

EXPERIMENT STATION AT UNION IS GREAT AID TO THE FARMER

One of the show places in Union county, which is the objective of many trips or expeditions, is the Eastern Oregon Experiment Station, which is situated south of Union, just outside the city limits. There, the state owns more than 600 acres of land which comprise one of the largest institutions of its kind in the United States. On the farm is a splendid group of buildings and other equipment to meet the needs of such an institution. It is properly named its station. The history of the station is the history of the state's progress in the years of operation in this part of the state is proof that its existence is justified in that it is and has been a real benefit to the farmers of eastern Oregon. Robert Wilbycombe has for many years been superintendent of this station and his work has merited the approval of the Board of Regents. In fact, he is directly responsible. Mr. Wilbycombe was asked and very graciously consented to give a resume of the work being done under the direction of the station. The report follows:

Nearly every line of endeavor has its experiment station, or research laboratory where odd facts and truths are obtained pertaining to that particular line. Agriculture is no exception and covering such a wide scope of activities, naturally has one of the most varied needs for institutions of this kind. Oregon, with such varied agricultural conditions and requirements has the home station at Corvallis, and seven branch stations located at different points throughout the state, which are all under the direction of James T. Jardine. I am especially fortunate in having one of these institutions within the county. The station at Union has sufficient land and equipment to enable them to conduct experimental investigations covering nearly every line of agricultural pursuits. It makes no difference what line of agriculture you are practicing, you will find something at the Union Experiment Station that pertains directly to your line of work. The policy of the station has been developed to meet the needs of this line. Minimum section of eastern Oregon, which is a diversified

Farming Community

Union county normally produces a million bushels of wheat annually. It was the Union Experiment Station that developed the pure line selection of forty-fold which made such a splendid record throughout the wheat growing sections of eastern Oregon. The experiment station, however, feels that whatever success this wheat has, has been attained. The profit is largely due to Charles Platte, W. R. Ledbetter, and other enterprising farmers of the valley, who grow it upon large acreages, keeping it clean and furnishing seed for the entire section.

Hybrid 124, another experiment station product developed at Pullman, Washington, is now being grown in thirty wheat growing sections. This is a splendid wheat and in some sections is one of the best winter wheat that has been introduced thus far. Both the Hybrid 124 and forty-fold have a tendency to produce too much straw causing them to lodge badly when grown upon our heavier soils.

The real need of the valley is a hardy winter wheat similar to these varieties, but having a shorter straw. At present there are two hybrids that give promise of meeting these demands. The Early Arcturian and Hard Polaris are crosses produced by D. E. Stephens at the More Experiment Station and the Forty-fold and Little Club crosses made by the experiment station at Union. In sowing and developing these desirable grains they are first planted in what are known as nursery trials where the many varieties are grown side by side in rows of definite lengths, checking against known varieties. In case any one of these proves superior to our standard varieties and merits further trial, it is then transferred to what are known as variety trial plots, from here the worthy ones are recommended for general planting. One of the most promising varieties of barley on the experiment station at present time is one produced by Superintendent Wilbycombe resulting from a cross between the Standard Blue and Bluegrass barley. This barley has made a remarkable showing thus far wherever tried.

In connection with the grain and

CERTIFIED POTATO SEED AND DISEASED SEED



This picture has special interest because it demonstrated the difference in a potato patch caused by planting certified seed and diseased seed. County Agent Harry Avery stands in the center, while at the right of the picture is a planting from certified seed and at the left of the picture is a planting from diseased seed. Both plantings were made the same day. Such a demonstration has led to the importation this year of six carloads of certified potato seed.

forage, crop investigations, there are the station plots where a detailed cropping system is being practiced noting the effect upon growth, yield and quality of crops produced under definite systems of tillage and rotation practices, including such crops as wheat, oats, barley, flax, corn, potatoes, alfalfa and clover.

