

PRICE DROPS LOOM FOR SPRING CROPS

Outlook Not Good, Annual Report Issued by O.S.C. Service Reveals.

The market outlook for a good many spring sown crops seems less favorable than for farm products in general, owing to probable trends in production, according to the annual report of the O. S. C. extension service on the outlook for spring sown crops and vegetables.

The report has sections on wheat, feed grains, hay, forage, crops seeds, hops, beans, flax seed, onions and other vegetables. The potato outlook report is expected until March when it is expected more complete information will be available.

The general tendency is toward increased production of the animal crops, especially grain and hay according to the report, although the outlook is variable according to the commodity considered. The tendency to increase crop production is offset somewhat from a price trend viewpoint by the upward trend in hay and grain consuming livestock and improved consumer purchasing power, the report says.

Commenting on the current farm price, cost and demand situation, the circular indicates that at mid-January the general level of farm prices in Oregon was unchanged to slightly lower, compared with the November-December level. At that time the Oregon index stood at 72 per cent of the 1926-1930 average, or about 95 per cent of the 1916-1914 level.

Farm Costs Mount
The cost of farming, on the other hand, as indicated by the government index of prices paid by farmers for commodities, taxes and interest payable, was 26 per cent higher than in 1935, placing the "parity" exchange value point 31 points over the current farm price level in Oregon, the circular points out. Even so, farm products have a much higher purchasing power than at any time during recent years owing to a more rapid increase in the level of farm income than in farm costs.

The advance in farm income is shown by the report to have been approximately proportionate to the increase in factory payrolls. For the year 1932 the Oregon farm price index averaged 66 per cent of the 1926-1930 level, and the factory payroll index also averaged 66 in that year. In 1935, both indexes averaged 88, a gain of nearly 50 per cent in both instances, data in the report shows.

WOODEN CHAIR SEAT PADS SAVE CLOTHES

Straight varnished or painted chairs, some of which are found in almost every house, not only sometimes seem a little plain and uninteresting, but often are somewhat uncomfortable. And they tend to making clothing shiny.

An inexpensive way to improve them is to make seat and back pads of a printed fabric that harmonizes with other furnishings, says Miss Joan Patterson, extension specialist in home furnishing at Oregon State college. The pads protect the clothing and also the chair finish. They are tied or snapped on and can be taken off to be laundered. A straight chair is usually the right sitting level, the pad must not be made too thick or it will make the seat too high for comfort.

To make a seat pad, cut the desired number of thickness of cotton batting the exact shape of the chair seat, but half an inch smaller on all sides. Put these between layers of cheesecloth and baste twice each way and then around the outside edge to keep the cotton from knotting when the pads are laundered. The outside cover is merely a slip that may be put over the pad and closed with snaps at the back or basted together. Make tapes of the same material to tie the pad to chair posts.

The back pad is measured and fitted in a similar way, and kept at the right height on the chair by sewing tapes to the top corners and snapping them just below the top bar of the chair back. At the bottom, the back pad may be finished with tape loops and the tapes of the seat pad passed through these to hold the back pad down. Another idea is to make the back cover to slip on, with two round holes for the posts to come through. This type reaches about two-thirds of the way down the back. An attractive finish is to sew white cotton braid or ball fringe around the lower edge.

FARMER PIONEERS IN DUGOUT HOME

HOLDENVILLE, ORE., Feb. 1.—(AP)—Simon Horn and his family "went pioneer" when he found no farm home available in this community.

Three miles from here he took a 28-acre place on which the dwelling had burned and built a dugout in the bank of a gully. Black-jack saplings furnished the framework; clay from the excavation was his plaster.

He built two rooms, fitted with windows. The outbuildings for cows and chickens also were dugouts.

HARNISS, horse collars and other leather goods are sold at Wharton Bros.—Adv.



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Farm Credit Board of Pacific Northwest Completed by Three Recent Selections



Front row, left to right: J. A. Wilson, Stanford, Mont.; W. H. Ragsdale, Moro, Ore.; E. E. King, Pullman, Wash. Back row, left to right: Wm. A. Schoenfeld, Corvallis, Ore.; B. D. Thompson, Granger, Wash.; N. F. Doyle, Blackfoot, Ida.; and G. A. Briebach, Wilsall, Mont.

Three new members took their places this week on the council of the Farm Credit administration of Spokane, which acts as a joint board of directors supervising the Federal land bank, Federal Intermediate Credit bank, Production Credit corporation and Bank for Cooperatives at Spokane.

