



NEWS OF FARM LIFE

GRANGES

COUNTY AGENT'S REPORTS

CROP NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEWS



SMALL FRUIT DAY PLANNED AT O.S.C.

New Kinds of Berries to Be Up for Inspection On June 2nd.

New kinds of strawberries on the vine, in preserves and frozen fresh will be ready for inspection by growers of Oregon attending the annual small fruits day at the central farm of the Oregon experiment station at Corvallis Thursday, June 2.

Ever since the cooperative breeding work carried on by the federal bureau of plant industry and the experiment station was started at Corvallis, these annual field days have attracted hundreds of growers. Thousands of new seedlings and special selections have been viewed each year.

This year George F. Waldo, assistant federal pomologist stationed at O. S. C., reports that a special group of from 15 to 20 selections which show promise as future commercial varieties will be emphasized. None of these varieties have yet been released for field plantings because all are being given the most rigorous tests for cultural characteristics, disease resistance and high quality before being recommended for commercial use.

Fruiting To Be Eyed
Approximately 4000 new seedling strawberries will be fruiting for the first time this year and a considerable number that would have fruited last year except for flood conditions will fruit this season.

Several thousand seedlings of other types of berries, such as Youngberries, loganberries, Boysenberry crosses of various sorts, blackberries and raspberries may be seen growing, although it is too early in the season for them to be fruiting. Experiments conducted over several years on various methods of pruning and training cane berries will also be reported on in the experimental plots where the work is conducted. Cultural practices with strawberry, disease and pest control and related topics will also be touched upon by specialists who will take part in the field day program.

SHEEP, LAMBS UP IN VALUE, NUMBER

The number of all sheep and lambs on farms on January 1, 1938, is estimated by the bureau of agricultural economics at 52,918,000 head, which is 330,000 head larger than a year earlier. The number of stock sheep was smaller than a year ago, but the larger number of lambs on feed brought the total above last year. The number of stock sheep was below a year earlier in nearly all the important western sheep states except Texas and Wyoming, and the total in the 13 western sheep states was 406,000 head smaller. The value per head, \$6.12, of all sheep and lambs was 10 cents higher than a year earlier, and the total value of \$323,746,000 was about \$7,400,000 larger.

WHEAT CROP QUOTA IS OFF FOR 1938

WASHINGTON, May 23.—(AP)—Secretary Wallace said that under terms of the new crop control law it was too late to invoke marketing quotas on this year's marketed crop.

The agriculture department chief explained that the law authorized quotas this year only in the event congress appropriated funds by May 15 "parity payments" provided for in the new legislation.

A pending proposal by Senator Russell (D., Ga.) to make funds available for such payments comes too late, agricultural adjustment administration officials said, to make quotas possible on this year's crop, which on the basis of official estimates may provide a supply from 100,000,000 to 150,000,000 bushels in excess of domestic and export needs.

TREE SEEDLINGS SENT TO FARMERS

SALEM, May 23.—(AP)—Farmers throughout the state have received 500,000 forest tree seedlings in the past few months to establish woodland shelterbelts and windbreaks. J. W. Ferguson, state forester, said:

The trees, produced at the state forestry department nursery near Corvallis, included Douglas fir, Port Orford cedar and Ponderosa pine. The demand for trees has increased from 100,000 to 500,000 annually in the past few years. The department has been buying trees from all parts of the world to determine if they would grow in Oregon.

FARM INCOME IN 1937 SHOWS BOOST

WASHINGTON, May 23.—(AP)—The bureau of agricultural economics estimated the gross farm income in 1937 at \$10,005,000,000—the highest since 1929.

The gross income included cash receipts from sale of farm products and the value of products retained for consumption on the farm.

The bureau previously had estimated the cash farm income at \$8,521,000,000. This included \$367,000,000.

OUR BOARDING HOUSE

with Major Hoople



New Angle of An Old Story



A three-cornered, right-angled egg containing two yolks was laid by Betty, White Leghorn shown above standing proudly over her fresh henfruit, for her owner, Ernest Pastor, of Cedarhurst, L. I., whose daughter, Christina, is pictured admiring both the product and the producer. The V-egg, really three malformed eggs, weighed about a half-pound, was three and one-half inches long.

State Rivalry Threatens Research Plan To Turn Surplus Farm Crops Into Profits

WASHINGTON, May 23.—(AP)—Economic and state rivalry threaten to shelve a national venture in putting science to work for the farmer in seeking out hundreds of new uses for surplus agricultural crops.

A congress deep in the study of the farm problem approved establishment of four regional research laboratories to cost \$1,000,000 a year each to investigate ways of turning "cost-depressing" surpluses into profits—a plan envisioned by its proponents as the "only way out" for the farmer.

As guideposts along the path of research, congressional sources referred to manufacture of starch from potatoes, alcohol from fuel from corn, highway surfacing from cotton, sugar from apples and to a whole field of possible discoveries.

