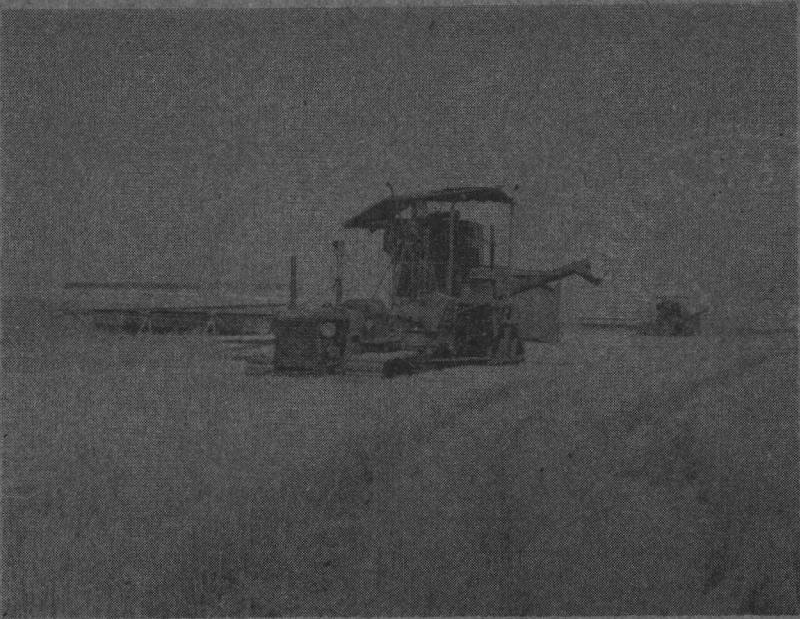


Gilliam County Agricultural Planning Conference 1948



COMMITTEE REPORTS APPROVED BY CONFERENCE HELD
AT MIKKALO JANUARY 28, 1948.

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FOREWORD

THE LAND is our most valuable resources. From it comes the new wealth sustaining our economy. From the homes on the land comes the new blood that sustains our cities. Planning the wise use of the land to maintain and improve those homes and communities is the privilege and responsibility of each succeeding generation.

The Giliam County agricultural planning conference of 1948 was held to exercise that privilege and responsibility. This conference was a continuation of the planned agricultural development that has characterized the county for many years. In 1938 a similar conference was held and in 1941 the land use committee revised and brought up to date the 1938 report.

The 1948 conference originated from a request by the farm people that the Extension Service of OSC cooperate in a reappraisal of agricultural conditions and outlook following the close of the war. Extension Specialists from the College assisted County Agent Ernest Kirsch in arranging for committee and the conference meetings. Cooperation of all other agencies servicing agriculture in the county also was sought.

Seven committees were established several months in advance, including 120 people representing every section of the county. Each of these committees collected data and considered all facts obtainable in preparing a report. These committee reports were presented to the one-day, county-wide conference which all farm people were invited to attend, and this booklet comprises the reports as discussed and approved by the conference. They represent the considered judgment of active farmers and farm leaders counseling with Extension Specialists in the various fields. They are guide to the trends that are probable and desirable in development of the farming industry and rural home life in the years immediately ahead.

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Soil Conservation Committee Report

Conservation Is Biggest Problem

The biggest future problem facing Gilliam county residents is that of soil conservation. Gilliam county has been farmed for a relatively short period of time. Most of the land that is tilled now was brought into cultivation less than 60 years ago. During that period, large quantities of top soil have disappeared through erosion. Studies by Oregon State College and the Soil Conservation Service indicate that if this rate continues for another 150 years, nearly all productivity of the soil on cultivated land will have been eroded away.

Citizens of Gilliam county are aware of this problem and in April, 1946, a majority of the land owners in the county voted to form a Soil Conservation District. Through this organization a coordinated effort of soil conservation is being conducted today. The governing body consists of five farmer-supervisors from all sections of the county.

Three Agencies Assist

Three government agencies are available to assist Gilliam county farmers with their conservation problems. The Oregon State College Extension Service conducts an educational program through meetings, demonstrations, field tours, bulletins, press releases, and circular letters. The Agricultural Conservation Association provides incentive payments and some technical assistance to farmers performing certain conservation practices. The Soil Conservation Service provides engineering and other technical assistance to cooperating farmers. All three agencies are cooperating with the Gilliam County Soil Conservation District.

This committee has made an effort to evaluate the different soil conservation practices now being recommended and followed to some extent in the county. This committee fully realizes that soil conservation in Gilliam coun-

ty can only be accomplished after considerable effort and expense on the part of each individual farmer. Unlike some areas of the United States where soil conservation immediately increases production, most soil conservation practices in this county have failed to show any appreciable increase in farm income for some time.

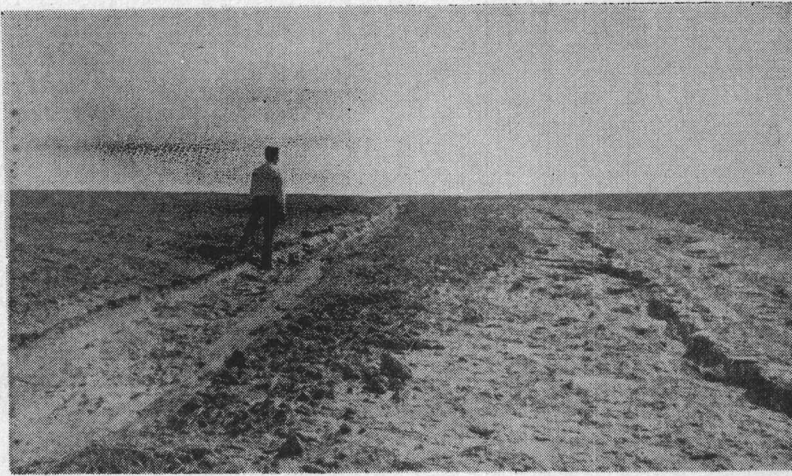
CULTIVATED LAND

Tillage Practices

This committee believes that the single practice which will accomplish the greatest soil conservation in Gilliam county is that of trashy fallow. This practice has proved essential to the control of wind erosion in the north section of the county and has been generally adopted by farmers of that area. On those farms in the southern area that are following this practice, considerable reduction in the amount of water erosion has been experienced. The following general recommendations regarding trashy fallow and tillage practices are made:

1. Those farms located in the north section of the county where wind erosion is a serious problem should make every effort to leave all of the straw on the surface. In the heavier soil areas of southern Gilliam county, we recommend that farmers adopt the use of trashy fallow as fast as satisfactory implements and other necessary equipment becomes available. The rotary hoe appears to have some of the qualities required of an implement to prepare a seed bed in trashy fallow.

2. At present, both the moldboard plow and the one-way disk plow have their place in the county. The moldboard plow is generally used in the heavier soil while the disk plow is used to make trashy fallow in the north section of the county. Several new implements, such as chisels, duckfoot, etc., have been introduced into the county and have some possibilities for replacing the moldboard and one-way disk



A cloudburst caused this erosion near Mikkalo. The Soil Conservation Committee recommends trashy fallow, strip cropping, diversion ditches, crop rotation, contour farming and other practices for reducing soil erosion.



Making trashy fallow with a new type subsurface tiller on the Art Jaeger ranch near Condon. This is one way of reducing erosion of the type shown above. The Soil Conservation Committee advised all farmers in Northern Gilliam county to use trashy fallow.

plows in some areas.

3. Summerfallow should be cultivated just enough to control the weeds and then almost entirely with a rotary rod weeder which tends to bring clods and straw to the surface. The committee recommends that spike-tooth harrows be used at an absolute minimum and preferably not at all.

4. All combines should be equipped for spreading straw. Only that chaff which will be hauled away should be dumped.

5. Farmers are in need of an implement to handle extremely long stubble. The use of a double sickle bar on the combine has possibilities.

6. One of the biggest objections to trashy fallow listed by the committee in 1938 was that of annual weed control. The use of selective weed sprays and dusts as recommended by the Crops committee should help to eliminate this objection.

7. Many new cultivation type implements have been introduced into the county in recent years. This committee recommends that farmers become familiar with these new implements and when possible, try them on small areas. These include (a) duckfoot chisel type cultivator implements, (b) rotary hoe, (c) duckfoot, (d) press drills, and (e) rotary subsoiler.

