



FARM and GARDEN NEWS



Sawdust Good For Mulch, OSC Says

The popular idea that sawdust sours the soil and releases harmful resins is largely unjustified, according to A. L. Roberts, assistant horticulturist at the O.S.C. experiment station, in answering an inquiry on this subject.

Sawdust has proved especially valuable as a mulch material for small fruits, especially blueberries, Roberts explained. Ordinarily the station has obtained best results with a four or five inch mulch or the same amount worked into the soil.

The only precaution suggested by Roberts is to see that sawdust worked into the soil does not take the available nitrogen needed by the plants. Where much sawdust is worked into the soil about 200 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre is needed to insure normal growth the first year.

Cranberry Crop to Be 2nd Largest on Record

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The outlook is good for ample cranberry sauce for this year's Thanksgiving turkey dinner.

The Agriculture Department forecasts a crop of 874,000 barrels. This would be the second largest yield on record, topped only by 877,300 barrels in 1937.

The crop is expected to be 11 per cent above the 790,200 barrels produced last year.

The prospective production by states included: Massachusetts 550,000 barrels, New Jersey 84,000, Wisconsin 175,000, Washington 50,000 and Oregon 15,000.

Used as a mulch sawdust causes little depletion of nitrates. Normal application of complete fertilizer may be added to the surface and allowed to leach through. Soluble forms are best for this, Roberts explains.

USDA Food Aids Oregon's School Lunch Program

The extent to which foods are acquired by the U. S. department of agriculture and institutions supplement the annual federal outlay of cash for the local school lunch program is revealed in a report released by the USDA's Production and Marketing Administration.

Oregon recently was allocated \$470,722 to support the school lunch program for the ensuing year, an increase of \$188,183 over last year's allotment. For the fiscal year ended June 30, the cash assistance was enhanced by the free distribution of commodities valued at approximately \$450,418 for schools and \$85,351 for institutions.

E. O. DeLaney, western area food distribution programs chief for the PMA in San Francisco, explained that the donated foods fall into two separate categories—commodities which USDA acquires as a result of its price-support programs, and other foods which the department purchases outright in sizable quantities with school lunch funds not allocated to the states in cash.

During the year just ended, DeLaney said, a peak of 482 Oregon schools with an enrollment of 75,224 children received USDA commodities as follows:

Peanut butter—72,900 lbs., value \$13,851; concentrated orange juice—3,000 cases, \$46,800; processed American cheese—37,500 lbs., \$19,500; canned tomatoes—4,856 cases, \$19,910; tomato juice—3,400 cases, \$8,500; non-fat dry milk—76,491 lbs., \$34,803; Irish potatoes—5,000 sacks, \$20,000; dried eggs—122,610 lbs., \$153,262; grapefruit juice—16,464 cases, \$46,099; fresh apples—9,600 boxes, \$24,000; nut meat (walnuts)—30,000 lbs., \$14,700; dried figs—126,780 lbs., \$12,044; fresh pears—3,490 boxes, \$7,395; dried peaches—51,125 lbs., \$6,625; dried prunes—177,500 lbs., \$13,512; dried raisins—105,000 lbs., \$9,450.

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New Regulations For Fluid Milk Establish Third Grade, Revise Milk House Standards

Revised grades and standards of quality for fluid milk and milk products will become effective in Oregon September 1, reports Kenneth E. Carl, assistant chief of the division of foods and dairies, state department of agriculture. Notices were mailed July 30 to all milk plants advising that after September 1 no milk without a grade label may be sold in Oregon.

The new regulations recognize a third milk grade, grade C, which will be a degrade item except that grade C milk may be marketed when there is not a sufficient supply of grades A and B milk to meet consumer demands, a situation which officials say is again showing up in some sections of the state. All grade C milk sold must conform to standards of sanitation set forth in the revised regulations. These standards are adequate to protect consumer welfare.

Plain Labels Required

In addition to grade, fluid milk and milk products sold in this state must be labeled to show whether they are raw or pasteurized; whether reconstituted or combined; name and address of producer if raw milk and of plant if pasteurized; and if vitamin D milk, the source of vitamin D and units per quart.

A year's grace period in which to comply with two provisions of the regulations is given. These provisions require a lip protector cup to at least the greatest diameter for all milk sold; and the use of closed vials in handling milk, except where the farmer does his own hauling. Effective date for these two provisions only is set for September 1, 1949.

Other salient features of the revised standards call for larger floor space for milk houses and a tightening on bacteria count of raw milk for pasteurization. In the case of grade A milk the reduction in count is from 100,000 to 80,000 and for grade B, from 500,000 to 200,000. Milk

6,510 inmates received the following:

Irish potatoes—2,270 sacks, \$10,880; dried eggs—28,336 lbs., \$35,420; grapefruit juice—4,300 cases, \$12,040; fresh apples—4,790, \$11,975; dried figs—127,590 lbs., \$12,121; fresh pears—293 boxes, \$615.30; dried prunes—20,000 lbs., \$2,300.

