

## AROUND THE FARM

BY W. G. NIBLER  
County Extension Agent

Are you planting a field of strawberries this spring? The Columbia county horticulture committee in a recent meeting recommended that land being planted to strawberries should have had a special cover crop to build up the soil before plantings are made.

The committee felt that cover cropping has become a matter of necessity if a field is going to give a satisfactory yield. During the past few years much of our new acreage has been planted on newly cleared land or land that has been cropped only a few years. On this land yields may be satisfactory without cover cropping. However, after it has been used for one planting of strawberries with a crop or two of hay or grain in rotation the land will need a cover crop before strawberries are again planted.

In speaking of cover crops the committee did not mean a small accumulation of weeds and volunteer crop that might be plowed in May or April. They referred to a mature cover crop and suggested a mixture of vetch or peas with a grain. They define a mature cover crop as one that is fall planted and allowed to use the complete growing season up into June. They recommend that the crop be turned down when the first pods on the vetch or peas begin to fill out. This will prevent volunteering of these crop seeds which can become a weed pest in strawberries if they are allowed to mature and seed.

The committee predicted that a smaller acreage of strawberries will be set out this spring than was planted last spring. Ray Anderson, Canaan, is chairman of this committee.

If you will be brooding some chicks this spring, you may wish to consider infrared bulbs or heat lamps for heat. One 250 watt infrared bulb will provide sufficient heat for about 75 chicks, which is a number often raised for meat and eggs on a farm. This system can also be used for larger numbers of chicks.

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With this type of brooding, it is not necessary to use a brooder. The chicks are always in sight for easy checking and they have freedom of movement for getting feed and water.

Although the initial cost is low, the cost of operating is higher than most systems of brooding. It has also been found that the litter isn't kept as dry as many types of brooders.

## Elk Blamed for Grain Damage

**MIST**—The elk are getting to be a nuisance around. There's a band of 14-16 that come every night and feed on A. R. Melis' young oats just coming up, and of course ruining the grain. He has written the game commission, but as yet nothing has been done.

M.H.C. that was to have met week before last with Mrs. Chas. Hansen, was postponed on account of Mrs. Hansen being ill, until last week, Thursday.

The Austin Dowlings are doing some work on the interior of their home at this time.

Recent Sunday morning breakfast guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Mathews were Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Clark and children of Hillsboro and Mr. and Mrs. Art Thompson of Eugene. Later in the day, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Condit from Westport joined the group for a turkey dinner celebrating Mrs. Clark's birthday anniversary. Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Mathews are cousins. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are from Idaho, but are spending the winter in Eugene where Mr. Thompson is attending the University of Oregon.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hughes were business visitors in Astoria Monday. They called to see Ed Mier at Jewell, who has been very ill for some time. He seemed somewhat better than the last time they visited him. He is an uncle of Mrs. Hughes.

## Riverview Home Sold To Nebraska People

**RIVERVIEW**—Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Galloway sold their home to Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Welch of Nebraska. The Galloways will move to Second St. in Vernonia. Mr. Welch plans to be the caretaker of the Washington Grade school next year, while his uncle, Jim Latimer, will be the caretaker of the Lincoln school.

Mr. and Mrs. James Whitmire and three children of Oregon City spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph McKee.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Rundell and Mrs. Emory George of Portland came out Friday evening to visit at the C. N. Rundell and Ed Buckner homes over the week end. The Portland guests and Mr. and Mrs. Buckner and boys enjoyed Sunday dinner at the Rundell home.

## News Writer Places 3rd in State Contest

Joanne Johnson, Clatskanie, placed third in the state 4-H news writing contest, according to an announcement made last week in Corvallis where the scrapbooks were judged.

The reporters are judged on their scrapbooks of the stories they write throughout the year. Joanne was named winner of the Columbia county news writing contest sponsored by the five newspapers published in Columbia county.

As a result of winning the Columbia county contest, Joanne won a \$20 scholarship to the 1952 4-H summer school to be held at Corvallis, June 17-27.



MRS. KENNETH BEESON from Clatskanie, member of the county home extension committee, takes time off from her home-making duties to read to her two children, Karin and Roy.

Mrs. Kenneth Beeson, a native of Clatskanie, is serving her second year as a member of the Columbia county home extension committee, according to Francis L. Gallatin, home agent. The county committee is made up of seven unit members representing all parts of the county who act in an advisory capacity to the home agent.

Kenneth and Mrs. Beeson grew up near Clatskanie and graduated from high school there. After their marriage, Kenneth Beeson began training in agriculture at Oregon State college. His education was interrupted by three years service in the U. S. Army Air Corps, after which he returned to college and graduated.

While her husband was employed by Oregon State college extension service in Yamhill and Coos counties, Mrs. Beeson became interested in home extension activities, taking an active part in the Coquille home extension unit in Coos county. Upon their return to Clatskanie three years ago, they continued their interests in extension work. Kenneth Beeson leads a 4-H livestock club and Mrs. Beeson is a member of the Marshland home extension unit, now serving her second year as unit chairman.

The family is actively interested in the Clatskanie farm bureau center. Mrs. Beeson is secretary-treasurer and her husband is the center chairman. They are members of the farm home and rural life committee which is appointed by the agricultural planning council. This committee is actively working to improve the home and community life of the county with emphasis on building better health and recreational facilities.

Mrs. Beeson has been research

chairman on the county home extension committee for two years; this year, she is also Azala house chairman. Azala house is the cooperative house to be built on the campus of OSC, primarily for former 4-H club girls. It is being built and furnished by Oregon extension units. "Columbia county units have contributed \$907.92 to the Azala house fund which tops the expected quota of \$750.00," Mrs. Beeson reports. Among Columbia county units, the Marshland unit raised the largest amount for this fund. Columbia county girls winning a live in Azala house while attending OSC should make application to the county home extension committee through the extension office.

Mrs. Beeson has been project leader many times in the Marshland unit. Much of the home extension program is carried by project leaders who receive training from the home agent and college specialists. "Among the projects we found most interesting are textile painting, bread baking, and freezing cooked and prepared foods," said Mrs. Beeson; "but perhaps the greatest source of satisfaction was the extra project our unit chose, that of sending boxes of used clothing to needy families in Europe. We have a grateful thank you note from families in Czechoslovakia receiving aid."

She gives her time freely without compensation as county committee member and unit project leader. "Extension work has been most interesting and educational to me," concluded Mrs. Beeson; "I have enjoyed serving on the county committee, helping to bring these home improvement activities to others."

## Station Leased; Name to Change

**RIVERVIEW**—Lloyd Callister and Jack King have leased the Health Service Station and in the future it will be known as The Nehalem Service Station. Mr. King is installing equipment for general repair work.

Louis Huntley and Jeff Breddin went to Portland Sunday because of the illness of Gerald McCool who is in the Holliday Park hospital under observation. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Schalock spent Thursday at the home of their son and family, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Schalock, Jr., at St. Helena.

Mr. and Mrs. Rex Normand and Grace Normand visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Ward and Jackson at Astoria Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. G. G. Peacher reported for reassignment at Fort Lewis Friday after spending a

30-day leave at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Peachey.

Mr. and Mrs. John Keck and son of Brighton spent the week end at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ratkic.

A silver star, placed above the rifle, now denotes that a soldier wearing the army's combat infantry badge earned the emblem in World War II and in the Korean campaign.

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