Rotation of crested wheat grass with wheat-fallow

Twenty thousand acres of crested wheat grass have been plowed up and returned to wheat production since 1940. The experience of the farmers who have done this indicates that the first year this land was again in wheat, yields were two or three bushels below adjacent fields which had been in continuous cultivation. However, the third crop year following the breaking out of this land, yields were three to five bushels greater than adjacent fields in continuous cultivation. This increase has continued since that time.

This committee believes that the rotation of crested wheat

grass is feasible and practical and therefore recommends that as soon as the present world food shortage is alleviated, 40,000 acres of land now in wheat production be seeded to crested wheat grass. This land to remain in crested wheat grass from four to eight years, at that time it should be plowed up and returned to wheat production. When this land is again cultivated, an additional 40,000 acres should be seeded to crested wheat grass.

Permanently retiring land from cultivation

This committee believes that 10,000 acres of cultivated land is subject to serious erosion because of slope, soil type, etc., as long as it is in cultivation regardless of soil conservation practices followed. We believe that this land should be permanently retired from wheat production and seeded to crested wheat grass.

The Crops committee reports that an additional 10,000 acres should be relieved from wheat production because yields do not return the production costs. This committee agrees with the Crops committee that this also should be seeded to crested wheat grass.

Of the 20,000 acres listed above, approximately 7,000 acres of this land has already been seeded to crested wheat grass. The remaining 13,000 acres should be seeded to crested wheat grass as soon as possible.

Strip cropping

Three Gilliam county farmers are now strip cropping one of their fields. These are C. A. Nish, G. V. Larson and Arthur Jaeger. Mr. Nish's field is in alternate crested wheat grass and wheat or fallow strips, while the other two fields are in alternate strips of wheat and fallow. These farmers believe that this practice has materially reduced the erosion on these fields.

This committee believes that contour strip cropping is feasible and practical on many Gilliam county fields. Most of these fields can be stripped without retiring much land from cultivation.

tion. This committee believes that most farmers in Gilliam county should try strip cropping on one field on their farm. In this manner they will be able to determine if this practice is suited to their operations. Also they will be able to learn the necessary adjustments in farming operations required.

Contour farming

Many fields in Gilliam county can be seeded on the contour with very little extra effort by the operator. If properly carried out, this practice can reduce the winter run-off and resulting soil loss. Farmers should make a particular effort to seed out their corners first. Also, contours should not be destroyed by moving equipment across fields after seeding.

Sod waterways

Many drainageways are subject to serious erosion and should be seeded to perennial grass. If not seeded to perennial grass, these frequently wash so deep they cannot be crossed. When they are properly seeded and maintained, equipment can cross such waterways and assist the farmer in cultivating on the contour. Plows must be tripped when crossing sod waterways.

This committee recommends that drainageways be seeded to Fairway Crested Wheat grass.

Diversion ditches and terraces

Several Gilliam county farmers have put in diversion ditches on one or more of their fields. In some instances these ditches have been installed outside the field boundaries to prevent water from adjacent crop or range land from running across the field. These ditches should be laid out by an engineer. However, the construction can be done economically by the farmer with a plow and tractor. Diverted water should be dumped into a sod waterway or natural drainageway to prevent further erosion. If properly constructed, these ditches can be crossed with farm equipment on slopes of 15 per cent or less.

This committee believes that

this practice is suited to many wheat fields in Gilliam county. However, we believe that farmers should make an effort to place such ditches on a small area to begin with. After determining the value and the difficulties involved in operating equipment over or around them, each farmer should then determine if they are practical for his farm.

Chiseling or subsoiling in the fall

Several farmers have recently purchased rotary subsoilers. Although data is not available at this time on the value of such operations, this committee believes this practice will reduce winter run-off.

Rock and earth dams

Many rock draws can be cleared of rocks so that they can be crossed with implements. When this is done rock and earth dams should be constructed frequently along the draw. Adequate spillways should be provided.

IRRIGATION PRACTICES

Land leveling

By properly leveling irrigated land, washing from irrigation waters can be reduced. Other advantages include better use of water and reduction in labor while irrigating. **This committee recommends that every farmer irrigating land by the flood method investigate the cost and advantages of leveling such land.** The Gilliam County Soil Conservation District has equipment particularly suited for this type of work. Engineering assistance is available through the Soil Conservation Service.

Reorganization of irrigation systems

By properly laying out irrigation canals and using permanent structures such as drop boxes, spillways, diversion gates, etc., erosion can be reduced and irrigation water conserved. This work requires technical assistance which is available through the Soil Conservation Service and Agricultural Conservation Asso-

ciation. This committee recommends that farmers take advantage of this assistance and reorganize their irrigation systems as needed.

RANGE PRACTICES

Range management

Proper use of pasture lands is the most important soil conservation practice for livestock operators. A number of ranges in Gilliam county have been overgrazed and some of these have been subject to serious water erosion. This committee recommends that every livestock operator properly stock his range.

Stock ponds

The construction of ponds to catch winter run-off in the southern section of the county has proved to be very practical. Ranges that could not formerly be used in the late spring and early summer because of lack of water, can now be grazed most of the year.

Only a few ranchers have taken advantage of this opportunity of increasing the carrying capacity of their range. We believe that several hundred of these stock ponds could be profitably constructed.

Developing wells and springs for livestock water

Where ranges cannot be properly used because of insufficient water supply, wells and springs may be developed. Deep wells are usually expensive, and each operator will have to determine if the advantage of such a development justifies the expense. However, the value of many ranges can be materially increased by such developments.

Fire breaks

Fires frequently cause great damage to ranges. Where possible, fire breaks should be constructed to prevent excessive fire losses. These are particularly desirable on cheat grass ranges.

MISCELLANEOUS PRACTICES

Sand dune control

Each farmer who owns land that contains one or more sand blows should take positive steps to control their spreading. This

committee believes that the best control measure is to seed these sand blows to an adapted unpalatable grass. Beardless wild rye has been quite effective on a number of blows along the Columbia river. If such grass is not available, the sand dunes should be seeded to crested wheat grass and rye. Stock should be fenced from the area.

The committee in 1938 considered an area of approximately 4,000 acres in the Eightmile section to be subject to severe wind erosion. That committee recommended that this land be completely retired from all agricultural use. This committee believes that this land is still subject to severe blowing and should be limited in use. If possible, most of the area should be seeded to unpalatable grass.

Stream bank control

Valuable agricultural land is being washed away from the banks of Rock Creek, Thirtymile, Willow Creek and the John Day river. Farmers owning land along the banks of these streams should make an effort to control this soil loss. This may be through the use of vegetation or mechanical devices involving construction, or both. All installations should be properly maintained after they have been installed.

The Gilliam County Soil Conservation District has purchased equipment particularly suited for doing some of this work. Farmers should take advantage of the opportunity of renting this equipment from the District. Technical assistance on the type of installations needed can be secured from the Soil Conservation Service.

Specific Conclusions and Recommendations of the Soil Conservation Committee

1 Valuable top soil is being lost annually at an alarming rate in Gilliam county. Every farm operator and land owner in the county should realize the seriousness of this situation and revise his farming practices to help re-

duce this loss. Every resident in the county is dependent directly or indirectly upon the agricultural production of the county. As a result, every citizen is vitally interested in this subject.

2 Every Gilliam county farmer and land owner should take advantage of the assistance available through the Gilliam County Soil Conservation District.

3 53,000 acres of land now in wheat production should be seeded to crested wheat grass as soon as the present world food shortage is eliminated. Seventeen thousand acres of this should be permanently retired from wheat production because of slope, soil type, etc., and 40,000 acres should again be placed in wheat production four years later. At that time, new seedings totaling 40,000 acres should be made.

4 All wheat farmers in the northern section of Gilliam county should practice trashy summerfallow. As soon as satisfactory equipment is available, farmers in the southern section should adopt this practice.

5 Every livestock operator should properly stock his range and prevent overgrazing.

6 Wheat farmers should watch the development of new implements which may assist them in practicing soil conservation. These implements should be first tried on small areas in each section of the county before being generally adopted.

7 Each Gilliam county farmer should pick out some of the soil conservation practices that have been listed in this report and install them on a small area of his farm. After having tried out the various practices, each farmer can determine those that are best suited to his operations.

8 Each Gilliam county farmer should watch the development of soil conservation practices on his neighbor's land. This will assist him in determining the suitability of the practice in his area.