Turkey Growers Get Break After Three Lean Years

SALEM — (AP) — Oregon turkey growers, who have been victims of circumstance the past three years, are due for a good break this year, thinks Noel Bennion, extension poultryman at Oregon State College.

They will market about 1,500,000 turkeys, about an average crop. And they'll get 50 to 60 cents a pound for them, which is a good price.

But Bennion says to take a look at what's happened in the past three years to the turkey growers.

In 1945, growers were planning to market the biggest turkey crop on record. Then the war ended, and the Army orders for holiday birds dropped. So there were too many turkeys and a depressed market.

In 1946, meat rationing was still on, and the demand for birds was heavy. But before the holidays, meat rationing ended, and the market plunged downward again.

In 1947, just before the holiday season, the poultryless Thursday idea began. The result again was a depressed market.

Suffolk Ram Sells For Record Price of \$3,350

SALT LAKE CITY — (AP) — A record \$3,350 was paid for a Suffolk ram at the opening of the 33rd annual National Ram Sale here.

It was paid by James Laidlow of Muldoon, Idaho, to P. J. Rock and son of Drumheller, Alberta.

The second highest price was \$1,250, paid for a Suffolk entered by C. M. Hubbard, Junction City, Ore. The buyer was Robert Nelson of Eagle, Colo.

First of 18 Rambouillet rams offered brought an average of around \$400.

The top price was \$1,050, paid for a yearling Rambouillet for the Cunningham Sheep Company of Pendleton, Ore. John K. Madison of Mount Pleasant, Utah, sold the animal. It was the second straight year that one of his animals brought the top Rambouillet price.

HOP GROWERS WARNED

(By the Associated Press) The hop harvest is beginning, and signs point to a good crop. But G. R. Hoerner, OSC hop specialist, warns growers to be on the watch for downy mildew, a major problem last year. Mildew is a problem if rain falls during picking season.

In rare cases, hens turn into roosters when they grow old.

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Weeds Exterminated By Columbia River Floods

(By the Associated Press) The Columbia River flood news wasn't all bad. The flood helped kill weeds.

Farmers Merl Johnston and Marion Wilson of Rainier said high water killed Canada thistle. Of course, thistles will grow again there, but it's easier to kill little thistles than big thistles.

Nester Lehte, who lives in the St. Johns district, said flood waters killed much of the quick grass roots on lower, heavier soils.

Mosquito Spray Banishes Pests In The Dalles Area

Take a lesson from The Dalles on how to avoid mosquito bites.

In that Columbia river community a campaign was carried out early this summer spray flooded areas along the river and all other places in and around the city where stagnant water was found. By eliminating the mosquito breeding places, the city has been noticeably insect-free this summer, residents declare.

Another year, this same type of community effort could be copied to advantage by other Oregon towns, suggests Robert W. Every, Oregon State College extension entomologist.

Crews totalling approximately 25 volunteer workers moved through the city on June 13, with hand and knapsack sprayers, treating all pools, standing flood waters and other places where insects were breeding. The spray was a mixture of five pounds of DDT in 12 gallons of diesel oil.

Every explains that a mixture of diesel oil and DDT has a double action when applied on water surfaces. The oil cuts off the oxygen supply for the mosquito wrigglers and the DDT exerts a toxic effect.

Some parts of The Dalles were sprayed a second time. In addition to the mosquito control work, city alleys were also sprayed with DDT to hold down the fly population. Every concludes.

Producers need not accept less than support price for eligible grain.

Loans or purchase agreements are available until December 31st 1948 and are effective until April 30th, 1949. Both means of support also apply to flaxseed and alfalfa seed. Full information can be obtained at the Agricultural Conservation Office in the Pacific Building, Roseburg.

Nervous Disorders Of Cows Traced To Feed

SAN FRANCISCO — (AP) — Cows develop nervous disorders from certain elements in their feed, Dr. J. N. Shaw and Dr. O. H. Muth of Oregon State College told the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Cattle fed on pea vines from a field containing nightshade plants showed marked nervous symptoms, the researchers said. Screenings of fescue, a kind of pasture grass, contained plant parasites which caused losses of cattle and sheep through nerve trouble, and animals fed on rye grass stubble also developed nervous disorders, Shaw and Muth reported.

Batteries OK for Hens If Room Well Insulated

Laying hens kept in batteries will lay just as many eggs the first year as in conventional laying houses if the battery room is well insulated and ventilated so as to control temperature changes, according to results of nine years of tests at the O. S. C. poultry department.

A comparison of the two methods is given in a new revision of an earlier extension bulletin, "Feeding Laying Hens," written by the late H. E. Cosby, N. L. Bennion and W. T. Cooney of the department. Copies are available free.

Hens kept for the second year lay better in commercial houses, the tests indicated, when comparable flocks kept in batteries the first year were divided with half placed in commercial laying houses, Battery hens make satisfactory breeders, the second year if released into normal floor conditions, the tests also showed.

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