



**Union County
10 Year Planning Conference
Report**



1958

An aerial photograph of a vast agricultural landscape, characterized by a dense grid of rectangular fields. The fields are arranged in a checkerboard pattern, with varying shades of green and brown. In the foreground, several pine trees are visible, some on the left and some on the right, framing the view. The background shows a hazy horizon line under a light sky.

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Foreword

The Union County Planning Conference of 1958, was a continuation of the planned agricultural development that has characterized the farming activities for many years. Earlier planning conferences that contributed to this development were held in 1924, 1936, and 1946.

The 1958 conference had its origin with a request made a year earlier when members of the Union County Agricultural Planning Committee asked the Oregon State College Extension Service to cooperate in a reappraisal of agricultural conditions and outlook for the future.

The people within the thirteen committees and eleven subcommittees were faced with many problems and situations on schools, taxes, community living, adult education, county lounge, health and sanitation, youth and recreation and many others.

In these changing times we are all aware of the various changes and philosophies that must change as our population increases and as our county moves from a rural to an urban situation. These problems faced by these people are real, they are with us now and I'm sure that the reports as you read them will certainly bear out the fact that in order to continually better ourselves, we must make plans for the future and carry them out.

Our farmers have problems, too. The market picture has changed, our cropping and livestock picture is rapidly changing.

Farmers are taking a second look at lands that have been logged off and left to waste. Most of the lands in Union county not farmed are in forests. They are checking on Christmas trees as a crop. They are looking for good management practices to control and to operate their forests as part of their farm operations.

The situation blends itself into the fact that farmers are diversifying, they are using more livestock to utilize home grown grains and forages. They are looking and going toward more modern methods of harvesting and they are asking for and receiving more assistance in farm program planning. They are more interested in research and what it will do for them in making their job a little easier and producing more income and utilizing the labor and the machinery that they now have available.

These committee reports you are about to read and the recommendations they are making are the result of many meetings and many hours of planning. In spite of the fact that all around us we hear reports of gloom and despair, the people who have worked on these committees look to the next 10 years with a feeling that there is a bright future for Union county.

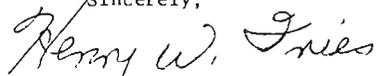
It was our honest endeavor through this planning conference to bring to the attention of the farmers and city people of Union county, the problems and situations we now face. We know that through this effort we are helping ourselves.

Very truly yours,



Ted Sidor, Secretary
Union County Agricultural
Planning Conference

Sincerely,



Henry Fries, Chairman
Union County Agricultural
Planning Conference

Union County Situation Report

CLIMATE

Union county is located in Northeastern Oregon. Most of the agriculture is in the Grande Ronde Valley surrounded by the Blue Mountains.

The elevation of the valley is 2745 feet; the climate in the county is moderate. Records over a 22-year period show that the January average temperature in the Cove area of the Grande Ronde Valley was 29.3 degrees Fahrenheit. The July average over the same period was 67.9°F. Maximum temperature was 103 degrees with a minimum temperature of minus 24 degrees Fahrenheit.

The average killing frost in the spring is around May 4. The first killing frost in the fall has averaged close to October 3. The growing season is approximately 152 days. The average annual precipitation is approximately 20 inches. The precipitation will vary throughout the county ranging from approximately 9 inches at the La Grande airport to around 24 inches in the Elgin and Summerville foothill areas.

The Grande Ronde Valley is traversed by two rivers, one the Grande Ronde River, which has some 53 miles of channel and the Catherine Creek River coming from the mountains above Union, Oregon. These two rivers provide irrigation water to 16,000 acres that border the streams. Both rivers are subjected to heavy spring runoffs and contribute to flooding of lands in the lower Grande Ronde Valley adjacent to the river. In some years of heavy spring runoff, 10,000 to 15,000 acres have been covered by water for a period of two to three weeks. This problem of flood lands is being considered by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The county has 31,168 acres under irrigation. A substantial part of this acreage is in the North Powder area where irrigation water is available up to approximately the first of July. The main source of water in the North Powder area is from Anthony and Wolf Creeks. The Grande Ronde Valley is usually blessed with an abundance of spring rains with the last of the rains falling the first part of June. It is this particular rain that carries the grain and field crops through to maturity.

The harvest weather in the Grande Ronde Valley is considered ideal in that there is very little inclement weather during the harvest season. The short growing season and cool nights restricts Union county's farmers in growing a wide variety of crops. The main crops at present are grains, grass seed, pasture and hay. The livestock man is faced with the problem of a long winter feeding period, usually starting on feed the first of December and continuing to the 15th of April.

Winds, particularly in the center of the valley are excessive during the late fall and winter months. Farmers are protecting the soil from wind erosion in that area by stubble-mulch farming and deep furrow drilling.

POPULATION AND AREA FIGURES

Total county population	17,962
Total Land area	1,300,300 acres
Land in Farms	590,300 acres
Total number of farms	987
Average acres per farm	598.1 acres

SCHOOLS

Union county has 5 high schools, 1 junior high school and 27 grade schools. Eastern Oregon College is located in La Grande, the only degree granting institution East of the Cascades.

CHURCHES

Union county has 32 churches with most denominations being represented. A family will have little difficulty in finding a church of their choice in or near any community in the county.

RECREATIONAL POSSIBILITIES

Union county is blessed with many recreational opportunities. State parks with overnight camping facilities are located within easy driving distance. Beautiful view points can be reached easily from any part of Union county and the county is well known for its excellent deer and elk hunting.

Winter sport areas with overnight facilities are in three improved ski areas in the county. One of Oregon's finest 9 hole golf courses is maintained by the La Grande Country Club.

CROPS AND INCOME

Agriculture is a 10 to 14 million dollar annual business. Gross agricultural income is divided between field crops, horticultural crops and livestock and poultry. Estimates for 1957 are:

Field Crops:	118,250 acres	\$ 4,479,440
Seed Crops:	12,870 acres	691,630
Horticulture:	680 acres	208,250
Farm Forestry:		800,000
Livestock:		<u>3,083,111</u>
County Total		\$ 9,262,431

FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES

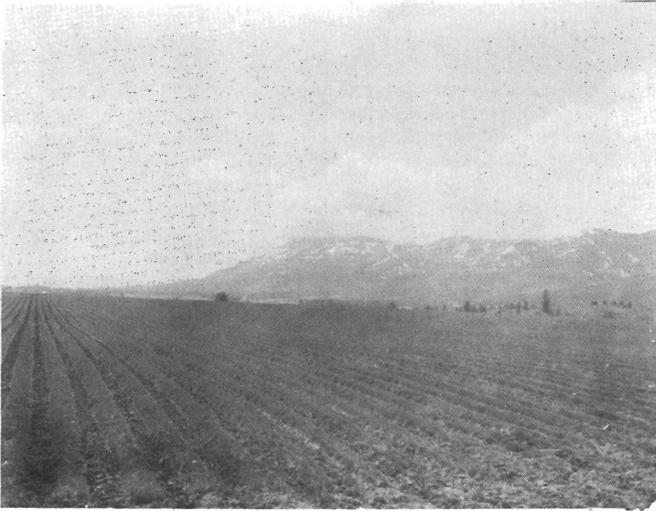
Facilities and services are available from many Governmental agencies vital to the agricultural and economic picture of Union county:

- First Union County Soil Conservation District
- Elgin Soil Conservation District
- Soil Conservation Service
- Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service
- Union County Extension Service
- United States Forest Service
- Oregon State Forest Service
- U. S. Geological Survey
- Oregon State Game Commission
- Eastern Oregon Experiment Station
- Agricultural Research Division

COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE

The office of the Agricultural, Home Economics and 4-H Club Extension agents is located on the second floor of the Post office building, La Grande, with a staff of four agents. Two men agents work with all phases of agriculture in the diversified county program. One agent in home economics, works with organized Extension units and offers personal service to individuals or groups. One 4-H Club agent works full time with the 4-H program.

This staff offers services and information from Oregon State College to all residents.



Family and Community Living Committee Report

CHAIRMAN -- Mrs. Dean Puckett, Cove
SECRETARY -- Dolores Uria, La Grande

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - CHAIRMAN - John Sullivan, La Grande

Tax Committee

Mr. J. Dale Standley, La Grande - Chairman
Mr. Glen Sands, Cove - Secretary
Mr. J. L. Sinden, La Grande
Mr. John McKinnis, Summerville
Mr. Odin Miller, Union
Mr. Gale Beals, La Grande
Mr. Herbert Speckhart, La Grande
Mr. Lee Duckett, La Grande
Mr. Tom Lampkin, North Powder
Mr. Jack Parsons, Elgin
Mr. Tom Ruckman, Imbler
Mr. Ray Baum, La Grande
Mr. Ralph Badgley, La Grande
Mr. Robert Busick, Union

Situation - The present tax situation is burdensome and in some cases, inequitable. Property owners are concerned with the increased cost of schools, welfare, roads, and local government. Every increase is passed back to the property owner as increased taxes.

The committee has recommended the following in hopes that these will result in a broader tax base with some savings in various departments and a more equitable tax to everyone.

