

Agricultural Review of Douglas County

By B. W. COONEY, County Agent

Douglas County is possibly the only county in the State that has a rare combination of climate and soils adapted to a wide range of agricultural activities. This favorable condition is followed by the production of all classes of livestock and every fruit and vegetable produced in any section of the Northwest. Further experience has shown us that we alone can bring to perfection certain fruits

and vegetables and the excellency of our products are now being recognized in every large market where they have gone.

Possibly a better understanding of our agriculture can be had by dealing with each phase of the industry separately.

Importance of Livestock Industry

All lines of livestock are represented upon the farms of this county. In

times past the production of beef upon the open pastures was recognized as one of the leading industries. This industry has not kept pace with other livestock interests, due to overstocking of ranges. Many old time ranges being cut up and sold to small investors interested in other lines. The low prices prevailing the last few years for beef has had a marked influence upon the number of animals produced. We have today a number of herds of good beef animals having at their head good purebred sires and many quality-bred cows.

On the whole the change from the old time range production to a general farm production has been in our favor. We have fewer animals, but they are of far better quality, which quality brings a much better return to the grower. Enough stock is now carried on the average farm to consume all our available roughage, and as long as this plan is in force we will continue to preserve a balanced agriculture.

Douglas County Has Large Number of Sheep

If happens that sheep are very much at home in the rolling pastures and can be found in every section of the county where the timber is not too dense.

The majority of the flocks upon our farms are less than five hundred in number, with many flocks of fifty or less. The maintenance of these small farm flocks gives a maximum return to the growers as the sheep make their gains mostly upon waste lands.

Early Lambs a Profitable Line of Sheep Farming

Douglas County has always enjoyed a reputation for the quality of its early lambs. The warm open winters allow the lambs to be dropped in January and February and make rapid gains on the early pastures. These lambs are usually marketed in June with good returns to growers.

Even better results could be had if more care was given the ewes just before and twenty days after lambing. This is a vital period in the life history of every sheep and a little push will work wonders.

Douglas County Goats

This animal like many others has found an ideal location within our borders. The goat is an animal that very few people like, nevertheless he has a valued field of service in our county. The mohair of the county is an item of no mean importance and can be increased with profit. At this time we have one-fifth of all the goats in Oregon.

A Need for More Hogs

The American swine has done more to put our agriculture on a paying basis than any other domesticated animal. The hog could not have accomplished this unless he was admirably constituted to convert farm wastes and cheap grains into a highly valuable product.

Douglas County should at least produce enough pork products to supply our own needs. There is room on every farm in this county for one sow and a litter of pigs, and any surplus can be sold at good profit.

The 1921 assessment rolls show the number of hogs in the county to be 2,651, representing a value of \$23,000. This gives us less than one hog to every two square miles in the county. We do not think that one hog to every two square miles would be overcrowding the industry in the least. In point of fact we can double this number with profit to every one.

We have every advantage that any other county of the State has in the production of good swine. Many counties in the Middle West lose thousands of dollars worth of hogs each year from disease, and still the hog maintains his position as a money maker. When you think of hogs you think of corn and this is a natural conclusion. We can also raise more and better corn to the acre than any other county of the State. This is no idle statement as yields of this crop have more than averaged State averages in any of the corn belt states.

Poultry Products in Class By Itself

To succeed in the poultry industry it is necessary that some natural advantages be present in the way of climate, freedom from disease, green feeds available during the most of the year and nearness to a reliable market. These advantages can all be found within our borders.

Producers have not been slow to discover these advantages and each year we find the establishment of many new commercial poultry plants. When properly managed these flocks are all bringing their breeders good returns on their investments.

The little white hen is on the job with both feet in the litter, singing at her work with a cackle of joy when her day's labors have been finished.

Many growers having the heavier American breeds are developing a profitable side line with their big classy capons.

For a number of years this county has been conceded the premier county in the West as a producer of extra fancy turkeys.

