

The Valley Agriculturist and His Work

Markets -- Crops -- Farm Home -- Livestock

The Diversified Interests of Willamette Valley Farmers

Editor's Note

Mrs. Madeline Curtis, 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.

POLK FARMERS STUDY SOILS

Irrigation and Drainage Projects Prove Profitable on Farms

DALLAS, July 5.—Irrigation for the production of valuable crops, drainage to reduce crop losses and lengthen the growing season and home water supply systems are projects that local farmers and the county agents office are working together on. Several farmers are laying out irrigation systems at the present time and drainage has been receiving considerable attention throughout the county, particularly during the past winter months. Using a surveyor's level, County Agent J. R. Beck has laid out preliminary grades for irrigation work on four farms, a home water supply on one farm and a drainage project for a group of four farmers during the past few days. Instruments for this work are made available to all county agents through the state college extension service.

Sylvester Tilgner of the Guthrie community is just completing a new home and is planning on piping water from a spring 650 feet up the adjoining hill. In order to lay the pipe so that there would be a regular flow through low spots that would fill up with silt he asked Mr. Beck to bring out his level. It was found that there was nearly 18 feet of fall or enough to put the water into the upstairs of the home. Mr. Tilgner is laying a two-inch pipe.

The first irrigation work was on the John Eisele farm near Buell. Mr. Eisele has a permit to irrigate ten acres and he plans on pumping water from Mill creek. One field will be on the side near the house and the other across nearer the Buell school-house. For the first field Mr. Eisele will have to lift the water practically 50 feet. According to Mr. Beck this is a little bit higher than is generally recommended to lift water for most crops such as clover and alfalfa. Experimental data places a maximum lift for these crops at 40 feet and for row crops at 70 or 80 feet.

Polk and Yamhill John Lower down on Mill creek, C. W. Brandstetter and John Vincent are members of a newly organized company composed of both Polk and Yamhill county farmers who will utilize an old power ditch for getting water to their several places. Mr. Vincent has almost completed preparing a five acre field. On his recent visit Mr. Beck laid out the field in two divisions about 200 feet wide. The water runs in an open ditch along the side of the field and through the center and is flooded out onto each of these segments in turn.

Mr. Brandstetter is doing a similar job on a six acre field. In about two weeks Mr. Beck will go back and give final levels so that the fields will be just right before they are seeded. This type of preparation saves much time and labor after the crop is seeded. Both of these men are dairymen and are planning on seeding Ladino clover and grasses for pasture purposes. This is the pasture crop that has made such high returns under irrigation here in the valley.

A fourth farmer who is preparing for irrigating Ladino clover is J. D. Van Well of Dallas, route one. Mr. Van Well is going to pump water from Salt creek. To start with he is planning on only a small field of one and a half acres to practice on. Similar levels place. Here too, the field will be divided into segments that are easily flooded. An interesting feature will be the building of a ditch on top of the ground so as to keep the water above the general level of the adjacent field. This is done by building up a side of the field a foot or so higher than natural and making the ditch along this ridge.

North and west of Rickreall and the Pacific highway a group of farmers owning land adjacent to Basket Slough are laying plans to lower the channel of this water-way so as to drain their land. J. H. Harlan, Fred Auer, C. E. Kirkpatrick, John Covill, John Koser and others own land that is flooded by the flow from Basket Slough and are interested in the reclamation of that land which is now mostly unsuited for cropping.

There are several hundred acres in this body of land which lays practically level. It is of the Cove clay type. Grade levels run recently by Beck showed that at two miles from the Pacific highway upstream to where the county road crosses in section 14, there is a fall of 5.2 feet. By deepening, widening and straightening out it is thought that the fall is adequate for largely draining this entire area.

Slough is Deepened From work already done by several of the farmers they have found that by using plows, caterpillar tractors and a larger grade of the slough can be quickly and easily deepened and widened during the summer and when there is no water in it. J. H. Harlan and John Coville accompanied Mr. Beck on the recent survey and expressed themselves as believing that they could readily complete the project. Work already done on the upper end of the two mile stretch has enabled Mr. Kirkpatrick to plow and prepare for cropping a field hitherto uncropped. The drainage of this area will mean the end of several duck shooting sites that have been used for several years past.

EAR MUFFS ARE COMING BACK



A Dorset ram, owned by Floyd Fox of the Waldo Hills Stock Farm. The Dorsets are gaining in popularity as a two purpose sheep. There is no extra charge it seems for the special decoration over the ears.

