

Agricultural Chemicals Play Big Part In Modern Concept Of Conservation

By J. D. VERTREES

Modern day chemists in their research activities in industry and universities are working for conservation, either directly or indirectly.

New agricultural chemicals as produced aid agriculture in ways of conservation which never before was attained.

New research in agricultural chemicals not only aid in increased utilization in livestock and poultry feeds, new types of animal medicines for better health and better growth, and fertilizers which more efficiently put in the depleted chemicals necessary for plant production in food and fiber. Other new chemicals have stepped up the effectiveness of weed control programs as well as insect control throughout the world.

Selectivity in weed control seems to be the increasing trend in crop production conservation.

More effective soil sterilants with a wider range of control and more economical cost is one new advancement in agricultural chemical use. Others include selective weeding in grains. Even to the point of research of taking wild oats out of other cereals. Taking grasses out of legumes is possible. Other types of chemicals take broadleaf weeds out of legumes. Even in grass seed production it is possible sometimes to take unwanted grasses out of the grass crops.

In range land conservation, the removal of sagebrush and rabbit brush is economically and chemically possible. Good results have been demonstrated in many areas over the past season or two. Brush control in reforestation also aids in conservation of forest resources. Aquatic weed control and algae control increases the usable amount of water in water systems

all over the United States.

Insects account for losses of many millions of dollars in food, fiber, meat and dairy and poultry products. Advances of insect control in food crop production have made drastic changes over the past years in economic pest control in these areas. Old-time sprays in apple orchards used to amount to several hundred pounds per acre per year. Now the amounts applied only total up into ounces for certain types of insect control.

Grasshoppers which used to range rampant over pasture and rangelands, are easily brought to control with certain effective chemicals in a matter of very few ounces per acre. New advances in livestock pest control such as the systemic insecticides used against the cattle grub are often phenomenal in their results. The fact that new types of chemicals can be introduced into the system of beef animals to control the internal parasites and not affect the quality or the cleanliness of the meat, is one of the many new steps of a rapidly advancing chemical industry.

Many million dollars were lost annually in the stored grains throughout the holding areas in the United States. New types of insect control here are rapidly reducing the losses due to these pests.

Every year hundreds of new chemicals are introduced to research stations, experiment stations, and technical laboratories of industry. These hundreds of new chemicals are tested and weeded out so that only a few of the best remain each year. However, these few continually build up into a great range of effective chemicals for insect and weed control which are available to agriculture in these modern times.

4-H Plans Big Aid In Conservation

By LILLIAN HOFFMAN

Many conservation activities are carried out through the 4-H program in the home. Conservation of money, time, energy and materials are learned by 4-H boys and girls in the home economics projects of clothing, foods, home living, child care, knitting and food preservation.

Clothing and knitting members conserve money by making their own garments. In 1958 over \$6,000 was saved in clothing expenses through home sewing by boys and girls in Klamath County. Through good care of clothing they also learned how to make their clothes last longer.

Foods club members conserve their health by planning nutritious meals. They learn to use "left overs" to stretch the food dollar. Use of familiar products such as potatoes, wheat, and cereals proves that Oregonians find a real place in their diet for the products grown in their own state.

Home living club members learn to use materials on hand to improve their home and surroundings. Safety projects of hanging up tools and storing poisons in a safe place not only conserves these items from destruction but also prevents serious accidents.

Community service projects of cleaning up parks and public areas help to conserve our natural resources as well as having an attractive community.

In food preservation boys and girls learn methods of freezing and canning to make good use of their garden products.

Good work habits developed by 4-H'ers enables them to conserve their energy and continue to "make the best better."

Homemakers Aided By Courses

By RUTH GUSTAVSON
County Extension Agent

Klamath County homemakers have participated in many activities for the betterment of their homes and families. During this past year homemakers learned to utilize materials in their homes by making decorative objects out of discarded cans. More than 260 homemakers received the information through unit meetings. They in turn have passed on the information to other groups.

In a camp cookery lesson, homemakers learned that empty coffee cans make wonderful cooking utensils for outdoor meals. They learned that elaborate cooking equipment is not necessary, that a simple grill can be made from an empty five-gallon pail and wire mesh placed on the top for a cooking surface.

Other topics in which homemakers learned to conserve in the home included color in which the homemaker was taught to understand color and to use it wisely. Low calorie meals emphasized the necessity of preparing well balanced meals but not to overeat. Use of low calorie sweeteners help to decrease calorie intake.

