

County Agent Reports

Farm News Briefed From The County Agent Radio Programs

By RAY O. PETERSON

Although grass is plentiful on most ranches this season, most stockmen are usually looking for ways of improving or increasing their pasture production. Most stockmen have dry range land that could grow two to four times as much grass as it now produces. There are several ways of getting more grass: Buy more land, plow and seed to alfalfa-grass mixtures; burn brush and reseed; spray sage brush; plow land and grow rye hay for one or two years and reseed to alfalfa and grass, or just burn brush.

A few weeks ago the possibilities of spraying brush were discussed in this column. Some other methods will be discussed in this article, but first how about the value of range improvement. E. R. Jackson, Oregon State College range specialist, has made some careful studies of the different methods mentioned and has estimated the amount of extra feed that could be secured by the expenditure of \$1,000 for each of these approaches. If a stockman used \$1,000 to buy additional land (if he could get it), he would have an extra 14 ton of dry feed equivalent per year. The same amount spent for plowing and reseeding the land already owned would bring in 20 ton of extra feed, burning and reseeding 62 more tons, spraying 67; plowing and growing rye hay for two years, 75 tons and for burning only 250 extra tons of feed. In other words the same money spent for improving range lands

will bring more feed per year than if spent for additional land.

It would, of course, require a large acreage of burned over sage brush land to get the extra grass shown above. The figures are based on a cost of 50 cents per acre for burning. There are risks in burning that must be considered in adopting this method of range improvement. Each year there are accidental burns that should be taken advantage of by either proper management or re-seeding. A burn will leave the most ideal seedbed for reseeding with a drill. No further soil preparation is necessary.

Reseeding dry land with nomad alfalfa and crested, intermediate, pubescent or whitmare wheat grasses has proven that forage production can be increased greatly in this area. Glenn Dehlinger, Lester Porterfield and Lee Holliday have seedings established several years ago that demonstrate the improvement that can be secured by reseeding these lands in this way.

Nomad alfalfa is a creeping type of plant that spreads somewhat like a strawberry plant. It stands heavy pasturing because the stems run underground and develop roots that will start new plants if cut off from the original plant.

This alfalfa was first discovered on a ranch between Worden and Keno and is now being used for range improvement over all the western states. We have a new bulletin on range improvement in the county agent's office that is available to anyone interested.



SEEDS AND ALL — Gregg Cabbage, 11-year-old watermelon eater of Leesburgh, Florida, took first place in the watermelon eating contest there. Gregg put away the 35-pound watermelon in two minutes flat. He said if he hadn't eaten lunch he'd have done even better.

HAPPENS EVERY SPRING
BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Warden L. E. Clapp says the population of the Idaho State Penitentiary shows a marked decline every spring and summer. The reason, he explains, is that paroles are only given to prisoners when they have an outside job waiting for them and more jobs are available in the spring and summer months.

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Outdoor Notes

By Jim O'Donahue



THE BRUSH RABBIT ON PALOS VERDES

In the early 1920s, the Palos Verdes Hills of Los Angeles County were an open expanse of rolling terrain. Very little grass and still less brush covered their bareness. The occasional wild rains following long dry periods cut sharp ravines down the slopes. Sparse growth of scrubby sagebrush made its last stand on the sides of the gullies. Wildlife was limited by the unfavorable habitat. The common ground squirrel and tiny brush rabbit constituted most of the animal life present.

I was sitting, one warm day, on the edge of one of the ravines. It was not more than 25 feet deep and was dotted by scattered sage on its slopes. Its bottom was cut by a dry creek bed which formed sharp sides not more than eight inches deep. It was certainly an unfavorable looking area for even such a small creature as the brush rabbit to hold out.

From the slopes beyond the ravine, a rabbit hunter, weighted down with a twelve gauge shot gun, came my way. As he neared the edge, a small rabbit darted from in front of him and into the shelter of the ravine.

I expected to hear the explosion of the big 12 gauge and to see pieces of "fur" and flesh fly apart! But the little fellow reached the wash at the bottom and displayed the native cunning that keeps his race alive.

My position was unknown to the rabbit. His full attention was on eluding the hunter who had taken a position, gun ready, on the very edge opposite me. Perhaps 40 feet down the ravine, the small fellow dropped into the creek wash and, hugging closely the side next to the hunter, began a slow sneak up stream until directly below him. At this point, he crawled out of the creek bed and went directly up the slope. A few short yards separated him from sudden death.

I sat in amazement as the drama unfolded.

Ten feet below the poised gun a small sagebrush grew and at its base a hole showed. This was the little fellow's goal, and into it he slipped with a flick of his round, white tail.

From my position every move of both hunter and hunted was plainly visible. It seemed such an ending was not possible, but such are the ways of nature.