Crops Committee Report

Wheat is major crop

In 1945, 71 per cent of the farm income of Gilliam county was received from the production of wheat. This single crop, therefore, affects the agriculture in the county far more than all of the other enterprises together. Roughly 110,000 acres are seeded to this crop each year and total production is nearly 2,000,000 annually.

Other crops including hay, seed crops, etc., accounted for only 7 per cent of the farm income in 1945. Taking these factors into consideration, your committee has devoted the most of its time to the study of wheat and wheat production problems.

This committee has left the matter of tillage and tillage implements up to the Soil Conservation committee. We agree with that committee that improved implements are required before present tillage practices can be modified to any great extent. Any shift in tillage methods must be economically feasible. Although soil conservation is paramount in the interest of the county, state and nation, farmers cannot be expected to accept drastic reduction in yields in order to practice soil conservation.

Recommend seeding crested wheat grass

We agree with the Soil Conservation committee that 20,000 acres should be retired from wheat production and seeded to crested wheat grass. Ten thousand acres of this land does not normally produce enough to pay production costs.

Experience has indicated that rotation of wheat with crested wheat grass is feasible and desirable. This committee agrees with the Soil Conservation committee that an additional 40,000 acres should be seeded to crested wheat as soon as the present world food shortage ends. This land to be plowed up four to eight years after being placed in grass and again used for wheat production.

At that time another 40,000 acres should be seeded to crested wheat.

Based on the above information and other factors taken into con-

sideration by the committee, Table I shows the 1945 crop acreages and the long time recommendations of this committee.

TABLE I.—Long Time Crop Acreage Recommendations for Gilliam County

	1945 Census	Long Time Recommendation
1. Idle or Fallow	119,156	96,000
2. Crop Failures	10	0
3. Total Harvested Acres	124,277	
1. Winter wheat for grain	100,000)	87,000
2. Spring wheat for grain	12,337)	
3. Barley for grain	3,660	1,000
4. Oats for grain	444	500
5. Rye for grain	220	300
6. Grain hay	3,463	5,000
7. Alfalfa hay	2,026	2,000
8. Other tame hay, crested wheat, etc.	1,976	2,000
4. Cropland in pasture		
1. Permanent	7,440	20,000
2. Plowable Rotation		38,000
Total	250,883	251,000

WHEAT PRODUCTION

Although climatic conditions vary considerably from Arlington on the Columbia River to Mayville in the extreme southern section of the county, wheat is the

chief agricultural enterprise. Varieties grown vary considerably and the following table indicates approximate per cent of each variety grown in the different sections.

TABLE II.—Relative Importance of Different Wheat Varieties in the Three Sections of Gilliam County

	Winter Wheat			Spring Wheat		Spring or Winter Other
	Rex	Golden (Turkey)	Rio Elgin	White Fed.	Fed.	
North Section	65%	—	30%	16%	—	5%
Central Sec...	56%	4%	15%	—	—	5%
South Section	15%	61%	3%	9%	6%	6%

Description of important varieties

Golden, which accounts for more than one-third of all the wheat grown in the county, is particularly adapted to growing conditions in the Condon-Mayville area. It is a high yielding variety which produces an abundance of straw and has relatively good milling qualities. The straw is palatable to livestock. However, Golden is highly susceptible to smut and roughly 35 per cent of

the Golden produced in Gilliam county in 1947 graded smutty.

Rex is well adapted to nearly all sections of the county, is highly drouth resistant, not subject to shattering, and a relatively high yielding variety. Rex is smut resistant and has this advantage over the other varieties grown. Rex has a quality which reduces the capacity of a flour mill when used for flour production. This has caused mills to discriminate against it, with a re-

sulting reduction in price during periods of surplus wheat. This one factor has caused a reduction in the amount of Rex grown in the county.

Rio (Turkey) has probably been grown longer than any other variety in the county. The Rio strain, which is the chief Turkey grown, is still of major importance in the North and Central sections of the county. Rio is smut and drouth resistant. It has the ability to tiller in proportion to the available moisture supply. Growers normally get a protein premium for this variety. However, Rio ordinarily yields somewhat less than Rex.

Orfed and Elgin are the only two relatively new varieties that are showing some promise of replacing the more established varieties. Orfed is an early fall grain and has yielded better than other varieties in the Clem section. This variety is a bearded, soft wheat and resembles Turkey somewhat while growing. It is smut resistant. Although Orfed has not been grown long enough in Gilliam county to establish its value, this committee believes farmers in the North and Central

sections of the county should watch it closely the next few years. It has possibilities of replacing Rex in these areas.

Elgin has consistently outyielded other varieties in the South and Central sections of the county. However, it has three faults which will probably prevent it from ever being of major importance in the county. These are:

1. It is highly susceptible to smut.
2. During dry years it is extremely short strawed.
3. Weather conditions in this area cause kernels to vary in degree of hardness within the same field. This lowers its value as a milling wheat.

Spring wheats

White Federation 38 and Federation are the chief spring grains grown. Both are adapted to all sections of the county.

Recommended varieties for the county

Based on the above information and the personal experience of members of this committee, we recommend the following wheat varieties for the different sections of the county:

TABLE III.—Recommended Wheat Varieties for Gilliam County

	Winter Wheat *	Spring Wheat
North Section (Shutler-Blalock)	Rex Rio	Federation Wh. Federation 38
Central Section (Clem-Mikkalo)	Rex Rio Elgin Orfed †	Federation Wh. Federation 38
South Section (Condon-Mayville)	Golden Rex Elgin	Wh. Federation 38 Federation

* Winter wheats are generally better yielding than spring grains in Gilliam county.

† Orfed is recommended with reservations that it should be tried more extensively before generally adopted. All indications favor the increase in production of this variety.

Wheat production problems

Smut is probably the biggest single production problem in the southern section of the county. Golden, the chief variety grown

in this area, is highly susceptible to smut. Table IV shows the extent of smut in the south and Central sections of the county.

TABLE IV.—Smutty Wheat Delivered to Condon and Mikkalo Elevators, 1947

Smut Grade	Condon	Mikkalo
½%	101,511 bu.	0 bu.
1% or more	50,592 bu.	1,708 bu.
Total grading smutty	152,103 bu.	1,708 bu.

The above table shows that 154,000 bushels of wheat delivered to Condon and Mikkalo elevators in 1947 graded smutty. This wheat contained 1,212 bushels of smut. Since two-thirds or more of the smut in a field is blown over by the combine or otherwise separated from the grain, it is estimated that 3,636

bushels of smut were produced. Since most farmers sold their grain at about \$2.00 per bushel, this was a loss of \$7,272.00 due to reduction in yield. Farmers also were docked in price (smutty charge) on the 154,000 bushels. This amounted to about \$3,097.33. This loss is tabulated in Table V.

TABLE V.—Loss from Smut in Gilliam County, 1947

Loss from reduced yield (3,636 bu.)	\$ 7,272
Loss from price dock (smutty charge on 154,000 bu.)	3,097
TOTAL LOSS	\$10,369

This committee feels that there are a number of factors which affect the extent of smut in Gilliam county. These include weather, varieties grown, method of treating, chemical used, etc.

We believe that farmers can do a lot towards reducing the amount of smut and recommend that they take the following precautions:

1. Use clean seed wheat.
2. Treat with at least one ounce of Ceresan per bushel. (No other chemical is recommended.)
3. Use care in treating so all seed is evenly covered. If a commercial treater is used, see that the work is done properly.
4. Permit seed to set at least 24 hours after treating to permit the gas to kill all smut spores.
5. Shift to a smut resistant variety as soon as a desirable one is developed.

Seed wheat

With the advent of bulk handling of grain, the availability of good clean seed has rapidly decreased. Most elevators have very large bins, 50,000 bushels or more, which makes it impossible for them to store seed wheat sepa-

rately. Also as wheat passes through the elevator to the bin it becomes mixed.

This committee believes that good clean seed wheat should be available to the growers in the county. Most farmers are willing to pay a premium for such wheat.

This committee believes that seed wheat should be produced by a number of the growers who make a special effort to produce high quality clean seed. The following recommendations will help such a grower to produce high quality seed:

1. Secure certified seed to start with.
2. Concentrate on one variety.
3. Rogue mixed varieties in the field.
4. Farm store the grain in clean elevators.
5. When possible, get the crop certified as to quality by the O.S.C. Extension Service.

