

NEWS OF FARM LIFE

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



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U. S. TRADE WITH CANADA INCREASES

Reductions in Duties Spur Commerce in Affected Commodities.

Exports of farm products to Canada during the first nine months of the United States-Canadian trade agreement (January-September 1936) amounted to \$46,000,000 in value compared with \$40,000,000 during the corresponding period of 1935, the bureau of agricultural economics reported.

The increase was mainly in items on which duty reductions were obtained in the Canadian market, exports of these products to Canada were valued at \$12,682,000 compared with \$10,943,000 during the corresponding period last year, increased shipments of fresh, dried, and canned fruits, fresh vegetables, cereal products, prepared meats, lard, nuts, fruit juices, field and garden seeds, and nursery stock were reported.

Imports of farm products on which no duty reductions were obtained amounted in value to \$22,280,000 compared with \$19,237,000 during the corresponding period last year.

United States imports of Canadian farm products during the nine months amounted in value to \$69,320,000 compared with \$41,137,000 during the corresponding period of 1935.

The value of imports from Canada of farm products on which no duty reductions were granted in the agreement amounted during this period to \$52,371,000 compared with \$37,400,000 the year before. The increase took place almost entirely during July, August, and September, and is accounted for by increased purchases of Canadian wheat to supplement American supplies reduced by the drought.

As to farm products on which the United States granted duty reductions, the imports from Canada amounted to \$13,719,000 compared with \$6,730,000 the year before. Outstanding increases under the duty-reduced items were in live cattle weighing 700 pounds or more per head, Cheddar cheese, maple sugar, turnips and rutabagas, seed potatoes, and cereal breakfast foods.

GRADE IMPORTANT TO TURKEY TRADE

Now that the holiday season is at hand an increasing proportion of the turkeys from American farms are going to market with their grade certified by the bureau of agricultural economics. Consumers are interested in knowing just what the various grades stand for.

The three top grades in the order of their quality requirements are U. S. Special, U. S. Prime and U. S. Choice.

Not many turkeys of the U. S. special grade reach the markets because of its very high requirements. Their scarcity results in a high price which is out of the reach of the average housewife.

Larger numbers of U. S. prime turkeys reach the markets. Although not so near perfection as those for the special grade, they must meet the specifications which require that the birds be "young, soft-meat, with well-developed breast, and with entire carcass well covered with fat; well bled, well dressed, with breast practically free of pinfeathers and only few scattered pinfeathers over remainder of carcass. Crop must be empty. Only very slight flesh or skin blemishes, abrasions, or discolorations permitted, with breast practically free of such defects."

U. S. choice turkeys are plentiful in the markets to meet the purse of the housewife with a more modest budget. The quality of this grade is just below that of prime, the principal difference being that the breast may not be quite so well developed, nor the carcass so well covered with fat. More skin abrasions or discolorations are permitted, but there can be no more than three such defects on any bird of this grade.

Of the three grades the specifications are the same for both the male and female bird, except that in grading the male, allowance is made for fleshing conditions characteristic of its sex.



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Champ Bull Wins Third Title



Brown Dale Sultan, newly-crowned grand champion shorthorn bull of the International Livestock exposition at Chicago, now has three titles to his credit. A two-year-old, weighing 1,800 pounds, he was sired by Raven Masterpiece, 1934 grand champion of the shorthorn breed, and is owned by Earl E. Robbins of Greensburg, Ind., pictured with the champion.

IRON-COPPER DIET BEATS PIG WORMS

A small daily dose of dilute iron and copper sulphate given to pigs suffering from nutritional anemia and nodular worms resulted in larger and more profitable gains despite the fact that the treated pigs had more worms at the end of the test than the untreated ones.

The test was conducted at the National Agricultural Research center at Beltsville, Md., under the direction of the bureau of animal industry.

Previous experiments have shown that the iron-copper solution was beneficial for pigs suffering from nutritional anemia. The recent test showed that the pigs thrive when the solution is added to the daily ration. The tonic improves their physical condition to the point where they are able to withstand the effects of parasitism.

The iron-copper solution is prepared by adding one ounce each of ferrous sulphate and copper sulphate to one-half pint of water. This basic mixture is diluted again by adding one part of it to 800 parts of water. In the tests a dose of about one teaspoonful was mixed with the daily ration.

L. A. Spindler, zoologist of the bureau who conducted the tests, says that nutritional anemia is a common disease affecting pigs which have been kept indoors. The disease is characterized by excess fat, general inactivity, shortness of breath, occasional diarrhea, and a slow rate of growth. Nodular worms are common parasites.

FRUIT SOCIETY TO MEET DEC. 11 AND 12

The Oregon State Horticultural society will hold its 10th-annual meeting at Hood River, Dec. 11 and 12, according to O. T. McWhorter, extension horticulturist at Oregon State college and secretary of the society. McWhorter has just released the detailed program, which indicates a worthwhile reason for all interested in the various phases of horticulture in all parts of the state.

