

AROUND THE FARM BY DON COIN WALROD County Extension Agent

The trench silo built and filled this year by Jess Skeans and Sons caught our eye the first time that we saw it early this summer. Naturally we were interested in seeing how much spoilage there would be and what the silage would be like, and Jess agreed to let us know when it was open.

The silo has been open about two weeks now, and we had an opportunity to examine it when calling on the Skeans about their farm fish pond. As we recall, this trench is 18 feet deep and 50 feet long with the bottom 12 feet wide and the top 14 feet wide. The walls are concrete and so is the bottom.

In filling this silo, a D-2 caterpillar was put into the trench and used to pack the silage until the silo was full enough that it could be run out. Then a D-4 was used to finish the job of filling and packing. After filling, the exposed surface of the silage was covered with a light-weight muslin type of paper and then a foot or more of sawdust over the paper.

Spoilage on the open portion of the silo was very slight, being less than two inches. Jess said there was less than half a manure spreader load on the part that was opened. Some tower type silos that we have seen had much more spoilage than that, but we do not mean to imply that the type of silo has that much bearing on spoilage.

Harvesting the crop at the proper stage, putting it in when the dry matter is about 30 percent, thorough packing, and exclusion of air and water from the surface are some of the points that we believe lead to the making of good silage. The addition of a preservative may be additional insurance that there will be little spoilage.

Planting stock for reforestation, windbreaks, Christmas tree planting, and farm woodlot uses are available now and will be until March 15. These trees are available on a cost basis from the state nursery near Corvallis. At the start of the season, nine species of trees were available for planting here in Western Oregon. Already white fir supplies have been depleted, so we would suggest that anyone interested in planting order trees right away. The delivery date can be specified.

Fence posts might be grown right on the farm as a crop—fence posts that will not need treating such as Douglas fir. Black locust trees were suggested by Ralph Youder, state service forester, Hillsboro, as a possible species to plant for the farmer who is interested in a crop to be used specifically for fence posts. The wood of the black locust is very durable and fence posts from it could be expected to give a service of 35 or more years.

Black locust trees grow very rapidly. Planting them relatively close together, perhaps four to six feet apart, tends to make them stretch out and grow more straight. Otherwise they are apt to be somewhat crooked. Planting stock is available from the state nursery. With approval

from the county committee, plantings of this type may qualify for PMA cost-sharing payments.

When the crop is harvested, another tree will start from the same stump. Because they are apt to sucker, it is best that black locust not be planted near irrigation or drainage ditches or where the roots are apt to be cut by cultivation. Both ends of the cut roots will then put up suckers. These trees do best in deep rich soils, but they will grow almost anywhere in the state. One difficulty experienced with posts is that staples are hard to drive because the wood is so hard. Consequently short staples work best.

Barley is an important feed grain for Oregon and with many acres of wheatland being diverted to barley, it could become even more important next year. The price of barley here in Oregon is about the same as the price of corn in the mid-west. For practical purposes, the feed value of the two is about the same.

With this more favorable feed situation, Oregon livestock men have a better opportunity to produce more eggs and meat, especially pork, as we are a deficient area in both of these items. We import about 15 per cent of our eggs from the mid-west and about 60 to 70 per cent of our pork, according to Oregon State college economists.

One way of considering the hog production situation might be this. At present prices a Pacific Northwest hog plus the barley needed for its growth is cheaper than a mid-west hog plus corn plus the freight necessary to get that hog to Oregon. Incidentally, most of the pork that does come into Oregon comes in the form of live hogs.

Dairy men may consider barley for dairy cattle at any time that it is cheaper than any other grain on a total digestible nutrient basis. However, the fact that it needs to be rolled or coarsely ground for feeding should be recognized. The cost or trouble involved in this procedure may make it more practical for the dairyman to buy his barley or barley mixed feed from a commercial feed plant. Barley can be used for as much as 80 per cent of the grain ration for dairy cattle.

Columbia county farmers participating in the agricultural conservation program will find that a number of cost-sharing practices require that soil tests be made on samples taken from fields which will be covered by the practice. These tests are to be made by the soil testing laboratory at Oregon State college.

Carbins to be used in sending samples to the laboratory are

Dates Set for Two Meetings

Two training meetings for 4-H livestock club leaders will be held in Columbia county next week, announces Harold Black, county extension agent in charge of 4-H club work.