Several farmers have been following the above practices and this committee encourages them to continue. However, there still is not enough of some varieties produced in this manner, and other farmers should take advantage of the opportunity to receive

a premium for their crops.

Annual weeds

It is estimated that annual weeds in wheat fields cost Gilliam county farmers 100,000 bushels or more of grain annually. At present prices, that is nearly \$300,000 or more than \$1,000 per farmer. These figures are conservative, the actual loss is probably two or three times this amount.

In the past, farmers had to rely on cultivation before seeding to eliminate weeds. We believe farmers should continue to kill as many weeds as possible before seeding. No chemical method of weed control has yet eliminated the necessity of good farming.

Recent trials in the county and state by the Oregon State College Experiment Stations and Extension Service has proven that most annual weeds can be controlled in growing grain with the use of selective chemicals. Excellent results have been obtained with the use of dusts and sprays of 2,4-D. The members of this committee believe farmers who have severe weed infestation in their growing wheat should treat their fields with 2,4-D. Two distinct advantages arise from this practice:

1. Wheat yields are increased.
2. Weeds do not reseed during the crop year.

This committee believes good results can be obtained with either the dust or the spray. However, based on information gathered by the Extension Service throughout the state, the following general recommendations are given:

1. Low volume sprays of 2,4-D are practical under Gilliam county conditions. Operators should not attempt to apply less than 10 to 12 gallons of solution per acre.
2. Most annual weeds can be controlled by applications of from one-half to three-quarters pound of 2,4-D parent acid or equivalent per acre. Tar weed and pepper grass are hard to kill and will require the upper limit, while

mustards are easier to kill and ½ pound is sufficient. About 25 per cent more 2,4-D per acre is required when the dusts are used. Treatment with more than 1 lb. per acre may affect the wheat plants.

3. The ester forms of 2,4-D are probably superior for annual weed control, while the salt derivatives are better for morning glory.

4. Best control of annual weeds with 2,4-D is obtained from early applications. Weeds should be in the rosette stage of growth (before they shoot a stem).

5. Wheat plants should have more than two leaves and be before the boot stage when treating to prevent damage to them.

6. The chemical does a better job during warm days when the weeds are growing rapidly.

7. Cost will be from \$2.00 to \$5.00 per acre, depending on the material and equipment used.

Cost of production

Production costs have increased rapidly in recent years. The 1941 Gilliam County Land Use committee estimated that total production costs at that time amounted to \$8.10 per acre. This committee gathered information from five wheat producers and found average operation costs for producing an acre of wheat are shown in table VI.

TABLE VI—Average Cost of Producing One Acre of Wheat, Gilliam County, 1947—

Plowing	\$ 1.75
Cultivation	2.35
Seed	3.20
Cleaning & treating seed .....	.20
Seeding .....	.72
Harvesting	4.63
Interest (\$40 @ 4½% for 2 years)	3.60
Taxes .....	.80
Insurance .....	.60
Upkeep on bldgs., etc. ....	.30

TOTAL \$18.15

Note: Some expenses increase as distance from market increases, but others, such as interest and taxes, decrease.

The Land Use Committee of 1941 stated that nearly 10,000 acres of land in wheat production in Gilliam county did not produce enough to return the cost of production. This committee believes this condition is still true. **Land which continues to produce nine bushels or less per acre does not return production costs.**

Other crops

Barley—During the last few years barley has been bringing more income per acre than wheat. This has caused a considerable increase in the production of barley in the county. Mr. E. R. Jackman has pointed out that farmers could expect greater yield of wheat on ground that had been in barley two years previously. Although it appears the barley market may still be good next year, the committee is not sure that this relationship will continue. We do not recommend that farmers in Gilliam county suddenly shift to barley production.

Oats and Rye—Oats and rye are not very good crops for Gilliam county. Production should be limited to the need for feed on the farm. Enough of rye should be grown to supply the local demand for rye seed and for pasture seedings. This should be about 400 acres.

Alfalfa—The committee believes that the present use of alfalfa as the chief irrigated crop is desirable. It is best suited to provide winter feed for the livestock in the county. The committee feels that most of this crop should be used locally and not shipped to western Oregon.

Crested Wheat Seed Grass—Crested wheat grass seed could be a very profitable crop in Gilliam county under present price conditions. The committee recommends that farmers renovate and fertilize more fields for crested wheat grass seed production.

Dryland Pasture Grasses—We believe crested wheat grass is superior to any other forage grass for dryland seedings in Gilliam

county. It has demonstrated its ability to provide more forage per acre, and is relatively easy to establish. This committee estimates there are 20,000 acres or more of cheat grass ranges that could profitably be seeded to perennial grass.

To obtain maximum benefit from crested wheat as a forage crop, farmers must follow some sound management practices. These are covered by the Livestock committee.

The committee recommends the following mixture for dryland pasture seedings:

Crested wheat grass	....5-8 lb*
Bulbous blue grass	..... 3 lb

Total per acre8-11 lb

* 5 lb in the northern section; 7 lb in the central section; and 8 lb in the southern section of the county.

Irrigated Pastures—To meet the need for green pastures during the months of June and July, some farmers are developing pastures along creek bottoms, and one farmer is irrigating several acres with a deep well turbine pump. This committee believes that irrigated land that is not required for hay production can best be utilized for this purpose.

When there is plenty of water available to irrigate the pasture frequently during the summer, the following pasture mixture is recommended:

Ladino Clover	..... 2 lb
Orchard Grass	..... 4 lb
Alta Fescue	..... 6 lb
Smooth Brome Grass	.... 4 lb

TOTAL PER ACRE16 lb

For land which is limited in water during some of the growing season, the following pasture mixture is recommended:

White Dutch Clover	..... 2 lb
Alta Fescue	..... 4 lb
Smooth Brome Grass	.... 4 lb
English Rye	..... 4 lb
Tall Oat Grass	..... 2 lb

TOTAL PER ACRE16 lb

Perennial weed control

Several thousand acres of land in Gilliam county are infested with Morning Glory, Russian Knapweed, White Top and Canada Thistle. Although wild Morning Glory occupies more land than any of the other weeds, the use of 2,4-D has made it possible to effectively control this weed at a very nominal cost.

The Gilliam County Court budgeted sufficient funds to properly treat all noxious weeds along county roads. They also made available to farmers the County spray equipment consisting of a three-quarter ton Dodge Power Wagon, 300-gal. tank and 4 GPM Spray Pump. This outfit was rented to farmers in 1947 at cost. Below is a summary of the acreage covered in 1947:

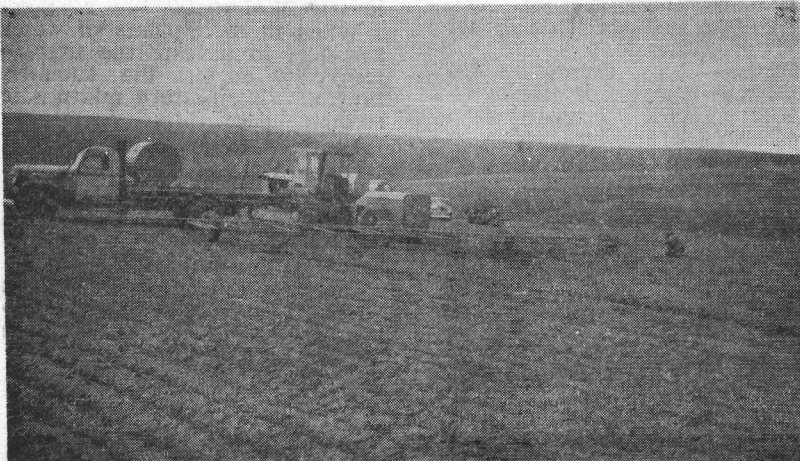
This committee commends the County Court for its efforts to

control perennial weeds and recommends that this program be continued. Realizing the seriousness of noxious weeds in the county, this committee recommends that the following additional action be taken:

1. That the County Weed District law be enforced.
2. That wild Morning Glory (Bindweed) be considered a noxious weed.
3. That the County Court appoint a weed supervisor for the control season, such supervisor to receive advice and direction from the County Extension Agent.
4. Farmers with more than 100 acres of noxious weeds to spray, should purchase their own equipment so that more farmers can secure the benefit of the county rig.

