

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 in valley farmers. Contributions of merit are invited.

LAMBS CROP PROSPECT GOOD

Increase Expected Over Last Year, Mild Weather Helps

The early lamb crop of 1931 in Oregon as a whole is somewhat larger than the early crop of 1930 according to the March 1 report of the Federal Crop Reporting Service. Weather conditions were exceptionally favorable for the beginning of the lambing season in plentiful but rain is needed in some areas to insure spring feed.

In the principal early lambing states, the lamb crop is larger than that of last year. The condition of the early lamb crop at the beginning of March this year was better than at that date in 1930, when a high condition was reported. Present indications are for a larger market supply of spring lambs than last year for the entire month of April to June, the quality of which will be at least as good as last year. A heavy marketing of grass fat yearlings and weathers from Texas during these months is also probable.

In Washington the early lamb crop is as large as last year. Weather conditions during lambing very favorable, grass has made a good start and early range prospects are good. The market movement may be earlier than last year.

Idaho weather and feed conditions from breeding time last fall through January and February lambing have been very favorable. The proportion of ewes which lambed early was probably smaller than last year. Early lambs are in fine condition. Because of lack of winter moisture spring ranges are starting dry and spring feed may be short, which will lower the quality and delay the marketing of this year's lambs.

In California the early lamb crop this year is larger than last year due to a larger number of breeding ewes and to a larger percentage of lambs being saved. Weather conditions during lambing were generally very good, but grass was late in starting and the time of lambing was generally earlier than last year.

Northwest (Willamette valley)—The lambing season has just begun in this locality and it is too early to predict the lamb crop. The percentage of lambs that have come so far is very good. Grass is early, ewes in fine shape and weather conditions very favorable so prospects are for an exceptionally heavy lamb crop this spring.

North Central (Gilliam, Hood River, Sherman, Wasco counties)—A little too early for lambing. Most everyone here lambs from March 19 to April 30. Plenty of feed but unless we get more rain for spring range are very poor.

Northeast (Baker, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa counties)—Lambing is just getting a good start. No green feed in this part of the state. Mild weather and means a larger percentage of lambs saved than normal but owing to drought prospects for the future of these lambs is very uncertain. Unless we get an excess moisture from now on, lambs will probably lack weight to equal the increase in numbers.

Southwest (Cooch, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine counties)—Early lambing has been very successful this year. It looks like a 100 per cent crop with very few losses. Ewes are in better shape this year than last. Grass has been sufficient to make feeding unnecessary. The ewes are giving more milk this year on grass than they did last year on hay. Weather conditions have been fine for lambing with much fair weather and no cold rains. There were many lambs kept over last year because not fat enough to market but this year there will not be many kept. All fit will be marketed.

Southeast (Crook, Deschutes, Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Wheeler counties)—Lambing has not started yet in this section. Most of the lambing will begin in April. Ewes are in good shape and expect good crop of lambs this season. Generally range conditions are very poor as it is too dry, moisture being the lowest they have seen. If we don't get more moisture this year, grass will be very poor. Snow is about all gone and no water from it. In Deschutes county the range looks very promising if we get more moisture from now on, lambs will probably lack weight to equal the increase in numbers.

New Types of Familiar Vegetables Win Praise Of Home Gardeners

Spinach in the home garden because they "it doesn't pay." They don't know real spinach—that is the modern spinach of today.



It didn't pay to grow the old-fashioned, small-leaved, quick-seeding spinach because it shot up to seed so fast that not enough crops could be obtained to make it pay rent for the space occupied. But it is an altogether different matter with the real spinach of today. If you don't know spinach, try the modern spinach.

Don't believe you can't grow as fine spinach as you buy in the market on the theory that this large heavy-leaved product is the result of superior gardening skill. It isn't. It is the result of planting real, modern spinach seed. Anybody can get it that wants it.

The Giant Thick-Leaved, also known as Nobel, is standard of the newer, finer spinach. It will make an imposing plant that will surprise you if you give it room to grow and the rich soil needed for any spinach. This variety will yield more to a given space than any other variety. It has thick, heavy green leaves, is in production a long time, and can be picked and still yield without pulling up the entire plant as is usually done in the average garden.

Don't plant spinach broadcast. Plant it in rows. Don't plant it too thick. Give the plant types at least eight inches apart in the row and you will see real spinach. There are a number of fine spinaches of Danish origin which will thrive in the home garden. The old, small-leaved fast-seeding types have been eliminated from these strains by careful cultivation.