Oil And Chemicals Slow Fly Breeding

The mixture of diesel oil and cresylic acid will inhibit fly breeding for one week. This is based on tests made in the San Gabriel Valley . . . according to Los Angeles County Farm Adviser E. E. Shephard.

The mixture used for the test was one gallon of diesel oil to 14 gallons of diesel oil. The total cost of the mixture was \$2.51. It was applied to the dropping area of 386 birds and reduced the fly larvae count to nothing in five days. After eight days, however, larvae began developing again.

ANATOMICAL SECRETARIES GREEN BAY, Wis. — To help ease the burden of secretaries working in local industrial plants, the vocational school initiated a series of 20 lectures on anatomy and related vocabulary to help them prepare insurance claims for illness and accident reports.

OCEAN-LOVING FRUIT
Lemon-producing districts generally are one to 40 miles away from an ocean since lemons do not thrive in inland desert regions, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica.

Summer Hearing Planned For Spud Grade Discussion

The Oregon Department of Agriculture will call a hearing later this summer to consider bringing state potato grades in line with the newly announced revisions in federal grades.

At the same time, according to Plant Division Chief Frank McKennon, the department hopes to cover revisions in standards for fruits, including prunes, now coming under federal changes.

The federal revisions on potato standards will become effective July 15, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced.

A release from Washington gives these details of the federal changes:

For U.S. No. 1, U.S. Commercial and U.S. No. 2 grades the revisions consist in modifying definitions of damage and serious damage by certain factors.

The U.S. Extra No. 1 grade is dropped and this grade and the former U.S. fancy grade will no longer exist. The revised federal standards provide for a new U.S. fancy grade which is similar to the former U.S. Extra No. 1 grade except for these differences:

1. Higher requirements for maturity, shape and cleanliness.
 2. An increase in the minimum diameter from one and seven-eighths to two inches, unless otherwise specified.
 3. A change from the tolerance of six per cent for external defects and five per cent for internal defects to a total tolerance of five per cent for both internal and external defects.
 4. A reduction in the restricted tolerance for southern bacterial wilt, ring rot or late blight from three per cent to two per cent; also a reduction in the tolerance for soft rot, wet breakdown, or frozen potatoes from one per cent to one half of one per cent.
- Other federal changes in the standards include switching the Size B classification from a range of one and one half to two inches to a range of one and one half to two and one quarter inches and adding a Size C classification with

a range of from one to one and one half inches. The tolerance for oversize is reduced from 15 per cent to 10 per cent.

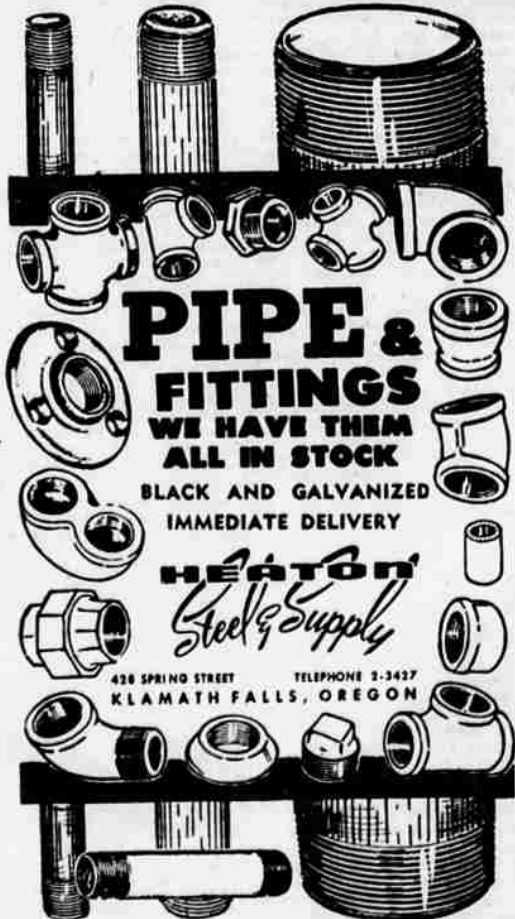
The scoring of defects in all grades will be based solely upon the extent to which the individual potato is affected. The federal standards no longer provide for considering the general appearance of the potatoes in the lot in determining damage.

The revised federal standards are significant to Oregon's large commercial potato industry because Oregon standards have traditionally conformed to the federal ones.

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CEDAR CLOSET NOT COSTLY
Any homeowner can enjoy the advantages of a moth-safe cedar closet at less than the cost of replacing one good suit. Aromatic red cedar closet lining, available at lumber dealers, can be applied right over the walls, ceiling, floor and door of any existing closet. Five or six bundles, each covering about 32 square feet, are sufficient for the average closet.