

Grain, Forage Crops Outlook Good; Bad Weather Harms Fruit Production

The outlook remains good for Oregon grain and forage crops, but production of major fruit crops in the state may be down a little from previous years, reports Mrs. Elvera Horrell, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State college.

Wheat production in Oregon should stay at about the same level as last year, a little above average, Mrs. Horrell found as she studied reports from the U.S. department of agriculture. Fall-seeded grains have done well in this area with May rains east of the Cascades coming at just the right time for good growth.

In western Oregon, damage from virus diseases that plagued grains last year seems to be less this spring. However, spring-sown crops got off to a slow start, because of rainy weather, and are lagging behind those of last year.

Hay crops in the state are looking better this year than last, but are still below average for this time of year, Mrs. Horrell noted. Pastures are also in better condition than a year ago, and better than average.

Fruit crops were among those hardest hit by spring rains, Mrs. Horrell said. Lack of good weather for pollination and some below-freezing temperatures cut prospects for most Oregon tree fruit and nut crops.

Cool Weather Slows Crops
Oregon's vegetable processing crops were also slowed by the cold, wet weather this spring. As of June 1, much of the snapbean and sweet corn acreage in the state still had to be planted. The cool weather also slowed down development of green peas in eastern Oregon, where much of this crop is grown.

Nationally, June 1 crop prospects showed wheat production expected to top the billion bushel mark again. Corn and soybean plantings were lagging, however, as rain continued to hamper field work. And forage crop prospects were more favorable in northern sections than in the south or west.

National fruit production may fall behind that of last year, Mrs. Horrell added. And the acreage of vegetables planted for commercial processing is lower than last year. There may also be fewer fresh vegetables on this year's markets.

Livestock Producers Plan Annual Tour Of Hereford Ranches

Purebred Hereford breeders will be visited Friday, July, 8 by a tour of livestock producers, according to George Bain, secretary of the Eastern Oregon Hereford Breeders' association.

The tour is an annual event sponsored by the association, Bain said, so that purebred and commercial cattlemen can see the breeding programs and handling facilities on various places visited.

Starting at 8:30 a.m. on the Frank and Ruby Hill ranch on Oregon Slope, touring stockmen will visit Dean Decker and Sons, Hyline Herefords, Bill Stewart, George and Norman Ireland, Mrs. Noah and Parley Feik before having potluck at the Vale park park.

Afternoon tour starts at Bogue ranch on Willowcreek at 2 p.m., then visits are slated with Paul Seaquist, Margaret Burk, Allen Westcott, Moore Hereford ranch and Ray Findley.

All persons interested in Hereford cattle are cordially invited to attend, according to Clayton Tachirgi, president of the association.

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Basic Research On Soil Humus Planned at OSC

A three-year research project designed to throw new light on the mystery of soil "humus" will get under way at Oregon State college this summer with a \$27,000 grant from the National Science foundation.

Dr. J. Lowell Young, USDA Agricultural Research service chemist and professor in the OSC soils department, will study humus of various soil types from throughout the Northwest. Samples of other key soil types not found in this region will be drawn from other areas of the world as needed for research.

Humus, or decomposed vegetable or animal matter that makes up the organic portion of soil, has long been regarded by farmers and home gardeners as almost magical material. It helps form soil structure, provides aeration and fertility for plants, and improves water-holding capacity of soil.

Almost everyone who works with the soil appreciates "what" humus does, but we know little of "why" or "how" it works, the chemist said.

Scientists are not yet in agreement as to whether there is one kind of humus or several kinds. Science must first answer this fundamental question in order to fully understand how humus affects soil fertility and structure, Young explained.

The Pacific Northwest is considered nearly ideal for such a study since it has a great variety of representative soils of the world in a relatively small geographic area. Soil types of the region have developed under widely differing conditions of climate and vegetation.

More than half the \$27,000 grant is for purchase of a complex instrument to separate and measure specific kinds of amino acids in soil types. These acids are the "building blocks" of proteins that make up about 50 percent of soil organic nitrogen materials.

