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Fair Profit On Crops Essential To Whole Country

For the good of the whole country, farmers need a fair return from their crops, says E. Harvey Miller, chairman of the Oregon State PMA Committee. He recalls that extremely low prices which at first appear to benefit the consumer have always been short-lived. The final result has been ruin to the farmer, disruption of plans and practices to conserve the land and a net loss to the whole country. Stability of agriculture is one of the benefits to the whole country which comes from a fair return to the farmer. With the necessary security, farmers make their home on the land and build up the farmstead and soil. To the consumer this means continued operation of the food production plant. It means abundant and steady production instead of spasmodic and uncertain crops.

The farmer who feels secure on his land takes better care of the soil. He is financially able and has an incentive to carry out conservation practices which save and build the soil. The net result is a stability which assures the consumer continued abundant production. This also results in security and stability for people living in town. Through fair returns from crops sold, the farmer is able to buy more from the shops. He is a stable market for services and for the household furnishings, machinery, clothing and food processed and sold in the stores.

Mr. Miller points out that the process works both ways. When the city family has a good income there is a better market for what the farmer produces. It is the balance and not the advantage of one over the other that leads to better living for all.

Seed Production Increase Planned

More seed of high yielding grasses and legumes, which are so important in conservation, will be produced under a plan recently approved by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The department, working with state experiment stations, will release to cooperating farmers stocks of certified seed. The Commodity Credit Corp. will buy the increased seed produced by the cooperating farmers. When sufficient stocks of seed have been

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built up, the seed will be handled through commercial channels. This step is an important development in conservation progress, J. F. Bonebrake, chairman of the Douglas County Agricultural Conservation Committee, said. Experience has indicated that seeds of improved varieties are not usually produced fast enough.

Several times as much of many varieties should be produced each year to supply present demand. Even more seed will be needed in the future since it is estimated that grass and legume plantings should be increased at least one fourth.

Closing Nearing For Practices Of Conservation

With winter not many weeks away, there is little time left in which to complete conservation practices under the 1948 Agricultural Conservation Program, says E. Harvey Miller, chairman of the Oregon State PMA Committee. He urges farmers who have unfinished practices to use the remaining time to complete their conservation jobs.

Early frosts and bad weather often end conservation work before projects are completed. Every bit of conservation work that can be completed will mean that much more soil saved, or water conserved, he said.

He urges farmers who have completed conservation work to report their projects to the county Agricultural Conservation Program office. Sales slips, seed tags, or other required evidence should be presented.

"This kind of cooperation, on the part of the farmers of Douglas County will help speed up the work of the county office and insure earlier payments to farmers of the Government's share of the cost of the approved conservation practices," said Miller.

Practices which can be carried out or completed in Douglas County include: Drainage ditch construction, and the application of phosphate, and bagged lime. The best time for pasture seeding has passed. The danger of "freeze outs" is too great to make seeding from now on reasonably sure of good results.

Mystery Disease Taking Toll Of Young Beef Cattle

CHICAGO — (AP) — A puzzling disease is sweeping into the younger beef cattle population of the country, and so far has been recognized in 26 states. Veterinarians don't quite know what to make of it. They're sure it has no connection with the dread foot-and-mouth disease south of the Mexican border, and they are fairly certain it cannot be transmitted to man.

But the stuff was so puzzling at first, it was designated only as "X" cattle disease. Since there are other "X" diseases in other kinds of livestock, this one finally was named Hyperkeratosis. R. C. Klussendorf, of the American Veterinary Medical Association, says this means "thickening of the skin." Forty per cent of the infected cattle — particularly calves and yearlings — die. Half the remainder are in such bad shape they can only be sent to a rendering plant, Klussendorf added.

He said the disease first was reported two years ago in New York and New England. Usually whole herds are not affected, but some beef herds reportedly have been so severely hit that owners were forced out of business.

Illinois is one of the most recent states to have the disease crop up. It affects beef cattle nine times more frequently than dairy types. Usually the malady starts with a watery discharge from the eyes and nose. Then comes loss of condition, loss of hair, thickening of the skin, sores around the mouth and esophagus, and general weakness, perhaps death.

Less Rosy Outlook Foreseen For Farmer in Predictions Of Agriculture Department

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The farmer's future, as sketched out by recent Agriculture Department forecasts, appears likely to be less rosy than the boom times he has known since the start of World War II.

