

The Valley Agriculturist and His Work

Markets -- Crops -- Farm Home -- Livestock

The Diversified Interests of
Willamette Valley Farmers

Editor's Note

Mrs. Madeline Calkin, 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.

FARM WORK IS WELL ADVANCED

Operations From Week to Month Ahead in United States

In general, farm operations in the United States are well advanced with spring work a week to a month ahead of last year when the season started late. Except locally with respect to a few commodities, crop conditions are reported favorable. The first cutting of hay is well under way in the southwest and 1930 products are rapidly replacing old crop commodities in the markets.

Domestic demand conditions for agricultural products throughout continue somewhat unfavorable because of the decline in farm prices has apparently been checked. Market conditions for American agricultural products abroad continued unsatisfactory in March and April. Unemployment in Europe remains largely with respect to monetary policies which have contributed to business depressions in Japan and China.

Easy money is a world-wide condition just as trade reactions and unemployment are a world-wide. Recent call money rates in New York have averaged around 3 1/2 per cent and as low as 2 per cent, in contrast to average rates around 9 1/2 per cent and up to 20 per cent a year ago. Business money rates averaged around 10 per cent lower than last year at this time. Low rates for money are still viewed as promising future business revival and improved demand conditions.

The probable volume of agricultural production continues to receive much attention in agricultural and business circles. Recent trade bulletins contain such comments as "It is to be hoped that farmers will avoid overproduction, thereby sustaining or increasing their purchasing power, by balancing production with demand." "Upon the average commodity prices have ceased to decline." "But unless there is some effective organization for the control of agricultural production it is not to be expected that prices can be permanently held up and the problem is to find a way for effecting such a control and inducing farmers to recognize and accept it. This will probably take ten or fifteen years."

"The Farm Board feels that you and each of you (six million farm units) will be helped in doing your share of this task (balancing production with demand) by consulting the Federal and state outlook reports," said Chairman Legge of the Federal Farm Board. "I commend them to your careful consideration."

"It seems clear," says R. K. Bliss, director of extension in Iowa, "that if outlook information is to get results it must be gotten into the hands of all the farmers that have need of it."

But, in 1929, only 31 state agricultural colleges reported the distribution of any outlook information and the total number of reports furnished farmers was estimated at only 250,000—around one report for each 24 farmers in the country. The colleges may do a little better in 1930.

In Oregon good progress was made with farm work in April and conditions were generally favorable for crops and livestock. Fearful of crop and livestock, farmers are expected to be light. Apples are apparently setting well and a good cherry crop is generally expected although some reports indicate heavy dropping in western counties. Frequent rains were of benefit to pastures and ranges, but the outlook for irrigation water and grass later in the season continues unfavorable in some localities. There will be an increased number of pullets reared, but turkey production seems likely to be curtailed slightly. Sheepmen have been favored with a good lamb crop but market conditions for lambs and wool are discouraging. Dairymen are showing more inclination to cull out low producers.

Seed and fiber flax was seeded early and is looking good on somewhat increased acreage. Clover in western counties gives promise of good hay and seed yields. The acreage is somewhat reduced, however, both in western and eastern Oregon except possibly Malheur county. More alkali and less alfalfa seed production is expected. Alfalfa seed production will probably increase again this year in Oregon, and more wheat and rye seed may be harvested for seed because of the favorable hay prospects in western Oregon. The winter Oregon wheat crop will undoubtedly be sub-normal and the prospect is not good for wild meadow and late hay crops in much of that area.

DAIRY SHOWS PLANNED



Four Regional Showings to Be Held in United States

The showing of fine dairy cattle during the 1930 show season should be greatly stimulated by the special program announced by the American Jersey Cattle Club. This program calls for four great regional Jersey shows to be held in four divisions of the United States. Special premiums and awards have been provided to insure success of each of these shows. The purpose of these regional shows is to bring together exhibits from the great dairy herds in the country so that breeders and dairymen may have the opportunity of seeing the most outstanding animals of the breed at some convenient point in each territory without traveling too great a distance.

In 1929 four regional shows were held for the first time and these shows met with remarkable success in each case. In quality and numbers of cattle shown these exhibitions exceeded anything of this sort held in the past. New locations for the 1930 regional shows have been selected in accordance with the policy of holding these shows in conjunction with different fairs that have suitable equipment and are aggressively aiding the development of dairy cattle exhibits.

The four regional shows this year will be held in conjunction with the Pacific Slope Dairy exposition, the Minnesota State fair, the Texas State fair and the New York State fair.

The Pacific Slope Dairy exposition of the western regional show will be held at Oakland, California, Washington, Montana.