Waldo Hills Farm Owned By Floyd Fox Is Famous For Prize Winning Sheep

Sheep breeders from all parts of the Willamette valley and southern Washington will gather in at the Floyd Fox farm in the Waldo Hills on Saturday, July 12 for the first sheep picnic ever held in Marion county. The Waldo Hills Stock Farm, owned by Floyd Fox is an ideal setting for such a gathering and visitors will find that there are more than 400 head of sheep on the place. The beautiful home is situated in a grove of fir trees that tower majestically above the rolling hills. A low rock wall surrounds the yard and set in the wall, just opposite the porch is an open air fire place that promises many cheerful hours on chilly evenings. A flower garden at the other side of the yard contains not only beautiful flowers, but a pool, bird baths and other attractive details.

Floyd Fox has won recognition all over the west for the fine quality of his sheep. Three breeds are raised at the farm, Shropshire, Dorset and Oxford. All three are two purpose sheep and are valuable both for the fine quality of wool they produce and for mutton. Until one has seen them it is impossible to believe the number of silver cups and blue and purple ribbons that the Fox sheep have won. A faint idea of the number may be gathered from the fact that Mrs. Fox has a large robe, larger than the average size bed quilt, that is made entirely from blue ribbons won by the sheep in one season. Mind you the robe is all ribbons, too, no extra pieces of silk set between them. Incidentally the robe is a beautiful bit of work, the ribbons stitched together with gold thread and the whole lined with gold satin.

Then there is an array of silver trophy cups that would put the average athletic club show case to shame. All of which goes to prove that the Waldo Hills farm sheep are winners wherever they go. An interesting program has been planned for July 12 which will include judging contests by both adult and boys and girls teams, showmanship contests, shearing demonstrations and a number of other features. Prominent speakers from Oregon and Washington will be present and at noon Mr. and Mrs. Fox will treat their guests to a lunch which will feature mutton sandwiches. A general invitation has been issued to all who are interested in sheep to attend the picnic.

ENTERTAIN GUARD OFFICERS North and west of Rickreall and the Pacific highway a group of farmers owning land adjacent to Basket Slough are laying plans to lower the channel of this water-way so as to drain their land. J. H. Harlan, Fred Auer, C. E. Kirkpatrick, John Covill, John Koser and others own land that is flooded by the flow from Basket Slough and are interested in the reclamation of that land which is now mostly unsuited for cropping.

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ELECTRICITY IS BUG DESTROYER

Insect Pests Exterminated by Unique Method of Wire Arrangement

CONWAY, Ark., (AP)—The bugs are on the run on Russell T. Cole truck farm. A former naval radio operator turned farmer, Cole has reached into the air and into the earth for electrical forces in an attempt to drive insects from his fruit trees and vegetables. By means of antennae and underground wiring attached to trees and plants on his 25-acre farm Cole says he has obtained virtually 100 per cent growth from seeds, his tomatoes, greens and cabbages, he says, have become immune from insect pests. Constalks on Cole's farm near here have grown 15 feet high under adverse weather conditions which affected crops of neighboring farmers.

He attributes this condition to the system of wires that traverse his five-acre orchard and 20-acre truck farm. Wires attached to the trees form the antennae. Metal pipes sunk into the earth provide what corresponds to the "ground" for radio sets, and also make contacts for plants. As Cole explains his system, antennae run north and south, collect magnetic earth currents and deliver them to growing plants. There is no mechanical source of power. Seed germination, Cole said, has been speeded up from four to ten days ahead of plants not using the wires. He lists increased production and less loss from poor fruits and vegetables as other benefits of his system.

You will find a delightful array of clematis at 1015, 1055, and 1145 High street. A good example of what hollyhocks accomplish is at 1164 South 12th street. 855 Market street has a display of roses that is a hollyhock's back of this.

895 Summer street has a lovely clump of clematis growing over the side porch. Attractive catalpa trees in last block of South Church street which meets Bush's pasture. 1805 South Church display of continuous rockeries and lovely panels. 395 South 16th street, large Elder tree in bloom. Also roses in gay assortment. 566 North 17th street, sweet peas. 871 North 17th street, opium poppies, lillium crocus and regal lilies in a delightful border.

Great calla lily on porch of 992 Shipping. Unusually lovely porch boxes 938 Shipping street; deep purple, fringed petunias, old rose geranium, and at the side of the house is a long row of tall sweet peas. One of the most beautiful displays of roses in Salem is at 1435 North Summer street. Dorothy Perkins roses makes a complete frame for the porch. 1265 North Summer has a gay bush of climbing roses over the fireplace.

Mining added approximately \$400,000,000 to the wealth of California in 1929. Honey is being tried as a flavor for ice cream in Michigan.

Motion pictures stressing safety are shown to lead miners in a "theatre" 500 feet underground at Bonne Terre, Mo.

