

Farm Page

County Corn Growers Fare Well In State Meet

Riversdale Man Takes Top Spot With Hybrid Corn

By LAURA OLSON
Staff Writer, News-Review

Douglas County corn growers came away from the Oregon State Corn Show with a handful of prizes to place in their trophy cases.

Two top spots in the Western Oregon Division of the Hybrid Yield Contest (adult and 4-H) came to the county for the first time. Simultaneously, county farmers made a clean sweep of awards in two District 3 (Douglas, Josephine, Jackson, Coos and Curry counties) divisions: Class I—Open 10-Ear and Class II—4-H 10 Ear.

Results from the 13th annual show held in Woodburn Dec. 3 and 4 were only recently announced.

Upsets Tradition

Riversdale farmer Don Harmon upset tradition to nab first place in District 2 (Western Oregon) in the irrigated section of the hybrid yield contest. County Agent Wayne Mosher said this week it was the first time a Douglas County farmer had ever done so.

Harmon was paced by three other county experts. Eldon Fisher of Oakland took third place. Gene Fisher, also of Oakland, garnered a number four spot, and Howard Carnes of Elkton came in sixth. Two Canby farmers nudged the Douglas County men from second and fifth positions.

The 4-H club members throughout the county were ably represented by young folks from Myrtle Creek and Winchester.

Young Winner

Douglas Dyer, 14, Myrtle Creek, won first in the District 3 Division for Class I, open 10-ear. Again, according to Mosher, it was the first time a Douglas County boy ever placed in the 4-H Hybrid Yield Contest. Young Dyer won about \$27 for winning.

The remaining positions in the district were won by Lois Stritzke, Winchester, and Ray Shelton, Myrtle Creek. Miss Stritzke won second place, and Shelton was awarded third. Contestants in the 4-H contest were required to enter samples from only one acre, Mosher said.

Local farmers were not so lucky in the non-irrigated division of the state-wide contest. None placed in the top 10. Mosher pointed out, however, that Dale Busenbark of Melrose (who was among the top 20) had drilled his rows of corn at 38 inches. This is shorter than the normal length.

Harmon and his father, R. L. Harmon, grew their prize-winning corn on their 200-acre farm in Riversdale. They have 17 acres in corn, the rest in pasture. Sheep is their primary enterprise, Mosher said. Most of the corn is used to fatten out beef stock.

The corn grown by the Harmons averaged 133 bushels per acre on ground that had been in corn for two years. The fertilizer used by the growers (per acre) contained five tons of manure and 110 pounds of actual nitrogen.

High Moisture Content

Perhaps the most unusual aspect of the corn entered in the state contest this year, Mosher said, was the exceptionally high moisture content. It ran from a low of 48 per cent to high of 62, per cent. Normal moisture content in corn runs from 30 to 40 per cent. Mosher believed the content increase was caused by the cool summer and late growing season.

High water content in corn is not good, he added. Growing of corn is increasing within the county, according to the agent. Elkton farmer Carnes who placed sixth in the Hybrid Yield Contest had 150 acres in his corn field.



PRIZE-WINNING corn growers R. L. Harmon (right) and son Don (center) discuss their hybrid corn with county agent Wayne Mosher. Don Harmon's corn placed first in the Western Oregon irrigated hybrid yield contest held at Woodburn. (Paul Jenkins photo.)

Douglas Farmers Asked To Bring Silage Samples

Silage samples from Douglas County farmers will be taken to Oregon State College for testing by county agent Wayne Mosher this week.

Mosher requested the samples be brought to the county extension office in the Post Office Bldg., in Roseburg, no later than Thursday evening.

The samples should contain from five to ten pounds of silage. They should be placed in a plastic bag tied at the top with a rubber band, Mosher said. All samples must be labeled.

Farmers are asked to fill out an information sheet concerning the silage. The sheets are available at the extension office. Someone in the office will be available to help fill in the sheets, Mosher added.

Samples should be kept cool until brought to the office, the agent said. They will be tested at the agriculture chemical department of the college.

New Process For Bluegrass Seed Germination Told

A germination process for Merion bluegrass seed that results in a high percentage of seedlings has been developed by the cooperative seed laboratory at Oregon State College.

While conducting standard germination tests on regular commercial samples, seed analysts at OSC found that Merion bluegrass seed was very sensitive to moisture during its germination period. Using even a slight excess of moisture lowered the germination percentage. By further testing, the amount of moisture that produced the highest percentage of seedlings was determined.

