

# FARM and GARDEN NEWS

## Oregon's Farm Prices Still On Downward Path, But There Is No Threat Of Major Drop

The general agricultural situation at mid-1949 shows national crop prospects are weighty and economic demand weakening, somewhat, according to an outlook circular just released by the Oregon State college extension service. Further adjustments in industrial production and prices are probable, but strong basic economic factors should halt the adjustment far short of such major declines as in 1920-1921 and 1929-1933, it is indicated.

Crop prospects this year are mostly more favorable than usual. This factor, plus indicated

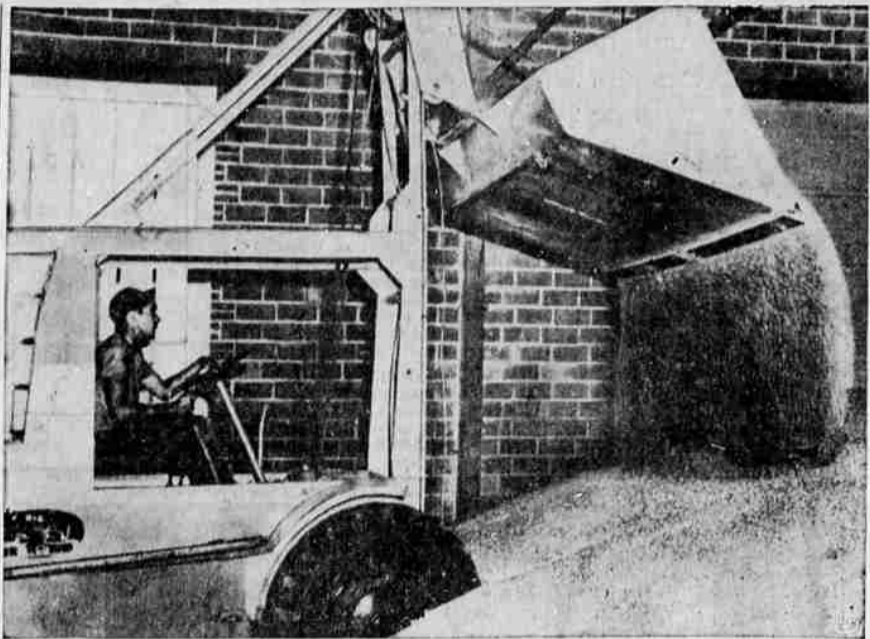
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Increases in some animal products like hogs, turkeys and chickens, is being reflected in price trends. Some crops are already down to support levels. Less favorable weather, if it comes, could still affect crop outputs, however, especially late crops like corn.

By May, 1949, Oregon's general farm price level had fallen 15 per cent from the post war peak registered a year before. It was still 58 per cent above the 1938-1947 average and 2½ times the 1910-1914 average. Farm cost prices are nearly three times 1910-1914, however.

Real farm income (buying



**WHEAT, NOT BULLETS**—There's so much wheat in Texas this year they don't know where to put it all. This old ammunition warehouse, about 20 miles outside Amarillo, is pressed into service to store some of the bumper crop.

## New Insecticide Tried Out On Caterpillars

ASTORIA—(AP)—A new insecticide developed at Oregon State College is being tested out on Clatsop County's tent caterpillars.

The insecticide — parathion — was tried on trees which are suffering from a heavy caterpillar infestation, reported County Agent Gordon Hood.

It was very effective, Hood said, but it has not yet been cleared by federal food and drug inspectors on crops processed for food.

## Summer Season Water Warning Given Dairymen

There's nothing cheaper on a farm than fresh water, but the supply of it for dairy stock is frequently overlooked during the hot weather months.

A timely reminder for dairymen pointing out that cows will drink upwards to 25 percent more water during hot weather as compared with their intake during the winter months is from Harold Ewalt, O.S.C. extension dairy specialist. Although milk output depends directly on it, water sources are frequently neglected, the specialist adds.

If nothing more is needed, Ewalt suggests that watering places be cleaned periodically during the summer.

Salt is another necessary item frequently forgotten during the summer, especially for young stock turned out on dryland pastures. All dairy stock should be given free access to salt and bonemeal. As a free mix in a single box, although the specialist recommends separate feeding places for each, salt and bonemeal should be mixed at the ratio of three parts salt to one part bonemeal.

Free salt placed in a box offers an easier way for the dairy stock to satisfy their needs as compared with block salt, Ewalt believes.

An additional reminder from the specialist concerns heifers allowed to run on dryland pastures throughout the summer. Many of these type pastures will be drying up resulting in poor feed, the specialist states. Thus, heifers will need supplement feed—silage or hay—during the late summer to hold their weight and continue maximum growth.

Baby calves need abundant shade this time of year, Ewalt adds. For older dairy stock, however, shade is not so important.

## Dry-Ice Pellets Tried Out As Barrier To Hail

MEDFORD, July 7.—(AP)—Cloud-seeding experiments to protect the pear crop from hail are being conducted over the Rogue River valley.

