

The Valley Agriculturist and His Work

Markets - Crops - Farm Home - Livestock

The Diversified Interests of Willamette Valley Farmers

Editor's Note

Mrs. Madeline Cullen, Valley News editor of The Oregon Statesman, is also in charge of the market news in this issue. Her Sunday edition writes concerning the agricultural news of interest to valley farmers. Contributions of merit are invited.

POULTRYMEN OPTIMISTIC

Industry Will Recover From Economic Depression Is Belief

Editor's note: The present economic depression is perhaps nowhere more evident than in the poultry business and many poultrymen are becoming discouraged. That those who have had experience in this work are confident that the industry will "pull out" is evidenced by the following interview with G. M. Smith, owner of Salem Chickeries. Mr. Needham's opinions are the result of years of experience in the industry.

Several have asked us "What are the prospects for poultrymen this coming year?" This is our reply to this question:

Those who are in the poultry business temporarily will not doubt hesitate about buying baby chicks this year. The reason for this is of course the low prices for poultry and eggs that have prevailed in the last few months. Many no doubt will stay out entirely because of this fact. To those who are established and have their equipment, we would positively suggest that they buy the usual number of chicks this spring, stay right, and reap the returns when the cycle swings back to prosperity... which it is bound to do.

Nothing Can Take Place of Egg

The raising of poultry is a billion dollar industry. The hen produces nearly a tenth of the total farm income of America. Nothing can take the place of the egg, and no substitute has ever been found for it, and never will. It has been proven conclusively that there always will be a good profit in keeping good poultry under good conditions. By good conditions we mean good houses and good sanitation.

The 10,000,000 pounds of dried eggs imported into this country in 1930 was largely instrumental in bringing on the surplus this year. The National Poultry Council is right now seeking higher tariffs on dried eggs, and no doubt will succeed. As soon as this is accomplished you can see what effect it will have on the poultry industry of America.

Advertising Poultry Products

The \$100,000 advertising campaign of the International Baby Chick association is helping greatly to increase the per capita consumption of poultry and eggs.

We know the poultry industry is headed for prosperity, and that those who are prepared will be the ones who will prosper, because of the better prices that are bound to come after a period of low prices such as we have had this year.

Radishes and Onions Are Of Importance in Early Spring Gardening Plans

It would be rare indeed to imagine anybody starting a vegetable garden without planting a row of radishes. Everybody likes them. They are a year around vegetable. They are always growing there somewhere for the market, but how much sappier they are when fresh pulled in the home garden.

Anybody in the world can grow radishes, even when they are planted so thickly that none of them ought to do anything, a few will crowd their way to edible maturity. The one chief and universal fault in planting radishes is that they will be planted too thickly and because they are such a common obliging vegetable, few gardeners will take the trouble to thin them properly in order to realize a full and high grade crop.

Radishes should be sown thinly and if not thinned they should be thinned when well above the ground to give each radish two inches of room. Then you will have real radishes. If you want to make one good garden resolution resolve to plant radish seed thinly. Plant it in rows to accomplish this.

There are a great number of radish varieties all very much alike and varying little in quality. The chief difference is in color and shape and also in season of maturity. You can't go very far on any radish but you might as well get the best while about it, and Crimson Giant ranks among the best.

There are others a few days earlier but not enough so to make much difference. They, too, are usually smaller in size and hardly offer a good mouthful. Crimson Giant is one of the popular globe-shaped, bright red types and it offers at least two good uses. It is one of the best for the table, and a number of these little radishes known as the French breakfast type, but Crimson Giant is the peer of them all.

The radish can be planted before the frost is well out of the ground, as it is very hardy, but to give the best radishes, rich soil is needed. Fast growth and cool weather make the firm, solid, snappy radishes that are most desired. Hot, dry weather sends them to seed stems and spongy, pithy roots. Crimson Giant is especially commended because it is less susceptible to weather conditions than many other varieties.

Look over the radish list, long-rooted and short-rooted, but include a packet of Crimson Giant.