TABLE VII.—Summary of Weed Control Work Done With County Equipment, 1946-1947

	1946	1947
1. Number of Farmers Receiving Assistance	36	52
2. Total Estimated Acres Treated	175	514
3. Pounds of parent Acid of 2,4-D Used	700	1028
4. Hours Equipment Operated	258	470



spraying wheat with 2,4-D to kill weeds on the Louie Barnett ranch west of Clem. The Crops Committee recommended $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ pound of parent acid 2,4-D per acre to kill weeds in infested fields.

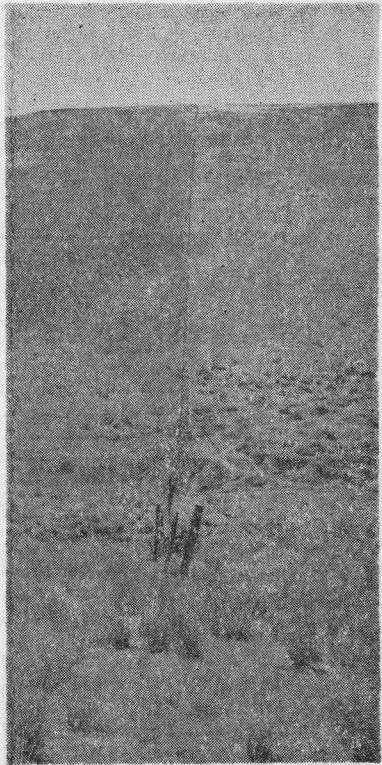
Livestock Committee Report

Twenty-two per cent of the farm income in Gilliam county is received from the livestock industry. Although there are a number of farms devoted exclusively to livestock production, most of the livestock is found on wheat ranches. At present, livestock offers the only means of diversification in the county.

Sixty-five per cent of the land cannot be cultivated and must be used for pasture. Some of this is along deep canyons and is too steep for cattle range. These factors make sheep and beef cattle production of considerable economic importance.

GILLIAM COUNTY LIVESTOCK SITUATION

In recent years sheep production has rapidly decreased while cattle numbers have increased. Table No. VIII shows livestock numbers in Gilliam county for the past seventeen years.



ABOVE—Proper stocked range on left alongside over-grazed area.
BELOW—Killing cattle grubs with high-pressure rotenone spray near Lonerock. The livestock committee recommended spraying of cattle for grubs, lice and flies. DDT recommended for lice and flies.

TABLE NO. VIII.—Numbers of Livestock in Gilliam County

Item	1925*	1930	1935	1940	1945	1947†	Recom- mended
Sheep	61,516	86,033	80,898	55,109	27,682	15,000	30,000
Horses	7,001	4,614	3,398	1,838	1,215	1,200	1,200
Beef cattle	5,172	5,133	7,710	10,075	19,154	19,100	19,100
Dairy Cattle	846	1,131	1,311	1,107	718	750	700
Hogs	1,953	1,912	2,043	2,178	1,772	1,050	2,000

* 1925-1945 census figure

† 1947 Estimate of the committee

The decrease in sheep and other livestock has been greater than the increase in cattle when considered on an animal unit basis.

TABLE NO. IX. —Animal Units, Gilliam County, 1935 and 1947

	1935	1947	Change
Horses	4,530	1,600	-2,930
Beef Cattle	7,710	19,154	+ 11,444
Dairy Cattle	1,311	700	-611
Sheep	16,180	3,000	-13,180
Hogs	511	262	-249
TOTAL	30,242	24,716	decrease 5,526

Animal unit equals $\frac{3}{4}$ horse, 1 cow, 5 sheep, or 4 hogs.

Two addition factors that affect the long-time livestock numbers in the county are:

1. Some ranges are too steep for beef cattle and are suited only for sheep production.

2. Sheep normally leave the county during the summer months for mountain range while cattle usually stay here the year around.

After due consideration, this committee believes that Gilliam county livestock operators should increase sheep numbers to about 30,000 head and hog numbers to 2,000 head. Numbers of other livestock should remain about the same.

Gilliam county

Purebred beef industry

Nearly 10 per cent of the beef herds in the county are devoted to purebred beef production. Although most of these are of the Hereford breed, there are several purebred Aberdeen-Angus breeders. Some of these breeders are known nationally for the high quality of their herds.

Since these herds are adjacent to commercial herds, a county-wide disease control program is of unusual importance to these

breeders.

Gilliam county feed situation

Hay production is usually sufficient to feed all of the livestock now in the county. Some alfalfa hay is exported from the county, but most of this could be used locally if properly distributed.

Some of the steeper ranges are now idle because owners have gone out of the sheep business. Some of this land is unsuitable for cattle production. In a few instances ranges are overstocked with cattle.

The critical feeding period in northern Gilliam county is during the months of June and July. In southern Gilliam county it is July and August. At this time the grass dries up and stubble is not yet available. Although some ranches are developing irrigated pastures along creek bottoms to improve this situation, this development is limited to small areas.

Crested wheat grass

Crested wheat grass has proved to be a valuable pasture grass for the dry lands of Gilliam county. It is much easier to get established than the native bunch grasses. As pointed out by the

Crops committee, crested wheat grass could be profitably seeded on range land on which the native bunch grass has been destroyed. To best utilize crested wheat grass, this committee believes the following essential:

1. When grass is permitted to seed, it should be clipped with a mower in the fall. This eliminates the stiff, dry straws from the bunch the following spring.

2. Crested wheat pastures should be small and the cattle confined to the grass. Frequent rotation of pastures will eliminate overgrazing.

Wheat feeding

The primary crop of Gilliam county is wheat. It is normally sold as a cash crop and exported from the county. With the present world food shortage, this committee does not believe that large cattle feeding operations should be conducted. **However, it is a long-time recommendation of this committee that the feeding of grain to cattle be considered as an additional enterprise on Gilliam county farms during periods of surplus grain.**

Long-time feed and pasture recommendations

The following general feed and

pasture recommendations are made by this committee:

1. More of the high quality alfalfa being produced on Rock Creek and Willow Creek should be purchased by livestock men in the county. During periods of high grain prices, stockmen will find this profitable.

2. Sheep numbers should be increased to 30,000 head to make full use of available pastures.

3. Where practical, grain hay should be chopped. This provides the following advantages:

- a. There is almost no waste, as the animals will eat almost all the straw and hay when chopped.

- b. Volume of feed is reduced and thereby reduces the amount of barn space required for storing.

- c. More feed can be concentrated near the feed yards.

4. Cattle should not be turned out on range in the spring until the grass is well established.

DISEASE CONTROL

Brucellosis (Bang's Disease)

Following is a table of the testing work conducted in Gilliam county by the Bureau of Animal Industries. This is also an indication of the extent of the disease in the county.

**TABLE NO. X—Bang's Disease Testing and Vaccination by
Bureau of Animal Industry**

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
1. Herds tested	33	62	51	35	34	20	—	102	50	—
2. Animals tested	922	1021	731	1048	706	578	1345	890	375	423
3. Reactors and suspects	39	49	54	14	47	18	70	11	2	10
4. Per cent of reactors	4.2	4.8	7.4	1.3	6.6	3.1	5.2	1.2	0.05	.02
5. Calves vaccinated during period	1945-1947 — 311.									

This committee feels that Brucellosis causes severe losses in the calf crop in the county annually. We are also aware that this disease, commonly called undulant fever, is a very serious disease in man. Several Gilliam county residents have acquired the disease in recent years.

Under the present system of optional testing and optional vac-

cination, very little progress has been made in control of Bang's disease. In view of this and the seriousness of the disease, **this committee recommends that Gilliam county adopt a testing program for the control of Bang's disease. Under this program all breeding beef animals should be tested.**

Some Gilliam county stockmen

are following a Bang's disease vaccination program. This committee feels that these stockmen should continue to follow a vaccination program. However, we wish to call attention to information regarding vaccination.

1. Calves must be vaccinated between 5 and 8 months of age. Adult cattle should not be vaccinated.

2. Bang's vaccine contains the disease organisms. If vaccine is accidentally injected into a person, he can contract undulant fever.

3. The vaccine's quality is easily reduce to the point it is ineffective by:

- a. Age.
- b. High temperatures.
- c. Severe jostling for an extended period of time (i.e. in a trunk of a car over rough roads for any great distance).

