NEWS OF FARM LIFE

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

FARM ELECTRICITY GAINS IN OREGON

State Ranks Eleventh in Use of Power; Federal Help Available.

Although Oregon is thirty-first among the states of the nation in number of farms, it ranks eleventh in the number served by central station electricity, according to F. E. Price, acting head of the department of agricultural engineering at Oregon State college. Figures gathered by the rural electrification administration show that Oregon also ranks fourteenth among the states in the percentage of farms served by power line connections.

Of the 64,826 farms in the state, 19,284, or 29.7 per cent, were served by central station electricity at the end of 1935. If the percentage were figured on the more densely populated western Oregon area, the figures would show from 50 to 65 per cent of the farms already using electricity for some purpose. The national percentage for the country as a whole is under 10 per cent, according to price.

While some localities in Oregon are interested in the opportunity to obtain help under the rural electrification act, the problem of farmers in more communities is how to make more profitable use of the electrical power already available, says Price. In some instances it is possible to obtain federal aid on a community basis for wiring farm houses and other buildings for the use of electricity where the power is already close at hand.

U. S. Loans Available

The rural electrification act provides that 50 million dollars shall be available during the current fiscal year for the construction of rural lines and house wiring. One-half of this amount must be allotted to the various states in proportion to the percentage of un-electrified farms, which means that Oregon farmers have available a sizeable fund to draw upon if they have feasible projects to present. Professor Price is already working with the people of the Triangle lake area in Lane county on a project for use of such funds.

The sparsely settled Columbia basin wheat area reduces Oregon's percentage of electrical use, as there the farm density is around one home per mile, according to a report of the rural electrical committee of the Eastern Oregon Wheat league. No area of such low density has even been electrified under the rural electrification act, Price believes. Communities and isolated valleys such as the Triangle lake area, or similar situations, might make good use of the federal loans, he believes, even though Oregon as a whole is already far above the average in having reasonably priced rural power available to its farms.

REGIONAL OFFICES TO PAY UNDER AAA

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8—(AP)—Payments to farmers under the $470,000,000 soil conservation production control program this year will be made directly from regional offices in three of the five national divisions instead of from Washington.

AAA spokesmen still were uncertain today as to the exact date when payments will be made although they predicted the bulk of benefit checks will go out in December and January.

Proposed locations for the regional AAA offices under the decentralization plan, include Portland, Oregon.

Good Crops and Prices Build Favorable Season for Farmers of Pacific States

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 8—(AP)—Pacific coast farmers generally are having their best of many summers this year—the result of a number of influences combining to favor the far west.

Production in most lines is good; prices are good and have advanced during the last several months. The midwest drought has turned buying of farm products to the far west, making marketing easier and surer. Prices of goods the farmer must buy have gone up too, but much less than the 19 per cent average rise accruing to producers of raw farm products.

With this upturn in economic conditions of the large farm population, prospect brightened materially for the autumn in general business. Increased purchasing power in the hands of a large part of the population, business observers said, should work out normally to expanded sales at retail, better general trade, transportation and manufacturing activities and employment.

Latest authoritative department of agriculture figures on west coast production indicate:

Deciduous fruit sales nearly doubled the volume, and more than doubled the income to growers, over last year, on the average for the 7 Pacific slope states.

Citrus fruit shipments were a bit short of last year—61,701 cars to the end of July, against 65,352 in last year's great movement.

Vegetable growers shipped several thousand more cars than a year ago. Grain marketings were large and profitable.

Barley movement lagged for a time, but picked up later with rapidly rising prices which added millions to growers' incomes.

Cattle and hogs went to market in greater volume, but sheep shipments were a little short of last year.

Eggs moved in greater volume than last year, butter in slightly lower amount, with late increases in prices bringing the dairymen the best returns in some years.

CELERY ACTIVITY SETS HIGH MARK

PORTLAND, Sept. 8—(AP)—With the opening of fall activity approaching, Oregon celery growers reported the greatest summer activity in history. Shipments to date are around 250 carloads.

