

Walnut Growers Face Heavy Loss From Shrinkage Due To Quantity of Moisture in Crop

The Northwest Nut Growers office at Dundee has been flooded with calls from walnut growers concerning the condition of the current crop, according to an announcement received here today.

For reasons still unexplained, reports John E. Trunk, general manager of the association, the walnuts are filled with an excessive amount of moisture so that shrinkage in many instances ranges up to 60 per cent or more. This is resulting in the meats being badly shrunken or shriveled.

Although growers may find the appearance of their walnuts normal before drying, the peculiar conditions this year are causing excessive shrinkage and shriveling. As a result growers are wondering if they should proceed with the harvesting of the crop as the expense of picking and drying is very heavy.

Suggestion to Growers

Based on his observations so far, Trunk has issued the following suggestions to walnut growers: 1. Go into the walnut orchard and pick at least one hundred pounds of walnuts. Be sure these are thoroughly representative of the production throughout the plantings. 2. Take these walnuts to a drier where careful records of the green weight should be made. The nuts should then be washed and thoroughly dried. 3. Remove the nuts from the drier, weigh them and check the percentage of moisture loss or shrinkage. 4. Shell an entire lot and weigh the resulting meats to determine the percentage of yield. 5. Grade the walnut meats into commercial classes such as light halves and pieces, light amber halves and pieces, standard amber halves and pieces, mold, shrunken kernels suitable for slicing or grinding and shriveled unfit for anything but stock feed.

These results should enable the grower to determine whether his crop is of sufficiently good quality to warrant his proceeding with the harvesting of it, Trunk added.

Trunk further stated that Northwestern Nut Growers will provide all possible assistance in making the cracking tests for their grower members, but he could not guarantee that the Association facilities will be adequate to keep up with the work. The nuts must be thoroughly dried before being brought to the Northwest Nut Growers' shelling plant at Dundee, as the plant has no washing or drying facilities.

After the nuts are shelled and the meats classified, Association personnel will attempt to help grower members decide if the nuts have sufficient value for shelling or for processing in-shell.

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Hatcherymen To Hear of Outlook At Fall Meeting

Results of a survey now being conducted on chick and hatching egg prices, including anticipated production for the coming season, will be presented at the forthcoming annual fall meeting of the Oregon Baby Chick Association, announces Noel Bennion, extension poultryman at Oregon State College.

Bennion will discuss the chick outlook for 1949 at the meeting to be held in the Mallory Hotel in Portland, Friday, October 22. The program, starting at 10 o'clock, will include both forenoon and afternoon sessions, announces Ross Hart, Beaverton, president of the association. Final event on the all-day program will be the annual evening banquet.

As banquet speaker, John S. Carter, head of the poultry department, Washington State College, will discuss 25 years in poultry husbandry. Fred Cockell, Millwaukie, will serve as toastmaster.

Program arrangements for the annual meeting this year are under the direction of Barry Brownell, Millwaukie. He has announced that Noel Shaver, Crawfordville, Indiana, president of the International Baby Chick Association, will be present. Shaver's part in the meeting will be a discussion of the I. B. C. A. program.

Richard Hanson, Corvallis, has also been announced as a program speaker. He will discuss his recent trip to Copenhagen, Denmark, where he attended the World's Poultry congress.

Outlook for feeds, eggs and chicks will occupy a prominent place in the discussions. Brownell has announced. G. C. Keeney, Portland, manager of the Pacific Cooperative Poultry Producers, will discuss feed and egg outlook, with Bennion's discussion following.

Shrinkage Spells Loss For Walnut Growers

DUNDEE, Oct. 18.—(AP)—Unexplained excess shrinkage of walnuts during processing may cause heavy loss to Oregon growers, John E. Trunk, Northwest Nut Growers general manager, says.

While the appearance of the walnuts when gathered is normal, he said, shrinkage as high as 60 per cent occurs in drying.

Common field crows are among the most intelligent of all birds, yet in historical records the word "crow" is synonymous with "despicable character."



