



AGRI-BUSINESS NEWS



USDA Estimates Soviet Grain Crop

USDA's task force on the Soviet grain situation released estimates this week which indicate that the USSR will exceed its 213.3 million MT grain production target in 1977. The Department forecasts total grain output, as of May 31, at 215 million MT, compared to about 224 million MT in 1976. The wheat crop is estimated to hit 105 million MT, compared to last year's output of 95 million MT.

The USSR devoted 152 million acres to wheat production between 1971 and 1975, or 266% of U.S. wheat

acreage. Total wheat output averaged 3.3 billion bushels during 1971-75, according to USDA, or 186% of U.S. output.

USDA will issue an updated forecast of Soviet grain production in early July, after the return of U.S. winter grain team later this month. In July, the U.S. spring wheat team will travel to the USSR to observe the economic aspects of Soviet production. Producer members of the teams are Allan Pinkerton, Helix, Oregon (winter) and Wes Tossett, Lansford, North Dakota (spring).

4-H, FFA Dairy Judging Contest June 30

The first official 4-H FFA Dairy Judging Contest for Malheur County youth is scheduled for Thursday, June 30. This contest, which begins at 9:30 a.m., has been set up as a judging tour beginning at the Dan Toleman farm in Vale. Other stops include Marvin Rempie's farm, the Vale Park and Lou Johnson's farm.

Participants will have the opportunity to judge 8 classes

in this contest. These include Guernseys, Brown Swisses, Holsteins, Jerseys, Hay, Production records and written reasons, notes Marilyn Mohr, Malheur County Extension Agent.

A demonstration on fitting and showing dairy animals will be given in the afternoon at the Lou Johnson stop. Participants need to bring a sack lunch with beverage, 2 sharpened pencils and paper for notes.

For those needing directions to the Toleman farm meet in the Starlight parking lot, in Vale, at 9 a.m. For more information contact the County Extension Office, 889-9129.

ASCS to Require Farms to Report

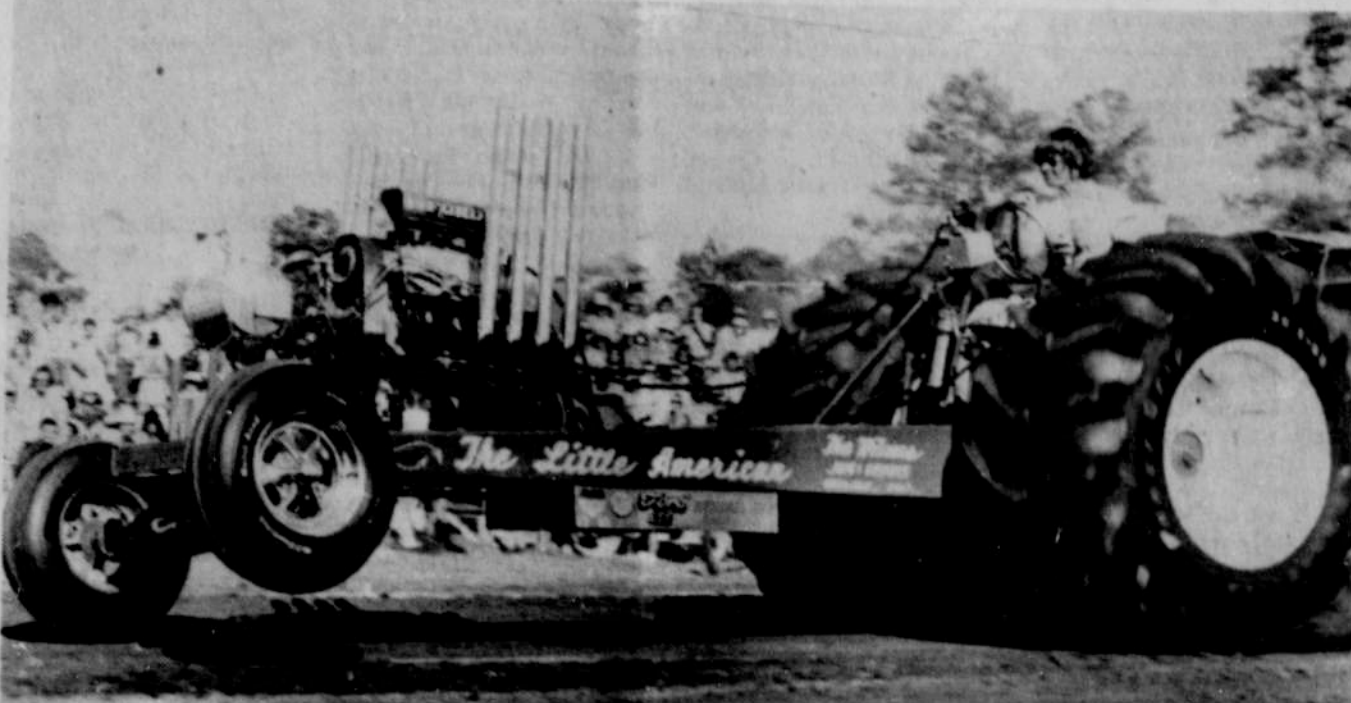
Anticipating changes in farm legislation, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) will require Malheur County farmers to report their acreage of wheat, barley, corn and grain sorghum prior to harvest.