4. Only a qualified person should administer the vaccine.

Blackleg and malignant edema

Nearly every stockman in the county vaccinates for blackleg each spring. Experience has proven that this is absolutely essential to prevent the disease from causing severe calf crop losses. Wheeler county last year had two cases of Malignant Edema which is similar to Blackleg. Malignant Edema can be controlled by using a Blackleg vaccine that also contains the Malignant Edema vaccine. This is commonly called "double strength" vaccine. **This committee recommends that every stockman use this double strength vaccine.**

Tuberculosis

Gilliam county will lose its accreditation as a Tuberculosis-free county during February, 1949, unless 10 per cent or more of the cows in the county are tested during the next year. It is important that we maintain this accreditation and it is recommended by this committee that every effort be made to get at least 10 per cent of the cows tested during the year.

Veterinary service

Stockmen of Gilliam county need the services of a veterinarian to carry out a county-wide disease control program and to provide professional service from time to time. **We believe that a county veterinarian should be secured for Wheeler and Gilliam counties. We believe that the salary and expense of such a veterinarian could be paid from an assessment of 25c or 30c. per beef animal.**

Parasite control

Parasites annually eat into the profits of stockmen of Gilliam county. Although no figures are available to us as to the extent of this loss, it is estimated that it amounts to several thousand dollars. These parasites include cattle lice, cattle grubs, horn flies and sheep ticks.

Cattle lice

Cattle lice live on cattle their entire life cycle. During the spring and summer, large numbers are rubbed off and killed as the animals shed. As the hair becomes long again in the fall, the louse population steadily increases on each animal. One louse in September can produce several hundred by March. **This committee recommends that every cattleman spray his herd annually to control cattle lice.** The following recommendations are made regarding spraying for cattle lice:

1. Spray should consist of 8 pounds of 50 per cent wettable DDT for each 100 gallons water.
2. Material should be applied in the fall when louse population is at a minimum.
3. Spray is the most effective when applied at high pressure (400 lb per sq. inch).
4. Animals should be sprayed over their entire body with particular emphasis on the head, neck, underline and back.

Cattle grubs

Cattle grubs which appear on the backs of the animals are caused from a heel fly which

lays eggs on the legs of the animal in the spring and summer. These eggs hatch into grubs that burrow under the skin and work up through the body of the animal, reaching the back in January and February. These grubs can best be controlled while they are in the backs of the animals. Rotenone is the only insecticide recommended for this purpose. **This committee recommends that every cattleman spray his herd once or twice annually to control cattle grubs.** The following general recommendations are made:

1. The spray material should contain 8 pounds of 5 per cent Rotenone in 100 gallons of water.
2. At least two applications should be made, the first 30 days after the first grubs appear in the backs of the animal, and the second 30 days later. The first spraying will probably occur between January 10 and February 10.
3. Applications should be at high pressure (at least 400 pounds per sq. inch).
4. Nozzles should make a cone shape spray pattern about 4 inches in diameter when held 18 inches above the back of the animal.

Horn flies

Horn flies infest most Gilliam county herds during the summer months. These flies suck the blood of the animal and live their entire adult life on cattle. Where operations permit, **this committee recommends that all cattlemen spray to control horn flies.** The following recommendations are made by this committee:

1. Spray solution should contain 8 pounds of 50 per cent wettable DDT power to 100 gallons of water.
2. Applications should be made in the summer when horn fly population exceeds 25 per animal.
3. Applications should be repeated as often as necessary (generally one spraying will

eliminate horn flies for three or four weeks). Three or four sprayings should be sufficient for the entire summer.

4. Application should be made at spray pressures of 400 pounds per sq. inch.

Sheep ticks

Sheep ticks infest most Gilliam county bands. The old method of dipping for sheep ticks is rapidly being replaced by the use of sprays. DDT is very effective against sheep ticks. **This committee recommends that sheep be sprayed with a solution containing 8 pounds of 50 per cent wettable DDT powder per 100 gallons of water when sheep tick infestation becomes serious.** One spraying annually should be sufficient.

PREDATORY ANIMAL AND RODENT CONTROL

Severe losses are experienced by Gilliam county livestock growers from coyotes. This committee commends the County Court for its action increasing the bounty on coyotes in Gilliam county and its cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service in maintaining a government trapper in the county.

The new poison, 1080, has proved to be very effective for coyote control work in other areas. The Fish and Wildlife Service reports the following advantages of 1080 over the old strychnine baits:

1. One ounce of 1080 will completely poison an entire horse for coyotes.
2. One set containing 1/4 to 1/6 of a horse will kill coyotes all winter and still be deadly the following spring.
3. Coyotes seldom eat more than two ounces of the bait material before they are warned and leave the vicinity to die.
4. A coyote that eats any of the bait will die.

This committee recommends that Gilliam county stockmen cooperate with the Fish and Wild-

life Service and assist them in the use of 1080 for poisoning coyotes on their ranges.

Rodent control

Rats are causing severe damage to winter feed supplies. This committee recommends that Gilliam county stockmen cooperate With the Fish and Wildlife Service in the control of rats and other rodents.

DAIRY PRODUCTION

Most dairy animals in the county are located in the irrigated sections and are used for butter fat production. Only two dairies at present sell fluid milk. Although this committee believes that Gilliam county farmers should keep enough dairy animals to supply their own needs, we do not believe this enterprise should be increased. We recommend that all dairy animals be tested annually for Brucellosis and Tuberculosis in accordance with the present Oregon law.

POULTRY PRODUCTION

Poultry production is of minor importance in Gilliam county. Most chickens are kept to produce eggs and meat for home consumption with eggs being sold during the season of high production. Gilliam county is too far from important markets to increase this enterprise. Disease losses in poultry in Gilliam county are very heavy. This is largely due to unsanitary conditions. This committee recommends that chicken quarters be moved about from year to year and the facilities kept clean.

Tax Committee Report

This committee believes that taxes—national, state and local—have been growing at an alarming rate. Our total tax load is now greater than the amount we are paying for food. It is approaching if not exceeding one-fourth of our national income. Therefore, we offer the following suggestions: We recommend first that some study be made toward a separation of the taxing authority of national, state and local government. Each should have a field of revenue which will not be infringed on by the other. We feel also that the tendency toward centralized government should be checked. The responsibilities for both the performance of governmental duties and the raising of taxes to pay for them should be left so far as possible with the areas affected. Since our taxes are now controlled from the top or national government to a great extent, correction should start here. We therefore make our recommendations in three divisions: 1. National; 2. State; 3. Local (school districts, cities and county).

National

1. Reduction of National Debt

(a) Before considering any other tax recommendations, the Federal government should establish a definite, practical and positive plan for reduction of the national debt.

2. Reduction of National Expenses

- (a) Elimination of all duplication in Federal boards and commissions, such as housing authorities and loan associations.
- (b) Drastic reduction in subsidy payments to all industry including agriculture.
- (c) Drastic reduction and elimination of some Federal "match money" schemes in which local levels of government have to pay the original amount to the Federal government and

then buy their own money back from the Federal government by a further tax. The states or other subdivisions should levy and collect as much of this type of taxes as they deem necessary under local conditions of need for services and local ability to pay.

- (d) Put National Social Security on a sound actuarial basis.

3. Revise Federal Policy

- (a) Readjustment of federal payments in lieu of taxes on federally owned land so payment is equitably made and divided between various states, counties, cities and school districts in the same manner as if the taxes were levied and collected locally.
- (b) Drastically curtail or eliminate federal sales tax on commodities and services. This field should be left to the states if they choose to use them to supplement revenues.
- (c) Adjust federal income tax laws so tax payers in all states have equal rights in division of profits as have community property states.
- (d) Cease acquisition by Federal government of private land, except for national defense or national parks, and then only with the consent of the state and counties so affected.

State

1. Overhaul state welfare program to eliminate all from rolls who can meet their own needs, either from their own funds or with the aid of relatives and friends; and make any necessary increases in payment to the deserving from the amount saved from the undeserving who now receive payments.

2. Actually make an attempt to equalize educational opportunities as provided in the title of the Basic school bill, for all youth in rural and sparsely populated

areas. Special study should be directed toward the possibility of instituting "Circuit Rider" teachers to travel from school to school teaching special subjects such as music, languages and science which smaller schools cannot afford. The funds for these special teachers should be deducted before a division of state school money is made to various districts.