EXCHANGE SHIPMENT—Stevedores sort bales of sheet rubber just unloaded from the S. S. Parthia in New York under exchange arrangements of Marshall Plan. The Parthia brought in 1,000 tons of sheet rubber from Malaya about a month after American needs were made known in London. The rubber will be stored on an undisclosed military reservation as part of a stockpile of critical materials. (AP Wirephoto)



ODD PET—Jimmy Edwards, Greensboro, N. C., gives his new pet, an albino squirrel, a drink of milk.

Harvest Hands Needed in Various Oregon Districts

Hood River with big crops of apples and pears is asking for the lion's share of the 2,825 additional workers needed this week in Oregon's late harvest. A thousand more pickers could be used at once in the northern valley, according to reports to the Oregon State Employment Service at Salem.

Medford also could use a few more pear pickers, but the most urgent calls come from Bend and Klamath Falls, where 700 men are needed at once in the potato fields. Housing on ranches is available around Hood River, but few cabins may be had in the south. Bedding and utensils should be brought along in any event.

With the filbert and walnut harvests coinciding, several Willamette Valley offices report picker shortages. Portland asks 300, Salem 250, McMinnville 200 and Eugene 150. Labor camps at Dayton and Hillsboro remain unfilled, but workers in other places should have full equipment for camping.

Ontario, which still have jobs in onion, beet potato and apple fields until December, still reports need for 200 men.

Trapped Coyote Fortes Man to Battle for Life

HEPPNER, Ore., Oct. 18.—(AP)—Carl McDaniel, government trapper, tells how a coyote, wary and usually shy, nearly killed him.

McDaniel found the coyote in one of his traps in Sand Hollow. Before he could knock the animal over the head, the coyote leaped, seizing the trapper's right thumb.

McDaniel nearly passed out from the pain, but, knowing the coyote then would kill him, hung on to his senses while he groped with his left hand for a pocket knife.

He finally got it out, and killed the animal. Then he did pass out. When he recovered, he came here for treatment. A doctor found the flesh badly lacerated, but the bone uninjured.

Honey Production In Oregon in '48 Slumps

PORTLAND — (AP)—Oregon bees have been on a slow-down. The Department of Agriculture reports honey production in Oregon averaged 28 pounds a colony compared to a western average of 32.9 pounds this year. Total output was 2,043,000 pounds, down 11 per cent from a year ago.

All-Time Record In Oregon Field Crops Forecast

PORTLAND—(AP)—Field crops in Oregon will hit an all-time record this year despite a drop in earlier forecasts for the corn, spring wheat and oats harvests.

The Department of Agriculture's crop reporting service survey of Oct. 1 indicates a 19 per cent gain in the potato harvest over a year ago will offset losses in the other three crops.

Production is estimated at 12,040,000 bushels, an increase of 30 per cent over the average yield.

In fruit crops, the high percentage of small sized apples has reduced the earlier estimates. Oregon orchards are expected to produce 2,785,000 bushels compared with 2,864,000 last year.

Peaches are below earlier forecasts, but Bartlett pears may gain over earlier estimates because processors were able to handle hail damage fruit from the Rogue River valley.

Oregon filbert and walnut crops are unchanged.

Farm Income In West in 1948 Not Apt to Show Gain

SAN FRANCISCO—(AP)—Returns through June indicate 1948 farm income in the 12th Federal Reserve District will approximate last year's \$3,900,000,000.

Cash receipts from farm marketing totaled \$1,502,692,000 in the first half of the year in the district. In the similar period of 1947 they reached \$1,469,073,000. The figures are compiled by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

States forming the district are Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington.

District receipts for the last half of 1947 were \$2,372,026,000. This will probably be equaled or slightly exceeded this year in the opinion of the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank.

Cash receipts through June were higher than last year in all states of the district except Nevada and Washington.

Washington's total dropped to \$192,379,000 from \$211,031,000 in the first half of 1947. A cold, wet spring retarded crop growth this year in the Northwest and delayed harvesting, especially of vegetables.

Save Full Year by Planting Perennial Vegetables Now

Perennial vegetables including asparagus, rhubarb and hardy onions are better planted this fall than next spring. Asparagus and rhubarb will be ready to harvest a full year sooner while the onions will produce a harvest next spring.

For the asparagus bed, roots should be obtained and placed in a location which need not be disturbed during the life of the garden, since a good asparagus bed will last several decades. Deep, rich soil is required and the plants should be given ample room, with three feet each way between hills. Dig a hole a foot deep, spread the roots out and set the crown of the plant six inches below the surface.

