Grants Pass Girl Wins 4-H Rabbit Competition

Carol Niles, 16, Grants Pass, was named champion senior 4-H rabbit showman at the state fair for the skillful way she handled her purebred Black Silver Martins.

Junior champion is 10-year-old Wanda Lee Dewey of Tigard, who is a first year rabbit club member. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Dewey, lead the Bountiful Bunnies rabbit club.

Farm Forest Facts

By ED GILDEN
County Extension Forester

Douglas fir cones are in big demand this year. Prices are running as high as $4 a sack.

The reason is that 1948 was the last big bumper crop of cones and tree nurserie are running short of seed. The cones produce the seed that is used in nursery plantings. Th plantings in turn produce the seedlings that are planted on logged-off areas.

Good seed years in the forest f Douglas County and western Oregon do not occur each year. They vary from three to five years and may go as long as seven years. Because of this annual variation in cone crop, nurseries and seed companies attempt to stockpile seed whenever possible. This insures the cone picker of a ready market.

CONE PICKING is very seasonal. It usually begins about the middle of August and ends in the higher elevations by the first of October.

In talking with Vondis Miller, supervisor of the Umpqua National Forest, he indicated that they are very much interested in obtaining cones. The price for cones that meet certain specifications are $4 a sack. The cones are packed in two-bushel sacks and must be sewed. Cone rsquirements and further information for picking can be obtained from local ranger districts or the forest supervisor's office in Roseburg.

NOT ALL CONES produce good seeds. Where considerable cone deformity is noted or pitch is running from the cones, the tree should be discarded since this indicates infestation by the cone borer.

Cutting tests must also be made. Not less than 10 cones should be cut longitudinally down the center as a test for seed maturity and worm infestation. The meat of the seed should be solid and show white. At least four of the cut seeds should appear to a section to be worth picking. If less than four, the yield will be too small to justify costs of seed extraction and cleaning.

Picking cones is where the work starts. Probably the best way is to pick behind a logging operation. Where trees have been felled in the last couple of weeks the cones should be about right. Squirrel caches is even a simpler way when they can be found. Generally, these can be located along logs or under tree roots or at times on the ground where they fall as the squirrels cut them from the branches.

OTHER METHODS of picking include climbing open-grown trees, that usually produce the most cones, and picking by hand or use of a special tool with a recurved blade attached to a long handle.

Miller said the Forest Service would furnish the cones and all the pickers had to do was locate them and fill their sacks. If you're interested make sure you check with your local rangr district for specifications and so they will know where you are picking. If you are picking on private land make sure you have permission before you go to work.

M. R. Barkhurst, science teacher at Myrtle Creek High School, has been planning with his science club to pick cones to raise some money. If they get into some good cone picking areas, each member should be able to collect three to five sacks a day. Maybe you could stand the returns from five sacks of cones yourself.

LAST WEEK, Ivar Lindstrom, who lives out at Melrose, and I were looking at some cones he had on a 15-year-old Douglas fir. These cones had already started to open and would not be suitable for sale because of the possibility of seed loss. So if you are picking at low elevations be sure that the bracts on the cones have not started to open. Cones on trees at higher elevation should be still closed.

THE NORTHWEST Christmas Tree Assn. will hold its summer meeting this week in Corvallis. This association is made up of growers, wholesaler and retailers of Christmas trees in Oregon and Washington. This educational meeting on growing and marketing Christmas trees will be held at the Memorial Union Building at Oregon State College. The meeting starts Friday, Sept. 17, at 1 p.m. and ends the next day at 4 p.m.

The association holds its meetings only every other year in Oregon, so everyone interested in Christmas trees should try to attend. A number of people in Douglas County have shown an interest in going; so we plan to pool our cars for the trip. Give me a call at Roseburg 3-8133 if you plan to go, and maybe we can line you up with a ride.

Fair Bids Just Top Market Prices In 4-H Stock Sales

Sale of 4-H market animals brough less spectacular prices for championship winners this year at State Fair, but every animal received more than market price.

Usual auction was foregone this year in favor of a system of sealed bids, although each 4-H exhibitor was allowed to accept any oral bid. They were also permitted to take their animals home with them if they preferred.

Beef prices this time compared more favorably with current market quotations than the auction did last year. Average price for 22 of the animals sold was $26.64, although market quotations are $25.50 to $26 for choice and prime. A year ago, the auction prices stuck close to the market quotation. The average sale price then was $25.50 while the market quoted $24 to $26 for choice and prime.

