

NEWS OF FARM LIFE

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



daily and that the genetic factors responsible were existent in the herd and have appeared only when certain matings were made," Hale explained, "but the evidence against this transmission is almost overwhelming.

"There is no question but that the results were caused by malnutrition and we have eliminated any possible hereditary cause of blindness by specific genetic tests. By adding cod liver oil to our vitamin A deficient ration, we obtained only normal pigs."

ELECTRIC FENCING SAID ECONOMICAL

Possibility of Decreasing Farm Costs Recited by O. S. C. Engineer.

Use of electricity holds considerable possibility in reducing fencing costs on the farm, believes Ivan Branton, assistant agricultural engineer at Oregon State college, who has investigated various kinds of electric fencing. When properly installed, Branton says, electric fencing is entirely safe for stock as well as human beings and lends itself particularly to pasture rotation use.

The advantage of electric fencing is that only one wire is needed, and posts may be merely stakes driven in the ground three or four rods apart. Once cattle have been trained by contact with the slightly charged wire, they will leave it entirely alone. It has been found advantageous to string up a wire in the barnyard where the cattle will learn about it before they are placed in the field where it is in regular use.

It is important, says Branton, to obtain equipment that is approved by the state electrical inspector and then install it strictly according to the directions of the manufacturer. It is not practical to try to connect electricity to ordinary fencing nor to connect any fence wire to an electric circuit without specific equipment designed for that purpose.

Operating Cost Low

The single barbed wire ordinarily used for electric fencing is strung on insulators. Wood posts will not conduct the current from the wire when dry but during rainy weather they are likely to destroy its effectiveness. The operating cost of an electric fence is only a few cents a month when properly installed and, because of its rather temporary construction, may be moved from place to place.

In tests conducted at the Oregon experiment station, electric fences were found entirely practical for dairy cows even when a smooth wire was used, but a smooth wire was not effective for pigs unless it happens to touch the animal's nose or ear. Branton believes that one heavily barbed wire, well insulated, would have been effective with hogs, sheep or goats which have considerable natural protection from the electric current.

RUBBER TIRES MAY CUT TRACTOR COST

By HOWARD W. BLAKESLEE (Associated Press Science Editor) DETROIT, July 12.—(AP)—A new type of farm tractor which runs on rubber tires and plays its own radio while plowing is credited by C. G. Grieser, agricultural engineer, with starting a mechanical revolution in American farming.

All in the last six months, he says, the lumbering farm tractor has been modernized, turned into a high-compression, six-cylinder counterpart of the 1936 streamlined automobile.

Power Output Increased

"The average tractor," he says, "works about 500 hours a year, using about 1000 gallons of motor fuel and 30 gallons of oil. If the 1,200,000 tractors now in service were changed over to high compression, there would be a saving of over \$20,000,000 in fuel and of \$12,750,000 in oil costs per year.

"Rubber tires on tractors will also either increase the drawbar pull of the tractor by at least 25 per cent or will accomplish a 25 per cent reduction in fuel consumption."

Krieger estimates the possible saving of power used per acre of tractor cultivation at 50 per cent in the new machines.

Save Labor

They are lighter than those even of six months ago, he states, and are capable of performing heavier work in shorter time.

They have self-starters, electric headlights, spotlights and four speeds. "Finger-tip" steering and easily operated clutch and gear shifts are obtained as new items in saving human labor.

OUTPUT OF OREGON CHERRIES DECLINES

WASHINGTON, July 12.—(AP)—A lower yield of cherries this year as compared with 1935 is reported in prospect for Oregon, Wisconsin, Montana, Idaho, Pennsylvania and Colorado, the crop reporting board of the department of agriculture said.

The 1935 yields and indicated 1936 tonnages included: Oregon, 12,900 and 13,500; Washington, 12,700 and 16,700; California, 15,000 and 20,000.

WILD PEAS, VETCH MAKE GOOD HAY

Any wild vetch or wild peas that are palatable to stock in the green state will make acceptable hay, says Dr. I. R. Jones, dairy husbandman at O. S. C. in answer to a query on this subject. There

APPLE CROPS TO BE LOWEST IN YEARS

Oregon Only Pacific Coast State That Will Show Gain Over 1935.

