AROUND THE FARM

BY W. G. NIBLER
County Extension Agent

To spray or not to spray for weeds in strawberries is a question that has been mulled over by quite a few strawberry growers this spring.

In most cases where spraying was done growers decided to spray only when fields had lots of annual weeds. Some of these fields were very clear last fall but many seedling weeds brought on by the mild fall and early winter developed a heavy weed sod. In many of these fields the crown and root damage from the heavy hoeing that would be necessary plus the high cost of hoeing would seem to indicate that spraying was advisable.

On the other hand, growers with fairly clean fields or where there is a fair supply of family labor to do the hoeing, decided against spraying.

The number of sprayed fields has increased over last year however and this year will give growers another opportunity to judge the results from chemical sprays for weed control. Most of the spraying was done in the Warren area.

Speaking of weed control in strawberries—the system of shallow cultivation used by Johnson and Armstrong and Melvin Johnson in the Warren area looks good. For several years now Johnson and Armstrong have followed a program of limiting cultivation depth to 1½ to 2 inches. They reason that once weed seeds are germinated and killed out of the surface soil, deeper cultivation only aggravates the weed problem by bringing up weed seeds.

Does it really help keep weeds down? Observation of the Johnson and Armstrong fields plus the speed with which they cover the ground in hoeing the past three years makes the method look very convincing.

What about berry yields? Some growers think deep cultivation is essential to good yields. It is a widely debated topic. Experiments have never shown any advantage in yield from deep cultivation and the Johnson and Armstrong fields will compare with the best for a yield.

For spring cultivation Melvin Johnson plans to use a light scratching with a spike tooth harrow. Cultivation will be only deep enough to dislodge the light weed growth. Right now his fields look like the hoeing job will be light this spring.

February is a good month to make seedings of legumes into small grain crops. Frosted ground or a light snow cover will help settle red or alsike clover seed into the soil.

Now is also the time to seed lotus major into pastures that were seeded last fall. Lotus being seeded into non-crop pastures can also be made now. Farmers who have made lotus major seedings in the past report that they get the best results from making these seedings as early as the first part of February.

Wes Says—
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Final Services Attended Wed.

NATAL — Sam Devine attended the funeral Wednesday for his cousin who passed away in a Portland hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Pringle were Astoria and Seaside visitors last Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Kyser and family visited at the Harvey Parker home near Rainier last Thursday evening.

Several in the community attended the square dance in Quincy last Thursday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Devine were Sunday dinner guests at the Robert Hilliker home in Alder Grove.

Mr. and Mrs. Ira Peterson were in Clatskanie Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Pringle and son called on the Art Doreos Monday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Waddell and family called on the Ernest Kyser's Friday evening.

Tree Specialist To Help Leaders

Charles Ross, extension forestry specialist, Oregon State college, will meet with Columbia county 4-H forestry club leaders at the courthouse in St. Helens on Friday, February 15, at 10:00, announces Harold Black, county extension agent in charge of 4-H club work.

During the morning, Ross will discuss the requirements and options in the forestry projects. He will also suggest activities for clubs, tell ways of presenting the material to the club members, and give other help for club leaders.

The afternoon will be spent at the timber harvest area at the county fairgrounds. Here Ross will deal with identification of trees and shrubs, timber management, pruning and planting of trees.

Black states that Ross has an excellent understanding of the 4-H forestry project. He developed the present project and wrote the project bulletins and record books now being used. He also prepared the bulletin, "Trees To Know In Oregon," which has proved so popular.

All persons leading 4-H forestry clubs or who are interested in organizing a club are invited to the meeting.

Canada Journey Is Completed

BIRKENFELD — Mr. and Mrs. Guy Bellingham and Claire, returned from their trip to Canada the first of the week. They reported a very nice time.

Don Jensen and Darrell Elliott were in Portland Tuesday on business.

Winema Grange is planning a bingo bazaar February 23.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Larson are visiting relatives at Arcata California.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stenchfield went to Portland for the week end. A birthday dinner honoring Fred was held Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Paran. Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Baker and boys of Birkenfeld and Mr. and Mrs. Stenchfield's children from Condon were there to help their Dad celebrate.

Mrs. Don Jensen was in Clatskanie Wednesday.

Vernonia Unit Plans Study of Furniture

Frances Gallatin will give the lesson on "Furniture As You Like It" to the Vernonia extension unit on Thursday, February 14, at the home of Mrs. Oliver Graves. The business meeting starts at 9:45 and the lesson a 10:30. A pot-luck dinner will be served at noon.

In the afternoon Miss Gallatin will give the preliminary lesson to the slip cover work shop that will be held in March. All members who plan on taking part in the work shop should attend this meeting.

Furniture Study to Be Topic for Unit

Do you ever get tired of the same old furniture arrangement? Then attend the Timber Route unit meeting February 12 at the home of Mrs. C. G. Wisnecke.

Miss Frances Gallatin, home demonstration agent, will give the lesson on "Furniture as You Like It." There will be a pot-luck dinner at noon and anyone interested is welcome. The meeting starts at 10 a.m. The place is one half mile west of Triharne junction on the Timber road.

Number of Elk Said Too Thick

MIST — On Friday, the 8th, Nehalem Unit of county demonstration will meet with Mrs. Chas. Sundland. Bring your sack lunch and coffee will be furnished by the hostess.

We are told that the elk are altogether too thick around Austin Corll's cow will scarcely leave the shadow of their porch to go to the barn, the elk fight her so.

The Claud Johnsons went to Monmouth to see the game Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Saxton were recent evening callers at the A. R. Mellis home.

The Ray Garlocks were Portland motorists Monday a week ago.

