

High Quality Egg Production Stressed



FAT OF THE MOON—The weird-looking object above is a fairly-tale moon, being explored by space travelers—made from some 40 pounds of pork fat. Creator is confectioner Jean Chabot, shown finishing his "masterpiece" in Nice, France. The pork-fat moon required 20 days' work to complete.

Benson Says Payments Will Be Rolling To Farmers By Late Spring If Bill Enacted

WASHINGTON (U)—Secretary of Agriculture Benson reported here today that if Congress enacts the administration's bill, payments will be rolling to farmers by late spring or early summer.

And, he predicted, its adoption would bring markets and create a place in them this year for more than a billion dollars worth of government-held surpluses of cotton, wheat, rice and corn.

Benson's picture of a much-improved farm situation by mid-summer—a time when election campaigns will be warming up—was given the Senate Agriculture Committee at its opening hearings on the plan Eisenhower presented in a special message on Monday.

A main criticism from farm-minded legislators when they received the message was that they found too little of immediate help for farmers caught in a price-cost squeeze.

But Benson, under questioning by Chairman Ellender (D-La.), contended several parts of the program would provide "immediate aid."

Benson said these other moves would give prompt help to farmers: Refund of the 2-cent-a-gallon federal tax on gasoline used in farming; higher price supports for soybeans and flax; additional millions for the federal milk program; elimination of controls on wheat produced for livestock feed; special purchases of pork products.

Benson said \$10 million dollars had been set aside for buying pork products in an effort to bolster sagging hog prices. More funds will be used if necessary, he added.

Ellender asked if a beef buying program was planned to bolster sagging cattle prices.

"We are watching that very closely," Benson replied, adding that "no firm decision has been reached."

He said a beef buying program did help cattle prices two years ago and that recent drops were in "heavy cattle" which he said the armed services now are buying in increased amounts.

The new soil bank scheme aims to get rid of more than \$1 billion dollars worth of farm surpluses now in government hands by handing them back to cotton, wheat, corn and rice farmers who agree voluntarily to cut production for the next two years.

The secretary said farmers who take acres out of planting allotments should "get slightly higher" returns from them than their average annual production on the acreage. He said the goal is to remove 15 to 20 million acres from cotton, wheat, corn and rice.

These payments would be in the form of a certificate allowing the farmer to get back surpluses now held by the government for his average production. The farmer could get either crops or cash for their certificates.

House Republicans complained Wednesday they feel the administration farm program falls short in providing a prompt cure for falling farm incomes.

Roasters And Fryers Rated As Good Buys

Stock up now on roasters and fryers, advise marketing specialists at Oregon State College. An almost all-time low is here in the price of poultry, according to the college's poultry specialist.

"Chickens bought now and frozen will be good for frying for picnics next summer, when retail prices may be as much as 5 to 10 cents a pound higher," says Miss Reigh, home economics specialist. "If you buy now, you can save money, too, by buying larger fryers which average about three pounds dressed weight."

Retail prices on pay-ready fryers are around 48 cents a pound, according to Charles Fischer, poultry marketing specialist. They will probably hold near this level for the next two weeks.

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Three Major Steps For Better Eggs Given In Bulletin

Three major steps for maintaining high quality in Oregon-produced eggs are discussed in a new bulletin, "Better Eggs," published by Oregon State College Extension Service. Copies are available on request from county extension agents or the OSC bulletin clerk.

Better egg quality through breeding, feeding, and care of eggs is outlined by author Noel Bennion, OSC extension poultry specialist. Egg quality is inherited and any marked or permanent improvement will have to be brought about by selective breeding, says the specialist. Some progress may be made through selection of hatchling eggs, but much faster progress can be made through breeding for quality, he explains.

In general, the type of ration that will give good production will produce eggs of good quality.

Yolk color is influenced by the amount of green feeds and yellow corn in the ration. But the amount of thick and thin albumen an egg contains at the time it is laid is an inherited characteristic and is not influenced by feed, Bennion says. Thin-shelled eggs may be caused by lack of minerals, lack of vitamin D, improper balance of these ingredients, and high temperatures.

Confinement of the laying flock, clean nests, and egg gathering three to four times daily are among management practices recommended in the bulletin. Eggs should be held in a farm storage room at a temperature range of 40 to 60 degrees with humidity above 80 per cent, according to the specialist. He recommends eggs be marketed at least twice a week during warm weather.

In addition to detailed discussions on breeding, feeding, and management, the 16-page bulletin tells how to construct a farm egg storage room. Also included in the bulletin are colored pictures showing the United States standards for quality of different egg grades and a description of each grade.

Dark Days Bring Need For Safety Reflector Aids

Fewer daylight hours and foggy nights have increased the need for reflective material on equipment moved on highways, cautions a member of the governor's safety committee.

OSU plant pathologist and lecturer Joseph S. Butts, head of agricultural chemistry at OSC, will leave Washington D.C. Jan. 20 for a 10-day tour of the Pacific Northwest.

The trip is a joint project of the defense, health, education and welfare. A similar team to Pakistan will leave at the same time.