While applications for the laboratories were piling up in the agriculture department from virtually every state, congress, which had authorized but made no appropriation for the program, pared the amount it was willing to spend to only \$100,000 and specified this be used for a survey of sites and to determine the scope of the research.

Congress was told plans for the laboratories were in a nebulous state, that information was lacking on the work being done by other agencies, state experiment stations and pressing regional research projects, so that "irreversible mistakes" might result from starting the program now.

Some congressmen recalled the research money would come out of the pockets of the farmer, any way, since it would be taken from the soil conservation appropriation.

Agriculture department authorities, puzzled as to where to locate the laboratories—one was to be in each "major crop producing area"—had an intimation of congressional intentions from Senator Miller (D., Ark.), who said it was "absolutely essential" that the work be done in the cotton, cotton and wheat belts and one so located as to take care of other products, including apples. Apple growers, however, contended recently that they produced a "major crop" and that a special laboratory should be set up to handle their problems.

It is against the law to drive over a wooden bridge in Nebraska at a speed of more than four miles an hour.

In 1932, Japanese high school girls made a flag for a Japanese regiment at Shanghai, and dyed it red with blood from their own fingers.

WEED KILLING PLAN NOT ALWAYS GOOD

Pasture Renovation Often Necessary Because of Wrong Practice.

One way to clear brush and noxious weeds from land is to turn in goats enough to keep the bushes stripped bare and the weeds clipped close to the ground until the roots starve and the plants die.

Unintentionally, a good many farmers follow practically the same plan in pastures they really want to keep productive, says A. T. Semple of the federal soil conservation service. On their grasslands they pasture so many animals and for such a long season that the tops of the good grass plants have no chance to feed the roots and to store food reserves that the plants require for growth. The result is the death of the best grasses and a lowering of the grazing limit in quality and quantity.

A thin cover of grass or weeds provides less feed and holds less of the rain that falls on the pasture. Sample points out, close-cropped pastures are likely to go from bad to worse and to suffer erosion by wind and water. Farmers often are forced to reduce the number of animals that graze on the damaged grasslands, but they seldom reduce sharply enough and soon enough to allow the good grasses to recover and form a leafy surface covering to catch and hold the rain that will in turn promote a richer growth of grass.

Renovation Needed
When pastures have been overgrazed for several seasons and the plants have been thinned to an unproductive stand, it may be necessary not only to reduce radically the number of animals on the pasture but also to give positive aid to recovery.

Pasture renovation aids many include one or a combination of the following measures: (1) Seeding to desirable grasses and legumes; (2) fertilizing—with complete fertilizer as a rule; and (3) mechanical aids to erosion control and water conservation. Contour farming, incidentally, have proved one of the simplest and most effective of these mechanical aids.

SUMMER DROP IN HOG PRICES SEEN

WASHINGTON, May 23.—(AP)—The bureau of agricultural economics forecasts slight early summer decline in hog prices to be followed by advances late in the summer.

It said indications point to usual seasonal increases in slaughter supplies in the immediate future, but a decline in late summer months.

"The rise in prices will be limited," the bureau said, "by the continued weak consumer demand for meats."

Slaughter supplies during the summer season will be consistently larger than those of last summer, the bureau said, adding, however, that this increase would be offset to a considerable extent by a decrease in pork and lard stocks now in storage compared with a year earlier.

The bureau said the 1938 fall pig crop probably would be somewhat larger than that of 1937, because of more abundant feed supplies and feed prices favorable for expansion in hog production.

FARM MACHINERY USE IS EXPANDING

General Purpose Tractor Is Playing Important Part in Crop Operations.

The present trend of improvement in farm machinery is toward durability, simplicity, speed, and convenience of operation, says W. M. Hurst of the U. S. bureau of agricultural engineering in an article, "New Tools for Agriculture," in the May issue of The Agricultural Situation, a publication of the bureau of agricultural economics.

As a good example of the general-purpose tractor, the development of which "probably has affected more American agriculture as much as, if not more than, the development of the reaper and steel plow of a century ago," the gas tractor has been on the market for nearly 40 years, but only during the past 10 or 12 years has a unit suitable for planting and cultivating row crops, for plowing, disk, and belt work, been available. Of all general-purpose tractors manufactured in 1937 nearly 50 per cent were on rubber. Pneumatic tires not only permit higher speed in field operations but make possible road hauling with trailers.

Plow Quality Better.
"Adapting field machinery to use with tractors," says Hurst, "constitutes the major recent development in what is generally known as farm implements. A new plow, for instance, may look about the same as its predecessor but on examination it will be found to be made of better material, to have greater beam clearance for turning under trash, the shape of the moldboard of some is such as to permit of higher speed, and attachments are available for increasing effectiveness in turning under cover crops."

The article brings out that production of wheat and potato crops has become highly mechanized, while the mechanization of certain other crops such as cotton, corn, sugar beets, fruits and vegetables, for various reasons, has not gone so far. "Grain harvesting machinery such as the 'baby combine,' a recent improvement," the writer says, "is being used successfully on a variety of crops other than wheat and corn, such as soybeans, peas, alfalfa and clovers." Regarding potatoes, he says they "usually are planted, cultivated, sprayed and dug with mechanical equipment, but the 'picking up' is yet a hand operation."