Measuring the quantities of these specific acids from the many samples of humus is a basic step toward understanding how humus may affect soil fertility and structure, the scientist said.

home of Mrs. Carl Hill. A potluck luncheon preceded the meeting. Thirteen members were present.

Chester Mills was a Sunday dinner guest of his mother, Mrs. C. R. Mills. Mrs. Chester Mills was in Eugene attending Eagles convention.

Ron Zerbel, his flight crew and the railroad crew burned grass from the railroad right-of-way and the flight strip this week to keep down fire hazard.

Tarr Returns from Hospital
George Tarr returned home this week from the Veterans' hospital in Boise where he had been a patient for some time.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Day spent Sunday evening visiting Mrs. Edna Cowling.

Envoy and Mrs. Cecil Helton and family of Baker spent last week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Mackey. The Heltons are in charge of the Baker district of Salvation Army.

Women Sponsor Food Sale
The women's association of the United Presbyterian church held a cooked food sale in Looney's store Saturday afternoon. Proceeds went to the Chilean relief fund.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Mackey and family visited Sunday afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Vanderpool at New Plymouth.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Deffer are visiting their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wiggins of Pendleton this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Gossard and family of Homedale visited his sister, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Freil, Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Marguerite Scott and Miss Mary Weir went to Elgin Sunday to visit Mr. and Mrs. Athol Sayre and family.

Class Hosts Roswell Group
The young people's class of the United Presbyterian church were hosts to the Roswell young people's class Sunday night with a wiener roast on the church fire-place.

Sig. Linda and Kristy Jacobson of Hayfork, Calif., have been visiting their grandparents, the Rev. and Mrs. Henry Moore the past week. They spent the weekend with an aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Faw at Vale.

Miss Donna Peterson attended a wedding reception Sunday evening for Mr. and Mrs. Bud Vales of Parma.

Mrs. Darrel English and Wayne returned this week from Salt Lake City, where Wayne had a checkup at the Shrine hospital.

Celebrate Anniversaries
Messrs. and Mmes. Bill Willis, George Cartwright and Fred Brownfield celebrated their wedding anniversaries by dining out Saturday night.

Mrs. Glenn Ward and children took her mother, Mrs. Denver Glenn and grandchildren to Caldwell visiting Saturday.

Glenn Ward and LeRoy Buhler are attending summer school at La Grande.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Hill were

Oregon Farmland Values Increase; OSC Gives Report

Oregon farmland values continued to move upward this spring to a level nearly 5 percent above a year ago, reports Mrs. Elvera Horrell, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State college.

On March 1 of this year, the per-acre value of farmlands in the state, with improvements, stood 2 percent higher than last November and nearly 5 percent above March 1959, Mrs. Horrell found as she studied reports from the USDA agricultural research service.

Grazing land values increased the most during the year, registering an 8 percent jump, Mrs. Horrell noted. Irrigated land in the state was up 5 percent and dry farmland up 3 percent.

Rate of farm sales stayed about the same as the previous year, Mrs. Horrell said. About 67 out of each 1000 farms in the state changed hands. Voluntary sales and trades made up about 52 of these, foreclosures 5, and other sales 10.

Total market value of farm real estate in Oregon is now estimated at around \$2 billion, Mrs. Horrell also found. This is close to \$100 million over the previous year, for an increase of about 5 percent.

Average value per acre of this farmland was estimated at \$97.64. And while this was an increase over the previous year, the average value of farmlands in Oregon is still below the estimated national value per acre.

Nationally, farmland values increased only 3 percent last year, in contrast to advances of 6 to 8 percent yearly during the 1956-58 period. Although all regions reported smaller increases, the slowdown was most pronounced in the corn belt, lake states and northern plains.

What's ahead? Many of those engaged in handling farm real estate over the nation look for a further slow down in the rate of increase in farmland values. Those reporting from the eastern and western corn belt look for the greatest slowdown, with the cotton and California specialty crop areas most optimistic for larger increases.