That:

1. County reappraisal be carried on by a local committee appointed by the County Court. That these appraisors use all available material and information in Union county to speed an economical reappraisal of county property.
2. The County tax of 3 mills be continued to establish and maintain the building and improvement of roads and that funds from this source be used to establish and maintain refuse disposal dumps in strategic areas in the county.
3. A rural planning commission and the County Court take necessary action to prevent establishment of structures or conditions in rural areas of the county detrimental to value of surrounding property.
4. School tax money be spent for school room construction with less emphasis on auditorium facilities.
5. Similar county tax planning committees from other counties meet on a state-wide basis to discuss tax issues.
6. Study be given to the return of public welfare control to state and county level.
7. A study be made to broaden the tax base, one such tax to be considered as an offset to property tax is the sales tax.
8. A continued study be made of a more equitable distribution of personal property tax.

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9. Surplus funds within a county be limited and that a buildup of county funds be discouraged.
10. A suitable office on the ground level be made available to the Union County Extension Service, close to or housed with other agricultural agencies.

Schools and Adult Education Committee

Mr. Bud Jones, Alicel - Chairman
 Mr. Iver Masterson, La Grande - Secretary
 Mrs. Lloyd Walch, La Grande
 Mrs. M. Kuehn, Elgin
 Mr. Lyle Riggs, La Grande
 Dr. Frank B. Bennett, La Grande
 Mr. Merrell Conley, Cove
 Mrs. Ralph Reinecke, La Grande
 Mrs. Wren Case, Alicel
 Mr. Lester Van Blokland, Island City
 Mr. Clayton Fox, Imbler
 Mr. Norman Koopman, La Grande

The study of the committee was divided into two phases: 1. formal education, 2. adult education. Formal education included studies as to needs, facilities and popular trends as they concern the primary, secondary schools, and the college.

Adult education included educational opportunities and facilities through public schools, Eastern Oregon College, General Extension and Oregon State College Agricultural Extension Service.

An estimate of growth in school population for Union county has been forecast year by year for the next 10 years. This shows an increase of 625 pupils. This may require an additional 21 class rooms and figuring an operational cost of the present \$5,500 per class room unit, there can be an expected budget increase of \$115,500 yearly to operate the schools alone. No construction cost for additional class room units has been figured.

On the basis of their study this committee recommends for formal education that:

1. The general public become informed on all phases of the school reorganization plan and that members of the reorganization board make every effort to fully inform the people.
2. All high schools make every effort to provide suitable facilities for the teaching of physics and chemistry. Lack of facilities in some high schools was of deep concern to the committee.
3. That population trends be studied before any new school construction is undertaken.
4. Because of a need for agricultural training in this area, that a two-year basis ag school, coordinated with the O.S.C. School of Agriculture be added to the Eastern Oregon College curriculum.

Under adult education the committee recommends that:

1. The general public be informed of the offered courses and recommends also that the public make their needs and desires known by arrangements.

through General Extension or through the O.S.C. Extension Service. A great number of courses are offered for the adult population of the county. These are through the Union County Public Schools, Eastern Oregon College, General Extension and O.S.C. Agricultural Extension Service.

Citizenship Committee

Mr. W. H. Weatherspoon, Elgin
Mr. A. B. Olson, La Grande
Mr. Dock Baker, La Grande

The first item of major importance under citizenship is the privilege and responsibility of voting.

Eighty-seven per cent of those eligible voted in the last national election, but only 38% of those eligible voted in a recent local election.

People should be encouraged to register and vote in local as well as national elections. Emphasis should be placed on being an informed voter as much as being a voter.

Second, the committee stresses the importance of encouraging safe driving. Since more and more teenagers have cars, the continuation of driver training in schools is urged and in addition, it is recommended that driving training be made available to adults.

It is suggested that as good citizens the people of Union county take interest in and participate in community activities, especially those where children are involved.

We recommend that definite hunting and fishing areas be set aside for use by juveniles. One purpose would be to help the young people to learn good sportsmanship and good hunting habits.

Health and Sanitation Committee

Miss Gertrude Finnemore, La Grande - Chairman	
Mr. Ray Osborn, Elgin - Secretary	
Mr. Earl Fillmore, La Grande	Mrs. Maurice Berger, Union
Mr. J. M. Martin, Cove	Mrs. Bob Bivin, Union
Dr. J. L. Ingle, La Grande	Mrs. Lamar Christensen, La Grande
Mrs. Glen McKenzie, Summerville	
Mrs. A. M. Lee, La Grande	
Mrs. Henry Counsell, La Grande	
Mrs. V. G. Thomas, La Grande	

The present health and sanitation situation and various health problems in Union county are by no means local problems. Actually they are of nationwide importance.

There are at least 10 large open refuse dumps located in Union county. These dumps can be dangerous to livestock, pollute our atmosphere, are a detriment to

surrounding property, and worst of all are prolific breeding grounds for rodents and vermin.

A portion of the county is now heavily infested with the Norway rat and it will only be a question of time until the remainder of the county is invaded. Rats carry several serious diseases transmissible to man and it has been estimated that each rat destroys about \$50.00 worth of goods per year.

Water pollution is quite serious, both of underground and surface water supplies. Our main water course carries a certain amount of pollution as do many of the outlying irrigation and drainage ditches. Also, much of the ground water used for culinary purposes is contaminated. Wells to a depth of 50 feet have shown contamination.

Home accidents and fire prevention pose a constant threat to the health and welfare of every individual. Home accidents and fires take a tremendous toll of life and limb.

The following recommendations have been submitted by the Health and Sanitation committee:

1. That open dumps be eliminated by using the sanitary land fill method of refuse disposal. This will also be a step toward the control of rats.
2. That water pollution be controlled through the use of approved methods of waste disposal.
3. That all Union county citizens be safety minded, aware of hazards and good housekeeping methods.

Means of bringing good sanitation to all citizens may be through:

1. Teaching sanitation practices in our schools.
2. Mass health education programs.
3. A more complete health department staff to assist in promoting corrective measures.

Hospitality Lounge Committee

Mr. Gene Detrick, La Grande - Chairman
 Mrs. Dock Baker, La Grande - Secretary
 Mrs. Bob Becker, Cove
 Mrs. Alfred Crouter, Union
 Mrs. Wren Case, Alicel
 Mr. Chuck Stauffacher, La Grande

La Grande is the geographical hub and county seat of Union county. It is the natural shopping center and also an ideal stopping point for tourists. A lot of county families come to La Grande to shop and visit. By 3:00 p.m. they are tired, the babies need changing and are hungry. The middle-sized children are wailing for a restroom, and Grandma wants to rest her feet a little while. La Grande does not have a desirable public place to take care of these needs.

The objective of this committee, therefore, is to promote the construction of and maintenance of a modern hospitality lounge with a nursery for young babies, spotless lavatories, and a large nicely furnished and decorated waiting room.

This committee made a non-publicized "by word of mouth" inquiry contacting a fairly wide cross-section of city-county residents. It was found that there was a widespread and almost unanimous desire for such a service. With this in mind the committee investigated similar projects in other cities of approximately the same population, as well as the problem of location, furnishings and sanitation requirements.

Therefore, this committee recommends:

1. The selection of an action committee to carry on all phases of the work toward accomplishing the goal of a hospitality lounge. The action committee should have the power to select interested persons from various county organizations to form a greater hospitality lounge committee. These representatives are to carry on the work of publicity to their groups and to have the responsibility of receiving donations of furniture, money and assistance.
2. The selection or construction of a centrally located building within two blocks of Adams Avenue between Fir and Fourth Streets.
3. The purchase and installation of two (one for women and one for men) multiple-stool toilet facilities with adequate lavatories and electric hand dryers with fixtures, walls and floors to meet the recommendations of the county sanitarian.
4. That a nursery room be provided incorporating diaper changing tables and similar conveniences, and a bottle warming service.
5. The construction of a large waiting room furnished with comfortable plastic covered chairs and suitable tables.
6. The hiring of a full-time hostess-custodian to register visitors, check parcels and maintain order.
7. That in order to permanently maintain this enterprise, a definite source of income must be found. Our suggestion is that joint city and county governments be responsible for adequate funds. One possible solution might be that since people are charged to park, part of the parking meter funds be ear-marked to support the lounge.

It is the opinion of the committee that the power of this movement will come from the concerted efforts of all service clubs, extension units, farm organizations, churches, fraternal organizations, and La Grande business people.

FAMILY LIVING - CHAIRMAN - Mrs. Lyle Rogers, La Grande

Family Economics and Home Management Committee

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Robinson, Imbler - Chairmen
 Mr. and Mrs. Walter Obendorf, Alicel - Secretary
 Mr. and Mrs. Steve Hippe, Palmer Junction
 Mr. and Mrs. Jim Huber, La Grande
 Mrs. Gene Becker, Alicel
 Mr. and Mrs. John Beck, Telocaset
 Mr. and Mrs. Milo Blokland, Island City

Shopping Problems

Homemakers have found it difficult to buy in local stores certain standard items

needed for their families, such as sewing supplies, shoes and children's clothing. The committee does understand the position of the merchant, because he finds it difficult to stock some kinds of merchandise due to the slow turnover. The fact that homemakers have gotten into the habit of shopping outside the county may be a contributing factor to this problem.

The committee found that clothing, dry goods, and household appliances are frequently offered for sale without being properly labeled to show quality and kind of materials.

This committee therefore recommends that:

1. A committee of citizens meet with merchants to discuss mutual problems and to arrive at a clearer understanding of each others' position.
2. There be a county committee of men and women established to cooperate with merchants in the current "Buy in La Grande and Union County" campaign.
3. Workshops or community meetings be held to stress the influence of consumer demand and the importance of adequate labeling of merchandise and the necessity for seeing and understanding the label if the homemaker is to make the best use of her money.

