

# Wheat Move Planned To Aid Shipping

To assure supplies of wheat to importing countries and to assure markets to exporting countries at equitable and stable prices, are the objectives of the International Wheat Agreement recently concluded in Washington. The first of its kind in history, the agreement is the result of many years of effort to stabilize the world wheat market through international cooperation.

Subject to approval of the participating governments, the agreement covers these points:

1. Five years' duration is provided from August 1, 1948 through July 31, 1953.
2. Maximum and minimum prices are fixed for each of the five years, the maximum being \$2 per bushel for the life of the agreement, and the minimum beginning with \$1.50 per bushel for 1948-49 and decreasing by 10 cents per bushel each year to \$1.10 for 1952-53.

3. Canada, Australia, and the United States guarantee to sell 500 million bushels of wheat (230, 85, and 185, respectively) annually to importing "Agreement" countries at prices no higher than the maximum.
4. Importing countries, 33 in all, guarantee to buy stated quantities annually totaling 500 million bushels, from the 3 exporting countries at prices no lower than the minimum.
5. Countries are free to trade in wheat at prices above the ceiling or below the floor provided obligations under the agreement are carried out.
6. Lower maximum prices and higher minimums for the third, fourth and fifth years may be determined by the newly formed International Wheat Council, made up of nations which ratify the agreement, provided the prices are approved by a two-thirds majority of the votes held by the exporting and importing countries voting separately.

## New Blackberry Strain Developed

A new blackberry variety especially suited for freezing has been developed at the Oregon State college experiment station through a cooperative station USDA breeding project. It is recommended for trial planting in Oregon and Washington areas where blackberries are grown for the frozen pack industry.

Release of the new variety, named Chehalis, has been announced jointly by R. S. Beese, acting station director, and Robert M. Halter, chief of the USDA bureau of plant industry. It is described in station circular of information number 421, available on request from county agents or from the college.

## Food Testing Lab To Be Used

PORTLAND, April 1 (AP)—Upstate areas can borrow equipment to find out how much bacteria there are on restaurant dishes and spoons.

The state board of health has provided a mobile laboratory to test eating utensils. The laboratory is now working in Yamhill and Clackamas counties, and will go into Washington county April 5.

The state board reported two purposes of the tests: To help local restaurants determine whether their washing methods are effective, and to establish uniform standards through the state.

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This and other statements commonly prove true though only proverbial remarks. The above proverb is often the truth because a continuous or nearly continuous snow, incident to cold weather, is advantageous. It not only delays blossoming of fruit trees until after killing frosts, but also prevents alternate thawing and freezing which so often ruin winter grains.

## Spraying From Air Best Method Of Weed Killing

Application of weed killers and insecticides by air is by far the quickest method. At \$2 per acre including the chemical spray or dust, the pilot's time and use of equipment, it is also a reasonable method. More and more farm work is being conducted from the air and better methods of operation are being invented daily.

Gene Durant of the Farmers Air service explains some of the work of insect and weed control by air.

An ester formulation of 2,4-D for application by air is about one pint to five gallons of water and varies slightly to the type of weeds to be treated. This is a highly selective weed killer with nearly 100 per cent kill to be expected.

When spraying by air the wind must be considered and if it reaches a velocity of seven miles per hour work can't be done due to wind drift. Planes equipped with spray rigs are flown from two to four feet above the ground and the rate of speed depends on the equipment used.

With the smaller planes such as Cubs having 90 HP engines the speed is from 60 to 65 MPH. Stearman with 220 Continentals travel at about 75 MPH and Stearman with 450 Pratt-Whitney Wasps at around 90 MPH as passes across the field. Booms and spray nozzles are adjustable to the rate of speed used.

Fields as small as five to 10 acres can be treated by air but plane spraying and dusting is more practical on larger farms and ranches.

Recent tests were made at Arlington by the air service on low volume high voltage process of spraying with two and one-half gallons of liquid per acre. Several large chemical companies had representatives present for the tests and donated the material for experiments.

A 32 to 40-foot swath is treated

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## Hawks And Owls Prove Big Aid To Farmers In The Klamath Basin Area

By DON C. FISHER

A recent article concerning the value of hawks to the farmer appeared in this paper but I am wondering if the general public has any idea concerning the food habits of the eight species of hawks found in the Klamath and Tulelake basins. Nature has a place and a need for every native hawk. They are all part of our wildlife and each plays an essential part in regulating the abundance of the animal on which it preys.

