The County Agent Reports on Klamath Agriculture

BY C. A. HENDERSON

Potatoes

Apparently there will be very little change in the acreage of potatoes in Klamath County in 1953. Considerable number of growers have been contacted through marketing service and extension service agents and most of them expect to plant a little more or a little less or about the same as in 1952. Incomplete information, however, indicates that there might be considerable acreage increase in the Macdoel and Tulelake districts this year.

The weekly report on potatoes and truck crops from Oregon State College indicates that the early growing states have planted 13 per cent more potatoes than last year and 41 per cent above their average crop. In the late spring states the acreage increase is estimated at around 32 per cent above last year. A major part of this increase in acreage is in Alabama, Louisiana and California.

The early spring onion crop in California is 44 per cent more acres than a year ago. A preliminary report on onions for the late spring states shows a 22 per cent increase over last year but a 2 per cent decrease from the 1949-51 average.

Wheat

California wheat crop is estimated 30 per cent smaller than the 1952 crop. The national winter wheat crop is now estimated at 1-3 less than 1952 or 10 per cent less than the 10-year average.

Barley

The California barley production is forecast at 46,344 bushels or 14 per cent less than the 53,892 bushels produced last year. The crop is about the same as the 10-year average. The national acreage is slightly less than last year according to the crop reporting service and growing conditions are not too favorable in many areas. Stocks of barley on farms on April 1st were smaller than a year ago.

Corn

USDA reports that corn-belt farmers are planning on a major reduction in corn acreage for 1953. While corn acreage is decreasig corn yields are increasing.

Farm Income

Net farm income continued to decline throughout 1952. For the entire nation the non-farm people's income averaged $1,827, a gain of $83 over 1951. For the farm people the average income was $924, a decrease of $45 from 1951. This also included income to farmers from non-farm sources. This decline is expected to continue through 1953.

Alfalfa

Cold nights and poor growing weather in early April slowed down and in many cases stopped the decline in alfalfa hay prices. Considerable hay was shipped out of the Klamath Basin during this period and the heavy carryover anticipated of alfalfa hay may not occur. While some alfalfa acreage will be plowed up, undoubtedly a sizeable crop will be harvested in 1953. Some growers regard it a safer plan to have the land in alfalfa than to grow other crops where prices are uncertain.

Vesicular Exanthema

A recent circular from Secretary of Agriculture Benson's office provides excellent information on garbage and animal diseases.

"Raw garbage spreads animal diseases. The cooking of garbage to be fed to swine is essential for the ultimate eradication of vesicular exanthema."

"Almost without exception, each recent occurrence of vesicular exanthema in swine has been traced to hogs fed on raw garbage. Even infection by contact usually can be traced back to garbage-fed swine. Virus-infected meat scraps in untreated garbage are still carrying the disease into herd after herd at great cost to livestock owners, the packing industry, and the consuming public. Direct cost of eradication efforts to State and Federal governments is amounting to about $15,000 a day. Indirect economic losses are probably much higher.

Alsike

Up to February 15, only 60 per cent of the below average 1952 crop of alsike clover seed had been sold by growers. Sales were expected to be particularly high during the spring months. Acreage of alsike clover sowed for seed is down considerably this year.

Field Trip To Be Held

For all Pacific Northwest people interested in outdoors and rangelands, a summer field trip will be held in central Oregon June 11 and 12. This annual event is sponsored by the Society of Range Management, according to Leon Neiss, president of the Northwest section. British Columbia was last year ago and central Oregon Cascadeland will set the stage this year with headquarters at Pilot Butte Inn in Bend. Two days of friends and scenery will give opportunity a plenty to see and hear Oregon ranchers demonstrate how they produce grass. Ladies are most welcome and special entertainment will be arranged for those who do not wish to tour with the main party.

Society of Range Management studies of grass development is a modern chapter in the saga of the West. A hundred years of waving grass beyond the horizon has been a colorful part of American history. Today management of grass resource is top stuff for watershed and meat needs of a nation. The summer field trip June 11 is one opportunity to see part of the grass panorama unfold.

V-E Disease Battle On

The U.S. department of agriculture recently took action to speed up eradication of the swine disease, vesicular exanthema.

The Secretary issued a memorandum permitting the Bureau of Animal Industry to pay indemnities up to 50 per cent of the appraised value of infected or exposed hogs moved in interstate commerce.

Previously, BAI bore the cost of indemnities up to half the value, but could only match the amount paid by the State. The Bureau can now pay its share of indemnities when the animals are in the State of origin of interstate commerce or it is found that they have been exposed to or affected by the disease in any other state.

WSF Man Joins Hereford Unit

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Louis Souther, Klamath Falls, Ore., has been elected to membership in the American Hereford Association, the world's largest purebred registry association, with headquarters in Kansas City, Mo.

One-hundred sixty-eight Hereford breeders were placed on the Association's official roster during March to boost the total membership to an all-time high of 22,357. Members represent every state in the nation. In addition to the membership roster, the association maintains active accounts for approximately 80,000 Hereford breeders.

The Hereford Association last year recorded a new world record of 548,418 purebred calves, an increase of 42,357 over the record established during the previous fiscal year. Hereford calves registered last year were two and a half times the total registrations of other major beef breeds combined.

1ST VISIT

ROME (AP) — Clare Boothe Luce today visited Italian Premier Alcide de Gasperi for the first time since her appointment as U. S. Ambassador to Italy.