Management of Family Finances

There is evidence that many families are over extending the use of installment buying. Often the rate of interest paid is not fully understood. There is need for better understanding of proper use of installment buying and the importance of maintaining a sound credit rating.

Young members of the family frequently have not had the opportunity of learning the value of money and its purchasing power and are not satisfied with their rightful share of the family dollar.

This committee recommends that workshops or community meetings be held on money management to cover the following points:

1. The proper use of credit and the importance of establishing a good credit rating especially by young families.
2. Planned spending and saving in maintaining an adequate standard of living.
3. Learning to understand the relation of the family income to necessary expenses, individual wants, and savings.

Telephones

Union county is now served by six telephone exchanges. This necessitates placing toll calls to cover short distances. A telephone service in some communities is not dependable. A few communities are without telephone service.

The following recommendation was made:

1. That interested organizations consult with the telephone company so as to bring about a better understanding of the problems of the company and the telephone user. That efforts be made to agree on a satisfactory plan for improvement. If these efforts fail, it is recommended that the assistance of the Public Utilities Commission be sought.

The goal is to have as much of Union county as is feasible covered by one telephone exchange, with lines and equipment of such kind and quality as to give a dependable progressive type of service. Also to extend the present lines and where necessary, build new ones, so as to bring telephone service to as many rural homes as possible.

Electricity

Although much progress has been made, there are still some areas in Union county not reached by electricity. In some parts of the county where electricity is available, fluctuation of voltage throughout the day often intereferes with efficient and satisfactory operation of home appliances.

It is recommended that:

1. The power company continue its efforts to get electricity to more rural homes in Union county and that steps be taken to assure a more uniform voltage to homes now having electricity.
2. Interested organizations or groups of individuals gather factual information concerning problems and discuss them with the power company. If a satisfactory solution to the problems cannot be found, it is recommended that the assistance of the Public Utilities Commissioner be sought.

Youth and Recreation Committee

Mrs. Claude Anson, Chairman
La Grande

Mr. Paul Jenkins, Secretary
La Grande

Mrs. Elmer McManus, La Grande

Mr. E. E. Bennett, La Grande

Mrs. Charles Gavin, La Grande

Mr. Harvey Carter, La Grande

Mrs. Fred Davis, Elgin

Two main questions concerning the youth of Union county were studied by the youth and recreation committee. They are (1) what youth programs are available and (2) how many children actively participate in the programs.

To determine the answers to these two questions a county-wide survey was made through the public schools including all children from the third grade through high school. From this survey it was found that a wide variety of programs now exist but are not being fully utilized due to lack of leadership, non-encouragement of parents, and in some areas, lack of facilities. Chart on page 13, summarizes the findings of the survey.

The youth employment situation also poses another problem. There is no way for school children (14 to 17 years of age) to find part time work and in turn there is no way for employers to know where to reach young children to work for them. There is no present employment agency for this type of situation.

In some areas of the county it was found that parents have expressed the need for some kind of help on child-parent relationships. It was felt that talks by trained, experienced people would do a great deal of good.

The following recommendations are presented:

1. That youth and recreation committees be set up in each community to plan and administer youth programs. Then, a representative from each community committee will form a county council on youth programs to plan cooperative programs, coordinate administrative procedures, and plan county-wide programs. That this county council work in close cooperation with all other community youth and church groups who have organized programs.

The following chart lists results of a survey made to determine youth recreational programs available in Union county.

	<u>La Grande</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Total School Enrollment	1884	1472
4-H Clubs	409	286
Boy Scouts and Cubs	303	102
Girl Scouts and Brownies	178	78
Campfire Girls and Bluebirds	19	8
Swimming	377	132
Skiing	157	20
Peewee and Midget Baseball	171	24
Riverside Hobby House	97	1
Church	1067	483
Dramatics	35	112
Tri-Hi-Y and Hi-Y	24	0
Music	595	285
Rainbow and Demolay	117	63
Pep Club	93	114
F.H.A. and F.F.A.	100	162
Hot Rod	20	7
Athletic Teams	878	296
Hobby Night	749	12

2. That a coordinated youth leadership workshop be established so that the various groups in the county working with youth can share ideas and techniques found most effective.
3. That youth employment centers be set up in each community where youth could register for work and county citizens could contact youth for help when needed. The committee felt that these centers could be set up and managed by youth, under competent adult supervision. It was felt that the administrative offices of the schools and employment offices of the county would be good places to set up these centers.

4. That the county council on youth programs encourage the use of natural resources in the county for youth recreation. Supervised areas for skiing, hiking, hunting, fishing, and similar activities should be developed and supervised in cooperation with other governmental agencies in the county.
5. That the County Council set up an educational program for the adults and parents in the county to help them understand the problems of the youth organizations and advise them of the facilities available and make them aware of their great responsibility to encourage and participate in these youth programs.
6. That district meetings in child-parent relationships be provided.

Religion Committee

Reverend Gene Robinson, La Grande
 Dr. Virgil Bolen, La Grande
 Reverend Ralph Ohling, La Grande

The following recommendations concerning religion in Union county were submitted:

1. That all churches make an effort to participate in the State Town and Country Church Conference.
2. That plans be formulated to hold a local Town and Country Church Conference.
3. That all churches enter into and participate in the state sponsored church improvement contest.
4. That Union county churches contribute to the Centennial to be held in 1959.
5. That a survey be taken to determine in which localities churches are needed.

Family Life and Recreation Committee

Mrs. Ralph Robinson, La Grande - Chairman
 Mrs. Ted Sidor, La Grande - Secretary
 Mrs. H. L. Sallee, Elgin
 Dr. Ernest Anderson, La Grande
 Mrs. Larry Starr, Summerville

This committee limited its study to one area of the extensive problem of family life and recreation. This area was family living as affected by the community. The committee found many desirable features in Union county for family activities and recreation.

The present complex manner of living, the numerous demands made upon members of a family and the resulting social and economic problems lead this committee to propose that each family establish a regular family night for the following reasons:

1. To unify the family and enhance family relationships.
2. To strengthen moral and cultural influences, giving the children an opportunity for self-expression.
3. To encourage family recreation. A family that plays together, stays together.
4. Opportunity for family business.
5. To increase the joy of living together. Important that program be kept flexible and enjoyable for all.

To further strengthen the family group, the committee recommends the following:

1. The family regularly attend church together.
2. Further study be made regarding the need in the county and the possibility of obtaining a child guidance center and a family counseling service.
3. Parents with children in youth groups accept the responsibility of leadership and assistance necessary to these programs. That youth groups keep parents well informed as to what is required.
4. That families stress birthdays and all holidays.
5. A family planned tour of a large city is of the same value to the children of the county as a camping trip is heralded for city children.
6. The child labor laws and the compulsory school attendance (18) law should be given serious thought by all residents of the county. That older teen-agers should be encouraged in part-time and summer employment with due consideration to safety and health.
7. Availability of Home Extension program and unit meetings open to all residents of the county. Topics which are always pertinent to family living should be well publicized. A study should be made considering the possibility of subjects being offered at a general meeting for homemakers without the responsibility of unit membership.
8. Another bowling center be constructed or the present alleys enlarged.



4-H Club Committee Report

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Homer Case, Alicel - Chairman
Mrs. Rodney Miller, Union - Secretary

Mrs. Wesley Brownnton, La Grande
Mr. Everett Abbott, La Grande
Mr. Larry Schaad, La Grande
Mr. Chuck Gordon, La Grande
Mr. Burns Bailey, Island City
Miss Judith Clark, La Grande
Miss JoAnn Berryman, La Grande
Mr. Bob Jones, La Grande
Mr. John Evers, La Grande
Miss Judy Case, Alicel
Mr. Lester Shelton, Alicel
Mr. Walter Obendorf, Alicel
Mrs. Dan Kuhlman, La Grande
Mr. Joe Berryman, La Grande
Mrs. Gordon Griffith, North Powder
Mrs. Marvin Vancil, North Powder
Mr. Clayton Fox, Imbler
Mr. Gary Miller, Cove
Mr. Ed Draper, Island City
Mr. John Sullivan, La Grande

Mrs. Wayne Jones, La Grande
Mrs. Martin Lust, La Grande
Mrs. Rudolph Michel, Summerville
Mr. & Mrs. Otto Karrels, La Grande
Mr. Vernon DeLong, La Grande
Mrs. Jim Jones, La Grande
Mr. Harvey Carter, La Grande
Mrs. Forrest Bowman, La Grande
Mr. Dick Fuller, Alicel
Mrs. John Kirby, La Grande
Mr. Earl Hanson, La Grande
Mrs. Vernona Rundall, Cove
Mr. Allen Courtright, La Grande
Mrs. Bruce Hoofnagle, Alicel
Mr. Harvey Elmer, Alicel
Mrs. Bernal Hug, Jr., Elgin
Mrs. Lawrence Greiner, La Grande
Mrs. Grant Henderson, La Grande
Mrs. L. R. Hoxie, La Grande
Mr. James R. Huber, County Extension
Agent, La Grande

Situation

Four-H Club Work is the youth education program of the Oregon State College Extension Service in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture and Union county cooperating.

Club work started in Union county in 1921, when H. G. Avery, county agent, formed a pig club at Island City. It increased rapidly until in 1956, there were 112 clubs in Union county with a project enrollment of 1027 with an 89% record of completion. In 1957, there were 117 clubs and a 1037 project enrollment with a 92% record of completion. Four-H is established in every Union county community with 116 leaders and 32 junior leaders assisting.