According to Russell Fullerton, Chairman of the Malheur County ASCS Committee, both congressional agriculture committees have reported out farm bills which provide that if a set-aside is implemented for 1978 crops, the acreage required to be set-aside may be based on a percentage of the acreage planted for harvest in 1977. Neither version of the bill proposes to use acreage planted in 1977 as a basis for establishing acreage allotments, however.

Farmers who fail to report planted acreage will be considered to have no planted acreage and may be ineligible for program benefits in 1978, Fullerton said.

ASCS employees will make spot checks of farms to assure that acreage reports are accurate.

The Malheur County ASCS office is accepting acreage reports now.



TRACTOR PULLING is becoming very popular all over the U.S.

The total purse for the 1977 season will be over the \$1 million mark when including the Winter Invitational events, and the events of the Southern Circuit in February and March.

In announcing the joint venture with B. F. Goodrich, David Grimm said, "It is a pleasure to know that the NTPA will again be associated with Goodrich. BFG's involvement with tractor pulling will add to the significance of this fast growing competitive sport."

Tractor pulling has become one of the fastest growing forms of motorsport on the North American continent, with

total attendance of over 500,000 at NTPA-sanctioned events last year.

Tractor pulling features a wide variety of competition equipment, including: V-8 powered garden tractors ("minis"); four wheel drive pickup trucks; 1,200 horsepower farm tractors ("super stocks"); far out "modifieds" with 2,000 - 3,000 horsepower powerplants.

Pictured above is Dennis Wilson, Greenville, Ohio, one of the NTPA's young stars, powers his way up the track with "The Little American" (Cockshutt 40/blown Ford 427 SHOC) in the 5000 lb. Modified class.

NTPA Photo

Loans for Grain Stored Outside Sought

NAWG president Don Howe has asked USDA to provide CCC loans for wheat temporarily stored outside. The request was based on apparent acute harvest storage problems and low prices. Howe said "CCC loans are normally expected to serve as a price floor but they may fail to meet this need" if grain is not eligible for loan and forced onto the market at harvest. He said the action requested by NAWG would reduce producer losses by stabilizing market prices and assisting in the orderly marketing of the 1977 crop. Similar loan authority was granted in 1973 for wheat and other grains, so the action cannot be seen as setting a precedent, Howe said.

With the early harvest delayed, cutting is now taking place over a wide area

of the Southern plains. Yields have been reported as mostly excellent, but here are also areas experiencing disappointing yields. The dark, hard vitreous count is generally low; test weights and moisture content have been good, while proteins have been averaging slightly above normal. Prices are a disaster, and a large percentage of the crop will go under loan.

While we do not like it, we must face the fact that the total supply of wheat for 1977-78 will be the highest on record. The U.S. is harvesting its third consecutive 2 billion bushel crop, and the carryover level from last year is between 1.1 and 1.2 billion bushels. The previous record supply was in 1960-61 when 2.7 billion bushels were available for exports, domestic use and carryover.



