



BUTYL FORM 24-D is being sprayed on the sage and rabbit brush on two 15-acre experimental tracts on the Dave Campbell Ranch near Dairy Creek Road. Pilot Jack Mulkey sprayed the 30 acres early last Friday morning as a part of a rabbit brush control program being conducted by the Klamath County Agent's Office. For complete details please see accompanying story. —J. D. Vertrees Photo

Rabbit Brush Control Experiment Conducted

If a recently performed rabbit brush control measure goes as planned, a large number of Klamath County ranchers will in the near future have a comparatively inexpensive means of reclaiming potential rangeland which has been taken over by the sage and rabbit brushes.

County Agent J. D. Vertrees points out that ranchers and agriculturalists have in the past been able to knock out the sage brush by spraying at a reasonable cost. However, when the sage brush was killed the rabbit brushes continued to thrive and took over in a big way.

Early during the morning of May 23 a plane piloted by Jack Mulkey sprayed a mixture of Butyl Form 24-D over two 15-acre experimental tracts of the Dave Campbell ranch. The new process is designed to knock out both the sage and rabbit brushes and permit the undergrowths of native grasses to flourish.

On one 15-acre plot the Butyl was sprayed on at the rate of one and one-half pounds per acre after being mixed with five gallons of water and the required detergents. On the other 15-acre tract, the chemical was applied at the rate of three pounds per acre.

County Agent Ray Peterson explains that green and gray rabbit brushes showed signs of degeneration a short time after the chemical application. "However," he added, "the complete effectiveness of the experiment will not be known until sometime next spring when the extent of brush regrowth can be noted."

Agriculturists point out that the time element plays a vital role in the Butyl application. It can only be effectively applied during two or three weeks in the spring when there is about three inches of new growth on the rabbit brush.

If the application works as expected, the Basin ranchers will be able to seed the brush-ridden areas economically if no grass undergrowth is present. In other cases the already present growths of Sandberg and Nevada blue grasses and Idaho Fescue will grow into excellent range stands after the brushes have been removed.

Vertrees estimates that the cost of such treatment will be about \$3 per acre for chemicals, in addition to the application costs. The agent is also experimenting with a half acre tract on the Ralph Cecil ranch. The Butyl was hand applied in the latter instance.

In the Campbell ranch experi-

ment the tracts were made available by Campbell, the chemicals were donated by the Chipman Chemical Company of Portland, and the plane and flying time were donated by Jack Mulkey of the Mulkey Flying Service.

Tree Damage Under Study

An aerial survey started on the Rogue River National Forest in the Siskiyou mountains Monday, May 19, to determine the extent of dwarf mistletoe damage to the Douglas fir stands, according to Supervisor C. E. Brown.

A species of dwarf mistletoe attacks Douglas fir and in the last few years has caused severe damage to these stands in the Siskiyou's and in the southern part of the Cascade unit of the forest. Last year the forest received an authorization for an emergency increase of 14 million board feet per year in the allowable cut on the Applegate District in order to salvage some of this timber before it decayed.

The aerial survey will determine the extent of the damaged areas, whether or not thinning has taken place and will enable the forest personnel to more adequately plan their timber sale program to harvest the severest damaged timber first.

Farm Real Estate Is Holding Own

OREGON STATE COLLEGE — The current business recession seems to have had little effect so far, on the farm real estate market. Farm land values are still on the increase.

Farm land values in Oregon went up one per cent in the past four months—about the same as the average increase for the rest of the nation. The current farm land values per acre in Oregon are now at record highs—up five per cent from a year ago. The national index, also at a record high, has increased six per cent over the past 12 months. All three types of land—irrigated, dry farming, and grazing—went up in all of the 11 Western states over the past year. Dry farming land was up the most, followed by irrigated land, and irrigated land.

Special Harvests Are Exempt From Wage-Hour Laws

Labor Commissioner Norman O. Nilsen reports his office is receiving many calls from farmers and farm organizations requesting clarification of a regulation of the Wage and Hour Commission which establishes a maximum eight-hour day, six-day and 44-hour work week for minors under 18 years of age. The commissioner said he is advising all persons that the Wage and Hour Commission has informed him that they had not intended to apply the regulation to agricultural harvesting of perishable fruits and vegetables. The maximum work limitation is contained in the commission's Order 10 which outlines general provisions governing the employment of minors.

Nilsen said, as executive secretary of the commission, he has brought the situation to the attention of commission members who reaffirmed their understanding that minors in seasonal harvesting jobs would not be subject to any fixed work time restriction. He asserts the problems of farmers who are obliged to shift their workers into various hours in order to save ripening crops is given full consideration by all officials administering child labor laws. He points out an act passed by the last Legislature specifically exempts agriculture in prohibiting minors under 16 from employment before 7 a.m. or after 6 p.m. All other industries are bound by the law.

