

FARM DAIRY AND POULTRY PAGE

Turkey Production Of U. S. This Year Shows Increase

Oregon Expected to Rank 5th, With California 1st; More Revenue Goes to Growers

PORTLAND, Ore., Nov. 17.—It appears that this will have been a good year for the turkey growers—if not for the birds, who always seem to get it in the neck anyway.

Latest figures of the United States department of agriculture estimate that the 1941 crop of turkeys in the nation will have been 33,553,000, which would be 3 of 1 per cent greater than in 1940.

Indicated yield for Oregon is 1,533,000, which would be slightly higher than in 1940, when this state produced 1,518,000 of the strutting birds.

It is expected that final figures for the 1941 crop will show that Oregon ranks fifth in turkey production, with California in the top spot and Texas, Minnesota and Iowa following in that order.

More Money Paid

The turkey growers are getting more money for their produce this year, but it is too early to estimate what will be the cash income for the growers in Oregon. At present, marketing experts say, the producer is averaging about 23 cents a pound for his birds. It has been estimated that approximately 25 per cent of the Oregon crop has been marketed to date. Normally, at least 60 per cent of the turkeys produced in Oregon are shipped to other states, market buyers report.

Because the quality of the turkeys grown in the Pacific northwest generally is superior to that of birds grown elsewhere in the nation, Oregon turkeys are in demand in big urban consuming areas. Premiums frequently are paid for Oregon strutters because of the broad-breasted strain which has been developed here through selective breeding.

New Disease Hits Sheep in Oregon

Much of the unexplained sheep loss in western Oregon is believed due to a new disease just discovered by Dr. O. H. Muth, associate professor of veterinary medicine at Oregon State college. This disease is known as listeriosis or listerellosis.

The trouble has also been known as circling disease because infected sheep wander around in circles butting into fences and other objects. These peculiar symptoms are caused by bacteria which enter the brain and cause an inflammation of the brain and spinal cord.

While this disease had previously been reported from England, New Zealand, and some of the eastern parts of the United States, this is the first record of its appearance in the western states, says Dr. Muth.