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12:25AM 8:25AM & 10:30AM 4:40PM *5:25PM @6:40PM
PORTLAND
@7:00AM 8:10AM @11:50AM 4:30PM 5:20PM 11:37PM
*Local to Prineville *Local to Bend *On
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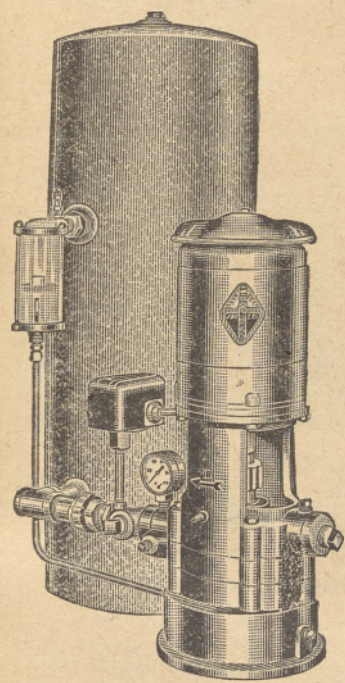
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ABOUT THE FARM - - -

Notes by the Wayside—

Clackamas County Members Will Serve At Conference In Corvallis March 27-29

By Leon Garoian Jr. - Don Coin Walrod, County Extension Agents

Poultry, including chickens and turkeys is big business for Clackamas county with slightly over 23 per cent of the county's agricultural income being from that source. However, from the nature of the industry it is one that is not as evident as some of our other agricultural fields. A drive over the county after dark, when poultry and turkey breeders' hens houses are lighted, will indicate the presence of this important industry.

Present indications are that this industry is apt to shrink slightly during the 1952 year. According to an intentions survey made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, poultry producers in the three Pacific Coast states intend to purchase 15 per cent less chicks for flock replacements this year than in 1951. For the United States as a whole, the survey shows a 10 per cent decrease.

Fewer Chicks

If growers do actually start less chicks this spring, it will mean less pullets for flock replacement this fall and a decrease in the number of eggs produced. As a result there should be an increased demand and higher egg prices this fall.

The reason for the intended decrease in chick starting is mostly due to the comparatively low egg prices and high feed costs. A year ago a dozen eggs would purchase 11.5 pounds of feed in Oregon compared with 10.6 pounds at the present time. For the United States, a dozen eggs will only purchase 9.5 pounds of feed at the present time which means Oregon is considerably above the average. Whenever the egg feed ratio is unfavorable during the hatching season—January to May—producers buy less chicks for flock replacements.

Four Per Cent Increase

On January 1 this year Oregon had 3,541,000 laying hens and pullets. This is a four per cent increase compared with a year ago. There were three per cent more layers in the United States on January 1. In spite of the increase in layers in the state, Oregon still consumed approximately 25 per cent more market eggs than we produced during 1951.

All-pullet flocks have proven to be the most profitable for market eggs. The average egg production for Oregon last year was 189 eggs per hen compared with 170 for the nation. While this is good production, most people with the industry feel that the average rate of lay could be substantially increased if producers replaced a higher proportion of their flocks with pullets. At the present time only slightly more than half of the layers on farms are pullets.

More Turkeys

While the reports indicate that there will be a slight decrease in the number of chickens, at the same time indications are that growers intend to raise more turkeys in 1952 than they did the year before. The report from the USDA forecast an 11 per cent increase, but also says the actual tonnage of meat produced will be less than the figures would indicate.

Oregon will stand about sixth in the nation in market birds produced during 1952 with about a five per cent increase over 1951. At the same time we rank fourth in the number of breeder hens kept on farms.

Convention To Be Held

Glen Schaeffer, C. W. Paterson, Ray Leach, Barry Brownell, Marlin Fox, Milton Rider, Howard Belton, Ben Elmer, Harold Ridings, Everett Shibley, K. C. Rassmussen, William Tucker, Harold Bushue, Fred Cockell, William Belozzer, C. R. Lamb, Morris Buxton, Mrs. George Henderson, Ambrose Brownell, Joe Serres, and Ivan Arneson. These are members from Clackamas county serving on various committees for the 1952 conference March 27, 28 and 29 at Corvallis.

Purpose

What is the purpose of the 1952 conference? F. L. Ballard, associate director, explains the conference is to provide opportunity to its committees for an appraisal of the current situation, a review of significant past developments, and a look into the future in case of all agricultural and rural life interests within the state.