Why Onion Sets

Onion sets are a convenience for the home gardener. They produce the little green table onions quickly because they are half-grown at the time of planting. Now is the time of planting. Now

SILVERTON EXHIBIT AT LOS ANGELES WINS PRAISE



The Silverton exhibit of farm products sent several weeks ago to Los Angeles by the Homececkers' Agency is still on display in the front window of the Oregon Information and Tourist Bureau located at 115 West Ninth street, where it is seen by thousands of people each day. That it is attracting a good deal of attention is evident from the increased number of inquiries coming from that section for Oregon land. The exhibit contained a large number of farm products grown in the Silverton farming community.

cause of the better prices that are bound to come after a period of low prices such as we have had this year.

Sales Organization Prominent Factor

The organized poultry producers of the Pacific coast are in the most favored position of all in the country, and in the long run will find themselves gainers rather than losers through the present slump of prices. We of the Pacific coast produce the greatest quantity of high quality eggs of all sections of the country, therefore we have not been hit nearly as hard as other sections. We possess the marketing machinery to place our eggs in all the best markets of the United States and many foreign countries—the greatest egg marketing system the United States has ever developed. Wherever our graded eggs have been introduced the demand has been changed from common eggs to eggs of Pacific coast quality.

Judging by the reports of a large number of middle western hatcheries, there will be fewer baby chicks sold there this year than in many years past. Reports

show that every egg producing section has been hit harder than we have. Experts report that the poultry industry was the last to suffer from the present depression, and they predict that it will be the first to recover. We can expect short storage holdings for 1931, with next fall's fresh eggs in control of the markets earlier than usual.

The speculation element of the storage egg is being crowded out, and a fair yearly price will become more pronounced as the immense profits formerly realized by speculators is eliminated. Organized marketing is doing much to stabilize our markets.

Official reports show that storage stocks of poultry are about 25% less than a year ago, and more than 10% below the five year average, showing that supplies of frozen poultry to be marketed in the next five or six months will not be as large as in the corresponding period a year ago. Also, receipts of dressed poultry are running behind last year's receipts.

While the United States has been in the slumps again and again, a review of its history should make even the most pessimistic person optimistic. The prosperity which follows hard times comes sooner and stronger, and the country keeps on growing more prosperous. We are passing through a readjustment period, and these are always trying to even the most stout-hearted.

An one who has had 18 years' experience in the poultry business—five years in California and 13 years in Oregon—I would state that depressions are not new. After each depression the poultry industry has come back rapidly to a higher and better level. That is why we are confident that next fall will be one of the most profitable periods that poultry raisers have seen in many years.

Higher Quality—More Profits

This report states further: "That we have seen the worst of the business depression appears to be generally accepted. 'Better Quality' and the work we have done this year is a BIG STEP toward this goal. We are breeding 'PROFIT' into Salem Chickeries 'O. K.' chicks. Our customers reap the benefits of this extra care.

Gold Mine in Egg Yolk Says Food Expert

The yolk of the egg is a real "gold mine," according to Hazel K. Steibeling, senior food economist of the United States department of agriculture.

The yolk not only furnishes concentrated fuel for the body and contains protein of fine quality, but it has an unusually rich store of minerals and vitamins necessary for the growth and development and for the maintenance of health and vigor. Miss Steibeling pointed out in a recent statement.

Taken as a whole, the egg is numbered among the richest foods available. "Every 100-calorie portion of egg, on the average, is three and one-half times as rich in protein, twice as rich in calcium, three times as rich in phosphorus and four times as rich in iron as we believe the average 100-calorie portion of food for the adult need be," Miss Steibeling says. "The egg is rich in proteins, fat and compounds of phosphorus and iron in forms especially adapted for conversion into body tissue."

"This makes the food value of the egg much greater than a comparison based simply on amounts

WOOL CO-OP CLAIMS GROUP CONFIDENT

New Members Signed and Old Retained in 1931 Sign up

BOSTON, Mass. — Confidence which the majority wool growers have in the National Wool Marketing corporation is evidenced in the rate at which 1931 wool is now being pledged the cooperative.

Withdrawals from the 1930 membership were practically negligible hence the corporation is assured of a large volume of wool from the majority of the 49,000 growers who signed last year with the idea of staying with cooperative marketing.