The following data is based on a study by the department of agriculture covering the contents of 5195 hawk stomachs.

**Ferruginous Rough-Leg:**  
Rodents 54 per cent; rabbits and squirrels 29 per cent; insects 9 per cent; game birds 4 per cent; small birds 4 per cent.

**American Rough-Leg:**  
Rodents 72 per cent; rabbits and squirrels 8.6 per cent; insects 6.5 per cent; small birds 4.3 per cent; game birds 4.3 per cent; aquatic birds 2.2 per cent; frogs and snakes 2.1 per cent.

**Western Red-Tail:**  
Rodents 55 per cent; insects 19.5 per cent; rabbits and squirrels 9.3 per cent; small birds 9.2 per cent; poultry 6.9 per cent; game birds 2.1 per cent; aquatic birds 1.5

per cent; frogs and snakes 6.1 per cent.

**Swanson's Hawk:**  
Rodents 48 per cent; insects 29.5 per cent; snakes and frogs 12 per cent; small birds 5.6 per cent; rabbits 3.7 per cent; game birds 4 per cent; aquatic birds 4 per cent.

**Sparrow Hawk:**  
Insects 63.5 per cent; rodents 20.3 per cent; small birds 8.4 per cent; snakes and frogs 7.8 per cent.

**Marsh Hawk:**  
Small birds 41 per cent; rodents 33 per cent; rabbits and squirrels 9 per cent; game birds 7.2 per cent; frogs and snakes 4.1 per cent; insects 3.3 per cent; poultry 2.3 per cent; aquatic 1 per cent.

**Coopers Hawk:**  
Small birds 55 per cent; rodents 17 per cent; game birds 12 per cent; poultry 10 per cent; insects 3.3 per cent; rabbits 1.7 per cent; frogs and snakes 1 per cent.

**Sharp Shinned Hawk:**  
Small birds 96.4 per cent; rodents 2.6 per cent; insects 7 per cent; frogs and snakes 1 per cent; rabbits 1 per cent; poultry 1 per cent.

Owls are just as beneficial to the farmers and as proof of this statement the following is taken from a report by Joseph S. Dixon, who made a study of the food habits of hawks and owls in the petroglyph area of the Lava Beds national monument.

"On the level ground 30 feet below a barn owl's nest at the petroglyph evidence was found of the extensive destruction of meadow mice by these owls. In an area 6 by 35 feet, were found these recently killed but whole rodents—42 meadow mice, 8 white-footed mice, 1 house mouse and 1 kangaroo rat. These 52 rodents represented merely some discards that accidentally dropped from the owl's nest.

"It has been our experience that under such circumstances where mice are abundant, an owl makes no effort to retrieve a mouse once dropped from the nest, the bird prefers to leave and fly forth in search of another victim."

"From an examination that was made of a large number of recent pellets under one barn owl's nest, it was concluded that 52 dead discarded mice that were counted below the barn owl nest represented only about one-sixth of all the mice caught by that one pair of barn owls in a two-week period." As evidence supporting this statement Dixon counted incisor teeth of 243 meadow mice in fresh pellets collected under another barn owl nest.

It is obvious that hawks and owls in the petroglyph cliff area kill hundreds of thousands of mice each year in the farms in the Tulelake basin.

Flu Cases Show Decline In State

PORTLAND, April 1 (AP)—The state board of health reported still another drop in the frequency of influenza last week.

A total of 55 cases was recorded in Oregon, a decline of 41 per cent. There were no new cases of infantile paralysis.

Baker county reported a diphtheria case, Marion county four amebic dysentery cases, and Douglas county one bacillary dysentery case. The state also showed two typhoid.

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## Western Farming Held "Amazing"

WASHINGTON, April 1 (AP)—Rep. Fuller (R-N.Y.) Tuesday said he was "amazed" at the progress of western agriculture.

Fuller viewed the western developments of an eight-day, 6000-mile trip with 15 other members of the house agriculture committee. The group heard witnesses in Denver, Salt Lake City and Spokane.

These sessions were for the purpose of laying the foundation for a long-range agriculture program. Fuller, discussing his trip with a reporter, said he marvels at the ingenuity of farmers.

"We have been paying a great deal of attention to the miracles of industry, but the miracles of agriculture are no less astounding and no less important," he said.

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