



# FARM and GARDEN NEWS



## Agriculture Department Hopes High Prices Won't Create Potato Avalanche

By OVIC A. MARTIN  
Associated Press Farm Writer

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The agriculture department hopes farmers have good memories.

This wish is being expressed in connection with the current rather sharp advance in the price of potatoes. The lowly spud has been something of a "Peck's Bad Boy" in the family of farm commodities.

The potato got in dutch, so to speak, with taxpayers, consumers, farm leaders, agricultural officials and even with growers themselves because of a problem of surplus production and costly government price support after the war.

In a five-year span, Uncle Sam paid out more than half a billion dollars in tax money to buy up surplus production and to keep the bottom from dropping from under grower prices. No other commodity has ever cost that much in price supports.

Criticism of the potato program grew so severe that Congress last year ordered the supports withdrawn.

Placed on their own, farmers took it upon themselves to deal with the surplus problem. They planted fewer acres this year. As a consequence, this reduced acreage, coupled with less favorable weather, has turned out a crop nearly a third smaller than last year.

Thus the country, instead of having 100,000,000 bushels of potatoes for which there is no need, has a crop just about in line with estimated needs of 340,000,000 bushels.

This reduction in production has been followed by a steady increase in price. Potatoes are selling for about double what they were last year.

**Headache Threat Seen**

The agriculture department is pleased at the price improvement. But it sees the seeds of future price headaches in the market advance.

In a report on the potato situation, the department said: "The relatively high prices of this season might make some growers forget that any substantial increase in acreage over that planted in 1951 is likely to result in a return to burdensome surpluses and disastrously low prices."

The department says there is room for a little expansion in production, but only about 4 per cent over this year. It emphasizes that potatoes benefit very little from high levels of consumer employment. Consumers tend to turn to other foods when they have plenty of money. In fact, there has been a long time downward trend in consumption of the spud.

## Poultrymen To Chart Industry's Future Course

Which way is the state's poultry industry headed?

That's a question to be answered in March at the state agricultural conference scheduled for the Oregon State college campus. Meanwhile, a committee headed by George Petersen, Eugene, is preparing a report to present to those who attend the statewide conference.

Recommendations for curtailing a status quo, or increases in various industry phases will be the meat of the committee's findings.

Thus far, they have found that Oregon's laying hen population has remained approximately stable for the past quarter-century at numbers ranging from three to three and one-half million birds. Prior to 1940, the state was an egg exporting state, shipping 15 to 20 percent of the total production to markets as far afield as the eastern seaboard.

**Egg Deficit Reported**

Today, the picture is a complete turn-about. The recent 40 percent population hike has now put the state on an egg deficit basis approaching 30 percent.

A turkey subcommittee headed by W. H. Schwedler, Portland, is planning a report of its recommendations to be included in the over-all poultry committee report. It has been pointed out that the Oregon turkey industry and that of the Pacific coast generally is producing about 50 percent more market birds than are being eaten locally. High cost of feed, advancing freight rates and high priced labor in relation to other producing areas is tending to result in a competitive disadvantage for local producers.

On the brighter side, the average breeder hen in the United States last year produced 13 poultlets while this state's average was 25 poultlets per bird.

The conference is planned to review the situation of 11 basic farm commodities and to make recommendations for the future course of each. Noel Bennion, Ore-

gon State college extension poultry specialist, is secretary for the poultry committee.

## TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER



## HONORING THE 4-H CLUBS

This green, three-cent stamp, honoring the 4-H Club movement, will go on sale at Springfield, O., on Jan. 15. Springfield claims to be the birthplace of the youth farm movement. The design features a group of farm buildings, at left, and a teen-age boy and girl facing the club symbol of a four-leaf clover. It bears the four H's, which stand for Head, Heart, Hands and Health.

## Cereal Breeder To Work On New Wheat Varieties

Appointment of Charles R. Rohde, University of Wyoming cereal breeder, to head cereal breeding investigations at the Pendleton branch experiment station has been announced by F. E. Price, dean and director of agriculture at Oregon State college.

Rohde will be a cooperative employee with the U. S. Department of Agriculture working principally on the development of new wheat varieties for the Columbia

basin. Cereal studies under his direction will be aimed at selection of wheat varieties with qualities of disease resistance and winter hardiness.

A graduate of Montana university, Rohde has done graduate work at the University of Minnesota. He is currently employed by the Wyoming experiment station at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. He will join the Pendleton branch station staff January 1.

Nine-tenths of the asbestos used by U. S. industry comes from Quebec.

Kill Devil Hill, a national memorial covering 314 acres in North Carolina, commemorates flights of the Wright brothers.

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

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### SNAFU AGAIN

As usual, when our fair-haired boys in the Federal Bureaus take over, things are getting into a heck of a mess. Too bad we can't use the language called for, but if we did, we fear Charlie Stanton would censor "THE FEED BAG," and we rather do that ourself.