ORRIS FAMILY HAS REUNION

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Green of Mill Valley, Calif., visited in Nyssa last week. Mrs. Green is the daughter of Lloyd Orris. A family reunion was held at the Lester Reece home in the Nu Acres district. Attending were Mr. and Mrs. Keith Orris and family, Mr. and Mrs. Meri Kygar and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Orris. A sister, Mrs. Leroy Gambel, was unable to attend.

Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Monty Spelman.

Mrs. Earl Winn and family visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Hoover in Parma Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Mackey and Judy were in Ontario and Payette Friday on business.

Plans Revealed For New Potato Processing Plant

HOMEDALE, Idaho (June 23)—The Homedale Development company's drive to raise \$60,000 to promote the establishment of a potato processing plant here is proceeding rapidly, but still somewhat behind schedule, it was indicated today.

Over \$40,000 of the fund has been subscribed, a check of the pledges by Dr. George Wolff, fund drive chairman, revealed at a committee meeting Wednesday morning.

Dr. Wolff urged committee members to renew their efforts to complete the drive by additional contact of prospects immediately. He said the drive must be completed before the end of the week, and money must be subscribed, so that a firm offer can be made the Western Idaho Potato Growers association, if they choose a plant site at Homedale.

Homedale still has a chance to get the plant here, but every day we delay in raising this fund diminishes our chance, Dr. Wolff stressed. Richard Eismann, chairman of the committee of 12 from the chamber of commerce, also declared the importance of going over the top in the drive to give the committee a strong negotiating position with the company.

The pledges call for a minimum of \$500, with 5 percent paid in cash with each pledge and the balance due on 30-day demand when and if the contract with Western Idaho Potato Growers association is completed. The 5 percent will be used as operating capital and will remain in the Homedale Development company regardless of whether the company is persuaded to locate its processing plant here.

The local development company hopes to use its \$60,000 as the basis for borrowing \$250,000 from the Small Business administration of the government, thus obtaining the capital to buy an industrial site in the Homedale area and build a processing plant to lease to Western Idaho Potato Growers association.

The potato growers association in turn would raise money to equip and operate the plant, and produce frozen French-fried potatoes. The resultant plant would be a million dollar investment, furnishing a tremendous market for potatoes of the area, employing nearly 200 people on an around-the-clock basis, and with a payroll of nearly \$1/2-million a year.

HOT FAMILY DINNER

Mr. and Mrs. Paul House, Bonnie and Paul, Jr., hosted a family dinner Sunday at their home in Nyssa. Attending were their children, Messrs. and Mmes. Glenn Marcum and Billy, Ray Barnes and Todd of Caldwell, Dick Heriman, Teresa and Steve of Enterprise. Also present were Mrs. House's mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Shuts of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Frank Schrieber of Payette.

Journal Classifieds Get Results!

Farm Safety Week Set July 24 to 30; Hazards Stressed to Overcome Losses

State agricultural and educational organizations are co-operating this year to focus attention on National Farm Safety week in Oregon, July 24 to 30, with the theme "Enjoy Farm Life—Practice Safety."

Safe use and handling of farm chemicals and safety in recreational and water activities on the farm will be stressed, reported state chairman Keith Sime, Portland, representing the Agricultural Chemicals association.

Mrs. Mabel Mack, assistant director of Oregon State college extension service and secretary of safety week, said information and educational materials have been sent to all Oregon counties to help stress farm safety not only for the special week but for the entire year.

Accidents to farm people cost the nation an estimated \$1 billion yearly, according to the National Safety council which points out that there are four times as many accidental deaths in farming than in manufacturing.

To Demonstrate Safe Practices

Oregon 4-H youths will take an active part in this year's program, calling attention to safety in use of chemical pesticides through demonstrations at county fairs and state fair. Demonstration contests with prize money are sponsored by the Western Agricultural Chemical association.

Safety week committee members appointed by the governor's

committee on farm safety represent Oregon Farm Bureau federation, Oregon State Grange, State Industrial Accident commission, Pacific Northwest Hardware and Implement association, State Department of Education, Portland Implement and Tractor association, Oregon Association of Cooperatives, Agricultural Chemicals association and Oregon State college extension service.

Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Whitaker and Alan left Saturday for a week's vacation at Wallowa lake.

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