In 1956, 692 different members were enrolled in the 4-H program. Statistics from the county School Superintendent indicate there are 2714 students attending Union county schools from the fourth grade through high school. This data shows that 4-H work is reaching one out of every four youngsters, compared to the potential school census. In certain rural communities, namely, Island City, Ladd Canyon, Fruitdale, Telocaset, Pondosa, Alicel, Starkey and Perry, every student over 9 years of age is enrolled in a 4-H project. At Cove, the ratio is 1:2; Elgin, 1:3; North Powder, 1:4; Imbler, 1:3; Union, 1:6; and La Grande, 1:15.

RE-ENROLLMENT

Of significant importance is the improvement made in re-enrollment of first year club members. In 1955, there were 275 first year members and in 1956, 172 or 62% went on to enroll in a second project.

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Progress was made too, in per cent of total re-enrollment, or re-enrollment of all club members. In 1955, there were 640 different club members and in 1956, there were 397 youngsters who had re-enrolled for the second or more years. Per-cent of total re-enrollment was 62% compared to 58% the previous year.

Recommendations

1. Make special effort to enroll great influx of post war children in the fourth and fifth grades.
2. Elect officers in spring or late summer to insure more carry-over.
3. Recommend that meetings be in various homes.
4. Club leader should make special effort to visit new members.
5. Club leader should make at least one or more visits to each club member's home.
6. Leaders should make special effort to visit those club member's parents who show little interest in 4-H work.
7. Explain and show 4-H achievement pins, especially the ten-year member recognition pins.
8. Express approval to every club member several times each year for his accomplishments.
9. Give new members lots of help. A young person needs confidence in his ability.
10. Try not to have more than two related projects in any one club.
11. Give each member responsibilities and things to do at each meeting.

LEADER TENURE

Situation

Continuing 4-H leadership is an important key to an effective 4-H program. Studies show that leaders with several years experience have more successful clubs than first year leaders. Also, leaders who are adequately trained, stay in 4-H longer than those who are not.

Approximately fifty-five per cent of the adults leading 4-H clubs for the first time didn't continue the second year. This is an important problem but not so serious as it appears at first glance.

A study of this situation in 1956, showed that of the 47 first year leaders enrolled, 15 leaders moved from the county, two quit because of illness and only nine were lost through ineffectiveness of our leader training program or for other reasons. The actual per cent of drop-out discounting those that moved away or were ill was 19%. Per cent of total re-enrollment for second year leaders in 1956, was 65%.

Recommendations

1. Leaders need many of the features recommended for new members: encouragement, recognition, training, approval and attention.
2. Use more care in selection of leaders and choose those most likely to stay in 4-H.
3. Hold special training for new leaders, preferably before they start their club.
4. County Extension agents should make more home visits to 4-H leaders to encourage them and instruct them on how to organize the club, understand youngsters, cooperation in community, how to delegate responsibilities, record keeping, and project completion.
5. Use missionary system to improve attendance at leader banquet and other activities.
6. Propose that experienced leaders visit clubs upon request to assist with clubs.
7. Have leader training meetings on a project basis.
8. Have county Extension agent write a special letter of commendation to each leader thanking them for the work they have accomplished and the help they have given their club members and encourage them to lead a club for the next year.
9. Encourage clubs whenever possible, to accept new members each year to keep club active.
10. Recognize leaders through newspaper articles and at both community and county-wide events.

JUNIOR LEADERSHIP

Situation

When 4-H club members enter high school there is a tendency to drop 4-H activities. This is a real problem because at that age boys and girls are just beginning to derive the greatest benefit from the 4-H program.

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that each club leader invite one or more junior leaders to assist with club.
2. It is recommended that each junior leader participate in a personal conference with the Extension agent, and if possible the adult advisory leader as set forth in project material.
3. Recommend that club members who have been to 4-H Congress or winners of State honors visit 4-H clubs and report on opportunities in junior leadership. Emphasize reasons for staying in 4-H.

4. Have president of Union County Leaders' Association and county Extension agent each write a personal letter of commendation to each junior leader.
5. More information about Junior Leader program and give them special recognition.
6. Junior leaders to carry on if leader moves away and to carry on until another adult leader is found.
7. It is recommended that we sponsor a three-day Range Management Camp in the Starkey area for older 4-H members starting in the spring of 1958. The camp will be organized similar to the State Range Management Camp held each year and will include range plant identification, forestry, wildlife, bird study and identification contests.
8. Participate in State 4-H Club Conference on "Know Your State Government."

LEADER TRAINING

Situation

In 1956, there were 117 4-H leaders in Union county. The majority of these recognize the need for more training to adequately handle their respective assignments.

Assistance is needed beyond the occasional contact with an Extension agent, attendance at 4-H leader meetings or exchanging ideas with another leader.

Leaders want more training on democratic leadership, techniques of working with club members and parents, how to direct recreation and better understanding of club members.

First year leaders need help with club organization and recommended 4-H procedures.

Subject matter is important, too, and should be given on a project basis. More frequent contact with the State 4-H Office is desirable and could be accomplished indirectly through a quarterly publication from the State 4-H Club Office. This periodical would outline State 4-H policies, approved procedures, leadership tips, and effective methods and ideas in working with 4-H members.

Inspirational talks would do much to stimulate and encourage leaders.

Recommendations

1. That Oregon State College Extension Service publish a quarterly magazine similar to Oregon's Agricultural Progress for distribution to all 4-H leaders, junior leaders and to many parents. State 4-H staff, Extension specialists, information staff, and county agents to contribute articles that are readable and well illustrated.
2. It is also recommended that several workshop meetings be held in Union county on both a community and project basis. Community training sessions to include help on club organization, procedures,

understanding boys and girls, how to designate responsibility, record keeping, objectives of 4-H work, and leadership techniques. Special training should be given new leaders before they begin their 4-H club.

3. It is further recommended that subject matter workshops be given on a project basis by Extension agents, specialists and experienced leaders. Work to include tailoring, cotton work dress, accessories, color, fabrics and latest styles.
4. Training should also be given in all phases of 4-H judging, demonstrations, showmanship, dress revue, and dollar dinner. Educational field trips and tours should also be emphasized.
5. It is recommended that horse clubs spend more time studying horsemanship, anatomy of horses, training skills, grooming, care, sportsmanship, and to emphasize these in the clubs and also at the horse shows.
6. It is recommended that races and rodeos be de-emphasized as they prove little if anything as to riding ability or training of the horse.
7. It is recommended that 4-H horse judging contests be established at our local fairs to help club members recognize conformation and quality in horses.

SPONSORSHIP OF 4-H ACTIVITIES

Situation

Considerable interest is shown in Union county among local service clubs, farm organizations, Parent Teacher Association, other organizations and individuals in sponsoring 4-H activities. These groups provide summer school scholarships, two scholarships to Range Management Camp, special awards for Eastern Oregon Livestock Show and County Fair, assist with transportation to State Fair, and provide refreshments for community fairs and achievement programs.

La Grande Kiwanis Club placed three livestock awards to deserving 4-H members and the La Grande Lion's Club in cooperation with the Oregon Milking Shorthorn Breeder's Association awarded a heifer calf at the 1957 Eastern Oregon Livestock Show.

An opportunity for expanded participation of service clubs, farm organizations, Parent Teacher Associations, and other groups in 4-H club work exists. Much can be done to help familiarize these groups with the scope of 4-H club program and to educate parents and the public on the value of the 4-H program for the boys and girls in Union county.

Recommendations

1. Expand advisory council to include two members from each of the service clubs, farm organizations, and Parent Teacher Associations to work with 4-H leaders and members.

2. Present educational value of 4-H achievements through the medium of service clubs, farm organizations, and Parent Teacher Associations with programs supplied by 4-H members and leaders.
3. Recognize 4-H members by honoring them at a "Salute-to-4-H" luncheon or dinner during National 4-H Club Week in the month of March.
4. Encourage entertainment of 4-H leaders at club luncheons. This is to provide better coordination and interest between service clubs and 4-H clubs and leaders.
5. Organize end of year banquet for 4-H members and leaders to honor their work and achievements of the year.

COUNTY FAIR

Situation

When the County Fair is held after the State Fair, there is a problem in selecting 4-H contestants to represent Union county at the State Fair. At present, these 4-H members are chosen at a 4-H Achievement Day. However, there has been no money available to adequately recognize winners with ribbons and prizes at the Achievement Day, and since club members must also compete at the County Fair in order to gain recognition, extra effort and expense is required of club members, parents, 4-H leaders and others. Holding the County Fair after the State Fair also takes club members from their school classes.

Recommendations

1. This committee recommends that the County Fair be held before the State Fair if at all possible, and that every effort be made to sell farm groups and businessmen on the advantages of the earlier time.
2. The committee also recommended that an all-purpose building be constructed at the County Fair to provide adequate facilities for exhibits in 4-H, open class and FFA. Permanent kitchen facilities would be included to provide accommodations for 4-H cookery demonstrations, cake and bread baking, dollar dinner, food preservation and other 4-H contests. Also included would be plans for quantity cookery so banquets could be served to large groups.
3. The community hall should also include a stage for style revue and other programs and be large enough to accommodate banquets, dinners, demonstrations, and other farm meetings. It should be an all-purpose building, one that is set up for yearlong use.



