

The Agricultural College Is a Friend to the Farmer

Page of News Notes and Interesting Articles Written by College Experts.



VIEW OF OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AT CORVALLIS, OR. ITS SOLE AIM IS TO AID AGRICULTURISTS.

Keeping Farm Accounts Is Very Important Item

"A MAN may be a very good farmer and grow fairly good crops, or feed good animals and still lose money on the farm and be unable to know the reason," says A. E. Lovett, county agriculturist of Crook County, in his report to H. T. French, state leader of county demonstration work. "Farming is as much a business as is any other vocation and without the keeping of accounts a man is neglecting one of the most important items of the business."

"It is not necessary that the farmers keep an elaborate or expensive system of books. A diary or daily account of the work done, supplies purchased and products sold, should be kept. From this daybook or diary it is very easy to figure what a crop has cost, what a field has produced and the profits from farming methods, or the feeding of animals figured."

"There are a large number of men, both farmers and others, who are blaming the country for their failure to realize profits from their work and especially from their farming operations. If they are not succeeding there must be a reason. By the keeping of a diary or daily account the weak points in the system used may usually be discovered."

"A farm survey of the farms in this section will prove of great value to the farmers here. This survey would consist of the accounting of expenses and of profits in each crop grown and each kind of animal fed. I expect to undertake such a survey of many farms next Fall and Winter and accurate accounting of the work done and expenses and sales kept by the farmer will assist greatly in the arrangement of this survey."

"For the benefit of new farmers coming into the country, and for the benefit of those who have farmed there for several years, we should know what crops pay, how they are made to pay, what animals pay and what they are fed in order to return a profit, and what profits may be expected from definite farm operations. I should like to obtain the names of farmers who would be willing to keep such accounts of their farm operations for the coming season. I shall try to furnish such farmers blanks, etc., necessary for keeping records, and believe that we may be able to figure our farming possibilities in this section from farmers on this proposed basis. Will appreciate greatly opinions from farmers on this proposed plan, and should be very glad to hear from any who will undertake to keep such accounts."

Calls Rooster "Von Kluck."

An enterprising poultryman of Nebraska was so well pleased with the military bearing of a young Barred Rock rooster that he had ordered from the Oregon Station, that he named him Von Kluck. In communicating this bit of information to the poultry department at the station, the poultryman inclosed a \$5 bill in payment of reinforcements—"another bird just like Von Kluck."

A septic tank costs money, so does an air pressure tank for water, but it might be well to do some figuring along this line before selling out and moving to town to enjoy the rather expensive "luxuries of the city." It does not always take two moves to be as bad as a fire.

A page of interesting items from the Oregon Agricultural College at Corvallis will alternate in the farm weekly with a page of news notes from the Washington State College at Pullman. This will afford an interchange of views from the two big agricultural colleges of the Northwest that should prove of benefit to the reader, for the institutions deal with similar problems.

Oregon Farmers Study Scientific Agriculture

ALMOST 2000 strong, farmers and other citizens of Oregon spent the first week of February in studying scientific agriculture and in perfecting organizations better to carry on their several industries. Some new organizations were formed, others revived, and all set going in a co-operative way that promises well for the future of agricultural and other rural interests. Twenty conferences of leaders in as many Oregon industries were held, and some of the most important and difficult problems have been put in the way of solution by discussion and official action.

The exercises of the week, in addition to the conferences, consisted in the main of educational exhibits, expert demonstrations and instructional lectures. The exhibits included those of soils and field crops, horticulture, poultry, crop pests (both insect and disease), bacteriology, art and architecture, dairy, horses, kitchen equipment, house decoration and laundry. The demonstrations dealt with such subjects as Babcock testing, meat judging and handling, classifying and packing eggs for direct shipments, silos and silage, gas tractors, stump removal, and numerous others. The lecture comprised instruction in production, protection and marketing of crops, in social and educational organization, and in matters of rural church work. These courses were carried by college specialists and by many successful specialists in the various industries from different parts of the state.

The exercises were planned and carried out by the extension division under the supervision of Professor Ralph D. Hetzel, who is well pleased with the quantity and quality of the work accomplished in the interests of better and more profitable farming.

Doesn't Like War.

(Special.)

G. V. Copson, who majored in the department of bacteriology at Oregon Agricultural College, and later took his master's degree in this institution in the same department, went to Germany last Summer for the purpose of taking still further advanced work in certain of the large German universities. At the time of the outbreak of the European war he was in Munich studying in the university at that place and was able to continue his study and investigations for a number of months. Later, however, he was forced to leave the German Empire on account of war necessities and the policy of the German government and went to Berne, Switzerland, where he has been continuing his work along dairy and pathological lines. Last heard of he was thoroughly disgusted with conditions in Europe at present and had decided if possible to return to this country some time during the early Spring.

Marion County Short Courses.

The Agricultural short course given in Marion County during the week December 28-January 2 by the extension staff of the Oregon Agricultural College and the county agriculturist, L. J. Chapin, was very successful. Meetings were held at Aurora, Silverton, Woodburn, Cloverdale and Salem, lasting from one to three days at each place. A total of 1864 persons attended the meetings. Eight persons from the Oregon Agricultural College took part in the work in addition to Mr. Chapin.

