

Research at OSC Sheds New Light On Plant Viruses, Ways Transmitted

A joke currently making the rounds is that when your physician looks at you with a frown, shakes his head and says "you seem to have a virus," he really doesn't know what your problem is.

Whether or not this is true, Oregon State college research is throwing some light on the complicated subject of viruses.

In studying transmission of plant viruses by insects, Dr. Knud G. Swenson, OSC entomologist, has come up with facts that will help scientists understand human viruses as well as plant viruses.

Although humans and animals are not affected by plant viruses, mosquitoes that carry human viruses transmit them in the same ways as insects that carry plant viruses. This basic fact means that agricultural research does much spadework for medical research, for facts learned by studying the ways plants become infected can be applied to ways humans and animals become infected.

To Continue Work in Australia

Swenson has been studying vectors (insects that carry plant viruses) for about 10 years—the past six at OSC. During the coming year, he will continue his work in Australia under a Guggenheim fellowship awarded him as an outstanding scholar.

The entomologist reports there are about 400 known plant viruses. Some 300 of these are transmitted by insects—100 by aphids. Much of his research at OSC has been with aphid-borne viruses, for, as he puts it, "you must understand the biology of the insect before you can control it, and you must understand the biology of the virus before you can control it."

Viruses affect all sorts of plants—small grains, gladioli, beans, clover, alfalfa, potatoes, strawberries, cane fruits, peas, sugar beets, asters, carrots, tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, cherries, cabbage, broccoli, onions and lilies, to name a few.

Research Must Continue

Symptoms are many and varied, ranging from merely changing the color to killing the plant. In many

field crops, plant growth is stunted and yields are reduced. Swenson emphasized that understanding viruses is a long and complicated process and if farmers are to meet future food needs it is important to continue research on viruses.

At first thought, controlling spread of plant viruses might seem relatively easy—kill the insects which carry the viruses.

But it's not as simple as that, the entomologist points out. Much virus spread is by migrating insects that invade a field and transmit the virus before they are killed by insecticide residues that are present. Actually, some insecticides worsen the problem by making the insects temporarily more active, thus spreading the virus further and faster.

In addition to insect-virus relationships, virus control possibilities being studied by OSC researchers include developing plant varieties that are resistant to viruses, the effect of fertilizer and environment on virus susceptibility, and conditions of the aphid's host plant.

1959 Wool Incentive Payment Rate Set

Growers will receive wool incentive payments of \$43.20 for every 100 they received from the sale of shorn wool during the 1959 marketing year, according to the Ontario ASC office.

The rate of 43.2 percent, just announced by the department of agriculture, represents the amount needed to bring average wool prices up to the previously announced incentive level of 62 cents per pound under the National Wool act. The payment rate on sales of lambs that have never been shorn to compensate for the wool on them will be 75 cents per hundredweight of live animals sold. This payment is designed to discourage unusual shearing of lambs before marketing.

The Malheur county ASC office will mail payments July 8. Applications for payments had to be filed by April 30, and covered marketings from April 1, 1959, through March 31, 1960.

To determine the wool incentive payment for an individual producer the rate of 43.2 percent is applied to the dollar return the producer received for wool after paying marketing charges. This method of payment is designed to encourage producers to do a good job of marketing their wool, for the producer who gets the best possible price for his wool also gets a higher incentive payment.

As approved by producers in a referendum last September, deductions of 1 cent per pound from shorn wool payments and 5 cents per 100 pounds of live weight from lamb payments will continue to be made for advertising, promotion and related market development activities on wool and lambs.

Church Women Host Baby Shower For Mrs. Tilden

By Mrs. Vern L. Smith

LINCOLN HEIGHTS — Ladies of the Malheur Butte church met Thursday for their regular workday and fellowship meeting. In the afternoon a pink and blue shower was held for Mrs. Lucius Tilden. Mrs. Harland Myer led several games. Mrs. Bruce Hunt, Mrs. Dean Jessup and several other ladies served refreshments to ladies attending the party.

A larger than usual number of young people attended Youth night at Malheur Butte church Saturday evening. A film entitled "Monkey Business" was shown.

Mrs. Fred Smelzer spent last week visiting relatives at Albany.

Spend Weekend in Nevada
Mr. and Mrs. George Barnes and Diane and their house guests, Mr. and Mrs. John Burns and Rita, spent the weekend in Nevada. They were met there by the George Smith family of California. Smith is a brother of the two ladies. The Burns family left Tuesday for their home at Sioux City, Iowa.

