

### COUNTY AGENT IS A STRONG FACTOR IN FARM SUCCESS

Work Accomplished by Agriculturist of Constructive Nature

EFFORTS RESULT IN GREAT VALUE

Frank McKennon Prepares History of County Agent Office in Union County.

The county agent and his constructive work in Union county is one of the strong factors in the success attained along a number of lines of rural activities. No agricultural section of a Progression Edition would be complete without some reference to, or review of, the history of such work in the county. The movement which gave to the farmer the county agent and his experience and training, was a progressive movement itself. Those who have any acquaintance, whatsoever, with the work which is being done by the present incumbent, Harry G. Avery, realize that it is hard to place any adequate estimate upon his work, or the work of his predecessors in office. The following history of the office in Union county, together with some of the work accomplished in detail, is under way at the present time, has been prepared by Frank McKennon, one of the most progressive farmers in this county.

County agent work in Union county is supported jointly by the federal government, the state of Oregon, and the county. It was started in this county by the employment of C. C. Cate as the first agent. Mr. Cate proved himself to be a very efficient and capable man, admirably suited to the work of organization and education necessary to give the movement a good start. His results in the county knew anything about the plan or purpose of county agent work, and it was therefore necessary for the agent to overcome ignorance, indifference, skepticism, and, in some cases, active opposition to his plans. However, he secured active co-operation in most of the communities and started the work which has meant so much to Union county on the successful way.

When Mr. Cate resigned to take a position as agent in Jackson county in 1916, Paul H. Spillman took up the work. To Mr. Spillman is due the credit for initiating many of the projects which have had the greatest influence on our present farm practices. In 1921, Mr. Spillman resigned to begin farming for himself, and the present agent, H. G. Avery, was assigned to take his place. In view of the work accomplished, it is hard to say how a more fortunate selection could have been made.

In reviewing the work of county agents in this county so much of value comes to mind that it is hard to confine one's self to an article of this length, for a report of his work is a report of the progress of agriculture in Union county since 1914. The scope of his work is as wide as the range of subjects which are of interest to a farmer and his family. It includes field crops, livestock, dairying, poultry, home economics, boys' and girls' club work, rodent and weed control, irrigation, drainage, county fairs and stock shows, etc., with all the details connected therewith.

I should like to take up briefly some of the outstanding results directly traceable to the work of the county agent in this county.

Wheat is the most important crop grown from the standpoint of cash value and acreage in the county and the agent has been concerned with the introduction and distribution of high yielding varieties, which had other good qualities as well. In 1917, Hybrid 122, a hardy fall variety of soft wheat, was introduced. In comparative tests during that and following years, was found to outyield all other varieties of fall wheat from three to fifteen bushels per acre, to stand better, and to have a somewhat stiffer straw than Portland. As a result of these tests, instituted by the agent, and through publicity given them by him, the average yield from 20 acres in 1919 to around 15,000 bushels in 1925. In 1921, Hard Portland was introduced on a 12-

### S. E. MILLER'S BEAUTIFUL HOME



One of the most attractive lawns in the entire county is this one around the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Miller, just at the edge of Union. The lawn is a veritable mass of bloom almost the entire season, the annuals and perennials planted there being of the varieties that present their blossoms at the proper intervals to cover the entire season. Besides the flowers and shrubs there are scores of trees with wonderful foliage which makes no small contribution to the gorgeous whole.

### POTATO CROP TO BE BUMPER ONE

Yield Will Run 15 Per Cent More Than Any Other Year in Valley

With promising weather, which means some additional moisture between now and the time they are to be dug, the 1927 potato crop will be probably 15 per cent greater than any other year, according to figures from the county agent's office. With the acreage increased from 1,000 acres of last year to 1,200 acres this year, with the impregnation of its care of certified seed brought in this early spring, and with the individual farmers striving to have their patches prepared for certification, the results have not been "stagnant."

All care of certified seed, Noted Gering, were brought into Union county this year, two cars by individuals and four cars by the La Grande National Bank. According to authorities this is the largest amount of such seed purchased by any one Oregon county and the county agent states that this is proof positive that the Union county farmers want good seed. The crops have made good growth.

