

Grocers Of Oregon Given Pointers On State's New Egg Traffic Statute

E. L. Peterson, director of the State Department of Agriculture, today called attention to the fact that amendments to the Oregon egg law made by the 1949 legislature become effective July 16, 1949, and that "all groccymen of the state should familiarize themselves with the provisions of this law and their responsibilities under its provisions."

Under the amended law a permit for the sale of eggs must be obtained by every retailer, wholesaler or jobber who grades eggs for sale to Oregon consumers. In the case of a retailer, no permit is needed provided the groceryman sells only eggs which have been candled and graded, as required by the egg law, by the wholesaler, jobber or producer from whom the eggs are purchased for resale.

Previously, all eggs sold to consumers anywhere in the state were presumed to be graded and labeled, but no state permit was required for sale of eggs in a town of a population of less than 1,000. Beginning July 1, this exception as to population is removed, thus making the application of the egg dealer's permit state wide.

The amendments to the law were sponsored by the poultry industry of the state to provide funds, through the licensing provisions, to permit more complete enforcement of the egg law and in this manner provide greater protection of egg quality for the consumer.

The new license fee is based on volume of business. Every holder of an egg dealer's permit will pay a minimum annual fee of two dollars. In addition, each egg dealer selling more than 200 cases or units (of 30 dozen eggs) during each fiscal year, beginning July 1, will pay 3 cents on each case or unit in excess of the 200. The additional fee will be payable each six months, on January 1, and July 1.

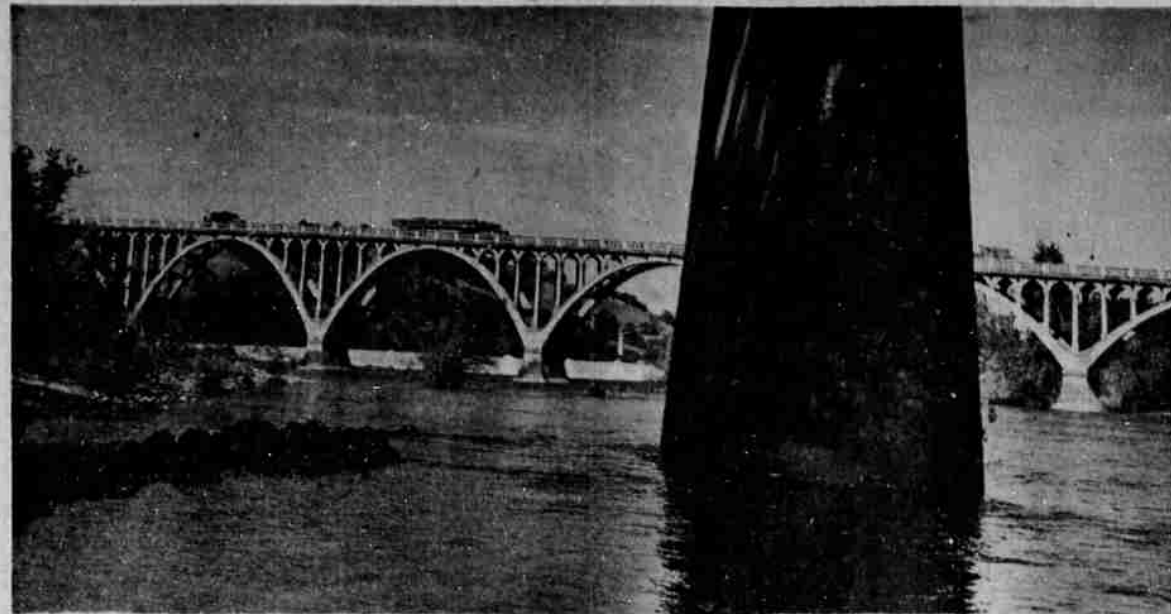
Copies of the amended egg law will be available for distribution shortly. Full information about the law is obtainable from Mr. O. K. Beals, Chief of the division of foods and dairies of the department of agriculture at the Salem headquarters or from Mr. W. E. Upshaw, Portland headquarters, 505 Terminal Sales Building, Portland.

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THE WATERS in the right foreground in the picture above are, to fishermen, some of the most famous in Oregon—namely, those lying below the Copco dam across the North Umpqua River at Winchester. The picture was taken from a point just below the railway bridge. Beneath and beyond the highway bridge may be seen the waterfall over the dam. Crossing the highway bridge is the pride and joy—indeed the emblem—of Douglas County, a truckload of huge fir logs. (Picture by Paul Jenkins.)

Farm Income Insurance Plan Looks Good On Paper, But Flaws Apparent

By PETER EDSON
NEA Washington Correspondent
WASHINGTON.—Department of Agriculture experts have been wrestling with the problem of how to make Secretary Brannan's new farm plan pay its own way, as it goes.

Briefly, the idea is simply this: If farmers are to receive support price payments or guaranteed minimum income in years when prices are below normal, why shouldn't they pay something back to the government in years when prices are above normal?

The idea sounds fine in theory. Instead of being just a system of crop insurance to protect the farmer against bad weather, it would provide price insurance or

guaranteed annual income insurance. It would remove the curse of the "subsidy" label tacked on all present farm price support programs. It would stabilize the farm economy and make it self-supporting in bad times.

But whenever the experts sit down and try to figure this out on a sound, actuarial basis, they run into trouble.

First, how would such income insurance premiums be collected? Using income tax returns as a basis for collection has been suggested. But the income tax return has always been considered a confidential report by the citizen to his government. Making it a semi-public document, for use even by government insurance premium collectors, would destroy this sacred relationship.

Also, out of 6,000,000 farmers, about 2,500,000 produce incomes of less than \$1000 a year and so make no income tax returns. Under compulsory income or crop insurance, returns would have to be filed. Remembering how many charges there were of farm income tax frauds last year, the experts believe any system of farm insurance would open the gates to wide violation of the law, just as in prohibition days.

Some Iffy Questions
Farm income insurance could not be handled on a voluntary basis, the experts believe. If

only 20 per cent of the farmers should sign up for an insurance scheme, the government would not be able to shut off relief payments to the 80 per cent not cooperating. In a bad crop or general depression years.

Again, suppose farmers paid income insurance premiums for seven fat years, and got nothing out of it. They would be inclined to say, "to heck with this!" and drop out. Then would come a lean year. They'd be in there yelling for relief just as loud as ever. And the government would be unable to say to them nay.

In good years, no records are kept on what the farmer sells his crop for. That's his private business. Under an insurance scheme such records would have to be kept. The temptation to chisel would be great. Only solution would be for the government to buy all farm produce, or verify all sales. Too much regimentation.

Again from the practical standpoint, it is probable that livestock farmers would pay in more premiums than they would get back in benefits. Grain farmers might get back more benefits than they paid in premiums. Livestock farmers would soon get tired of this arrangement, even though the grain farmers loved

it.

The only solution for this would be to set up separate insurance reserves for each crop. But it might be impossible to build up adequate reserves for some groups, and the reserves would be depleted if there were three or four bad years in a row.

For all these and some other reasons besides, farm economists think income insurance is unworkable, though it sounds fine in theory.

Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan has one ready answer which he says makes price insurance or income insurance unnecessary. When prices are above support levels, the farmers are making money. The more they make, the more income taxes they pay. In that way the farmers repay the U. S. Treasury for subsidies they receive through price support, soil conservation and other benefit payments.

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