with power mowers sometimes develop a series of wave like ridges running at right angles to the direction of mowing. The development of this washboard effect may be prevented by regularly changing the direction of mowing (diagonal or right angles).

Mowing wet grass should be avoided as much as possible. Dry grass cuts more easily, does not ball up and clog the mower and gives a finer appearing lawn.

Conservation Rates Payment

If quotas are approved for 1964 crop wheat in the May 21 referendum, the wheat program - like programs for 1962 and 1963 - will offer payments for acreage diversions to conserving uses.

Albert Straus, chairman, Jackson County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee, has said. The diversion payments are made to help maintain wheat income while the carryover of wheat is being reduced.

The acreage diversion would result from keeping within the acreage allotment and shifting the acreage so diverted from production into an approved conservation use, the chairman explained. This acreage represents the difference between the 1964 wheat allotment and what the allotment would have been with a national allotment of 55 million acres.

Upon request, a producer - as in 1962 and 1963 - may receive in advance 50 per cent of the total payment being earned for diversion of wheat land to conservation uses.

Chairman Straus said that, if the vote is favorable in the 1964 wheat referendum, a sign-up for the diversion part of the wheat program will be held prior to planting time for both large farms and for small-allotment farms which were signed up prior to the pre-referendum cutoff date. May 13 was the last day small-allotment farm operators may qualify to vote in the referendum and to be eligible to take part in the other parts of the 1964 wheat program.

Grants Pass Man On Beef Program

Paul Carlson, Hoots Angus ranch, Grants Pass, will demonstrate proper tattooing of Angus calves during the Oregon beef cattle field day on Sunday, June 2 at Prineville's Crook county fairgrounds.

A. E. Albertson, Powell Butte, president of the Oregon Angus association and County Agent E. L. Woods, Prineville, are in charge of the Oregon Angus association sponsored event.

Dr. Al Ralston, head of the beef department, Oregon State university, will speak on the correct Angus type. Gary Timmerman, Blue Sky Farm, Kearney, Mo., and Don Snel, Powell Butte, will demonstrate correct fitting, showing and hoof trimming of beef cattle.

FFA and 4-H club members will have a judging contest.

REAPPOINTED
Salem - C. Alfred Boquist, Tillamook, has been reappointed as a member of the Livestock Advisory committee, the governor's office announced today.

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Mass Meeting Set To Discuss Fair

Hugh Jennings, chairman of the Jackson County Fair Planning committee, was guest speaker at the May meeting of the Jackson County Horseman's association.

Jennings announced that plans have been made by the county court to hold a mass meeting with the JCHA, and all persons interested in the future development of adequate room needed by all such groups in the county.

No definite date has yet been given, but all persons will be given a four day notice prior to the event. And all groups as well as individuals will be given an opportunity to be heard.

Ted Christensen, chairman of the membership and activities committee, of the JCHA stated that an all out membership drive is now being conducted by the organization. Membership is available to all groups, clubs and individuals. No one needs to be the owner of any animal to be eligible.

Compares Fairs
Christensen, who has been taking pictures of the neighboring fair grounds showed the recent slides narrating and comparing the means and facilities provided by the other areas with our own, here in Jackson county. He says these pictures are available to any club, or group. Any one wishing to see or exhibit the pictures may call 772-2431.

The unsettled weather has forestalled the former outdoor plans anticipated by the club, but added that some form of entertainment will be held this month.

John Belknap, president, suggested that the board of directors appoint a committee to construct the proposed plans needed by the organization, and present them to the county court at the May meeting with the county officials.

George McOne, of Jacksonville, Pioneer Village, showed movies of the Oregon Centennial wagon train made by McOne in 1959 of horse groups from throughout Oregon. He also extended an invitation to the members to visit the Jacksonville concession.

Belknap announced the following horse events to be held in the neighboring Oregon cities: May 25-26, the South-

ern Oregon Spring Horse show, Grants Pass, Saturday, 8 p.m. and Sunday, 1:30 p.m.; June 2, Mid-Columbia Horse and Junior rodeo, The Dalles, Oregon, (Open Event); June 7, 8, 9, the Northwest Charity Hunt club, Eugene, (Open Event); June 14-15-16, Oregon Seventeenth Annual Arabian Horse show, Salem. (This is the largest show of this kind in the western states.)

May 19, there will be held at the Veterans Domiciliary, Camp White, two play days; The Medford Trailriders and the Desert Pecos group. Also in Grants Pass, May 19, The Southern Oregon Kennel Club Dog show will be held at the fair grounds.

