

The Valley Agriculturist and His Work

Markets -- Crops -- Farm Home -- Livestock

The Diversified Interests of
Willamette Valley Farmers

Editor's Note

Mrs. Madeline Callin, Valley News editor of The Oregon Statesman, is also in charge of the market news of this paper. Each Sunday she writes concerning the agricultural news of interest to valley farmers. Contributions of merit are invited.

HOG MARKET ON ADVANCE

Rise of 50 Cents to \$1 Per Pound Recorded in Portland

PORTLAND, Ore., April 19.—(AP)—An advance of from 50 cents to a dollar in hog prices was the only upward movement in the general market list as the week ended. Other items in the list showed a downward tendency. Heavyweight hogs went for \$9 to \$10.50, and light-weights were quoted at \$10 to \$10.55, both up 50 cents. Feeders and stockers were \$11 to \$12, compared to \$10.00-11.50 at last week's close.

Heavy steers were 50 cents down to \$11.25-11.50, but cows were unchanged at \$9.50 to \$10 for good stuff, and vealers were unchanged at \$12-13.

Sheep were unchanged at \$9.25-10 for good to choice 84-lb. lambs, Spring lambs, good to choice, were finding ready sale at \$12.

Wheat hit the slide for a three-cent loss at the close, Big Bend being quoted at \$1.19. Soft white and western white were \$1.08, and other grades were \$1.06. Oats was unchanged at \$32. There was no change in hay prices, the last holding strong since the drop the week of April 5.

Butter was two cents down at the close, extras quoted at 39 cents, against a 41-cent top last week. Standards were 38, prime firsts were 37, and firsts 34. Eggs were unchanged.

The price range for 1929 Oregon hops closed up a little to 5 and 8 cents. The spread last week was 3 to 8.

There was no quotation posted for valley grade wool, but eastern Oregon variety was unchanged at 17-20 cent.

Prunes were rot at the same and 9 cents for pettes.

M'MINNVILLE TO HAVE DAIRY SHOW

MCMINNVILLE, April 19.—As a part of the nation and state-wide program to induce greater consumption of dairy products, local committees are pushing to completion plans for a dairy demonstration to be at the Lark theater here Wednesday afternoon.

The Women's club of McMinnville is cooperating with other women's organizations of the county, county schools, granges, commercial and industrial interests, the banks and county agent to make the movement here an outstanding success, according to Mrs. E. N. Tibbets, chairman in charge of general arrangements.

Mrs. Clara Miller Sexton, outstanding home economics demonstrator, who enjoys a wide acquaintance in Yamhill county through her leadership of a cooking school here three years ago, will have charge of the demonstration Wednesday. She will also lecture on "Dairy Products in the Diet."

NEW ENGINE ON WEST SIDE ESPEE

INDEPENDENCE, April 19.—A diesel electric coach replaced the Espee train, on the west side Southern Pacific Thursday morning. It is an 80 ft. combination of the same type as used on the Eugene-Marshfield line.

No change in the schedule will be made. At present there are but two trains daily running between Portland and Corvallis.

PECK IS SPEAKER

DALLAS, April 19.—Prof. E. M. Peck of Willamette university was the noon day speaker at the Friday meeting of the Kiwanis club. Prof. Peck talked about flowers and told of the origins of many, among them the dahlia as being a member of the sun flower family.

Next Friday noon the program will be in charge of R. R. Turner and the speaker will be George Wilbur, democratic candidate for governor.

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POA BULBOSA THRIVES HERE



On logged off land like this, too steep to cultivate, poa bulbosa has been grown with remarkable success. The above is a section of the Phillips and Wiscarver land near Whitson where the timber was removed, the land burned over and poa bulbosa seeded in the above.

Poa Bulbosa Comes North To Convert Waste Land Into Valuable Pasture

By Madeline L. Callin
To make two blades of grass grow where one grew before has been the ambition of enterprising farmers but of late a few with a vision of the future to guide them, have succeeded in making many blades grow where none grew before.