Huskers Not Perfected.
The production of cotton has not been mechanized extensively, "because a mechanical cotton picker is not yet commercially available." As to corn, "further improvements are necessary in the design of picker huskers before this type of machine comes into general farm use. Hand husking in the field continues to be the most common method of harvesting corn." Hurst says "more complete mechanization of sugar beet production appears near as favorable results have been obtained with a mechanical harvester which lifts and tops the beets at one operation. Improvements in sugar-beet planters, now under way, for more accurate hill spacing, should reduce hand labor in thinning and cultivating, and reduce the need for it." He also says that "much hand work is of course required for fruits and vegetables, but mechanical sorting, packing and refrigeration, bring these crops to market in better condition."

The article calls attention to "a trend toward the production of machinery suitable for the small or family-size farm," mentioning specifically general-purpose tractors, the "baby combine" harvesters and other field machinery adapted for light tractor power.

FARM ODDITIES

DUPLEX DEPOSIT
MARLIN, Tex.—Proof of this tale is on cold storage in Marlin for all skeptics to view.

A hen owned by Mrs. Harvey Williams, a WPA sewing room assistant here, had been laying two

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eggs simultaneously for a month. None believed it.

The hen was killed and two egg bags, which functioned concurrently, producing two normal eggs at one laying, were discovered.

WELL, WELL
RED OAK, Ia.—George Miller's "whistling well" offers a problem for those interested in "pump priming" of a practical nature.

All the farmer gets out of it is a noise, sounding much like a steam engine, which can be heard for about 60 rods.

Well Driller S. H. Patterson declared he "never saw anything like that before" in his 40 years of experience.

Geologist H. T. Hersey of Iowa City, Ia., suggested the thing might eventually "boil out."

RELATED PAYMENT
OREGONIA, O.—Raymond Ross is now willing to "forget" those 15 turkeys which disappeared from his father's farm in 1912.

Oregonia's postmistress turned over to him a letter from Father Divine, New York negro cult leader, enclosing \$15 for the turkeys. He said two of his "converts" had confessed stealing the fowl from the Ross farm.

RASSHOPPER MENACE
ST. EDWARD, Neb.—That roaring noise that bothered Peter Zimney so much has stopped.

He went to a doctor who withdrew a pretty green grasshopper from the farmer's ear.

WHEAT INSURANCE RATES ANNOUNCED

Amounts to Be Paid Rest on Coverage; Committee of AAA Will Aid.

Government crop insurance for Douglas county wheat growers will cost an average of about 1.3 bushels per acre, if three-fourths coverage is taken, and 3 bushels per acre if one-half coverage only is desired.

Rates for Oregon counties have been announced in connection with the tri-state crop insurance meeting just held at Pendleton. The county rates are based on the average per acre loss in each county during the 10 years of 1926 to 1935. The premium that an individual wheat grower will have to pay for insurance will be calculated both from this county rate and the history of losses on his own farm. The rates for each farm will be computed in the branch office of the crop insurance corporation.

The county crop insurance program will be entered in the regular county AAA committee, according to County Agent J. Roland Parker, who is secretary of the committee. The figures farmers need for calculating their insurance premiums will also be available in the county committee offices for those farms which participated in the AAA wheat adjustment program. On other farms, arrangements will be made for appraisal to obtain similar figures.

Yield Variation Rules
The average wheat yield per acre for this county during the 10-year period used in calculating county rates is 18.4 bushels. The cost of insurance is based, however, not so much on the average amount of yield as on the year-to-year variation in yield. Two farmers with the same average yield for the 10-year period may not necessarily pay the same premium for the same percentage of coverage. County Agent Parker points out the farmer who suffered but little crop loss would pay less than the farmer who suffered frequent and heavy losses, even



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HUDSON

though their average yields were the same.

As the government insurance starts with the 1939 crop, arrangements are being made by the county AAA committee to see that every grower will have opportunity to become acquainted with the essentials of the plan, and if he desires insurance, can make application in advance of the fall seeding for next year's crop.

FATHER OF LOCAL RESIDENT PASSES

GRANTS PASS, May 21.—(AP)—T. M. Taylor, 67, died at his home here today. He is survived by his widow, two sons, J. S. Taylor of Lapine and David Taylor of Roseburg; and two daughters, Mrs. Lena Hoerger of Klamath Falls and Mrs. Ruth Bailor of Portland.

In Sequoia National park, a chipmunk was declared "champion nut-gatherer" after it had stored 88 nuts in its cheeks at one time.

A human adult has half an ounce of sugar in his blood, which is proportionately more than a sheep and less than a cow.

The Spartans of ancient Greece are credited with the origination of the game of football. They created

ed such a game about 500 B. C., calling it "harpastum."

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