



CHEMICAL CONTROL — This aerial view shows the checkerboard plots of soil sterilant work, displaying the variation of chemical control. Testing of many new and old chemical compounds by the county agent's office is being conducted on quackgrass control. This view taken for the county agent office through courtesy of Kingsley Field.

ERS Estimates Farm Debt As More Than \$3 Billion

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Agriculture Department's Economic Research Service (ERS) has estimated the farm real estate debt as of Jan. 1 at \$3.1 billion. This type of debt—farm mortgage—increased 6.5 per cent in 1960, or \$800 million—compared with 9.2 per cent in 1959. ERS said that despite the increase, the farm real estate debt represented only 9.6 per cent of the value of all farm real estate at the beginning of 1961.

All major lender groups increased their holdings of farm real estate debt obligation in 1960. Percentage-wise, the holdings of the Farmers Home Administration (FHA), increased the most—10 per cent. The holdings of banks increased the least—4 per cent. The holdings of the federal land banks increased nearly 9 per cent; those of life insurance companies and other lenders nearly 6 per cent. ERS said that probably the high loan-to-deposit ratios at many banks were responsible for the relatively low rate of interest in the farm-mortgage holdings of banks.

The farm real estate debt decreased in 1960 in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, and possibly Hawaii. In all other states, the farm real estate debt increased. Among the states showing exceptionally large percentage increases were Delaware, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, and Washington.

Although outstanding farm real estate debt increased in 1960, both the volume of mortgage loans made and the volume of payments on mortgage loans were lower than in 1959. Instead, the percentage of loans used to refinance existing debts rose in 1960.

ERS said the lower volume of mortgage loans made in 1960 probably resulted from reduced activity in the market for farm real estate. The lower volume of payments and the increased proportion of loans made to refinance existing debts suggest that farmers may have been in a tighter cash position in 1960 than in 1959.

The department has proposed an amendment to regulations governing meat grading so that consumers would be able to tell if

Agent Asks Sportsmen Cooperation

LAKEVIEW—It's that time of year again, when the big bucks start polishing their horns and hunters their rifles, and Bill Moser, extension agent, has a word for sportsmen regarding campsites and weed control.

Everyone has visions of that favorite campsite and hunting ground whether it be among the trees or the sagebrush. Let's just hope the campsite and the adjoining range has not been spoiled by noxious weeds. Each year beautiful campsites and hundreds of acres of valuable wildlife habitat are ruined by weed infestations. Weeds crowd out plants that wildlife are dependent upon for food and cover in addition to distracting from the natural beauty of the forests and ranges.

Sportsmen can help prevent the spread of noxious weeds onto forest land by: (1) buying clean weed-free straw and hay for camping purposes; (2) burning excess hay and straw before leaving campsites so weed seeds are not left to be scattered by the winds; (3) reporting noxious

weed infestations to local authorities. By following these three simple suggestions, sportsmen can help preserve the natural beauty of favorite campsites and hunting areas for years to come.

REMEMBER! when it comes to a truck, see Bob or Jack—Trucks are their business!

OSU Chosen To Develop Improved Market Study

Oregon State University has been selected by the United States Department of Agriculture to develop an educational program aimed at improved marketing of agricultural products.

Announcement of the project financed by a \$36,000 USDA grant, and scheduled for completion in about two years, was made this week by F. E. Price, OSU dean of agriculture.

The educational program will be conducted by OSU extension service in cooperation with agricultural marketing firms in Oregon. Findings of the Oregon study will later be made available to extension specialists in other states.

Leon Garoian, OSU extension specialist in marketing management, and Arnold Haseley, newly-appointed marketing specialist, will head the project.

Immediate goal is to compile teaching materials and methods to assist directors of agricultural marketing firms in developing more effective management.

Marketing costs accounted for 66 per cent of the national food bill in 1960, Garoian explained. Agricultural marketing firms—

including assemblers, transporters, storers, handlers, processors, wholesalers, and retailers—employ more labor than is used in production of all agricultural products.

Because farmers rely on this vast network as a market for farm products, it is vital to the entire agricultural economy that food marketing firms operate as effectively as possible, Garoian noted.

The OSU marketing specialists will also develop extension teaching methods to help directors of marketing firms apply the knowledge gained to actual situations in their businesses.

USDA officials said OSU was selected to conduct the program because it is staffed with economists and marketing specialists who have for many years specialized in educational and marketing problems.

Garoian has been on the OSU staff since 1947. Haseley joined the staff this week to help conduct the special project. Prior to coming to OSU he was extension marketing specialist at Purdue University since 1959 and was formerly retail marketing agent at Cornell University.

