



# NEWS OF FARM LIFE

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



## OREGON LAMB CROP HURT BY WEATHER

PORTLAND, April 26.—(AP)—The condition of lambs early in April "was considerably lower than for a year earlier and below average for that date," the U. S. department of agriculture said.

"While green feed was short or lacking in most areas, soil moisture conditions early in April were generally favorable and seasonably warm weather in April would bring good range and pasture feed," the report said.

"Unusually favorable conditions in April and May, however, can hardly offset the earlier setback to the lambs in most areas."

The survey said Oregon weather continued unfavorable in March and range and pastures "are late and feed getting short in some areas." "Lamb losses have been heavy as a result of severe weather and present condition of the lambs is rather low," said the department.

In Washington losses from scoura have been heavy with the cause undetermined, while Idaho suffered considerable losses because of the record cold both in March and early April.

## Good Management in Turkey Industry Found Necessary

### COMMITTEE CITES PRINCIPAL FACTORS

Competition Spreads, Only "Fittest Will Survive," Experts Assert.

Turkey production is an agricultural crop for which Douglas county is well adapted and, in keeping with general economic conditions, should be encouraged but not exploited, according to the report of the turkey committee to the county agricultural conference.

The committee's report, covering the turkey industry in detail, is as follows:

Oregon produces approximately 700,000 turkeys, approximately two-thirds being exported to markets outside the state. The gross return for market turkeys raised in Oregon for 1935 was more than \$2,000,000.

Turkey growers in recent years have adopted modern methods of incubation, brooding, and rearing in semi-confinement, the birds being fed balanced growth promoting and finishing feeds. The adoption of these practices has made mass production a common farm practice, creating a trend toward large commercial flocks in the hands of fewer operators and a decline in the number of range reared birds.

The ready sale of day-old poults has stimulated the expansion of commercial hatcheries and the demand for hatching eggs has resulted in many farms maintaining mated flocks for egg production.

Disease factors, a drive by the turkey industry west in search of new and clean range land, the far western states under natural methods of rearing, holding a distinct advantage for several years. Other states, adopting artificial methods of mass production, forces Oregon's turkey industry to prepare for increased competition from those areas nearer terminal markets.

Turkey brooding houses, artificial lights, selecting breeders for early maturity, and northern and eastern hatcheries contracting southern winter hatching eggs for early poults are factors which result in an increasing number of early turkeys being marketed each summer and fall. These birds come on the market before any price has been established and before the cold storage holdings have been consumed. The industry rapidly is losing its competitive possibilities and is becoming a marginal business of narrower profit per pound of meat.

The turkey crop of 1935 had a most favorable year, the general trend toward expansion indicating the possibility that the number of birds raised soon may exceed that which the per capita rate of consumption will absorb at fair prices to the growers. The turkey crop increased from 14,800,000 birds in 1927 to 18,740,000 in 1934, and a decided trend for greater expansion exists for 1936.

Oregon turkey growers have the advantages of experience, reasonably priced feeds, climate and green feed, foundation brooding flocks, and both independent and cooperative outlets for their product. During this period of general expansion, growers of this state must recognize the fact that they are engaged in a highly competitive business in which a survival of the fittest, individuals and districts, ultimately will adjust the industry.

**Industry Important**

During the past few years the turkey industry of Douglas county has expanded, producing market turkeys, establishing hatcheries, brooding flocks, which supply poults, hatching eggs, and brooding stock, to many parts of the nation. The county produces a surplus of approximately 90,000 market turkeys which must be marketed outside of the county and state.

The depression aided by the great drought in the northwest reduced the numbers of chickens and turkeys and these causes, aided by agricultural adjustment, resulted in reduced supplies of pork and other meats. Only an improved consumers' demand can prevent a depressing effect on 1936 prices if growers throughout the nation even partly carry on their plans for expansion.

Turkey production is an agricultural crop for which Douglas county is well adapted and, in keeping with general economic conditions should be encouraged, but not exploited.

Growers have a choice of marketing their turkeys through established produce firms or through an established cooperative marketing association, the Oregon Turkey Growers' association, member of the Northwestern Turkey Growers' association, now serving nine western states.

Producers may purchase feeds and supplies either from established feed companies or through cooperative channels.

The existence of both methods of marketing and purchasing of supplies is a great factor in stabilizing the industry in the county and protecting the investments of profit or loss.

### FIELD TRIP TAKEN BY RHS STUDENTS

Agricultural Classes View Stock, Poultry, Crops and Irrigation.

The agricultural classes of Roseburg high school, on their field trip last Friday, inspecting enterprises on various farms in the vicinity of Roseburg. Leaving the school first early in the morning the group first went to the Happy Valley ranch owned by A. C. Marsters. There purebred livestock, hams and grass experiments were inspected. On the same ranch a new electric incubator for hatching turkey eggs, and the brooding of poults with electric and gas brooders, as operated by W. A. Davis, were observed.

