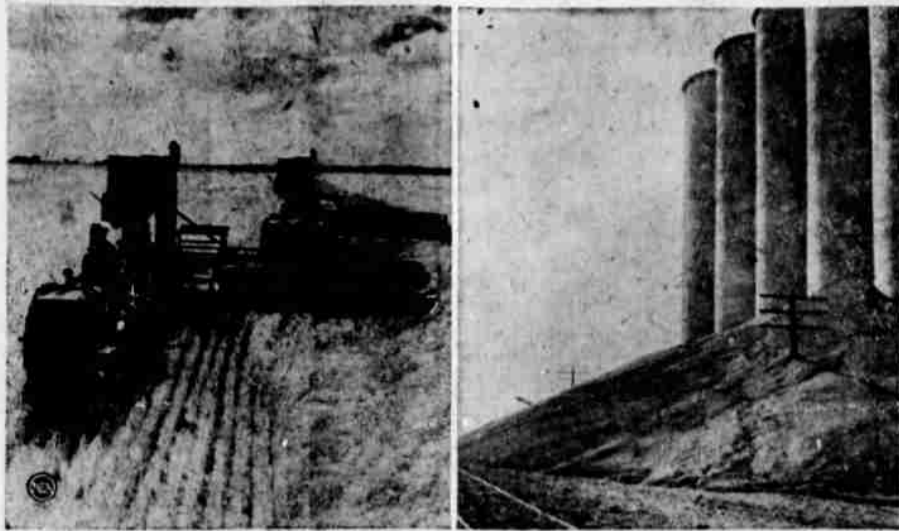


Valley Farm-Ranch-Home

Supplement Of The La Grande Observer



BIG MACHINERY; MORE SURPLUS

Rapid mechanization to cut farm costs will cause farmers to buy machinery faster says experts. Increased production efficiency will create more surpluses next year

Douglas Fir Variations Are Studied

Douglas fir seedlings from various localities in the Pacific Northwest show considerable differences in growth patterns, research at Oregon State College shows.

The great differences in environmental conditions throughout western North America are partly responsible for such genetic differences, according to Dr. Helge Irgens-Moller, forest geneticist. In one location only trees with certain characteristics are able to reach maturity while at another locality, the different environmental conditions favor trees with other characteristics.

Thirty years ago, all Douglas fir seed was considered the "same" whether collected from high or low elevations, north or south slopes, coastal or interior sites, Irgens-Moller noted. When planted in different locations, however, results were often disappointing.

In the research being conducted by Irgens-Moller, geographic variations in Douglas fir are being studied. Seedlings collected from the entire Douglas fir region, ranging from British Columbia to Mexico, are being planted in the OSC forest near Corvallis.

Long-range purpose of the planting is for use in the forest tree-breeding program—combining into one tree the most desirable characteristics to be found with regard to form, growth rate, drought resistance, and wood quality. Crosses between plants native to widely different areas have in some cases produced plants superior in growth rate to either parents, Irgens-Moller reported. Such crosses are being studied in the plantings at OSC to determine if this superiority is maintained throughout the life span of the plants.

Work with plantings also is giving a new insight into Douglas fir types.

In one phase of the study, Irgens-Moller found that height growth in seedlings of high elevation or interior parentage stopped from one to four weeks earlier than in seedlings from the coastal areas. He also found that plants from interior or high elevation areas reacted strongly to artificially shortened days by stopping height growth. Plants from near the coast were relatively unaffected by the short days.

Since the length of the frost-free period is shorter at high elevations and in the interior, only trees which complete height growth early will survive in such areas, Irgens-Moller said.

He found that one of the mechanisms which causes the plants to stop growth well before the first killing frost was the natural decrease in length of day during summer, the only environmental factor which changes in a consistent manner each year. It is the most precise "time clock" in nature.

The greater sensitivity to short days shows that the plants depend partly on this "clock" to stop growth in time, he pointed out. If they are treated with artificially long days, they continue height growth for a much longer period.

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No Farm Boom Ahead; Experts See Surplus

WASHINGTON (NEA) — Despite the industrial upswing, there's no boom in store this fall down on the farm.