RONDA HENDRICK, (left) holds an interview with the clothing judge at the 4-H Spring Fair. Ronda is a member of the Busy Bees 4-H Club.

Market Reports Available

Even though changes have been made in the Oregon State University Extension farm market information program, regular reports of market conditions and price trends are still available.

Earlier this spring, the OSU Extension Service discontinued publishing monthly market reviews on dairy products, eggs and poultry, and grain and hay, points out Steve Marks, OSU Extension economist.

And the weekly Livestock, Meat and Wool Market Review, which has been free, was placed on a subscription only basis.

These changes were necessary because of rising postage costs.

"The key point, however, is that in spite of the changes, timely and accurate market information is still available by mail, radio and telephone," Marks said.

A subscription to the Livestock, Meat and Wool Market Review is \$10 a year. In addition, the monthly Western Livestock Roundup is available free. Both publications can be obtained from Marks at 219 Extension Hall, OSU, Corvallis 97331.

Persons needing wheat and feed grain market information can obtain a free weekly publication from the Grain Market News, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1220 SW Third Avenue, Portland 97204.

Weekly hay market reports

are available from the Oregon Hay Growers Association P.O. Box 1976, Klamath Falls 97601.

Daily radio market reports on livestock, grain, hay, eggs, poultry, potatoes, and onions in season are produced by the OSU Extension Service. They are broadcasted over the following radio stations: KAGO and KLD in Klamath Falls, KRCC in Prineville, KODL in The Dalles, KRNS in Burns, KQIK in Lakeview, KUMA in Pendleton, KASH in Eugene, and KRNR in Roseburg.

Other market reports are only a telephone call away. Tape-recorded reports, updated daily and available 24 hours a day, can be obtained by calling these numbers:

Meat and livestock market reports: 289-7220 (Portland) Grain Market report: 221-2022 (Portland)

Hay Market report: 567-2583 (Hermiston)

Eggs and poultry market report: 221-2350 (Portland)

These delivery systems for market information are provided by the OSU Extension Service in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and industry sponsors to help farmers and ranchers keep up with important market trends and prices.

"Market conditions can change drastically, so farmers must be informed to stay competitive," Marks said.

Wheat Parity and Prices

May parity for wheat rose to \$5.09 per bushel, while the national average cash price to farmers fell to \$2.29 (winter wheat, \$2.19; spring wheat \$2.46). On May 1 of last year, the parity figure for wheat was \$4.83 and the average price received by farmers was \$3.43, or 71% of parity.

This year the average cash price amounts to only 45% of parity.

Hard red winter wheat prices are under extreme pressure and are below national price averages. The first rail car from the new harvest arriving in Kansas City last Saturday, sold for \$2.20 per bushel. Last year the first car load sold for \$3.80.

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SBA Drought Deadline Extended

The Small Business Administration has extended the Physical Disaster Loan Program for Blaine and ten adjacent counties for an additional six months. District SBA Director Oliver Davis announced today.

Governor John Evans of Idaho as well as the County Commissioners of Blaine County expressed concern that a great many drought victims could not meet the original June 27 deadline for filing of physical disaster loss loan applications and had asked the federal agency for the filing extension.

Governor Evans had indicated that with the continuing drop in water tables, many more wells could be expected to go dry in the months ahead. This could require costly deepening or even the drilling of new water sources to replace ones which are no longer productive. SBA makes funds available for this purpose on long-term low-interest rates for both residential and commercial uses.

In addition, the Small Business Administration, under the Disaster Declara-

tions, can provide working capital funds to offset the economic injury which has occurred to small farms, livestock people and other small businesses throughout Idaho and the eastern Oregon counties within the Boise District of SBA.

The new deadline is now extended to December 27, 1977, for physical losses and to July 27, 1978, for economic injury losses in Blaine and the ten adjacent counties. The cut off date for the rest of Idaho and Oregon economic injury losses remains at September 30, 1977, Davis said.

SBA does not maintain branch offices within the Boise District. Drought victims of southern Idaho and eastern Oregon should make application directly to the Boise Office, 1005 Main, P.O. Box 2618, Boise, phone 384-1696, Davis said.

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