Homemaker Festivals To Be Celebrated Over Oregon

Twenty-nine Oregon counties have scheduled homemaker festivals in recognition of National Home Demonstration Week, May 3 to 9, to display examples of home-improvement skills learned through the state's 521 home extension units.

More than 10,000 Oregon homemakers attended the county-wide achievement programs last year, according to Miss Eleanor Trindle, state extension agent at Oregon State college. This year, Oregon celebrates its twenty-first anniversary of the home demonstration program with a state membership of 14,000 women.

Oregon festivals will include displays of upholstering, furniture refinishing and style reviews featuring clothing made in extension workshops. Women reported a savings of more than $45,000 from clothing programs conducted during the past year.

Home furnishings programs reached 454 communities last year with assistance in remodeling or refinishing furniture to more than 6000 families who reported a total savings of nearly $25,000.

Better home management with "step-saving kitchens," improved methods of caring for the home, family business operations and other guides to better rural living resulted in 35,000 individual projects throughout Oregon.

More than 22,000 families were assisted in food preservation through the nutrition program and 11,000 families reported help through the extension program in housing. State-wide guidance was also given in recreation and family life.

State leaders in education and extension service will address the full-day home festivals, according to Miss Trindle. Special recognition will be accorded homemakers who give volunteer guidance to local units in the home demonstration program.

Oregon Pea Crops Gain

Oregon farmers will plant 55,300 acres of green peas for canning and other processing this spring—13 per cent more than last year—to maintain the Beaver State in No. 4 position among the nation's 30 important pea-growing states.

Dr. Glen Cunningham, economist for American Can Company, pointed out that every year for the last decade processors have bought and packed more than 98 per cent of the peas grown in the state.

"The high percentge of green pea production for processing emphasizes that importance of the canning industry to the Beaver State's agricultural economy" said Dr. Cunningham, whose firm developed a method by which farmers determine when to pick peas at their tenderest.

"Last year's crop of peas for processing accounted for $1,429,000 in farm wages and brought growers a return of $4,870,000 from canners and freezers."

Umatilla is the state's most important pea growing country, followed in order by Union, Washington, Marion, Columbia and Clackamas counties, the can-making firm's economist added.

VISIT

MANILA (AP) — Gen. Douglas MacArthur plans to visit the Philippines soon, his former pilot said Tuesday. Col Anthony Story said MacArthur told him of his plans in New York recently.

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Douglas Fir Threatened By Beetles

OREGON STATE COLLEGE — The tremendous losses being inflicted by the Douglas-fir bark beetle in Oregon are grim reminders of damage of the past half century and potential threat in years to come from members of a big, hard-to-stop family of "tree killers," according to Dr. W. J. Chamberlin, OSC forest entomologist.

Although the present infestation—estimated to cover more than 6,000,000 acres of Douglas-fir stands—ranks among the worst beetle outbreaks, it is only one of a long series, the entomologist explains.

Other family members have spread destruction in Oregon and other areas in North America for 40 to 50 years. Today, Colorado is suffering heavy losses from the Engelemann spruce beetle and Idaho, Montana and Washington have beetle troubles too.

Of the 20 species of tree-killing bark beetles known on this continent, Oregon has eight. Worst enemy in the past has been the western pine beetle, which ravaged 6,000,000 board feet of ponderosa pine in three outbreaks in the 1930's.

Others are the mountain pine beetle, Sitka and Engelemann spruce beetles, red turpentine, Jeffrey pine and lodgepole pine beetles.

The beetles all operate in the same way with trees weakened by severe weather, fire or other conditions as prime targets. Adults eat through the bark and then proceed to raise a family. The white grub offspring go to work later on and eventually girdle and kill the tree.

The under-bark location of the beetle protects it against traditional surface sprays. Whether the new systemic insecticides—those taken up inside the plants—will do the job of control still remains to be seen, Dr. Chamberlain says.

In the meantime, the recommended control is salvage logging of newly-infested green trees and all fire-killed or wind-thrown timber to remove sources of infestations.

Four Feared Lost In River Plunge

YREKA, Calif. (AP) — An automobile rolled over a 40-foot embankment into the swift, rain swollen Klamath River late Monday and four men are believed to have died.

The body of Frank Cavin, 35, a logger from Beaver Creek, was recovered.

Sheriff's officers said he was accompanied by Robert and Darral Nelson, loggers from Klamath River, and by Wesley Quigley a storekeeper, when he left Happy Camp, 65 miles away.

BARRIERS

BERLIN (AP) — Communist people's police erected new barriers on West Berlin's border with the surrounding Soviet Zone Tuesday.

POW KILLED

PUSAN, Korea (AP) — A South Korean guard shot and killed a North Korean prisoner of war attempting to escape from a Koje Island compound Sunday, the U. N. POW command announced Tuesday.

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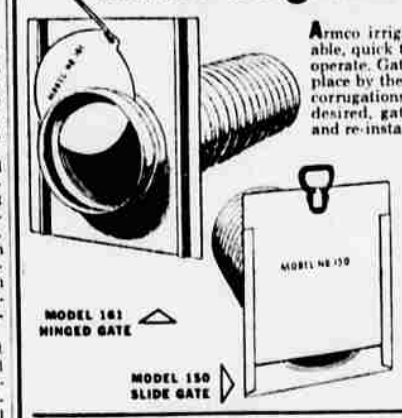

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