

# Farm Forest Facts

By ED GILDEN  
County Extension Agent

I've found it! A fabulous success story in the planted Christmas tree field. For years, I've known that people make good money "farming" natural stands of Christmas trees and marketing them — but now I've found a man doing the same with planted trees.

He's not a local man — but he started under conditions that are a lot like the problem we have in Douglas County.

He's not a fly-by-night — his first plantings were made back in '38. LIKE MOST of us, he made a lot of money "figuring on paper." It looked so good to him that he planted 400 acres of abandoned farm land.

Now — the biggest Christmas tree grower — has 3,500 acres planted — adds 400 to 500 acres annually — sells 200,000 trees a year — and grosses \$200,000. That's not bad for land that he originally paid \$10 per acre for.

The story is not all success — he had problems.

MARKETING his product — the same problem that most farmers face — was his first big hurdle. This was an especially big problem because he was trying to sell pine Christmas trees where they had never been sold before. Traditionally people always bought fir and spruce — Pine — never heard of it — not interested.

He lost money because of some of the people he sold to. Some years he had planting losses — he found two pieces of land never grew trees the same way — and that the source of tree seedling was important for Christmas trees.

He solved his marketing problems by salesmanship.

## OSC Experiment Station Prints Peppermint Guide

A guide for recognizing and controlling diseases in peppermint has been published at the Oregon State College.

The bulletin, "Control Peppermint Diseases," lists mint rust as the most destructive disease in Oregon. Information is given on what causes the disease, how to recognize it, how it spreads and how it reduces yields.

Control methods include changing farming practices and dusting or spraying. Proper amounts and procedures of applying chemicals needed are given along with the necessary farming practices.

Another mint disease listed in the publication — prepared by C. E. Horner, assistant plant pathologist — is verticillium wilt. A section is devoted to what causes wilt, how it spreads and how to recognize it. Growers are told how to control the disease by preventing its introduction and spread.

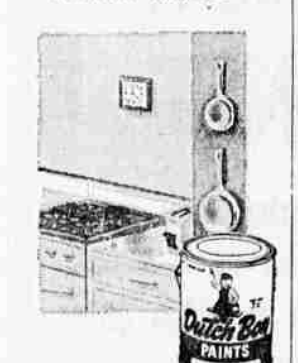
Other diseases that attack mint in Oregon included in the bulletin are nematodes and root rots, and the minor diseases, mildew, leaf blight and black stem rot. A year-long peppermint disease control program is also given. Copies are available from county extension offices and OSC.

## LONESOME, HUNGRY

DALLAS, Tex. (AP) — Police identified an arrest as a lonesome and hungry thief Friday. He was accused of stealing a chicken, a pan of pork chops and a small black dog.

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## Drive Underway To Get Farmers To Use Strips

Effort to get all Oregon farm equipment lighted with reflective strips is being renewed this month under the leadership of governor's committee on farm safety.

Al Bauer of Salem is chairman of the committee and Mrs. Mabel C. Mack, Oregon State College extension service, secretary. The state's 4-H clubs and Future Farmers of America chapters are cooperating in the safety campaign by distributing and applying the reflective strips.

Bauer said every effort is being made to light the equipment during coming months when it will be most in use. He pointed out that in Oregon, farm equipment is moved on many roads during twilight hours.

The tape, which is applied to show motorists the width of the equipment, is visible more than 1,000 feet away, he said. The campaign, an activity of the national safety council's farm division, has been approved by the Oregon State traffic division.

## FPC Says Oregon Encroaching On Federal Property

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Power Commission believes Oregon is making an "unauthorized encroachment" on federal property by trying to prevent construction of Pelton Dam on the Deschutes River in Oregon.

Willard W. Gatchell, general counsel of the FPC, advanced that argument before the Supreme Court here, urging the court to overrule a decision by the Circuit Court of Appeals at San Francisco in favor of Oregon.

In that decision the Circuit Court cancelled an FPC license to allow Portland General Electric Co. to construct the dam. Oregon and its fish and game commissions had objected the dam would injure fishery resources.

