

Chemical Age In Farming

By JOY BIGGS
The use of chemicals in agriculture today is just in the toddler stage. For years the labor and birth pains have gone on with trials and experiments in the use of chemicals and following the war the first steady steps forward have been made. Some idea of the scope of their use can be visioned but it is generally agreed that the enormity of the possibilities is unpredictable. Names such as mercuric chloride, benzene hexachloride, carbon bisulphide, chloropicrin, sodium fluosilicate, toxaphene, numerous others and symbols such as DDT, 2, 4-D and so forth are becoming a familiar part of a farmer's language. Germicidal lights, weed killers, insecticides and soil fumigants, are all a part of this amazing age wherein chemicals are playing a major part in modern agriculture. When many of these new formulas are still pronounced by agricultural authorities as in the experimental stage, it is well to have full information on each one from a reliable source such as county agent's offices before applying any of them. Some may have fabulous results as insecticides but have an unfavorable affect on crops or livestock. Indiscriminate use of others may throw a balance, resulting in catastrophe. In this section, all the articles on use of chemicals have been obtained from such authoritative sources as the county agent and his assistants, the Oregon State college, A. C. Gross of the Klamath experiment station soil conservation service, Harold Schieferstein, supervisor of Klamath county weed control and such men who are devoting their full time to the study of their subjects. It is the aim of this farm section to keep farmers and cattlemen abreast of the latest developments in their field, to assist them to get the maximum production from their crops and stock with the minimum effort, and extreme care is taken not to issue any erroneous information. Because the use of chemicals in agriculture is such a wide project, this theme will be continued in next week's farm section which appears in The Herald and News on Thursday, April 2.

Farmers Asked To Aid In Clean-Up Deal

Farmers are being asked now to assist in the annual spring clean-up campaign by the National Fire Protection association which sponsors the program in cooperation with the U. S. department of agriculture and state agriculture extension services. In 1947 the NFPA reports about 3500 persons killed by fires on farms and the monetary loss reached roughly \$80,000,000. The NFPA lists these suggestions for making farm homes safe: Collect useless papers, clothing and furniture from the house for salvage. Rubbish and debris are a source of spontaneous fires and are fuel for any spark or flame. Clean heating plants from fire pot to chimney top. Sooty, partly clogged chimneys shoot out sparks. Inspect lightning rod connections to see they are properly grounded. Don't store gasoline indoors. Store in fireproof outbuildings, or preferably underground. Cleaning fluids made "flammable" or "inflammable" should be replaced by available safe fluids, for both are dangerous. Check all electrical equipment for short circuits and faulty wiring. Clean all stoves, lamps and lanterns and keep them away from combustible material when stored.

Seeding Aids Forage Output

By JAMES T. ELINGS
Assistant County Agent
Seeding irrigated pastures to approved mixtures can increase the forage yield up to 100 per cent. Late spring seedings work out very well in Klamath county. Dairy-men and stockmen who have been planning such a seeding may well be thinking of what they're going to put into their pasture mixture. A good pasture mixture contains three or four grasses and one or two legumes. The varieties to use in a mixture depends upon climate, soil type, alkalinity or acidity of the soil, drainage, etc. The rate of seeding for good irrigated lands may range from 12 to 16 pounds per acre. The seeding of approved pasture mixtures carries AAA payments. The farmer must indicate plans of any pasture seedings to the Agriculture Conservation association.

Dehlinger Sorts Seed Potatoes

Karl Dehlinger has just completed sorting 11,500 sacks of certified seed potatoes at his rented cellar on the Black and White ranch in Poe Valley. Dehlinger's acreage averaged a field of 235 sacks of saleable spuds to the acre last year.



Free of the chute, this calf loses no time in unseating his young rider, Farmer Marvin Gurr of Merced, Calif., who found the rope little help. It was all part of the show at the Grand National Junior Livestock Exposition in San Francisco.

BHC Effects Crop Flavor

Present available information regarding the use of benzene hexachloride or BHC in the soil indicates that it gives an off-flavor to root crops and will continue to affect crops for two seasons. It has also been demonstrated in experiments that BHC may give an off-flavor to poultry meat if used as a spray for chicken lice, to treat chicken feed or to fumigate chicken houses. This off-flavor makes the meat inedible and is effective for six to ten weeks. There is no definite information that the flesh of other meat animals such as beef or hogs is affected.

Farmers are therefore asked to thoroughly survey the situation before using this preparation. One farmer using it on crop or livestock may not only hurt himself but his neighbors around as well, since shipping point inspectors of the U. S. department of agriculture now include a disclaimer clause that BHC has been used IN THE AREA from which potatoes originate. In other words no warranty is made regarding quality, indicating that potatoes from entire counties could be tagged that way, although perhaps a small portion of the crop may have been treated with the insecticide.

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FARM NEWS

Barley Tests Slated Here

Eight hundred two-row barley varieties have recently been received by the Klamath experimental area from the U. S. department of agriculture for testing. A two-row barley is one like Harnchen that has one row of seed on each side of the central stem of the head as compared with the other type having three rows on each side of the stem and called six-row barley. This large number of varieties will be grown in cooperation with the U. S. department's effort to find a variety with quality of Harnchen but having high yielding ability and greater straw strength. These varieties have been gathered from all over the world. Place names such as England, Germany, Central Asia, Asia Minor, Austria, Denmark, India, Russia, Australia, South Africa and many others appear on the list.

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Cricket Poison Spread By Planes

Poison bait for crickets is being spread now by air in experiments being conducted by the Farmers Air Service in the areas of Oregon.

where cricket infestation is expected. The bait is a chemical mixed in sawdust and bran and spread as a dust. Rhubarb has been used as a medicine for more than 4000 years, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica.

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