For more than a year I have been hearing about poa bulbosa, or winter blue grass, but a few days ago I had the opportunity of seeing what this wonder grass can really do.

South east of the village of Whitson, just off the west side highway, are steep hills from which the timber has just been removed. The hills are too steep to admit of cultivation and until a year ago the land lay waste.

R. W. Phillips and Ray Wiscarver set themselves the task of putting this land to use. They raise many sheep and conceived the idea that it might be turned into suitable pasture, since good spring water was available and the hills were securely fenced.

Search Leads South
They spent many months searching for a grass that would be suitable for use on these otherwise barren hills. They heard of poa bulbosa and finally went up to the Hanley and Hoover ranch near Medford to see the grass and learn of its possibilities.

They came home convinced that poa bulbosa was worth trying. The land was burned until the tiny purple bulblike seeds sowed in the ashes. No attempt was made at cultivation. The grass was broadcast by hand in October. Within a short time the tiny blue green blades appeared. During that winter and early spring sheep were turned in and the grass was pastured down to the ground. The sheep gained in weight and were in excellent condition when taken from the pasture although they had been given no other feed during the pasture period.

During the summer the grass lay dormant but last fall it began to grow again. I saw the pasture late in March of this year, just before sheep were again turned on it. The grass around the stumps was nearly a foot high, a vivid blue green that could be distinguished at a great distance, and was beginning to head out. Weeds were not apparent where the grass was growing and Mr. Phillips and Mr. Wiscarver told me that the bulbosa seems to crowd out the weeds and other grass.

Experiment Tried
A significant experiment was made on a small patch of the grass on one hillside. It was fenced off and stock kept from it during the pasture period. The grass grew very tall and luxuriant. Today there is scarcely a blade of it to be seen within this inclosure but all around the outside of the fence the bulbosa is as thick as it can grow. "You simply have to abuse the stuff," says Mr. Phillips. "Where we pastured it down to the ground it came up thicker than ever but

where it was left untouched it died out."

Phillips and Wiscarver have 65 acres now in bulbosa and expect to more than double this acreage during the coming year. On the level land of their farms they have seeded alfalfa in May pastured it during the summer, and seeded bulbosa on the same ground in October, without further cultivation. By this means they have secured almost a continuous pasture and have good crops of both bulbosa and alfalfa, the alfalfa in the summer and the bulbosa in the winter and early spring.

Poultry and livestock will go to great lengths to get at the grass. In one instance a band of sheep was being pastured on a fine field of another grass. On the other side of a deep creek was a field of poa bulbosa. Time and again the sheep would swim the creek to get at the bulbosa, although it was in its first year and not nearly such a heavy stand as the other grass.

A flock of turkeys on the Wiscarver farm fattened on bulbosa, mowing it off at a surprising rate.

Stock particularly like the dried seed bulbs of the grass and even the dried grass itself. The tiny bulbs, when dry, are very rich in oil, having a similar food value to oil meal. Tests have shown that a head of bulbosa contains food value equal to a head of barley.

Much has been said of the success of bulbosa in southern Oregon but if other farmers succeed with it as Phillips and Wiscarver have, the Willamette valley promises to become a dangerous rival to the Medford country in the growing of poa bulbosa.

HIGHWAY BEING REPAIRED

JEFFERSON, April 19.—A crew of state highway men are doing some much needed patching of the highway between Salem and Albany. They are making their headquarters at Jefferson. Later on other crews will follow which will put on a non-skid surface and also widen the highway.

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LILAC WEEK DATES SET

Famous Lilac Farm, Woodland, Washington, to Be Open April 23

WOODLAND, Wash., April 19.—Mrs. Hulda Klager, the lilac wizard of Woodland, whose lilac creations have made her world famous has set April 23 to April 30 as lilac week. The cool weather has held back the blossoming period so much that her more than a hundred varieties will not be in satisfactory condition until the above date.