Industrial Development Committee

Mr. Dave Baum, La Grande - Chairman
 Mr. Ted Sidor, La Grande - Secretary
 Mr. Milo Goss, La Grande
 Mr. Ray Anderson, La Grande
 Mr. Ed Counsell, La Grande
 Mr. John Shaw, La Grande
 Mr. Don McKinnis, Summerville
 Mr. Harvey Ruckman, Alicel
 Mr. Bill Thomas, La Grande
 Mr. Averett Hickox, La Grande
 Mr. Ben Robinson, Imbler
 Mr. Ed Draper, Island City
 Mr. Tom Ruckman, Imbler
 Mr. Chris Johnson, North Powder

Your industrial development committee has explored many avenues hoping to find the solution to the need for increased industrial productivity. The greatest potential lies in two areas:

1. Increased productivity of our farm lands.
2. Further utilization of our wood products.

The county has 987 farms with an average crop land acreage of 186 acres. We have a total of 179,990 acres in crop land and 169,836 acres in farm woodlots. Last year our farm income was \$11,000,000. Income from farm woodlots contributed \$1,000,000 to this total. Increased use of our wood products would add another \$1,000,000 to the farm income.

When we think of industrial development, our thoughts automatically turn to smokestacks, large factories and congested areas. Your committee feels that this is not so; that farming is our largest industry. If we could add \$10 income per acre to our tillable land, our income would increase by almost \$2,000,000. We, therefore, believe that a large area of potential income lies in increased productivity brought about by new crops or new varieties of crops.

Tree farming can add much income to our non-tillable lands. If we had a pulp plant available, many farmers could add substantially to their income by selling and raising timber not now marketable. It is probably safe to assume that in the next five years, either a local plant will be available or processing facilities of some sort so that these substandard species can be utilized. This would add substantially to farm income.

We discussed dams for the Grande Ronde water shed and Catherine Creek. We believe that it is in the best interest of all the citizens of our county that these dams be constructed. We feel that they will add much to our industrial potential, recreation facilities, flood control and irrigation. We did not feel that the dams should be built with an acreage limitation on the farms.

The greatest drawback to increasing our industrial income is freight rates. Whether you ship a bushel of wheat or a ton of steel, your savings are substantial if you are in Portland, compared to our area. Something has to be done or eventually we can be priced out of the markets by percentage freight increases.

Two years ago an Industrial Promotion Corporation was formed by La Grande businessmen to encourage industrial growth. This group stands ready to assist any feasible project. We have already made one loan that assured the continued operation

of our livestock commission yards after a fire. Other loans will be made as the need arises.

In conclusion, we feel that we should concentrate on finding new crops that will increase income per acre on our farm lands. We also feel that encouragement should be given to any manufacturing process that will further utilize our timber resources. Pulp may be the answer. Paper may be the answer or further remanufacturing.

- - -

Farm Finance Committee

Burns Bailey, Island City - Chairman
 Ted Sidor, La Grande - Secretary
 Grant Henderson, La Grande
 Merle Becket, La Grande
 Ben Robinson, Imbler
 Glen Sands, Cove
 Bud Jones, Alicel

The farm finance committee was not a regularly scheduled unit of the agricultural planning conference but came into being as a result of requests made in other committees during their study of various farm problems.

This committee considered the aspects of farm finance as it pertained to taxes, planning of specific farm enterprises, and loans. The following recommendations were made:

1. Inheritance tax -- This committee is concerned over high inheritance taxes. We recommend that farmers make early plans for the transfer of their estates in such a manner as to leave the **largest possible** amount intact for the benefit of future generations. Assistance in estate planning is available from specialists in banks and other institutions.
2. Intermediate term loans -- We recognize the need for intermediate term loans of from three to five years for the purchase of machinery, buildings, and other equipment that is too large for annual budgets, but does not qualify for long term loans. The committee recommends that banks and other lending agencies develop this type of loan.
3. Farm plans -- This committee recommends that farmers chart specific financial programs, as a part of any system of sound farm management. We believe that closer attention to record keeping of income and expense on specific farm enterprises will be profitable in nearly all instances.
4. School on farm management and finance -- This committee recommends that the Extension Service with the assistance of local bankers and Oregon State College arrange a series of meetings or a school to aid farmers in budgeting income and expenditures in connection with their farm enterprises.

5. Custom farming -- Because of the high cost of machinery and short period of actual use of some machines, we recommend that a custom farm service or farm machinery rental service be established in the county.
6. Farm bookkeeping -- The committee recognizes the need for a specialized accounting service for farmers. We recommend the establishment of this kind of service.

Horticulture Committee Report

Lynn Larson, La Grande - Chairman
 Frank Young, La Grande - Secretary
 Don Gale, Union
 Tom Hefly, Cove
 Clifford Towle, Cove
 Russell Hug, Summerville
 August Erickson, La Grande
 Dean Puckett, Cove
 Paul Johnson, Imbler
 Ladd Laughbon, La Grande
 Leonard Spears, La Grande
 Lyle Wilson, Imbler
 Jimmy Mills, Cove

Union county at present has 540 acres of cherries which is greater than the combined acres of apples, pears, peaches, prunes and other small fruit.

Despite loss of considerable acreage of cherry trees by winter-kill in 1955, drought and rodents, new plantings of cherries have been made.

Because of the quality of Union county cherries, the markets for them have increased. The market and growing conditions for apples, prunes, strawberries, peaches, and other horticulture crops is quite limited with local demand amply supplied by present acres.

Union county growers, to hold and establish markets have concentrated on quality of product.

An active campaign is and has been carried out for many years to control the cherry fruit fly. Through the interest shown, a compulsory cherry fruit fly program has been activated with funds allocated by the county court to provide an inspector during the critical months.

An active educational program is carried on with the program to help small backyard orchardists with their spray program.

The county horticulturists have worked quite closely with Oregon State College horticulture specialist and have enlisted their aid in preparing spray bulletins each year to fit Union county conditions.

The horticulture committee recognizes the problems such as market, insect, and disease problems, and make the following recommendations to assist and promote the cherry industry in Union county.

Recommendations

1. A 500 acre increase in cherry acreage. These new plantings should be made along foothill areas, particularly near Cove, and Pumpkin Ridge, or in other places where frost damage is not likely to occur.
2. That Oregon State College cooperate with the county growers in establishing a uniform fertilizer program on horticultural crops for Union county.
3. That trial plantings of rootstock be established in the county in cooperating with growers to ascertain the value of these rootstocks here.
4. That variety trials be made, particularly to find a white cherry adaptable to this area to take the place of Royal Anns.
5. We commend Oregon State College for the research and educational work done on disease and insect control and encourage continued work in this field. We also wish to continue cooperation with the Union county Extension Service in conducting field days, fruit growers meetings, tours and demonstrations.



Land Use Committee Report

Grant Henderson, La Grande - Chairman
 Ronnie Sands, La Grande - Secretary
 Elwood Kaufman, North Powder
 Ben Robinson, Imbler
 Tom Lampkin, North Powder
 Guy Smith, North Powder
 LeRoy Childers, Cove
 Billy Weatherspoon, Elgin
 Pete Westenskow, Imbler
 Bill Howell, Imbler
 Ronald Westenskow, La Grande
 Dick Hibberd, Imbler
 Bill Dobbin, La Grande
 Don Dodson, North Powder
 Eldridge Tameris, Elgin
 Raymond Wendel, La Grande
 Bill Cooper, Union

We have considered the land use problems in the county from the standpoints of maintaining soil fertility, controlling soil erosion, and making best use of our water.

The real fertility of a soil is its productive power. By a permanent system of soil fertility is meant a program that will develop, utilize and conserve the soils productive power.

Management of both soil and water were studied by this committee. Both are equally important and in this report, will be treated separately, although they are bound closely together, since each affects the other.

Water management was studied from several angles. Shortage of late season water for irrigation limits crop and livestock enterprises. Peak runoff period occurs during April and May with a sharp drop thereafter. Upstream storage would remedy this. Underground water of undetermined amounts is available for irrigation from wells.

Storage itself is not the complete picture; the need for efficient methods of bringing water to the farm is recognized. Efficient methods of application add to the water supply.

Drainage during a portion of the year is as important as proper irrigation. Unless water is removed during this period, soils tend to become water logged and can develop an alkaline condition, however, the majority of farms in Union county are operated on a dry land basis.

Before any orderly or profitable change from a dryland to an irrigated system of farming can be undertaken, additional research will be needed. Studies need to be undertaken on the proper use of water, and management of irrigated crops, both economic and production matters need study.

This committee recognizes that before substantial progress can be made in soil management, it is necessary that a standard soil survey be completed for the county. This soil survey will serve as an inventory and when properly interpreted can aid in the determination of the most profitable use of our soils.

Continued educational programs should be directed toward development of proper land management in an effort to fully utilize the productive ability of our soils. This committee makes the following recommendations:

Water management

1. We recommend that irrigation be expanded in the county from either upstream storage or underground sources, whichever is cheaper.
2. We recommend that a complete ground water survey be completed in the county by U. S. Geological Survey and others as soon as possible.
3. We recommend that research and educational programs be intensified in order to bring about an orderly and profitable increase in the use of irrigation.
4. We recommend that the study on the Wolf Creek and Anthony Creek drainage concerning upstream storage for the irrigation of the North Powder area be continued and completed at the earliest possible date.
5. Preliminary reports on upstream storage on Catherine Creek and Grande Ronde River indicate that costs would be prohibitive if financed by irrigation alone. We, therefore, recommend that the major portion of the costs of storage be charged to industry, flood control and recreation benefits.
6. We recommend that organizations be formed in those areas with a drainage problem. These should be empowered to negotiate with railroads, highway departments, and others as a means of accomplishing needed channel and canal drainage work.
7. We recommend that Army Engineers' specifications be followed in the construction of levees and that all fill dirt used in construction be borrowed from the river side of the levee. It is also recommended that existing levees not constructed to specifications be moved and constructed to conform with the overall plan.

