



AGRI-BUSINESS NEWS



CROPS AND ROBBERS

Strange as it may seem to a modern American farmer, some natives of Mindoro in the Philippine Islands believe that corn should be planted when the leaves of a hardwood tree become as large as mouse ears.

American farmers grow more corn per hour of labor than farmers of any other nation. Modern agricultural technology makes it possible. This includes a herbicide that mixes well in water, fertilizer and with other products. Called AAtrex 4L and made by Ciba-Geigy, it forms a low foam that dissipates quickly.



Lend an ear to this, but don't try to pronounce it. The ancient Aztecs celebrated the corn harvest with elaborate rituals during a time dubbed by these master linguists as "Tlacaxipehualiztli."

Hearings on Alien Labor Certification Announced

The Senate Select Committee on Small Business will hold two days of hearings this week, at the request of Senator Bob Packwood (R-Ore) to explore the problems of agricultural certification for nonimmigrant aliens.

"Our nation's orchards and family farms are facing a labor crisis," Senator Packwood stated. "Small growers complain that they can't find domestic workers and field hands and that Federal regulations to recruit and employ workers are too costly and burdensome. What we must determine through these hearings is whether there are sufficient numbers of available domestic farm workers to tend our fruit crops. If that answer is no, then it is up to the Federal government to re-examine its programs to certify foreign farm labor."

The hearings will be held Tuesday, December 20 and Wednesday, December 21, 1977 and will begin at 10 a.m. on both days in Room 424 Russell Building.

The committee's investigation, Senator Packwood added "would focus on the problems that small growers face under existing Federal certification programs for alien workers." Witnesses will include representatives of the Department of Labor, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and various grower and labor associations.

Grain Division to be Turned to Feds Feb. 26

Grain inspection activities of the Oregon Department of Agriculture will be turned over to the U.S. Department of Agriculture on February 26, 1978, according to Oregon Director of Agriculture Leonard Kunzman.

Kunzman made the announcement to the State Board of Agriculture when it met in Salem December 14 and 15.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture recently announced it had asked the U.S.D.A. to take over grain inspection because it could "no longer guarantee the state could perform the work

without costly interruptions in the movement of grain going to export."

Kunzman told the board of agriculture the department will retain some functions of the grain division. He said the grain laboratory at Portland would remain a department function. The laboratory conducts tests on grain required before the grain can enter certain foreign markets.

He said current plans also call for the state continuing inland grain inspection at Pendleton and grain warehouse bonding and inspection services.

Kunzman said the transfer of the grain division, a self-sustaining entity, will create a \$15,600 a month deficit in the department's Salem operations. He said the money covered much of the cost of administering the grain division and that while the loss of the grain division will alleviate some of the work load at Salem, certain fixed costs will continue.

He said he intend to present the problem of the Legislative Emergency Board after we have determined what the total fiscal impact will be on the department.

OANS

The Chicago Mercantile Exchange has published a booklet titled "Livestock Hedger's Workbook." It is designed to give livestock producers a better understanding of hedging fundamentals.

Mitchell Named Supervisor

Leo Mitchell, brand inspector with the Oregon Department of Agriculture for the past four years, has been appointed supervisor of brand inspectors for the department.

Dean Clark, administrator of the department's Livestock Division, said Mitchell will be headquartered at the department's main office in Salem but will spend 80 percent of his time out in the state working with brand inspectors in the various areas.

Mitchell was assigned to the Medford area as a brand inspector for three years before being promoted to the supervisor position. Prior to that he was in the Hermiston area.

Before joining the brand inspection staff of the department, Mitchell managed a ranch in Douglas County and attended Oregon State University, where his major was animal science with special emphasis on ranch management and beef production.

The Mitchells have been residing in Eagle Point but will sell their home there. Mrs. Mitchell, their two sons and one daughter will join Mitchell in Salem as soon as it has been sold.

Alien Address Report Due

District Director Lyle H. Dahlin of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Portland, Oregon stated December 20, that the annual alien address report program usually causes a sharp rise in the number of applications for naturalization.

The law requires all aliens in the United States, with few exceptions, to report their addresses each January. Throughout the United States almost thirty percent more applications for naturalization are received during the months of January, February

and March then are received during other months. Mr. Dahlin attributes this sudden rise to the Alien Address Report Program.

Aliens not required to make this report are diplomats and those accredited to certain international organizations.

Forms for making the reports will be available to aliens at all Post Offices and Offices of the Immigration and Naturalization Service during the month of January. Mr. Dahlin indicated that aliens desiring information concerning naturalization or similar matters should obtain the forms at an office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service where personnel trained in these fields will be available to answer inquiries.

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Grazing Board to Meet

The new Vale District Grazing Advisory Board will meet for the first time at 1 p.m. January 4, 1978 at the BLM Office, 365 "A" Street West, Vale. "This is a historic meeting," District Manager Fearl M. Parker said in announcing it. "The Vale District Grazing Advisory Board is the only one in existence in Oregon."

The Grazing Advisory Board is just one of a vast number of changes in public land management brought about by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

Board members John Bishop of Vale, Grady Romans of Westfall, Bob Skinner of Jordan Valley, and John Nouque and Fred Wilkinson, both of McDermitt, Nevada will elect officers, discuss revision of grazing allotment management plans and expenditure of Range Betterment Funds for fiscal years 1978 and 1979.

The public is invited to the meeting and may present statements to the board after 3 p.m. Statements should not exceed 15 minutes in length.

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Concept Endorsed

The Oregon Director of Agriculture joined Governor Bob Straub Friday in endorsing the concepts underlying the national farmers' strike.

State Director of Agriculture Leonard Kunzman said, "I am wholeheartedly behind any effort that draws attention to the plight of the American farmer. I hope that this strike will serve to illustrate to the American public the severity of the economic depression most sectors of U.S. agriculture are now experiencing."

Kunzman said, "I don't think many Americans fully realize the direct effect agriculture has on their lives every day. Our food supply has been the most consistent in abundance, quality and variety in the world and still remains one of the cheapest food supplies anywhere in relationship to our disposable income. Food prices have gone up, but not much when compared to the percentage increase in the price of food in the 17 leading nations of the world. In the period from 1970 through 1976 food prices in the United States rose 57.4 percent, but only three nations were lower."

Money spent on food in the United States accounts for only 17 percent of our disposable income. In the 1950s, we were spending 22 percent of our income on food. This is proof that American agriculture has not been able to keep pace with prosperity in this nation. "The strike is the farmers' way of saying they want their share of this prosperity and they have it coming. In fact, if this great industry is to survive and our abundant food supply is to continue, the farmers must get their fair share."

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