

The County Agent Reports on Klamath Agriculture

By C. A. HENDERSON
EXPERIMENT STATION
FIELD DAY

The Klamath County Experiment Station Field Day is set for Aug. 3. A. E. Gross, Superintendent, says this will be in the nature of an open house affair. Major items of interest on the program will be variety trials of alfalfa, silage and other crops, as well as, alkali soil reclamation and deep drainage demonstrations.

Morning session will be at the main Experiment Station west of the Airport.

In the afternoon there will be a tour of the muck soil experimental area on the lower Klamath Lake to observe soil fertility studies and forage and cereal trials.

PARITY
The July Agricultural Situation shows only four major agricul-

tural commodities that are selling for prices equal or above parity. Twenty-two are below parity. Those above parity have little if any effect on the agriculture of the Klamath Basin as they are not grown here to any extent. These include rice, sweet potatoes, apples, none of commercial importance in the Klamath Basin, and hops with an annual production of around \$250,000 here.

Parity means the relationship between the agricultural and non-agricultural dollar. For the past two years this ratio has been favoring the non-agricultural dollar and the trend is increasing.

OREGON FEED SUPPLIES
Economists tell us that the hay supply will probably be larger than last year. In the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho the increase is only slightly above one year ago. However, the animal units is also a little higher, so forage available for animal unit is nearly the same as one year ago.

THE WHEAT REFERENDUM
The Wheat Referendum on marketing quotas has been set for August 20 in Klamath County.

If marketing quotas are voted in, price support will remain at 90 per cent of parity for those who stay within the acreage allotment. If the vote is No, price support will drop to 50 per cent of parity for cooperators.

This vote on marketing quotas is mandatory under the law because of the tremendous amount of wheat available this year. The supply actually available is now estimated at 1,760,000,000 bushels, the largest supply in the nation's history and more than 50 per cent above the normal supply.

Further information on voting places will be given in daily newspaper and over local radio stations.

BARLEY
On June 15, the parity price for barley for the nation was \$1.34 per bushel.

This compared with \$1.37 on the same date one year ago. Average prices prevailing on this date was \$1.16.

The general quality of the Klamath barley, particularly brewing barley, is such that prices prevailing here are considerably above parity figures. If it makes brewing quality.

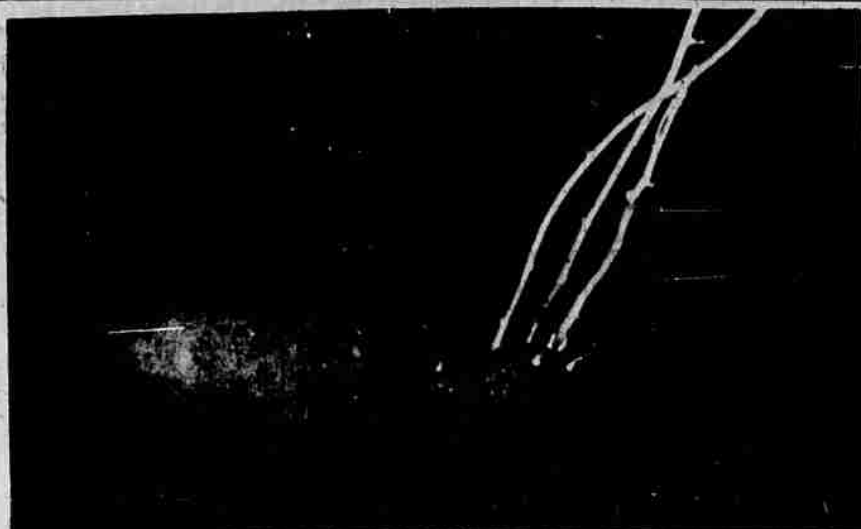
POTATOES
Potato acreage in the Klamath Basin is generally estimated at 5 per cent to 10 per cent greater than acreage planted in 1952. The crop is also estimated to be from 2-3 weeks behind last year and it is doubtful if the total tonnage will be as large as it was a year ago. A good fall growing season is needed to bring the yield up to somewhere near average.

POTATO ESTIMATES
July 1, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, estimate of 1953 potato crop indicates 376,773,000 bushels. This is 8 per cent larger than last year on the national basis. In the 29 late states the planted acreage is estimated to be 5 per cent larger than last year.

Potato markets for the spring and early summer potatoes has prices considerably lower than a year ago. On June 15, 1953, the average national price was \$3.07 and on June 15, 1952 the average was \$1.02, while the parity price on this date was \$1.88 per bushel.

CATTLE
On July 1, the number of cattle on feed nationally was listed at 4 per cent to 5 per cent higher than one year ago. In general, the increase was in the middle western states with less feeding on the Pacific Coast and mountain states.