The hope is that by seeding clouds with dry-ice pellets, the peak formations can be lowered to an altitude where there no longer is danger of hail.

Two former Navy pilots, Harvey M. Brandau and Eugene K. Kooser, have been seeding cumulus clouds at 15,000 feet or more. Unusually clear weather has made results inconclusive.

The tests are being sponsored by the Rogue River Valley Traffic Association.

## High Grade Bull Bought By Sutherland Dairyman

H. B. Green, a Brown Swiss cattle breeder of Canyonville, recently sold the bull, Chief Thor, to A. V. Abeene of Sutherland, according to a report of Fred S. Idice, secretary of the Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders' Association, Beloit, Wis.

## Average Payment Assurance Given Wheat Farmers

WASHINGTON, July 7.—(AP)—Wheat farmers with acceptable storage facilities are assured of a national average payment of at least \$1.95 a bushel for their 1949 grain crop.

The Agriculture Department announced that it will make loans on wheat at rates averaging that figure, or that it will agree to buy grain later at the same rates. The Department's offer was made under terms of the price support law.

The support rate average for this year's crop is five cents a bushel below the average for the 1948 crop. This decline reflects the fact that the parity price of wheat is lower than a year ago. The law requires a support rate of 90 per cent of parity.

(Parity is a legal standard for measuring farm prices, designed to be equally fair to farmers and consumers.)

Loans will be available on wheat acceptably stored on the farm or in elevators and warehouses. Farmers will have until Jan. 31, 1950, to take advantage of the support program.

As was the case last year, prices will be supported by means of loans to growers and government agreements to buy surplus supplies.

## Tractor Pulls Ahead Of Horse In Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG, Pa.—(AP)—The tractor has pulled ahead of the horse in Pennsylvania, the State Agriculture Department reports.

For the first time "old dobbin" has faded to second place as a motive power unit. Reporting on a survey that showed 135,000 tractors and 130,000 horses, the Department said 14,000 miles still give animal power a numerical lead over machines.

## Returns On Chickens Top Revenue From Porkers

Farm management records kept in the state of Iowa over a 12-year period go to show that chickens returned \$176 for each \$100 worth of feed fed. Hogs and dairy cattle returned \$143, while beef cattle returned \$125.

Farmers in Oregon that have compared the labor income from chickens and other types of livestock including dairying have obtained similar results as the Iowa records indicate.

## Union County Cherry Crop Little Damaged By Fly

LA GRANDE—(AP)—A 120,000 cherry crop in Union county was predicted after surveys indicated the cherry fruit fly had not made many inroads this year.

Little fly damage was discovered — thanks to concentrated spraying operations early this year. Larvae which have damaged some of the Dalles are crop apparently have skipped Union county, too.

The cherry harvest began July 6, with pickers receiving 24 cents a pound.

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## Neglect Prunes Profit On Lambs

For want of a one minute operation, producers are losing an average 50 cents a head on 30 to 50 percent of the lambs now going to market in the state. H. A. Lindgren, O. S. C. extension animal husbandry specialist, estimates.

Meat packers are complaining, the specialist explains, that castration and docking have been neglected on a large number of lambs. The producer pays for his neglect through a system of established discounts.

Both operations, castration and docking, are usually accomplished soon after a lamb is dropped. Lindgren recommends that docking—tail shortening—be done immediately after the lamb is born. If not done, a lamb's tail collects dirt and filth as well as adding excess weight.

Since castration of older lambs "sets back" the animal, Lindgren suggests that this operation be accomplished from 10 days to two weeks after the lamb is dropped. Meat quality is affected in non-castrated lambs.

Experienced lamb producers can easily accomplish both operations within a minute. Fifty cents a head is a high price to pay for the neglect, Lindgren concludes.

## Quarter Million In Gifts Received By Oregon State

OREGON STATE COLLEGE—Gifts, grants and bequests with an estimated value of a quarter of a million dollars were received by Oregon State College this past year. The total of \$249,800 does not include many items on which a monetary value cannot be placed.

The gifts listed likewise do not include the thousands of items of government surplus property which had an estimated value of \$1,864,168 since the inception of the surplus program.

Almost half of the total amount of gifts were accounted for in the school of science where donations totaling \$110,200 were made. Practically all of these were for special research projects in various fields, especially in chemistry and physics.

Research grants to the agricultural experiment station amounted to \$71,925 with an additional \$12,750 going to the Agricultural Research Foundation. The school of engineering and engineering experiment station gifts totaled \$19,200.

The Kaibab National Forest in northern Arizona comprises approximately 750,000 acres and contains the largest stand of virgin timber in the world.

