

Umpqua Conservationists To Meet



West County Soil Program Due For Study

The first annual Umpqua Conservation District meeting is scheduled Feb. 9 at Scottsburg, according to a report from Douglas County Agent J. Roland Parker.

At the meeting, election of two members of the board of supervisors will take place. Parker is secretary of the board. Other members of the soil conservation district are: J. W. Borman, Elkton; Charles Hedden, Elkton; J. A. Boak, Ash Valley; Floyd V. Weatherly, Elkton; and Chairman Bert Roberts, Smith River.

Also on tap for the annual meeting is a general discussion on a program of soil conservation. The soil conservation program involves the coordination of federal, state and county soil conservation services.

Qualified soil conservationists working with the elected district supervisors provide technical skill and counsel in soil analysis, engineering and farm plan studies to groups of farmers who petition through the district for assistance.

The Umpqua District embraces the area of Douglas County including Elkton and west to the coast where dairy farming, sheep and hay are the major farm crops.

It is part of the Southwestern Oregon Soil Conservation area which takes in Josephine, Jackson, Curry, Coos and Douglas counties.

One of the current problems facing the Umpqua District is drainage of some 2,000 acres of tillable bottom land in the Ash Valley area. The Ash Valley farm representatives say approximately 30 percent of the bottom land in the Ash Valley-Loon Lake area is in need of drainage to keep up dairy herd production. They say restoration of the water-covered lands would allow increases in herds in some instances and more efficient operations.

A study is getting underway to assist the Ash Valley farmers in estimating drainage needs and costs, engineering drainage installations and selection personnel for drainage operations.

Another factor cited by the economists is that people have more money to spend, and are spending more. They not only eat more food but are willing to pay for the kind of services that improve the quality and attractiveness of food they buy or save their time in preparing it.

Land Bank Pays Large Dividend

The Federal Land Bank of Spokane has declared a 6 per cent dividend to stockholders of record Nov. 30.

Henry Matthew, bank president, said this dividend, amounting to \$285,300, brings to more than \$2,236,000 the total paid in dividends in the last eight years.

The dividend will be paid to 83 national farm loan associations in Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington, which own all of the bank's capital stock, Matthew said. The associations, in turn, will pass on most of the dividend to their farmer-members.

TOKYO INCREASE

TOKYO — The population of Tokyo climbed to 7,469,538 persons as of Nov. 1, Kyoto News Service said Saturday. This is an increase of 352,982 over the corresponding period last year.

Tokyo still is the world's third largest city, behind London with a population of 8,346,137 and New York with 7,891,957.

Meat Marketing Methods Due As Conference Subject

Oregon people should get a better understanding of all factors involved in livestock and meat marketing by attending the conference to be held at Oregon State College Jan. 8 and 9, according to J. Roland Parker, Douglas County extension agent.

He said current conditions in the industry are focusing attention on the need for taking a look at livestock and meat from the animal to the table.

Oregon State College's extension service is sponsoring the conference, in which producer, sellers, packers and wholesalers, retailers, labor groups and consumers will be taking part.

Changes that have developed in marketing over the years have brought on the conference, according to Frank L. Ballard, associate director of OSC extension service. More immediate reasons for holding it now, are the recent break in livestock prices; record number of cattle in the United States; position in the cattle cycle; low point in hog cycle; low lamb prices despite low sheep numbers, and the cost-price squeeze confronting the livestock producer.

Parker said the conference is aimed at developing better understanding among the people who handle livestock and meat products. Recommendations that will guide the industry's future in Oregon may come out of the meeting in January, he said.

The six groups taking part have already given their ideas of some of the industry's problems and questions as they see them, Parker said. Their reports are to be prepared from views expressed at their preliminary meetings.

However, Parker emphasized that other opinions may be expressed during the January conference.

Pendleton Senator Sells Large Cattle Ranch

PENDLETON — State Sen. Rex Ellis of Pendleton has sold 1,500 acres of his ranch near Boardman to Mr. and Mrs. E. E. McCormack, Hillsboro, who are already stocking a pedigreed Hereford herd there.