The team will survey nutritional requirements and deficiencies throughout Iran and make recommendations for improving conditions within the framework of the resources and food supplies of the country. A medical doctor, two biologists, and two laboratory technicians selected from across the country will make up the team.

State Mint Growers Plan OSC Meeting

Growing interest in mint production in scattered areas of Oregon gives a statewide flavor to the seventh annual meeting of the Oregon Essential Oil Growers' League, Jan. 19 and 20, at Oregon State College.

New plantings in Jefferson and Josephine counties, along with expansion in the Willamette Valley and the Hermiston and Ontario areas, gave more than a 10 per cent acreage increase in Oregon last year, according to C. E. Horner, OSC plant pathologist and league secretary. Optimism was sparked by the highest mint oil prices in recent years.

A highlight of this year's conference, says Horner, is an encouraging report on chemical weed control to reduce costly and time-consuming weeding of mint fields. Research trials by Dave Chilton and William Furick, OSC agronomists, indicate excellent weed control with new chemicals—the first found that control a wide variety of weeds without damaging mint plants.

Also of major interest will be a report on control of mint rust, the most destructive mint disease in Oregon. Leo Campbell of the western Washington experiment station, Puyallup, will give research findings of early spring application of a weed control chemical to kill overwintering rust spores. A "bonus" from the treatment is about six weeks' control of annual weeds.

Wet Weather May Mold Poultry Grain, Mashers

Flood waters and generally wet winter weather focus attention on possible dangers of feeding moldy grain or mashers to poultry, reminds Noel Bennion, Oregon State College poultry specialist. Moldy feed may make chickens and turkeys of all ages sick and many times kills them, Bennion warns.

If feed is moldy, don't use it for the entire flock without first making a test feeding with a few birds, the specialist suggests. Mash feed containers that have been covered with water should be completely cleaned and dried out before putting new feed into them.

Feature exhibit booths, entered by community organizations such as farm centers and granges, are among the most popular exhibits at local and state fairs.

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OSC Chemists Using Radioactive Tracer

Using radioactive carbon dioxide as a tracer, two Oregon State College agricultural chemists have mapped out a pathway through which 2,4-D kills plants.

S. C. Fang and Joseph Butts report that 2,4-D slows the transportation of sulfates and phosphates within plants. These two chemicals are essential ingredients for plant life.

The exact pattern of the slow down hasn't been discovered as yet. But it has been shown that the effect is a strangulation of the plant's ability to convert sugars and other "raw" materials into higher forms of energy and proteins necessary for plant life.

The two men also studied other physical and chemical plant functions to find if they are affected by the 2,4-D. They found that photosynthesis—the conversion of carbon dioxide and water into starch—was affected, but the uptake of nutrients from the soil was left undisturbed.

Some hint as to the form the strangulation pattern may take is revealed in research being carried on by a group headed by LeMar F. Hemmert, another OSC agricultural chemist. This group has been studying the effects of 2,4-D on the complex chemical reactions that take place inside individual plant cells.

So far, they have found that at least one of the soluble enzymes (proteins) that hasten chemical changes take place within the cell is prevented from doing its normal job by the 2,4-D. The job now facing the scientists is to find out exactly which enzyme or enzymes are affected.

County Livestock Assn. Sets Jan. 24 Meeting

Tax issues, farm programs and predatory animal control will be featured on program for the annual meeting of the Douglas County Livestock Assn. Jan. 24. President Phil Strader, in announcing the meeting and program, stated every effort had been made to secure outstanding speakers on subjects of current interest. All livestock owners and interested persons are invited. The meeting will be held in the Knights of Pythias hall in Roseburg beginning at 10 a.m.

Louise Humphrey, assistant manager of Oregon Business and Tax Research, Portland will speak at 10:30 a.m. on "Tax Issues—1956 Model." Mrs. Humphrey is recognized as an authority on taxes over the state and has been well received on previous visits to the county.

Farm programs being proposed for national legislative action will be reviewed by Marion D. Thomas, Extension Agricultural Economist at Oregon State College. Thomas will also present information on the agricultural outlook for 1956 as it relates to agricultural production in Oregon. He will speak at 1:30 p.m.

Predatory animal control will be discussed by Melvin D. Smith, District Agent, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

With livestock providing the major share of the cash agricultural income of the county, livestock owners are requested to attend the meeting and take part in the question and answer period provided at the close of each address, according to county agent J. Roland Parker.

About five per cent of all registered farm animals are exhibited at fairs, but 95 per cent of animals at home are improved through blood lines of prize winners at fairs.

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Farm Secretary Heads Imposing List Of Visitors



EZRA TAFT BENSON

... coming to Oregon

Sec. Ezra Taft Benson is one of several top-level agriculturalists who will be in Oregon next month, attending the National Assn. of Wheat Growers' sixth annual meeting, Feb. 13 in Portland.

The secretary of agriculture will address the delegates Feb. 2.

Other wheat-wise dignitaries slated to share the speaker rostrum are Cong. Clifford Hope, Kansas; Gov. Paul Patterson, Oregon; Claude Gifford, Farm Journal publications; and Gwynn Garrett, USDA foreign agricultural service administrator.