Gatchell argued that the Deschutes River flows across federal land at the Pelton site, and said the court would have to decide whether Congress has rights to water flowing across federal land.

Arthur C. Hertz, assistant attorney general of Oregon, said Congress, through the 1877 Desert Lands Act, irrevocably surrendered to the states all power to regulate non-navigable waters on arid or semi-arid lands in public domain.

The Circuit Court said in its ruling that federal ownership of land at the Pelton site did not give the federal government authority to use Deschutes water "contrary to Oregon State law."

Gatchell said the Pelton Dam would "not interfere with, invade or encroach upon any rights to the use of water in the stream."

# FARM and Garden

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 1955 —The News-Review, Roseburg, Ore. 3

## 4-H Youth Number 1,200

County Has 100 Clubs; 25 Years Of Participation



ONE-TIME 4-H agent J. Roland Parker is well known to Douglas County residents by another title—that of County Extension Agent. Parker directed 4-H activities from 1926 to 1934.

BY LAURA OLSON  
Staff-writer, News-Review

For a quarter of a century Douglas County boys and girls have participated in 4-H club work.

This week with other 4-Hers throughout the nation they are observing national 4-H Club Week (March 5-13). Here in Douglas County a hardy group of young men and women (266) were enrolled in 30 clubs in 1920.

Today there are more than 1,200 members enrolled in 100 clubs. The original figure of 30 clubs equals the number of sewing clubs in the county in 1955, according to local 4-H agents Miss Jane Gates and Frank von Borstel.

Possibly the number of clubs is even greater. Oftimes the youngsters don't always turn in club statistics until later in the year.

Douglas County clubs comprise a good share of the total statewide membership in 4-H clubs (25,500). They outstrip their lusty neighbor to the north where some 1,100 members are enrolled.

Leaders Gates and von Borstel gave this as their goal for 1954: "To give those people in the county who wanted and needed the 4-H club program the best help possible." The yearly growth of the program seems indicative of this.

The increase in club enrollment in 1954 over 1953 was 19 per cent. The state total was 6 1/2 per cent. The figure appears to be continuing skyward in 1955.

Most 4-H club works stretches throughout the year. There are some seasonal clubs, of course; gardening and food preservation, for example. But other groups work merrily away all year long: Livestock, clothing, knitting, health, etc.

Figures for the number of persons in each type of 4-H work is not complete, but it runs something like this: livestock — 85; clothing — 228; knitting — 19; cooking — 187; homemaking — 14; canning — 8; forestry — 41; health — 187; marketing — 231; leadership — 8; tractor — 15; photography — 11; arts and crafts — 21; woodworking — 8; rose and flowers — several; entomology — 14; fish conservation — 10. The total includes more than 400 boys, nearly 700 girls.

Working with the 4-H agents are members (adults) who participate in the 4-H leaders Assns. Four of them may be found in Douglas County. These men and women lead 4-H clubs and help the youngsters. Such associations are found in the western part of the county, led by Mrs. Rische Brown, Gardiner; in the north, led by Mrs. Lucille Langdon, Scotts Valley; in the central area, led by M. A. Jones, Camas Valley; and in the south, led by Edgar Hollinger, Myrtle Creek.

**GONE, NOT FORGOTTEN**  
FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — West Germany's Communist newspaper, Sozialistische Volkszeitung, printed a two-column picture of Joseph Stalin on the front page Saturday. The caption noted it was the second anniversary of the Russian boss' death.

The East German Communist radio broadcast this remembrance: "Two years ago Stalin, the great friend of the German people, closed his eyes forever."

There are more than 125 different production steps in the making of a wooden lead pencil.

## Farm Loan Assn. To Meet March 15

The annual meeting of the Roseburg National Farm Loan Assn. will be held March 15 at the Riverside Grange Hall at noon.

Guest speaker for the event will be B. G. Hood, head of the department of agricultural economics at Oregon State College. His topic is "Double or Nothing."