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Potato Grading Law Applies to New Stock Also

Some growers and dealers are wishing to maintain the view that the potato grading and marking law does not apply to new potatoes—the early ones—which are now coming into market. That is a mistake. The law applies to ALL potatoes sold or offered for sale in Oregon. They must be graded and their containers marked so that buyers have notice of the grade which they are buying. The law is operating to the benefit of the grower of high class potatoes, and is particularly popular with family consumers. The potato crop is unusually heavy this year and stocks are expected to be heavy all over the state.

CREAMERY GROUPS HAVE ORGANIZED

T. L. Olsen of Eugene Heads New Interstate Association

A new organization to be known as the Interstate Associated Creameries has appeared in Oregon with T. L. Olsen, manager of the Eugene Farmers Creamery as president. So far two associations, the Eugene creamery and the Lower Columbia Dairy association have enrolled in the organization and more are expected to join soon. The purpose of the Interstate Associated Creameries will be to act as a central marketing agency for all Oregon co-operative dairy associations, all of which are invited to join. The importance of the new marketing agency is that it will give cooperatives of Oregon a united front in marketing that will enable them to have much more influence in governing the price of their products than they have under the present system, with co-operatives competing against each other in marketing. High Grade Butter The co-operatives produce practically all the high grade butter in Oregon, which will give the new agency added influence. Similar organizations are functioning in the other two Pacific coast states of Washington and California, and the Oregon agency hopes to work out trade connections with these neighboring agencies that will result in close harmony among the dairy marketing agencies of the entire Pacific coast. The details of handling the marketing work remain to be settled and it will be about a month before the agency begins to function actively. The efforts of the agency will be extended toward bringing all Oregon co-operatives and those of southwestern Washington into the agency. The "interstate" title is given because the local dairy association includes both the Oregon and Washington shores of the Columbia river in its territory.

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WOODRUFFS ARE WELL SITUATED

Former Keizer Couple Now Have Attractive Home Near Eugene

MRS. G. N. THOMPSON KEIZER, July 5.—Ten years ago there lived in West Keizer a highly respected couple, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Woodruff, who deemed it advisable to sell their large farm here and seek a location elsewhere on a smaller tract. Their only daughter being the wife of Frank Jenkins, editor of the Eugene Register, they decided to move near Eugene to be near their children and grandchildren. They purchased ten acres of land in a splendid location on the west side highway about three miles out of Eugene. After living there five years their house burned to the ground, but they were not daunted for out of it has come their beautiful modern home with every convenience. A sun parlor faces the highway where Mrs. Woodruff grows many species of ferns. The driveway leading to the garage is covered with a portico-cochere and a veranda at the entrance to the house. Flowers and shrubbery of many kinds adorn the outside of the house and also form a beautiful border around a well-kept lawn. Mrs. Woodruff also has large flower gardens of dahlias, delphinium, snap dragon, sinningia, marigolds and michaelmas daisies. Chickens Profitable Mr. Woodruff's hobby is White Leghorn chickens of which he makes a specialty. He has three large buildings to house them. In one building he had 700 laying hens from which he gathers over

400 eggs daily, collecting them four times a day. In another building he had 1000 pullets almost ready for laying. He has every equipment necessary for caring for them, both in clear and rainy weather. He had just disposed of all but four of the young fry. Besides raising chickens Mr. Woodruff has six acres of evergreen blackberries from which he expects an abundant harvest, also a number of cherry trees which were full. The reporter had the privilege of dining with this estimable couple while attending the G. A. R. encampment in Eugene and enjoyed their hospitality. They were still interested in Keizer and was glad to hear of all the improvements in this community.

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Irrigated Beans Promise Good Crop At West Stayton

The West Stayton irrigation district has just finished the first irrigation of the bean crop for this season. More than 250 acres of beans are planted in this vicinity, mostly of the Kentucky Wonder and Blue Lake varieties. The beans look particularly good this year according to the growers and a large crop is expected. Bean yields in this district are always heavy, one grower having a canner record of eight tons to the acre one year. Cautiflower and tomatoes are other important crops in this irrigated area. Canners at Salem and Stayton take care of the beans and tomato crop while the cauliflower is handled by the Hurst - Root company through the West Stayton Cauliflower Growers association.

The hot weather is here and all the creameries know what that means, namely, that some of the cream will be hot weather cream. This kind of cream which does not make the best butter is sour, somewhat fermented and sometimes lumpy. It is graded out of the general receipts at the creamery and churned into a second grade of butter which finds a market, of course, but at a lower price. There are very few more perfect food products than milk as it comes from the cow. As far as quality is concerned, the cow herself has standardized this product. Therefore, the difference in grade and in quality which comes about in the milk and the cream from it, is due to the difference in the care given to its handling on the farm.

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PRODUCERS SHOULD CARE FOR CREAM

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