Except in surpluses. Farm income will be down eight per cent this fall, economists say. Prices for farm products will continue to slide. Prices for the things the farmer will buy — labor, machinery, transportation supplies — will be up.

Overproduction of cattle, hogs and a wide range of other commodities — will hold prices for many farm products down perhaps all next year.

The new surplus this fall will pump another billion to a billion and a half dollars into the already-overloaded surplus warehouse. This will boost surplus stocks over 10 billion dollars.

Agriculture Department specialists predict that if the weather is just right these new surpluses will cost the taxpayer close to two billion dollars this season.

These surplus payments by the government worry the economists. "They'll give a boost to this creeping inflation everyone is talking about," says one.

Another puts it more bluntly, says the subsidy surplus program is getting completely out of hand. "And it's going to get so much worse in the next few years nobody will be able to do anything about handling the sheer volume," he adds. "Every conceivable storage idea will be exhausted."

The worsening state of affairs on the farm means these things:

— There'll be increasing migration from the farms this fall and winter. Experts estimate this movement will be to the tune of around 50,000 men, women and children a month. Many of these folks won't actually leave for the cities. They'll just retire. Or a young man will go off to college and not come back.

— There'll be a more rapid step up of mechanization on the farms to cut labor costs. Farmers will buy machinery at a faster clip in the next six to 12 months. Farm productivity will move up at the rate of a half of one per cent a month this fall and next spring. That's at the rate of six per cent a year, double the rate of increase in U.S. industry. This new efficiency will create more surpluses next year.

— More small farms will be absorbed—and faster. Best guess here is that farms will thus disappear at the speed of 7,000 a month this fall and winter.

— More small farmers are going to move into contract farming this fall. They'll produce for one cus-



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Open House Scheduled By Bureau

The Board of Directors of the Union County Farm Bureau is inviting the public to an open house at the new County Farm Bureau office in Island City.

The open house will be held next Sunday between the hours of 1:00 and 5:00 p.m.

All interested persons are urged to visit the new facilities by the committee planning the event. "This is a big day and very important to the members and Friends," President Gene Stockhoff said. "We hope to better serve our people now that we have an office from which to conduct our business. Farming is too important a business in this modern age to be run in a horse and buggy manner. We hope, with our office, to better represent farming in Union County."

Receiving guests will be county president Stockhoff and Mrs. Stockhoff and Insurance Agent Everett Cornett and Mrs. Cornett.

Farm Loan Refinancing Available

Loans for refinancing of secured operating debts are available through the Farmers Home Administration.

These loans help farmers who are otherwise in a sound position but who are unable to meet their present credit obligations and need credit on more favorable terms and conditions than are currently available from other lenders. Operating loans are available for refinancing purposes to owner-operators of farms no larger than family size. Operating loans for refinancing purposes may also be made to part-time operators and operators of leased farms. The applicants must have adequate security and be carrying on sound farming operations.

To qualify as a part-time operator, an applicant must be an established farmer carrying on substantial farming operations and spending the major portion of his time farming. The applicant must have a dependable source of outside income.

The purpose for which loans may be made include refinancing of debts secured by liens on livestock, farm equipment, and harvested feed. Under certain conditions loans also may be made for the payment of unsecured debts.

Loans will not be used to refinance any debt until it has been determined that the present credit or other credit sources are not able to provide the applicant with adequate credit on terms that he could reasonably be expected to meet.

The applicant must be of legal age, be a citizen of the United States and have had farm experience sufficient to indicate reasonable prospects of conducting successful farming operations.

Operating loans are repayable from 1 to 7 years and carry an interest charge of 5 percent.

Like other Farm Home Administration loans, the eligibility of the applicant is determined by the local county committee.

Further information may be obtained from the Farmers Home Administration, 105 S. E. Byers Avenue, Pendleton, Oregon on any Monday. Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Land Bureau Seeks Seed For Range

Portland area office of the Bureau of Land Management has called for bids on furnishing various seeds for reseeding range lands in eastern Oregon, the Department of the Interior said today.

The invitation to bid calls for 10 varieties to be delivered at various points with quantities varying from 400 pounds of alfalfa to 15,000 pounds of crested wheatgrass.