Those attending the meeting which will start off with a baked ham dinner served by Grange women will also hear C. D. Paiz Butz, regional manager for the state for the Federal Land Bank of Spokane.

R. L. Strickle, secretary-treasurer of the local group said two directors will be elected to the association's board, each for three year terms.

Present board members are Eugene H. Fisher, Oakland, president; Gedric E. Cross, Coquille, vice president; and Charles S. Byar, Roseburg; Lawrence Michaels, Canyonville; and Frank Burbank, Coquille, directors.

## 4-H Flower Fans To Get Handbook

A new handbook awaits Oregon's 4-H flower growers this year. It is written by Ralph Clark, Oregon State College extension horticulture specialist, with the help of the state 4-H horticultural advisory committee.

In the 4-H flower growing project, club members have their choice of several requirements, according to Cal G. Monroe, state 4-H extension agent. Among the choices are several kinds of plants, indoors or outdoors, or larger amounts of one kind of flower.

The handbook contains instructions for club members on many phases of flower growing. They range from prepared soil through insect control to flower judging.

**STRIKE HEADED OFF**  
WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal intervention apparently has headed off a threatened strike of 20,000 CIO maintenance men against the Pennsylvania Railroad.



MISS E. JANE GATES . . . youth leader



FRANK von BORSTEL . . . 4-H expert

## Forest Taxation Meeting Topic

Forest taxation will be the featured subject at the next meeting of the Umpqua-Coquille Chapter of the Society of American Foresters Friday, March 11.

Main speaker at the meeting in the VFW Hall at Roseburg will be Vern Bronson, chairman of the Willamette Chapter's committee on forest taxation. He will explain the recommendations on taxation formulated by his chapter.

Sharing the spotlight with him will be Douglas County Assessor Morris Bowker, who will also be present. Also on tap is discussion from the floor and from the Umpqua-Coquille Chapter's committee on the subject.

The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. with a social hour. Supper is scheduled at 7:30 p.m.

## Meetings Set For Water Users

Most of Oregon's irrigation water users will have the opportunity to hear final water supply forecasts for 1955 along with suggestions as to the best ways of utilizing that water for crops in a series of regional meetings March 14 through April 7.

The meetings are a cooperative effort of the USDA soil conservation service, U. S. weather bureau, and the Oregon State College Agricultural Extension Service and Experiment Station.

Water forecasts are based on records of more than 100 measuring snow courses, and include snowcover, soil moisture, reservoir water, precipitation, and stream flow, throughout the state.

A meeting for the Rogue-Umpqua region will be held in Grants Pass April 4. It will start at 9 a.m.



GETTING ACQUAINTED—Whiskers, a Surrey, England, cat, shrinks a little from the friendly gestures of Violet, the cow. But if Whiskers knows which side her bread is buttered on, she'll soon buddy up to the source of her favorite drink.



IT'S FROM TEXAS—OR IS IT?—That's some radish Billie McNeely is holding, and as you might expect, it was grown in Texas—Sulphur Springs, that is. But the Lone Star State can't take all the credit, because the giant radish is a Japanese variety grown from South African seed. Weighing 15 pounds and up, they're grown to feed dairy cattle, because the cows love 'em, top and all, and they don't flavor the milk.

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## Irrigation Expansion Forecast By Expert

"Irrigation for the humid states now stands on the same threshold the tractor occupied a little more than a generation ago."

That's the opinion of Dr. W. C. Etheridge, head of the field-crops department, University of Missouri.

The March issue of Better Farming emphasizes that irrigation is not just drought insurance, but is the way to super-yields in areas ordinarily considered to have enough rainfall.

Here are some results of irrigation in such areas:

Cotton — In Alabama a farmer got 4 bales per acre on irrigated land, only one bale on unirrigated; dairy — pasture irrigation produced \$388 worth of milk per acre where \$289 had been tops, and cow grazing days per acre went up from 176 days to 257; corn — in Virginia ten inches of irrigation water boosted yields to 152 bushels per acre compared with 60 bushels unirrigated; soybeans — yield rose from 17 to 31 bushels; beans were 50 per cent larger and had 11 per cent more oil under irrigation in Missouri; grain sorghum — irrigated milo made 90 bushels an acre, dryland less and 10 for a Kansas farmer; wheat — irrigated wheat produced 27 bushels, compared with a dryland crop of only 7.