The barns and milk house at the Tipton Dairy ranch were visited next, and the latest and most efficient methods of cooling and handling of milk were studied. The project of Russell Harris was the next stop, where the boys saw a purebred Poland-China sow and litter of five pigs.

Considerable interest was shown at the Shinn hatchery in West Roseburg, where eggs are being set, turkeys were hatching and a new hatchery was being installed. The Busenbark ranch was the next place of interest where the boys observed a field being planted to Ladino clover, a new project for this section of the county. This is to be irrigated by a new sprinkling system. The Busenbark sheep and swine were also inspected here.

The project of Billy Hagan was next visited, where the boys saw some very fine purebred Corriedale sheep. The unusual size of these sheep, and the quality of their wool was discussed by the class. On the Shambrook place at Umpqua the boys then inspected the variety alfalfa plots conducted there by J. R. Parker, county agent. Time out was taken for lunch on the banks of the Umpqua.

The Frank Gorrell ranch was the next stop, where an irrigation setup and further operations in the planting of Ladino clover were studied. The Lloyer nursery at Garden valley was of interest, and methods of irrigation, fruit trees and bulbs were discussed.

The next stop was made for the inspection of a swine project owned by Charles Hughes. At the Hugh Ritchie ranch the old and new methods of milk production were discussed. The project of Labrie Ritchie was then observed. He has 100 purebred White Leghorns now laying 70 to 80 eggs per day.

At the W. D. Hess place a new type of U. S. C. laying house and chick brooding were explained by Mr. Hess. This was greatly enjoyed by the boys.

The C. E. Maris farm was the final stop. Here the dairy barn, Ladino clover pasture and alfalfa fields were of interest. The 4-H club project of Walter Marks, consisting of 2 purebred Poland China sows and their litters of 9 pigs each were a sight long to be remembered by the boys. Two modern colony houses built by Walter were thoroughly inspected.

The purpose of this trip was to give the boys an opportunity to see the practice of methods studied and worked out in their classes, and to contact some of the successful farmers who are using improved practices in their production methods.

### SCIENCE FINDING OUTLET FOR CROPS

Profitable Uses for Prune and Cherry Pits Add to Industrial Activity.

Oregon is already doing considerable work and is in a position to reap large benefits from the nationwide interest in finding more industrial uses for farm products, says E. H. Weigand, head of the work in horticultural products at Oregon State college. Professor Weigand recently attended the second annual meeting of the Farm Chemurgic Council and Chemical Foundation.

Applied science through the nation's laboratories is opening up some amazing vistas into the probable future uses of common farm products. Among the possibilities pointed out at the western conference was the development of a powerful soil penetrating fertilizer made out of phosphate and waste sugar; the use of immense wastes from Douglas fir timber in the production of sugar, alcohol, acetic acid, transparent paper and synthetic plastics; the use of sage brush in the manufacture of essential oils, and the use of avocados for the manufacture of salad oils, new explosives and stock feed.

**Pits Being Used**

As Oregon's only representative at the council meeting, Professor Weigand was called upon to tell of the work going on in this state and research that could be undertaken in this field. More than three million pounds of cherry pits are available annually as a by-product of the new cherry processing industry in this state, Weigand pointed out. The use of these and cherry stems in the production of flavors, oils and the like holds important possibilities. Already Oregon is buying up tons of dried cherry stems, although the use being made of them is obscure.

Tons of prune pits are also available as a potential source of flavors, charcoal and oils. Professor Weigand pointed out also the possibilities of the use of by-products in the pear and apple industries for the production of various forms of juice, pectin, chemicals, fertilizers and livestock feedstuffs.

In the field of new or substitute crops for present surplus producing enterprises, Professor Weigand pointed to the future possibilities in the growth of Jerusalem artichokes and possibly dahlia tubers for the manufacture of levulose sugar or alcohol. Much work has already been done with the artichoke, which will produce from 15 to 22 tons to the acre on many types of Oregon soils. Possibilities with flax and a newly introduced drug crop, pyrethrum, were also pointed out.

### LAKE DAIRY HERDS INCREASE INCOME

LAKEVIEW, Ore., April 26.—(AP)—Improvement in Lake county dairy herds increased the income from them 41 per cent in three years despite a 25 per cent decrease in the number of cows.

County Agent W. Johnson told chamber of commerce members.

The dairy herds now are nearly free from tuberculosis and Bang's disease, he said. The 1935 Lake county income from butterfat was about \$85,000.

### CALIFORNIA BUTTER TAX RULING GIVEN

SAN FRANCISCO, April 26.—(AP)—Butter packed and labeled outside California in conformity with the state laws is not subject to the labeling and licensing taxes of California, Attorney General U. S. Webb advised A. A. Brock, director of agriculture.