Leading producers said the average price was very good in spite of not very favorable prices now. Sales are now at about 90 cents a crate, the season's low.

Ronald Jones, producer and shipper in the Labish district, said celery growing sectors of Florida are taking Oregon celery in preference to Atlantic coast supplies. He estimates his crop at around 600 cars.

CORN CROP LOWEST IN HALF CENTURY

CHICAGO, Sept. 8—(AP)—A consensus of five private crop estimates made public on the Chicago board of trade indicated a 1936 domestic corn crop of 1,416,000,000 bushels, 23,000,000 bushels below the latest government figures, and the smallest crop in more than a half century.

The oats crop forecast indicated a production of 786,000,000 bushels, 14,000,000 more than the August 1 government production estimate of 772,000,000. Last year the oats crop totaled 1,196,000,000 bushels.

EXPERT BELITTLES VALUE OF SPINACH

PORTLAND, Sept. 7—(AP)—Dr. Ira A. Manville pricked the spinach bubble.

Speaking before a club here, the noted nutrition expert of the University of Oregon, said that the popular conception of spinach is a food of great value has grown out of its iron content.

He explained, however, that what iron there is in foods must be in a form soluble in gastric juices and that a large part of the iron in spinach is not so usable.

OREGON 1934 MILK REVEALS DECREASE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8—(AP)—The census bureau reports Oregon's 1934 milk production was less than in 1929 despite a substantial increase in the state's bovine population.

The 1934 production amounted to 133,237,466 gallons, compared with 135,367,656 in 1929, the bureau said in a special report.

The number of cows and heifers, both milk and beef, two years old and older, was 487,442 on January 1, 1935, compared with 352,637 on April 3, 1930.

Cows milked during 1934 totaled 250,573, compared with 224,789 in 1929. Farms reporting totaled 48,339 in 1934, and 41,405 in 1929.

Butter churned in 1934 amounted to 3,328,230 pounds, and in 1929 only 2,529,447 pounds.

The three leading milk producing counties in 1934 were Washington, 9,824,299 gallons; Tillamook, 8,157,623; and Coos 8,752,463.

Other large milk producing counties were: Baker, 5,917,406 gallons; Clackamas, 7,993,825; Columbia, 4,165,875; Douglas, 4,246,518; Jackson, 4,070,924; Klamath, 3,253,679; Lane, 6,682,884; Linn, 7,582,703; Malheur, 4,583,602; Marion, 7,909,426; Multnomah, 4,714,326; Polk, 4,052,638; Umatilla, 4,691,911; Union, 4,228,077; Wallowa, 3,776,872; Yamhill, 5,743,731.

OF INTEREST TO TURKEY RAISERS

Oregon turkey growers found the first state industry convention at Oregon State college in August so interesting that close to 300 in attendance voted unanimously to ask the college to make the event an annual affair. The attendance was much larger than was expected and the day proved too short to include all of the discussion desired by the growers. A number suggested that next year's convention be made a two-day affair.

Turkey Mycosis is a disease term greatly abused in its modern use, until it parctically has no significance any more, Dr. W. T. Johnson, poultry pathologist at O. S. C., told the turkey growers. It was formerly applied to a certain fungus infection of the crop, but it is now loosely used for all sorts of fungus infections and some that may not be.

There is so much that veterinarians do not know about this and other turkey diseases that the field is a fertile one for misrepresentation and exploitation, says Dr. Johnson. For the fungus infection of the crop there is no certain preventative known, although an almost specific cure is the use of copper sulfate (blue vitrol) at the rate of 1 ounce to 15 gallons of drinking water. This has only been recommended where the disease occurs and it is not to be considered a blanket recommendation for use with all ages and at all times, he warned.

The turkey industry is now returning Oregon growers around 3 million dollars a year, said H. E. Cosby, head of the poultry department at O. S. C. The growth of the industry has been rapid in the last décade.

