

## Poultry Future Brighter Here; Birds Decrease

L. E. Francis, Assistant County Agent

High feed prices and relatively low egg prices during the past season, have caused considerable disturbance in the poultry industry over the nation as well as in Oregon and Washington county. Hatchery operations for Oregon during the past season dropped off approximately 45 per cent.

The cold storage holding of eggs has been abnormally large with the result that lower egg prices can be expected during the remainder of 1937. On the other hand there are fewer pullets being placed in laying houses over the nation this fall than at any time during the past 13 years, consequently, egg prices should raise considerably about the first of 1938 after the cold storage supplies have been depleted. The nation's crops have been exceptionally good with the result that feed prices should drop, making a more satisfactory egg-feed ratio for the poultryman.

### Fits Into Picture

Washington county's poultry situation fits into this picture with the exception of the decrease in hatchery operations during the past season. There have been a number of new poultry enterprises started in the county and not very many of the older ones discontinued, with the result that hatcheries operating in the county, and catering largely to county trade, have not had such a marked decrease in activities as recorded for the state as a whole.

The past season has been quite favorable in the county for pullet development, and some of the finest flocks of pullets that we have seen for several seasons are being put into the laying houses. Washington county's feed situation is similar to that of the nation in that there

are good yields of the majority of the principal feed grains, and while feed prices have not come down as yet, and probably won't come down for a few months, 1938 should bring more favorable prices for the poultrymen.

### Enterprise Grows

Washington county's poultry enterprise has been growing rapidly in the past few years. With its million dollar annual income it ranks third among the counties of Oregon. The poultry situation is on an export basis in this county, and a large number of poultrymen are marketing their eggs through the co-operative association.

Being on an export basis, these poultrymen, as well as all of those in the state, are dependent on the eastern markets as an outlet for their eggs. With the trend in the east for improved handling condition of eggs, it is going to be necessary for western poultrymen to pay considerable attention to farm storage since much of the egg quality is lost between the time the eggs are laid and the time they reach the first cold storage plants.

### Must Use Caution

Pacific coast poultrymen have been a good many years establishing their market, and it would take a good many more years to re-establish it in the event that they lost it.

Washington county poultrymen should endeavor to play their part in this program of improved egg quality by making use of the latest and most improved methods for farm egg storage. This move is not only going to preserve the export market for our eggs, but will also increase materially the poultryman's income because of the superior grade that he will receive for the majority of his eggs, and the increased consumption that is inevitable as quality is improved.

In conclusion it might be summed up that Washington county poultrymen have a rather bright prospect for the coming year, with higher egg prices and relatively low feed prices in view. Fewer laying birds, with

corresponding decreased production, will make a better market through the 1938 laying season. The improved conditions will probably also result in increased hatchery operations for 1938.

## Local Ford Parts Man Wins Contest

Robert Beattie, parts and accessory man for MacKenzie Motor company, Hillsboro, was one of a number of winners in the "Merit club" contest conducted by Ford Motor company throughout the nation. The contest ended officially August 15.

He will leave Saturday for Dearborn, Mich., with all expenses paid as a guest of the company. On the way the winners will visit Vancouver, B. C., Lake Louise, Banff, and stop over in Chicago for a major league baseball game. At the Ford plant they will visit all of the points of interest, including Greenfield village, and meet Ford executives.

The contest was on a point basis, with points awarded for bringing departments up-to-date, by maintaining complete stocks, etc.

### Beef Fattening Trials Made

DALLAS—Fattening livestock on irrigated pasture may develop into one of the important farm enterprises in the Willamette valley, if trials conducted on various farms in Polk county are an indication, believes County Agent W. C. Leth. It is not unreasonable, he says, to expect a production of 1000 pounds of beef per acre from good, well-managed irrigated ladino pasture, which based on market prices for beef this season, would mean a return of from \$50 to \$90 an acre. Considering the fact that very little is involved in a beef production program, this would be considered a satisfactory income, he says.

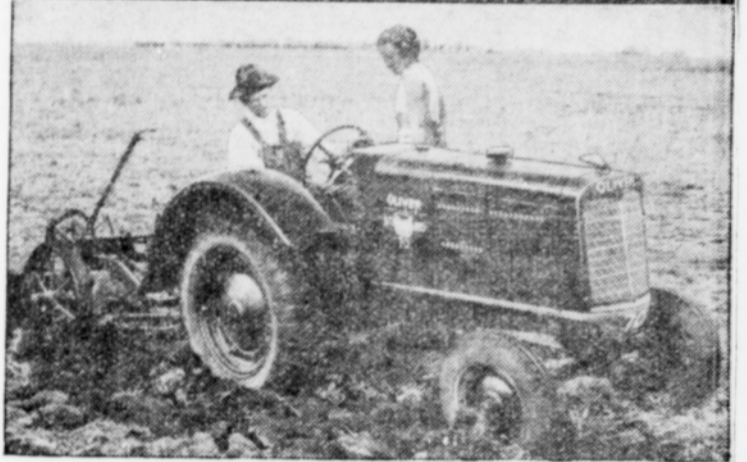
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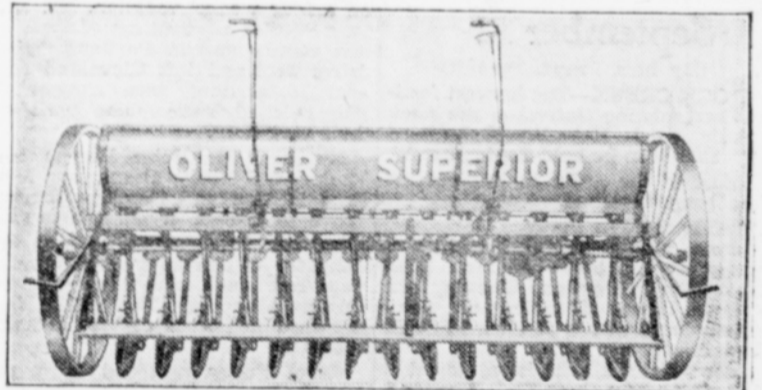
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