

### October's Prices Up On Farms

Oregon farm prices showed a mixed pattern of ups and downs in October and ended up with an average two per cent higher than a month ago, reports Mrs. Elvera Horrell, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State College.

At the same time, reports from the U. S. department of agriculture show prices received by farmers over the nation dropped seasonally in October to a point two per cent lower than last month and the lowest in nearly two years.

In Oregon, October egg and turkey prices moved up, and milk and milk cows also carried higher price tags. Feed grains and wheat climbed, and hay and potatoes also rose.

These gains in state farm prices were partially offset by lower prices on most meat animals and wool, broiler prices dropped for the second straight month, and corn prices turned lower.

Prices the nation's farmers pay for goods and services also moved lower in October, but at a much slower rate. Mrs. Horrell found farm wage rates were down, as were prices paid for farm production items.

With prices received by farmers dropping faster than prices paid by farmers, the purchasing power of farm products slipped a little last month. The parity ratio—the government's yardstick for measuring the relationship between prices received and prices paid by farmers—fell to one point below September this year, six points below October 1958, and the lowest since August 1946.

### Bulls Net Top Prices At Sale In Enterprise

Calf voted grand champion at the Wallowa County Bull Calf Sale was a polled bull consigned by Wolfe Hereford Ranch and sold to Emmett Weatherman for \$325.00.

The ballots gave reserve champion to a calf consigned by Walt Stein, but buyers liked him well enough to run the bidding up to \$340.00 paid by Barto Wade.

Average for all calves sold was \$267.00 per head.

High quality purebred bred ewes lambs will be offered at the second annual Bred Ewe Sale at the Polk county fairgrounds located at Rickeral, Oregon, tomorrow.

An outstanding ram will pay for itself within a year by producing above average lambs, reports Dr. Ralph Bogart, animal husbandman at the Oregon State College agricultural experiment station.

OSC researchers compared grade, weight and selling price of offspring from outstanding rams with offspring of average rams. They found the difference is enough that one lamb crop will cover cost of the better ram.

Lambs sired by the best rams averaged 90 pounds at weaning, an graded good and choice. Lambs from the two least desirable rams

averaged 76.5 pounds at weaning, and graded high utility and low good. The better lambs sold for 2 cents a pound more.

Weaning weight, conformation and condition of the rams were considered in selecting those for the research project. Of the 16 rams studied to date, Bogart pointed out that even the poorest were rated average or better.

Much greater differences would be evident in offspring if rams were selected randomly, he emphasized.

Cattle on farms in Australia on March 1, 1959, were estimated at 16,277,000 head, about 4 per cent below the same date in 1958.

This marked the second consecutive year that Australian cattle numbers have declined. The reduction is the result of unusually heavy slaughter.

There is some concern that this heavy slaughter will imperil the ability of Australia's cattle industry to maintain its breeding herd. However, the general opinion is that most of the slaughter represents earlier marketing of cattle normally destined for slaughter, and heavy culling of inferior breeding stock.

In any case, the heavy slaughter and large exports of recent months can hardly be maintained beyond the end of 1959 without depleting the breeding herd.

Sheep numbers rose to 152,686,000 head, about 2 per cent above 1958. Improved pasture conditions and strengthening wool prices point to a further increase.

Australia's mutton and wool exports during 1959-60 are expected to be high. Exports to the United States will probably remain an important part of Australia's total exports.

## Valley Farm-Ranch-Home

Bill Bebout, Editor



PRIZE BEEF—First animal to go on the auction block at Grand National Livestock Exposition at the Cow Palace in San Francisco, Calif. was "Tim Topper," a 1000-pound Hereford, Grand Champion Fat Steer of the show. "Tim Topper" was bought at the phenomenal price of \$5.50 per pound by the Hyatt House Hotel. Pictured with "Tim Topper" are its raisers, Mrs. Jolene Hardy and husband (right rear) of Bakersfield, Calif. and buyer for Hyatt House, Jack D. Crouch.

