

FARM and GARDEN NEWS

Tractor Maintenance Clinic For Oregon 4-H Club Leaders Set At Oregon State College

Plans for a three-day tractor maintenance clinic for Oregon 4-H club leaders to be held on the O. S. C. campus, October 31 and November 1 and 2, has been announced by L. J. Allen, state 4-H club leader.

The clinic is to be held in preparation for including a tractor maintenance project in the Oregon 4-H club program starting with the 1950 club year. On a national basis, Allen states, the 4-H tractor maintenance project has been carried on over a six year period. Next year, however, it will be new in five western states.

Regional project sponsor is the General Petroleum corporation, Los Angeles.

On a regional basis, the project was inaugurated recently at Davis, Cal., when a two-day meeting was held for 4-H club leaders from Oregon, Washington, California, Nevada, and Arizona. Cal Monroe, state extension agent, and M. G. Huber, extension agricultural engineer, attended from Oregon.

There are approximately 38,000 wheel and crawler type tractors on Oregon farms, Huber reports, plus an additional 11,000 smaller garden tractors. Purpose of the new project is to teach club members proper servicing and adjustment technique. For example, Huber estimates that 10 to 15 percent of tractor gas is wasted through improper carburetor adjustment. It is not contemplated to attempt a major tractor overhaul or repair program.

The project sponsor, the General Petroleum corporation, will provide leaders and club members with instruction kits through the extension service, and will also award annual medals to county contest winners. To the outstanding project member in the state each year, the corporation will award a trip to National 4-H club Congress in Chicago.

Clinic plans call for an attendance of 25 to 30 leaders, Allen concludes.

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Western Dairy Herds Top Producers Of Butterfat

PULLMAN, Wash.—(AP)—Cattle herds in California and the three Pacific Northwest states were the best butterfat producers during 1948, Washington State college officials said.

Reports compiled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture show California placed first, Washington second, and Oregon and Idaho were third and fourth. The records were listed in state dairy herd improvement association tests.

California cows on test yielded an average of 395 pounds of butterfat, Washington had an average of 378 pounds per cow.

Oregon Milk Production Shows Decline In August

PORTLAND, Oct. 10—(AP)—Oregon's milk cows produced an estimated 133 million pounds in August, a seasonal 12 per cent drop from July but 3 per cent higher than August a year ago, the Department of Agriculture reported.

Although the number of cows on Oregon farms is near the low for the 18 years records have been kept, the output per cow has been high, the report said.

The cold facts show that output of lamb and mutton meat has declined from 1,164,000,000 pounds in 1947 to 860,000,000 pounds this year. There were only 32,000,000 head of sheep and lambs on farms the first of this year. In 1947, the first year of annual records, and when the nation's population was only one-fourth its present size, there were 46,000,000 head.

What's the outlook for sheep in the future? Not good, the department said. "With the wealth of resources in this country and generally high rewards to labor, it is likely," the department said, "that sheep herders will remain comparatively scarce except in times of economic depression."

Sheep raising started as a frontier occupation. It followed the advance of the frontier, pushing westward from the Atlantic, and later eastward from the Pacific. Its movement was generally into lands that were less well adapted to other types of farming.

Since there are no more frontiers—and land must bring its highest possible financial return—the future of sheep raising is not bright, the department said.

Shortage Of Herders Boosts Mutton Prices; Consumption Lowest Since Colonial Days

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Unless more "Little Boy Blues" start watching the sheep, Americans may go to the butcher shop one of these days and find there is no such thing any more as lamb chops and mutton.

A shortage of sheep herders already has pulled supplies of lamb and mutton down to the point where consumption is per-haps the smallest since early colonial days.

This situation is shown up in the relatively high prices of lamb cuts these days.

What's responsible for the shortage of sheep herders? The agriculture department said in a report today that better opportunities in other types of farming and in industry are luring sheep men from their "lonesome and often low-paying occupation."

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Increased Protein For Dairy Cows Recommended As Pastures Decline

Now that pastures are slackening off it may be necessary to increase the protein percentage in dairy feed grains unless first quality alfalfa hay or ample legume silage is available, is the timely reminder from H. P. Ewalt, O.S.C. extension dairy specialist.

Dairymen can frequently save money on their protein needs this time of year, he says, by checking mill run prices when they need to buy a protein supplement to increase their protein feeding 2 per cent or so. More expensive sources of protein are soybean, cottonseed and linseed meal.

As heavier grain feeding gets underway, it is advisable to feed according to production on an individual cow basis. Otherwise, low producing cows may be overfed at the expense of cows that may be capable of producing more butterfat than their limited feed will permit.

Cattle Breeding Artificially Is Arranged Here

Dr. Dallen H. Jones of the Roseburg Animal hospital has announced facilities for the artificial breeding of cattle. He has made arrangements to have semen from registered and pedigreed Jersey, Holstein, and Guernsey bulls supplied to his office from the Multnomah Artificial Insemination station at Gresham.

The insemination program will be conducted by appointment only, he said.

The program will make it possible for local cattle owners to breed their stock with semen from some of the finest of blood lines and herd sires. All semen used comes from proven bulls and high production animals, Dr. Jones said.

The semen will be shipped here three times weekly by bus, after being carefully packed in dry ice. Upon arrival in Roseburg, it will be given a microscopic examination for fertility and then refrigerated until it is used.

