

FROM THE GROUND UP

By BART BARTLETT

The large quantity of water resulting from recent heavy rains have, in many instances, proved the value of well placed winter drainage ditches or furrows.

Such temporary drainage systems have a place in most agricultural soils whether or not it is orchard, row crop or meadow land.

The soils in this area are, as a general rule, easily saturated with water. The excess that results from fall and winter rains should be drained off by temporary drainage systems to prevent swampy conditions that can often result in damages to economic plants. Such drainage systems once in place should be checked occasionally to prevent their stoppage by leaves or other debris.

Leave Grass Long
Where lawns will be heavily used by children and their pets during wet winter months, it is wise to have the lawn grasses rather long. Closely mowed lawns suffer more damage from trampling under wet conditions than do those that have a longer and more dense cover.

Where the lawn soils are very light sandy or red clay types, it may be well to apply a light application of some complete fertilizer during the fall or winter months.

Such fertilizer can be an 0-20-20 or 16-16-16 formulation.

The first figure is of less importance than the last two series of figures. Your fertilizer dealer can assist in this regard.

Oak trees can be beautiful! Interested persons should see certain of the specimen trees growing by the road by Hillcrest Orchards.

There are many specimen trees at this place and not all of them are oaks. The buckeye or horse-chestnut trees have now shed all their leaves as have many of the species of oak.

Good Oaks
However, there are oaks that retain their leaves and make a good display of fall color. These same oaks are not subject to the same diseases and patho-

Walnut Marketing Well Outlined

Home and commercial walnut growers are interested in the Federal Marketing Order No. 84 which regulates the sale of walnuts, according to Don Berry, county extension agent.

This Federal Marketing Order provides that anyone who "handles" walnuts must have them inspected to determine that they meet the minimum standard established under the marketing order except growers can sell without inspection up to 500 pounds of unshelled or 200 pounds of shelled walnuts direct to actual consumers within the area of production. These direct sales may not exceed 500 pounds unshelled or 200 pounds shelled in any one market year. If you mail parcel post or express shipments, they may not exceed 10 pounds unshelled (or 4 pounds shelled) to any one consumer in any one calendar day.

A walnut grower may also sell without inspection to a recognized "handler" of walnuts who complies with the walnut control board regulation prior to resale. No sales to retailers can be made unless walnuts are inspected.

Inspections are made by the Federal-State Shipping Point Inspection Service, 692 South Grape Street, Medford, at a cost of 6 1/2 cents per 100 pounds of in-shell walnuts and-or 15 cents per 100 pounds of shelled nuts with a minimum charge of \$5.50.

Most local growers with small productions prefer to sell their walnuts directly to the consumer through roadside stands or soliciting direct sales from their own property in order to avoid the cost and trouble of inspection.

gens that attack the native oaks of this area.

It is not too late to apply certain herbicide sprays for weed control during the coming growing season. Consult your seed or chemical dealer for advice and materials.

Pruning is a timely topic these days. The absence of pruning labor is a problem, but may improve as the growing season progresses.

The winter meeting of the Oregon State Horticultural Society will begin Wednesday. All interested persons should attend as those old boys around the college really get dressed up for this one. It is the equivalent of a major holiday for them, so let's all go and get them recharged for another year.



CRATES OF ONIONS — Two Central Point area high school youths stacked onions at the Seven Oaks ranch, north of Central Point, this fall. These will be warehoused by John Bohnert and Don Bradshaw and gradually shipped out during the winter to the San Francisco area where the onions have consistently topped the market.

Tariffs Only Solution Now For Fighting Import Beef

By CHARLOTTE DAVIS
Mail Tribune Correspondent
SISKIYOU COUNTY — "Tariffs are the only solution to combat the threat of import beef," is the conclusion drawn by Harvey McDougal who spoke to some 225 Siskiyou county cattlemen, their wives and guests at their annual dinner meeting at Winema Hall at the Siskiyou County Fairgrounds, Friday evening, Nov. 15.

Howard Beck, president of Siskiyou County Cattlemen's Association, conducted the formal portion of the session, which included introductions and presentations. Past "Cattlemen of the Year" present included Clarence Dudley for 1959, Bruce "Bud" Long, 1960, Earl Flock, 1961 and Charles Hammond, 1962.

Honored
Mrs. A. B. Hoy, pioneer woman in the cattle business, was awarded the honor of being "Mom of the Year" of the Siskiyou Cowbells, the presentation being made by Mrs. Ed Hart, the president.

Doug Jenner, Etna, Future Farmers of America member, received from the Hereford Breeders Association, a leather scroll for having the best Hereford exhibit at the Siskiyou County Fair. From the S.C.C.A., the C. A. Grissom Ranch, Edgewood, received the award for the best pen of feeder steers at the fair; Jim Taylor, Big Springs, for the best pen of feeder heifers, and Stuart Hammond, Weed, for the best pen of replacement heifers.