Prune, Apple and Pear Orchards

Possibly the wealth produced in Douglas County orchards and vineyards equals any county of the State. The basic factors contributing to this success are soil, climate and an application of intelligent labor. This combination of factors when working together can and do create a large block of the county wealth.

Horticulturists have found this county well adapted to the profitable production of a wide variety of commercial fruits. The prune stands out as the king fruit in all the best producing districts. It has always maintained this position in fruit circles due to its wonderful response to intelligent management.

Each year this fruit produces a paying crop and is reflected in a prosperous condition of all those who are fortunate enough to have a producing orchard.

Douglas County produces more prunes than any other county in the Northwestern States. The quality of the products is second to none now being placed upon the market.

The trade acknowledges this county to be the home of the best French Prunes grown in the United States. This statement covers a large territory but it is made in the confidence of knowing the goods can be delivered. The horticultural possibilities of this county are tremendous and can not be given the credit due it in a review of this kind.

Cereals and Forage Crops Good

Cereals and forage crops have been found a safe foundation upon which to build a permanent agriculture.

This county does not lay claim to being a premier county in the production of cereals and forage crops. However, during the growing season one can find fields of wheat, oats, vetch, corn, potatoes and vegetables which are a credit to the agriculture of any county.

The writer has been convinced that great crops of corn and vetch can be produced in the county upon quite a wide variety of soils when the proper care has been given the preparation of the soil.

The production of these crops has not kept pace with a number of others due mainly to the high labor costs. The time has now arrived when more attention will be devoted to some of our old standard crops, especially those crops which are capable of maintaining soil fertility.

This class of plants is to be found in the legumes such as clover, alfalfa, field peas and vetches. We must continue the culture of these valued soil builders or our soil fertility will be undermined and endanger the whole county agriculture.

Possibly the best selection of a legume for the county is to be found in vetch. New varieties have been discovered by our Agricultural College that strengthen the weak places in the old varieties. A number of farmers are now growing the new varieties for the first time this year and good results are looked for during the coming year.

Corn Acreage Should Increase

There are thousands of acres of good corn land in the Umpqua Val-

(Continued on page 24.)

THE CALENDAR

By MARTHA B. THOMAS

THE calendar is a curious human document when you stop to think about it. Just an easier way of reckoning than the counting of moons and suns, and a very important matter it is, too. A calendar is the director of man's affairs, the "consulting engineer" always to be interviewed before arranging life, whether it is a dinner or business appointment, a siege with the dentist or a trip abroad. It is the grand reference book; a silent, inanimate thing composed of twelve pages or sections with black marks on them. Probably no other book, large or small, has as many readers or commands the respectful interest enjoyed by its unimpeachable reputation.

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Boswell Mineral Springs

will do much for you.

The year 1922, with its worries and business cares, has passed, but before getting down to the work that lies ahead during 1923, a careful inventory of one's physical condition should be taken. The business man or woman, or the housewife, may be suffering from a badly run-down condition, indigestion or rheumatism—maladies that overtake over-taxed systems.

In order to meet the situation, and put one's self in condition to stand the stress of business life or household cares that must be confronted in 1923, every man or woman is entitled to a few days' rest and recreation.

To every such person who may be afflicted, even in slight degree, a couple or three weeks spent at Boswell Springs, near Yoncalla, in this county, where baths in the marvelously effective mineral water may be enjoyed, will completely restore tired and worn

bodies and brain to normal vigor, and in connection with this water as a beverage, the baths will not fail to rebuild the system and fit the individual for successfully wrestling with business worries and work of every sort.

Boswell Mineral Springs water will do what no other agency can do in restoring strength where indigestion, rheumatism or intestinal troubles have shattered health. It is Nature's own remedy, and many really wonderful cures made there are on record.

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We invite correspondence and investigation.

Boswell Mineral Springs, Inc.

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