Staff Sgt. and Mrs. Charles Brown of Topeka, Kan., are parents of a son, Charles Marion, born June 26. Mrs. Brown is the former Dorothy Findley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Findley. The baby joins a sister.

Mary Findley spent a few days recently visiting at the Kenneth Steinhilber home at Parma.

Mrs. Annie Harris spent Sunday with Mrs. Geneva Johnson and her mother, Mrs. Nellie Hickman.

Mrs. Ivan Findley son, Raymond and granddaughter, Joyce Findley, went to Madras recently to attend funeral services for Tommy Bieart, who was a victim of a drowning accident.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn McManus and family of Sacramento, Calif., recently spent a few days visiting at the Harvey Reel home. Mrs. McManus is Mr. Reel's sister.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hedges of Palo Alto, Calif., have been visiting the Pettet families. Mrs. Hedges is a sister of the Pettet brothers.

Stoblers Host Sunday Dinner

Mr. and Mrs. John Stohler entertained a number of relatives at their home Sunday. Those in attendance were Fred Walz and the Bill Walz family of Ontario, Mr. and Mrs. Rhinold Stohler and family of Fruitland, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Walz and family and Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Walz of Caldwell. Mr. and Mrs. Orville Walz of Roseburg had spent a few days here and were also present at the family gathering.

Mrs. Hess Dawes and Mrs. Tena Counce of Hay Center, Neb., and Mrs. Counce's granddaughter, Susan Counce of San Francisco, spent the first part of the week at the Ray Whitsett home. The two ladies from Nebraska are sisters of Mrs. Amelia Whitsett.

Roland Whitsett is employed at a lookout station at Unity this summer.

Warm Lake Camp Scene of Outing For Boy Scouts

By Mrs. Waldo Smalley

APPLE VALLEY — Eighteen Boy Scouts from Parma and Apple Valley had an exciting overnight camping trip at Warm Lake camp last week. Some went on 10 and 20-mile hikes. Mentor Leigh, Joe Gilmore, Don Scott and Mr. Takahashi accompanied the boys.

Staff Sgt. and Mrs. Dick Hixenbaugh of Crescent City, Calif., have been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Wagner, the past two weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. John Olson of Vancouver, Canada, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Standal from Wednesday until Friday of last week. Mrs. Olson is a niece of Mr. Standal.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dollemer of Vanning, Calif., will be guests of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Standal for the next two weeks. Mrs. Dollemer is a sister of Mrs. Standal.

Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Smalley were Wednesday visitors at the Al Grimes home in Caldwell.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Robinson of Naywood, Calif., and Mrs. Ada Harrison of Sunset Valley were Monday dinner guests of Mrs. Elsie Robinson and Gertrude Hicks. In the evening they were all guests of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Gee at Roswell.

Mrs. Mary Manka visited Wednesday with a former neighbor, Mrs. Elama Keller of Grand Valley. They had not seen each other for years.

Mr. and Mrs. Milo Long of Richland, Wash., visited from Wednesday until Saturday with her sister, Mr. and Mrs. Mentor Leigh.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Wagner of Fairhaven, Mass., are here visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Wagner. They are on their wedding trip, having been married in Massachusetts June 18.

Insects hitting the windshield of a car can reduce vision considerably if they are allowed to accumulate, the Allstate Safety Crusade says. Wipe off bugs by using a piece of dripping wet silk, nylon or rayon kept in a plastic bag while traveling.

held a large family picnic and barbecue on their lawn Sunday before their guests left for their homes. Around 40 relatives were present.

Fatigue and alcohol both dull a motorist's awareness of his deteriorating driving ability, according to Harvard university medical findings. As a result of these influences, the driver no longer recognizes his errors or realizes the seriousness of the driving situations he encounters.

Mr. and Mrs. Brig Olsen visited June 26 with E. M. Tensen who recently suffered a stroke.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Wagner entertained their guests, Staff Sgt. and Mrs. Dick Hixenbaugh of Crescent City, Calif., Mr. and Mrs. Dick Wagner of Fairhaven, Mass., Mr. and Mrs. Philip Bales, Marilyn and Patty Wagner at a dinner in Boise Tuesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Wagner have been enjoying a reunion with their children who have been at home the past three weeks and

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