At present only about 3,000,000 acres are being irrigated, but that's an increase of 25 per cent over last year. Yet, experts figure that from 20 to 50 million more acres might be irrigated from existing or easily developed sources.

## Town, City Folks Earn More Than Country Cousins

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Agriculture Department has reported here that town and city folk earned, on the average, exactly twice as much income in 1954 as did their farm cousins.

The agency said final income figures show that the income of the farm population from both farm and non-farm sources averaged \$918 compared with an average of \$1,836 for the non-farm population.

The 1954 average farm population income was \$4 more than in 1953, while the non-farm average was down \$50. The farm average increased despite a smaller total agricultural income because the farm population declined 3 1/2 per cent.

In figuring farm income, the Department took into account the value of farm products sold or used in the farm home during the year, plus government payments to farmers and the rental value of farm dwellings.

The department said the net income—amount left after payment of production costs—of the nation's farms averaged \$2,288 last year compared with \$2,276 in 1953. The number of farms declined one per cent.

Farmers were reported to have received \$29,954,000,000 from marketings of farm products compared with \$22,412,000,000 the previous year. Direct government subsidy payments totaled 257 million dollars compared with 213 millions the previous year.

Farm production expenses were estimated at \$21,863,000,000 compared with \$22,155,000,000 in 1953. Farm operators' net income was reported at \$12,302,000,000 compared with \$12,479,000,000 the previous year.

**REPRESENTED BEHIND REEDSPORT**  
will be Elkton, Loon Lake and Lakeside.

## Higher Wages Hamper Farmers

Higher wages paid for food processing and more food packaging services demanded by consumers helped shrink the percentage of the American food dollar that went to the farmer in 1954.

Oregon State College extension economist Mrs. Elvera Harrell says farmers received 43 cents of each consumer's food dollar last year compared to 51 cents in 1947.

Direct labor costs make up a large part of the marketing bill, says the economist. Higher wages since the end of World War II have increased the proportion. Last year, payments to workers engaged in assembling, processing, transporting and distributing food products took nearly 33 cents of the consumer's farm food dollar. Such labor made up only 46 cents of the dollar in 1947.

Higher cost marketing is traced largely to more services including more processing and packaging. Instead of flour, the housewife often buys frozen or brown and-serve biscuits and rolls and mixes of all kinds. Chicken comes cleaned and cut up, meat sliced and ready to cook.

The gap between farm and grocery store seems destined to grow even larger, Mrs. Harrell believes, as long as the trend continues toward higher wages and "built-in maid services" through increased processing.

Despite the shift to more ready-to-eat food items, American families spend no larger percentage of their take-home pay for food than they did in the "good old days" of the 1920's. The food budget has held relatively stable through the years at about one-fourth of the family income.

## New Plan Gives Small Farmers Extra Attention

Small farmers are to get special attention under a program developed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture at the suggestion of President Eisenhower, says the March issue of Better Farming.

A study by the office of the Secretary of Agriculture divides farmers into two groups: Those who should remain in farming and those who should seek employment elsewhere.

For those who remain, the department suggests special programs to increase their incomes through more equitable leasing arrangements, assistance in farm and home planning, credit and management guidance to provide for more efficient farming, and education to improve nutrition through growing and preserving their own food supply.

Technical training is recommended for those who prefer part- or full-time employment off farms.

## Reedsport Tree Planting Scheduled For March 25

The annual tree-planting event for children of the Reedsport area is scheduled March 25. It will take place in the Weatherly Creek burn about four miles above Scottsburg.

The event is held each year to teach children the importance of reforestation. About 800 youngsters from the fifth through eighth grades are expected to plant about 20,000 trees.

The burn is a result of the great Smith River and Umpqua fires of 1951. It covers about 30,000 acres of once-prime timberland.



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