

**Seven Billion Dollars Farm Goods Said Stored**

WASHINGTON (AP)—Farm goods stored under the price support program now total nearly seven billion dollars, a record high.

Reporting this record, the Agriculture Department said federal investment in the surpluses as of Oct. 31 was \$6,634,107,000 and more commitments since then have pushed the figure close to the seven-billion mark. The amount was \$4,544,897,000 a year ago.

The Oct. 31 figure included \$2,525,834,000 in loans advanced to farmers for products stored under support programs and \$4,108,273,000 in farm goods owned outright by the government.

Biggest item in the Oct. 31 inventory was wheat worth \$2,698,700,000, followed by \$1,231,942,000 in cotton and \$1,167,471,000 in corn.

Cows which have free and easy access to water, drink about 10 times a day and consume a third of their water at night.

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**Receives Top Honor Canyonville Man Wins New Honor For 4-H Club Work**

By LAURA OLSON  
Staff Writer, News-Review

Ten diligent years working in 4-H clubs in Douglas County has brought an added honor to Wade Worthington of Canyonville. He is believed to be the only person in the county eligible to receive the new 4-H pin awarded for 10 years of service.

The 19-year-old farmer is now in partnership with his father on the Worthington's big livestock and crops farm between Canyonville and Days Creek.

Wade started out in 4-H work in 1945. Just about 10 years old at the time, he joined a cooking club in Days Creek. He went on to take honors in cooking at the Douglas County Fair and, later, at the Oregon State Fair.

In 1948 Wade joined a beef club. Since then he's acquired a small herd of registered Herefords, according to county 4-H agent Frank von Borstel.

He worked in the beef club for seven years, at a member of the Days Creek Stockmen. While he raised beef, Wade found time for four years, to raise corn. One year he had a champion corn exhibit at the Oregon State Fair.

Von Borstel said that Wade didn't enter any of his cattle at the state fair. Transportation of beef presents quite a problem to boys living a considerable distance from the exhibiting place.

The agent was proud of Wade. He said it wasn't often boys continue in 4-H work for 10 years. No set time has been named when Wade will receive his 10-year pin. Von Borstel says some kind of ceremony will probably go along with the presentation.

Anyway—the extension office hasn't received any pins yet.

**Special Pin Designed For 10-Year 4-H'ers**

A new award now awaits Oregon young people who have been 4-H club members for 10 years. Burton S. Hutton, state 4-H club leader, announced they will receive a gold key, mounted in a solid gold necklace for girls and on a tie chain for boys.

Until now, the 10-year member award was a pin similar to the ones given to first, third and fifth year 4-H club members.

The key has an outline of the state of Oregon in white enamel. In the center is the green four-leaf clover, symbolic of 4-H club work. The words "ten years" are at the top and "Oregon 4-H clubs" at the bottom.

The new design is the result of a survey by the Oregon 4-H Club Leaders' Assn. in cooperation with the state 4-H club office. It asked older 4-H club members in various parts of the state what they would prefer as an award. The survey resulted in leaders' recommendation for a specially designed key. The design was perfected by the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work in Chicago.

Cost of the preliminary design was financed by the state 4-H leaders' association. Distribution costs are donated by the First National Bank of Portland, which supplies all 4-H club member pins.

**Revision Of Income Tax Law Aids Oregon Farmers**

Oregon farmers will likely benefit in several ways from revisions of income tax laws made by congress during 1954, according to Manning Becker, extension farm management specialist at Oregon State College.

Included in the many changes that should help ease the strain for the farmer are tax rates about 10 per cent lower than for 1953, and extensions on deadlines for filing final returns. The date for tax estimates is still Jan. 15, but if the final return is filed by Feb. 15, no estimate will be required. If farmers file an estimate by Jan. 15, they have until April 15 to file their final return.

Another important change concerns how expenses for soil and water conservation can be handled. The farmer is now allowed, for taxable years beginning after Dec. 31, 1953, to elect either to capitalize or currently deduct these ex-

penses. Once the choice has been made, it is binding for future years, Becker warns.

Such expenses can be charged off as current operating expenses up to 25 per cent of the farmer's gross income from farming during the current taxable year. Any cost above 25 per cent may be deducted in the following years—but not over 25 per cent of the gross in any year.