In 1948, 1,800,000 dairy cattle in the United States were bred through artificial insemination, Dr. Jones pointed out. Insemination has increased rapidly in popularity, because it does away with the necessity of keeping a dangerous animal on the farm, and makes it possible to produce valuable offspring at a nominal cost to the herd owner.

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New Variety Of Apple Offered By Idaho University

MOSCOW, Idaho, Oct. 10—(AP)—A new apple variety, the Idajon, has been released by the University of Idaho Agricultural experiment station.

Dr. Leif Verner, horticulturist, said the new apple is a cross between the Jonathan and Wagener varieties.

"There is a need in the apple industry for a good dessert variety ripening somewhat ahead of Jonathan," he said. "Idajon is larger than either parent and has an attractive, nearly solid red color."

Idajon is the fourth new variety to come from crosses made by the late Dr. C. C. Vincent of the Idajon station several years ago. Idajon was introduced in 1942 and Payette and Idajoid varieties in 1944.

Idajon has been grown under commercial orchard conditions for seven years at Moscow without irrigation and three years at Parma under irrigation. It will be generally available to growers about 1951, Verner said.

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was reached about June 1948. Estimated number of cows in production on June 1 this year was 225,000 a 2 percent increase as compared with the same month a year previously.

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As Usual
The producers are catching it in the neck again. At least the producers in Oregon, who produce the basic health foods, such as milk, butter, eggs, turkeys, etc.

How come, you say? Well, the Government is carrying on a huge "price support program." Everything our farmers buy in the feed line is supported at high levels. For instance, Uncle is buying millions of bushels of wheat at Portland for \$2.17 a bushel. In Oregon, wheat is, and always has been, the backbone of poultry production. And any dampfool knows you can't stay in the poultry business with wheat at \$2.18 a bushel, and eggs at 35c a dozen.

Of course, eggs are bringing the producer more than 35c. But, eggs are included in the price support program, and 35c is about the floor. Turkeys are also supported. What price? Average about 31c, live. And you can't raise 31c turks on \$2.17 wheat, either. So the support prices on what Oregon farmers have to sell is hardly noticeable.

We probably aren't very smart. Anyway, we can't see the logic of the Government supporting wheat at a level that makes millionaires out of wheat farmers, and at the same time crying about the high cost of living. And urging 4th round wage increases to compensate. Which increases all costs that much more. And recommending company financed pensions, which the company has to add to the cost of goods, (or out and turn everything over to the Government).

And to give us further cause for gripe, spend all the high taxes we dig so deep for in helping Europe. Five billion dollars worth in one little dab. And not the slightest sign of economy any place. Even the "Outs" in congress lack economy, then vote for huge spending sprees. Which you and we have to dig up, at further higher living costs.

Now, really, do we, as producers want support prices? It's getting more complicated than O. P. A. If you support one thing you must support everything else connected with that thing. Which is why egg and turkey support prices are ridiculous, compared with the support of the stuff eggs and turkeys are made of. It's all screwy looking to us.

The Farm Bill is now up before Congress. Looks to us like each party is trying to buy votes for next election by seeing who can offer the highest support price to the guys who have the most votes. Why don't

we write our congressmen and tell them, for gosh sakes, come home.

Uncle Honk Says
WHEN A MAN BECOMES SUDDENLY RICH HE USUALLY FINDS OUT THAT HE HAS A LOT MORE KINFOLK THAN HE'D EVER DREAMED OF

On That Bum Feed
Ray Strong of Sutherlandlin showed us 296 chicks, the remainder of a 300 chick lot, five weeks old. One had died, and three were victims of a brooder-house fire, which Ray luckily discovered in time—barely.

Dirty So-and-So's
Winter has snuck up on us early. Litter is getting damp. Eggs are showing results of it. But, say, everybody who has tried out our new egg washing machines are patting themselves on the back these days. They really do clean eggs, and without damaging grades. For \$65.00 or so, you can't afford to hand buff eggs. The machine will clean 750 eggs an hour, and you can't do that many in six hours with a buffer. If your time isn't worth anything, your fingers should be. Come in and ask the boys to demonstrate the machine for you. We bet you'll never clean another egg the hard way.

You Won't Believe This!
In spite of everything, we are going to lower the price of feed, effective today. We don't see how we could do it, with all the Government support prices. But they overlooked a couple ingredients, and those have fell in price, so we are taking advantage, and passing the saving on to you.

Most of the Umpqua feeds which you have found so efficient over the years will be down from 5 to 10c a bag. We won't take the space to summarize all of them here. But for one, UMPQUA TURKEY FAT will drop to \$3.90 a sack. That will help offset that low "support price" on turkeys.

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Hired Man: "Courtin'."
Boss: "With a lantern? I never carried a lantern courtin'."
H. M.: "No, and look what you got!"
(Glad we took the lantern, Mom.)

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Nitrogen Application On Fall-Seeded Grass Helps
Fall-seeded grasses or grains need an application of 25 to 30 pounds of available nitrogen to the acre to assist in getting them established well enough to withstand normal winter weather, says Leroy Warner, O.S.C. extension soils specialist.

Where the seeding is being made on old grain land or land that has been in sod, an application of at least 40 pounds of available nitrogen will both feed the new plants and assist in breaking down old straw and roots. Otherwise, there will be a temporary nitrogen shortage resulting from the available nitrogen being tied up by the rotting straw and roots, Warner explains.

One hundred pounds of ammonium sulphate contains 20 to 22 pounds of available nitrogen. If a 30-pound available nitrogen application is to be made, for example, spreading of 150 pounds of ammonium sulphate will be required.

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