Officials of the corporation report that considerable of the wool volume pledged under 1931 preshearing terms represents new members in the cooperative organization, which leads many to believe that the 1931 cooperative volume and membership will exceed that of last year.

On January 17, 1931, was estimated that the National Wool Marketing Corporation had approximately 27,750,000 pounds of wool and 275,000 pounds of mohair from the 1931 clip pledged under preshearing advances. Preshearing advances on that date amounted to \$5,011,000 on wool and \$38,000 on mohair. Last year at this time the National Wool Marketing corporation was just getting under way. Except in a few localities, little wool was signed for by the wool clip until February, with the bulk of the signing being done in March and later. For the entire year of 1930 preshearing advances totaled \$4,000,000 for both wool and mohair.

The large early sign-up of 1931 wool convinces the leaders of the National Wool Marketing corporation that the growers will support their marketing agency even more enthusiastically in 1931 than they did in 1930. From the requirements of the American Poultry association, a big step forward in the production of higher grade baby chicks. This has been accomplished at great expense, but we know it will prove to be a good investment. We have always advocated "Better Quality" and the work we have done this year is a BIG STEP toward this goal. We are breeding "PROFIT" into Salem Chickeries "O. K." chicks. Our customers reap the benefits of this extra care.

of nutrients would indicate. Since some of our foods are so highly refined that they are practically devoid of these mineral elements it is well to eat freely of the foods that are rich in them, especially eggs, milk, green vegetable and dark cereals."

Total exports for the 12-month period ended December 31, 1930, were about 8,700,000 pounds, or less than 40 per cent of the exports for the preceding 12 months, and the lightest exports since 1923.

Wool Co-op Claims Group Confident

grower than to his interest in the developing of his own marketing organization. Such reports are optimistic. Representatives of the National Wool Marketing Corporation, who have attended practically every woolgrowers' convention in the west this season, report a wonderfully fine attitude toward the growers' selling organization.

James A. Hooper, of Utah, vice president of the National Wool Marketing corporation, speaking on conditions in the inter-mountain region, says: "Growers are taking advantage of the preshearing advance, not only because they want the money but because the general expression from them indicates they are confident that the new set-up for wool growing is the proper way to handle wool."

HONEY OUTLOOK FOR 1931 IS UNCERTAIN

In most sections of the country bees went into winter quarters with ample stores and well provided with young bees. The relatively mild weather to date over most of the clover belt has favored satisfactory wintering, but in the western intermountain region severely cold weather has been hard on bees packed out of doors. Bees wintered in cellars were generally quiet at the middle of January. Clover, the main source of surplus honey over a wide area, suffered severely from the drought last year, and cannot be expected to provide a normal crop of honey in 1931.

Demand for honey, especially in carload lots, has been greatly curtailed during the past year because of the general depression, and prices are now the lowest since before the World War. Many large beekeepers who formerly sold at wholesale in 60-lb. cans, have during the past seasons packed their honey in small tin and glass containers and sold it near by, either to grocers or direct to the consumer, at substantially higher prices than they would have received in the large cans. Many people in this way were brought in touch with honey for the first time. The continued development of local selling in 1931, especially in the more populous sections of the country, would further extend the consumption of honey and simplify the marketing problem.

The meetings last week, which were held in the Perrydale, Mon-

mouth, Lincoln, Lewisville, Parker and Rickfall communities, were well attended, and the interest was very keen in the possibilities of some of these different crops on some of the Polk county farms. Large increases in the tariff on most of these seeds has had a decided stimulating effect on production within the United States, and particularly here in western Oregon.

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SMALL SEEDS GOOD CROP

Chance of Profit to Farmers Declared Good by Expert

DALLAS, Feb. 7.—The production of small seeds offers a greater chance for profit than the production of grains for Willamette valley farmers. Seed production is on an import basis while that of grains is on an export basis. Seeds are worth quite a high price per pound while grain is very low priced per pound. These facts were brought out in a group of six farm crops meetings recently at which E. R. Jackman, specialist in farm crops at the state college, spoke to a large number of Polk county farmers.

Introduction of power farming methods on a huge scale in many sections of the world have brought into being the finest many acreages that heretofore could not be farmed to wheat and other grains. This has resulted in a greatly increased production of wheat.

