

AROUND THE FARM

By
Don Coin Walrod



Community committeemen Pat Zimmerman and Jim Hoard, Rainier; Ken Asbury, St. Helens, and Bernie Roth, Scappoose met recently with county ASCS committee members Everett Skeans, Elmer Loyd and Max Oblack and USDA representatives on the provisions of the 1966 agricultural conservation program. This session was for the purpose of determining which of the national and state approved practices will be sanctioned for cost-sharing assistance for county farmers during the coming year.

Walt Thompson, U.S. forest service, State Farm Forester Ken Palen, Work Unit Conservationists Andy Pavelek and Calvin Gregg, ASCS office manager William Armstrong, and your writer met with this committee.

The objective of the agricultural conservation program is to help achieve additional conservation practices on land now in agricul-

tural production. Assistance is not applicable to the development of new or additional farmland by means of drainage, irrigation, and land clearing. Costs of conservation practices are shared with a farmer on satisfactorily performed jobs for which assistance is requested before the work is done.

Conservation measures for which assistance is offered locally include liming, permanent seedings of grasses and legumes, planting of forest seedlings and woodland improvement, drainage with open ditches or tile lines, construction of ponds for irrigation, planting of cover crops, and some special practices such as controlling noxious weeds (tansy ragwort and tussock).

Financial assistance provided to farmers is usually limited to maximum of 50 percent of the cost, but in Columbia county, the total maximum assistance for any one farm owner is \$1,000. As payments go in this county, few practices ever reach this amount.

Seed potatoes for next year's commercial potato crop are now beginning to be bought and sold.

Every year certification agencies receive questions from growers and gardeners who bought and planted "Foundation" seed potatoes that developed excessive amounts of leaf roll and other virus diseases. Perhaps this questioning is justifiable, but part of the difficulty can also be attributed to a lack of understanding of what a "Foundation" or "Certified" tag means.

Seed potatoes are certified on the basis of the level of virus infection and genetic identity. Disease presence and trueness to variety are determined by two field inspections, digging and bin inspections, and by a growing-out test in university greenhouses or Southern California field test plots during the winter.

Several states, including Washington, California and Oregon make provisions in their certification standards for the sale, tagging, and shipment of seed potatoes prior to the completion of winter growing-out tests. This is based on the relative freedom from disease on field inspection. Any lot qualifying for "Foundation" or "Certified" grade may be tagged and sold with the appropriate tag. These potatoes are called "Foundation" or "Certified" potatoes which meet the necessary standards in the winter growing-out test.

Every grower should be aware of this distinction between pota-

County Court Minutes ---

Unofficial, subject to change before approval by the County Court.

December 29, 1965

The Columbia County Court having this day met in regular session for the purpose of transacting county business, with the following members present: Judge Earl N. Seawright, Commissioners Louis J. Wasser and O. D. Clark, whereupon the following business was transacted:

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Miscellaneous claims were approved.

Frank LeMont met with the court to discuss the matter of sending three appraisers to an appraisal school to be held in Multnomah county. The cost for tuition and books would be \$44.75 each. The course will be held once a week, for 11 weeks, starting January 13, 1966. Commissioner Wasser moved and Commissioner Clark seconded that the persons involved would use one of the appraiser's cars for transportation. Motion carried.

An offer of \$600 was received from Mrs. Thelma Davis, for Lots 16-21, Block R, Roxy Park Addition to Rainier. Said offer was taken under advisement.

The court approved a liquor license application for the Lumijarvi Store at Quincy.

A letter was received from Mrs. Hazel McKee of Warren regarding the installation of ramps at the new fairgrounds for use by handicapped persons.

An offer of \$350 was received from D. Ben Rand of Beaverton and James J. Hill Jr. of West Covina, California, for property known as Tax Lot 10, in Section 32, T1N, R2W, WM. Commissioner Wasser moved and Commissioner Clark seconded to reject said offer as being an insufficient amount.

Veteran Service Officer H. J. Erickson met with the court and presented his quarterly report. He also discussed a replacement for his position, as he wishes to retire.

Neil Wilburn and Sam Jauron met with the court to discuss the various activities of both the county court and the circuit court.

Jim Day met with the court to seek renewal of a wrecking license. Commissioner Wasser moved and Commissioner Clark seconded to approve said recommendation. Motion carried.

Commissioner Wasser moved and Commissioner Clark seconded to sign Orders to purchase property for the fairgrounds site. Motion carried.

Orders and deeds were signed in favor of Alton Hoffman, for Lots 9 and 10, Block H, Roxy Park Addition to Rainier, and Mrs. Olive Hoffman, for Lot 2, Block H, Roxy Park Addition to Rainier.

Nothing further coming before the court, the same adjourned until January 5, 1966.

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon, this 29th day of December, 1965.

toes sold on the basis of field readings and those sold on the basis of winter test plot results. In some cases, test plot results are not feasible to obtain, but whenever possible, a commercial potato grower should specify that he wants to purchase winter tested seed potatoes.