During the second World War we thought things were in a terrible mess, and they were. But we could excuse the boys for doing their best, with a war going on. (Instead of their best, we usually figured they had done their worst.) But now, the war has been over six years. At least, it has been that long since the Japs and the Huns folded, even though the President didn't call it off till a few months ago.

And, to be sure, we have a police action going on now. Has been for a year and a half. Not a war, y'know. Just a bit of a police action in which 1000 of our boys die every month and thousands more get captured or crippled for life. Just the same as in a real war.

Even so, since our Harry and his gang of political henchmen and grafters say it isn't a war, why should they let things get into such a mess! (Unless they want things that way.)

In World War II, we learned to use substitutes in feeds, and then we had to learn to use substitutes for the substitutes. We never knew today what we would put into UMPQUA EGG MASH tomorrow until tomorrow came. But, in spite of all such minor difficulties, hens laid better than ever before. We hoped things would never come to such a pass again in our lifetime.

But, it is rapidly getting that way right now. Here is what one of our main suppliers has to say to just one item of the many they furnish us:

"All processors of soybean meal are booked through February and most of March. And the only way you can buy soy bean meal after March is: 'at present ceiling, new ceiling, or market price, whichever is highest at time of shipment.' Supposing that the market price on soybean meal on May 1st, 1952 is \$65.00, but in the meantime, the Government has increased ceiling prices to \$90.00 a ton, you would have to pay the \$90.00, in spite of the market being only \$65.00."

Can you imagine anything screwier than that! But, nevertheless, that is the situation with many of the things we buy to put into your feeds. And it is going to be the same situation with manufacturers of many of the other things

you want.

And prices, not only on feeds, but on these other things you want and need are going to be higher than the milky way, unless somebody does something quick and drastic. Since our masters seem to want things that way, it is hard to see where there is any chance of anything being done.

If we could just have a stand-in with the right people, like some guys in Washington, and be sure of keeping out of jail, it would be easier to "shake down" income tax invaders than to fight to get the necessary ingredients to keep UMPQUA FEEDS up to our high standards.

But we would certainly miss all our nice honest friends. So guess we'll stick it out the hard way and keep being friends with you and ourselves.

Reporter: "How does it seem to be three score and ten?"

Old Guy: "Well, today the girls sit on the arm of my chair, pat me on the head, and all that. Because they're not afraid of me any longer. And that's the II-- of it!"

**CLASSIFIED SECTION**

For Sale: 150 N. H. pullets, four months old, just about ready to lay. Mary Jurgensen, Rt. 3, Roseburg.

**VANCE, THE HARDWARE MAN SAYS**

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Bride: "Doctor says I've been working too hard. He suggests that I get a little sun and air."

Groom: "But, honey, didn't you tell him we can't afford one yet?"

A nationwide survey shows that most candy and flowers are bought by married men—with an income of about 2 a.m.

**HOW ABOUT A LITTLE INVESTMENT?**

Only a few years ago (23, to be exact), when we first came to Douglas county, sheepmen figured sheep weren't

worth feeding in winter. With wool at 10 to 12¢ a lb. if an old ewe couldn't make it thru, nothing much was lost anyway.

But the story is vastly different nowadays. Wool sold last season for \$1.35, and lamba, —we forget —, but pretty high. So if you pulled the old peltier thru, her wool and lamb brought you \$35 or \$40. For that kind of dough, you can afford a nice little investment in feed.

In spite of a nice fall to date we see lots of old peltiers that just are not going to make it without some help. And every one that peltier out will set you back just about that \$40.

Which means you must make a choice, and do it quick. We think the choice is obvious. You may say you can't afford to feed those old ewes, but we say you can't afford NOT TO FEED THEM. Better look your bunch over, and see just how many will need help. And don't wait too long. It means dollars.

Doc: "Why, you robber! You charge more to work on my car than doctors do for medical care."

Garageman: "That's the way it should be. You guys have worked on the same old model for thousands of years. We have to learn a new model every year."

**FREE ADVICE**

You'll call us crazy. About some things, maybe yes. But when we say "Get your order in for early chix, and get set for some nice profit next summer and fall," we're crazy like a fox. Sure, egg prices took a toboggan. Not only is this not unusual; it is something that happens every year about this time. Egg prices will come up again when the right time of year comes.

Today's egg price is just 16¢ a dozen below last year at the same time. But it is just 11¢ above that of exactly two years ago. Poultrymen make money every year, provided they have good birds, and give them good feed and care. Never has a failed yet. And it won't next year.

Some folks will be bluffed out of the business by this drastic drop in egg and fryer prices. That also happens annually. The guy who sticks to it year after year is the guy who makes the money. So order some chix from a good lying strain, feed 'em and care for 'em right, and if they don't make you money, we'll bend over and let you boot us where we sit.

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