

ANNUAL REPORT SUPERVISORS TOBACCO VALLEY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The fourth annual report of the supervisors of the Tobacco Valley Soil Conservation District is prepared to furnish cooperators and landowners of the district, cooperating agencies and the state committee with a summary of activities of the district during 1947 and a digest of its future plan and needs.

History of the District

The original Tobacco Valley Soil Conservation District was organized on June 14, 1943, with an area of 595,507 acres. During 1947 a program was carried out to extend the district to include the rest of Lincoln County. A referendum was held on June 14 and the inclusion was approved by the state committee on August 19, 1947. At the same time, the Flathead district was expanding its area and 158,752 acres in the southeast part of Lincoln County were included with the Flathead district so all of Lincoln County is now in a district.

After the district was expanded to include the remainder of the county, an election of supervisors was held to elect a supervisor to replace Alfred Peltier whose term expired. Lloyd Maize of Libby was elected and he will represent the western part of the district.

Educational Program

The educational program during the year included community meetings, a fair exhibit, an essay contest, newspaper articles, talks at the high school and cooperation at the 4-H Grange camps.

Community meetings were scheduled for Eureka, Rexford and Trego during the month of April. Movies, slides and talks by Soil Conservation Service personnel were included in the program.

A fair exhibit was erected for the Eureka fair on September 6.

An essay contest was scheduled in cooperation with the Montana Association of Soil Conservation District Supervisors and prize money for best essays in the high school and in the grade schools was donated by the Pomona Grange.

Several programs on soil conservation were given at the high school by the Work Unit Conservationist and the District Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service.

A member of the Soil Conservation Service was included on the staff of the 4-H camp attended by 4-H members from Lincoln County and a member of the supervisors of the district was included on the staff of the State Grange camp held at Flathead Lake. Soil conservation was included in both of these camps.

Cooperation from "The Western News" in publishing soil conservation news items was very good and approximately 30 news items were published.

A series of meetings on soil conservation were held in Libby and Troy area with the Granges. Slides and a movie, "Under Western Skies," were shown.

New or Unusual Procedures No new or unusual practices were carried out during the year. There was a great deal of request for equipment early in the spring. The interest lagged during the summer and early fall; however, late in the fall, there again was a great demand for the use of equipment in land clearing and it is assumed that this interest will carry over for the early 1948 season.

Accomplishments The expansion of the district was carried out to include the remainder of Lincoln County. The following amounts of seed were received from the Soil Conservation Service nursery: crested wheatgrass, 500 lbs.; slender wheatgrass, 500 lbs.; and intermediate wheatgrass, 50 lb.

The district received a grant of a disc, a drill and a two-way plow from the Soil Conservation Service. establishment of a horse herd law in the Eureka area and a sufficient number of signers have been ob-

Progress is being made on the petition. The petitions are being submitted to the county commissioners for action.

Most of the goals established in the annual work plan for 1947 were well attained. Supervisors attempted to secure applications from landowners in the district who had not made application. The series of community meetings were held during April, some of which were very well attended and others had very poor attendance. The demonstrations on land clearing and post treating were not held. News items were prepared by the Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service and were published in "The Western News." The goal of one per week was not quite reached. Talks were given to the high school in Eureka and soil conservation was included in the county 4-H camp held at Bitterroot Lake. Education was also carried out among the civic clubs and Granges in the western part of the county in connection with the expansion of the district to include the remainder of Lincoln County. The goal of 30 farm plans was not reached; however, nearly all of the applications which were available from the old district were serviced. The emphasis on farm plans in the future will be in the new part of the district. We were unable to secure assistance in determining the feasibility of the Fortine Creek Irrigation Project. It is hoped that this service can be obtained during the coming year. Meetings of the supervisors were held regularly. Attendance by all of the supervisors should be the goal for next year.

Suggestions to Assisting Agencies The District recommends that:

1. The Soil Conservation Service and the Extension Service encourage field fertilizer trials instead of small field plots that is, field trials to consist of the application of fertilizer on one-half of a field of either grain or hay, leaving the remainder unfertilized so that comparative data may be obtained.

2. All agencies cooperate in getting the branch experiment station located in western Montana.

3. The Soil Conservation Service and the Extension Service cooperate to continue and expand the educational program and to carry out a more intensive program with youth groups.

4. In view of the increased interest in Christmas tree management and marketing and the ex-

pansion of the district in western Montana in which a great deal of woodland management will be needed, the Soil Conservation Service retain the services of a farm forestry specialist.

5. All agencies assist in establishing a horse herd law in the Eureka area.

6. All agencies cooperate to help carry out the soil conservation program in Lincoln county.

7. The Soil Conservation Service cooperate in conducting an intensive study to determine the feasibility of the proposed Fortine Creek Irrigation Project.