Step by step, the Department has been scanning prospects in the various phases of the nation's farm economy. The findings have especial meaning for the great grain-producing mid-western states, where prosperity has been Here's what the department reports in official documents:

1. Farmer net income, on the upgrade for several years now, may soon begin to turn downward.
2. Farm costs, which have risen sharply but less steeply than income, can be expected to eat up more and more of the farmers' cash returns as income gains slow down and expenses continue to climb.
3. The farmers' "real" income, in terms of what his money will buy in family living, already is dropping and probably will decline further.

4. The value of farm real estate — at record or near-record peaks in many big agricultural regions — may be close to the limit of its upward march. Assuming continued high-level output in the U. S. economy, land values may go up or down 10 per cent from here on. If a recession should occur, the farmer is warned to look for a slide of as much as 20 per cent.

5. Farm real estate debt on Jan. 1 this year was 26 per cent below the total outstanding in 1940. But there are signs the wartime and postwar trend toward debt reduction is being reversed. In 1946, farm debt was 29 per cent below 1940.

Said the department: "The year 1946 appears to have been another turning point in the long time trend of farm mortgage debt which had been declining almost continuously since 1923."

6. The farmers' tax burdens are still growing. Real estate taxes continue to nose upward, and the income "tax loa" has become much heavier.

7. In 1940, arm operators paid federal income levies of \$15,000,000. On income earned in 1947, they paid an estimated \$960,000,000. Such payments now exceed real state taxes paid by farmers.

8. Such outlays, however, are likely to cause farmers to dig deeper into their accumulated savings in the future than they have in recent years. They piled up greater liquid assets during and after the war than at any time in their history. But there are signs such holdings are diminishing.

9. In the connection, it is noted that farmers' nonreal estate debt in 1947 reached the highest level since the early 1930s. "The postwar increase in farmers' nonreal estate debt is believed to have resulted primarily from purchases of goods that were scarce during the war," said the department.

The Agriculture Department makes plain that these predictions do not hinge upon a falling-off of farm production. They are based on the assumption of continued high-level output.

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Vegetable Men To Join Annual Meet Of Horticulture

The first annual meeting of commercial vegetable growers and processors is to be held this year in connection with the two-day convention of the Oregon State Horticultural Society in Corvallis, November 17 and 18. This announcement was made recently by Leonard Garpenker, Medford, president of the horticultural society, which is made up principally of tree fruit growers.

In the combined meeting this year, both morning meetings will be of joint interest to tree fruit and vegetable producers. O. S. C. Extension Horticultural Specialists C. O. Rawlings and R. Ralph Clark have announced. The meetings will be held in the Corvallis Community building, located at Fifth and Madison in the downtown business area.

The afternoon programs have been split to accommodate the varying interests of the tree and vegetable crop growers. Rawlings is responsible for the tree fruit growers program, while Clark will work with vegetable producers and processors. Topics of special interest to each producer group will be discussed at the separate meetings.

Among out-of-state speakers announced for the general morning sessions are A. D. Borden, entomologist, University of California at Berkeley, who will discuss new developments in spray equipment; and L. P. Batjer, USDA horticulturist, Wenatchee, Washington. His topic will be hormone sprays for reducing fruit drop. E. K. Vaughn, O. S. C. research pathologist, and B. F. Dana, U. S. D. A. pathologist, will lead a discussion for the vegetable growers section on research on white mold of beans and other vegetable diseases.

Rawlings and Clark report that most of the subject matter discussions will be followed by question-and-answer periods.

Faces Federal Charge In Selling Surplus Spuds

YAKIMA, Wash. — (AP) — The "hot potato case," in which Melvin F. Waller, Sunnyside trucking firm president, is accused of selling surplus spuds for his own profit, will go to the Federal Grand Jury in Spokane in December.

Waller refused to waive a grand jury indictment when arraigned here. He maintains sale of the potatoes constituted selling his own property, but the government holds they remain federal property until fed to livestock.

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U. S. Buying Potatoes In Oregon to Prop Market

PORTLAND, Nov. 8. — (AP) — The Department of Agriculture began support price buying of No. 1 potatoes in central Oregon and the Klamath Falls area this week.

Department officials announced they were buying because market prices were dropping. They said about 30 carloads would be bought daily for the rest of the month.

The department previously had been buying No. 2 potatoes. Growers will receive the F.O.B. support price of \$2.95 a hundred pounds for No. 1 potatoes. No. 2's bring half that price.

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