WASHINGTON, July 12.—(AP)—A report of the agriculture department showed that the domestic apple crop probably would be the smallest in 15 years and that of the three Pacific coast states, only Oregon would produce more than in 1935.

The estimates, based on conditions as of July 1, indicated a production of 163,214,000 bushels, or 28 per cent less than the 1935 crop of 167,283,000 bushels and 36 per cent below the five-year average (1928-1932) of 161,332,000 bushels.

The crop on July 1 was estimated at 42.6 per cent normal, compared with 64.5 per cent normal a year ago and 59.8 per cent for the 10-year average condition (1923-1932).

The report of the 1935 production and the indicated production for 1936 included (in bushels):

Oregon	1935	1936
3,500,000	4,622,000	
Washington	30,478,000	26,660,000
California	9,889,000	8,820,000

Indications were that the western states would have about 44 per cent of the nation's total apple crop compared with 32 per cent of 1935 and 36 per cent for the five-year average.

"The relatively poor prospects," the department said, might be attributed largely to the low temperatures last winter and to late spring frosts occurring over a wide area.

DOUGLAS HIGH IN VEGETABLE RATING

WASHINGTON, July 12.—(AP)—Oregonians in 1934 harvested vegetables from 28,323 acres and sold them for \$1,999,791, department of commerce census figures showed.

Vegetables grown for use were reported on 14,847 farms—69.2 of all the farms in the state.

Vegetables were planted on 18,264 acres in 1929.

Multnomah, Washington and Marion led in acreage of market vegetables in 1934, and Lane, Clackamas, Linn and Douglas counties led in crop value.

Land usage in 1934 included 1,631 acres of snap or string beans on 1,229 farms; 1,732 acres of cabbage on 1,188 farms; 3,925 acres of sweet corn on 2,620 farms; 1,833 acres of tomatoes on 1,191 farms; 948 acres of watermelons on 415 farms, and 18,261 acres of all other vegetables, excluding Irish and sweet potatoes, on 7,230 farms.

Values of the 1934 vegetable crops by counties included:

Douglas, \$135,445.

TOMATO BLIGHT AFFECTED BY SUN

HELMISTON, Ore., July 12.—(AP)—H. K. Dean, superintendent of the Hermiston experiment station has thus far substantiated a theory that tomato blight is directly affected by sunlight.

An experimental plot of seven rows has been divided three ways. The plants unprotected from the sun show heavy infestation. Another third under a muslin cover throw across light wooden frames, and admitting about one-third the normal sunlight, is still free of blight. The third group, under lath fairly closely spaced, is without blight, but showed retarded growth from too much shading.

DUST BOWL YIELDS MAMMOTH ONION

GUYMON, Okla., July 12.—(AP)—A local farmer who raised an onion 32 inches long with a 20-inch bulb and root, calls it a "Dust Bowl" model. Growing through layers of silt, pilled by microsovic dust storms, caused the plant to elongate, he explains.

APPROXIMATELY 100,000 ACRES OF FLAX BEING PLANTED IN OREGON

Flax Production Expected to Increase This Year

PORTLAND, July 12.—(AP)—Market sources say that the "hop situation has never been so highly speculative" and prospects for an all-time record price were in sight. "Just wait until next December, when brewers begin combing the market for domestic hops," said a prominent buyer. He said the situation was similar to that which prevailed more than 30 years ago, when growers were able to name their price.

Estimates continued to be made that Oregon will slip from her dominant position in the Pacific coast hop market and will produce not more than 25,000 bales, compared to 110,000 a year ago, because of damage from pests and downy mildew.

Offers of 32 to 35 cents a pound for the 1935 crop have fallen on deaf ears among Oregon growers, who look about half of the 10,000 to 12,000-bale supply in the coast market, the remainder being in California. Washington growers have disposed of most of the 1935 crop there, almost the last lot moving from Yakima yesterday for 32 cents.