3. The State School Superintendent should take into account (law would not need to be changed to authorize) all money received from Federal government as payment in lieu of taxes, even though this amount is earmarked for county road fund, before calculating the amount school districts are to receive from state school funds.

4. State should take over taxing of commodities and services—if, as and when Federal government ceases taxing them (admissions, cosmetics, communications, transportation, etc.)—to the extent necessary to augment state revenues. This field should be left to the state, each according to their desires and necessities.

5. Oregon, as a State, should abandon property tax as a source of revenue and leave this field to counties alone as soon as another safe and sure method is acceptable.

6. All forms of business—private, corporate and cooperative—should be taxed alike.

7. No unit of government should be permitted to lease or rent to any person, firm or corporation any of its land or properties for the purpose of engaging in private business for profit without collecting in addition to a rental, an amount equal to the taxes if the business were privately conducted. The amount collected for taxes should be distributed to all tax levying bodies in the same manner as it would be if the property were privately owned.

8. Every effort should be made to arrive at a uniform bas-

is of taxing real and personal property in all counties in the state. Any necessary action should be taken to permit the State Tax Commission or the County Assessor to have access to any record, plot, plan or photograph, belonging to state, national or local government, which will materially aid in arriving at fair value of the land to be assessed.

Since assessing requires technical training, all assessors should be required to qualify before running for office in a manner similar to a candidate for county engineer, surveyor, district attorney or school superintendent.

9. No measure which requires expenditure of new money should be permitted on the ballot either by initiative or referendum, except it be accompanied by a companion measure stating how the money shall be raised. Passage of both measures should be necessary to passage of either.

10. We favor passage of the constitutional measure which will appear on the ballot this November which will, if passed, clarify the 6 per cent tax limitation and provide a way to establish new tax bases.

Local

This committee has investigated the tax structure of Gilliam county. We have been unable to find any serious inequalities. From this investigation the following conclusions are drawn:

1. Large acreages of crested wheat grass have been plowed up and again placed in wheat production. Since the assessed valuation on this land was reduced when it was seeded to crested wheat, it should be again reported and assessed as plow land.

2. This committee believes that the rural school law will eliminate some of the school tax inequalities.

Health Committee Report

Medical facilities are inadequate

At the present time there are no hospitals in Gilliam county. Most of the citizens use the facilities located at The Dalles, which is nearly 92 miles from Condon, our county seat.

There are two doctors in the county. One in Arlington and one in Condon. The doctor in Arlington no longer carries on a practice while the doctor in Condon is approaching retirement age and is able to maintain a limited practice only. There is one dentist located at Condon.

The U. S. Public Health Service recommends one doctor for each 1,000 population, one dentist for each 1,500 population, and 4 or 5 hospital beds for each 1,000 population. Gilliam county has a population of more than 3,000.

This committee believes that the above information indicates inadequate medical facilities in Gilliam county. We believe that a concerted effort should be made by the citizens of the county to obtain:

1. Additional doctors.
2. A hospital with at least 15 beds.
3. One additional dentist.

We understand that there are organizations within the county who are making an effort to secure a hospital in Condon. We urge these organizations to continue their efforts. We understand that the federal government will provide up to $\frac{1}{3}$ of the cost of new construction for such facilities if certain standards are met. These organizations should investigate the possibility of securing this assistance.

Farm safety urged

Farm accidents cause serious injury and sometimes death to many Gilliam county rural people each year. Complete mechanization of farm operations has increased the number of accidents. This committee believes

that every Gilliam county resident should become conscious of fundamental farm safety practices. It is recommended that additional 4-H Farm Safety clubs be organized, that the schools incorporate safety instruction in their curriculum. It is also recommended that circular letters, news articles, etc., be released from time to time by the O.S.C. Extension Service regarding farm safety.

School lunches require supplement

Most of the Gilliam county schools are now providing a hot dish at noon for all school children. However, this dish is not a complete meal and requires supplemental food. We believe that an educational program should be inaugurated to familiarize parents with the additional nutrient requirements of their school children. As a result, parents would send the necessary supplemental food in lunches.

Rat killing campaign favored

Rats are becoming increasingly prevalent on Gilliam county farms and ranches. It is a known fact that rats carry many human diseases. Also, rats destroy large quantities of farm produce which is so badly needed in the world today. This committee recommends that a county-wide extermination campaign be inaugurated.

Recreation and Rural Youth Committee Report

4-H Club work largest youth program

By far the largest rural youth program outside of our schools is that of 4-H club work. In 1947, 135 boys and girls from all section of Gilliam county carried a total of 243 4-H club projects. According to the school census there are 273 young people between the ages of 9 and 19 who are considered eligible to carry 4-H club projects. This indicates that roughly one-half our boys and girls are participating in the club program.

This rural youth program is providing our young people with training in citizenship as well as practical agricultural and home economics training. The standard 4-H club of five or more members is a self-governed, democratic unit. Each club has an adult leader who guides and assists the members in their work.

In Gilliam county the 4-H club program is conducted by the county extension agent and the county school superintendent. These people have indicated their biggest problem is securing additional 4-H club leaders to expand their program. This committee recommends that every service organization in the county assist with this program and provide additional 4-H club leaders.

Playground facilities being built

The city of Condon has inaugurated a program to provide playground facilities for boys and girls of all ages. Construction has begun on these facilities below the City Park at the southern end of town. We have been informed that a tennis court which can be converted into an ice skating rink will be the first item to be completed. Playground equipment for the younger people as well as a softball diamond are planned.

This committee believes the City Council has embarked on an am-

bitious program to provide needed facilities for our young people. We commend them for it and hope they will push the construction through to completion in the near future. We believe that similar facilities should be undertaken in other sections of the county.

Youth center needed

Playground facilities will provide a place for our young people to spend their free time during the daylight hours. However, this committee believes that additional facilities should be provided for organized recreation during winter evenings. A youth center suggests itself as a good place around which such a program might be developed. In Arlington, it is our understanding that the P.T.A. has already sponsored a program of this type.

The basement of the new Memorial Hall in Condon lends itself to the construction of such facilities. We understand that material will soon be available to complete these basement rooms. Facilities ought to be provided for dancing, reading, quiet games such as checkers, and more active games such as ping-pong.

This committee believes that to be successful the responsibility of government and management of such facilities should be with the youngsters as much as possible. A sponsoring committee for such a center should be recruited from all of the organizations concerned with the young people in the area.

It is felt that some one person should be selected to act for the sponsoring committee. This person should have complete responsibility for the supervision of the center's program. He or she must be well qualified for the position. It might be necessary to provide a remuneration to secure such a person.

This committee recommends that the City of Condon investigate the possibility of providing

such facilities.

Picnic grounds should be improved

This committee believes there is a need for more family and community meetings such as picnics during the summer months. Dyer Park, eight miles south of Condon on the John Day Highway is the only public grounds available for this purpose at present. In recent years, the Highway Commission has neglected these facilities. This committee recommends that this conference advise the State Highway Commission that the following improvements be made at Dyer Park this spring:

1. Enlarge parking facilities.
2. Provide a fountain.
3. Construct adequate fences around the park.
4. Construct a fireplace.
5. Keep the grass and weeds mowed.

This committee believes that additional public picnic grounds should be available. Cripes Grove on Rock Creek lends itself well for these activities. This committee recommends that the County Court investigate the possibility of securing these facilities and developing them for a central picnic grounds in the county. Granges and other organizations could assist with the improvements needed.

Recreation facilities on the ranch

Some of the facilities that could be provided on the farm include:

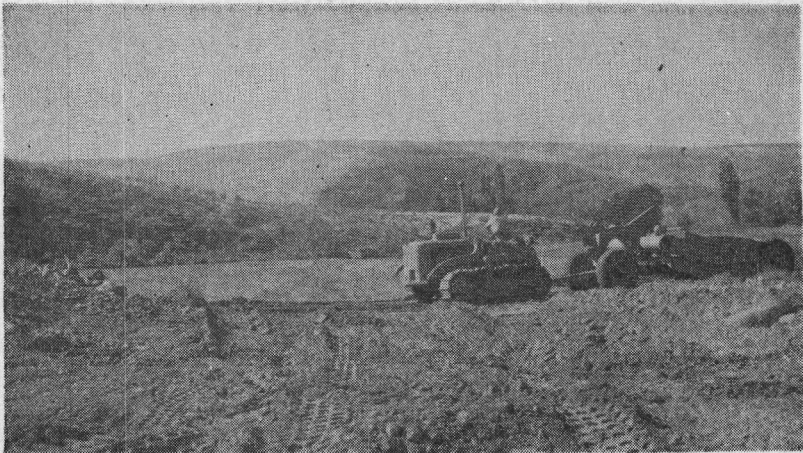
1. Rumpus room with ping-pong table, etc.
2. Movies — Several farmers now have 16-mm. projectors and secure educational and other films through O.S.C.
3. A swimming tank or pool.— This also encourages neighborhood children to remain in the community.

