

# 4-H Clubs Praised For Aid To Growth Of Oregon Farms

"A little house well filled, a little land well tilled and a little wife well willed, are great riches." This saying penciled by a boy into a memory book 40 years ago contained some of the purpose of Oregon's first 4-H clubs.

Little did this boy dream, however, that he was a pioneer in one of the largest educational youth movements in the country's history.

Today, 30,804 boys and girls in Oregon are learning how to produce food and fashion for home and market through 4-H (head, heart, hands, and health). Project offerings in early clubs were confined mainly to production of farm animals, raising a garden, and for girls—cooking and sewing. Now, youths can choose from 24 project areas, learning not only newest methods of production but also ways of becoming better consumers.

Project offerings appeal to both farm and city youngsters, as reflected in current 4-H enrollments. Most of Oregon's club members live in cities or rural communities. Only 13,457 of these live on farms. Back in 1914, three state 4-H agents serviced all of Oregon's clubs, often spending seven months of the year traveling. The only paved roads at the time ran between Ashland and Medford, Portland and Gresham, and 10 miles out of Salem. Today, 5000 adults lead 4-H clubs, and all counties have extension agents doing 4-H work.

Competition for the Midwest pork market, and a shortage of pork and fat during World War I brought about the beginning of the first 4-H pig clubs in 1914. O. M. Plummer, president of the Portland Union Stockyards, provided cash

and scholarships to youngsters who would agree to raise pigs to market size. "It was a real boost to the youngsters because in those days you could buy a pig for \$5 or less compared to \$15 today," recalls L. J. Allen, former state 4-H leader.

In the years that followed, the number of 4-H clubs increased as responsibility for the clubs was given to Oregon State College extension service. Passage of the Smith Lever act in 1914. County agents were eventually appointed in all counties, and today many of the more populated counties have two and three agents doing full-time club work.

## Bentgrass Growers Elect Commission

Oregon growers of highland bentgrass seed approved by a vote of 187 to 33 the formation of a self-help commission for their commodity. Director Frank McKennon of the state department of agriculture announced June 4 the results of the two-weeks balloting. This commission will be the eighth formed by Oregon farmers. Already in existence are similar promotion endeavors by growers of wheat, potatoes, dairy products, filberts, fine fescue seeds, Ladino clover seed and fryers.

McKennon said 220 registered producers voted in the highland bentgrass seed proposal, with 85 percent favoring the commission approach to marketing.

Over 78 percent of Oregon's 1958 production of 3.5 million pounds of this seed was represented in the vote.

The commission members will be appointed by the governor.

Within the next two years, project in conservation, use and understanding of natural resources, including wildlife, will be expanded, says Burton Hutton, state 4-H leader at the college.

Oregon's fastest growing 4-H project is livestock. Foods, clothing, knitting, photography and horticulture are next in popularity. A new project is developed when enough youngsters indicate a need.

A new 4-H Empire Builders program was developed last year for the teenagers. It includes the junior leadership project, the advanced divisions of the subject matter projects, and opportunities to help with community blood banks, safety check ups, or to learn more about local government. Sixty top ranking 4-H'ers studied state government at the second annual 4-H "Know Your State Government" conference in Salem this year.

Club projects often help 4-H youth discover "ready made" vocations. Some of Oregon's earliest pig club members are today among the state's leading swine breeders. Among them are the Harms brothers, Jack and Roy, swine and sheep breeders in Canby, and Edwin Hilder of Sherwood.

Ernest Sears, outstanding Polk county club member, has won national recognition for his work in wheat breeding as a USDA scientist at the University of Missouri.

Much of the 4-H work today still follows the early patterns set up by its first leaders. Its objectives, too, are unchanged: provide young persons opportunity to "learn by doing," develop habits of healthful living, help them appreciate the world about them; and teach them to work together for better communities and a better world.



MAKING HAY IN THE SUN—W. J. Dobbin, Rt. 1, La Grande, is using a pick-up baler on his farm northeast of town. Dobbin farms 320 acres in the Grande Ronde valley. (Observer Photo)

## State Agriculture Board Views New Reorganization Legislation

The state board of agriculture, meeting in Salem June 16, looked at the new legislation providing for reorganization of the state department of agriculture and agreed with Director Frank McKennon that no substantial changes seem necessary at this time.