### Among Valley Farmers

By County Agents Ted Sidor and Charles Gavin

An alfalfa breeding method being tried is called the doublecross. It involves four parents and resembles hybrid corn production methods. As with corn, the best combinations of four parents (doublecross) have not been as good as the best combinations of two parents (singlecross).

But with corn, doublecross seed has been largely used because of the higher costs of singlecross seed. With alfalfa, however, seed yields from selected parents have been good. Thus, the singlecross is also being used experimentally. With alfalfa, seed would be produced by specialized growers, much as corn and alfalfa seeds are produced. But unlike corn, where the parents are propagated by seed, the alfalfa parents are propagated vegetatively.

Rooted stem cuttings, made by cutting alfalfa stems such as we slip geraniums, are transplanted by machinery in isolated fields resembling vineyards. Because alfalfa is a long-lived perennial, fields should persist for a long time. After the first year, seed production could be as high as from row seedings, because plants increase in size with age. As with corn, the farmer would buy seed for each planting to get the benefit of the first-generation cross. He could not harvest seed from his fields and retain the initial hybrid vigor.

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### Horticulture Society Sets Annual Session

Two nationally-known speakers will keynote the Oregon State Horticultural Society's 74th annual meeting, Nov. 19 and 20, at Oregon State College.

A former Oregonian, Ervin L. Peterson, assistant secretary of the U. S. department of agriculture, will speak at the Friday morning general assembly. His talk, titled "Yesterday, Today or Tomorrow," will follow the theme of the meeting which is to review the past 100 years and explore the future of the state's fruit and vegetable industry.

J. Roger Deas, of the American Can Company in New York City will talk on "America's Secret Weapon" at the Thursday evening banquet. Deas also is a former West Coast resident, having lived in California much of his life.

Thursday afternoon's general assembly will feature a discussion on marketing by OSC agricultural economists, H. F. Hollands, G. E. Korzan and G. B. Wood.

Most of the meeting is divided into four sections of growers of vegetable crops, apples and pears, stone fruits, and small fruits to discuss their special interests.

About 1000 growers, fieldmen, scientists and other agricultural leaders are expected to attend the two-day meeting to study new developments in production and marketing.

### Production Of Meat To Climb High

Farm News Roundup WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Agriculture Department predicts that meat production will go up in 1960 to an all-time high of more than 23 billion pounds.

Production for this year is expected to total about 27,200,000,000 pounds.

There will be no new record next year in per capita supply, however. The population is bigger.

The 1960 supply is expected to give the average American about 61 pounds of meat during the year, six pounds less than the record year of 1954.

The department said the housewife also can expect lower meat prices, first on higher-cost cuts in the winter and spring, and then on lower-cost cuts like hamburger next summer and fall.

Meanwhile, the department reported that net imports of meat will see a new record this year, going over one billion pounds for the first time in history.

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Scientists working for the Agriculture Department and the California Experiment Station have developed a new variety of oats.

The new plant is a red oat with short straw and is resistant to lodging and shattering. It is called "curt" and is adaptable for pasture and hay production.

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Egg production has dropped faster than government experts expected.

The Agriculture Department had seen predicting that production through the end of 1959 would continue above 1958 levels.

A report shows, however, that production during October came to 4,734,000,000 eggs, down 1 per cent from the same month in 1958.