The largest attendance was at Woodburn, where as many as 185 persons attended a single session. Mr. Chapin states he received enough invitations to make personal visits to farms to keep him busy all Summer. Most of the requests were for help along the lines of efficient farm management, cropping systems and better livestock.

Getting Good Start in Breeding Holstein Cows

"TO BE a great breeder of livestock takes brains," said Dr. C. H. Eckles, of the University of Missouri, in one of his addresses to O. A. C. Farmers' Week students. "In the past the great breeders have not had the support they deserve. Today the prospects of the young man starting in this business with the tenacity of purpose to stay with it are very bright. I think if he stays with it 10 or 20 years it will become a great pleasure to him."

"It seems to me the breeder of Holstein cattle especially is today in a position to be envied. I want to tell you what I have done in the way of breeding Holstein cattle. About 13 years ago I went out and bought four cows for \$600. One was sold because we did not like her, so that all the cows we now have came from the other three. We have sold \$5600 worth of blooded stock from the herd. In addition to that we still have 38 head of females on hand. I will not undertake to say exactly what they are worth, but \$7600, which is \$200 each, is an estimate."

"The only thing that the Holstein breeder seems to be afraid of in our state is that he will sell something that he doesn't want to sell. In other words, he is afraid to put a price upon an animal for fear he will sell her and thus lose her."

Regent Tells How Labor Is Dignified by Science

"A NATION'S standing and success are measured by the extent to which its people apply science to their business and industry," said Mrs. Clara H. Waldo, a member of the O. A. C. board of regents, in addressing the students. "It is this application of science to labor that has wiped out the last vestige of the disgrace of labor. The undemocratic ideal of education so long persisted in by this Nation has finally given place to the principles of education for service. We learned our lesson slowly, but we have learned it well—the book side of education is but one-half of education."

As a nation we yet have much to learn in domestic science and art. In France cooks are assigned places in the professions along with lawyers and doctors, and my late landlady of Paris has written me with real pride that she is going to become the bride of her chef. The Japanese also look upon housework as one of the most honorable professions, since the position implies trust in the integrity of the worker. Many highly educated Japanese prefer doing home work to commercial work, because it permits a more general application of scientific principles and it permits no makeshift work at all."

Coos County Leads United States.

(Special.)

County Agriculturist J. L. Smith, of Coos County, has received a letter from the office of dairy farming investigations, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., which states that Coos County now has more active cow-testing associations than any other county in the United States. This is a great showing, especially considering that this work was only started by Mr. Smith in Coos County during the Spring of 1914. Five cow-testing associations were organized with a total of 2840 cows. One or two other associations are soon to be formed. Those already in active operation are the Coos Bay, 535; Coos River, 535; Bandon and Lower Coquille River, 525; Myrtle Point, 570; Coquille Valley, 675.

The dairymen of Coos County are very enthusiastic over their progress in this matter and benefits already apparent shown by 78 testimonials already on file in the office of H. T. French, state leader of co-operative farm demonstration of the extension division.

Lane County Institutes Aid County Field Work

R. R. COGLON, county agriculturist for Lane County, states that as the result of the farmers' institutes or short courses in agriculture held in that county January 1 to 9, he has received many calls from farmers seeking information, especially in regard to good cows, purebred sires and drainage problems. The attendance in most cases, while not exceedingly large, was for the most part composed of farmers and their wives, who attended regularly all sessions of the institutes. Meetings were held at Junction City, Creswell, Cottage Grove, Willakenzie Grange Hall and at Eugene. The total attendance was over 1400. In addition to the lectures and demonstrations for farmers, other sessions were given by the domestic science department of the college. Several farmers have received information as to where they could procure purebred Jersey cattle, purebred hogs and good seed corn.

The question of soil acidity in Lane County has caused considerable activity in the application of various forms of lime. The majority of the farmers evidently are of the impression that in order to raise normal crops on acid soils it is necessary only to apply lime. During the farmers' institutes special attention was given to this matter and an attempt was made to impress upon the farmers the necessity of good drainage in order to secure the maximum benefit from applications of lime. The discussions of this matter had the immediate effect of a number of requests for personal visits and making of drainage plans for the installation of systems at an early date.

Beauty Appreciation.

When boys and girls on the farm are taught to recognize and appreciate the beauty of their natural surroundings, even of their tools and implements of every-day employment, there will be no further need of the back-to-the-land movement. The young people who should for their own and their country's good stay on the farms will generally do so. This, at least, is the view of many Oregon teachers who have asked F. D. McLouth, professor of art and architecture at the Agricultural College, to assist them with plans to have simple lessons of art appreciation taught in the general public schools of the state. The plans do not contemplate making art specialists but merely to teach the future citizens of the state to know and value the rich beauty of Nature and of well-made instruments of industry.

Apostle of Home Economics.

Definite arrangements have been made by the Oregon Agricultural College for daily talks and demonstrations by Mrs. Nellie Kedzie Jones during Farmers' Week, February 1 to 6. Mrs. Jones is probably the most widely known domestic science specialist in the world, having given demonstrations and lectures in nearly every state in the Union and also in the Canadian provinces and in England. She has without doubt done more than any other one person to make domestic science both popular and practical. Mrs. Jones is a very entertaining lecturer and talks as she demonstrates. A wealth of humor is mingled with good, practical sense and scientific knowledge. It is expected that a large number of Oregon women will avail themselves of the opportunity to hear this interesting woman.

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