RANGE AND STOCK CONDITIONS GOOD

Western ranges and livestock showed a gain in condition due to favorable weather during April, and moisture relieved the dry situation in the southwest according to the monthly livestock and range report issued by the United States Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates.

Range feed was greatly improved by rains late in April. Prospects for late spring and summer feed is good except in areas where recent rains have not overcome long periods of drought. Ranges in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, Utah and Nebraska are early with a generally good supply of feed and ample moisture except for dry spots in southern Wyoming, southern Colorado and central and southwestern Idaho.

Range feed in Arizona and New Mexico is good with few dry spots in east central and southeastern New Mexico. Moisture relieved the dry situation in Oregon and Washington, but rain is needed to insure later feed. The long drought and short feed situation in Texas and Oklahoma was broken by late April rains and feed will improve rapidly. More moisture is needed in western Texas to overcome the long drought. California temperatures were favorable but rainfall limited. Range feed is plentiful, but water and summer feed prospects are poor where the rainfall has been light. The condition of ranges is 89 per cent of normal compared with 85 per cent last month, 84 per cent a year ago and the five-year average of 87.4 per cent.

Cattle have gained in flesh with early and better feed and are generally in good condition except that cattle in Texas and Oklahoma are a little thin with a few thin cattle in parts of Montana and North Dakota. With better feed cattle in these areas should make rapid gains. Cattle in the other states have wintered in good condition and fall crop prospects are generally good except in states where short feed and severe winter conditions were hard on the cows. There has been little trading and but few cattle have changed hands in the south-

TREE FRUITS LOOK GOOD

Western States Expect Excellent Crop During Coming Season

"Oregon tree fruit prospects are generally excellent on May 1. Apples and pears are particularly promising. Severe winter freezes on peaches has materially reduced peach prospects in Wasco county and apricots have also been damaged to a large extent in this area. Peaches in southern Oregon have escaped serious frost damage and prospects are fair to good. Prune prospects which appeared excellent following an abundance of bloom now appear doubtful with failure to set. Lowland prunes are particularly disappointing and higher orchards although better than those on lowlands are below average. Although top early to fall definitely about the set of apples, there was an abundance of bloom in all sections and unusual efforts were made to insure pollination. Weather during pollination was fair. There has been no frost damage reported on apples. Pears are setting so thick in principal pear sections that thinning will be necessary. Abundant bloom, perfect weather for pollination, and no frost damage to date combine to make pear prospects at the present time the best on record."

(Note)—Since May 1 there has been considerable cold rain, with some hail in certain localities. There has been some frost in western Oregon and western Washington since May 1, with some damage to strawberries, but tree fruits do not appear to have been affected. However, prune crop prospects have declined, and the 1930 crop is now variously estimated at 35 to 50 per cent of normal throughout the dried prune area of western Oregon and Clark county, Wash. Eastern Oregon cherries are near normal. Western Oregon, somewhat better last year.

Washington's orchards will produce generous crops this coming season, according to growers' reports. Barring belated visit from Jack Frost and a worse than average drop, apple and pear production may fully equal that of 1928, with good chance of being larger than that year. Pollination period has been distinctly favorable. A tide of white blossoms is billowing over Wenatchee and Yakima valleys. Optimism is in the breast of every grower. But peaches and apricots in scattered localities, because of severe winter injury are expected to yield only light crops. A cherry note marks the cherry prospect in upper Yakima valley and around Wenatchee. Full crops are expected to be harvested there. But reports from Benton and Walla Walla and Astoria counties say that the bright prospects prevailing earlier in the season has been dimmed lately by the discovery of severe winter injury to the cherry trees, and hardly more than half a crop may be realized in those counties.

Early indications of a near normal prune crop in Clark county, (dried fruit area) have been reduced to about 50 per cent of normal. The heavy bloom did not set as well as seemed probable, and there has been a rather heavy "shedding" of the smaller fruit.

Idaho (J. H. Jacobson, Agr. Statistician) "Orchards in the commercial districts of Idaho were in full bloom May 1 and judging by the bloom, prospects are excellent for good crops of apples, pears, prunes and cherries. Peaches will be very short, due to severe winter injury to the trees. The fruit season is about two weeks earlier than in 1929. No frost damage has occurred so far, but the average date of last killing frost is May 14 to 19 in the Weiser and Council Bluffs valleys, May 9 to 13 in the Boise valley and around May 23 in the Twin Falls district. Weather was good for the dormant sprays and conditions were generally favorable for pollination."