Land Use recommendations

1. We recommend that educational or research work be continued and expended in the following areas as a means of bringing about more soil and water conservation practices.

North Powder -- More use of stubble mulch, grass seedings on steeper slopes, establishment of grass waterways, improved legume, grass, grain rotations and utilization and management of water for irrigation purposes.

Elgin area -- tiling, ditching, strip farming on the contour and improved grass, legume, grain rotations.

Grande Ronde Valley -- strip cropping on highly susceptible blow areas, establishment of wind breaks, and studies on the use of grasses and legumes adapted to the valley floor.

2. That slopes in frost free areas in the county be planted to cherry trees and that cover crops to protect soil washing be established as recommended by the horticulture committee.
3. That "tree farming" operations be included on privately owned forests and that consideration be given by farmers to Christmas tree plantings on land suitable.
4. That all levees and dikes be seeded to appropriate, recommended grasses to prevent washing and weed growth.
5. That low lying land, especially alkali soils, be diverted from grain crops to pasture or grass hay.
6. That soils and fertilizer studies by Oregon State College and Eastern Oregon Experiment Station be continued and expanded. We recommend that emphasis be placed on soil management and particularly on the economics of fertilizer use in Union county.

Crops Committee Report

Larry Starr, Summerville - Chairman
 Roland Schaad, La Grande - Secretary
 Creston Shaw, Alicel
 Al Hartley, Elgin
 Clayton Fox, Imbler
 Sylvan Rasmussen, La Grande
 Quentin Belden, North Powder
 Abner Wade, Elgin
 Bernal Hug, Jr., Elgin
 Wren Case, Alicel

Keith Glenn, Summerville
 Don McKinnis, Summerville
 Gilbert Courtright, La Grande
 Frank Aldin, Summerville
 Welby Vaughan, La Grande
 Norvin Woodell, La Grande
 Larry Schaad, La Grande
 Phil Cuthbert, La Grande
 Walter Bean, La Grande

The farm crops committee finds that wheat production in the county is still the major source of cash farm income. This holds true despite the fact that wheat acreage has been under the Federal acreage control program for the past six years.

With the exception of the years 1954-55 and 1955-56*, yields per acre have steadily increased. Through the use of better farming methods such as more efficient use of machinery, labor, and commercial fertilizers, better weed control, rotations, improved varieties and more efficient farming practices, farmers are seeking to maintain higher net incomes to meet the increasing costs of production. Substitute crops are badly needed for non-wheat acreage in order to maintain ordinary living standards. As a result of forced economy of production, demands for adjustments in the agriculture of the county are especially acute.

The farm crops committee has given careful consideration to the past and present recommendations of the land use and other committees in the formulation of the crops recommendations. The committee has reviewed and revised recommendations made at the 1941 and 1946 conferences and find that many of the former suggestions still apply. We, therefore, re-emphasize these recommendations that are still applicable and submit the following:

*In the fall of 1954, an early, heavy freeze destroyed much winter wheat acreage. In the summer of 1956, only 5.25 inches rainfall occurred during the growing season

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Recommendations

A. Wheat Variety and Smut Control Recommendations

1. The planting of soft white wheats in the heavier rainfall areas should be encouraged. The new hard wheat varieties do not make dependable bread quality wheat base. Quality in grade is an important factor for Pacific Coast markets. Soft white wheats with a protein content of approximately 10--11 per cent are desired.
2. Growers should be encouraged to produce recommended smut-free varieties.
3. It is requested that the experiment stations concerned maintain a source of foundation seed supply of these recommended varieties. This is especially important because the new varieties are so highly cross-bred.
4. Because of the foreseeable future demands for wheat requiring identity of varieties or classes, it is recommended that grain handlers take immediate steps towards organizing their facilities to maintain the required quality demanded by the market. Large bins may need divisions, or new bins may be needed.
5. We also recommend that further cereal variety trials be established in appropriate places and that results be made known through an educational program.

B. Acreage Recommendations

1. That the Union County Planning Conference request the Agricultural Marketing Service (A.M.S.) to use every possible means to revise the inequities in the wheat yield averages for Union county as published by the A.M.S.
Note: This requires all requested growers to complete and return the acreage and production surveys as requested by the A.M.S.

C. Foreign Trade

1. We recommend that tariff regulations on agricultural commodities should be made available through the USDA when a commodity or industry is being economically jeopardized by foreign trade. (Give USDA authority to regulate tariffs on agricultural commodities)

D. Barley

1. Malting barley is a crop that may be increased in the county. To insure non-mixing, farm storage should be available or special arrangements must be made for commercial storage to avoid mixing.

At present Hannchen is the best variety of malting barley for this county.

Prices for barley should be equivalent to those received in areas where large volumes are purchased and competitive buying is practiced. Malting barley is usually \$5 to \$10 per ton over feed barley.

2. We call to the attention of experiment stations, the great need for better winter barleys, both feed and malting.

E. New Crops for Seed Production

1. That processors be contacted to investigate possibilities of trial plantings of garden crops, flowers, potatoes, etc., for seed crops here.
2. That we investigate possibilities of oil seeds.
3. Also, that commercial vegetable crops for local consumption be investigated relative to markets, yields, etc.
4. Sugar beets are one of the more profitable crops in many sections. It is recommended that more farmers make trial plantings to check on yield, sugar content and production factors.

Specialty Crops

1. We believe that more acres of grass seed should be grown in Union county. Growers have the know-how of raising and handling; they have the equipment, selling organizations and cleaning establishments for handling a greater acreage. The seed from this county is also widely recognized over the United States and is known for its superior quality.

Hay

1. The planting of the better varieties of hay should be more practical and adaptable to the areas in which grown. Also, that the acreage be increased to balance the demands of the hay consuming units. Union county is not considered as a commercial hay producing area. Adaptable varieties of grass hay should be considered as a permanent crop on the overflow lands instead of this land being used for cereal production.

Silage

1. In order to more efficiently utilize the tonnage of forage produced in Union county, it is recommended that greater amounts of the first cuttings of forage should be made into ensilage. Weather often spoils the first crop of alfalfa or greatly reduces its value, whereas, if more growers would put it in a silo, there would be no loss. In some years this would add many hundreds of thousands of dollars to the income of the county.

F. Weed Control

1. We recommend that for greater efficiency, airplane applications be used for the control of noxious weeds in areas of limited access.
2. That inasmuch as weed control is compulsory in Union county, and private land can be assessed in case of non-compliance, the same should be applicable to state and federal land.
3. The county weed committee as appointed by the Union County Court should meet semi-annually to take care of weed problems.

4. We request that continued research be carried out by Oregon State College and the Union Experiment Station to control crop reducing weeds such as morning glory, cheatgrass and many others.
5. That further weed control trials be established in various areas of the county and that results be made known by educational means.
6. We believe that overflow cultivated land should be seeded and used for pasture or hay instead of cereal crops in order to better control weeds, prevent soil erosion and to stabilize income on the land.
7. The weed law passed by the State Legislature was endorsed by the previous county conferences and by the farm organizations of this county. This committee re-endorses the compulsory weed control laws and recommends that greater emphasis be placed on compulsory weed control.

The law provides:

1. That it is compulsory to control white top, knapweed and leafy spurge in any organized weed district.
2. That the State must pay for the cost of weed control on State lands including the highways within a district.
3. That officers of a weed control district have power to destroy weeds where the owner neglects this problem and the cost to be assessed against the land.
4. That officers of a weed district and County Court may request the State Department of Agriculture to quarantine the crop on the farm if noxious weeds are present and neglected.

G. Pasture and Range Improvement

1. That range land be improved through proper use of water for livestock, more adequate use of fences, rotational grazing and through the use of improved strains of grasses and legumes.
2. Sweet clover, in its second year, will produce more pasture than any other crop. It is also the best soil improving crop, but should not be planted on land that may be used later for alfalfa seed production. Sweet clover planted in combination with Tualatin meadow oatgrass and other tall growing grasses will reduce the hazard of bloat in livestock to a minimum.
3. If alfalfa is to be used for pasture, grass should also be seeded with it and if it is to be maintained as a permanent crop, it should be allowed to come into bloom once a year so that a hay crop can be cut. If the alfalfa pasture is divided and handled in this way, it will maintain itself for a longer time. Otherwise, pasturing will kill it by root starvation.
4. With native pastures, rotation grazing should be practiced to allow the plants to replenish the food supply in the roots. It should be allowed to form seed heads every other year, or at least every third year. Stock should be kept off from native grasses in

the spring until the growth is about six inches high, or if this is not practical, the grass should not be early-grazed more than once in three years.

5. For the efficiency of production in plowable pastures, more stress should be applied to the use of nitrogen early in the spring in order to stimulate plant growth and get a longer pasturing season. Summer applications of nitrogen applied on irrigated grass pastures are highly beneficial.
6. We also reaffirm recommendations of the 1946 pasture and range improvement report.

