



**FARMER OF THE WEEK** Lester L. Porterfield, Pine Flat rancher (left) points out some of the operational adjustments of a land plane to Ernie Dayley, tractor driver who will be pulling it during the final stages of land leveling on the Porterfield ranch. The land plane functions in much the same way as a carpenter's plane as it puts the finishing touches on the leveling, clipping off small humps and dumping the dirt into small hollows. Before the land plane is used, the land is rough - leveled with other equipment. Porterfield has employed the engineering services of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and equipment of the Poe Valley Soil District as well as his own equipment in his leveling operations. In the photo at the side, Porterfield is checking the wiring on a tractor. He has a maintenance shop on his ranch which is capable of performing all light and routine work, but he sends the equipment to Klamath Falls shops for heavy work. Included in the shop equipment are both arc and gas welding equipment. Porterfield performs mostly emergency repairs during the working season, and works over the equipment during the winter for the coming season.

### Porterfield Experiments With New Zealand Grass

By DICK HUBBELL  
"A little of everything" is the way Farmer of the Week Les Porterfield, Pine Flat rancher, described his production the other day.  
However, he admits that he has three main specialties—cattle, seed potatoes and grass and clover.  
Among his grass acreage are an experimental planting of 35 acres of New Zealand White Dutch, which he said he believes is the only planting of New Zealand grass in the Klamath Basin. The grass is doing well now, he said, but this will be its first winter here. And winter in the Basin is different from winter in New Zealand, where the climate is similar to that found on the Coast.  
He said that seed salesmen warned him against planting the New Zealand grass, but that the county agent's office told him they thought it should grow here. There are several plantings of this grass in the Oregon coastal area.  
In addition, he grows some clover, barley, alfalfa and other types of grass. He also has a total of 200 acres of irrigated pasture for his cattle.  
He says that he plans to shift his emphasis from clover to grass as he feels that this will do better now that his land has been built up from the poor condition he found when he took it over in 1948.  
The seed potatoes are primarily raised by his two sons, Jim and

Rex. Bonanza High students who, he says, can take care of the entire operation. The potato acreage, totalling about 50, is in seed potatoes which are primarily sold to Basin growers, he said.  
Both boys are participating in the 4-H program with Rex having won a trip to Washington, D.C., two years ago. Their father is also active in 4-H work, serving as a leader in the Bonanza area.

"The potatoes are the boys' deal," Porterfield said. "They supervise the irrigation and do most of the work, except at harvest, when they are in school. If you mention the potatoes, mention the boys."  
Porterfield, who began in 1948 with 678 acres in the Pine Flat area near Daily, has built his holdings to about 2,800 acres with water rights on 725 acres. Most of the land, which had been dry farmed before he took it over, was badly run down, but he has built it up with clover and legumes.

A large portion of the area was "jungled" with ditch pine at the time Porterfield took over, but he has cleared most of the land except in the immediate vicinity of his home, and has, in cooperation with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, conducted extensive leveling operations.  
None of his land was particularly steep at the start, he said, but he has a large part of his land leveled to where there is about one half of one tenth fall per 100 feet. He says that this enables him to run water in either direction through his ditches. Since he has operated the ranch, he has built about two and one half miles of drainage ditches and two reservoirs.  
He drilled two wells the first year he had the ranch, and since then has drilled a third to insure his water supply.

When queried about his future plans, he said he would probably shift his seed crop emphasis from clover to grass to supplement his Marion Bluegrass, and, if it works, his New Zealand White Dutch. He also said that he hopes to complete the leveling of his property within the next future year.

Cattle—an important part of his ranch—graze on the pasture land and also on the stubble from the alfalfa and grass crops. He runs about 100 head of cattle, and is also feeding about 150 head of steers.  
In addition to his ranching and 4-H activities, Porterfield is active in soil conservation work, and serves as a member of board of supervisors of the Poe Valley Soil Conservation district.



### Agronomist Warns Against Putting Lawn Mower Away

Don't put that lawn mower away too soon. A lawn needs mowing just as long as it continues to grow in the fall and winter, says Oregon State College agronomist H. L. Schudel.  
Schudel cautions against continuous clipping but explains that it's important to keep grass from growing in large rank masses. Ideally, a lawn should be kept so that no more than an inch of top growth is ever cut off at one time.  
The lawn specialist also cautions against letting leaves or heavy grass clippings, especially if they are wet, remain too long on lawns. When the lawn is mowed often enough, however, so that clippings average between a half inch and an inch, it is generally beneficial to let clippings remain where they fall.  
Homeowners troubled with sick lawns may have either a fertility or lawn disease problem. If the lawn is run-down in general, Schudel suggests a soil test this winter to determine fertilizer needs next spring and summer. Patches of poor lawn may indicate a dis-

ease problem and his advice is to send soil samples for free diagnosis to the plant clinic, Oregon State College, Corvallis.  
"Of special concern in the Willamette Valley this year, Schudel reports, is increasing evidence of pink patch fungus disease, particularly in red fescue lawns. Cool, wet weather favors increase of the disease. Symptoms are irregular, circular patches in the lawn that turn brownish-white and dead looking. Coral pink fruiting bodies of the fungus may also appear on grass blades.  
Control recommendations include application of any standard mercury turf fungicide used according to manufacturer's directions. Also effective is a mercuric mixture of two parts calomel with one part corrosive sublimate at the rate of three to four ounces per thousand square feet of lawn. The mix can be sprayed on in enough water to cover the area or be broadcast in dry form with sand as the carrier.  
Schudel has one important caution. Mercury compounds are a deadly poison and should be han-