The first will be at the county courthouse in St. Helens on Tuesday, December 29 at 1:00 p.m. The other will be at Clatskanie in the soil conservation office on December 30. It will begin at 8:00 p.m.

The program will be the same at both meetings. It will include a discussion of the 4-H dairy beef, sheep, pig, rabbit and poultry projects, suggestions for programs at club meetings, club activities and the new record book. The new procedure to be used in ordering material for livestock clubs will be explained.

Don Walrod, county extension agent, will discuss feeding and management as they apply to 4-H club projects. A demonstration on making a rope halter will be given.

Black states that all those interested in a 4-H livestock club are welcome.

Farmers Told Sign-up Date

Wm. Armstrong, chairman of the Columbia county ASC (formerly PMA) committee, announces that the farmers of Columbia county who wish to file their initial requests for the 1954 program should do so at the county office before December 31.

The system being used this year is different from other years in that there will be both initial sign-ups which end December 31 and late sign-ups which take place throughout the year. Any late requests will be eligible subject to the availability of funds.

Chairman Armstrong also stated that since it will be possible to file late requests, all farmers should request only those conservation practices most urgently needed on the farm. Farmers should be careful to sign up for only those practices they know they will complete.

available at the county extension office, along with instruction sheets for taking and handling samples. Samples can be sent directly to the laboratory or they can be brought to the extension office.

About three weeks need to be allowed for the results of the sample to be returned. If the samples are wet additional time will be required for drying. Allowing the samples to partially dry before sending will save time. However, samples should not become too warm or the test will be inaccurate. Drying in a warm room is satisfactory, but an oven or other artificial heat had best not be used.

AROUND HOME...

By Helen Sellie
Home Extension Agent

Does your family observe "inherited" traditions at Christmas time? I believe most families observe customs from year to year which helps in making the time of the year especially meaningful and helps to strengthen family ties.

America has a rich source of traditions for Christmas observance as people settling here brought along customs from their homelands. Many of the most observed customs have come from the northern European nations, but these have gradually been Americanized until they are becoming typically our own. Now, as never before in our country's history, we need to stress and build the traditions and ceremonies which make of our scattered families a close-knit group and give our newcomers a real place in the community.

"Lutefish and lefse" play an important part in the menu of the Norwegian families on Christmas eve. After walking around the Christmas tree with joined hands, singing Christmas carols, the Christmas story from the chapter of Luke in the Bible is read and then finally the Christmas gifts are distributed.

One of the lovely customs coming from England has been the re-reading aloud to the family

of Dicken's "A Christmas Carol" either on Christmas eve or on Christmas day. Lionel Barrymore who has so often delighted us with his portrayal of Scrooge once said of him, "Scrooge is just an exaggeration of someone we've all met. A lonely, unhappy old man trying to get some interest out of life by pretending to be a tough guy—and just for a little while getting away with it! But his toughness is only skin-deep, really. That's proven by the ease with which the crust was broken when once the Christmas ghosts got to work on him: The Ghost of Christmas Past, which was his memory; the Ghost of Christmas Present, which was his intuition; the Ghost of Christmas Future, which was his imagination." "A Christmas Carol" typifies to people everywhere the breaking away from the selfish grasp-

ing so often manifest during the year and the emergence of the goodwill, thoughtfulness and love which is the true Christmas spirit.

Fight Polio!

Join The
MARCH OF DIMES
January 2 to 31

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



Pebble Creek Dairy

SEASON GREETINGS

Dr. William A. Pollock

Optometrist

Dr. L. K. Pollock

Dentist

1517 Pacific Ave.

Over Bus Depot

Forest Grove, Ore.—Phone 941



The Yule is a season for songs and rejoicing. Our earnest hope is that all you trendy people may share in this spirit to the utmost.

And for what it's worth, we offer our heartiest wishes for a very Merry Christmas.



Mike's Place

MIKE AND MARY LUCAS



As the year draws to a close, we look back with thanks for old friendships retained and for new ones made.

We appreciate the opportunity presented by the Holiday Season to say to all our friends:

MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

THE LONG-BELL LUMBER COMPANY

VERNONIA DIVISION

Merry Christmas



We're deeply grateful for the gift of your friendship.

Bush Furniture and Funeral Home



As we pay homage to the birth of the Christ child, we humbly give thanks for the blessings bestowed upon us by His coming and the inspiration of His message of peace and good will.



Polly's Variety

HANK AND POLLY HUDSON