"The purpose is to examine these interests with the help of experienced producers and leading homemakers. It is then planned to blend their experiences and conclusions with the technical information available from state, federal and private agencies concerned with agricultural

and rural life. In this manner it is expected that we will spell out a program of desirable action."

Statewide Meeting

"In this case the Extension Service and other divisions of Oregon State College will incorporate appropriate activities within their program in order to support such conclusions and advance specific recommendations. It is expected that other groups, both public and private, will include many of the conclusions developed and actions decided within their programs, thus bringing conference findings to reality. After a statewide meeting to consider the conclusions of the committees, extension personnel will discuss agreed segments of the program with all appropriate committees and other groups throughout the state. In this manner the recommendations will have wide consideration and in many cases will be incorporated into county programs which, when headed up, should develop good bases for a state rural life development program."

Committees

Eleven committees composed of farmers and others from the entire state have been holding meetings since early last fall. Results of their efforts will be brought out at the conference, which is scheduled during Spring vacation for college students in order to make room for the many people expected to attend.

Housing is being worked out for visitors by a special committee, and it is expected that housing will be adequate for all attending.

Key for possible beneficial results from such a conference is obtained by reviewing recom-

mendations made in 1924 when the last such conference was held.

Profound Effect

"The thinking of the people who took part in that conference has had a profound effect upon Oregon farming during the last quarter-century. The goals they proposed in a great many cases have been accomplished. What is even more important, the whole farm economy of the state has been keyed to a consideration of market possibilities as well as production possibilities. Vast new enterprises have resulted.

For example, the conferees in 1924 envisioned development of a seed crop industry in Oregon that might eventually bring in a million dollars a year. That seed crop industry has developed—specializing in production of legume and grass seeds for many other sections of the United States—and it now brings in about \$20,000,000 a year."

Small Fruits Committee

We are most familiar with the working of the small fruits committee, chairmaned by Glen Schaeffer, a sub group of the horticulture committee. We have served as secretary to this group.

At the first meeting of this committee, members decided strawberries, red and black raspberries, trailing berries, cranberries, blueberries and miscellaneous berries were to be investigated in the study.

For instance, Glen Schaeffer and Irwin Schlegel of Washington County investigated the problem of whether small fruit production is justified under present land use practices. This includes the question, "What happens to soils after planted to berries for several years?" What can be done to control erosion and improve soils on which berry crops are to be grown in order to obtain high yields of good quality fruit? How can we rebuild these soils and still continue with an economic farm unit? This problem is important, since berry growers, in general, are farming limited acreages.

Methods of stabilizing and improving markets for small fruit crops is covered in a report by Sumner Fish and Ray Bates, Bandon, and Eldon Snider, Gresham.

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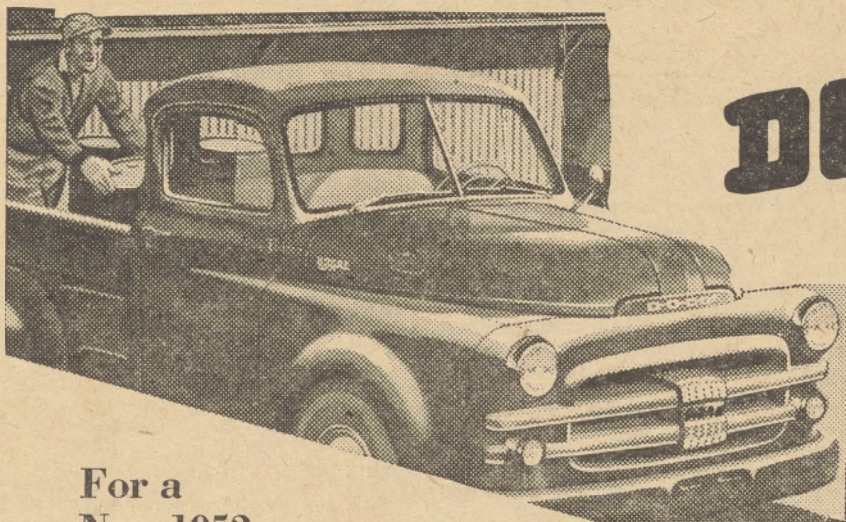
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