Walnut Directors Set for Election

Election of the grower nominees to the walnut control board will be held between April 1 and May 8, 1963, according to Don Berry, County Extension Agent.

Growers in Oregon and Washington will elect one nominee for the grower member position and one alternate member, for selection by the secretary of agriculture to represent both cooperative and independent walnut growers in the Northwest. The term of office is two years, beginning July 1, 1963.

It is desirable that all walnut growers be given an opportunity to vote for the candidates of their choice.

Ballots on which walnut growers may vote for a nominee for member and a nominee for alternate member to represent them on the walnut control board are available in the Jackson county extension agent's office located at 1301 Maple Grove drive, Medford.

Don Berry, county agent, stated that for ballots to be counted they must be post-marked not later than midnight, May 8th.

The present incumbents are Delmar Peake, Eugene, member, and Joe N. Varner, Gaston, alternate member. The walnut control board administers the federal marketing order for walnuts in California, Oregon and Washington.

Youth Leadership FB Meeting Topic

Montague Correspondent
Leo Marhart, California Farm Bureau Federation assistant Director of commodity services, and Virgil Tuman, college student who attended the youth leadership conference at Astoria in February, spoke to the Shasta Valley Farm center when it met recently at the Montague Club Room.

Marhart, from the Berkeley Farm Bureau office, spoke on the Wheat Referendum as it concerns the grain growers of this area, as well as those in other parts of the United States where wheat of any variety is grown. He explained it is one of the most complex control programs of the government.

Must Accept Control
Marhart emphasized that if the grain growers wanted a guaranteed price, they must accept control. He further stated that the 1964 wheat plan marketing quota will have a further reduction of acreage allotments than at present time. California has been cut 46,000 acres this year which amounts to a 10 per cent cut from the previous quotas.

The speaker emphasized that substitution crops should be tried wherever possible. All producers will be given marketing certificates and the miller will be given purchasing certificates, thus making it a very rigid control program.

California Farm Bureau is working on a farm retirement plan which would entail cutting out certain farms instead of removing percentages from all.

All grain growers were encouraged to attend the meeting at the same place on the following night when Marhart would be joined by John Stanley, also of the Berkeley office, to make further explanations of the situation and answer questions. It was emphasized that all grain growers should vote on the referendum on May 21.

Tuman, in telling of the convention he attended with 250 others from throughout the state, mentioned the many subjects covered which included common market, wheat referendum, natural resources and water problems.

Tuman said that they were told that although farmers comprise only 6 per cent of the population, they are one of the most organized groups. Tuman's interests were mostly with water problems therefore he attended the sessions which dealt with that subject.

Tuman thanked the Shasta Valley Center for having financed his trip and urged that money be set aside each year for this endeavor.

Gary Townley, the vice chairman, conducted the meeting. He also read the report of the action of the County Farm Bureau board of directors meeting which included resolutions on game management as presented by the Intercountry Chambers of Commerce and one on the extension of the services of the California Beef Council with a voluntary revenue derived from the sale of cattle. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Robert Hogan.

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Market Active On Light Run Midway Reports

The market was very active on a light run, Bill Bray, owner - manager of the Midway Livestock yard, said today commenting on Friday's sale.

"There was a very good demand for lightweight stock calves," he said.

Good to choice steer calves sold for \$28 to \$31.30. Medium steer calves went out at \$24 to \$28.

Good choice heifer calves brought \$24 to \$27.10. Several penlots weighing 450 to 480 pounds earned \$24.50 to \$25.20. Medium heifer calves sold at \$22 to \$25.

Good yearling steers weighing 500 to 600 pounds brought \$25.50 to \$28.50. Steers weighing 650 to 750 pounds sold at \$21 to \$23.10 with medium steers going at \$19.50 to \$22.

Good yearling heifers sold at \$22 to \$23.80. Medium yearling heifers sold for \$19 to \$22.

Holstein steer calves sold for \$24 to \$27.50. Yearling Holstein steers sold for \$21.50 to \$23.50.

Fat cows sold for \$18 to \$17. Utility cows were lower, mostly \$13 to \$15. Cutters brought \$12 to \$13. Cannors sold for \$9 to \$12.

"This market is hungry for light stock calves due to the extremely good feed conditions all over the western states," Bray said. "However, it seems to us that heavier weight cattle are a better buy at the difference in price. This week we have a good consignment of cows with calves coming in."

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