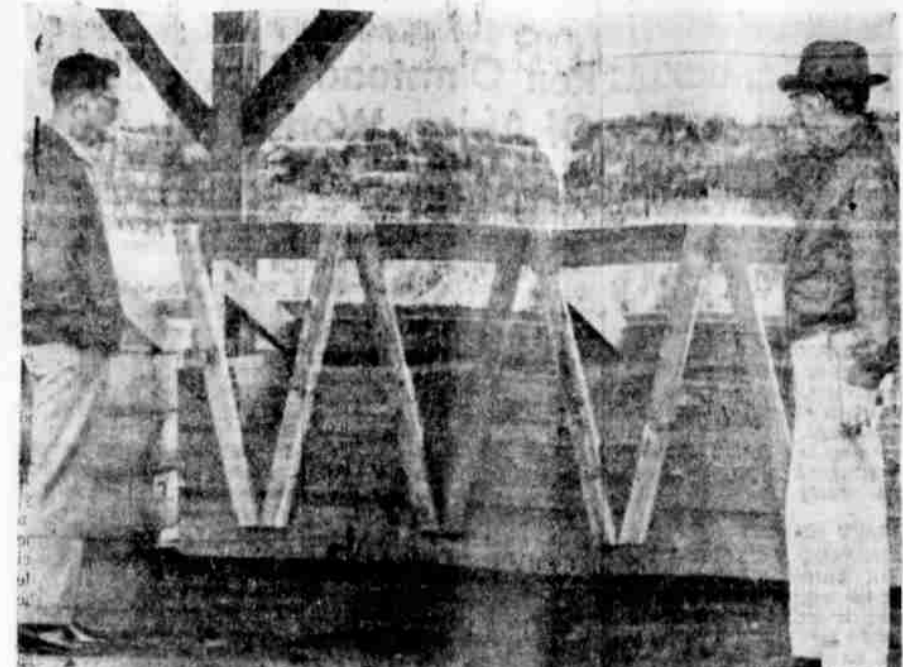
The drop apparently was the result of low egg prices through most of this year, the department said.

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The number of workers on the nation's farms is getting smaller.

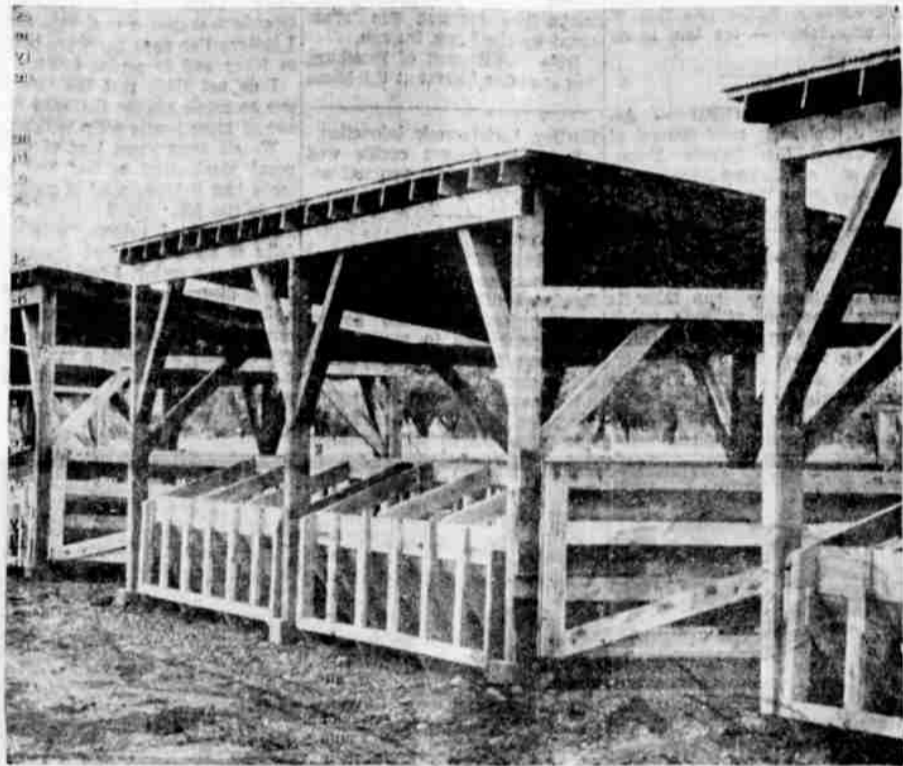
A total of 8,600,000 persons were working on farms in late October. This was 1 per cent less than a year ago and 6 per cent below the average for the same month in the past five years.

Sectional meetings will be held Thursday at 9:30 a.m.

