

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 excellence 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 best 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.

It 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 grower 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 re-

turns to the 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 2,951, representing a value of \$23,090. 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 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 labor has 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 of 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 in the state. The basic factors contributing to this success are soil, climate and 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 in 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 stand-by 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 season.

Corn Acreage Should Increase.

There are thousands of acres of good corn land in the Umpqua valley. Very little of this soil is now growing this valuable crop. The farmers in the valley have a good opportunity to develop this resource to a point where they could furnish the corn needed for our county. Douglas county used about 30,000 bushels of Nebraska corn in 1922, a large part of which was used in fattening our great crop of turkeys.

The writer is convinced that corn can be produced in the county as economically as it can be produced in Nebraska and brought in with a 150 mile freight haul added. Look up the average corn yields for any of the middle western states and see if you do not produce more corn to the acre than the average there. Let us plan for more corn for grain and silage.

Many Varieties of Vegetables.
The soils and climate of this county are ideal for the production of every variety of vegetable. There are of course some classes of vegetables that do better than others.

Possibly an outstanding example of a vegetable of this class is broccoli. This vegetable is now being produced in a large way in the Umpqua valley. The requirements for its maximum development are so exacting that only a few sections of the United States can produce it. The production of this crop is certainly an interesting phase of agriculture and represents a big story in itself. The production of vegetables in the county is only limited by the demands of the market and a satisfactory return to the growers.

We have the acreage and ready market for the products of 5,000 more intelligent producers.



SAY! My car runs like a million. I had it completely overhauled by the

Stephens Auto Co.

They Know All About a Motor.

EXPERT REPAIRING ON ANY MAKE OF CAR AND THE COST IS REASONABLE
ACETYLENE WELDING BRAKE SERVICE

323 N. Main St.

Roseburg, Oregon

Better Than Ever Today



GREATER BEAUTY FINER PERFORMANCE LOWER PRICE

Not One—But All Three

NOW

There can be no doubt as to the public approval of this latest Oldsmobile Six. East, West, North, South, one hears enthusiastic comments concerning its enhanced beauty, its swifter acceleration, nimbler roadability and smoother operation.

Touring \$875, Coach \$950, Sedan \$1025, f. o. b. Lansing, plus tax

Klecker & Amort

Distributors for Douglas County

No. Jackson Street

OLDSMOBILE

Product of GENERAL MOTORS

FOX RAISING IN COUNTY

Fox propagation on a commercial scale is now under way in two parts of Douglas county—at Edenbrow, north of Roseburg, and at Boswell Springs, a short distance south of Drain. Both farms are raising the same species, the blue fox, a direct descendant of the white fox of Alaska, whose fur has taken on a gun metal blue color in the climatic conditions of the temperate zone.

The Roseburg Fox Farm Corporation is the name of the organization of local citizens who have financed the Edenbrow industry. The president of the company is W. F. Shelley, of the maintenance department of the California-Oregon Power Co. City Recorder H. L. Whipple is the secretary-treasurer. The directors are J. Dent, agent of the Wells-Fargo Express Co.; Dr. R. E. Hunt, veterinarian; and A. J. Flurry, who pioneered individually in this county in fox raising.

A five-acre tract of land at Edenbrow belonging to Curtis Calkins, who acts as caretaker, is the place of the company's operations. The land itself is now under option to the company, which expects to acquire full possession as part of plans for gradual expansion of the business. Already about \$5,000 have been expended in improvements, consisting of necessary fences and pens, and in the purchase of fifteen thoroughbred foxes—5 males and 10 females—which are thriving nicely and give full promise of producing profitable returns on their cost.

The farm at Boswell Springs is operated by Helliwell Brothers, the owners of the resort at that place. In partnership with F. D. Balthore, a Southern Pacific engineer of this city. They have three pairs of foxes which are giving promise of justifying all the expectations of the investors.

The foxes of both farms were acquired of J. S. Claridge, of Portland, whose stock comes from his breeding farm in Alaska. Thorough experiments, conducted by both private concerns and the federal government, have proved the adaptability of this region to the successful propagation of the blue fox, and the industry, at first naturally regarded with misgivings, is now accepted as one sure of yielding profitable returns if properly carried on. The average annual litter of the blue fox is four—double that number of whelps is not uncommon—and the average price of pups is about \$125. Extra fine pups have been known to bring as high as \$300.

THE MALTREATMENT OF AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS

The increasing number of fatalities from automobile accidents is alarming and a careful investigation of the facts makes it apparent that many of these victims might have been saved had proper treatment been instituted at once.

In 1922 one hundred and four lost their lives in Oregon because of automobile accidents, or nearly 13 to each 100,000 population. In 1924 the slaughter had been increased to one hundred and fifty nine, which makes a yearly rate of 24 to the 100,000. It is very important to understand that any one in a state of collapse is actually slowly dying, that precious life is ebbing away. Years ago it was customary to stress a serious accident only that one should watch out for symptoms of nervous shock. Today we do not limit our warning to serious accident cases alone but rather guard against shock at all times and under all circumstances.

That's Where The Tall Corn Grows

When they grow this tall they have to get a step ladder to pluck the ears. Fine quality corn is grown in almost every section of Douglas county. This is a photo of some of the corn to be placed on exhibit at the Oregon State Fair by local farmers.