W. H. Ragsdale of Moro, Ore., was elected to membership on the council, or governing board, by cooperative associations of the north-west which have become stockholding borrowers of the Bank for Cooperatives. John A. Wilson of Stanford, Mont., was elected by the northwest's 31 local cooperative production credit associations which discount their members' notes through the Intermediate Credit bank. George A. Briebach

of Wilsall, Mont., was appointed by the governor of the Farm Credit administration at Washington.

The board is made up of three members elected by local farmer stockholders and four appointed by the governor of the PCA to serve the public interest with terms running for three years each. Next December the national farm loan associations which negotiate long-term mortgage loans for their stockholding members through the land bank will nominate and elect their representative on the district board, and another place will be filled by appointment.

Although membership on the board is non-salaried, members have the heavy responsibility of directing the largest farm financing organization in the Pacific

northwest—a cooperative credit system having nearly \$200,000,000 in loan volume and representing more than 50,000 northwest farmers who have an ownership investment of \$8,119,000 through their local cooperative mortgage loan associations, local cooperative production credit associations and local cooperative marketing and purchasing associations.

Set up on a self-supporting business basis, these permanent units of the Farm Credit administration fundamentally were not created to loan government money, but to connect local farmers with the nation's investment markets and supply necessary loan funds through the sale of long-term land bank bonds and short-term Intermediate Credit bank debentures.

Betty Rhoads, president; Wilhelma Hutchinson, vice president; Josephine Wright, secretary, and Ruby Oettinger, Betty Anne Michaels, Edna Mae Poole, Phyllis Hooley and Rena Denny.

Turkey project: Olla school, McKinley Huntington, leader; Frank Clark, president; Bill Ollivant, vice president; Betty Young, secretary, and Dick Croucher, Glenn Young, George Vinson, Mary Jane Huntington, Bonnie Ollivant, and Elizabeth Huntington.

Art: "My Hobby club": Glida school, Mrs. Frances Horner, leader; Raymond Marr, president; Helen Horner, secretary, and Juanita Osborne, Avalon Slater, Alice Herrington, Irene Herrington, Dorothy Pickett, Lavola McMillan, Jack Keiser, May West, David Asam, Billy Strohecker, Darrell Doss, Gordon Holbrook, Wayne Osborne and Herbert Newport.

Handicraft project: Reedport school, Rolo Knowles, leader; Tommy Carlson, president; Melvin Krebs, vice-president; Everett Krebs, secretary, and Elton Wilson and Jack Moore.

Vegetable gardening project: Ash Valley school, Luther Judy, leader; Earl Moore, president; Melvin Krebs, vice-president; Lolly Moore, secretary, and Everett Krebs, Jessie Craig, Phil Morrison.

ROADS, STREETS GET MOST WPA MONEY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—(AP)—Harry L. Hopkins announced today that out of \$7,152,462 worth of selected WPA projects for Oregon, \$4,132,474 or 57.8 per cent would be spent on highways, streets and farm to market roads.

Farm to market and other secondary roads accounted for the greatest percentage of expenditures. Aside from road projects, educational, professional and clerical projects ranked first in magnitude.

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PASTURE LEADS IN CROP IMPORTANCE

Approximately 69 Per Cent of Oregon Farm Lands Feed Livestock.

Surprising as it may seem to anyone who has never seen the figures, approximately 69 per cent of the farm land in Oregon is used for pasture purposes, and the most important farm crop in Oregon is grass.

Research men in the farm management department at Oregon State college, who have recently issued a progress report on a survey of the costs and carrying capacities of farm pastures in Oregon, point out that only in the Willamette valley is less than half of the farm area used for pasture, and in some sections of the state more than 80 per cent of the farm acreage is in some grass or pasture crop.

This study of Oregon farm pasture land, the first year of which has just been completed and is discussed in the progress report, is being conducted with four main purposes in view. These are to determine the carrying capacities of various types of tame and native pastures in the different agricultural regions of Oregon; to find the costs of establishing and maintaining these pastures; to point out the major factors which affect these costs, and to find methods by which such costs may be reduced.

Preliminary figures for the 1935 census show a total of 171,000 horses and mules, 928,000 cattle, and 2,210,000 sheep on Oregon farms on January 1, 1935, the report points out. Much of the feed supply of this vast herd must come from farm pasture land of the state.