We appreciate that the home cannot provide all of the recreational needs of our young people, but everyone should investigate the possibility of providing more facilities in the home.



ABOVE—Gilliam county folks are enjoying a picnic in the Condon park. The recreation committee believes similar facilities should be provided in other sections of the county.

BELOW—Land leveling with Soil Conservation District equipment on Rock Creek. The Soil Conservation Committee advised farmers to take advantage of this equipment and thereby increase land productivity and reduce irrigation labor requirements.



Education Committee Report

This committee has found conditions affecting Gilliam county schools far different than the committee of 1938. In 1938, school population was rapidly decreasing while in 1947 this population is increasing. Thirteen grade schools were in operation in 1938, while only six are functioning at present. Recent legislation will apparently have far-

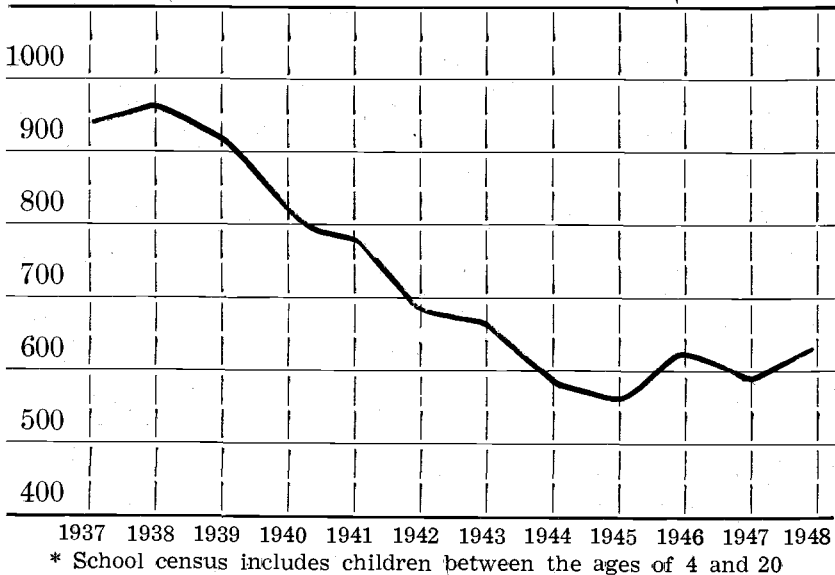
reaching effect on Gilliam county schools.

This committee has made an effort to determine what happens to the graduates of the Gilliam county schools, as well as to evaluate to some degree the effectiveness of our schools in carrying on an educational program.

School population now increasing

Table No. XI shows the trend in school census from 1937 to 1948:

TABLE XI—Gilliam County School Census* 1937-1948



People in Gilliam county are apparently no different than the rest of the people in the United States. We are having more children. Most of the growth is in the two cities of the county. Arlington increased from 120 to 198, or about 25 per cent, last year. Our school facilities must be expanded to take care of the additional enrollment which is being encountered.

High school graduates enter many fields

In order to provide the proper facilities and curriculum in Gil-

liam county high schools' it is necessary that we take into consideration what happens to our graduates. This committee appreciates that with the relatively small enrollment and small teaching staff in our two county high schools' the number of subjects offered is limited. High school administration must tailor their programs to fit the majority of the students in attendance. Table XII shows a summary of what Gilliam county high school graduates since 1943 are doing.

TABLE XII—Summary of High School Graduates, Gilliam County, 1943-1947

Year	Grad. or				
	Total Students	Entered College*	still at- tending	Married Women	Otherwise Engaged†
1943					
Arlington	13	5	3	6	4
1944					
Arlington	11	5	4	4	3
Condon	11	6	2	3	6
1945					
Arlington	19	11	9	5	5
Condon	15	8	3	3	9
1946					
Arlington	15	7	7	2	6
Condon	18	5	3	6	9
1947					
Arlington	13	7	7	5	1
Condon	12	8	6	—	6
TOTAL	127	62	44	34	49
PERCENTAGE	100	49	35	27	38

Note * — Students who entered college but are now working or married will also appear in the married or otherwise engaged columns.

Note † — These were engaged as follows: Own business, 1; Farming, 10; Laborer, 9; Store, 4; Truckee, 1; Barber 1; Telephone operator, 1; Armed Forces, 9; Beauty Parlor, 1; Unemployed, 3; Office, 5; Learning trade, 3.

It is significant to know that 49 per cent of the graduates of Gilliam county high schools from 1943 to 1947 inclusive, entered college. College preparatory courses are, therefore, a fundamental requirement of our high schools. The remaining 51 per cent have entered all different kinds of business farming and other occupations. A large share of the women graduates are now homemakers.

Quality of Gilliam county schools is good

There has been considerable criticism of our schools. This committee has made an effort to determine whether or not some of this criticism is justified. High school ratings on 84 graduates of Gilliam county high schools who entered Oregon State College were compared with the ratings received by those students

in their entrance examinations there. In analyzing these ratings, this committee has been unable to find any evidence which would indicate that our high schools are inferior.

The Registrar of Oregon State College was contacted regarding the subject, and he pointed out that prior to 1943 (data after 1943 would be influenced by the war) 62 graduates of Gilliam county high schools entered Oregon State College. Of these, 23 later graduated. This is 35½ per cent. Normally 37 per cent to 38 per cent of all students entering O. S. C. eventually graduate. This would indicate that Gilliam county high school graduates stand just as good a chance of completing their college work as graduates of other schools in the state.

The Assistant State School Su-

perinendent was also contacted. He reported that Gilliam county schools were equal to other high schools of the state.

From this information, it is our conclusion that there is nothing significantly wrong in Gilliam county schools.

This committee appreciates the difficulties which were encountered by school administrators during the war years. As conditions improve, certain changes for the betterment of our schools may be anticipated. This may be through joint use of teachers qualified in special fields of learning, or otherwise.

New legislation affects schools

The rural school bill and the basic school law are just beginning to function in the state and county. These two legislative measure will undoubtedly have a far reaching effect on Gilliam county schools. The rural school board has control of the financing of our schools. The basic school law provides state funds to support the schools. The latter will probably result in increased state participation in the administration of our school program.

As a result of these legislative measures, our entire school system is now undergoing a change. It is impossible for this commit-

tee to determine what effects these laws will have upon our school system. This committee recommends that every Gilliam county resident become familiar with these legislative measures and the changes which they are bringing about in our school systems.

Members of the Rural School Board created under the new law have accepted a great deal of responsibility. It should be their duty to make a thorough investigation of our entire school system and recommend such changes as they consider desirable for the improvement of our schools.

Summary

1 Gilliam county school population decreased until 1945 but is now increasing.

2 This committee believes Gilliam county schools to be equal to if not superior to other schools of similar size in the state.

3 Recent legislation in form of Rural School Bill and the Basic School Law will have far reaching effect on Gilliam county schools.

4 Gilliam county citizens should become familiar with those laws and the effect they are having on our school system.

The following organizations, business firms and individuals have made possible the publication of this report.

Braden Tractor & Equipment Co.
Mid-Columbia Production Credit Association.

Kerr Gifford & Co.

Condon Motor & Implement Co.
Gilliam County Bank
First National Bank of Portland
Condon Branch

Parman and Harris
Condon Grain Growers Coop.
Ass'n. Inc.

North Gilliam Chamber of Commerce

Condon Globe-Times
Pacific Power & Light Co.
Archer-Daniels-Midland Co.
Wheeler-Gilliam Pomona Grange
E. R. Fatland
Gilliam County Farm Bureau
Reed and Reed
South Gilliam Booster Club
E. M. Hulden
M. E. Weatherford Estate
R. W. Potter and Sons
Gilliam County Fair Board
Lloyd Smith and Sons