Ellis' ranch is noted for its extensive irrigation system, one of the largest in the Northwest, covering 840 acres of alfalfa.

Sale price was not disclosed but the value is over \$140,000 on the ranch, modern house, irrigation system and other equipment.

The McCormacks operate the McCormack Concrete Products Plant at Beaverton. Ellis reports to remaining rangeland which he owns may be irrigated for raising asparagus if plans of Stockton, Calif., men materialize.

Market Costs Taking Larger Share Of Dollar

More services are being performed than ever before in the marketing of food products, say extension service economists at Oregon State College. As a result a growing share of the consumer's food dollar is going into marketing charges.

More and better packaging, washing, selection, mixing, pre-cooking and preparing of products for the American table are a continuing trend which partially explains a widening spread between farm prices and retail costs of food, say the economists.

They point out the farmer's share of the consumer's dollar this year will amount to 45 cents — 2 cents less than in 1952. This is the lowest since 1941.

Several reasons are given by the economists for the increased demand for marketing services. One of the most important is the mounting number of women, especially married women, now employed outside the home. The families of working women tend to buy more partially prepared and wholly prepared foods, and eat more meals in restaurants.

Both these practices increase marketing charges and reduce the proportion of the consumer's dollar that goes to the farmer.

Other long-term trends that effect the spread between farm prices and retail prices, according to the economists, are geographic specialization farm production and more people in urban centers. Transportation costs are increased as more people live farther away from the areas in which their food is produced.

Another factor cited by the economists is that people have more money to spend, and are spending more. They not only eat more food but are willing to pay for the kind of services that improve the quality and attractiveness of food they buy or save their time in preparing it.

Business Downturn Less Severe Than Supposed

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve Board Friday found some reassuring economic evidence in its revised monthly index of industrial production, made public Thursday night.

Board officials said the "much improved" new index indicates that the business downturn since mid-year (1) has been less severe than generally supposed, and (2) is an inventory adjustment instead of some more basic economic ailment.

This substantiated the view privately voiced by one high administration official that business will pick up markedly when manufacturers and dealers have sold off excess stocks—perhaps as soon as April.

The revised reserve board index is based on production statistics covering about 175 industries instead of the 100 formerly used.

Flexible Price Supports Receive Bureau Approval

CHICAGO — The American Farm Bureau Federation has endorsed flexible farm price supports after 1954, but with a proviso that 90 per cent price floors can be invoked for any basic crop under certain conditions.

The federation, which ended its 35th annual convention Thursday, re-elected Allan B. Kline, an Iowa farmer, to his fourth term as president.

In the convention's final day, delegates defeated a flat proposal that the federation seek continuation of mandatory high level price supports for major crops through the 1954 crop year.

The convention then followed President Kline's leadership in advocating flexible price supports, which could be increased in times of crop shortages and lowered in times of surpluses to discourage over-planting. However, the convention made this suggestion:

That the 1949 farm act specifying flexible supports, which Congress has decided shall not become effective until 1955, be amended to guarantee producers of a basic crop 90 per cent of parity instead of the flexible floor during the first year they vote production controls after a non-control year.

Elderly Man Is Booked For Murder Of Trapper

BAKER — Alfred M. Staley, 70, an inactive carpenter from Sumpter, was booked here Saturday on a murder charge in the revolver death of Walter L. Wire, 36, a Sumpter old jobs man and part-time trapper.

Wire was shot to death at Staley's home Friday night. Neighbors heard the shot and called police. State Patrolman William Wallace said it appeared both men had been drinking and he quoted Staley as saying the fatal shot was fired after Wire hit him in an argument over where they should go on leaving his house.

Staley appeared in court Friday and was held in lieu of \$5,000 bond.

Staley is a resident of Sumpter, a town of about 100 people, located about 10 miles from Baker.