A lover of lilacs, Mrs. Klager determined after reading of the successes of Luther Burbank to make experiments with her favorite flower with the result that she has a large variety of colors, with various types of doubles and singles. Some of the singles are very large, the blossom of the one named "Woodland" being a full inch in diameter.

Mrs. Klager's creations have made her gardens a mecca for lovers of lilacs and the many other flowers and shrubs found in profusion there. Some years ago she first appointed a lilac day but that has been outgrown until now she has a lilac week, and that has extended in the past to ten days or more with 4000 people registered in four consecutive days. And they come from all over the Union with a sprinkling from Canada, Germany and other foreign countries. LaMoine of France is the only other famous producer of lilacs in the world.

More than 200 people visited the gardens last Sunday only to be disappointed. Some came from as far away as Seattle and Salem, the warmer weather at the latter place leading them to expect a greater development than had actually occurred.

FARMERS FACING LARGE PROBLEMS

CORVALLIS, Ore., April 18.—(AP)—Oregon's agriculture, in common with other producing sections, has its problems that demand solution if the farmers are to get the utmost in returns, but it is meeting those issues and already has whipped, or is whipping a number of them, in the opinion of Dr. James T. Jardine, director of the Oregon State college experiment stations.

"Factors are different than of old," Dr. Jardine says, "transportation is speedier, refrigeration plays its part in the marketing of perishables from long distances, changing habits of clothing and diet also affect agriculture. The mechanical age in farming is just starting. The future will be radically different from that which exists now. We must be ready for it, and get in step with it."

WATER A CROP OF THE FOREST

Forests are not only generous friends of the farmer, the material they furnish, says the American Tree association. They are useful in the conservation of water for domestic use, for irrigation, navigation, and water power; they help to prevent floods and soil washing; they add greatly to the scenic beauty of our land.

They furnish a home for many of our birds and wild animals; they offer a wonderful place for healthful recreation.

Use More Butter Campaign Is On

CORVALLIS, April 19.—The Oregon Buttermakers' association has chosen "Let butter be the only spread for your hard-earned daily bread" as its slogan to be printed on parchment slips which will be inserted with each package of butter distributed by the creameries cooperating in the arrangement.

The slogan was first placed in a contest sponsored by the association and was written by the Miss V. Bunten, a Portland high school student, who works in a dairy in her spare time.

DAIRYMEN OF CANBY FORM ORGANIZATION

AURORA, April 19.—At last it seems the dairy men are going to wake up. There was conclusive evidence of this at a meeting held at Canby Friday night, when dairymen from southern Clackamas and northern Marion counties met for the purpose of forming a unit of a state-wide Co-operative Dairymen's association.

Knowing the value of such an organization to the farmer who needs relief, because of the prevailing low prices, and the cost of production being greater than the return, it is the idea of the organizers to raise the quality of the output to a high standard, and market the milk as a whole through one milk shed, doing away with extra commissions and the middle man. An association can bargain and get better prices as a whole than an individual.

This movement has strong backing. The chamber of commerce endorses it. Other organizations and prominent men are behind it, but the dairymen must form the organization for themselves, no one else can do it for them. There were representatives from the Tualatin district who explained the system to those present. About 40 per cent throughout the valley has signed up, Washington, Idaho and California have strong co-operative associations, and there is no reason why one in Oregon could not secure for the dairymen the same good results.

There will be another meeting soon and as many of the larger dairymen here have already signed, there is no doubt that Canby and this northern territory will be signed up 100 per cent and the same success will be had as in the other units.

Polk County Prunes Going To South Dakota

DALLAS, April 19.—T. J. Alslip, prune grower and farmer of the Cooper Hollow district near Dallas, is planning on taking a car load of prunes, back to South Dakota. Mr. Alslip plans to have the prunes processed and boxed with his own name stenciled on them. He will make the city of Brookings his headquarters and from there will sell the prunes direct to farmers and small stores throughout the district.

