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About The Farm ---

By John J. Inskeep, County Agent

Iceland Not Altogether What It's Name Implies Says Recent Visitor

Our most recent visitor from distant lands was stately Dr. A. G. Eylands, Undersecretary of Agriculture, Iceland. Most of us have thought of Iceland as a barren country devoid of agricultural production of any description. "As a matter of fact," Dr. A. G. Eylands told us, "we raise all of our needs of wool, meat and dairy products. In addition we usually raise all the potatoes we need plus root crops, cabbage and cauliflower. Of the root crops, carrots are used extensively because of their high vitamin A content."

"Our greenhouse vegetable production is extensive also. Cucumbers and tomatoes are greenhouse favorites. For heating greenhouses we capture heat from natural hot springs and wells. However most of our greenhouse produce is raised in the summer. We have plenty of hot water all winter but a long period of darkness, as you know. At present we find it too expensive to furnish artificial lighting."

Cattle Breed

When asked about the breed of cattle used in Iceland, Dr. Eylands replied, "We have a separate and distinct breed. We do not know its origin. Iceland was settled by Europeans prior to the time of recorded history. Our cattle do not produce too well. Our herds encounter some difficulty when production is increased. This may be due to mineral or vitamin deficiency. We are not yet sure. Our soil testing program is just getting underway."

"Grain is not raised to any great extent in Iceland, because of poor harvest weather. At least not at present. Our cattle are wintered on grass hay. We are greatly interested in grass ensilage. We raise much the same species of grasses as found in Western Oregon but we are short of legumes and need future study on this subject."

Population

"The population of Iceland is only 160,000 and we have only 150,000 acres in cultivation. There is little annual cropping. Our pastures and meadows are really permanent." And here is another surprising fact about Iceland, Dr. Eylands told us that the people of Iceland till only 5% of their land subject to development and cultivation. "Our population is so small that we do not need more farmland at present. Transportation is difficult, almost solely by water or air. Most of our exports are fishery products. (Iceland exports of dried cod are extensive.)"

oOo
We only wish we could share more of the time of our fascinating guests with the people of Clackamas county. Unfortunately their visits are too often on short notice and of short duration.

Others Visit

Looking back over the years we remember visitors from Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Pakistan, Yugoslavia, France, Germany, Norway, Sweden, England and Scotland. Visiting with them is a fascinating experience. Dr. Eylands and his charming wife drove up from Corvallis with Dr. Fred McKenzie, head of the animal industries Department, Oregon State college. Our luncheon party at the West Linn Inn included the Eylands, Dr. McKenzie and Extension Agent Hugh Caton. There we ran into Jan Haugarod, Sulphite Superintendent of the Crown Zellerbach paper mill, West Linn. Dr. Eylands and Jan had a fine visit in Norwegian but the rest of us didn't know what they visited about.

Poultry Raising

Poultry raising is big business. We hear so much about our basic farm crops such as wheat, corn, peanuts, tobacco and rice, and of our dairy and animal industries that we are prone to overlook the relative importance of the poultry industry in the United States—and in Oregon.

Income from eggs, broilers, chickens, turkeys and other poultry products in the U. S. totaled 4.1 billion dollars in 1953. In Oregon for the same period the total for eggs, turkeys, broilers and chickens was \$45,511,000. A sizeable figure this is when compared for instance with Oregon's third largest industry, the tourist business. Income from the latter is estimated at 125 million.

Now let's have a look nearer at home in Clackamas County. Our gross income for 1953 was estimated at \$27,500,000 of which our poultry industry approached the five million mark. Looks to us like there isn't much difference so far as the general public is concerned between gross farm income and the payroll of a manufacturing plant.

Tough Year

Every poultryman can tell you that this is one of the years that separates the men from the boys. It's been tough—very tough. Egg

prices have been way down with little decrease in feed prices. The turkey egg and poult business was good but housewives will remember that they paid about 10 cents less for their Thanksgiving birds.

So our poultrymen don't have much to rejoice about this year. They will be right there when the chips are down. This is a logical area for a large turkey and chicken industry. We look for the poultry industry to continue to represent the largest segment of Clackamas county's farm income. More luck to them in 1955!

oOo
The young man now attending an agricultural college, or who expects to enter college during the next few years, might well explore the possibility of studying poultry husbandry. Why? Because we have a shortage of poultry husbandry graduates.

Because of the acuteness of this shortage, the poultry industry, including feed companies, hatcheries, processors and growers, is putting on a concerted drive to interest young men in specializing in this field. In fact, the industry has prepared a pamphlet entitled "Find Your Career in the Poultry Industry". Opportunities for lucrative positions are many. Applicants are in short supply.

Rains and Warm Nights End Frog Hibernation

Heavy rains and warm nights bring frogs and salamanders out of their Rip Van Winkle sleep in the winter. Dr. Robert Storm, Oregon State college zoology professor, has observed.

Dr. Storm checked some 175 rough-skinned newts, 700 long-toed salamanders, 12 red-legged frogs and 375 Pacific tree frogs in and out of a quiet creek-fed pond to learn more about their habits and to find out what wakes them from winter's hibernation.

The reproductive cycle goes on during the hibernation period. Hormones and reproductive tissues have to reach a certain level before the weather acts as a trigger, Dr. Storm said.

Sandy Post Classified Ads Pay

State Fish Commission Uses Sandy Hatchery In Salvage Operations

Fish salvage operations conducted during late October, November, and early December at Oswego creek resulted in the capture of 127 adult silver salmon, reports the Oregon fish commission.

Both last year and this year, mature silvers destined for the Tualatin river were side-tracked into Oswego creek by the attraction of Tualatin river water which is diverted through Lake Oswego dam by a falls which is a barrier to the fish.

To remedy the situation, biologists net the fish and move them via tank truck to the fish commission hatchery at Sandy. This year, however, 19 of the spawners were trucked to the Tualatin river and allowed to continue upstream. At the Sandy hatchery the fish are spawned artificially and the resulting fry are reared to liberation size.

Most of the fingerlings are returned to the Tualatin system. The fish commission said some of the young salmon of Oswego creek parentage have been stocked in the Yamhill river system where no silver run now exists.

Sheep Shearing School Slated During March

Sheep-shearing schools will be held at Corvallis, March 21 and 22 and March 23 and 24, according to word received from John Landers, Jr., OSC livestock specialist, says Hugh Caton, county extension agent.

Application for the two-day schools are available at the county agent's office, Oregon City. Enrollment for each two-day session is limited to 16 persons. Paul Rutland, college shepherd, will assist Landers in conducting the school.

Deadline for applications is two weeks prior to the shearing school dates.

My Neighbors
By BILL PAULSON



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