Observers here were talking of the prospect of a \$1-a-pound price and dealers were offering up to 29 cents for the 1934 hops.

Fall was expected to bring the real sport in prices. The 25,000-bale production estimate for Oregon was supplemented with estimates of 50,000 bales for Washington and about a similar production in California, making the total coast crop 85,000 bales, compared to 210,000 last year.

Some Oregon growers financially able were spraying and dusting their crops in hope of getting boom prices for what they could salvage.

MILK PRICE WILL STAND, ADAMS SAYS

PORTLAND, July 10.—(AP)—Paul Adams, administrator of the state milk control board, said today that "the board will stick to the price schedule," set July 1.

Adams, reiterating a statement a week ago that the board would not permit local conditions to interfere with the efforts to standardize milk prices in the state, said he had received only one formal complaint. That came from Grants Pass.

"With the exception of the Grants Pass protest, which came from about only half the dairymen, we have had no formal complaints or petitions," he said. "Of course, everyone is not satisfied but what other complaints have been made have been only occasional protests from individuals."

IRRIGATION HELPS IN FLAX GROWING

Supplemental irrigation has proved highly beneficial in the production of fiber flax in western Oregon, says Dr. W. L. Powers, chief in soils at Oregon State college, who is the author of a new mimeographed circular on "Soil, Nutrient, and Irrigation Requirements of Fiber Flax."

With the newly announced federal subsidy for fiber flax producers, together with the seed flax provisions of the agricultural conservation program, interest in flax production has been greatly stimulated. "The new circular is intended as an aid to those now produc-

RECORD PRICES IN PROSPECT FOR HOPS

Growers of Oregon Spurn Offers, With Vision of \$1 a Lb. in Offing.

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MELONS TO HAVE DRUGSTORE FLAVOR

COLEMAN, Texas, July 11.—(AP)—John Davis, amateur gardener, hopes to produce different flavored watermelons this year.

When the melons reach a certain size, he plans to connect them by strings with jars containing fruit flavors. The melons will draw the liquid from the containers, he believes. He expects to have orange, lemon and strawberry melons.

NOTICE

Proposals for the erection of an addition to Days Creek school will be received until Saturday, July 13, at 8 p. m. For plans and specifications see John E. Rangan in Roseburg or the office of the school clerk at Days Creek. A deposit of \$5 must accompany each bid.

JOHN SUTTON, Clerk.

A Chevrolet pickup that looks like new is a good buy for only \$355.00. We have one. Hanson Motor Co.—Adv.

Pigs Blinded if Vitamin A Denied Sows, Test Made by Texas Scientist Reveals

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)—Fred Hale, young Texas scientist, has produced 51 blind pigs in a study to determine whether the diet of a mother affects the eyes of offspring.

The experiment, a study of maternal vitamin A deficiency designed to establish a new law of nutrition, has resulted in what workers here call "remarkable" conclusions, in connection with swine and has led to discussions on the possibility of like results in humans.

Hale, swine husbandryman of the Texas experiment station, conducted the tests by withholding vitamin A ration from sows, in most instances 180 days before breeding and 30 days afterward. As a result, entire litters of pigs were born blind or eyes in successive experiments over a four-year period.

May Aid Human Sight.

"We are attempting to establish a law of nutrition, that normal eye development and vitamin A are so closely associated that if vitamin A is not present during embryonic eye development, the eye will not develop normally," Hale said.

"We have exaggerated the case in our experiments with pigs, but we have evidence to show that there may be varying degrees of eye defect, depending upon whether vitamin A is present in certain amounts at the time of embryonic development.

"It may be possible that humans may be born with apparently normal eyes, yet eyes that are actually weak due to maternal vitamin A deficiency, and such eyes may break down under strain quicker than would eyes developed under a condition where an abundance of vitamin A was available.

"If we can establish the new principle of nutrition, then it is logical to suppose it would hold good for humans."

Other Defects Observed.

Hale said the eye anomaly was not the only one occurring in the experiments. He said he had obtained cleft palates, hare lips, misplaced kidneys and extra cartilage growths.

"It might be assumed that the eye anomalies were due to heredi-

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