A display will be maintained in the store building with a chart showing the health value of prunes, recipes and literature. The state agricultural college is at Brookings, and Mr. Alslip lived there before coming to Oregon.

FLAX ACREAGE ON INCREASE

Aurora District Finds Flax a Profitable Rotation Crop

By Mrs. J. W. Sadler
AURORA, April 19.—Flax is looking good to the farmer as it seems to be a very favorable season since the germination is very early. Of the 6000 acres desired, 5700 have signed up and others are signing. Mackburg, Barlow, and Mt. Angel are raising more flax this year than the whole state raised in 1926 and in these sections there are 30 privately owned pulling machines. There are 100 acres in a unit, and one machine is required for each unit. There are three pulling machines in the Butterville and St. Paul districts and three more will be required. It is being demonstrated that there is more profit in raising flax on good soil than any grain. Ground that will raise 25 bushels of wheat or 40 bushels of oats to the acre should produce two tons of flax number two grade at \$35.00. A gross return of \$70.00 with the expense of production at \$35 would net the farmer about \$35 an acre.

Yields are Heavy
In the St. Paul district there has been raised as high as four tons of flax to the acre. Mrs. L. H. Bunning netted \$98 an acre on 25 acres and several others have equaled this. Dairymen and flax is a good combination. Dairymen need quite an acre of clover for pasturage. Flax follows clover, wheat or oats follows flax and then one cultivated crop such as corn or potatoes, next barley and back to clover and then flax again. Flax does best on a clover sod because it is cleaner.

The time will come when the average farm of 80 acres will produce from eight to ten acres of flax because it is a wonderful rotation crop. The fine fiber roots penetrate the soil from 22 to 24 inches thus giving it sunlight and drainage. Many have an idea that flax impoverishes the soil but it has proven otherwise. There has been as high as 75 bushels of wheat to the acre, 90 bushels of oats and 90 bushels of barley following the flax in the St. Paul and Butterville districts. The flax supply for this year is assured. Flax in this district is being raised for the fiber but in many places it has proven profitable as a seed crop.

Garbage Is Not Welcome At Rickey

By Lillie Magee
RICKEY, April 19.—Some very unprincipled person, or very thoughtless person, has again strewn rubbish along the highways in this vicinity.

Not only is it scattered on the side roads, but also dumped along the main highway.

The Rickey people take pride in the appearance of their places and keep the grass along the highway cut by donation and its very discouraging to wake up and find a lot of unsightly trash along the front of your farm.

For a very small sum the Salem incinerator will take care of the garbage and this is a much easier way of disposing of it, though perhaps not as exciting, but the people of the community feel that it is not a fair proposition to take their tin cans to the incinerator and then have to pick up someone else's. There is a fine against this offense and the county court is ready and willing to prosecute.

LIBERTY 4-H CLUBS DEMONSTRATE WORK

LIBERTY, April 19.—The eighth grade division of the 4-H cooking club held a demonstration at the Liberty hall Friday evening, April 19.

Robert Cunningham and Edward Haldy gave a demonstration of cookies; Verda Raina and Wilma Westenhouse made an angel food cake.

The exhibits were divided into three divisions: Arthur Blingehimer and Robert Cunningham and Carl Coffee won first, second and third place in the cookie division.

In the cake division Stanley Neuens won first, Henlen Murhammer second and Wilma Westenhouse, third.

In the bread division there was only one entry made by Verda Raina. The judges were John Dasch, Mrs. E. C. Free and Mrs. Ray Cleveland.

Labish Celery Season Is Two Weeks Earlier

HAZEL GREEN, April 19.—James Yada has planted an acre of early celery, the season is two weeks earlier than usual.

There are many acres of lettuce planted, looking fine. Mr. Yada is gardening on Labish Meadows at the M. L. Jones farm.

PEARCY'S LEASE WALNUT LAND

Matthes Acreage and Claxton Secured on Four Year Contract

CLAXTON, April 19.—Knight Percy and Harry Percy of Percy Bros. Nursery company of Salem, have leased the Matthes' acreage here under a four-year contract and will use it for nursery purposes.