In addition to this particular line of work at the experiment station, several co-operative tests at different points are made with grain nurseries usually in connection with the county agent. At the present there are two; one at the Buchanan place on the Sand Ridge co-operating with County Agent Avery, and another in Wallawa in co-operation with County Agent Donaldson. Likewise the experiment stations at More and at Corvallis have co-operated in furnishing seeds of the different grains for the plantings. Other times the experiment station gladly furnished small quantities of seed of some of the more promising varieties to farmers for trial plantings under their own conditions. Mr. J. A. Gashill of Alsea is doing some splendid work along this line.

Another co-operative test which is attracting considerable interest, is the irrigation demonstration on the San Brooks place at Imbler. Here the experiment station is co-operating with the Union County

Chamber of Commerce, the Eastern Oregon Light and Power Company, County Agent Avery, Dr. Powers of the Oregon Agricultural college, and Mr. Hugh Hixon of Imbler, has a 12-acre plot planted to alfalfa, wheat, barley, potatoes, beans, carrots, flax and a pasture crop, noting the effect of a systematic application of water to these crops when grown under such conditions.

Beef Cattle

The experiment station maintains a breeding herd of a hundred head of Hereford cattle, most of the foundation stock came from Governor Pierce's herd, some from Charles A. Hunter's and Mrs. Doug Johnson's herds of Wallawa, while others from the well-known breeders, Herbert Chandler and Andrew Blackland.

These cattle have been grown to maturity upon different experimental rations ranging from very scanty ones to what might be termed real fattening rations. In order that definite records may be had concerning rate of production, growth and final development of the individual, it is interesting to note that as three year olds there is a difference of 250 pounds in the weight of the lighter fed ones than those in the better fed ones. Likewise there is a \$16.000 spread in the annual wintering cost of these different lots. Another striking feature of the experiment is

the fact that the birth weight of the calves from the cows in the light fed lots average five pounds less than those for the better fed lots.

Much work has been done at the experiment station in the way of growing and fattening beef cattle. In fact practically all of the range cattle experimental feeding for the entire state has been done at the Union station.

A choice lot of "baby beef," bred and raised by the station, were fed last winter with splendid results, making an average net profit of \$14.50 per head.

Dairy Cattle

The experiment station's dairy unit probably attracts as much attention among the farmers as any other unit on the farm. The work at Union has been a splendid object lesson to dairymen by demonstrating what can be done in the way of developing a high class dairy herd by using an outstanding dairy sire. In connection with the better sire campaign as is now being fostered by the Union County Chamber of Commerce agricultural committee, of which Dr. W. T. Phy is chairman, the young pure bred sires from both the Plymouth and experiment station herds are loaned to dairymen who are now using grade sires. It is believed that a great deal of good can be accomplished for the dairy industry of the Grande Ronde valley in this way.

At present the experiment station is keeping careful records on the practicability of a milking machine and various other electrical devices with the hopes of eliminating some of what might be termed "drudgeries" in dairying.

Sheep

From a financial view point no other unit on the experiment station has equaled that of the one hundred grade Hampshire ewes. This little farm flock after paying all overhead expenses has given an average income of \$1.25 per head over a period of years.

One of the later additions to the experiment station's sheep unit, is four pure bred ewes with lambs at side, sired by "Jocelyn Gold," grand champion Hampshire ram of the United States, bred by Thousand Springs Farm and owned by Carl Whitmore of Joseph, Oregon. These four head are to serve as the nucleus of the future pure bred flock at the station.

Extensive lamb feeding experiments have been conducted at the eastern Oregon station demonstrating the relative value of various rations. One of the top loads of lambs that ever came to the Portland market was fed at the Union experiment station.

Swine

The first livestock feeding experiments conducted at the station were with hogs. For the past 20 years those who visited the experiment station could always find some experimental lots of hogs on either growing or fattening rations. A comprehensive study has been made of the relative value of different feeds and systems of management. At present the station maintains a breeding herd of about 20 head, comprising two breeds, Poles and Berkshires.

Poultry

One of the most recent additions to the experiment station's activities is the poultry unit; the building equipment for which is now in the course of construction, comprising an up-to-date brooder house, open air range houses, laying house with the necessary runways and yards.

