

Farmers Dependent On West For Seed; Oregon Leads U. S.

By WILLIAM E. LOWELL

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Farmers will lean heavily on the West in adjusting plantings to postwar demands.

Acres controls which the Agriculture department finds necessary to prevent surpluses are expected to take 20,000,000 to 30,000,000 acres now in cotton, corn and wheat out of production next year.

Indications are that most of this land will be planted to grass or legumes, either for stock feed or cover.

That means tons of seed will be needed and there has been a shortage of seed during recent years. Last year Canadian imports saved the alfalfa seed situation in this country.

In many sections of the west—in all but one of the 11 western states, in fact—seed has been found a profitable crop.

An "educated guess" by department spokesmen sets the income from seed crops in this area at around \$38,000,000 annually.

And that ain't hay—though some of the end-product is going to be.

By way of comparison: Livestock marketings from the western states last year were valued at \$1,282,184,000.

Based on estimates the nation's farmers have given the department, grass and legume seed production will need to be doubled. And it's obvious that, for much of the increased production the department will turn to the western specialist.

"It's his dish," said Cy Briggs, of the department's production-marketing branch. "The west is a natural producing area. Grow-

ing conditions are among the best in the country. The soil is fertile, moisture can be controlled by irrigation.

Light In Weight

"The product is light in weight, small in bulk, so transportation costs are not excessive, even for shipments across the nation."

Briggs, who started with the department as a county agent in Oregon a good many years ago, observed with obvious pride that Oregon is the premier seed producing state in the nation.

It ranks first in alsike clover with 80,400 bushels last year, in perennial rye grass, with 7,200,000 pounds, in hairy vetch, 12,800,000 pounds, and common rye grass, 49,500,000 pounds. It was second for ladino clover, alta and Kentucky fescue and Austrian winter peas, fifth in crimson clover, sixth in white clover and 10th in red clover.

Washington is second in the common and Willamette vetches, third in Austrian winter peas and fourth in hairy vetch.

The U. S. Bureau of Reclamation estimates western American rivers could generate as much electricity in a year as 600,000,000 barrels of petroleum burned in steam plants.



PONDEROUS PORKER—There's 500 pounds of sausage—nearly a third of a mile of links—wrapped up in this high hog brought to the Chicago market by Robert Hawley of Argyle, Wis. The four-year-old Duroc boar is four feet high, six feet long and weighs 1080 pounds. Packers paid Hawley \$124.20 for the hog and sharpened up their sausage grinders. The normal-size Hampshire hog in foreground points up the monster's size.

Cannery Crops Cost Reported

Costs of producing sweet corn, table beets, and carrots for processing in the Willamette valley are presented in three new bulletins of the O.S.C. agricultural experiment station. A fourth bulletin in the series, on pole beans, was released earlier this year.

Little information has been available in the past on the economics of these crops but the various cost factors are outlined in detail in the new publications by authors George B. Davis, assistant agricultural economist, and D. Curtis Mumford, agricultural economist. The information has been requested by both growers and processors. Copies are available free from county agents or from the college.

Yield was found to be perhaps the most important single factor influencing costs for the three crops. High yields were obtained with little more cost per acre than low yields. Other cost factors charted included labor and equipment, irrigation, seed and fertilizer, method of harvest and overhead costs.

Average costs per acre and per ton for the three crops were computed in the studies, which covered the 1946 growing season. For irrigated sweet corn, average costs were \$110.50 per acre and \$26.80 per ton, and for non-irrigated, \$77.50 per acre and \$34.50 per ton. Table beet costs averaged \$197.90 per acre and \$18.90 per ton. Carrots averaged \$214.80 per acre and \$13.30 per ton.

On small farms producing tendency to use more labor per acre than was actually necessary. There was no evidence of too little labor being used.

Irrigation was profitable for sweet corn despite the additional labor and equipment costs. Mechanical digging, topping, and loading of table beets reduced harvest costs by nearly one-half as compared with pulling and topping by hand labor. Carrot growers who practiced oil weeding costs less than those who did not use oil.

"Leghorn" hats actually are made in Fiesole, a suburb of Florence, Italy.

The Italian port of Leghorn is called Livorno in Italian.

Sportsmen Enter Running For National Liars' Title

BURLINGTON, Wis.—(AP)—The hunters and fishermen, who have more practice, are making a fast pitch for the national liars' championship.

Otis C. Hulet, president of the Burlington Liars' club, which will pick the champion Dec. 31, said a couple of sportsmen are right up in the running.

Take, for example, the fish story told by Homer Floyd Frazier of Tacoma, Wash., about his father's fabulous fox hounds. "My father had the fastest fox hounds in the entire state of West Virginia, perhaps in the whole eastern seaboard," wrote Frazier.

"He went fox hunting one day with these fast hounds and car-

ried a mattock along to dig out any fox that might take refuge in his lair. Soon these fast hounds of father's were barking at the entrance of a nice fox den. Father came up and started digging and dug for 15 minutes when suddenly a fox dove between his legs and into the den. Those hounds were so fast they had beaten the fox to his den by a quarter of an hour."

WOOL USED IN PRESSING

To make woollens, particularly gabardines, hold their original appearance, press them "over" and "under" a woolen cloth, suggests Miss Murlie Scales, O. S. C. extension clothing and textiles specialist. The right side of the garment, she adds, is placed next to the wool covering on the ironing board. In shrinking the fullness out of the hem on a woolen garment, place a piece of cardboard between the hem and the garment to prevent shrinking the outside.

Scientists are making synthetic minerals at high pressure in stainless steel "bombs."

CHRISTMAS MIRRORS

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DAIRY REPORT ENDED

PORTLAND—(AP)—The Department of Agriculture is discontinuing the monthly Oregon dairy report because of the cost.

The state emergency board last week refused to grant an extra \$6,000 for the project. The report is published by the federal agency from state and federal funds.

A FIG FOR BOSSY

MERCED, Calif.—(AP)—For 25 years dairy farmers in Merced County have been feeding unmarketable figs to their cows. The cows like the sweet taste, says farm advisor W. H. Allison.

Figs have almost as much food value as barley, he says, but adds that they have to be mixed with other feed. More than 25 percent fig content has a laxative effect.

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