8. All agencies cooperate in studying the Christmas tree blight situation and developing methods for its control.

9. The weed control program started in 1947 be encouraged and continued in 1948.

Conclusions

There is a great need for information on the kind and amounts of fertilizer which should be applied on various soil types in this district. Field trials in the past have been on a small plot basis and those should be increased to include an entire field, fertilizing one-half of the field and using the other half as a check plot. It is hoped that when the experiment station is established in western Montana additional assistance can be obtained in fertilizer research work in the area.

More information is needed on new and improved varieties which are adaptable to northwestern Montana. These are needed both for crop varieties and grass varieties.

Much work needs to be done on proper range conservation in the Tobacco Valley. The first thing necessary is a horse herd law which will prevent the grazing of grass during the winter months. Horses congregate in the valley during the

winter and feed on any grass that has been left from summer grazing. This is the first step to be taken in range improvement in the area. There is a need for reseeding of ranges and retiring low class agricultural land to pastures. There is also a need for development of irrigated pastures.

The educational program must be continued in the old area to assist farms in completing the practices to be established on their farms and in the new area to educate the landowners as to the benefits to be derived from the district program.

Supervisors should take a more active part in the educational program of the district; at least one should be present at each soil conservation meeting held with the various organizations in the county.

"We put in and the Rusians take out"—State Sec. Marshall on German situation.

LINCOLN CO. STUDENTS ON HONOR ROLL

Misosula—Darrel R. (Bill) Martin and Marjory A. Hunter, both of Libby; Ronald J. Rice and Lido J. Vizzutti, Eureka, and William R. Dolan, Troy, were among the 262 students who earned places on the fall quarter honor roll at the State University. The honor roll included 140 veterans and 30 students with straight "A" grades.

Martin, a navy veteran, is a junior in physical education and a 1942 graduate of Libby high school, and Miss Hunter, 1946 Libby graduate, is a sophomore in journalism.

Ronald J. Rice was graduated from Lincoln County high school in 1933, obtained a university degree in geology, served in the Marine corps and is now taking advanced work in journalism, and Vizzutti, 1941 Lincoln County graduate, is an army veteran and a freshman in liberal

arts. Dolan, who was graduated in 1946 from Troy high school, is a sophomore in the school of pharmacy.

TRUCKS COLLIDE

Considerable damage was done to a truck driven by Walter Johnson when he collided with a loaded logging truck driven by Seeley Bache, Thursday of last week.

Pictures taken at the scene of the collision about 25 miles south of Libby on Highway No. 2 were interesting.

MAKES HONOR ROLL

Raymond C. Bracy who is a sophomore at the Montana State Normal College, Dillon, was among the students who earned a place on the autumn quarter honor roll. The honor roll is comprised of the 10 per cent of students making the highest scholastic rating during any quarter. Mr. Bracy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph O. Bracy, Troy.

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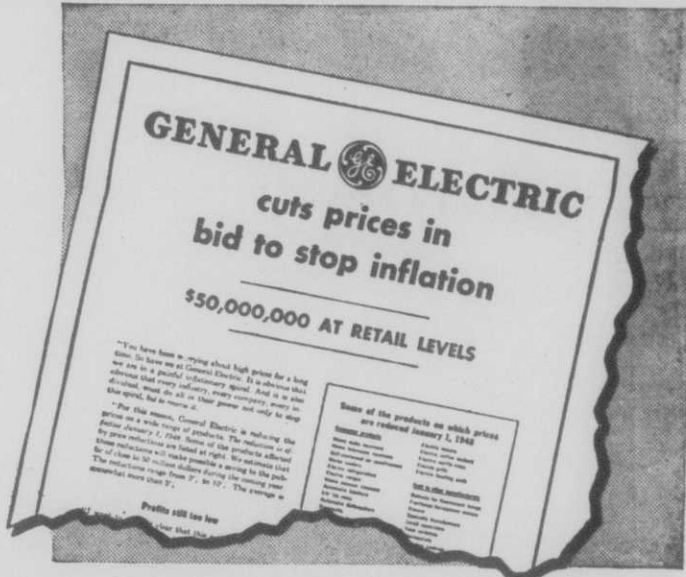
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Do you know what inflation can do to you?

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This applies to the man who brings home a weekly pay check, to the man with a little savings in the bank or a life insurance policy, and to companies that have to build new plants and buy new machines to fill future needs and provide future jobs.

Inflation is a sinister thing. It steals up on a country and its economy in a gradually accelerating two-step of prices and wages—each trying to get one step ahead of the other—and there is no red line to show when the danger point has been reached.

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