



"SHAY... one of 'em must be on Daylight Saving Time!"

Water Oregon's Recurring Resource, Committee Says

Water is Oregon's great recurring resource. That's what Marshall N. Dana, Portland, said while giving the report of the agricultural relations committee at the recent agricultural conference at Oregon State college. The committee recommended that every town and community dependent upon central water systems plan on doubling its capacity for storage and delivery within the next 25 years.

Oregon must plan on an additional million persons within the next 25 years, he said.

The committee recommended for those waters within the state that all interests be coordinated in overall planning for a multiple use program based on six points: domestic, agriculture, industrial, hydro-electric, fish and wildlife, and recreation.

An industry section of the committee suggested that industrial development be sought that will utilize products of farm and forest. It was their idea that research at Oregon state college lead every effort toward finding new products, processes, equipment and methods to facilitate the program, especially with reference to wood and agricultural wastes.

Farmers will want to irrigate an additional million acres of land during the next quarter century, the committee visualized. Industrial expansion to take advantage of hydro-electric power and to serve the growing population will double or treble water demands.

Recommended for farmers was the development of at least 3,000 on-farm storage dams with a capacity of a million acre feet of water. Hoped for development of 3,000,000 acre feet of additional water on presently known sites in order to put in motion expanded irrigation was also expressed.

OSC Bulletin On Sheep Out

It is questionable economy to feed more than 100 pounds of grain annually to a ewe and her offspring, says John H. Landers Jr., in a new Oregon State college extension bulletin, number 723, "Sheep Management in Oregon."

Copies are available free from the county extension office or directly from Oregon State College.

Landers, a county extension agent-at-large, says increased costs which have cut down large sheep operations in eastern Oregon and the increase in small farm flocks has made sheep management a problem on farms not previously concerned.

He discusses buildings and fences, labor, rams, ewes, disease, lambing, docking and castrating, feeding, pastures, shearing, marketing and parasites. Landers explains that labor involved in raising small flocks is small, but dogs frequently become a problem, especially in densely populated areas.

Winter feed requirements usually run about 300 pounds of good quality hay per ewe. A main disadvantage to the small flock, he adds, is the cost of the ram per lamb aired.

Few Potato Fields Still Implanted

Just a few fields of potatoes remain to be planted in the Klamath Basin area, according to a report from the County Agents office here, and indications are total acreage this season will exceed last year's by some 25 per cent. However, acreage may be about five per cent lower this year than it was year before last.

County Agent C. A. Henderson estimates a little over 18,000 acres of spuds will be planted by the end of planting time this year. He notes that it is difficult to estimate correctly, and there is bound to be some error either way.

Last year there was about 15,000 acres of potatoes here.

Usefulness of Weeds Test Checked Out by Scientist

"Can weeds be made useful?" asks the June issue of Country Gentleman.

Dr. George D. Scarseth, director of the American Farm Research Bureau, claims in the magazine that weeds have their good points as well as bad. Discussing the weed question in the matter of growing corn, he lists their bad points as follows, in addition to the fact that it costs money to get rid of them:

1. Weeds rob corn of nutrients, especially nitrogen.
2. They shade the corn plants when weeds grow too high.
3. They cause a lot of important corn roots to be cut off by cultivation.
4. They pump water out of the soil, robbing the corn plants.
5. Some weeds may take over and get out of control.

These are all solid reasons for clean cultivation, chemical spraying and burning to control weeds. But Dr. Scarseth says there are many important things which should not be lost by destroying weeds:

1. They are often vigorous feeders and may absorb nutrients that are unavailable to corn.
2. They protect soil from erosion and leaching.
3. Some weeds can punch holes into tight subsoil and improve tilth.
4. They may have some beneficial effects on certain pests, such as nematodes.

With regard to robbing the soil of nutrients, Dr. Scarseth says it's profitable to add extra nutrients to overcome what the weeds use. In an experiment he used 176 pounds of nitrogen per acre balanced with phosphate and potash to make a 125-bushel corn crop on a very low fertility soil and it took about 50 pounds of nitrogen to feed the weed. Thus, the weeds used \$7 worth of nitrogen per acre, but Dr. Scarseth felt the cost was justified.

To prevent weeds from shading corn, he advises starter fertilizers with complete nutrients to get corn off to a fast start.

Some weeds, especially tall ones, are bad robbers of moisture, but where they form a shade over the surface or produce a mulch to cool the soil, they may actually help by conserving moisture.

Cutting down on cultivations saves time and money and reduces tractor compacting of the soil.

Hort Group Sets Meet

Oregon's senior farm organization, the Oregon State Horticultural society, will hold its sixty-seventh annual meeting at Oregon State college November 20 and 21, society president Tom Harper, Junction City, has announced.

Carl Robertson, head of the Eugene Fruit Growers Inc. field department, will serve as chairman of the program committee assisted by Dan Young, Eugene. Former President Ward Spatz, Medford, has agreed to assume responsibility for engaging a nationally known industry spokesman to be featured speaker.

As a preliminary measure before lining up a slate of program speakers, the society membership has been canvassed with a request for suggestions. More than 100 have been received, according to Harper.

The society will hear a report from a nine-man committee headed by Walter Bailey, The Dalles, which is studying the possibility of establishing a research and scholarship committee. Its purpose would be aimed toward furtherance of the industry.

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★ DATE Saturday, June 14th

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