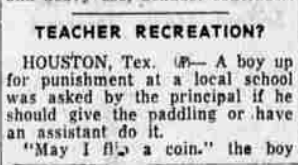
High Germination Possible
Mrs. Louisa A. Jensen, seed technologist in charge of the laboratory, says that by using this information, 75 to 90 per cent germination has been possible in individual samples.

In some seed laboratories, Merion bluegrass germination tests have yielded as low as 20 per cent, Mrs. Jensen points out. She says the new OSC process should be of value in obtaining higher results in laboratories in other seed growing areas.

Merion bluegrass originated in Pennsylvania, but the first certification of seed was made by OSC—Oregon's only accredited seed certification agency—four years ago. About 300 samples of Merion bluegrass seed are tested for certification each year by the college laboratory. This seed is first field-inspected, then tested for both purity and germination before being certified.

Oregon and Washington are the principal Merion bluegrass seed growing states in the nation, according to H. L. Schudel, OSC agronomist. They supply the bulk of seed used extensively throughout the east and middle west for home lawns, parks, cemeteries and football fields. Merion bluegrass owes its popularity to a resistance to drought and disease and the ability to withstand close cropping and heavy use, Schudel concludes.

TEACHER RECREATION?
HOUSTON, Tex. (AP)—A boy up for punishment at a local school was asked by the principal if he should give the paddling or have an assistant do it.
"May I do a coin," the boy asked.
The principal agreed.
The boy did and then bowed and told the principal, "The pleasure is yours."



FOR HEAVY WORK—Ford Motor Company's new "800" series, full three-plow tractors, are designed for heavy work in all types of soil. Shown above is the 860 model which went on display at Umpqua Tractor Co. Friday. It and the 850 model have five-speed transmissions. Another series, the "600" with three models, is offered for 1955. This is the first time in the history of the Ford tractor production that the company has offered more than a single size tractor.

Potato Market Agreement Extensions Proposed

PORTLAND (AP)—A hearing is scheduled tentatively for Portland Jan. 21 on a proposal to extend the federal marketing agreement on potatoes to new counties in Oregon.

The agreement, which sets size and quality regulations on potatoes to be marketed, now covers Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson, Lake and Klamath counties in Oregon. The proposal is to extend it to all other Oregon counties, except Malheur, which is covered by an agreement for Idaho.

FLOUTS MODERNITY

BENTON HARBOR, Mich. (AP)—The sleek new Gard Elementary School is ultra modern in every respect and the weather-worn old bell looks out of place.

The bell was cast at West Troy, N.Y., in 1856 and has been calling Benton Harbor school children to classes for 85 years. Everyone knew that it didn't fit the new building but tradition won the day.



NEW COUNTY LEADER—Phil Strader of Glide will direct activities of the Douglas County Livestock Assn. this year. He was elected president of the association Wednesday when members held their annual meeting in Roseburg. (Paul Jenkins photo.)

Social Security Rules For Farmers Explained

Most farmers and farm workers in Oregon are affected by amendments to the federal social security law passed by congress in 1954, reports Manning Becker, farm management specialist at Oregon State College. The law now brings federal old-age and survivors insurance to most farm families.

Beginning this month, persons who farm for themselves will be included in social security if they make as much as \$400 a year profit from their farming operations, the specialist explains. Farm workers are included if they are paid cash wages of \$100 a year or more by any one farmer.

Farm Earnings Count
Farm earnings may now count toward social security benefits for both farmers and their families. These benefits are in monthly payments in old age, and monthly payments to survivors in case of the breadwinner's death. A lump-sum payment will also be made at the time of an insured person's death, at any age. This payment may range from \$90 to \$255, says Becker.

Farmers must have worked under social security for at least one and one-half years before being entitled to any of its benefits. These benefits are payable to a retired individual at age 65 or to his survivors.

The specialist points out that these benefits aren't paid automatically, however. It is necessary to claim them. Information on how to do this is available from local social security offices.

The first thing farm operators and workers should do is get social

Benson Declares Sound Marketing Best For Farms

CHICAGO (AP)—Secretary of Agriculture Benson has declared that efficiency and sound marketing methods will do more to help make farmers prosperous than any program aid which could be "devised by mortal man."

"The great gains in agriculture in the past," he added, "have come about largely through the approach of research, education and improved marketing and so, I am confident, will those of the future."

In a speech prepared for the annual convention of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, Benson said the GOP administration is putting great emphasis upon programs aimed at helping farmers reduce production costs.

The secretary reiterated his opposition to programs designed to support farm prices at levels which would help inefficient producers.