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FARM REVIEW AND FORECAST

HERALD AND NEWS, Klamath Falls, Ore. Tuesday, September 26, 1961 PAGE-7

Two State Weed Experts Study Plots To Control Quackgrass

Weed experts from Oregon and California spent a day evaluating quackgrass control plots in Klamath County. A total of 247 treatments and combinations are established in plots on both mineral and peat soils. These extensive plots were established over the last two-year period by J. D. Vertrees, county agent, and H. B. Schieferstein, county weed supervisor.

Viewing and evaluating the plots were Rex Warren, extension weed specialist from Oregon State University, and Dr. William Furtick in charge of weed research at Oregon State. William Baldwin, assistant to Dr. Furtick has been given a major research responsibility in quackgrass control.

California investigators included Dr. Dave Bayer, extension weed specialist from the University of California, Murray Pryor and Rolo Talbert represented weed control interests of the State Department of Agriculture of California.

In addition to the extensive trial areas with soil sterilants, the Klamath Experiment Station and the Extension Service cooperated in establishing research plots on quackgrass control in potato production. These trials on both peat and mineral soils included many of the new fumigant types of

treatment.

Some of the newer soil sterilants and translocates show outstanding control of quackgrass. These weeds need not be a serious problem in potatoes. Quackgrass control in peat soils producing grain is still a very serious problem.

Complete control through sterilization is possible with more economical chemicals newly marketed. Annual suppression on ditch-

banks and borders show new possibilities.

Research and field testing will continue on grain land and peat soils control possibilities. Additional work is outlined for better control in peat soils through flooding practices.

Results on quackgrass control and suppression will be published through a series of articles this fall by Vertrees and Schieferstein on work and results up to date.

Scientists Develop Beef To Produce Leaner Meat

A method of selecting beef cattle that will produce proportionately more lean meat for consumers has been developed by animal scientists in this country.

The method, according to Ray Petersen, county agent, consists of evaluating carcasses according to the cut-out of lean meat. The old way was to actually bone out a carcass and remove excess fat and bone, and then weigh the meat. This was time consuming and spoiled the retail cuts of the carcass. The new method consists of determining the area of the rib-eye muscle, which is the last

rib steak, and measuring the thickness of fat over this steak. These two figures and the amount of kidney fat are multiplied by a factor that gives the percentage of lean meat in the carcass.

This data is then used to evaluate and select dams and sires that produce meat-type beef animals. This procedure will be added to performance testing of beef herds not only to select rapid-gaining cattle of desirable conformation but to select animals that will produce beef with a maximum of lean meat and a minimum of waste fat.



GROWERS MEET — This view shows members of the Oregon-California Potato Marketing Committee during its meeting in the exhibit building of the Klamath County Fairgrounds recently. The committee consists of two growers and a shipper representing each of four areas which are Klamath County, Tulelake and Madocoe, Central Oregon and the Willamette Valley. Size regulations to qualify for feed diversion program eligibility were recommended, and regulations drawn up and now effective on requiring table stock packs to meet two-inch or four-ounce minimum size for No. 1's and six-ounce minimum for No. 2's for long varieties. Wesley McKaig, Klamath Falls, is chairman.

Dairymen Ask Hike In Milk Hearings

SALEM (AP)—Dairymen asked a bigger share of the consumer's milk dollar in the Portland-Salem area at a hearing in Salem today. This was opposed by distributors. An official of Oregon - Washington Milk Sales, Inc., asked administrator Kenneth Sawyer of the state milk stabilization program to raise the minimum price to producers for grade A and B milk.

Tom Hall, milk sales president, asked that the floor price to producers be raised from its present \$5.80 per hundred pounds to \$6.00, the minimum price in adjoining areas of the state.

Hugh Gallagher, Carnation Co., Portland, and Gordon and Grover Hoffstetter, Curley's Dairy, Salem, opposed this.

Hall said that the lower priced milk of the area, which includes dairymen in most of Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington, was getting into areas where the price is higher.

He said that production was declining, more herds were being offered for sale, and Oregon's dry summer had affected production.

"I submit that the previously mentioned conditions severely jeopardize both the consumers' supply of milk and the economy of the dairy industry," Hall said.

Gallagher said that the Portland-Salem area price to producers was higher than the price in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sacramento, Seattle and Spokane.

He said prices comparable to the \$5.80 per hundred pounds in Portland were \$5.48 in Los Angeles, \$5.46 in San Francisco, \$5.29 in Sacramento, \$5.59 in Seattle, and \$5.34 in Spokane.

"It is my observation," Gallagher said, "that the supply is adequate."



PLAN MEET — The annual meeting of the Association of Soil Conservation Districts will be held in Klamath Falls on Nov. 8, 9, and 10. Planning for the meeting was done at a recent session held at the Willard Hotel by officers and directors of the organization. Shown here, left to right, are Herb Boddy, federal soil conservation service; Elmer Peterson, president of the soil conservation association in Oregon; Lloyd Giff, Langell Valley and area director, and Bert Esterbrook, Cave Junction, in charge of the speech contest at the coming convention. 250 to 300 persons are expected for the session.