Junior past president of S.C.C.A., Win Valentine, was given a belt buckle for his job as chairman. Ed Hart and his committee were thanked for arranging the dinner meeting.

Blair Smith, Montague, state director from Siskiyou county, urged all who could to attend the state convention of California Cattlemen Association in Bakersfield, Dec. 5, 6 and 7 to do so.

Louis Heggis, past president of S.C.C.A., in introducing the guest speaker, Harvey McDougal, commercial feed lot operator from Collinsville, mentioned that he is a past president of C.C.A. and Cattle Feeders' Association, he is vice president of National Cattlemen Association and acts on many advisory boards. In 1954 McDougal was State of California "Cattlemen of the Year" and often judges in leading shows throughout the nation, having done so for Siskiyou County two different years.

"Foreign Imports of Beef" was the topic of the subject of McDougal's address. He gleaned his material from a trip he took in the company of his wife and seven other couples, three of them from California, to New Zealand and Australia, this past summer, stopping enroute in the Fiji Islands and Hawaii.

More Cattle Than People
The group noted that New Zealand, about the size of Colorado, has a population of 2 1/2 million people and has 7 1/2 million cattle. "It is one of the greatest pastures of the world, carrying one-half head of cattle per acre the year around," McDougal said. "Sheep and cattle are handled on the same range. Cattle utilize the lush top grass while the sheep do the closer cropping. A great deal of wool and lambs are exported to England as well as quantities of boned beef all over the world—240 million pounds having been shipped to the United States last year. Grass fat cattle at 1,000 pounds are exported from this country, much of it going to the Hawaiian Islands, where in spite of shipping expense meat can be sold 10 cents under local prices."

In Australia the U.S. group met with the beef board at Sydney and took a 12 day tour in the north of the continent, which is as large as the United States, but has few railroads and hardly any roads, making transport-

ation poor. McDougal related that the Sir William Gunn ranch in Queensland, consisting of some 10,000 acres had been purchased for \$3 per acre. "The brush is cleared with tractors, then burned and the land seeded to grass," he said. "In five years time top feed is produced, at \$25 cost per acre. It requires two to carry one cow."

McDougal said a 2-year-old steer weighing 1,000 pounds is fed only on grass. "The income pays off the investment in five years or less. Many million acres are still available. The average yearly rainfall is 25 inches. The cost of a cow is \$50 and the overhead is \$100, very much cheaper than here," he said.

"Scales are not available in many places, therefore cattle are often sold by the head at auctions. A top steer is sold at 10 to 12 cents per pound and then goes through the boning operation, for export. Bulls bring a higher price than here when they go to the boning operations. Sanitation is not always good, but seems to be satisfactory in the killing plants."

"In the interior, which is desert country, a whole section can be leased for \$1.50 per section. In one area visited, the travelers saw a fence which ran 90 miles in a straight line. Water is usually 16 miles away. Losses are heavy, due to the rugged condition of the country. One ranch was said to contain 4 million acres and rains come but once a year. The spring temperature is often 104 degrees. Ranchers there do not worry greatly about their heavy losses, as the build-up is rapid, partly due to low prices."

Huge Ranch Described
"At the King Ranch, 600 miles from the closest neighbor, 4 million acres have been developed for water and fenced in the last five years. They can handle 25,000 cattle and plan to increase to 75,000 soon. They can produce a four-year-old steer for \$25 and get it to market for another \$25. Most of the native cattle are of shorthorn foundation for the past 100 years. Santa Gertrudis are being tried."

"The hospitality of the ranchers was outstanding to the travelers. They being 19 in number, and there being no hotel accommodations to be found,

the ranches were able to make them comfortable in all instances. In many cases supplies are obtained only twice a year."

"By American standards, they found the meat in the arid country to be quite tough and inedible. In some areas in Central Australia it may not rain for as long as three years. When the grass gets sparse, cattle will eat the leaves from the trees, if they can find any."

"Children in these sparsely settled areas are taught by radio and mail and doctor's advice in many cases is sought by radio."

McDougal said that in meeting with the Meat Board in Australia, they obtained no relief from the situation. This country is attempting to develop an Asian market for their low price meats, which may help in the solution of the problem. The U. S. group felt that the New Zealand cattlemen were not quite as willing to cooperate as those of Australia, as they are exporting 80 per cent of their meat to the U.S.

Threat Seen
McDougal said the United States beef men are not asking for government help, other than using meat in school lunches. He feels, however, that Australia may be a serious threat to the welfare of our market, since they have such a great potential and can produce at such low cost. In a few instances oats is green-chopped and fed as a supplement and in another case on a sewage farm, where the clear sewage is pumped to the fields, 30 tons of hay can be produced to an acre and 4 steers can be pastured on one acre of this land.