Oregon turkeys are from well bred stock in general and are so well handled that they command a premium on the better markets of the country, according to H. P. Griffin, field manager of the Northwestern Turkey Growers' association. This association, which is a federation of cooperative growers' units from eight states, expects to handle 12 million pounds of turkeys this year, which makes it the largest single turkey marketing concern in the world. Four regional Oregon groups comprise the Oregon Turkey Growers association, which in turn is affiliated with the Northwestern.

GROWING OF SUGAR BEETS ENCOURAGED

ONTARIO, Sept. 8—(AP)—Sugar beet growing may become a leading industry of Malheur county if plans of the Amalgamate Sugar company go through.

The company is now trying to interest farmers of the region in putting in enough sugar acreage to justify erection of a plant.

SOME FARM PRICES BELOW AVERAGES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8—(AP)—The agriculture department estimates Oregon farmers received less than national average prices for 19 out of 27 farm products on August 15, 1936.

The nine items for which higher than national average prices were received at local Oregon markets were:

Hogs, per 100 pounds, $10.30, compared with a national average of $9.83; veal calves, per 100 pounds, $7.40 and $7.05; milk cows, per head, $58 and $51.10; horses, per head, $92 and $90.80; eggs, per dozen, 23.4 cents and 22.4; butter, per pound, 39 cents and 30.5; alfalfa seed, per bushel, $9.80 and $9.63; butterfat, per pound, 38 cents and 35.7.

Wheat, per bushel, 86 cents and $1.05; corn, per bushel, 81 and $1.03; oats, per bushel, 40 cents and 43; barley, per bushel, 67 cents and 81.3; rye, per bushel, 63 cents and 75.1; potatoes, per bushel, $1.25 and $1.28; beef cattle, per 100 pounds, $5.50 and $5.71; sheep, per 100 pounds, $3.65 and $3.69; lambs, per 100 pounds, $7.40 and $7.59; mules, per head, $100 and $106.20; chickens, per pound, 15 cents and 15.1; wool, per pound, 27 cents and 27.2; apples, per bushel, 75 cents and 88. All hay, loose, per ton, $8.20 and $10.77; alfalfa, $8.40 and $12.04; clover, $9.10 and $12.71; clover and timothy mixed, $8.20 and $12.18; prairie, $7.30 and $8.62; red clover seed, per bushel, $10 and $11.09.

OREGON HONEY CROP IN FINE CONDITION

PORTLAND, Sept. 8—(AP)—A honey report of the U. S. department of agriculture indicated today that Oregon's 1936 crop is in good shape.

Bees were reported to be in fine condition in western Oregon with colonies yielding as much as 100 pounds in the Willamette valley. Quality is the best in recent years with more than 90 per cent of the honey grading white.

In the western Oregon firewood area, quality was said to be generally good with volume somewhat below early expectations but about normal.

EUGENE, Ore., Sept. 8—(AP)—Additional population and better economic conditions resulted in increasing municipal electric system customers from 6,628 to 7,580 and water users from 5,115 to 5,534 in the past four years, utility superintendent J. W. McArthur said.

Huge Egg Fatal To Noted Turkey Hen

Old Faithful is dead!

Old Faithful was a turkey hen at Carl Richmond's Sans Souci poultry farm and in her five years of life produced 682 eggs. An oversized egg, her 168th for the year, caused her death.

Hatched in April 1932, the hen was purchased in that year by Mr. Richmond from Carl Gilbreath and Lyle Marsters.

She was named because of her habit of laying her eggs in a box on the back porch of the Richmond home.

Her record shows 196 eggs in 1933, 195 in 1934, 134 in 1935 and 167 in 1936. With the world's record established at 205 her consistent performance was extremely high, Mr. Richmond declares.

The hen was buried with honors by Mr. and Mrs. Richmond, and a concrete shaft was erected in her memory.

PORTLAND, Ore., Sept. 8—(AP)—Political interest in a floral display at the Rose City Methodist church ended abruptly here when the pastor, the Rev. Fred C. Taylor, denied the display constituted a sun-flower (the Landon emblem), commented that "they were only beautiful Oregon Michaelmas daisies," and stressed that the church was under strict instructions to avoid partisan politics.

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