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TURKEYS

A very successful Turkey show is once again behind us. To show manager Dick Turley goes our congratulations for a job well done. Our congratulations too, to the members of the Board of Directors of the Northwestern Turkey Show. We hope the new board members who were elected at the meeting Wed. night will enjoy their tenure in office and will be active in promoting the course of the show in the best interest of the turkey industry. John Amacher and Joe Brumbach are the newly elected members of the Board. The men who serve so unselfishly on the board of directors will have a job to determine the future of the show. We hope they consider the welfare of the industry above any other point. If there must be a choice made between a good SHOW and a good TURKEY show the industry has a right to the correct answer. We know the board of directors are capable of making these difficult decisions as the problems arise.

MONEY

You can't measure a person's happiness by the amount of money he has. A man with ten million dollars may be no happier than one with only nine million.

SOMETHING OLD

When the paper says the bride is twenty-four and the groom is sixty, it isn't necessary to add that he is considered the richest man in his neck of the woods.

CHRISTMAS

Only a couple of days to buy a gift for the loved ones. The hardware dept. at the Mill has some dandy gift items. The finest rifles, shotguns and pistols. Vance, the Hardware manager will be glad to help you select the proper gift gun for the hunter in the family. New tools make a wonderful gift for a man who works or plays with tools. Power tools for wood-working and mechanics tools are always welcome gift items for the men. For Mom we have scissors, cutlery, fine knives, and other items she will appreciate. Also in hardware are colored Christmas tree lights. These must last forever, as we haven't been able to move them the way we wanted to. Vance will make a special price on these lights to replace the burned-out ones on your tree.

FOOT IN MOUTH DEPT.

The papers report that the Milk Marketing Administration has withdrawn its action against Mr. Deetz, the independent Jerseyman of Canby. They had better be prepared to explain their actions against the dairymen of the Roseburg pool or withdraw it too. We have talked with several dairymen who got a Christmas present from the Administration of a cut of \$125-\$250 a month in their milk check. In several cases the method of arriving at this happy bit of news is a complete mystery. Certainly the dairymen are entitled to know the method of determining this new payout. If any of us were to get a terrific cut in income we would want to know how and why. When a State board is determining how much money you are to make, an explanation that coincides with the facts in hand would be worthwhile. From the public relations standpoint the milk marketing administration has stuck its foot into it again.

HIGH ENERGY

We see a lot of experimental evidence to indicate that the new high-energy rations for laying hens will make more money for the grower. These feeds, usually a complete feed similar to the present cage rations, are made of ingredients that will give the highest possible energy and protein values along with a fiber level well below the average now in use. These high-energy rations were first started into general use for broiler and fryer production. Now there is considerable use of this type ration for laying hens. In keeping with the Douglas County Flour Mill's policy of always putting out the best possible feed, we will be making a high energy ration for laying hens. This will be available after the first of the year. With the milk-base that is available to us now, we know this will be one of the finest feeds ever to hit the local market. If you are now feeding a cage ration or are interested in the newest feed facts, and want to make money with your chickens we recommend you plan on giving this new feed a try. The mill will be closed Dec. 26th, so our employees can better enjoy their Christmas. To all our Friends and Customers a very MERRY CHRISTMAS, from all the wheels and the hands at the Douglas County Flour Mill.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

To all our friends... May this Holiday Season be the happiest one you've ever enjoyed.

The Time Shop
228. N. Jackson



PANEL EXPERTS discussed random sampling of turkeys last week as a means of measuring breeding progress in Oregon turkeys. The plan was suggested by James A. Harper, center at table, turkey specialist at Oregon State College. Others on the table are (left to right): Dr. George Stewart, chairman of the Poultry Dept., University of California; Earl Reitzma, poultry supervisor, State of Oregon; Harper; Noel Bennion, extension poultry specialist; and Dr. Paul Bernier, geneticist, Oregon State College. (Picture by Paul Jenkins).

Farm Forest Facts

By ED GILDEN

County Extension Forester

The small woodland owner was the topic of discussion at the recent conference of the Western Forestry and Conservation Assn. in Seattle. This conference is the big forestry meeting of the year.

You can see the importance foresters, timberland managers, woodland owners and forest industries place on this small ownership phase of forestry.