The great economy in cost of maintaining stock on pasture as compared with feeding hay and grain, both in direct cash outlay and in gross cost, is one of the principal points brought out by the survey in which information has been obtained so far on 15,964 acres of pasture on 319 different farms. About 50 per cent of the total cost of producing hay and grain is direct cash outlay, while the cash cost of pasture is only about 25 per cent, it is pointed out.

The report is available in min-

ALFALFA IMPORTANT CROP IN DOUGLAS

Scientific ripening of Oregon Bosc pears resulted this year in moving 400 carloads through the New York market at the best prices since the depression, reports Henry Hartman, horticulturist of the O. S. C. experiment station.

Hartman was sent east again this year by the Oregon-Washington pear bureau to work with eastern dealers in ripening and marketing the Medford Bosc crop.

This is the sixth year that cooperation has been given the eastern pear trade, but the first in which the process of ripening Bosc at a high temperature similar to that used for bananas was applied to all of this variety shipped to the New York market from Oregon. The ripening method was worked out through research at the Oregon experiment station.

Ripened on Barges
Operation of the plan this year was facilitated through the use of insulated barges on the New York harbor as ripening rooms. The pears were unloaded from the cars directly on to these barges where the fruit was kept at ripening temperatures for from four to seven days before being allowed to reach retail trade. In this way an excellent product reached the consumers and resulted in heavy buying in contrast to other markets where unripened Bosc moved slowly if at all.

A few years ago the Medford Bosc acreage appeared to be doomed because of this marketing handicap, but with the successful working out of the ripening program, this variety is expected to continue as profitable as others.

Another marketing venture with Bosc pears has been undertaken successfully by the Reid, Murdoch canning plant at Salem. In cooperation with the horticultural products department at the college, this company worked out a method of canning Bosc pears with skins on under the trade name "Old Fashioned Russet Pears." This

ALFALFA IMPORTANT CROP IN DOUGLAS

Alfalfa has become one of the most important forage crops produced in Douglas county from figures compiled by the farm crops committee in preparation for the agricultural outlook conference to be held at the I. O. O. F. hall in Roseburg on February 18 and 19. Eugene Fisher of Oakland, chairman of the committee reports, in 1935 at the time of the economic conference the alfalfa acreage of the county totaled 1,155 acres and in 1936 had reached 3,581 acres.

The committee handling general farm crops in 1935 made the following recommendation regarding alfalfa: "It is the committee's observation that alfalfa does well in Douglas county and there is room for an acreage of 3000 to 5000 acres."

Following the recommendations of the 1935 conference the extension service, through the county agent's office, undertook an educational program to familiarize the producers of the county with the requirements of alfalfa to give a satisfactory stand and a profitable crop. Among the recommendations were, use of good seed, preferably of the Grimm variety; inoculation of the seed; plant only on river bottom land or land that was well drained to a depth of four or five feet and showing no acidity or only a very slight acidity if very fertile; plow early and prepare a very firm seed bed; and seed only after the ground was in proper condition with seedlings being made from the middle of April to the middle of May. With the period of dry springs common during the past few years County Agent J. Roland Parker is recommending slightly earlier planting of alfalfa but as a usual thing not before the first of April.

It is expected that the recommendations coming from the economic outlook conference in February will be just as timely and prove just as valuable as the recommendations made at the conference ten years ago.

Every farmer, producer and individual interested in the agricultural outlook conference in February are packing approximately 4000 cases, featuring Bosc pears principally for baking purposes. This is considered to open up an important future outlet for winter pears.

SELECTION OF SEED CORN IS STARTED

HILLSBORO, Feb. 1.—To develop a uniform, high-yield strain of Minnesota "13" seed corn, Floyd Bierly of Route 1, Beaver-ton, is conducting a rigid program of seed selection, reports L. E. Francis, assistant county agent. He began last year by selecting 40 ears from two tons of seed corn, planting 30 hills from each ear in 100 foot rows in a special seed bed. After inspection for uniformity of stand, type and yield, seven of the 40 rows were selected. From these the corn was husked, weighed and yields per acre calculated, after which five rows were selected from the seven. The seed from the five ears from which this seed came will be planted in a separate plot to produce the seed for the 1937 crop.

ROTATION SPURNED BY CORN GROWER

DUNCAN, Okla. (AP)—Crop rotation may have advantages, but E. Tugman has grown corn on the same land for 25 years with results. This year it made 50 bushels per acre, but has made as much as 100, he said. He had two failures.

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