H. Soil Erosion and Conservation

Except on the steep lands around the edge of the valley and in the Elgin community, there is comparatively little water erosion in Union county. Wind erosion, however, is serious during the winter months. Fields in which blows have occurred are more likely to blow again than are other fields.

There are several ways to prevent soil blowing. One is by plowing grain land so as to leave much of the stubble on top. Strip farming has proved highly satisfactory in the Plains States and also in this county where practiced; also, such practices as growing legume and grass crops frequently in shorter rotations.

It takes hundreds of thousands of years to create a few inches of top soil, and this can be blown away in a very short period. Recommended practices to assist in the control of wind erosion where adaptable are:

1. Use a straw spreader on the combine.
2. No stubble burning.
3. Use of cultivation methods to leave the stubble on top of the ground.
4. The growing of grass or legumes in rotation with grain.
5. Plowing in fall or early spring and reploting early for trashy fallow in some areas.
6. As an aid to the control of erosion in drainage courses a greater use of waterways is recommended.
7. Where sheet erosion is a problem, grow row seed crops on the contour or use solid forage plantings.

I. Education and Research

1. A program of stepped up research is requested in our State College and Experiment Stations on uses of wheat, cereal grains and their by-products.
2. Union county growers continue to endorse the Oregon Wheat Growers League, Oregon Wheat Commission, and other commodity groups in their endeavor to raise the standard of quality and secure new outlets.
3. We reaffirm our stand on agricultural education, that a basic two-year agricultural school be established at Eastern Oregon College.

4. We also feel that an adult Extension short course should be made available in Union county through Oregon State College each year during the winter months and that a committee of farmers from Union county be appointed to select this course.

J. General

Our committee also has general problems that are of great concern to them: briefly stated:

1. In order to help stabilize the farm tax situation in the county we recommend that only property owners be allowed the privilege of voting on issues pertaining to bonded indebtedness.
2. Since the county Welfare program has created a burden upon all tax payers generally, we recommend definitely that there should be the elimination of undesirable recipients in this program. Furthermore, we recommend that the Welfare Commission program be revised to place authority of operation in control of county government instead of under state and federal. The present Welfare structure is encouraging prospective agricultural laborers to remain on relief even when farm work is available. This adversely affects our labor supply. There is evidence that the present Commission is too bureaucratic in organization.



Farm Forestry Committee

Bernal Hug, Elgin - Chairman
 Jim Voelz, La Grande - Secretary
 Glen McKenzie, Summerville
 Ed Wagoner, Summerville
 Hugh Hulse, La Grande
 Orien Hug, Elgin
 Herb Wieden, Summerville
 W. M. Curtis, La Grande
 Bruce Morehead, La Grande
 Glen Parson, Elgin

Forests in Union county cover over half of the land area. The land area in timber shows 342 thousand acres in private land, 438 thousand acres in National Forests, and 15 acres under the Bureau of Land Management and other public lands.

Of a total of 3212 million board feet of timber, approximately a quarter of the total, 850 million board feet is privately owned, 2270 million board feet is National Forest, 29 million board feet is controlled by the Bureau of Land Management, and 57 million board feet is owned by other public agencies.

The payrolls of Union county's industries total \$8,293,902, and of this total, the payrolls from forest products industries in the county total \$4,233,632.

With this background of the county's forestry picture, the Union county Forestry Committee divided the county's needs and recommendations into four categories: management methods, educational programs, research and utilization.

Utilization of Timberland Thinnings and Waste

Nearly all of the virgin timber has been cut from private timber lands in the county, many of the lands cut early have reproduced with thick stands of trees, most of which are too small for commercial timber or poles. If thinned, these trees will furnish timber within the next twenty or 30 years, however, commercial thinning is costly and there is still a tremendous waste of the total cubic content of merchantable timber being harvested with 50 per cent or more being left in the woods or burned in slab form at the mill.

The committee, therefore, recommended that:

1. All available resources including the industrial development committee, work toward the establishment of a chipper, pulp plant, pole pressure treating plant, chemical production or other industries in an effort to fully utilize waste forestry products in Union county.
2. Because of the increased demand for quality Christmas trees in this area, farmers consider Christmas trees as a crop on marginal land or as a thinning method on commercial plantings.
3. Limited consideration be given to seed cone harvest, evergreen decorations and sale of wood for fuel.

Forest Management

Intensified management is recommended for farm wood lots in Union county.

Thinning and pruning of forest trees on farm wood lands is essential to increased growth and quality. Other essential parts of a sound management plan must include sustained yield logging, fire protection, control of rodents and disease and insect control.

The committee feels that because of the importance of trees as an agricultural crop, special effort should be made by the Extension Service, State Forest Service, Soil Conservation Districts and other agencies to assist farmers in establishing sound management practices on farm wood lots.

The committee feels that in all private and public timberlands, consideration should be given to watershed protection, recreation and aesthetic value. It is also recommended that public timberlands be harvested on a sustained yield basis and that maximum allowable cut be harvested yearly.

Educational Programs

Continued educational activities to promote the proper management of farm wood lots is advocated. The Oregon State College Extension Service in cooperation with the State Board of Forestry, Soil Conservation Districts, private consultants and others, hold tours, meetings and use demonstrational areas to promote these management practices.

The committee recommends that youth activities be stimulated through 4-H, Boy Scouts, PFA and schools--an appreciation for timber resources.

This committee recognizes the importance of the present educational program carried on by the Extension Service on the value of windbreaks for farmsteads, and recommends that this program be intensified in Union county.

Research Needs

A yellow pine takes 300 to 500 years to mature--too long to fill present needs. Therefore, we recommend that research on the development of new tree varieties or hybrids, fertilization programs and improved cultural and management methods be established on forest lands of the Eastern Oregon Experiment Station at Union.



Livestock Committee Reports

CHAIRMAN -- Claude Wright, La Grande

SECRETARY -- Charles G. Gavin, La Grande

GENERAL SITUATION

Union county raises an abundance of feed grains and roughages. The committees feel that the most economical and practical way to market these products is through livestock. This would be one way to reduce freight rates, because freight on a carload of livestock is less than the freight on several cars of grain or hay.

The committee feels that many farms in the county need a livestock enterprise to make for a more balanced and economical operation.

Swine Committee

Harlow Speckhart, La Grande - Chairman
Bruce Hoofnagle, Alicel - Secretary
Morrie Pyatt, Union
Henry Sallee, Elgin
Bill Cooper, Union
Lester Robinson, Union
Bernal Hug, Jr., Elgin
Elmer Case, Alicel
Lee Smith, Elgin

Situation

Swine numbers decreased slightly in the last ten years in the county, but are now on the increase.

The committee feels that with diverted acres planted to feed grains, one of the most economical ways for operators to market this grain is through hogs.

Also, the committee, using information received from economists, feels that hogs are in a very favorable position in Oregon. The northeastern counties, of which Union is a part, are in the most favorable position in Oregon. The committee recommends that swine production be increased and presents the following recommendations:

Recommendations

Management for the control of disease is one of the greatest factors in swine production. The following are some of the diseases most often found. Some recommendations for control are given.

Disease

Erysipelas

Control

Serum effective in treating; also penicillin bacterin looks promising.

Virus Pig Pneumonia	More research needed for control of these diseases. Management can solve this problem.
Worms	Good sound management.

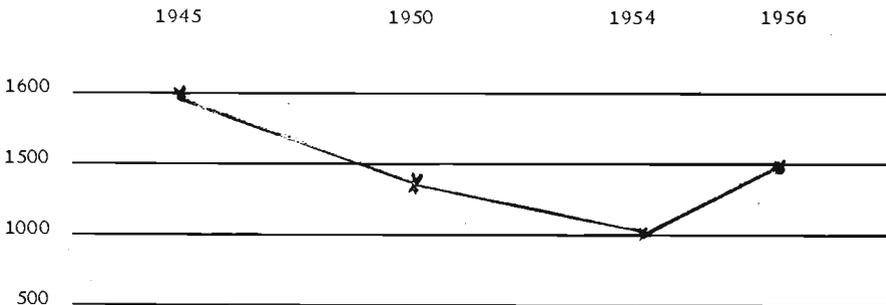
The committee felt a need for better diagnostic laboratory facilities by the state for swifter diagnoses of diseased animals.

The committee recommends that producers take advantage of the use of antibiotics in feed and increase alfalfa in the rations. The committee also sees a need for increased commercial interest in supplying feed to this area.

We recommend that:

1. All newly purchased animals be isolated.
2. Breeding stock be bought only from clean herds.
3. The practice of lending or borrowing boars be stopped.
4. All pastures be rotated frequently.
5. That a local market should be developed either by packing plants or pooling arrangements. It is felt that pooling would make numbers attractive enough to obtain more competition in buying.
6. There be research and educational programs on grading hogs on the hoof. If merit selling becomes a practice, producers will be better able to meet market demands.
7. That research be continued on the maximum utilization of home grown feed stuff. The committee recognizes the need for a modern feed plant in the county to manufacture feeds using local products.
8. That educational field trials be set up or continued on management, housing and nutritional needs.

BROOD SOWS OVER 6 MONTHS - UNION COUNTY



Poultry Committee Report

Charley Scroggin, La Grande - Chairman
Walter Obendorf, Cove
Henry Taylor, La Grande

Situation

The poultry industry of Oregon has changed rapidly in that instead of an export state, a great deal of poultry and eggs are imported into the state.