Members present were Ralph G. Witche, Junction City, chairman; Joe Saito, Ontario; Ernest Jernstedt, Carlton; R. A. Long, Fort Rock; Ward Spatz, Medford; and Dean F. E. Price of OSC, executive. Two members were absent. For Saito and Jernstedt, appointed in May by Governor Hatfield, it was the first meeting and other members witnessed their swearing in ceremonies in the governor's office.

Referring to the reorganization law, McKennon said it is his opinion that if any substantial changes are made in the department's alignment and work concept, they should come after careful study. He said the 1959-61 budget is drawn on present division lines, nor does it include funds to carry on the broadened

scope written into the reorganization law. "But if someone proves to me that any other work alignment than the one we now have is more efficient and more economical," McKennon told the board, "I shall certainly be heartily in favor of it."

After considerable discussion of their role under the amended law, board members held that they could best serve the interests of agriculturists and consumers in their areas in a liaison role with Salem headquarters of the department.

The board readily accepted McKennon's suggestion that their next meeting cover two days. The first will be given over to a tour of the department which McKennon said would give them an opportunity to become more familiar with the department's broad work. He said he believes this is the first such study session ever proposed for members of the state board of agriculture.

The board reviewed all new legislation the department will administer and also studied the \$6.2 million budget under which it will operate for the next two years. The major share of the budget—61 per cent—will come from license and fees and the

remainder from tax money. The expenditure will be in almost reverse order, with roughly 60 per cent going for consumer protection, including sanitation, meat and food inspection and weights and measures controls.

Board members generally expressed chagrin that only 1.2 per cent of the entire department budget will go for work in the field of agricultural market development. Ernest Jernstedt, one of the new members, characterized the market development work as "much more important to agriculture than this small sum would indicate."

The board expressed satisfaction that the 1959 legislature had closed loop holes in state meat inspection, making it possible for all meat sold in Oregon to come under inspection. As one move, the legislature removed the exemption privilege for custom slaughter plants and they will now all come under inspection.

The state expects to reach its June 30 deadline on achieving a modified certified brucellosis-free status for the first time in history, McKennon reported. He said the only question mark was the outcome in one county but he expected that county to reach the goal.

## New Research Findings Are Subjects Of OSC Magazine

Did you know that Oregon farm ponds aren't being fished enough? That steers boosted through summer pasture with stilbestrol, then reimplanted in the feedlot, gained just as fast as steers implanted in the feedlot for the first time? That sheep keds (ticks) can be controlled with dieltrin dust?

This information is among that reported in the latest issue of the research magazine published by the Oregon State College agricultural experiment station.

Copies of "Oregon's Agricultural Progress" are free on request to Oregonians. Requests for the current issues, or to be placed on the regular mailing list, should be sent to Bulletin Clerk, Industrial Building, Oregon State College, Corvallis.

A wide range of topics is treated in the new issue:

A study of 50 farm fish ponds by Carl Bond, OSC fish biologist, showed rainbow trout provide best fishing. Overpopulation leads to stunted growth, a problem relieved by more fishing. A fish-feeding guide is included for rainbow

trout, largemouth bass, bluegills, crappies and bullheads. D. C. England, OSC animal husbandman, reported that steers carried for more than 120 days responded to repeated stilbestrol implants—whether in the feedlot or on a combination of pasture and feedlot.

Entomologist R. L. Goulding reports that treating all sheep yearly with 1.5 per cent dieltrin dust will give good control of sheep ticks. Time of application doesn't seem to matter, but it is important to treat all sheep in a flock.

In another article, OSC poultrymen report Oregon corn and wheat have the same poultry feeding value as Midwestern or Eastern corn.

Short research briefs in the publication report Sinazin as a promising control for cheatgrass in Eastern Oregon wheat, and Karmex alfuron for ryegrass in Western Oregon grain; that the tendency of cattle to bloat may be inherited; that potash boosts legume yields on coastal soils; and that diversification rarely reduces price variation for farm products.

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