The seed will be used in the stepped up program of rehabilitation of the Oregon range. Details on the invitation are available to prospective bidders at the Portland area office, 1001 N. E. Lloyd Blvd., where bids will be publicly opened at 2 p.m. PST, September 14, 1959.

Donna Berry Paces Union Riding Club

UNION (Special)—Donna Berry rode off with high point honors in the intermediate class at the Union County Fair 4-H Horsemanship to pace the Sky Line Riding Club of Union through the competition.

Miss Berry won the grand Champion ribbon in the intermediate division, the junior division pole bending race, stick and barrel race and finished second in the intermediate division clover leaf barrel race.

Wanda Cox captured a red ribbon in the junior division horsemanship contest, second place in the three-sixteenth-mile race, junior division, finished second in the junior division pole bending race, third in the stick and barrel race and third in the clover leaf barrel race.

Jackie Barry was second in the intermediate horsemanship contest and tied for third in the intermediate class clover leaf barrel race.

Mike Stitzel was second in the junior division walk, trot and run race and third in musical chairs. Timers from Union were Mrs. Bill McCrae, Carl Bechtold and Walter Tarter. Mrs. Tarter is leader of the Sky Line Club.

Ballots For Wool Vote Mailed To Producers

Ballots for voting the September referendum on the lamb and wool marketing development program are now being mailed to producers in Union County.

Chairman Ben L. Robinson of the County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee announced today.

The referendum will determine whether or not deductions will continue to be made from producer payments earned under the wool incentive program. Funds collected are used by the American Sheep Producers Council to carry out a program of advertising, promotion, and related activities under an agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture.

The agreement, which has been in effect since the 1955 marketing year, will be extended for 3 years if approved in the September referendum. Producers having two-thirds of the volume of referendum represented in the referendum must approve if the agreement is to be extended.

Deductions from wool and lamb payments under the new agreement would not exceed 1 cent per pound for shorn wool and 5 cents per hundredweight for unshorn lambs. Deductions at these rates have been made from payments

Timber To Provide Half Of Oregon's 'Basic Economy'

THE DALLES (UPD) — Timber can provide at least half of Oregon's basic economy forever, according to a leading Oregon forester.

W. D. Hagenstein, executive vice president of the Industrial Forestry Association, told the annual meeting of the Mid-Columbia group of the Oregon Bankers Association here Thursday night that Oregon was the nation's No. 1 forest state.

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WO 3-4623

Ag Dept. Says Average Wheat Price Higher Than Last Years

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Agriculture Department says it appears the average wheat price for the 1959-60 season will be a bit higher than last year's \$1.72 a bushel rate.

As of Aug. 15 the department said farmers were receiving an average of \$1.75 a bushel for their wheat. This compared with \$1.64 a bushel a year ago.

The smaller wheat crop accounted for some of the increase. Another factor was that more storage bins across the country were making it easier for farmers to withhold wheat from the market.

Agriculture Department experts also think many farmers may be holding back wheat until the new tax year begins Jan. 1.

The government support price this season is \$1.81 a bushel, a penny less than last year.

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Charles B. Shuman of the American Farm Bureau Federation asked Agriculture Secretary Ezra T. Benson today to let

spokesmen for farmers help the Agriculture department write new grading standards for lamb and mutton.

Shuman suggested in a letter to Benson that the secretary appoint a special committee composed of representatives of major farm groups to work with department experts on revising the lamb and mutton standards.

Today was the deadline for public suggestions for changes in the standards.

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Sen. Karl E. Mundt (R-S.D.) introduced a bill Monday to set up a

Cricket Flat Grange Holds Repair Picnic

Members of the Cricket Flat Grange took advantage of beautiful fall weather Wednesday to hold a picnic and painting party. Grange members spent the day repairing and painting the hall.

Dinner was prepared by the women members of the Grange while the men worked on the hall. The work was completed in the late afternoon. Grange members expressed pleasure with the improvements resulting from the day's work.

commission to study the problem of the nation's small towns.

The commission would concentrate on towns with less than 10,000 residents. It would report to Congress by February, 1961.



WO 3-2125

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