This is very true of Union county in which from 100 to 300 cases of eggs are imported into the county every week. Poultry numbers have remained fairly stable in the county over the last five years.

The poultry business has become a very highly integrated industry and one that is highly specialized. This is especially true in the broiler industry where margins are very small and competition tough and ruthless. The committee feels that an expansion of around 15,000 laying hens is possible in the county, but outlines the following recommendations and precautions:

Recommendations:

1. A poultry plant must be of sufficient size to warrant investment.
2. Egg quality is the most important factor for producers to maintain. New producers must plan for equipment to maintain this quality.
3. A dependable feed source must be secured. Bulk feed deliveries are the most desirable and economical.
4. Grower must figure on high power costs to light birds. As of now, it is costing 40¢ per year per bird, highest cost in the Northwest.
5. Grower must find and maintain a market outlet for his product.
6. Grower must keep alert for new management and marketing practices.

Sheep Committee

Tom Boyd, North Powder - Chairman
Randall Black, Telocaset
Forest Bowman, La Grande
Ralph Titus, Union
John Steinbeck, La Grande
Gray Brothers, North Powder
Roy Leonard, Island City
Homer Carnes, North Powder
Carl Curteman, Cove
Bert Titus, Union
Fred Pembroke, Union

Situation

Nationally, sheep numbers are at an all time low. The sheep industry is changing

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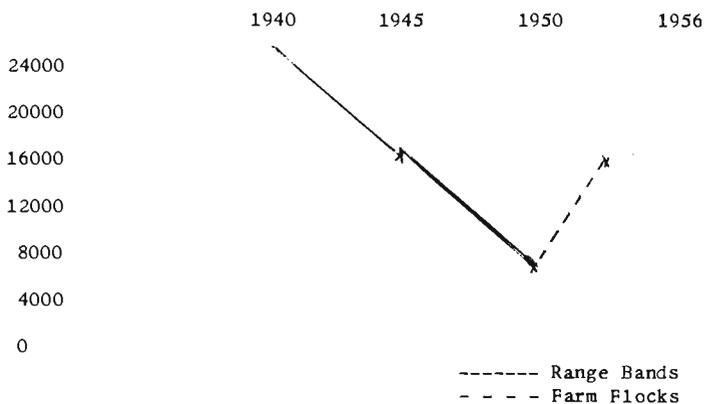
La Grande

WO 3-2887

rapidly from the nomad range operation to farm flocks. Union county dropped to an all time low in sheep production in 1950, with a total of 3,000 head. However, there has been a steady but slow climb upward. In 1957, there were 15,000 head.

Union county farms are well adapted to the production of sheep and wool from farm flocks. They particularly fit the farms in the county, as they clean up excess roughage, give winter employment to the operator and return two cash crops per year.

SHEEP AND LAMBS IN UNION COUNTY



Recommendations

1. That the producers be kept up-to-date with the latest methods of internal and external parasite control. They also recommend that more management education be provided for the control of sheep diseases such as foot rot, overeating and sore mouth.
2. Early lambing to take advantage of traditional high spring market prices.
3. Increasing educational activities on the advantages of pooling lambs and wool.
4. Additional work should continue on the preparation of wool for market.
5. Formation of a county woolgrowers association. This would give a nucleus from which to work on problems facing the industry in Union county.
6. The committee commends the County Court and the Game and Fish Commission on their assistance in predatory animal control, but feel that additional education and work is needed to make everyone conscious of this menace to the sheep industry.

Dairy Committee Report

Cletus Hohstadt, Cove - Chairman
 Vernon DeLong, La Grande
 Aaron Payne, Union
 Hanford Reed, Elgin
 Rex Griggs, La Grande
 Art McCall, La Grande
 Charlie Hibbert, La Grande
 Al Miller, Cove
 Jim Morgan, Elgin
 Grant Wilde, La Grande

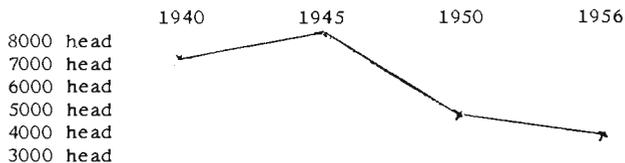
Situation

The population of dairy cows in Union county is at an all time low. Many herds have been dispersed and operators have gone out of the business. This has happened in spite of the ideal situation due to the abundance of low cost feed. However, marketing of milk is the big problem in Union county due to distance from large marketing centers.

Recommendations

1. Improved quality of cream for butterfat sales. There is a cooperative creamery in Union, which makes butter and also an independent cream jobber in the county who buys cream.
2. A feasibility study to see if a factory could be located in the county to handle factory milk and study possibilities of handling and processing milk produced in neighboring milk sheds.
3. Every effort made by everyone to secure a market for more fluid milk.
4. To secure markets, the industry must have more volume and are asking for a marketing study with the possibility of increasing volume and markets together.
5. The organization of a strong dairy association and a milk pool with all producers cooperating in an organization designed to aid and solve problems of producers in this area.
6. Research and educational work on pasture and feed improvements, DHIA testing, and breed improvement.
7. The committee would like to add a word of caution to persons going into dairying--that is: Dairy operations must be of sufficient size to be handled economically and have sufficient volume so that the operation will have base enough to warrant expenditure. A market should be established before starting or increasing present operations.

MILK COWS AND HEIFERS 2 YEAR AND UP IN UNION COUNTY



Beef Cattle Committee

Jack Gregory, La Grande - Chairman
 Heber Glenn, North Powder
 Jim Conaway, Union
 Gene Stockhoff, La Grande
 Billy Hindman, Elgin
 Tom Conklin, Cove
 R. B. Davis, Union
 Grant Conley, Cove
 Francis Miller, Elgin
 Ralph Robinson, La Grande
 Dick Conklin, Cove

Situation

Union county is so situated that the best way to reap the harvest around the rim of the Grande Ronde Valley and the neighboring valleys is by the use of cattle. Numbers of cattle in the valley rose rapidly until a peak of 18,000 head of beef cows, two years old and older was reached in 1955. There has since been a leveling off until the numbers have stabilized at approximately 17,000 head.

Recommendations

1. That to maintain the county brood herd at present levels, continued educational and research work needs to be done on pasture and range improvement practices.
2. That educational research work be carried on to help the producer with his problem of early spring and fall pasture, a very definite problem in Union county.
3. That producers and future producers make fencing plans. Usually much pasture goes to waste due to lack of, or inadequate fencing.
4. The committee feels that work done by Oregon State College on the using of cheap feeds such as silage and other cheap by-products as well as feed grains produced in the county has greatly aided the beef producer, but recommends that research work be continued so that producers may keep up with the rise in cost of production by the use of better management methods and cheaper feeds.
5. The industry must be constantly vigilant on freight rates and must be prepared to fight unwarranted increases or unjust changes.
6. All the research that can be conducted to aid the beef producer with the problems of external and internal parasites, anaplasmosis, red water, leptospirosis, calf scours and bloat be continued as these are very costly to producers in Union county.
7. The committee wishes to commend the purebred breeders of the county for the program they have followed in producing herd sires for commercial operators and urge them to continue along the same lines.
8. The committee also wants to point out the importance of maintaining and increasing high quality in the commercial cattle as this is an ever important marketing factor in the industry.

9. Studies and experiments show that the most profitable way to market feed grains is through livestock. We feel that a further expansion along feedlot lines has a definite place in the county.
10. That marketing research continue and aid in the marketing of cattle and that continued support of operators be given to feeder sales which are held by producers in the county each year.
11. In conclusion, the committee wishes to add a word of caution to operators starting a new cow-calf operation, that is: The operation must be of sufficient size to operate at a profit. It was also noted that in some cases, yearling operations would better fit operators now engaged in cow-calf operations.



Mink Committee

Don Johnson, Summerville - Chairman
 Otto Geddes, Summerville
 W. J. Beels, Elgin
 Chris Christensen, Summerville
 Mahlon Beels, Elgin

Mink production in Union county has grown quite slowly during the past 10 years. At present there are six ranches keeping approximately 2,000 breeder females.

One of the limiting factors to expanding mink production in this area is a ready supply of feed the year around. Without a definite source of supply, a grower would risk health, quality and survival. Growers should consider the high cost of transportation and refrigeration of food.

Management

The production of mink is one of the most exacting of all animal enterprises.

Financing is likely the first and most important consideration.

Genetics -- A practical and workable knowledge of the theories of genetics go together to produce quality furs that fit the changing market demands.

Nutrition -- A sound background of feeds and feeding work with an eye for results is necessary.

Sanitation and disease control as well as symptom diagnosis and a knowledge of the best known treatments protect the growers interests.

Research

The committee feels that continued and additional research must be done in nutrition, breeding and management, if this important industry is to continue to grow.

Conclusion

The industry has many limitations, which may become more acute: We produce a luxury item, imports are affecting local supply and demand, limitations on food supply and adequate financing and marketing all play an important part in the mink growers future.

Publications Committee

Grant Henderson, La Grande
 John Sullivan, La Grande
 Ted Sidor, La Grande

Creston Shaw, Alicel
 Bob Beck, Alicel
 Leal Graham, North Powder
 Bernal Hur, Sr., Elgin

Wren Case, Alicel
 Ronne Sands, La Grande
 Phil Cuthbert, LaGrande
 Bud Jones, Alicel



