

## The County Agent Reports on Klamath Agriculture

By C. A. HENDERSON  
Klamath County Agent

On Feb. 26, 1952, many state land grant colleges will observe the 50th birthday of the new method of agricultural education based on field demonstrations. This type of education got under way on a farm near Terrell, Tex., Feb. 26, 1902. From the very beginning this type of out-of-school education has spread not only to farms throughout the world but to homes as well and has been responsible for the development of a national and international 4-H club program.

A historical marker will be unveiled at Terrell Feb. 26 next, commemorating this beginning out of which grew the Federal State Cooperative Extension Service. Today more than 4½ million farm families and two million non-farm families throughout this country

are taking part in extension programs.

**ALSIKE CLOVER**  
Movement of alsike clover seed this year has been very slow. Up to Nov. 15, only 40 per cent of the national commercial crop had been sold by growers. It was 81 per cent on the same date last year, and the average is 74 per cent. Movement has been slower in Oregon and California. Between Oct. 15 and Nov. 15, the national price declined \$4.20 per hundred pounds and was averaging \$27.10 per hundred pounds clean seed compared with \$38.17 last year on the national average. In Oregon the price to growers Nov. 15, 1951 was 41 cents on the average. In 1952 the same date, it was \$25.50, the lowest price of any major clover area in the U.S. Idaho was next in line with a price of 26.9. The federal report indicates that for the four months period ending in October, 280,100 pounds were imported. Clover is supported at 25 cents and the cost of securing this support is 2 cents per hundred pounds not including interest on money advanced if seed is stored at home. Interest rate is 3½ per cent. Applications are handled through the Production Marketing Administration, Tower Theater Building and must be completed by the end of January.

## SCD Ups Board Number to 7

The board of supervisors of the Poe Valley Soil Conservation District was increased in number from five to seven members at a meeting held in the postoffice last Thursday.

The session selected two lists of three men each to be submitted to the State Conservation Committee which is to make the final choice of the additional two members. They will both come from the newly added portions of the Poe Valley SCD, lying to the north and east of Sprague River.

From the Chiloquin-Medoc Point area, the names of Harry Pearson, Robert Doak and Gerald Wolff were submitted. From the Sprague River area, Roy Gieniger, H. Robbins and Calvin Barney were submitted.

Joe Callahan, whose term as supervisor expires shortly, was suggested for reappointment. The names of George Hagelstein and Ben Murphy were also presented to complete the necessary list of three from which the supervisor's post is to be filled.

## Bunger Goes To Jordan

Dave Bunger, agricultural and irrigation technician with the Bureau of Reclamation here since 1946, has left the United States for the tiny Near Eastern country of Jordan.

He is serving on a Point-Four mission of the Technical Cooperation Administration, Department of State.

Bunger's wife and son Donald are making the tour of duty with him.

While here, Bunger has made his home at 4332 Clinton Street, and was a soil technologist, land classifier and irrigation agriculturalist. He received his bachelor of science from Colorado State College of Agricultural and Mechanical Arts, Fort Collins.

The principal Point Four concerns agriculture, natural resources, health and sanitation and education and industry.



**HOMEWORK** — Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Agriculture-designate takes care of some agricultural problems of his own at the Benson home in Salt Lake City, before departing for Washington, where a host of more complicated situations await him.

## 11 Oregon 4-H Awards Given

Eleven 4-H club members have received awards from the Oregon Wool Growers' Auxiliary for 1952 sheep projects, according to Cal Monroe, 4-H club state agent at Oregon State College.

Cash and merchandise premiums were awarded for food preparation, serving lamb; making wool clothing; and improving sheep projects.

Winners are Sharon Lee Ocheltree, Myrtle Point; Gayle Bonebrake, Hood River; Lester Mielke, Halcyon; Bill Brannon, Ione; Tommy Hansen, Dallas; David Oert, North Powder; John Steiner, Molalla; Charles Holliday, Prineville; George Bulzer, Wamic; and Loretta Thomas, McMinnville.

## Weed Crawls Into Office

PULLMAN, Wash. (U.S.A.)—A persistent weed crawled right into the expert's office for handy analysis at Washington State College.

Knut Lunnum, extension forestry specialist at WSC, said Thursday he removed a stack of pamphlets from his office book case and found a Morning Glory peeking out behind.

He and Henry Wolfe, WSC weed authority, pulled out several handfuls of vine and stopped the invasion.

The weed, a pest noted for its hardiness and persistence, had tunneled under the cement foundation of the Quonset-hut building, worked through a crack in six inches of concrete, then through a seam in the linoleum and up the wall to join its pictured brothers in the bookcase.



