



NEWS OF FARM LIFE

GRANGES COUNTY AGENT'S REPORTS CROP NEWS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEWS



Comparison

GUIDE FOR THE WISE BUYER

Douglas Poultry Industry Found on Sound Basis

CONDITIONS HERE HIGHLY SUITABLE

Output Should Be Based On Market Demands, Says Committee Report.

Poultry production as a planned industry in Douglas county is a sound business, according to the report made by the poultry committee to the agricultural economic conference, Douglas county, it is pointed out, is well adapted to commercial egg farming. The committee suggests flocks of not less than 400 to 500 hens, where a sideline cash income from poultry is desired, and units of approximately 2,000 hens, if poultry is to be the major source of income.

The committee's report follows: Oregon produces a surplus of eggs above the needs of state consumption, this surplus being exported to distant markets, principally on the Atlantic seaboard and California. The major part of the commercial egg industry lies in the counties west of the Cascades. The surplus eggs of Oregon must be of high quality to meet competition from other districts and to justify transportation costs to distant markets.

Western and southern Oregon are well adapted to commercial egg farming, increase and extent of its export volume depending upon the progress Oregon farmers make in guiding their production toward the requirements of outside markets.

Depression Weathered

The industry has weathered the storm of depression in a most creditable manner, expanding in Oregon and elsewhere as well. Oregon eggs are meeting keen competition from sections near the eastern market centers, but if this state preserves its present market outlets, or develops a real industry for which many districts are particularly well adapted, many small farm flocks may become better business units.

Douglas county produces a surplus of eggs which as a contribution to a state surplus must be marketed outside of the county and state. The 1930 census for Douglas county shows 2,488 farms, 2,066 of 83 per cent of these farms keeping poultry; of these 64 per cent or 1,314 farms kept home flocks of less than 50 hens from which not many eggs entered trade channels; 29 per cent or 609 farms kept flocks that varied from 50 to 200 hens, these units being too large for home needs, and too small for commercial management; 152 farms or 7 per cent of the total farms with poultry were on the commercial basis. The 1930 census credits Douglas county with producing 5790,046 worth of chickens and eggs. The 1935 census shows an increase of 75 farms or

a total of 3,259. Poultry will form a part of many of these new farms programs and they should guide their production along the lines of market outlet demands.

Two Channels Open

Producers of eggs in Douglas county have the choice of selling either through established independent dealers or through the Pacific Cooperative Poultry Producers' association, which maintains a branch station in Roseburg. The cooperative of Oregon with the cooperatives of other coast states maintain their own sales headquarters in eastern cities, with the result that the growers' choice of market outlets has been brought almost to their doors.

Growers also have the choice of purchasing their feeds and supplies from independent dealers or cooperatively.

The export demand is for white-shelled eggs, the demand naturally placing the Lockhart and other white-egg breeds in a dominating position. This does not mean the exclusion of the heavy brown-shelled breeds such as Reds, Rocks and others, from Douglas county farms.

The demand for eggs from well-managed flocks to supply hatcheries, both within and out of the state, should be considered by many farmers as an additional market outlet. The premium for good hatching eggs should be higher than generally prevails throughout the hatchery districts of Oregon, the Douglas County Poultrymen's association taking action with other poultry associations to correct this situation.

Oregon Output Small

Oregon produces only 1 per cent of the nation's poultry products, thus having little voice in setting prices. Producers in the county operate on a margin between New York prices minus the overhead of delivering eggs of certain grade to outside markets.

The industry here and throughout the nation will expand in all phases throughout 1936 similar to 1935 and likely will show the highest per cent of hatching increase. This increased number of pullets next fall likely will have a depressing price effect that may be partially offset by an increased consumer demand.

Egg consumption has declined since 1932, but higher prevailing meat prices may influence a more favorable position.

The poultry industry as a planned industry in Douglas county is sound business. A number of the 1934 news rehabilitation, restocking and subsistence farms will keep poultry. If expansion in Douglas county is toward barnyard flocks rather than toward commercial flocks, the county cannot economically long meet export market requirements. Approximately 83 per cent of the farmers who keep chickens in Douglas county have less than 200 hens. These flocks are too small to justify frequent gathering, proper farm storage facilities, frequent deliveries in case lots, and other factors necessary to an industry on an export basis.

The outlook of the industry depends largely upon a basic breeding program for the industry and whether the farmers who keep poultry make a reasonable effort to adjust their poultry units in relation to the demands which prevail from established markets and established market agencies. No dealer or cooperative agency can put quality in an egg after it reaches the candlers.

Farms desiring small home table flocks from which eggs do not enter trade channels should keep only a sufficient number of hens to provide home requirements; preferably from one of the heavy breeds.

The American market should be held for American producers, protecting poultrymen from competition with producers in foreign countries with low living standards, an adequate protective tariff should be placed on eggs and egg meats. The Oregon congressional delegation could aid in this program.