Butter put up in this state is subject to a 10 cent per hundred pounds tax and graders must pay a licensing fee of \$1 per year.

### On Oregon Farms

ALBANY—The second annual fat lamb show at Seio is to be held May 23. This show created considerable interest among sheepmen last year, and is expected to draw even more attention this year, says County Agent F. C. Mack.

The committee in charge is composed of Jess Rogers, Norman Bernier and Dr. A. G. Brill.

### THILLAMOOK—The demand for dairy calves from the Tillamook Cow Testing association has increased so rapidly that the supply may soon be exhausted, reports County Agent C. H. Bergstrom.

### FOUR-H CLUB ACTIVITIES

The Douglas county 4-H enterprisers went to Lookingglass last Monday evening, where they assisted in a P. T. A. program. On Garden valley they appeared at Garden rallies to help in the program prepared by the Garden Valley Women's club. Funds were raised at each of these two meetings for 4-H club summer school scholarships.

The enterprisers go tonight to Drain, where they will assist the P. T. A. there in a 4-H club program and on Wednesday night to the Garley school for a program. On Saturday evening they will go to Melrose grange hall to help out in the efforts of the Melrose grange Home Economics club to raise scholarship funds.

The county club agent is in receipt of some "certificates of achievement" 11 by 11 inches in size which are to be awarded to every 4-H club to complete 100 per cent. Members who have been dropped because of sickness or who have moved away from the community do not count against the 100 per cent record for a club.

These certificates are signed by C. R. Smith of the U. S. department of agriculture, Governor Charles H. Martin, Frederick M. Hunter, chancellor of the Oregon system of higher education, George W. Peavy, president Oregon State college, C. A. Howard, state superintendent of public instruction, William A. Schoenfeld, director extension service, H. C. Seymour, Adv.

### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that all warrants of School District No. 4, Douglas county, Oregon, up to and including No. 10,185, protested for non-payment January 31, 1936, and prior thereto, have this date been called for payment, and all interest ceases this date, April 24, 1936.

### RECEIPTS FOR FARM PRODUCTS INCREASE

PORTLAND, Ore., April 26.—(AP)—The United States bureau of farm economics said cash receipts from principal farm products in western states during February were 12 per cent above receipts of the corresponding month a year ago.

Average for all states comprised a 15 per cent gain.

Gains in the west ranged from 3 per cent in California to 48 per cent in Colorado.

Cash receipts in the western states for the first two months of 1936 were 15 per cent higher than during January and February of 1935, compared with a 19 per cent average increase for all states.

Receipts from principal farm products in Oregon, including crops and livestock, in February, 1936, totaled \$2,800,000, compared with \$2,274,000 in February of last year. Receipts in Oregon for the first two months of this year offset \$8,062,000, compared with 27,075,000 in January and February, 1935.

### OREGON VEGETATION IN GOOD CONDITION

PORTLAND, April 26.—(AP)—Vegetation grew rapidly in Oregon last week under abnormally high temperatures, E. L. Wells, federal meteorologist, said.

Pasture improved and more stock was turned out onto ranges. Seeding of spring grain progressed except in some of the highest districts where snow and cold continued. Early sown grain germinated well, ranchers reported.

Bright sunshine brought blossom time in northern Oregon and spurred truck garden planting. Rhubarb and asparagus already are on the market.

Recent frost damage to Jackson county fruit was "not as serious as first indicated," said Wells, estimating that "approximately 60 per

### WINDROW BALER FOUND PRACTICAL

One of the latest farming implements to come into use in the middle west is a combination hay baler and pick-up which takes the hay directly from the windrow and bales it as the machine moves along.

Reports of tests with this machine in other parts of the country have been studied by Clyde Walker, associate professor of agricultural engineering at Oregon State college, who says that it is considered a practical piece of equipment where hay is produced commercially in large quantities for sale baled.

The new machine operates by tractor power, and has a practical capacity of from 1 1/2 to 2 tons per hour, and considerably more under favorable conditions.

### IRRIGATION DELIVERIES WILL BEGIN IN KLAMATH COUNTY IN A FEW DAYS.

Deliveries already have started in a few sections of eastern Oregon.

### PEACH AND APRICOT LOSSES WERE "SERIOUS," HE SAID.

The freeze early last fall will cut cherry, pear, apple, peach and walnut crops in Marion county an estimated 30 per cent.

Roseburg Favored

For seven consecutive days the temperature at Roseburg exceeded 80 degrees, bringing fruit trees into luxurious bloom.

Lane county hops got a good start and strawberries were blossoming heavily, but needed rain.

Sheep shearing was in full swing in Umatilla county and the first bands of sheep headed for foothill ranges. Winter and spring wheat were reported in good condition.

Grass made exceptional growth in Union county, bringing some sheep and cattle to rangelands.

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