Horticulture

A five-acre experimental orchard tract planted to a few standard varieties of apples, cherries and pears is to be found at the big state farm. Likewise some tests with varieties of small fruits as well as truck gardening, are underway. The Union station was the first to demonstrate that head lettuce could be grown commercially in this section.

Horses

Several years ago the experiment station purchased two pure bred Breckerton mares, which were the foundation for the splendid lot of pure breeds now on the farm. The most of these younger animals are sired by a horse bred by A. R. Hunter of La Grande. The present head of the herd is a horse sired by the famous "Lagos," bred by Stigmastor of Iowa.

The experiment station owns and operates a farm tractor but practically all of the general farm and field work is done with horses. In speaking of horses, possibly the one horse on the station that attracts as much attention as any other is the late Governor Wilbycombe's favorite saddle mare "Loretta." She is a registered Kentucky saddle, 23 years old, but is remarkably spry for one of her age. Loretta has the proud distinction of leading more public parades when being ridden by a governor than possibly any other horse in America.

DAIRY BUSINESS IS ON UPGRADE

Number of Milk Cows in Union County This Year About 6,500

There has been found a very perceptible and steady increase in the dairy business in Union county during the past decade. It has proved to be a very remunerative field, especially when followed as it is in this county, along with a diversified farm program. With the constantly improving conditions as regards pastures in the county and with the large corps of hay and other feed produced annually, conditions at present would indicate that the future of the dairy business here is exceedingly promising and that it will grow annually. The market in this section is exceptionally good for all dairy products. The present status of the dairy end of the farm may be attributed to a number of causes. One work among the boys and girls as one factor, the great and swift interest of a few men in the county

MR. AND MRS. C. P. EDVALSON'S ATTRACTIVE COUNTRY HOME



This is the beautiful country home of Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Edvalson, who live on Catherine Creek about four miles above Union. The house is very attractive in design, modern in every regard and very commodious. It is also beautifully situated, resting up against the hills. The house sets some distance back from the road and is one of the show places on the Catherine Creek road.

who are tireless in their efforts to have better stock produced, efforts of the county agent and other individuals to secure pure bred sires for the different herds, the movement in the County Chamber of Commerce also for securing better sires, the interest the Union Stock show takes in individual work of stock raisers, and the ideals of the dairy men and women themselves, which seem not to be satisfied until the best that can be obtained is theirs.

Because of these factors, the

number of animals in dairy herds over the county has rapidly grown. Perhaps the majority of the dairy herds in the county are Jerseys and there are several herds of pure bred stock. The organization of Jersey owners is quite active and is doing much for this particular breed. Dr. W. T. Phy deserves the greatest credit for the spreading of the Holstein-Friesians within the county and this breed ranks second to the Jerseys in numbers. Dr. Phy has encouraged in many ways the raising of the pure Holstein

stock. There are a few Guernseys and a few Ayrshires also on Union county farms but their number is comparatively small.

The work of cow testing and also testing for tuberculosis has been carried on extensively by the county agent, work which has proven its own necessity by the results obtained.

The number of dairy cows in the county last year was placed at about 6,500 head.

American Tourists Buy "Tappit Hens"

LONDON (AP)—Ever hear of a Tappit hen?

No, it isn't a joke; it's a Scotch hen.

It is one of the favorite articles American tourists are buying to take back to their native land.

Tappit hens cost 15s to 27s apiece and are said to be worth 30 to 75 cents.

From paintings are easy to prepare. The preparation usually is one envelope of gelatin to one quart of liquid, a little less in warm weather. An ounce of gelatin will soften in about two minutes in one-half cup of cold water. Heat one cup of water with three-fourths cup of sugar or less, depending on the acidity of the fruit to be used. Add the softened gelatin. Take 2 1/2 cups of strained fruit juice, the juice of half a lemon to intensify the flavor, mix with the dissolved gelatin and sugar, and pour into a mold.

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"A chap of industry!"
"No. Traffic cop."



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