Minors employed in the canning or any processing operation of fresh fruits, vegetables, meat or fish are allowed to work a 10-hour day under the Commission's canner order. A minimum age of 16 has been established for work in the processing plants.

Merrill Man Named New Brand Inspector

C. V. Shuck Jr., Merrill, is now doing full-time brand inspection work in Klamath County for the State Department of Agriculture. He takes the place of Elmer Stukel who died May 9.

Stukel was brand inspector at Merrill since 1944, when he took over for his father.

Born and raised in the Merrill area, Shuck attended local schools and has farmed in the area. In August, 1955, he came to work for the department as a part time brand inspector. He also did lay meat inspection work before filling Stukel's position.

Leave Fawns In The Woods

The time of year has arrived when many persons roving the fields and forests of Oregon will be taken in by the pleading, limpid-eyed look of one of mother nature's most beautiful residents—baby deer. Other baby wildlife will also be picked up and taken home by the would-be benefactors.

The first reaction is to pick up the poor little deserted creature and thus be a champion of wildlife. However, that is the beginning of a sad life for a wild animal and often tragedy for the wild-life-napper.

All young wildlife are provided with adequate camouflage for protection. The spotted coat of fawns is a classic example of the protection nature has provided. Female deer often leave their young while they forage. Fawns, dependent upon their camouflage, will allow persons to come near and even pet them. Often the mother is frightened away from her fawn by the interloper but will return promptly when danger is past.

Only close observation should be the extent of the visitor's relation with fawns or other wildlife young. Oregon laws state that it is illegal for anyone to hold in captivity any wild bird or animal in the state without a permit from the game commission. Permits are not issued for the keeping of fawns.

This ruling is to protect both the fawns and the people involved.

Farm Employment Up In California

An agricultural report showed that agricultural employment in California increased by 73,700 workers from last month to this. The increase was accomplished mostly with domestic labor. Only about 10,000 additional Mexican Nationals were brought in.

As of May 10, California farm employment was 457,000, still 21,000 below the May level last year.

Despite the heavy hiring, there still is a shortage of 6,600 workers, most of them needed in the central coast and northern San Joaquin Valley.

Most of the worker shortages are in harvests of strawberries and cherries, peach thinning, desert area cotton chopping, San Joaquin tomato and sugar beet thinning and in south coast vegetable work.

Niels I. Nielsen Plans Retirement

Niels I. Nielsen of Sacramento—the man who runs the state crop and livestock reporting service—is retiring after 30 years of public service.

Nielsen says he will retire on July 31. He is a native of Fresno and joined the state Department of Agriculture in 1922 as agricultural statistician for fruit and nut crops.

Nielsen will be succeeded by Ward Henderson, who has been associated with the crop reporting service since 1942 and has been assistant to Nielsen for the past 15 months.

Farm Volume About Same; Receipts Up

WASHINGTON — The Agriculture Department reported Friday that farmers received approximately \$9,100,000,000 from sale of their products during the first four months of this year, up 8 per cent from the like period last year.

This increase was due entirely to higher prices inasmuch as the volume sold was about the same.

The department said receipts from livestock and livestock products of \$5,900,000,000 were 12 per cent above a year ago because of higher prices for cattle, hogs, chickens and eggs.

Receipts from crops were reported at \$3,200,000,000, up 2 per cent from a year ago. Returns from wheat, tobacco and soybeans were below 1957 levels, but those for vegetables were up substantially.

In analyzing recent upturns in the farm economy, the department said they were due largely to reduced supplies of some important farm products, notably meat animals due to delayed marketings, and fruits and vegetables which have been affected adversely by bad weather.

"The demand for farm products has been well maintained, even though general business activity has declined since the late summer of 1957," the agency said.

The department said the temporary delay in marketings of meat animals will soon end, and as supplies turn up, prices will edge down. It said prices of fed steers are expected to decline moderately until summer and then level out near those of last summer.

It predicted that hog prices will remain steady until mid-summer and then decline in the fall to a level probably close to last fall. That would put them around \$16 a hundred pounds for national average farm prices compared with \$20 in April.

Farm Youths Invited To Attend Classes

SALEM — Both 4-H and FFA youngsters from throughout Klamath County, are being offered free admission to breeding classes during the first day of the 12th annual All-Arabian Horse Show June 21-22 at the state fairgrounds here.

Manager Ward W. Wells said the show will be especially interesting to youngsters who raise and show livestock as a hobby. Guest 4-H clubbers and FFA members will be able to see some of the best Arabian horses in the country shown and judged under the highest of professional standards, Wells said. Governed by rules of both the American Horse Shows Association and the Oregon Horsemen's Association, this year's Arabian show will be judged by Frank Evans of El Cajon, California.

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