This is the first time the organization has held a national gathering outside of the great plains wheat area. Major items slated for discussion are: Soil bank proposals, cost-price squeeze, effects of "so-called modernized parity," revision of U.S. grain standards, 90 per cent supports versus flexibles, wheat, etc.

During 1955, the association supported a program calling for full parity to wheat producers for that portion of their crop used for domestic food consumption.

Rep. Hope, a 20-year member of Congress, will predict the future. His address the morning of Feb. 1 concerns "What's Ahead For Wheat Growers."

Oregon growers, using previous national wheat meetings as a gauge, think at least 500 producers from 11 states will attend the three-day event, which starts Feb. 1 at 10 a.m. NAWG President Ken Kendrick, Stratford, Tex., will open the convention, which is open to all growers, regardless of where or how much wheat they grow.

Many special entertainment events are planned for the Oregon visitors, including the observance of wheat loading into ocean-going vessels at one of several terminal elevators near Portland.

Hayley pointed out that this report is separate from the report that farmers will make to obtain Social Security credit for their own earnings. Farmers' personal return will be a part of their income tax returns and will require that farmers obtain Social Security numbers by income tax time.

Tax return forms may be obtained at local Internal Revenue offices in Roseburg, Post Office Building, or by addressing the district director of Internal Revenue in Portland.

FARM and GARDEN

Mon. Jan. 16, 1956—The News-Review, Roseburg, Ore. 3

ASC Offers Financial Help For Dams On Farmed Land

Financial help is available farmers and ranchers of Douglas County for the construction of small irrigation dams where the impounded water will be used to irrigate land which has been farmed.

This help is available through the Agricultural Conservation Program of the Douglas County ASC Committee, according to J. F. Bonebrake, chairman.

Under a cooperative arrangement with the Soil Conservation Service, Keith Allen, soil conservation district engineer, will have the responsibility of finally approving such structures.

If the proposed dam is approved, the engineer will furnish the technical and engineering assistance without cost and will supervise construction to insure that the completed structure meets program specifications.

Allen has this to say regarding the construction of such dams: "Irrigation dams must be built according to the state laws of Oregon and specifications of the ASC Committee. Oregon law requires that dams have the approval from the state engineer before they are built. Before the state engineer will grant this approval he requires that information about the structure be furnished him. To gather this necessary information and secure a permit from the state engineer may take some time."

Technical help in securing information may be obtained by signing up with the Douglas County ASC Committee for construction of an irrigation dam. This initial application for help should be made early in the year so that there will be ample time to gather the necessary information, receive approval from the State Engineer, and still have time to do the construction before the fall rains begin, according to Allen.

Wheat Growers Lost 5 Million To Smut In 1955

PULLMAN, Wash. (U)—Northwest wheat growers lost 5 million dollars to smut in 1955, the worst year on record for the plant disease, it was reported Wednesday.

The dollar deficit included production losses, doctored by the trade and washing charges on the 29 million bushels of smutty wheat, 5 million more than in 1954.

Thirty-four per cent of the wheat in Washington, Oregon and Idaho graded smutty, an increase of 11.7 per cent over 1954.

The report was made by Dr. C. S. Holt, department of agricultural plant pathology at Washington State College. His figures are based on questionnaires distributed through the Pacific Northwest Grain Dealers' Assn.

In Holt's survey, the Palouse area of eastern Washington and northern Idaho was hardest hit by the black fungus with smut incidence of 61 per cent. The Walla Walla area had 47.3 per cent; the Lewiston, Idaho area 29.6; Spokane 20.7; Pendleton, Ore. 18.1; Lind, Wash. 8.2 and The Dalles, Ore. 5.8.

By states, Washington with a 55-million bushel production had the highest percentage of smut, 39.6. Idaho, with 27 million bushels, had 38 per cent and Oregon, with 22 million bushels, 12.3 per cent.

Full support of the 1956 international has been promised by members of 12 other Gladiolus Societies and the North Santiam Gladiolus Society.

Directors of the state society, to insure success of the international show, have launched a statewide membership drive and are requesting assistance in organizing additional local glad clubs throughout the state.

For information on how to form a local club and for state membership applications, contact the secretary of the Oregon State Gladiolus Society; Mrs. J. George Essenhauer, 3453 NW Thurman St., Portland 10, Ore.

America's 2,500 fairs have been called the "show windows of democracy."

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State To Host Flower Show

Oregon will be host to its first international gladiolus show next summer. The show site committee of the North American Gladiolus Council, meeting in Chicago, has awarded the council's 1956 Pacific International show to Portland.

Previous Pacific International gladiolus shows have been held in California, Washington and Western Canada, but the 1956 event will be Oregon's first. Other NAGC internationals are held annually on the East coast and in the Midwest.

Cooperating with the NAGC in staging the Portland show, set for Aug. 11 and 12, are the Oregon State Gladiolus Society and the Portland Gladiolus Society. The 1956 annual shows of the state and Portland societies are being combined with the international, making it a triple-header.

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