The highlight of the meeting was the tree growers' panel. These were men telling of their experiences in managing farm and forest woodlands.

Three farmers explained how they were making good returns from their forest lands by making partial cuts and following a sound forest management program.

A consulting forester told of the services available for a small woodland owner who wished to have someone help him in his management, harvesting and selling. These consulting foresters work on a small percentage of the selling price of the products.

H. Doran Brown, a small timberland owner at Woodland, Wash., told of the new loans available on standing timber. Brown explained that recent federal legislation allows banks in the Federal Reserve System to make two to 10 year loans on standing timber.

He believes this will do much to stop early clear-cutting of good young stands. Brown said: "Now instead of cutting your young timber when you need money, you can get a long-time loan for the amount needed. The annual growth on the standing timber

should go a long way toward paying the interest on the loan."

Fire Protection for small woodlands was given as one of the most important objectives of good forest management. Small owners were encouraged to do everything they can to prevent fires on their woodlands.

Douglas fir bark beetles came in for a lot of attention at the conference. The beetle, which kills the entire tree by mining under the bark, is the reason for Oregon's most serious forest insect epidemic.

Direct control of the epidemic is not possible. No known spray treatment provides a practical means of control. Salvage logging is the only feasible action that can be taken to effect a degree of control.

The conference has done much to spotlight the problems and means of handling the problems of the small woodland owner. Over 500 people attended three-day conferences. These people now know the value of the forest products on small woodlands.

SHOOTS SOLDIERS
BERLIN — A West Berlin agency that gathers news from Communist East Germany said Saturday a drunken Russian officer at Schwerin shot and killed three of his soldiers after his abuse of one touched off rebellion.

The agency, Information Bureau West, said the trouble broke out in a tank battalion's barracks early in the week. The officer knocked a soldier down with his pistol butt.

When the soldier's comrades rushed to his help, the officer opened fire.

Crop Sales Plan Is Proposed By Farm Federation

CHICAGO — A resolution committee proposed today that the convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation call for a federal farm-aid program that would stress crop salesmanship as a means of making farmers prosperous.

Less dependence than under present programs would be placed on government price supports. The committee said taxpayers would not finance for any extended time price guarantee programs that would provide farmers a satisfactory standard of living.

So, the committee declared, farmers and government must join hands to regain lost foreign markets and develop new ones to provide outlets for American agriculture's expanding productive capacity.

That means, the committee said, the opening of doors to increased imports so that other countries might get into a position where they could buy more U. S. farm products.

In resolutions to be submitted to the convention for adoption at today's final session, the policy-drafters said there was a place for "reasonable" price supports and production control programs in helping to stabilize agriculture.

But they recommended that present war-born high-level price floors be allowed to expire at the end of 1954, at which time flexible price guarantee provisions of the Farm Act of 1949 are scheduled to go into effect.

Farm Surpluses Must Be Carried, Opinion

WASHINGTON — A key administration policy-maker said Saturday that this country probably must carry its multi-billion dollar stock of farm surpluses for several years to protect both world and domestic farm prices.

Just back from the International sessions of the food and agricultural organization in Rome, John H. Davis, assistant secretary of agriculture, said that most other free nations are "afraid of what the United States is going to do with its surpluses — they fear we might ruin world markets."

Davis, who directs marketing and foreign agricultural relations for the department, made it clear that the Eisenhower administration wants to avoid this.

"It's our program to help stabilize world markets and move our surpluses into consumption over and above normal trade channels," Davis said. "It may mean sort of sweating through a new years of surpluses."

SEIE RED CONTRA'AND

MANILA — Manila police Saturday raided a downtown apartment and seized an estimated \$62,500 in gold, U.S. currency and precious gems it said were destined for Communist China.

Three Chinese arrested in the apartment were held for investigation.

Season's Greetings

May the "Peace that passeth all understanding" enter into your heart at Christmas. In the spirit of Him, whose Natal Day we celebrate, may you find the hope, faith and courage to hold steadfast to the bright promise of a world in which peace and good will shall reign forevermore.

Douglas County Flour Mill