He is also doing some work with the seeding of tame pasture grass mixture which promise excellent results. These hay and pasture mixtures are hand in hand with work on herd and flock extension and improvement and with the use of leavings and livestock feeding as a means of soil improvement.

The agent has done invaluable work in the improvement and growth of dairying by the selection of animals of dairy type, the placing of purified stock, the organization of dairy club clubs, and by adding in tuberculous eradication.

Various problems of horticulture, such as fertilization, pest control, pruning and thinning, and soil management, have been effectively dealt with in their proper seasons. Another of the activities of the agent, which has been very valuable in the raising and distributing in cooperation with the local nursery, of many tons of logical grain for the control of rodent pests. The amount distributed has been increasing each year. In 1926, five tons were used. This article could be lengthened indefinitely with further facts, figures and details of county agent work with boys' and girls' livestock clubs, seed production, arrangement of meetings for experts in millinery and garment work, and in nutrition work.

I might tell of his organization of very successful purple-horn sheep sale in 1926 and of his aid to the Union Livestock Show and the Union County Fair, as I might devote much space to instances of personal help in solving problems of individual farmers, but such of some profitable loss might result. In closing I should like to refer to the character, industry and intelligence of the men who have filled the position of county agent in Union county and to say that the money they have cost the taxpayers has been returned a thousandfold. Changing conditions and all-around appreciation of the work will make him still more valuable to us in the future. He deserves and should have the support and cooperation of every citizen of our county.

have been inspected twice for certification with satisfactory results. Absence of rain retarded the growth of the crop somewhat during the last week of July and the first of August, and perhaps caused a shrinkage in the proportions the final crop might have assumed. E. A. Wells of Union, W. B. Ledbetter, South McKeon, Mrs. Mattie Friesold, E. H. Grimes of Union are among those who have gone extensively in potato growing this year and have had satisfactory results so far.

The 1,000 acres in potatoes last year brought in a return of 110,000 bushels.

### CROP YIELDS SHOW GAINS

Increased production of the important food and feed crops, agriculturists declare, is the largely to an increased yield per acre. During the last 40 years the combined acreage of corn, wheat, oats, and potatoes has expanded but 52 per cent while the total production of these crops has increased 77 per cent.

### SHEEP PROFITABLE TO UNION COUNTY FARMERS



Here is a flock of sheep on a Grande Ronde valley farm—typical of the many flocks that are adding diversity to the agricultural sections of the county and are continuously providing the farmers with additional profits. This farm flock scene also gives one a conception of how the Grande Ronde valley looks—level as a floor and hemmed in by mountains, which are shown in the background. Interest in small flocks of sheep is constantly increasing in Union county.

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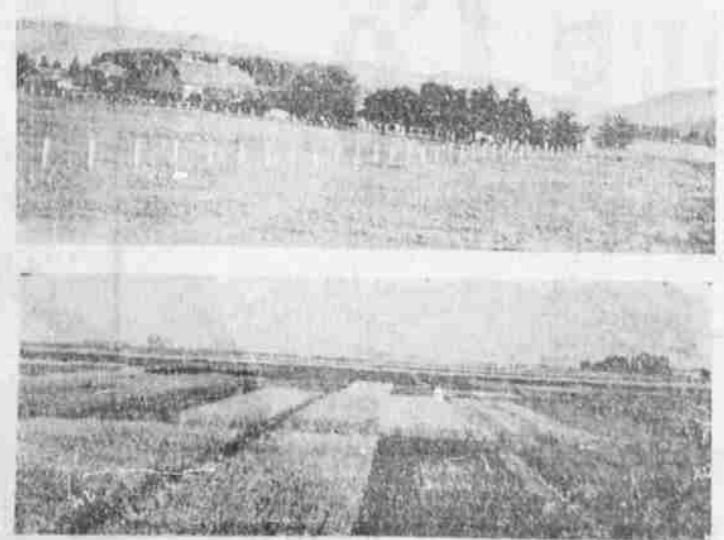
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# JESSE ROSENBAUM ELECTRIC SHOP

### BIG UNION EXPERIMENT STATION



The Experiment Station at Union is one of the largest in America and its work has proved of great benefit to the agricultural interests in the Grande Ronde valley and also in nearby counties. The picture above is a general view of the station and underneath are some of the test plots for various crops. On the large average which the station devotes to crop work.