"In the western counties (Boise, Fayette, Weiser and Emmet valleys) the weather has been very satisfactory up to May 1 with no damaging frost. Fruit season ten days to two weeks earlier than last year. Heavy bloom of cherries and pears. Apples indicate a crop of 90 per cent to 95 per cent of last year's crop, but prune bloom is not so heavy, indicating possibly 85 per cent of 1929 crop. Peach blossoms were scarce and less than 10 per cent of last year's crop is expected."

Fine Jerseys to Be Sold May 20

By Ben C. Hall

Jersey breeders who plan to exhibit at the Spring Jersey show the latter part of the month, and dairy farmers who are interested in show type and heavy production cows will be given the opportunity to secure such registered Jersey at the auction sale of Ben C. Hall at Gervais on Tuesday, May 20.

Mr. Hall has shown at the spring shows the past few years and had planned to make an exhibit again this year; but due to an extensive planting of strawberries which has reduced his hay and corn land he has decided to dispose of his herd. Some years ago the Halls purchased several head of choice foundation females and by the use of the best herd sires have developed one of the best small herds in this section. The blood lines are those of St. Maves Lad, Rinda Lad and Oxford You'll Do.

The herd was recently tested and found free from abortion and has been tested many times by the state for T. B. The cattle will be sold on terms of one third down sale day and the balance in twelve monthly payments for the benefit of those who wish credit. The sale is under the management of Paul C. Adams and Sandy Keith will be auctioneer. A free lunch will be served at noon, and breeders are expected from all over the state. The Hall farm is three miles southwest of Gervais.

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IRRIGATION WILL BE DEMONSTRATED

Sam Brown Farm at Gervais To Be Scene of Showing in June

OREGON STATE COLLEGE, Corvallis, May 17—A field demonstration of supplemental irrigation in the Willamette valley is planned for early in June on the Sam H. Brown place at Gervais where installation of a distribution system from the irrigation well is nearing completion.

A flow in excess of two second feet or 900 gallons a minute has been attained from the new well with the installation of an electrically driven pump. From the pump a system of concrete underground pipes is being laid to carry the water over the 35-acre blackberry field. This is a 12-inch pipe line running 8200 feet in one direction from the well and nearly as far in the other to provide water for a nut orchard and truck fields.

This well is the first of several contemplated to be sunk as experimental projects under the supervision of the Oregon experiment station. A revolving fund for this purpose has been raised for business interests of the state. The test wells are located, however, only where the owner agrees to take over the project after it is developed successfully at the actual construction cost.

Chairman Legge's Remedy
Chairman Legge of the Federal Farm Board proposes the following question and explanation: "If growers get more money by raising four bushels of wheat where they are now raising five, why should they destroy the market by raising the extra bushel? A 20 percent reduction would make the tariff effective but the 10 percent we are now suggesting would in our judgment put the trade on a fairly healthy basis. If farmers are going ahead trying to produce an additional surplus on the basis that some way will be found to take care of it on a fair price level another year they are going to be mistaken."

Grain prices continued to decline in futures during the past week and reached new low points for wheat and corn, but yesterday wheat took an upward turn stimulated by adverse crop reports from southwestern states. Following statistics are gleaned from recent government reports: The acreage sown to winter wheat in Oregon last fall was 896,000 acres, but since then 54,000 acres have been abandoned through various causes, leaving 842,000 acres, the yield of which is estimated at 19 bushels per acre, or 15,998,000 bushels. This compares with 19,712,000 bushels harvested last year and with a 5-year average of 17,454,000 bushels. In the United States 43,434,000 acres were sown last fall and 38,676,000 acres are left for harvest. The yield is estimated at 625,070,000 bushels, compared with 578,336,000 last year and a 5-year average of 547,785,000 bushels.

Some damage to potatoes and tomatoes has resulted from the recent light frosts. Mr. White reported, but no fruit had been hurt. A short fruit crop is expected, however, according to the agent, particularly the prune crops.

McMINNVILLE, May 17—County Agent S. T. White has been examining orchards and farms in various parts of the county since the recent hail storms and found that the damage was not as great as it was at first feared. "The fruit was as a whole pretty well set on the trees," Mr. White said, "and little of it was hurt although a few cherries were split open. Some damage to potatoes and tomatoes has resulted from the recent light frosts. Mr. White reported, but no fruit had been hurt. A short fruit crop is expected, however, according to the agent, particularly the prune crops."

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actual construction cost. Irrigation is a gathered through many years by the soil department of the experiment station indicates that about 500,000 acres of land in the Willamette valley will respond profitably to supplemental irrigation. Certain sections of this area are known to have abundant ground water supplies at practical depths.

GRAIN PRICES SHOW CONTINUED DECLINE

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Fruit Not Hurt By Hail Storm

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