

Harvest Proves Value of Rotation

By JESSE LANGDON

Maggie Criss and sons, engaged in farming in the irrigated section of Butte Valley, find that crop rotations pay off in their farming operations. The Criss farming operations are typical of most practices being followed on irrigated lands within the Butte Valley Soil Conservation district. The district program of work, as recommended through the board of directors, is to advocate those practices which are most in meeting with the needs of the land. For the most part, they will include the following:

Soil Information

Through the district program of work, in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service, a complete soil survey is made of all district land resources. Such data includes a study of the soil profile in mapping soil texture, the depth of top soil to hardpan, where present; the soil alkali content, water table conditions, and other factors including the degree of erosion, all of which factors will designate the overall land capability and crop adaptation. The soil information is basic data for most soil types of the district that need consideration in the overall plan of farming operations.

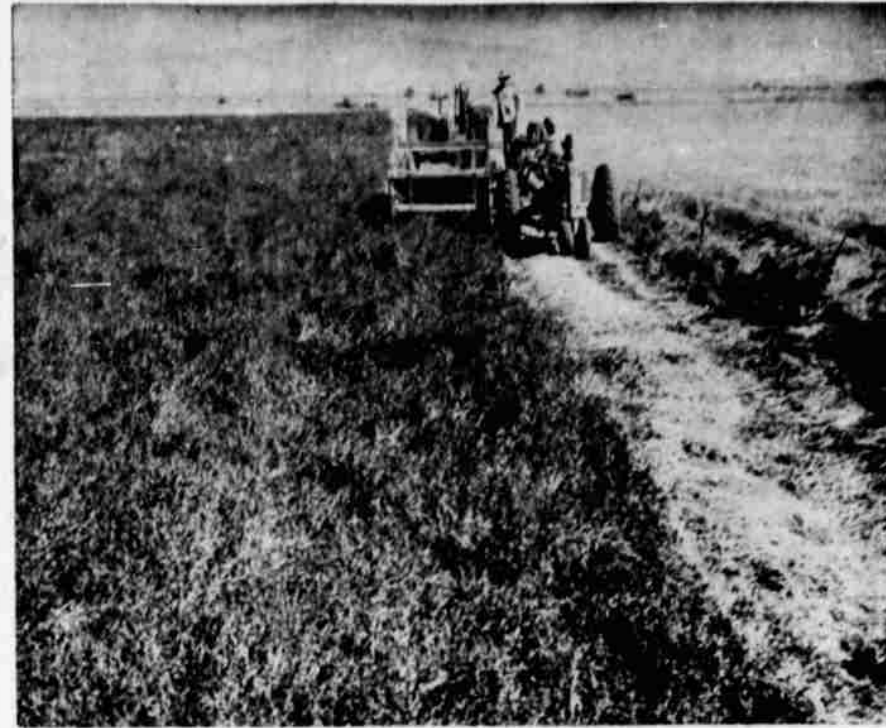
The directors and farm cooperators fully realize the significance of the soil surveys as a beginning approach in meeting with agricultural soil and water conservation operations in the valley.

Land Leveling

A total in excess of 4000 acres of land have been leveled within the Butte Valley Soil Conservation District since the time that the district was first organized three years ago. Land leveling is a practice highly advocated by the district directors in meeting with most farm land needs from the standpoint of proper application of irrigation water.

The practice pays off in way of increased crop returns, which often pay for the cost of land leveling the first year. Additional advantages are realized in saving of labor and greater overall efficiency in use of irrigation water. During the past three years, the Criss brothers have carried through with leveling operations most in meeting with their cropping plans. At the present time, almost their entire farm acreage has been leveled and in proper shape for irrigation.

A planned crop rotation may vary in some degree in meeting with



THIS FIELD OF ALSIKE CLOVER on the Maggie Criss and Sons property in Butte valley is yielding upwards of 900 pounds of seed per acre. The Criss Brothers report that a chemical spray was used to mature the plants to facilitate harvest of seed. Harvest operations began four days after the chemical was applied through airplane spray application.

crop control programs from year to year. However, most irrigated farms in Butte valley are carrying out cropping programs typical of that on the Criss brothers land. Typical rotations are: the seeding of small grains, usually oats, and alfalfa clover the first year. The small grain is used as a nurse crop for the establishment of the clover, but more in particular to prevent blowing out of the clover seed by wind at seeding time, and, also, for the control of erosion. During the succeeding two years, the clover is harvested for a seed crop. The following year the land is in shape for potato production and will be seeded to a small grain with re-establishment of a legume the year

following potatoes. Where alfalfa is grown, the seeding operations are similar to alfalfa clover. Alfalfa is left in for a period of 4 to 6 years, thence plowed up to be in potatoes for a one to two year period before seeding of small grains and the re-establishment of a legume. Such rotation practices have been of benefit in increasing the productive level of soils in the Butte valley section. The practice is also to be recommended as sound from the standpoint of needed soil and water conservation.

practice for the incorporating of plant organic matter back into the soil, but the practice is also beneficial in the control of wind and water erosion. Tillage practices which will only partially incorporate the straw into the soil by leaving an approximate fifty per cent on or near the surface are to be recommended in the control of ero-

sion. Where the straw cover is heavy it may offer a problem in tillage and seeding operations. Removal may be necessary. Where soil nitritification is a problem, the addition of approximately 20 pounds of a nitrogen is recommended for each ton of straw residue to overcome the denitrification.

Cover Crops

Most severe erosion in Butte valley often occurs on land following potato harvest. A practice being followed by some potato growers with good results includes the seeding of cereal rye and Austrian field peas for a cover crop. It is necessary to seed the cover crop immediately following harvest of the potatoes thereby taking advantage of seasonal growth before cold weather. The

Hog Prices Irregular

Hog prices were irregular this week. Some early declines were partly recovered on Wednesday, then lost again on Thursday, although the Portland market did not share in the latter decline. Thursday's market at Portland was active and back to the Monday top growth during early spring of the next year will afford wind erosion protection and may be plowed under for a green manure crop even though the growth is light.

of \$21.75 on good butchers. This was \$1.25 below the previous Monday and 75 cents under last Thursday. The top at Chicago was \$1.25 under Portland. Salable receipts of hogs for the week were generally under the previous week but well above a year ago. Hog slaughter under federal inspection exceeded 900,000 head last week. This was a new peak for the season, being 3 per cent above the previous week. It was 28 per cent above the same week a year ago. Pork production for the week was only 23 per cent above last year but lard production was up 36 per cent. Fresh pork prices on Thursday, September 29, were lower than a week earlier at Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Chicago, but

were higher at New York. Carcasses were being quoted out of coolers at Portland at 30 to 33 cents a pound as the week closed. Some pork cuts were off as much as 7 cents a pound.



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