Tiny Parasitic Wasp Seen As Fir Beetle Controller

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY — A tiny parasitic wasp that feeds on the destructive Douglas fir beetle is the center of a study at Oregon State University that may save some Northwest forests of the future.

The parasite is about the same size as the beetle, but perhaps its No. 1 natural enemy in nature's system of "checks and balances."

It lays its eggs through the tree bark into developing larvae of the bark beetle underneath. As the parasites develop they feed on the beetle larvae and then come back out through the bark to carry on their own mating and egg-laying processes.

The parasite locates the larvae

apparently by sound and then drills its tiny (1.5 of an inch long) but tough egg-laying tube through the bark to make the deposit, according to Dr. Roger B. Ryan, forest entomologist in charge of the study.

The thick (6 to 12 inches) bark of the old Douglas fir has protected the bark beetle in great measure up to now and made it possible for the parasite to do its good egg-laying work only in the tops of the trees or on young trees with thin bark, Dr. Ryan explains.

As a result, the parasite has exercised only limited check on the beetle.

As the old growth stands are converted to second growth, how-

ever, OSU forest entomologists see added promise for the parasite to check the beetle. The insect parasite, officially "Coeleclides brunneri," has no bad habits of its own—it feeds only on bark beetles and wood borers, both tree enemies.

Ryan's research in years to come will be aimed at guiding the growth of the parasite and developing ways to speed its build-up through forest management techniques. He has some ideas for doing this that he will try out in the next two or three years.

The parasite is not new, he emphasized. It was first reported and described in 1911 but little has been done in the way of research on it since.

Ryan has studied the parasite for the past four years while working for his doctor's degree in forest entomology. Following graduation this June, he joined the staff of the federal Forest Insect and Disease Laboratory now under construction at OSU and will continue his research for the laboratory in coming years.

Almost all destructive pests have natural parasites or predators, he pointed out, but in many cases the parasites are relatively ineffective because of various factors. He hopes to increase the importance of the bark beetle parasite as one of the control possibilities in the future.

The parasite works on the beetles from late June through September. There are three generations of the parasite hatched each year—compared to only one of the bark beetle. And about 85 per cent of the third generation, 50 per cent of the second, and five per cent of the first overwinter, Ryan has found in his studies.

Bodies of both the parasite and the beetle are about 1.5 of an inch long. The parasite has two sensitive antennae that extend about 1.5 of an inch forward from the head, however, and the 1.5 of an inch egg tube at the back.

The parasite is drawn to the tree infested with bark beetles perhaps by odor, Ryan believes, and then listens for the burrowing sound of the beetle underneath to determine where to lay its eggs.

Fungus Shrub Disease Increasing In County

Arboreal shrubs of many varieties have been showing disease symptoms throughout the summer. A fungus disease which affects this type of ornamental has been increasing in Klamath planting in the past seasons. Many areas in the Northwest, are affected by this problem.

Shrubs attacked by this disease show brown, dead areas earlier in the season. During the summer affected twigs or branches take on a pale grayish color which soon continue to brown and die. The disease girdles the small branches causing death to those portions. Whole plants may be affected.

Growing season control can be aided by pruning out and burning the diseased portions which show

the color change. Burning prevents further spread from the infected plant material.

Fall sprays are the only effective chemical control. Sprays in this area should be applied during the first part of October and again about three weeks following the first spray. These sprays should be applied on days when rain will not follow within a day and wash off the chemical.

One of the most effective sprays is tribrach copper sulphate. Trade names of this chemical are Basicop, Micro-cop, Neutro-cop 53, Orthocop 53 and Basic Copper Fungicide. Three tablespoons of the copper material per gallon of water should be thoroughly applied to the entire shrubs. Healthy shrubs not showing symptoms may be well protected by this spray.

This fall timing is the only effective control period for this fungus disease of arborvitae, according to J. D. Vertrees, county agent's office at Klamath Falls.

Feed Barley Date Noted

Local growers of feed barley will soon need to decide whether they'll take part in the 1962 feed grain program. Feed barley has been added to the program and growers will soon be planning their 1962 acreage, says Earl Wilson, chairman, Klamath County ASC Committee.

The new feed grain program is about the same as the 1961 plan, but with feed barley added. The purpose, as with other feed grains, is to reduce the total barley acreage while providing price supports and conservation payments.

Malting barley is not included in the diversion program.

Farmers may check with the county ASCS office for details on how the 1962 feed grain program and the feed barley provisions will work.

Johnson Gets Cattlemen Post

PRINEVILLE—George W. Johnson, 55-year-old Washington Wheat Commission publications editor and public relations staff member, was named executive secretary of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association at a meeting of the officers held at Prineville, Sept. 16, according to an announcement made by Irvin Mann Jr., president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

The new secretary of the 50-year-old cattle organization has a wide experience in agriculture, organizational and publications work. President Mann said.

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