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## THE FEED BAG

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOUGLAS COUNTY FLOUR MILL, MAKERS OF UMPQUA CHIEF FLOUR AND UMPQUA BRAND POULTRY & DAIRY FEEDS

**Lazy or Efficient.**  
Back in the effete East, where men are not the men we Westerners claim to be, they figure it takes 5000 hens to make a living. They don't get as good prices as we do, and their feed costs are close to ours, if you go far enough East.

One man is supposed to take care of from 2500 to 5000 hens, and do it in a 40-hour union week. That means two things. He must be efficient and must NOT be lazy. He needs to have things fixed up handy too, or he will never make the rounds.

Among other things they are using back yonder; water piped to automatic founts or troughs. (We have many of those installations here.) Droppings pits, that need be cleaned only a few times a year. (A few in Douglas County.) Large houses with partitions, meaning big bushes in one room. (Not found here.) Deep litter, removed annually, and even as seldom as every three or four years. (We're getting hep on that.)

But we think we have seen something that beats all that. CAGES! And we don't mean the individual cages which have become more or less common in many places. We mean a house with wire sides and floor, which will accommodate from one to two hundred birds.

Our experiment station is working with one, and we hear the results are quite surprising, to say the least. We have seen a very complete tryout of these large cages here in Douglas County on the farm of Russell Cary, about seven miles east of Roseburg. We were not only surprised; we were amazed.

Birds brooded together and reared together were divided, half in cages, the balance in conventional houses which Mr. Cary has used for years. Last winter was, according to the local weatherman, about the worst the Umpqua Valley has ever experienced. Yet, these caged birds produced even better on an average than the housed birds.

And last week we had the pleasure of seeing 1200 beautiful pullets three and a half months old, which have never had their toes in the dirt. A more uniform healthy appearing lot of pullets we never have seen. They are being housed, 150 in each wire compartment (a little crowded, to be sure). In double decked cages, about 8x20 feet.

The birds have been dsbeaked with an electric debaker, and the feathering couldn't be better

## Uncle Hank Says:



If they had a million acres of green range. In addition to looking healthy, they appear to be entirely happy, which is just as important when production is desired.

Feeding is done on the outside of the cages. Water is piped into "Doughboy Waterers," which Mr. Cary bought at the Douglas Flour Mill. One Doughboy to each pen of 150 pullets is ample. No coxey; no worms; no dirty litter to clean out; no tramping through droppings; no work—well not much work. We wouldn't call Mr. Cary lazy, and certainly we couldn't class him as crazy. He is just amazing. He uses his head to save his back, and with such success that we hereby prophesy that within ten years most of Douglas County's poultry will be raised in "CARY CAGES."

We won't take any of the glory away from Mr. Cary and his modern way of handling chickens. But we want to add that with all his good ideas and practices, those pullets couldn't be as fine as they are without good feed. Let us modestly mention that they are eating UMPQUA FEEDS.

License examiner: "What does it mean when a driver puts out a hand?"  
Applicant: "Well, if it's a woman, it means she is going to turn right or left, reverse or stop, shake the ashes off her cigarette, admire her new ring, point to a hat store..."  
Examiner: "Sure, but if it's a man?"  
Applicant: "Oh, he's probably waving at some dame."

**From Poultry Science.**  
"Free choice feeding often fails during warm weather due to birds not changing freely from scratch to mash."

Yes, grain is the natural food for chickens. If your birds are passing up the mash in favor of scratch, gradually change them off onto our new "ALL PURPOSE MASH." Eliminate scratch feeding entirely during the hot days. Make life easier for yourself, and make certain your birds get a full balanced feed for best egg production.

A half of Peaches Condensed Whey with Ribolac will help the appetite of any flock, chickens, turkeys, hogs, or any other animal that likes milk in any form. And only them that eats good can work hard.

**Stop Thief.**  
Nothing will rob you of your profits with turkeys and chickens quicker than parasites. Among those most troublesome are lice, mites and worms. Summer time is mite time. Those little devils become fathers and mothers five days after birth, and great grand parents in two weeks. Have big families, too.

Lice don't multiply so fast. But we've seen a million on one bird just the other day. Scientists think one large roundworm may produce several million eggs.

Don't let's get scared about all this, but do a little checking, and if your birds have parasites, we think the boys at the Mill will have something to help. Drop in and ask them about it.

Gal: Who said you could kiss me?  
Boy: Everybody.  
Sue: When you got engaged did Bill mention he once proposed to me?  
Lou: In a way, yes. He said he had done some silly things before he met me.

**Uncle Sam, Businessman.**  
A newsman (they make the Washington Big-Shots so irritated!) finds that while the U. S. is financing the export of over 25,000 tractors to Europe this year, 1,000 perfectly good new tractors are rusting outside the Italian factories that made them.

The Hoover Commission says the Vets' Administration has 15,432 employees handling 7,000,000 insurance policies. This average "workload" of 450 per employe compares with one of 1,762 in private insurance companies.

To break even, you just about have to buy your feed at the Flour Mill, where your dollar does double duty and satisfaction is guaranteed!

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