## Alsike Supports Available To Qualifying Producers

Klamath County Clover producers may still receive price support, according to a reminder from Klamath County PMA Chairman William Burnett.

With the clover situation hanging fire because of present market conditions, the alsike growers may receive their support by signing purchase agreements, or taking out warehouse-stored or farm-stored loans.

The purchase agreement, Burnett explained, is merely an agreement that the government will buy qualified seed at the support price of 25 cents per pound on April 30 if the producer is unable to sell on the commercial market before that date.

Costs to the producer include a one-cent per hundred pounds service charge; furnishing the PMA with two copies of an official purity and germination test at delivery time; and delivery of the seed to an approved warehouse at the time the government purchases the seed.

Warehouses must have signed a seed storage agreement with the Commodity Credit Corporation in order the seed producer may obtain a loan on his seed stored in a warehouse. Several warehouses in this locality are in the process of signing this agreement, Burnett said.

## Lotus May Make Pasture, Local Experiments Show

A pasture legume which may adapt itself to the Klamath Basin pasture program is lotus (Bird-foot Trefoil), for which one-year's experimental data has been recorded at the Klamath Experiment Station.

The lotus was seeded in the experimental plots in June of 1951, and some of the findings were released by the station this week.

The plant is being used in many sections of the country as a basic pasture legume, and it appears to do well on alkali soils and has considerable tolerance to dry soil conditions.

The "pH" on the experimental plots ranges from 7.4 to 8.4 (above 7.0 is alkali, below is acid).

No cases of bloat have been recorded in pasturing lotus, the report announced. Though it may adapt itself to the local program, specialists at the station feel further testing will be required to determine best varieties and management.

The plots are being measured on a four-week clipping basis, and



**MORE SPUDS** — Newschart above compares annual potato crops since 1940 with a November estimate of the 1952 crop and the Department of Agriculture's goal for 1953, expected to meet 'all known requirements.' The National Potato Council says indications are that the goal will be met.

## East Oregon Corn Costs Up

Eastern Oregon continues this year to hold a strong edge over the rest of the state in production costs for corn.

Dr. R. E. Fore, of the Oregon State college farm crops department who was chairman of the recent Oregon Corn show, reports 15 cost records from Malheur county showed an average yield of 127 bushels an acre at an average cost of 87 cents a bushel. This was 14 cents higher than 1951 when average acreage production was 143 bushels.

Thirty-three cost records for the Willamette Valley showed production up from 72 bushels in 1951 to 76 bushels this year with production costs dropping from 87 cents to 85 cents a bushel.

Sweepstakes winner in the hybrid yield contest was Harold Amidon, Ontario, FFA member, with 173.1 bushels an acre. Eastern Oregon growers have won the event each year since 1939. Record yield of 186.7 bushels was set in 1949 by Robert Reffert, Nyssa.

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## Swan Lake Ground Waterflow Occurs in Lava Rock Below

The ground-water supply now being developed for irrigation in the Swan Lake-Yonah Valley of Klamath County occurs in the lava-rock formations beneath the area.

This information, along with water records and a description of the geologic framework of the area, is given in a Geological Survey report released today by Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman.

The report gives the findings of an investigation of ground-water resources made during 1949-51 by the Geological Survey in co-operation with the office of the state engineer of Oregon. Both water-bearing and nonwater-bearing formations, the types and yields of wells, and the chemical character of the ground water in the area are discussed.

The principal water-bearing units are two lava-rock formations which underlie the basins at various depths. The sedimentary materials that overlie these lava rocks form the surface of the main valley plains but do not afford large quantities of ground water.

The water table, or water-pressure level, beneath the area slopes gently southward toward Lost River. The main recharge of the ground water is believed to be from local precipitation upon the area, though the probability of some percolation southward from the Sprague River valley is not entirely precluded by the available data.

A geologic map and cross section show the distribution and relations of the water-bearing and nonwater-bearing rock units. Locations of the principal wells and springs are shown on a topographic sketch map, and data on the wells and springs are tabulated. Because the water-bearing rocks have been deformed by folding and faulting they are found at different depths below the valley plains. This difference in depth to water-bearing rock from place to place in the valley is considerable—even within a single cultivated field in some districts.

The lava-rock formations contain fractured and brecciated layers that are highly permeable and afford large yields to wells. The report suggests that the ultimate safe yield of the area may be accurately determined from long-term records of the ground-water level. Since the main ground-water development for irrigation began, soon after World War II, the water levels have shown a slight rise, in agreement with the general rise in the water table in eastern Oregon during those years.

Copies of the report are on file in the offices of the state engineer and the Klamath County agricultural agent in the main public libraries of Klamath County, and Room 2209, General Services Building, Washington 25, D.C., and 23 Post Office Building, Portland.

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