

Tule Growers Talk Potato District To Thin Farm Labor Housing Costs

TULELAKE — Members of the Tulelake Growers' Association are studying the possibility of forming a potato district in this area.

According to TGA Mgr. John Seus the district as visualized at present would provide legal machinery for a publicly financed labor camp operated for the benefit of all producers of the area, and would be governed by an elected board of directors.

It would operate camp facilities adequate to house enough labor to harvest all the local farm crops. It would involve portions of Modoc and Siskiyou Counties and in general would probably follow the present boundary of the Tulelake Water District.

Seus said the need for a public-

ly-financed labor camp has long been apparent to the Growers Association members here who in the past have gone the expense themselves in bringing in Mexican Nationals. That extra force relieved labor pinches at little or no cost to outside growers.

Consequently, the potato district would spread the cost of the labor camp housing over all who would benefit.

Modoc County Supervisor Jim Stearns met recently with the TGA, Seus said, and outlined the procedure necessary to make the district a reality. He said slight changes in legislation may be necessary, but Stearns believed they could be obtained.

The district tax levied on all

growers in the area would be so light on each individual, Seus reported, it "would distribute the burden equally and make the cost to each producer so slight as to be almost unnoticeable."

BULKERS

The growers feel use of bulking equipment will reduce labor demand by 50 per cent, but the labor problem itself won't be licked that way. Many growers have indicated apprehension unless good housing is provided the better type of worker needed to operate machines will not remain in this area. Seus said growers all agree that itinerant laborers must be chosen to operate equipment and pick crops for their sobriety in order that an efficient job may be done.

Local farmers have also drawn on a labor force of "wet-backs", Mexicans in this country illegally. However, Immigration authorities have cracked down on immigration laws, and have cut off a labor supply which farmers here have in the past found easy to house.

Annual Building Check Advised For Termites

To keep termites out of house and home, the homeowner and farmer should make an annual inspection of their wooden buildings.

Termites are in many Oregon yards, and the problem is to keep them from getting into the house or farm buildings, according to Robert Graham, wood preservation head at the Oregon Forest Products laboratory which is on the Oregon State college campus.

Oregon has a huge termite "crop," causing untold thousands of dollars of damage each year. Two types which bother Oregon damp-wood termites. Both require favorable moisture conditions, but subterranean termites can construct earthen tunnels up and over cement foundation walls to reach wood.

Absence of the tunnels is no assurance that termites are not present. Once access to the wood has been obtained, termites can extend their tunnels for long distances

into seemingly dry wood. They have been found in wood parts of buildings on the second floor and in oak floors over basements.

VENTILATION

Conditions favoring their development in buildings are inadequate ventilation, presence of wood debris or wood forms in the ground beneath houses, and contact of wood siding, joists or other wood members of the earth. Many of these conditions prevail in basements or partial basement houses. Houses with basements are by no means immune from attack, Graham added.

Shrubs should not be planted directly in front of side-house air vents. This creates a dead space. All dirt should be at least 6 inches below the exterior siding and 18 inches below the joists and sills.

Poured concrete porches may be an important source of initial infestation, unless adequate precautions are taken to prevent the wood from being in direct contact with the concrete. This is a good construction practice and should be kept in mind by contractors and homeowners.

If termites are already present as indicated by earthen tunnels or hollowing out of wood, the infested material should be replaced and the source of moisture eliminated. Termites are present throughout Western Oregon, with greater numbers along the coast where the humidity is higher. In Eastern Oregon, termites are less extensive.

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Packers Pay Less for Beef

CHICAGO — Wesley Hardenbergh, president of the American Meat Institute, said Tuesday packers are paying less for beef-on-the-hoof because they are getting less for by-products.

"A one thousand pound steer is worth \$14.20 less to the packer today than 18 months ago," Hardenbergh said in a talk prepared for delivery before the National Wool Growers Association.

"Tallow, of which a thousand pound steer yields 50 pounds, has dropped from 14.75 cents a pound to 4.94 cents a pound in the last year and a half," the MIA president said. "Cured hides, which average 60 pounds for a thousand pound steer, have dropped from 33 cents per pound to 17.5 cents per pound during a like period of time."

Hardenbergh called for closer co-operation among the various groups in the meat and livestock industry "if we are to withstand and overcome the obstacles which so often operate against us—such things as the onslaught of disease and weather, the problems of competition and regulations, and the effects of prejudice and misunderstanding."