The farm which plans a sideline cash income from poultry, from which eggs will go into trade channels, a flock of not less than 400 to 500 hens is recommended.

A farm which expects to derive its major source of income from poultry should develop a business unit of approximately 2,000 hens as soon as experience and capital justify.

For a well rounded specialized poultry farm program operated under natural conditions for raising young stock an acreage of 20 acres is recommended. Where artificial confinement throughout is practiced less acreage is needed. Rearing under artificial confinement is successful for the few but is not given general endorsement for all.

It is recommended that from 50 to 60 per cent of the laying flock be replaced each year with pullets.

In purchasing day old chicks, caution should be observed to see that they are from pullet-free parent stock when possible, or from accurately blood-tested parent stock with all reactors removed.

Chicks under average farm conditions should be hatched early, February, March and April being the three months in which the big majority of Douglas county chicks are purchased.

Advice On Brooders

Two types of brooder houses are in general use by those in the industry, each designed to overcome losses from soil contamination according to farm conditions involved.

The permanent brooder house, equipped with artificial yards such as wire, concrete or board floor. (See county agent for extension bulletin 451).

The portable brooder house, equipped with skids for moving to clean soil. (Extension bulletin 446).

The permanent brooder house is in general use throughout commercial regions.

Because of less labor overhead, shelter houses closed on three sides are recommended for young stock on the range. (Extension bulletin 442).

Green feed should be provided

throughout the growing period and fed liberally until the pullets are in production, reduction then being made to avoid too dark yolk. Kale or alfalfa are the main green feed crops with carrots supplying winter succulence in case of a freeze.

The greatest economic loss to the poultry grower is loss of quality of the eggs on the farm after they are laid and before they reach the grader's candle. "How to Construct an Insulated Egg Room" is found in Extension Bulletin 445.

Extremes of temperature have shown that laying flocks do better in partially insulated houses. Plans for this type of house and others as well will be found in Extension Bulletin 480.

More capital is required to develop a safe poultry enterprise than the amateur anticipates. Exclusive of land and the home, where the laying house is used for brooding, a first year investment of approximately \$250 to \$300 per pullet before she starts production is advisable. This expenditure when pro-rated will include cost of brooder, fuel, feed, litter, cost of chicks, mortality losses, houses and equipment. A well defined plan should be followed, as poultry keeping is a business.

The breeder and hatchery code was thrown out when NRA was declared unconstitutional. The provisions of the code which related to false, misleading advertising and unfair trade practices were copied from a poultry trade agreement previously made with the federal trade commission. They are still in force and anyone damaged through false advertising or unfair practices is advised to file his complaint with Oregon's forwarding agency, the Oregon branch of the International Baby Chick association.

HOME COURSES SET AT SUMMER PERIOD

The Oregon State college summer session this year will be an important training center for home economics students and teachers from many parts of the country, judging from the advance indications. Increasing public attention to economic and social adjustments within the home and community has greatly stimulated the demand for trained leaders in the field of home economics, says Dean Ava B. Milam, head of the O. S. C. school.

The west is the mecca for women in this profession this summer because of the combined attractions of the National Education association convention in Portland June 28 to July 5, and the American Home Economics association convention in Seattle July 6 to 11.

The session at O. S. C. has been planned to make it possible for the students registered to attend these two conventions.

Because of the national meetings and through the cooperation of the state department of vocational education, a larger number of visiting instructors than ever before will be available in the school of home economics. Among these are Miss Mabel Russell, assistant professor of home economics at Iowa State college; Miss Bess Steele, assistant professor and head of the design division of home economics department of the University of Nebraska; Dr. R. Adams Dutcher, professor and head of the department of agricultural and biological chemistry at Pennsylvania State college; Dr. Sybil Woodruff, authority on food research from the University of Illinois; Dr. Harold Jones, professor of child psychology and director of the Institute of Child Welfare, University of California; Dr. E. Lee Vincent, psychologist of the Merrill-Palmer school in Detroit; Prof. Mary Koll Heiner, director of the school of Domestic Science, Chicago; and Miss Christine Finlayson, supervisor of home economics in North Dakota.

SEED LOANS AWAIT PRESIDENT'S O. K.

WASHINGTON, April 20 (AP)—Regulations for distribution of an additional \$7,000,000 in federal seed loans were withheld by the farm credit administration today pending President Roosevelt's signature to an executive order allocating the money.

Members of congress from northwest states were informed the additional allocation would permit the FCA to advance loans to inactive clients of the resettlement administration who previously had been denied FCA help of funds.

The FCA said the presidential order was expected soon.

CALL FOR DOUGLAS COUNTY WARRANTS

Notice is hereby given, that General Fund Warrants issued by Douglas County, Oregon (registered and paid for) are of funds) are prior to and including Warrant No. 57825 are called for payment on April 15th, 1936. Interest ceases on April 15th, 1936.