He said that Australia now has 18 million cattle and their potential is unlimited. He further added that Argentina is a still further threat to the U.S. market. If their beef is ever imported here, we are sunk, he said. Planes can be used to import it from there.

McDougal and his committee have attempted to meet with Agriculture Secretary Orville Freeman, but thus far have not been able to work out a solution, agreeable to the U.S. meat enterprise. He feels that a protective tariff is of utmost importance.

Skilled People Needed For Raising Quality Onions

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor
CENTRAL POINT — Raising onions like the production of other specialty crops here in the Rogue Valley requires people with know-how.

This has been emphasized repeatedly by county extension agents and growers. This is the big concern of those who would like to expand truck gardening in the valley which produces top quality products in onions, melons, tomatoes, sweet corn, potatoes and spinach. There just aren't enough good growers to go around.

The problem of enough good growers becomes acute when you consider the large acreage which will be put under irrigation water for the first time with the advent of the Rogue Basin project and the additional water to be provided other acreage.

The rapidly rising taxes on property plus irrigation charges make it necessary for the farmer to get a high return in dollars from each acre under protection. Only a good grower can do this.

The Harry Dunn family on Grand Road are among the little group of expert growers closely associated with Otto Bohnert, the leading local expert in specialty crops. Roger Von der Hellen, John Bohnert, Arnold Bohnert, Wilton White, and others. The majority of these people are easing out of vegetables to raise grass seed which requires far less labor and has a steadier market.

"You have to have a market. You gotta know what you are doing. Also, you have to have enough money to do it right," a local onion grower said.

One thing about onions you can market them all year without overloading the market at any particular time. Rogue Valley onions, as growers Don Bradshaw and John Bohnert have noted have a high demand for their top quality. Some may go north to the Portland market, but most of them go south to San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The Southern Oregon Branch Experiment Station is constantly working with new onion varieties. The station has 30 different onion selections this year. Three are named varieties, 27 have experiment station numbers and 10 have Oregon State university numbers. Some of the seed for these plants

come from commercial companies, others from the United States Department of Agriculture. Almost all are hybrid types through a system of crossbreeding. Most vegetable and seed crops come from hybrid plants, Station Agronomist John Yungen noted.

A thousand 50 pound sacks to the acre, field run, is considered good. Local growers get 1,200 to 1,400 sacks per acre, according to Yungen. A Sweet, Spanish variety, Colorado 6, is the old standby, with Fiesta and Treasure becoming more popular.

The experiment station keeps them in storage about five or six months. Then it grades, weighs and sizes the various onion varieties to see which store best.

"Marketing onions is an orderly procedure," according to County Agent Don Berry. "Growers don't overload the market. It's a specialty crop which requires a lot of detail work and handling."

Due to the cold spring and late planting the onions didn't size as large as in other years, according to Central Point Onion Grower Dick Dunn. But, the yield this year was good, about the highest he can remember. Two to three inch onions was considered good. Sandy and granite soil is con-

sidered best for onions, although some growers have raised good stands on the

Beef Carcass Work Explained by OSU

CORVALLIS — Use of an important new tool in the continuing effort by the Oregon cattle industry to produce beef that is tailored to fit changing needs of the meat trade as well as consumer preference is illustrated in a new Oregon State University extension bulletin.

The bulletin was prepared by Dr. J. C. Miller, head of the Department of Animal Science at Oregon State, and John H. Landers and W. Dean Frischknecht, OSU extension animal science specialists. It describes the results of the beef carcass evaluation contest held at the 1962 Pacific International Livestock Exposition in Portland.

The bulletin explains the importance of the carcass contest in relation to current trends in meat merchandising. It details the grades, yields, and cut-out values of the carcasses entered in the contest.

Oregon residents may obtain free copies of "Beef Carcass Evaluation Contest" from county extension offices or the OSU Bulletin Clerk.

sticky soil. Experts generally agree that a lot more onions could be grown in the valley if there were only the growers to do it.

The Duns have about nine acres planted to onions. Prior to harvest they use a V blade to slice off the roots. High school youngsters crate them after they are windrowed, two rows together to dry partially. Further drying is done in the huge storage house. Those onions containing more moisture are stacked in a drying room containing a large fan and heating plant.

Local women and Duns run the sorting machine which uses a moving belt to drop onions through different size mesh screens. This can be done all winter long as the need to crate or sack arises. The Duns sell onions locally and ship also. The three pound cello pack of broiler onions has proven popular. Sacks themselves most 1 1/2 cents, but they consider the cost well worth it.

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