Mrs. Chas. Hansen was a visitor of her daughter, Mrs. Robert Roeser, in Seaside last week one day. Robert brought her home.

The Wikstrom mill co. started up Monday of last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Walt Bateson were dinner guests of the Geo. Jones one day last week.

Pomona Grange Crowd Large

NATAL — A large crowd attended Pomona Grange here last Saturday.

C. Danielson and Einar Danielson called on relatives here last Monday.

Vernon Peterson spent the week end here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Peterson.

Miss Ronda Edgerton is spending some time here with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Knute Johnson. Ronda is attending school at Mist.

Mr. and Mrs. John Gordon of Delena and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Devine enjoyed a dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Clair Devine last Saturday evening, the occasion being Mrs. Clair Devine's birthday.

Serviceman Married to Pennsylvania Girl

RIVERVIEW — Pfc. John Normand and Miss Janet Anderson were married January 19. He is stationed at Fort Eustis, Va., and his bride's home is at Scotdale, Pa.

Albert Helland and son, Norman of Ellensburg, Washington spent last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rex Normand.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Olin of Klamath Falls returned to the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Olin Monday after spending several days in Portland.

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Square Dancing at Astoria Attended Sat.

BIRKENFELD — Mrs. Mike Cahill and her father, John Bensen, of Monmouth spent the week end at the James Cahill home. Idel is on crutches due to a broken bone in her foot.

Four couples from here attended the square dance in Astoria Saturday evening. They were: Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Bellingham, Mr. and Mrs. Bud Larson and Mr. and Mrs. Art Bellingham.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bellingham and Francis Nordstrom were in Portland Thursday on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Chet Kendall of Salem visited the Ed Wallace family over the week end.

Advertisement

From where I sit ... by Joe Marsh

Experienced Hand Wanted

Cappy Miller's back from visiting relatives and tells about a big snow storm that knocked out the electric power for miles around.

Naturally, the local power company was doing everything possible to restore service but folks kept calling in and one woman gave them a new twist.

"I don't mind not having lights," she grumbled, "but I've got 20 cows in my barn and they all have to be milked by machine. Nobody around here knows how to milk a cow by hand any more."

From where I sit, it's only too easy to forget how to do something—even as simple as milking a cow—if we don't keep at it. And that goes for practicing tolerance, too. Like forgetting our neighbor has a right to decide for himself whether or not to enjoy a temperate glass of beer. If we don't keep the other fellow's point of view in mind we're all liable to get "snowed under" by intolerance.

Joe Marsh

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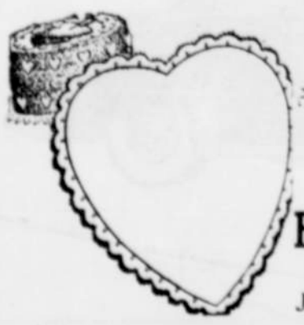

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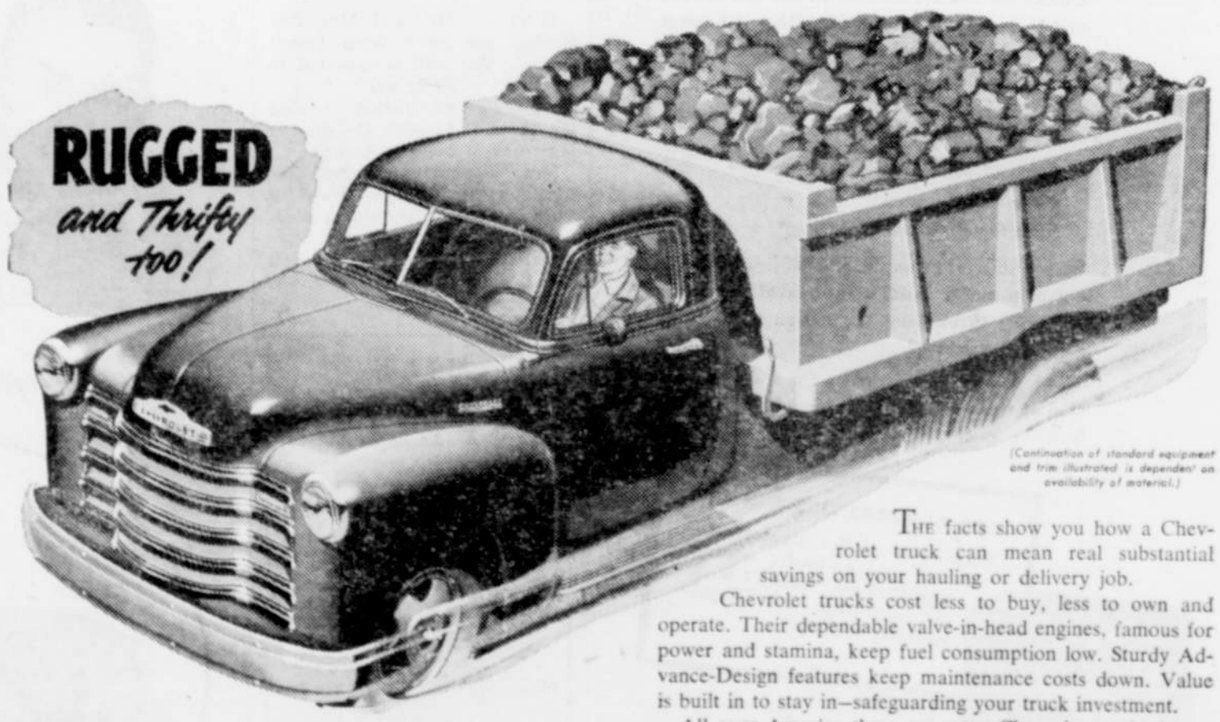

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