

# About The Farm

By John J. Inskeep, County Agent

The "Notes" for this week were prepared by Claron Mace, Poultry Agent, and probably should be more appropriately called "Ramblings from the Roost".

The broiler growers are no longer step-children of the egg industry. Now there is a national organization called the National Broiler Council and a State Broiler Growers Association. Also in process is the formation of a Clackamas County Broiler Association with the first meeting held June 5 at the Junior High School in Oregon City.

Officers were elected and a set of by-laws adopted. At a preliminary meeting when the decision to form a county association was made, Burt Searl, Molalla, was chosen temporary chairman.

The broiler business has come a long way in a short time. The strides in efficiency are the envy of all other meat producing industries.

In the U. S. in 1934, 34 million broilers were raised. We raised 285 million in 1943 and production has climbed steadily ever since. We exceeded the one billion mark in broiler production for the first time in 1955. Last year we produced 1.3 billion and only eight pounds of feed were used per bird.

Only ten years ago it took 12 or more pounds of feed to make the same bird. This saving amounts to 4 pounds per bird or about 2.6 million tons of feed. It is now common place for growers to produce a 3 pound chicken in seven or eight weeks on seven pounds of feed. Mrs. Housewife can also get a far better chicken of equal weight for about 15 to 20 cents less than a decade ago.

It might be of interest to note that Joe Fechtel, President of the National Broiler Council will speak to the State Broiler Association meeting at Oregon State College on June 14.

Troubled with flies around the farm these days? With the new fly-a-cides they still continue to be a bother. But now science comes up with a new method of controlling flies. They electrocute them. Grid wires extend the length of the building and since flies like to land on wires, they are electrocuted when they land. I guess it doesn't matter how you do it as long as you get the job done. Looks like it is another step toward that push-button farm.

We have frequent inquiries about raising pullets in confinement. A Missouri test shows that

## New Wiring Considered

The Sandy Grange met at their Kelso hall June 8, at 8 o'clock. Attendance was small due to the busy berry season and the absence of some of the members to the State Grange in Bend, Oregon.

Memorial services were conducted for Mrs. Walter Beehler who passed away since the last meeting.

A committee was appointed to study the rewiring of the hall. New wiring would allow for the use of more appliances in the kitchen.

The next meeting is to be held June 13 when the delegates to the State Grange will give their report of the meeting.

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confinement raised pullets performed just as well as those raised on range. However, adult mortality for those raised outside was less. They also report that pullets kept on the floor in the same pen with those kept in cages laid about 5% more eggs than the caged birds. That ought to raise an argument from our cage operators. The caged birds, however, did lay slightly larger eggs.

Efficiency in egg production has also steadily climbed over the past 15 years. Even with the increase in human population since 1943, it now takes less hens to produce the eggs we use than in 1943. There were 488 million hens and pullets on January 1, 1943 and only 364 million on the same date for 1956. The secret is the increase of the number of eggs each hen produces. In 1943 each hen shelled out 142 eggs but in 1956 each hen topped that figure by 54 eggs.

Our Oregon hens do much better than the U. S. average with each one laying an average of 210 eggs a year. You can see that this is over 5 dozen more eggs produced by each hen in 1943, so it naturally takes less hens.

This is further borne out by the figures taken from the feed efficiency study that several local egg producers are conducting. For the past three months, production in 14 pens of layers averaged 78.2%. Not too long ago if a flock of layers peaked at 78% it was considered quite good but now an 80 to 90% lay is rather common.

Sending fully matured and finished turkey hens to market at 16 weeks and toms following closely behind at 20 weeks is expected in the not too distant future. Eminent college authorities predict this following the lead set by broilermen.

Up to now turkey production from poult to finished bird takes about six to seven months. According to the American Feed Manufacturing Association the job of clipping eight to ten weeks off production time requires a three headed attack along the fronts of breeding, feeding and management.

Newer feeds will be higher in energy after the fashion on laying and broiler feeds. This will go hand in hand with breeding improvements to make the bird of tomorrow.

If you are watching that waistline you will be interested lowest in fat of all lean meats. A note that turkey meat is the recent test at Cornell University puts turkey meat highest in protein and lowest in fat. A twenty week old turkey contains only 4.6% fat and 20% protein.

With turkey production becoming a year around project, turkey meat is now found in meat markets almost any time of the year.

## Poultry and Egg Market Raises

Oregon State College— Both eggs and fryers made price gains at many of the nation's markets during the past two weeks.

Although the downward price trend on large size eggs in recent weeks has been halted, the market undertone on other sizes remained uncertain. At most of the nation's markets, during the past two weeks, wholesale prices on large eggs edged up one cent. But the Mediums and Smalls lost more ground at eastern and some pacific coast terminals.