ALSKE CLOVER
Shipment of Canadian Alske Clover seed into the United States from the 1952 crop has now passed the 4-million pound mark. This is only slightly more than the amount of alske seed carried over in the hands of growers and the government in the Klamath Basin. What will happen to this years alske crop depends to a considerable extent on what happens to the Canadian crop and the stored surplus in this area. If Canada has a good late fall harvesting season, the crop should be sizeable and exports will continue into this country. Generally, however, Canada has a difficult harvesting season in the alske area, with plenty of rain and wet weather resulting in heavy seed loss. This could happen this year and if so the surplus in the U. S. States would not be too serious and reasonable prices might be expected.



NO SPROUTS ON THIS SPUD on the left that has been treated with Malic hydrazide, according to Gene Gross at the Experimental Farm where he took the picture. The mixture was sprayed on the vines shortly before harvest, some two weeks prior to a frost. The untreated spud on the right shows the result of non-treatment. No special storage was provided. The spraying was done just before the last harvest and the above picture was taken on July 23, 1953. — Photo by Gross

Lawn Protection In Hot Days Easy

How to protect lawn and plants during a hot, dry spell is a question which is now perplexing home owners.

Plants can be protected by putting down a thick mulch of three to six inches of peat moss or similar material. A mulch acts as insulation against the heat of the sun and also helps conserve water in the soil for use by the plants.

Mulches may be bought at garden supply stores or can be developed from material right in one's own back yard. As an example, if there is an area of the lawn that has been allowed to grow wild, it can be cut down and spread around the base of the plants. Another good mulch source is from the leaves that cover the lawn in the fall.

As for the lawn, experts advise cutting it less often and setting the lawn mower blades at maximum

height. Longer grass will prevent burning out the roots. It also creates a ground shade that discourages crab grass.

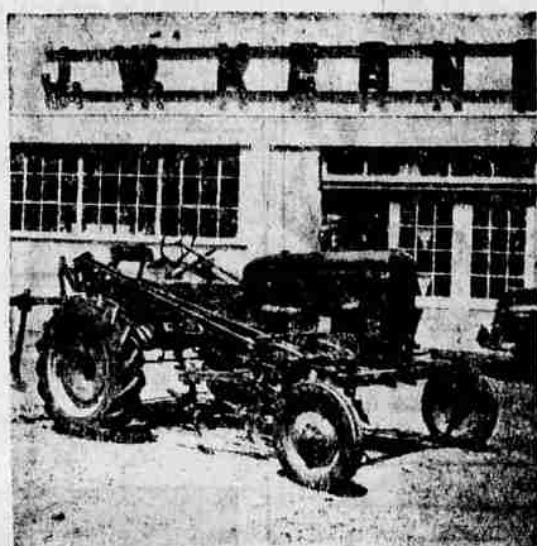
If a recently trimmed lawn is taking on a dried out appearance, it can still be saved by artificial watering. Grass experts recommend the use of mechanical sprinklers, as these devices spread water evenly and at a proper angle over a given area. And they don't need constant attendance.

If puddles develop during daytime watering, they are often heated by the sun with the result that

the grass is scorched. If watering is done in the evening, puddles left soaking overnight brighten out fungus diseases in many types of grass. Puddling also indicates that water is being put down too fast and is being wasted.

Much water can be saved during dry spells by taking adequate preparations in the fall. Instead of burning leaves, find an out-of-the-way place to store them for use as mulch in next year's dry spells. Right now, cutting down tall stands of grass will help provide good material to protect plants this year.

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Tips Given On Breeding

The breeding of yearling beef heifers for early calving can be a successful practice on many California ranches, if proper care and management practices are followed. So indicates Farm Advisor Ken Baggett, of the University of California, who points out that this practice has increased the efficiency of beef production on several ranches.

Only thrifty, high-grading heifers which weigh 600 pounds or more at breeding time should be bred. Weight is more important than age. The large, strong, heifers are the ones which raise a large percentage of their calves, and have less trouble at calving time.

These heifers need to be kept in a thrifty condition by supplementary feeding during the dry grass season. Feeding the heifer for continuous growth after she is weaned and until she is about 2½ years of age is a good nutritional plan to follow.

The heifers should be bred to small bodied, small-boned young bulls, which tend to sire calves small at birth. Calves from such matings normally are not kept for breeding purposes but are sold for veal at about 3½ months of age.



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Such heifers need to be given special care and attention at calving time. The wise rancher will see that these heifers are bred so the majority will calve during the months of February and March. This early period has proven desirable from both the standpoint of the heifer and the calf.

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