This tract contains soil of superior qualities and upland is better for nursery walnut growing than sandy bottom land, because the latter causes the taproot to penetrate to too great a depth for successful digging when the trees are ready for transplanting, according to Knight Percy.

INDEPENDENCE HAS TEACHERS HIRED

INDEPENDENCE, April 19.—The teachers for high school for the following year are as follows: Principal Paul E. Robinson, Coach Homer Dixon and Mrs. Dixon, were retained. New teachers will be Miss Marguerite Looney Jefferson, English and Miss Fern Bensenbark, Roseburg, domestic science art and Miss Dorothy Young Meadford, commercial.

There is still one vacancy to be filled, a Smith-Hughes instructor. Will Mattison was retained as janitor for the high school, and W. T. House for the training school.

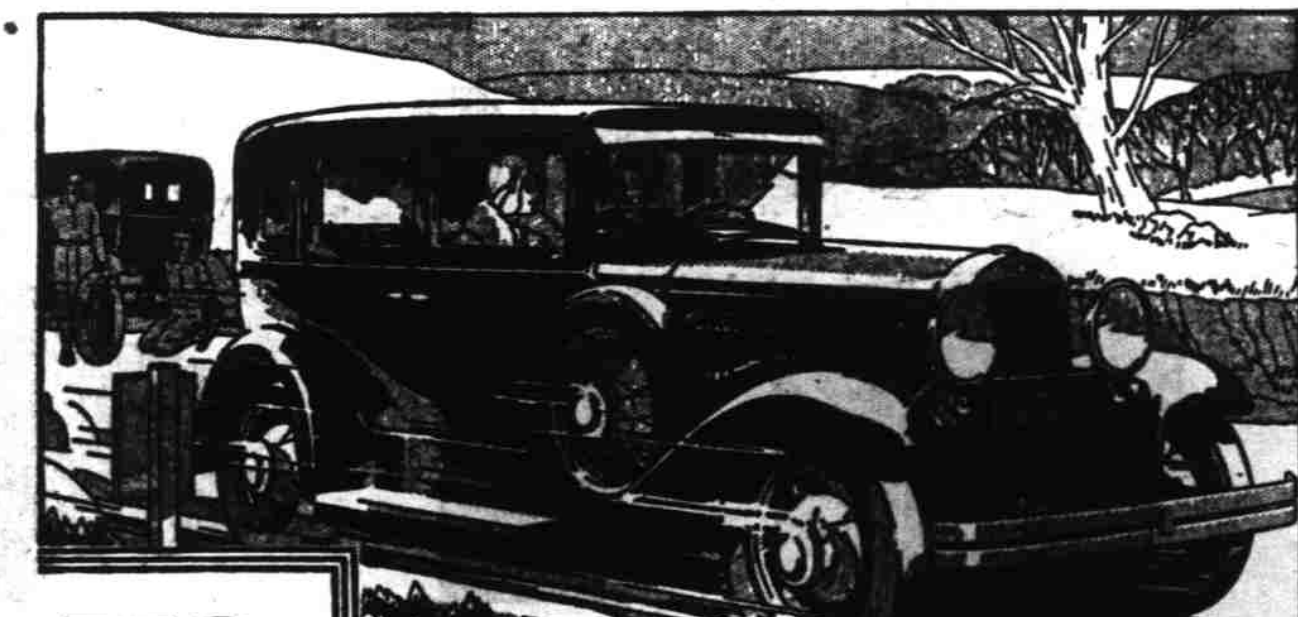
WHEN TO CUT THE TREE

Rate of growth and yield in any type of forest will vary considerably with the soil and moisture conditions and the degree of intensity with which forestry practice is carried out. Studies of growth in the Pacific Northwest, says the American Tree association, have thus far been confined chiefly to the more important timber types. The minimum rotation (age at which the trees are cut) in the Douglas fir region has been determined as 60 to 80 years.

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