The tag itself may give an indication to the grower of the conditions under which it was sold. In Washington and California, seed potatoes sold on the basis of winter-testing are eligible to be tagged with certification tags stamped "Test Plot Approved." Those sold on the basis of field readings only are tagged with regular certification tags which are not so stamped. In Oregon, seed sold and shipped prior to the completion of greenhouse tests must be tagged with a certification tag overprinted "Field Approved Only." Those sold and shipped after completion of greenhouse tests must be tagged with certification tags bearing no overprint. Therefore, Oregon tags overprinted "Field Approved Only" are similar to Washington and California tags bearing no stamp. Oregon tags with no overprint are equivalent to Washington and California tags stamped "Test Plot Approved."

Growers should always make an effort to purchase seed which has met the standards required on grow-out tests to insure the best quality seed. Information about disease readings obtained on field inspection or in winter plots may be obtained for many states from the OSU seed certification office through county agents or by contacting the certification office in the state of origin.

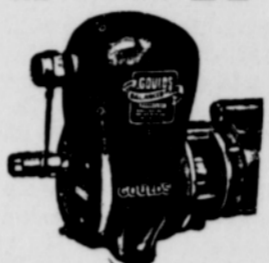
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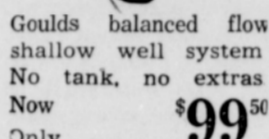
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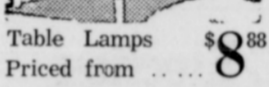
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YOUR JOB

(NOTE: This column is written weekly and published by this newspaper as a public and educational service. If you have questions with regard to the Oregon State Employment Service and/or Unemployment Insurance, please address them to Oregon Department of Employment, attn., Informational Representative, 402 Labor and Industries Bldg., Salem, Oregon 97310.)

QUESTION: How many fraudulent claims are filed for unemployment insurance?

ANSWER: A small fraction of one percent of all claims filed are determined to be fraudulent and are investigated by internal auditors of the Department of Employment.

However, during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1965, the division received 2,676 cases which required field investigation. Of these cases, 1,726 were detected as the result of post-auditing 12,182 local office claim files, the cross-matching of wage records and benefit payments and through the department's first line of defense with respect to fraud detection—the local office claims personnel. After investigating the 2,676 cases, 839 deputy decisions were written and 9,947 weeks of benefits were disqualified and denied due to willful misrepresentation. Based on the approximate average value of benefit checks issued for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1965, the potential value of the weeks disqualified exceed one-third of a million dollars.

Of the 839 determinations made, 42 cases resulted in prosecution. The penalties applied by the courts varied in each case; the lightest sentence being a 30-day suspension, while others received 30-day jail sentences plus various periods of probation. Some probation periods ran as high as three years, while other sentences included very severe fines. Nearly all courts requested repayment of the overpayment within a specified time.

QUESTION: What were the estimated average unemployment tax rates by industry for 1965?

ANSWER: The average tax rate for all industries was 1.91 percent. For agriculture, forestry and fishing it was 2.07 percent; for mining, 2.21 percent; construction, 2.34 percent and all manufacturing, 2.06 percent. In the manufacturing categories, the tax varies by the type of manufacturing as follows: canning and preserving, 2.65 percent; other food products, 1.89 per-



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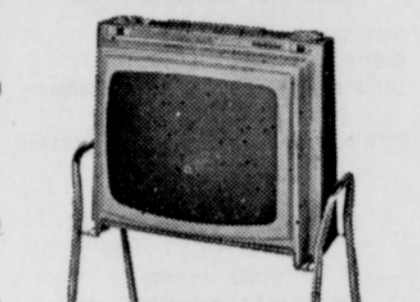
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cent, lumber and wood products, 2.20 percent; paper and allied products, 1.62 percent; primary metals, 1.94 percent; fabricated metals, non-electrical machinery and transportation equipment, 1.96 percent and other manufacturing, 1.79 percent.

Transportation and utilities industry average tax is 1.63 percent with transportation at 1.85 percent and utilities at 1.34 percent. Trade unemployment tax averages 1.78 percent with wholesale at 1.66 and retail trade at 1.85 percent.

The finance, insurance and real estate industry average U. I. tax is 1.45 percent and service and miscellaneous at 1.77 percent. Thus canning and preserving, a seasonal industry, is paying the

highest U. I. tax at 2.65 and the utilities industry the lowest.

During 1965 the unemployment tax ranged from 1.2 percent for the low-cost employers to 2.7 percent. More than one-third of all nearly 40,000 employers paying unemployment taxes in Oregon had no charges whatsoever against their tax accounts and more than 15,000 paid the lowest rate in 1965.

There's no kidding about skidding. The Traffic Safety and Education Division of the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles says: Here's how to get out of a dangerous skid. If the rear end of your car skids left, steer left. If it skids right, steer right.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1966

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