Here in Oregon, prices to retailers in the Portland area moved up 1 to 2 cents a dozen on the Large but held unchanged on other sizes. On May 31, jobbing prices were 35 to 41 cents a dozen on Large, 33 to 36 cents on Mediums and 27 to 30 cents on Smalls. However, prices to producers improved some on all grades.

Meanwhile the USDA maintained its egg buying program to stabilize producer prices. Purchases of dried whole eggs dur-

## Licenses Taken During This May

Oregon officials suspended driver licenses of 770 individuals during May. Driving while intoxicated offenses were responsible for 292 of the suspensions.

In a monthly report, the Department of Motor Vehicles noted that courts reported 12,697 convictions of traffic laws during May.

Judges recommended 229 of the license suspensions after convicting drivers of such charges as reckless driving, violation of the basic rule, hit and run and failure to yield right-of-way.

Discretionary action by licensing officials resulted in 160 of the suspensions, 90 of which were for a bad driving record.

Five of the total number of suspensions were handed out to drivers involved in fatal accidents.

Each of the past two weeks were equal 40,000 cases of shell eggs. But egg movement into retail channels at midwest and pacific coast cities continued to lag.

On the broiler side of the poultry business, prices continued to advance. Producers in the main producing areas were paid one cent above prices two weeks ago. Here on the Pacific Coast we did slightly better. Portland fryer prices on May 31 were 24 to 24½ cents a pound delivered. Hen prices stayed unchanged at 10 to 12 cents on light types and 13 to 14 cents on heavies.

At the same time, hen and broiler slaughter exceeded that of the previous two weeks and of the same period a year ago. Current fryer holdings in cold storage are fully a fifth smaller than a year ago but hen stocks are almost three-fourths larger.

Meat-type chick placements in the 22 important producing states during May were about 2½ percent above placement during the previous month and May last year. Placements in the three Pacific Coast states during May were 3 percent smaller than in April and 13 percent below the same month last year. Oregon's placements this month were 14 percent below those of a year earlier.

CP

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## Rose Fete Leads June Activities

The biggest Oregon celebration of all, the Portland Rose Festival, will pave the way for a series of late June events listed by the travel information division of the Oregon state highway department.

Expected to draw the largest throng is the grand floral parade, which will wind through Portland streets beginning at 10 a.m. Theme for the parade is "Melodies in Flowers."

Also on tap are the junior rose festival parade at 2 p.m., Friday, Varieties of 1957 at Multnomah Stadium at 8 p.m., Thursday and Friday nights, and a whole host of other events.

June 15 and 16 a nautical parade traveling more than 100 miles will herald the opening of the sports fishing season at Salmon Harbor, fishing port on Winchester Bay near Reedsport. The parade will move from the Willamette valley and other interior points to Salmon Harbor.

The "world's largest shortcake" will be offered to persons in attendance at the annual Strawberry Festival at Lebanon, June 13 to 15. A lesser known but noisier event will be the National Rooster Crowing Contest at Rogue River in southern Oregon, June 15. Some \$500 in prize money will be awarded.

Sisters Rodeo and the Douglas County Rodeo, the latter at Roseburg, both will be June 22 and 23.

The beards which have become the trademark of the Corvallis Centennial Celebration will be much in evidence June 27-29 when the city observes its 100th birthday.

Among other events scheduled for June are the Oregon Trapshooters Meet, Bend, June 13-16; Catfish Derby, Medford, June 17; Pacific Northwest Roller Skating Meet, Oaks Roller Rink, Portland, June 17-19; Miss Lincoln County Pageant, Toledo, June 21; Arabian Hors Show, State Fairgrounds, Salem, June 22-23; and Boat Races, Cottage Grove, June 23.

CP

President Eisenhower on August 3, 1946 signed an act providing for the entombment of two unknown servicemen in 1958 beside the Unknown Soldier of World War I to represent the dead of World War II and Korea.

## Logger's Rodeo Slated July 2

Construction crews from the Albany Jaycees began work here June 1 on the huge job of preparing the grounds and building sites for the World Championship Timber Carnival to be held July 2, 3 and 4. This year marks the Thirtieth Anniversary of this event for over \$3,500.00 in awards for high climbing, tree topping, bucking, axe throwing, chopping and jousting.

1956 crowd estimates reached over 100,000 with an even greater number of persons expected for the three day celebration this year. Timber Carnival is presented annually as a tribute to the forest industries and the men who work in the woods.

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## Ladies Sell Baked Goods

Pie or cake and coffee will be served at the bake sale of the Mountain View Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star, June 15.

The sale will be held in Art's Radio and T.V. shop on the Loop Highway from 10:30 Saturday morning to 1:30 that afternoon. The ladies plan to sell cakes, pies, cookies, home-made breads and salads.

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