A further revision of the tax laws allows farmers faster "write-off" on equipment and farm improvements, the specialist continues. The old "straight-line" method—total cost divided by the years of useful life—has been used by most farmers and may still be used. But, if the item being depreciated has a useful life

of three years or more is new, the "Declining-balance" method at double the straight-line rate may be used. The other method, also a faster "write-off" than the straight-line, is the "sum-of-the-digits." It is more complex.

The farmer taxpayer may also elect to "write-off" the cost of grain storage facility in 60 months instead of the normal life of the structure. It must have been or will be built in the calendar years 1953-1956, however.

Under the newly revised law, the farmer need not lose the exemption if he has a dependent who earns \$800 or more, if the dependent is under 19—or if 19 or over but is a full-time student or is pursuing an approved full-time course of on-farm training.

**RESIGNS POSITION**

PORTLAND (AP)—Walter Johnson, Connell, Wash., wheat rancher who became director of the federal regional Commodity Stabilization Service here last spring, has announced his resignation.

He said it would become effective no later than Feb. 1, so he could return to ranching.

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**Farm Forest Facts**

By ED GILDEN  
County Extension Forester

It's hard to believe that I have been writing this forestry column for a year—but it's true. Way back in December, 1954, I came forth with the first "masterpiece." It was crude—and they still are; but I am getting to the stage where I sort of look forward to writing one each week.

I hope you get some enjoyment out of reading them.

**EVEN HARDER** to believe is that the Roseburg News-Review has used it every time that I get it over to them. From this meager beginning the column has spread far—but not so wide.

Hal Schiltz down at the Myrtle Creek Mail makes use of it, when ever he has a little extra space. Dewey Rand, editor of the Capitol Press up at Salem says his circulation isn't too large in Douglas County but he likes the subject matter and it is of interest to his readers farther north. He uses it quite regular.

The Oregon Farmer makes use of a column or two once in a while. Gene McNulty, field editor, usually polishes them up a little and maybe uses a couple of columns to make a story—but they are being used. That's the important thing.

A few trades with county agents and foresters in Oregon, Washington and Idaho who are writing columns about completes the circuit.

**REMEMBER ALL** the "mularkeys" I have been giving you about what a big business Christmas tree growing is in other states and how we can do the same thing in Douglas County? Well, now you can read about it from another source. Al DeVoe, forest appraisal forester, over at the court house called to my attention the Christmas tree feature article in this month's Better Homes and Gardens magazine.

This is the story of Mr. Christmas Tree—Paul Kirk of Tacoma, Wash. Kirk Evergreens are probably the largest Christmas tree operators in the United States. The acreage of farmed Christmas trees that they own is unbelievable. The magazine article estimates that they own over 40,000 acres that have been farmed.

Paul has told me that without farming they would be unable to produce a tenth of the trees that

they do each year. In fact, he has made this statement, "without pruning, thinning, and scaring (that's called farming) we would soon be out of the Christmas tree business."

"It is necessary to farm our slow growing stand," Paul says, "to keep them in Christmas trees. Otherwise we might cut in an area for five or six years and then it would grow beyond Christmas tree size."

If your interested in Christmas trees, take a look at this article in December's Better Homes and Gardens magazine. I did my reading in the public library—you can do the same.

Don't stop there! We have a very excellent bulletin called "Raising Christmas Trees For A Profit" here in the county agent's office that we will let you have.

"WHERE CAN I take the kids and cut a Christmas tree?" That's going to be a common question for the next couple of weeks.

In the past it has been common practice to drive out on a country road and cut trees where they grow. The farmer or landowners are beginning to realize the value of young trees growing on their land. Many farmers are raising Christmas trees to sell. Others want the small trees on their lands to grow into timber.

Transpassing is a pretty horrible word—but that's what you are doing if you cut a Christmas tree without the landowner's permission. No matter how far you get from town—or how far it is from a house—somebody owns the land.

Make this a better Christmas for both you and the kids by getting permission before you cut a tree. Incidentally, some Douglas County farmers have some good trees for sale right on Christmas tree lots in town. Check with them if you are interested in finding a good tree the easy way.

**TO ATTEND MEET**

Douglas County 4-H and extension agents are in Corvallis this week attending the state-wide Rural Health Conference. The conference is for all extension and experiment station personnel.



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