On the other hand there are many seeds of the grasses and legumes that are now imported into this country which the Willamette valley and polk county can produce in outstanding quality. According to Mr. Jackman, seeds from Willamette valley farms are among the finest anywhere in the world and as such command a ready demand on the market.

Among the grasses that are now on an import basis and which local farms could produce of high quality are tall meadow oat grass, English ryegrass and chewing fescue. Of the legumes the most important one is red clover, which is already produced in a large quantity, but the acreage of which can be increased.

In addition to these, Mr. Jackman suggested the possibilities of the production of crimson clover and on land that was unprofitable to farm for ordinary crops it might be turned over to hairy vetch.

Most farmers are familiar with both English rye and orchard grass. Tall meadow oat grass can be produced on most any of our land, including the hill ground, while chewing fescue requires pretty good land. Crimson clover is an annual that is planted in the fall and harvested and used the following season the same as winter wheat. It is only suggested as a possibility for seed production, and not for hay or other purposes. Hairy vetch, because of its shattering and reseeding characteristics should not be planted on land that the owner may want to grow wheat on at a later date, but on some of the extremely heavy soils that are difficult to farm, or on the hill ground that doesn't produce a large yield of grain, it might well be turned into a field of hairy vetch, in the opinion of Mr. Jackman.

In commenting on these various seeds, County Agent J. R. Beck stated that this information was brought to farmers at the present time in order that they might make an investigation of the different seeds between now and fall, so that they would know what one of them would suit their requirements. Most of these are fall seeded and some of them require special handling, so it would not be advisable to take them up without a pretty thorough investigation before planting, according to Mr. Beck.

The meetings last week, which were held in the Perrydale, Mon-

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Oregon Potato Law Increase in Profits To Local Growers

The Oregon potato law and the system of inspection and grading carried on under that law are producing good effects for the Oregon grower in outside markets; effects which are envied by our neighbors on the north, where the definite and reliable grades of Oregon are not prescribed.

The Northwest Daily Production News of Seattle has the following to say, which explains the difference: "Lack of proper grading and the desire of growers to hold their grades in anticipation of higher prices are cited as two of the principal reasons why Washington potatoes have lost ground in the California markets. In connection with unfavorable figures it is to be noted that Oregon potatoes brought prices averaging 25 to 35 cents per hundred pounds more than did those from Washington — due entirely to the superior methods of pack. For instance, January 22, Oregon U. S. No. 1 sold at from \$1.60 to \$1.70 per cwt. in San Francisco, compared with \$1.25 to \$1.35 for Washington combination grade Gems.

month, Lincoln, Lewisville, Parker and Rickfall communities, were well attended, and the interest was very keen in the possibilities of some of these different crops on some of the Polk county farms. Large increases in the tariff on most of these seeds has had a decided stimulating effect on production within the United States, and particularly here in western Oregon.

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PULLETS THRIVE ON BARLEY FEED

Experiment in Comparative Value of Corn and Barley Made

A bulletin just received from the Michigan experiment station tells of an interesting experiment on the substitution of barley for corn in rearing pullets. One hundred eighty chicks were put in one brooder and 200 in another, both White Leghorns. One lot was started on a mash containing some 55 per cent ground barley and the other containing 60 per cent ground corn. In other respects the rations were the same, except that the barley lot was given 5 per cent alfalfa meal. The alfalfa was given to furnish the vitamins lacking in the barley. Corn contains vitamin A and barley has none, and it was thought that 5 per cent alfalfa meal would furnish vitamins equal to the vitamins in the corn. As I understand the experiment the corn pen had no greens until the fifth week, when both lots had new grass range to run on, and the alfalfa meal was discontinued.

The results in growth were hardly what could be expected. The barley lot made better gains in weight than the corn lot. They also ate more feed. The amount of feed consumed in the 20-week period was 16,492 pounds per bird for the barley lot, and 13,302 lbs. for the corn lot. The scratch grain was fed after the fifth week. The barley lot had equal parts barley and wheat, and the corn lot equal parts corn and wheat.

Another result of the experiment was the difference in color in the two lots. The barley lot showed very little pigment in the legs and beak, and the corn lot showed good color.

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