D. H. Leno, Treasurer, Douglas County, Oregon.

WOMAN FARMER BUILDING PROFITS

GREENVILLE, Ga. (AP)—"A lot of hard work, a lot of planning and ever so much worrying."

That's how Edna Peavy, in two years as "head man" on a 250-acre farm, says she has managed to pay off a stack of bills and put money in the bank.

Without any training for farm work, Miss Peavy took charge of the farm in March, 1934, after her father's death. She lives there with her mother, and a hired man assists in the work.

Up At Dawn

Arising at dawn, she milks six cows before breakfast, then jumps into her automobile and is off to town to dispose of a load of milk, vegetables, butter and eggs to regular customers.

Then she hurries home to take up the managerial reins.

She is a believer in diversified farming and last year had 80 acres in cultivation, in corn, 10 in peas, nine in cotton and one in sweet potatoes.

Money In Poultry

She keeps between 50 and 75 hens and says her eggs and surplus chickens usually bring good prices.

"In summer the gardens and the peach, apple and big trees add to my income," she continues. "Some of the fruit and vegetables are sold to my milk and butter customers."

In support of her theories the "lady farmer" points to a bank account sufficient to finance her business through the harvest season.

FOUR-H CLUB ACTIVITIES

The "Jolly Cooks," 4-H cookery club of the Green school held a very successful candy sale, at the schoolhouse. The proceeds of the sale will be used to help the 4-H summer school fund.

(Signed) Darlene Couron, publicity chairman.

The Hobby club met at the home of the leader, Mrs. L. D. Horner, Thursday. The meeting was called to order by the president, Raymond Marr. It was decided that we all make a large poster for our exhibition at the fair.

A display of the work was shown. Some excellent posters and scrap-books have been finished. A member, Laurence West, exhibited a pair of book-ends made from a bull which were very nice.

The president urged all members to complete their work so we can receive our achievement pins. We only have four more meetings.

Three songs were selected as the official club songs. These were the "Plowing Song," "Dreaming" and "Three Cheers for the 4-H." We sang several songs, accompanied by Mrs. Horner at the piano, David Asam, yell leader, led us in two yells.

FARM BUREAU HEAD HITS TARIFF PLAN

WAYNE, Neb., April 20 (AP)—Edward A. O'Neal of Chicago, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, in a recent address, suggested farmers choose "with their eyes open" between the "high tariff road" and the "other road opened up through reciprocal trade agreements."

The tariff, which he called a "direct, outright and unshaded subsidy to the manufacturers of this country," cost the consumers of America "at least \$2,000,000,000 annually," O'Neal asserted.

"Compare that amount, if you will, with the total benefit and rental payments made to farmers during the almost three years of operation of the AAA," he said. "That total . . . was considerably less, and yet some of our foremost industrialists have been the most outspoken critics of processing taxes, which they termed 'subsidy' to agriculture."

"If we would adopt a program of reducing unduly high industrial tariffs so as to lower the price of consumer goods, which certainly leads to increased consumption, we will put people back to work and make some real progress in adding to our national wealth."

ORCHARDISTS SEEK FINANCING CREDIT

HOOD RIVER, April 20 (AP)—Scores of orchardists from this district and the fruit areas of Skamania and Klickitat counties, Washington, are negotiating for funds from the mid-Columbia production credit corporation to finance crops, officials say.

The association has set a maximum of 8 1/2 cents per box to growers.

BUSIER BEES, PLAN OF KANSAS EXPERT

MANHATTAN, Kas. (AP)—Kansas beekeepers are getting information from Dr. C. L. Farrer of Laramie, Wyo., formerly of Kansas State college, for doubling, even tripling honey production. The plan entails the introduction of a pollen queen bee, and making pollen available to the bees during the fall.

LOOK FOR THE ORANGE AND GREEN BOX

DIAMOND QUALITY SEEDS

SPRING GARDEN TIPS

By A. G. G. Bouquet, O. S. C.

Spring set cauliflower plants of ten run to seed prematurely before making a normal foliage growth because the plants are checked by cool temperatures and insufficient nitrification of the soil. Plants set out in the summer for the fall crop rarely show this fault.

New hybrid strains of sweet corn such as Golden Cross Bantam, the most important sweet corn introduction since Golden Bantam was introduced in 1902, are arousing interest among commercial growers. These hybrid hybrids have a greater uniformity of ear characters and size, a higher degree of uniformity as to stage of maturity and yield more heavily because of this uniformity. They also have a smaller percentage of nubbin ears. The season of Golden Cross Bantam is about 8-10 days later than Golden Bantam. A number of early hybrids are being developed.

Spent Day at Coast — Mr. and Mrs. William T. Mills, of this city, spent Sunday at Banion beach.

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