### Police Report Two Burglaries

Two burglaries on Thursday evening and night were reported today by Klamath Falls police.  
Bob and Polly's Multi-Flavored Ice Cream store was entered sometime between 11 p.m. Thursday and 7:55 a.m. Friday by a thief who broke a glass door and unlocked it from the inside. According to Robert L. Cox, 3206 Anderson, who reported the theft, said four boxes of chewing gum and one carton of cigarettes were missing. The theft was discovered by Olive Grimm, a clerk at the store.  
The other burglary occurred between 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday at the residence of Mrs. L. E. Parris, 2239 South Sixth Street. The thief cut a screen and opened an unlocked door to gain entry, police said. Mrs. Parris, who did not discover the loss until Friday afternoon, said a child's piggy bank, a blanket, some cigarettes and pipe tobacco were taken.  
She said the theft occurred while she was taking her children to a motion picture show.  
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**MRS. PAT (FERN) SHORT**  
By BARBARA KENSLE  
The artist exhibiting this week at the Klamath County Library is Fern Short and she is showing two pencil drawings. The Klamath Art Association is proud to present this relatively new artist's work to the public.  
The art association held their first Christmas workshop last Thursday night and many ideas for Christmas greens and decorations were exchanged and demonstrated. The meeting was held at the new Klamath Art Center on Radcliffe between East Main and South Sixth. From now until Thanksgiving members will be working at the art center on these projects and anyone interested in joining this group may do so by calling 972 for information. After Thanksgiving the many and varied decorations will be offered for sale to the public. All of the work will be handmade and will be quite different from the usual Christmas decor.  
Plans have been completed for the Klamath Art Association Tea and Exhibit on November 20 in the conference room of the Klamath County Library. On display, along with the exhibit by the members of the Klamath Art Association, will be the Christmas decorations and ornaments and advance orders will be taken at this time.  
PAYMENT  
SAPPORO, Hokkaido, Japan (The United States Saturday completed payment to four Japanese farmers of 1,949,874 yen (\$5,416) for damages incurred when a U.S. reconnaissance bomber shot down by Soviet MIG fighters crashed into their farmland on this northern island last year.

### State College Prints Bulletin

Oregon farmer battles against insects that attack clover, alfalfa and other legume hay and seed crops have received a boost with publication of a new insect-control bulletin by Oregon State College.  
Illustrations and descriptions of 31 injurious insects, parts of legume plants attacked by certain insects, and control recommendations are included in the 40-page booklet prepared by entomologists E. A. Dickason and R. W. Every.  
The bulletin includes a section on mixing and applying insecticides and tells how to identify and protect insects that are beneficial to legumes. Copies of extension bulletin 749, "Legume Insects of Oregon," can be obtained from local county extension agents or from the OSC bulletin clerk.

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**Potato Shipments**

SEASONS	54-55	55-56
Daily Truck Ore.	5	6
Daily Rail Ore.	12	11
Daily Truck Calif.	12	5
Daily Rail Calif.	8	7
Daily Total ORE. & CALIF.	37	29
Monthly Total	114	119
Season's Total	653	570

### Lake Trash Fish Killed

**ALTURAS** — The water in the West Valley Reservoir last week was treated with rotenone to kill trash fish, the first operation of this type undertaken in Northern California.  
At present, the reservoir contains approximately 6,200 acre feet of water with a maximum depth of 30 feet in some places.  
The project was planned by Richard Haley Jr., aquatic biologist of the area and was carried out under the supervision of Leo Mongold, starting at daybreak on November 2.  
Twelve thousand gallons of rotenone was used, distributed by means of a specially constructed bass wood raft. Haley estimated that it would probably take seven days for all the fish to be killed because of the extreme coldness of the water. Low temperature the night before the treatment started was 16 degrees at Alturas.  
After completion of the treatment, plans call for treatment of Paranj Creek from the mouth of the canyon through West Valley meadows to the reservoir.  
One hundred thousand inland cutthroat trout, smaller than legal size, have been designated for planting when West Valley is no longer contaminated, which should be next spring, Haley said.

### Meat Pilot Plan Studied

An exhaustive study of facts and figures gathered in Oregon's pilot program of compulsory meat inspection is assured, announces J.F. Short, director of agriculture. This comes with approval of a matching fund project by the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.  
Short said the intensive compilation and analysis of pilot work on compulsory meat inspection will not start until January 1, although the pilot program has been under way since September 29. The cooperative compilation and analysis of findings will then continue along with the inspections until June 30, 1957.  
This is the first matching funds program developed by the Oregon department of agriculture under the federal agricultural marketing act of 1946. This act provides for cooperative work in market research with state departments of agriculture. Authority for use of was granted the Oregon department of agriculture by the 1955 law establishing the new division of market development.  
The actual study will be directed by Paul T. Rowell, chief of the new division of market development, Short said. As project leader, Rowell plans to set up the reporting and analysis so the pilot program results will be translated into a readily understandable picture.  
The joint project to interpret the pilot program will permit a more complete and detailed report and analysis of the result than would have been possible using only funds available from the pilot program itself. This, the department officials say, is desirable to provide a proper appraisal of the compulsory meat inspection survey.  
The pilot program is being conducted on an area basis, with inspectors working for three-week periods in one section of the state, then quitting that area entirely to move into a new district.

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