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NEW FEEDERS CONSTRUCTED—Dr. J. A. B. McArthur, right, and Ted Sidor inspect new construction at the Eastern Oregon Experiment Station at Union. Workers at the station under Dr. McArthur's supervision have built new feeders for replacement heifers at the station. The picture above is an inside view of the feeders. (Observer Photo)



READY FOR OPERATION—New feeders have been built at the Experiment Station at Union and are now being used for the feeding of replacement heifers. (Observer Photo)

### Plastic Tags For Oregon's Cattle In Use

Small plastic tags which Oregon cattle will carry from country brand inspection points or auction markets to the slaughterhouse—whether it be in Oregon, Colorado, California or some other western state—are now being applied by the state's brand inspectors.

The tags will be glued on the left shoulder of all dry and cull cows. They tell where the animals originated and are the key to the new simplified method of re-certifying counties and state for brucellosis.

Fred Pope, animal division chief for the state department of agriculture, says this is how the new program works:

Presence of the tag is a signal to blood test for brucellosis whenever the animal is slaughtered. Blood samples will be sent to the State-Federal Brucellosis Laboratory at Salem and submitted the agglutination test. If the test is clean, the herd of origin and the county will be given credit towards recertification. If it shows a reactor, it will also be credited to the herd and the rest of the eligible cattle blood tested.

Department representatives will place tags only on dry and cull cows. In saleyards, tags will be placed as the cows first come into the yard and this will be done quickly so it will not slow the fast moving operations.

Pope points out that this is an important innovation for the cattleman as it greatly reduces the on-the-ranch testing which has been going on for years. At the same time, the tagging system will bring to light any reactors and pinpoint the need for herd blood tests.

While the tags are a "must" for blood tests in whatever state they appear, Oregon will continue to test all eligible cattle sent to slaughter here.

The tagging plan has been under study by federal and state officials for more than two years. It has gone through field tests, both here and in other states, and is now starting full-scale operation. Seventeen western states have received the "go-ahead" signal for the tagging system and other states are expected to adopt it, making the program nationwide.

In addition to being a new tool for re-certification, the tagging system has been approved by the federal Agricultural Research Service for use in brucellosis programs in states which have not yet reached original modified cert-

### JEAN WICK CONGRATULATED

### 4-H Achievement Party Is Saturday At Island City

By JIM HUBER  
Union County Agent

The Union County 4-H Achievement Party will be held at the Island City Farm Bureau Hall Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Purpose of this event is to give recognition to club members who have won outstanding awards during the past year and to focus attention on club members that have just completed their first year of club work.

A representative from the First National Bank of La Grande will be on hand to present 4-H pins to youngsters in the La Grande, Ladd Canyon, Fruitdale and Alicel areas.

Many businessmen will be on hand to present 4-H awards that they have donated to 4-H'ers during the past year.

All clubs attending are requested to bring cookies and the 4-H Leaders' Association will serve punch.

Union County Junior-Leaders under the direction of their new president, Ruth Hoxie, will present a program and serve the refreshments.

Achievement programs will be completed this week with events being scheduled at Union, Cove and Imbler. PTA's at Union and Imbler will sponsor these events and at Cove we have a joint sponsor, the PTA and Cove Farm Bureau.

The Mt. Glenn Homemakers 4-H club are planning a busy Thanksgiving weekend as all of the girls in the club along with the leaders, are planning to bake sweet breads on Thursday and Friday and will stage a cooked food sale at Bohn.

Unified status. Oregon reached that status last July and all work done now is to maintain that status.

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### FARM CALENDAR

19-14 — Pacific Coast Turkey Exhibit, McMinnville.

12-14 — Sheep and Wool School at Oregon State College, ending at noon Saturday, Nov. 14.

14 — Oregon Purchased Sheep Breeders Bred Ewe Sale, 10 a.m., Polk county fairgrounds, Rickeral.

16 — Area workshop for soil conservation district supervisors, Klamath Falls.

19-20 — Oregon State Horticultural Society annual meeting, OSC.

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