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FARM PURCHASES REVEAL INCREASE FLAX NETS RAISERS \$38.75 PER ACRE

Steady Continuance Looked For in View of Federal Aid in Financing.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 7.—The steady increase in the purchase of farms during the last eighteen months may be expected to continue during the balance of this year and all of 1937, W. I. Myers, director of the farm credit administration, stated here. He based his prediction, he said, upon four facts: (1) that the land banks sold nearly 60 per cent more farms in the past nine months of 1936 than in the corresponding period of 1935; (2) that they have been doing an increasing amount of financing of farm purchases; (3) that long-term loans at very reasonable rates will be available; and (4) that there will be a continued general improvement in the position of agriculture.

Responsible for part of the increase in farm purchase financing, the governor explained, is the fact that second mortgage loans by the land bank commissioner are now being made in addition to the federal land bank first mortgage loan to assist in farm purchasing, thus making it possible for a person with character and farming experience to finance up to 75 per cent of the appraised normal value of the farm.

The purposes for which farmers are placing mortgages on their farms are changing rather rapidly, Myers stated. While approximately 20 per cent of the proceeds of the federal land bank and commissioner loans in 1933 and 1934 were used to refinance debts, in 1935 the percentage so used dropped to 82 per cent and during the first seven months of this year to about 79 per cent. This means that a larger proportion of the loans are being used to purchase farms. In the 12 months ending October 1, this year, the federal land bank and commissioner extended credit in the approximate amount of \$50,000,000 to finance the purchase of nearly 20,000 farms, sold by the land banks on mortgage or contract terms.

This year the percentage of land bank proceeds used to purchase farms is higher than in any time during the life of the land bank system with the exception of the period from 1917-1920 and the year 1929.

Members of the steering committee are Ira E. Ray, Monmouth; J. H. Hagell, Hubbard; William Linford, Salem; J. J. Fisher, Greensburg; C. L. Davis, Woodburn.

PRODUCERS NEED WILL BE SURVEYED

CORVALLIS, Dec. 7.—(AP)—Organization of a special council and appointment of a steering committee to survey needs of producers were completed at the concluding session of the small fruit growers of Oregon.

Delegates said the organization would assist in marketing problems, legislative issues, cooperation with the state department of agriculture and experiment station projects.

GLLENDALE DAIRY BUSINESS ENLARGED

GLENDAL, Ore., Dec. 4.—G. H. Mathew, this week completed the purchase of the dairy herd of Carl Harper, bringing Mr. Mathew's herd up to ten fine milk cows. He also takes over the customers of Mr. Harper. Mr. Mathew and his family have been residents of Glendale since the spring of 1929 and have served the community with milk and cream for the past five years.

TREE PLANTING HITS 2ND HIGHEST POINT

PORTLAND, Dec. 7.—(AP)—Tree planting in the national forests of the Pacific northwest to insure the timber supply for coming generations hit the second highest point on record, the United States forest service said.

When the year comes to an end 2,038,000 two-year-old Douglas firs will have been planted in 418 acres of burned over and logged-off land. The peak was 3,295,000 in 1934.

All planting has been done by the CCC and ERA. Since the program brought reduced domestic supplies, while improved consumer demand raised prices and encouraged imports, the department said.

In 1934 imports were 57,675 head, jumping to 363,810 last year.

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FARMERS' AID ASKED IN WEED BULLETIN

The help of farmers all over Oregon is being asked in the preparation of a new bulletin on weed control to be published soon at Oregon State college.

"Every year we get hundreds of letters asking us how to control weeds," says E. J. Jackman, extension specialist in farm crops at O. S. C. "Now we would like to reverse the procedure momentarily and appeal to Oregon farmers to send in their experiences with all kinds of methods of getting rid of morning glories, Canada thistle, evergreen blackberries, white top, quack grass and other perennial weeds.

"A new bulletin on weeds is being prepared at the college, and we want to include in it actual experiences of farmers all over the state. Reports of success or failure will be welcomed. Each letter that comes in may be of tremendous help to some other Oregon farmer—perhaps in the writer's own county, perhaps 400 miles away."

Mr. Jackman wants letters telling of experiences with such methods as cultivation, smother crops, pasturing, chemicals—everything that experimental minded Oregon farmers have ever tried.

"A man's experience may seem commonplace and of little interest to him," Jackman points out, "but it may be of vital interest to someone else who has the same problem."

EXERCISED FOWLS HAVE BETTER MEAT

Roasters allowed to range 20 to 25 weeks before being placed on a fattening diet have a larger percentage of breast and leg meat—the choicest portion—than birds held in confinement during the growing period, according to a year test by the bureau of animal industry at the National Agricultural Research center, Beltsville, Md.

As a general rule, say the poultry specialists, the percentage of breast was about 8 per cent higher, leg 10 per cent higher, and total edible portion 6 to 8 per cent higher in favor of the birds allowed to range. This is credited largely to development through exercise and to feed picked up on the range.

When placed on a fattening diet for two weeks the range birds showed an average increase of six per cent in the percentage of total edible portion. No significant changes took place in the percentage of breast and leg, although there was a proportionate increase in weight.

The study showed little difference in the physical and chemical composition of the edible portions.

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