Salads and salad dressings helped the homemaker learn to make her own salad dressings. She learned about the many kinds of greens that are appropriate for salad making and the kinds that can be grown in the gardens in Klamath County.

Civil defense taught everyone to be prepared for any emergency.

Preserving foods in season, construction, makeovers and care of clothing, understanding equipment to get the greatest use from it and budgeting have been but a few of the kinds of problems the extension service has tried to help the homemaker with. Management of time and money and energy play an important part in conservation in the home.

Camp Fire

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is urged to provide winter food for many of our resident and migrating song birds.

Sometime during the year, each group of girls in the council is planning to visit the Klamath Fish Hatchery to see how fish are raised. Some groups are planning to watch the fish planting operations in streams and lakes.

To help prepare the Camp Fire group leaders for their leadership role in working with the girls on this project, the council has organized a project advisory committee.

Men and women serving on the project advisory committee are Mrs. Dick Evans, Klamath Fish Hatchery, who is chairman; Don Hummel, forester, Weyerhaeuser Timber Co.; Mrs. Robert Clark, a Camp Fire group leader; Al Knowles, city parks; Bob Norris and Tom Garratt, Federal Fish and Wildlife; James Mohr, Oregon State Game Commission; Alan Baker, Baker's Landscape Nursery; Jim O'Donahue, local conservationist; Mrs. Goldie Peterson, county schools, and Mrs. Verne Brader, Chemult, the garden clubs.

People of the Klamath Basin will be hearing much more about the Camp Fire Girls conservation project, "She Cares—Do You?" during the next two years as they carry out their many year round activities.

FROM LIBERACE TO MOM

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — A surprise gift from Liberace to his mother was a home in Palm Spring, built and decorated by the pianist.

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Soil Maintenance Poses Many Problems For Man On Farm In Keeping Up

By C. A. HENDERSON

Farmers are being constantly faced with many new problems in soil maintenance. Many growers wonder why they can no longer produce potato crops such as they did a few years ago. The problem of disease and insect control is one that has been increasing in recent years, and in many areas has made potato production unprofitable. The big question is, what can be done to prevent our soils from deteriorating by lack of fertility, disease, virus, nematodes, etc. It is hard to say definitely what should be done in all cases, but there are certain things that might be helpful, if kept in mind at all times in soil preparation for intensive crop production.

It might be well to remember that the early agriculture of the Klamath Basin was grain and pastures, followed by considerable alfalfa, grown for both hay and pasture. This type of farming is soil building in nature, and improved our soils rather than depleting them. While considerable grain was grown, along with the alfalfa and pasture, no row crops in particular were grown and the grain was generally on dry land or in rotation with alfalfa on irrigated lands. As these lands were plowed up from alfalfa, very fine crops of high quality potatoes were produced. Frequently, these lands were cropped to potatoes for from two to four years without any rotation, which started them on the downhill path. It could be mentioned here that potatoes now are grown only about one year out of every four or five, which has the effect of slowing down soil depletion. In between potato crops, improvement in the rotation could have been made. The legumes are being used, of course, and alfalfa and pasture are two of the best of these. In some cases, peas and grain are used as a green manure

crop. Growers are keeping in mind that humus must be returned to the soil.

Eradicating the organism or insects of wilt, virus, nematodes, etc., once established, is rather difficult, and several years are required in proving the value of crop rotation and soil treatment. Most of the soil treatments that are effective at this time are costly, and the lower prevailing prices of potatoes makes difficult the increase of their use.

The Klamath Experiment Station is, this year, working out the program of crop improvement around the return of humus to the soil. A series of grass trials are being arranged on good potato land in an effort to return adequate humus for future potato production. In addition to this, trials are being carried out with various soil fumigants and green manure practices to bring about the best way possible on how to return humus to soil that has been taken out by excessive, intensive crop production.

Active potato growers have been appointed to the advisory committee this year and the main station program is centered on improvement of our diversified crop lands. The present members of the advisory committee are: E. A. Geary, chairman; Dick Henzel, Earl Mack, Edwin Stastny, A. E. Gross, station superintendent, and C. A. Henderson, county agent. A number of advisory committee meetings have been held in working out this year's program, which is not yet completed. This committee recognizes the need for pest control and the return of adequate organic material to the soil. This will be the main approach to this problem, combined with the improvement of production of irrigated pastures in rotation with potatoes, grain and other crops.

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