The picture was not quite as rosy for sheep this year, although they brought more than $1.50 above current market price.

Average for 36 animals was $20-.15 as compared with market price of $18 and $18.50 for choice and prime. At last year's auction the average was $23.67 with a market quotation of $18.

Hogs had virtually the same margin over market prices as last year, slightly more than $2. The 24 swine sold for an average of $25.11 with the market standing at $23. A year ago, when market price was $27, the auction brought $29.-43.

Merle Eakin of Powell Butte withheld his grand champion steer from the sale to show it at the Pacific International Livestock Exposition. But his other Shorthorn steer, the reserve grand champion, brought 30 cents a pound. Top price last year was 42 cents a pound.

Kathleen Day's champion market hog, a Yorkshire, and Charles Bernards' top pen of hogs, Berkshires, each sold for 26 cents a pound. All others brought 25 cents a pound. In last year's auction, top price was 55 cents a pound.

Betty Michel's grand champion fat lamb hit the top price of 25 cents. Second high price was 23 cents a pound to Terry Farrell's Crossbred. In 1953 active bidding brought 90 cents a pound for the top animal.

Corn Raisers Are Urged To Watch For Borers

Farmers harvesting field or sweet corn anywhere in Oregon in the next few weeks are urged to join the state department of agriculture entomologists in an intensive field search here for the European corn borer.

The survey is getting under way because this corn borer is now as close to Oregon as eastern Montana, Colorado, and Wyoming. For a pest of its destructive nature, this is too close to hope that it will not reach Oregon. It has not yet been found in fields here. If it has reached here, the search getting under way should smoke it out.

The survey will be conducted by F. P. Larson and Robert L. Stephenson, entomologists with the department's plant pest and disease program. Both sweet corn and field corn areas will be studied.

Clackamas 4-H Rabbit Breeders Sweep Prizes

Clackamas county 4-H rabbit club members took three of the breed championships at the state fair.

They were Eldon Beckman of Milwaukie, showing a Californian intermediate doe; Eugene Lienert of Oregon City, with a Champagne intermediate doe; and Linda Shockey of Cherryville with a Silver Martin senior doe.

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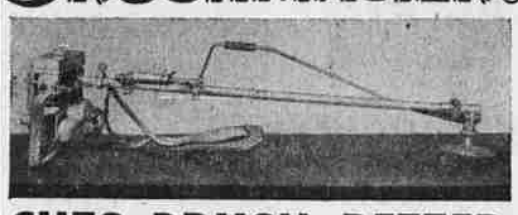

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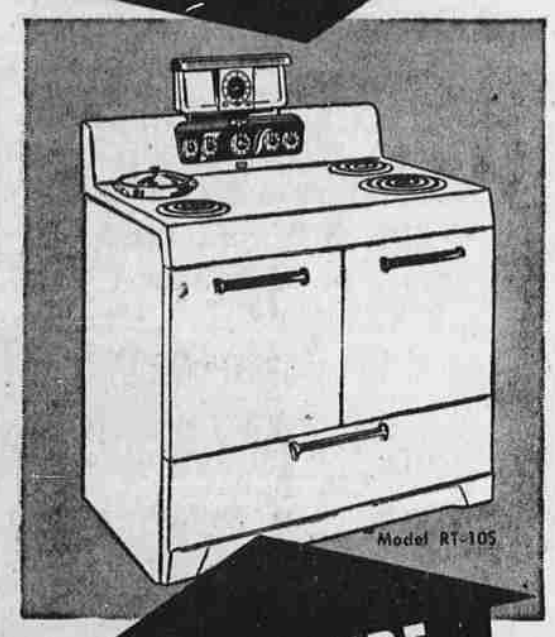

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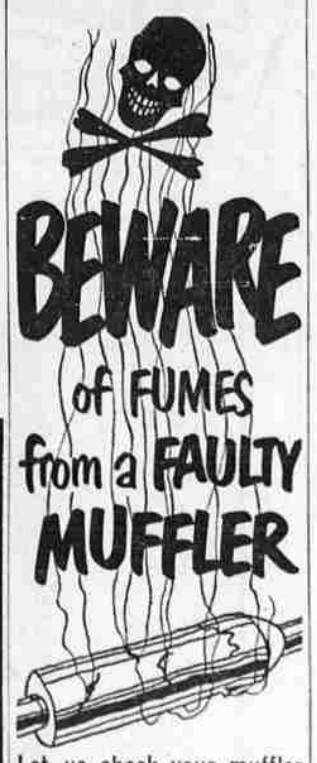

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