"I have little sympathy for the anguished cries of those who insist that America will be ruined unless government somehow makes farming so attractive that no rural lad will ever again venture forth to the city," he said.

"As a nation, we would never have come this far under such a philosophy. Under it, we wouldn't get where we are going, either."

Democrats May Wait Until 1956 On Farm Supports

WASHINGTON (AP)—A Republican senator has predicted the Democrats will seek to gain political advantage out of the farm issue by waiting until 1956 to press for restoring high rigid price supports.

This source, who declined use of his name, said he thinks the House may well pass such a measure in the 1955 session but that the Senate will wait until the presidential election year.

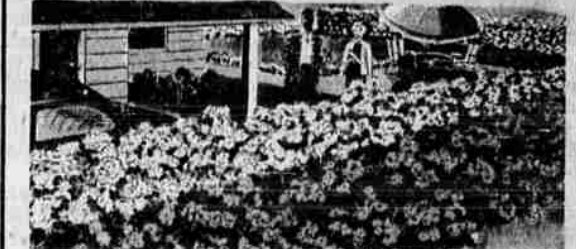
He said undoubtedly President Eisenhower would veto the bill in that event but that the issue would be sure to gain votes for the Democrats if farmers continue to be victims of a price squeeze.

Democratic farm leaders on Capitol Hill did not comment on their strategy directly, but their statements lent some backing to the GOP senator's forecast.

Rep. Cooley (D-N.C.), who will head the House Agriculture Committee in this Congress, introduced a bill on the opening day of the session to restore 90 per cent of parity supports on basic commodities for this year and 1956 and 1957. Parity is a computed price said to give farmers a fair return for their products in relation to their costs.

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Better Grading Percentage
Mr. Stovall, who is a city commissioner in Toppensish, reports that he can get better grading percentage by feeding molasses dried beet pulp with his ration. Also, he claims that the pulp will replace grain pound for pound up to 50 per cent in the fattening ration.

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Mr. Stovall starts his cattle with alfalfa hay and about two or three pounds of the grain and molasses dried beet pulp mixture. This mixture is increased about 1/2 pound a day until the cattle are on full feed.

If you are feeding silage, keep this in mind: Experts on feeding say that molasses dried beet pulp and silage complement each other. Additional molasses dried beet pulp can be fed with excellent results, even to cows that receive silage that has been preserved with pulp.

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Farm Forest Facts

By ED GILDEN
County Extension Agent

ARE YOU TAKING advantage of all the income tax deductions that you are allowed on returns from your timberland?

Yes, it's income tax time again. Don't make the mistake of overpaying your tax on any timber that you may have sold.

Do you know about treating sales as capital gains, depletion allowances, and section 117 (K)?

Till admit I'm a little fuzzy on them myself, but I do know that they can all be used to the advantage of the landowner.

FOR INSTANCE, most timber sales can be treated as capital gains. This means that you pay tax on only half of your net returns.

Depletion allowance gives you a chance to deduct the fair value of the timber at the time it was bought from the gross sales price. This is a deduction that is missed by many timber landowners.

Don't take my word on how to fill out your income tax for timber sales.

GO SEE the man that knows. Here in Roseburg the Internal Revenue Office is on the second floor of the Post Office Bldg. (This is an added plus—it's right across the hall from the County Agent's Office). They spend a number of days in other communities, so your best bet is to find out when they will be in your area.

They can answer any specific question that you may have on your timber property. A phone call will often give you the necessary information.

In 1953, the US Department of Agriculture prepared a bulletin that is very helpful to small timber owners that have income tax questions. This bulletin is "The Small Timber Owner and his Federal Income Tax." It is available at the Douglas County Agent's Office in Roseburg. This is helpful, but in no way takes the place of talking to Mr. Schults or one of his co-workers in the Internal Revenue Office.

SURPRISINGLY enough, things seem to be still proceeding in a forestry way up in Washington! People hardly realize that Gilden is no longer in that state.

John Kingsbury, farm forester in Kitsap County, brought me up to date on how the farm forestry program is going in my old home county.

Back in 1950, Hans Peterson and I made a thinning demonstration area out of his 60-year-old second growth fir stand. Hans did a real good job of selling and got \$15 per thousand for the trees that were cut. A horse logger did the work for Hans and he took out a little over 100,000 board feet.

John now tells me that Hans' timber is ready for another thinning. So in a short four years, Hans is going to realize some more income from his timberland. Incidentally, Hans made more money on his first thinning than a number of the offers that he was made for his entire stands.

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