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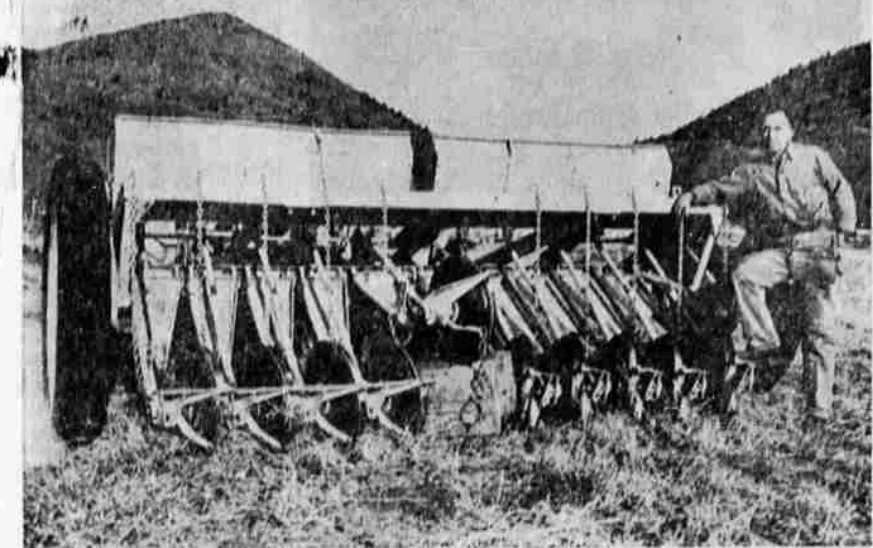
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FREMONT DRILL, used for range seeding in Fremont area.

LAKEVIEW, Ore.—The need for increasing the production of livestock feed on more and more of the millions of acres of desert and mountain ranges has resulted in the invention of a special seeding drill for range use.

Known as the "Fremont Drill" in honor of the Fremont National Forest where it was developed, this new drill was invented by John Kucera, who was until recently in charge of range management on the Fremont National Forest here, and Nathan Smith, head machinist at the Fremont repair shops.

Two principal features distinguish the new drill: First, is the extra high wheels which permits the machine to clear brush, stumps and rocks. Second, the machine is equipped with seeding units which operate separately from each other and which individually will raise and lower to pass over obstructions.

The two men built one model in the Fremont shops in 1951 and used it that fall to seed some 900 acres along the Chewaucan river west of Paisley. The machine was then taken to the Forest Service equipment development shops at Arcadia, Calif., where a new model was built. The new model had rubber tires and heavier parts and was sent out to various forests for "test hops." On the Fremont it was recently used briefly for testing by local forest personnel, then was sent on to a forest in Utah. After the "shakedown cruise" the machine will be returned to Arcadia where remaining bugs will be removed before the machine is released for production.

In the picture is Nathan Smith, one of the inventors. Kucera has been transferred to the Umatilla National Forest at Pendleton.

Tractors Can Be Dangerous

The three-wheeled tractor is a handy thing for maneuverability, but also the cause of many farm accidents in California. According to Ken Baggett, University of California farm advisor, a tractor is as dangerous as a horse—it can rear over backwards if it is not properly hitched.

The farm advisor offers three rules of safety for farmers who operate three-wheeled tractors:

Hook up anything the tractor is pulling to the draw bar, not the axle.

Watch the angle of a ditch bank. A tractor can roll over sideways if it is operated at too much of an angle.

Apply brake pressure evenly. A three-wheeled tractor can roll over on the road if one brake is hit too hard, or if the brakes are improperly adjusted.

Nitrogen Acts On Dry Lands

Dry land grains in both Klamath and Lake counties have shown the greatest response to nitrogen fertilizer, according to tests made by the Klamath Experiment Station and announced today by Dr. Al Halvorsen, soils specialist at the station.

Yields have been increased by more than 30 per cent in some localities, Halvorsen said, with top response noted in Poe Valley. The trials were made on Hanneken barley.

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Herald and News FARM NEWS

MALCOLM EFLEY, Jr.
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Christmas Tree Farming

Raising Christmas trees can be a profitable business if good farming practices are followed, says an Oregon State college farm woodlot specialist.

Paul Goodmanson, extension pro-

Stem Rust Controllable

Barberry eradication is an old and proved method of reducing losses caused by stem rust of wheat, oats, barley, and rye, according to extension service circular 849 recently released by Oregon State college.

Rust-infected barberry bushes are the important source of stem rust in the northwestern states. The circular explains that from these bushes, the disease spreads to nearby grains and grasses during May and June.

The folder reviews how stem rust develops, how to identify the rust-spreading barberry, where it is found, and how weather affects stem rust.

The circular emphasizes that barberry eradication is a cooperative plant disease control project. It is important to report locations of barberry bushes to the county extension agent.

Copies of the circular are available at county extension offices or from OSC.

Caution Urged In Farm Debts

ST. PAUL, Minn. (U.P.)—Gov. Ivey W. Duggan of the Federal Farm Credit Administration Tuesday urged caution in making new farm debts because of a declining level of agricultural prosperity.

Duggan said agriculture generally is in a sound economic condition. But, he said, there have been "storm signals recently" which suggest a necessity for a cautious attitude not only by lenders but also by individual farmers.

He said farm prices—and income—have been falling in spite of a high level of employment afforded by defense spending. Farm production costs, on the other hand, have been increasing, he said.

In a talk prepared for a meeting of the Farmers Union Grain Terminal Association, Duggan said one of the results of the "shrinkage in the margin between farm income and costs" has been a rising short-term farm debt which now is larger than the farm real estate debt.

To retain a top quality of labor, a top quality of housing must be maintained. Seus and the TGA feel the potato district is the solution to that problem.



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