Rhubarb is another long lived plant. Six plants will suffice for the average family and they should be placed where they will not be disturbed near the asparagus in a garden screen or border.

Hardest Winter Onion

The hardest winter onion is the red perennial, sometimes called the Egyptian. This is one of the onions which instead of bearing seeds, produces at the top of the seed stalk a bunch of onion sets. These sets should be obtained and planted this fall, a foot apart in the row, in rows two feet apart; though few families will need more than one row.

This onion never produces a round bulb, but in the spring as soon as the ground thaws, it begins to grow stalks like green onions. Part of each clump may be pulled up and used, and with this annual thinning, the plants will live indefinitely. The flavor of the stalks is mild in the early spring, but becomes stronger later.

Where winters are mild, some of the potato or multiplier onions may be planted in the fall, and they will produce clumps of green stalks in the early spring. These must be set out each year as the entire plant is harvested. In the colder states these onions will not survive without a heavy mulch, and in some winters even this will not protect them.

Price Supports For Hogs for Next 6 Months Listed

Hog prices probably won't fall to support levels by next March, but—just in case they should, the schedule of hog price supports for October-March has been announced by the Department of Agriculture.

If hog prices should decline to the support level, the law requires that they would have to be supported through 1949 at 90 per cent of parity, said Ted Dunwoody, executive secretary of the Douglas County Agriculture Conservation Association. Supports would be carried out through purchases of pork products and other appropriate action.

Weekly average hog supports for the next six months will range from a high of \$17.50 per 100 pounds, October 1 to 15, to a low of \$15.25 per 100 pounds in December, when marketings are seasonally the largest of the year.

Supports are figured twice a year on the basis of parity prices March 15 and Sept. 15. The Sept. 15 parity price was \$18.20 per 100 pounds. The average of prices received by farmers on that date was \$27.30 per 100 pounds.

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Little Change in Farm Values in '49 Expected

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Agriculture Department officials say they expect little change in farm land values generally during the next year or two, assuming that farm income remains high.

They told a reporter that it is the view of economists in the Department who are studying land values that the peak year for farm income was reached in 1947 and with it probably the top in land values.

"There is a very strong feeling of optimism in the department, however," one official said, "that even if farm income should decline there will be no sudden bust in land values as there was in 1921."

Land prices have not risen yet to the level that could be justified by present incomes, Peterson said. Thus some decrease in farm income would not result necessarily in a drop in land prices.

Current market prices have increased income from investments in land and building to twice the normal returns, Peterson said. Normally such investments do not return more than three to five per cent.

"I expect a continuing weakness in agricultural prices," he said. "However, this weakness may not be severe, because it appears quite certain that heavy government expenditures for European recovery and for military purposes are likely to continue."

He said there was a close relationship between gross farm income and land prices and said the most important factor affecting farm land prices is the trend in the general price level.

Tax-Exempt Property in Douglas Near \$34 Million

SALEM, Ore., Oct. 18.—(AP)—More than a half billion dollars worth of Oregon property is exempt from taxes because of its ownership or use.

The State Tax Commission reported today that listings by county assessors showed the federal government with \$339,487,887 to have the biggest slice of non-taxable property in the total of \$598,440,075.

School districts' property is valued at \$58,611,416 and municipalities' at \$44,737,108. Church and religious organizations account for \$24,516,000 worth of property that is not on the tax rolls. Literary, charitable and benevolent organizations have \$21,741,876 worth.

Other organizations whose properties are tax exempt include water districts, irrigation districts, drainage districts, ports, cemeteries and public libraries.

The value of tax exempt property by counties include Douglas, \$33,942,669.

More than over the New England group of states can be designated as the "Grange Gibraltar," with a membership gain the past year in every one of the six states.

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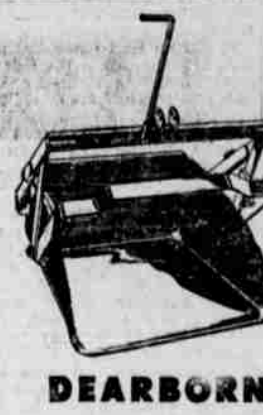


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