

**AROUND THE FARM** BY DON COIN WALROD  
County Extension Agent

While Columbia County does not have large acreages of alfalfa, many folks including ourselves, feel that we could well increase the acreage of this important forage crop. It even has a possibility on some of the deeper, well drained hill soils.

Although alfalfa does not require nitrogen fertilizers due to the fact that certain bacteria growing in conjunction with it father nitrogen directly from the air, it is rather a heavy feeder on most of the other plant food element. In addition it requires a nearly neutral soil, meaning that almost all of our soils will need to be limed.

Recently E. R. Jackman, OSC farm crops specialist, summarized the work that the experiment station at Corvallis and the branch experiment stations have been doing the last few years with alfalfa. This particular work has to do mostly with varieties and yield. It is evident that there is

**Trees Available To Landowners**

Forest trees for Oregon farms and woodlands are now available to landowners from the state nursery, advises Don Coin Walrod, county extension agent.

Landowners may order trees from the state for purposes other than ornamental. Trees can be planted for reforestation, Christmas trees, wind protection, erosion control, and post production. They can be planted only outside of incorporated city limits.

These trees, usually 2 year old stock, may be secured by sending order to the nursery. Special blanks for this purpose are available from the county extension office. Trees are sold at cost and will carry with the species. This years cost ranges from ten to fifteen dollars per thousand, except in the case of very large quantity orders of Douglas Fir.

There are seven conifers and five hardwoods available that are adapted to planting in Western Oregon. The shipping season for trees extends from November, 1955 to March 31, 1956. Since shipping dates can be specified, it is well to order trees early, says Walrod, as supplies of certain species may become exhausted late in the planting season.

some difference in adaptation of varieties over the state, but for the northern part of the Willamette Valley, including Columbia county, the Du Puits variety seems to be outstanding from the yield standpoint. At Corvallis, DuPuits was top in the yield, with a 4 year average yield of 6.36 tons of dry forage per acre. It is maintaining that yield too, but some of the other varieties are producing less each year. Grimm, for instance, has dropped from an average of 5.03 to a 1954 yield of 3.81 tons.

We understand that seed of some of these newer varieties like DuPuits will be available for planting this year. That, coupled with the fact that the agricultural conservation program of the ASC office is planning to include alfalfa as an approved species for federal cost sharing in 1956, should mean that more alfalfa will be planted in the county.

Because of the earliness of the first cutting, utilization of an alfalfa crop is rather difficult unless it is possible to put the first crop into a silo, and use succeeding crops for hay. Folks who have used this program are most enthusiastic about it.

For the second year a sheep production contest is being sponsored by the Oregon Purebred

Sheep Producers association in cooperation with the extension service. The association indicates that the purpose of this program is to recognize commercial ewe flocks that are especially efficient in the production of lambs and wool, and to encourage greater participation in production practices that enable farmers to make more profit from their sheep enterprises.

Enrollments in this program must be made by December 1, and the minimum flock must have at least 35 ewes. We have some good ewe flocks here in Columbia county, and the sheep industry is growing. We feel that it has considerable potential and would like to see some of our growers participate in the sheep reduction contest. We have all the forms and information on the program for those who would like to consider it.

New Zealand white clover has had a great deal of publicity in

the past, but we will have to admit that the more we see of it, the more we think of it. We have now reached a point where we recommend it over all other clovers, including Ladino Clover.

We do not mean to imply that the New Zealand white clover would be superior for all areas, but trials indicate that it will out produce Ladino in the cooler coastal counties. This includes Columbia county. Ladino would normally be recommended only where it is possible to irrigate, but New Zealand not only responds to irrigation, but it is able to produce well under many non-irrigated conditions. It is far superior to what is called "white dutch".

Everyone that we know that has tried this clover here in the county is enthusiastic about it. Ron Engbretson planted some on the Nolla Angus ranch, Clatskanie, a year ago August. For some reason it didn't come along too well that fall and early this

spring, but now it has become established and Ron is well pleased with it. He says that it is far better than the adjoining Ladino field, and there is no slug damage in it.

Last spring we obtained a small amount of seed of a new hybrid sweet corn through the Oregon State College Experiment Station for trial locally. The previous year's trials indicated that it was a high quality corn that was earlier than Golden Cross

bantam. Ten other counties received seed for trial. Reports from all are in now and we have a summary of the results. Indications are that this variety called "Canearly", is one to two weeks earlier than Golden Cross bantam, ears are short to medium in length and production is good to heavy. It has deep kernels with some variation in color, and is very sweet. It is good either fresh or processed but will be for home use rather than commercial processing.

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