There is also a revelation in spinach as a table treat if it is cooked in modern style either by steaming or by waterless cooking. The old style of boiling it, draining off the water in which the chief value of the spinach remained, gave an article of diet that wasn't worth while 50 per cent of what it should be either in food value or in flavor.

Spinach is one of the regulation foods for young children. It should be carefully cooked and the mineral, which contains the valuable salts, should not be thrown away.

Broccoli, an old-time vegetable in one form, has swept the country as a popular novelty vegetable though the introduction of a green branching type, the Italian green sprouting broccoli. Broccoli originally could not be told when it came to the table from cauliflower. It had the same white curd and almost an identical flavor. The chief difference was in its style of growth.

The white, or cauliflower-like broccolis are grown to any extent in this country only on the Pacific coast and are comparatively unknown in the rest of the country, cauliflower flourishing well and being of more delicate grain and quality, according to many tastes.

The green broccoli, however, is of an entirely different appearance and flavor. Its fasciated thick stems bear dense heads of green flower buds. Unlike the cauliflower and white curd broccolis these heads are of per-fect flowers and not degenerate forms such as the "curd" of the white types. If the Italian broccoli stands too long in the market or in the garden the buds begin to open into yellow mustard-like flowers.

The thick stems near the flower heads are also edible and of as fine a flavor as the heads.

Comparative Size of Old-Fashioned Spinach and the New Thick-Leaved or Nobel. Many gardeners don't grow fine a flavor as the heads of buds. The leaves, however, are stronger in flavor and white esteemed by foreign cooks do not appeal to the American taste, which takes only to the thick tender stems and flower heads.

This vegetable is easily grown in the home garden, requiring only the same treatment as cabbage. There is no necessity for tying up leaves as in cauliflower and when cut develops a number of side branches with edible heads. Seed of Italian green sprouting broccoli should be sown now for an early crop in the garden. It will prove a popular garden novelty as well as a delicious addition to the table. It is delicious served steamed or boiled with Hollandaise sauce or merely with a dressing of melted butter. It should not be overlooked, but requires a little longer than cauliflower or cabbage because of the softness of the stems.

Rich soil and good cultivation are its sole needs. The plants may be set a foot to 18 inches apart in the garden with rows spaced about two feet apart.

CONTRACT BUYERS NOT BOND VOTERS

Question is of Interest to West Stayton People; Page Makes Ruling

Persons who are buying property on contract are no eligible voters at a school bond election. Deputy District Attorney Lyle Page has informed the county school superintendent's office in an oral opinion.

The superintendent's office sought an opinion from the district attorney's office late this week after residents of the West Stayton school district called to know the law on the matter.

West Stayton voted Saturday on a bond issue to erect a new school building, and the problem of contract land buyers voting was brought up because quite a few residents there are purchasing land on this basis. It was figured there were enough of these installment purchasers to swing the election one way or the other.

Mr. Page, in giving his opinion, that contract purchase does not satisfy the property qualification on school bond elections, pointed to the fact that the taxpayer's name must be on the assessment roll, which is not so when a contract has not been satisfied.

He referred to the case of Low vs. Britting, in which the supreme court held school law is under a different section than the 1923 law applying to elections, the latter having been held unconstitutional. The 1923 law attempted to put on a property qualification for bond voting, but this was declared unconstitutional.

However, inasmuch as the opinion on Low vs. Britting declared this does not affect the school law, the district attorney's office holds that a school bond voter must be a taxpayer and must have his name on the assessment roll. West Stayton will determine today whether the new building, if any, will be a three or four room structure.

ELDON FOX WINS HONORS

Takes "High Point Honors" At Washington Contest Recently

SILVERTON, March 21.—Eldon Fox, former Smith-Hughes agricultural student and a graduate of Silverton high school, continues to bring credit to himself, his school and his community. In a recent letter to Warren E. Crabtree of Silverton, Eldon who is a student at the Washington State college, tells of his recent trip to Spokane, Washington, where he took part in the Inland Empire Livestock show.

Young Fox was fortunate in being able to carry off "high point honors" in the inter-collegiate livestock judging contest. This, as he relates, was "judging against both juniors and seniors and judging all classes of livestock."

For the two past years Eldon has had charge of a portion of the college sheep at W. S. C. In this way a large part of the college expenses has been met during the spring term he states that he is indulging in some varsity baseball.

Eldon Fox was one of the first ten boys in Oregon to receive the Future Farmers of America "Oregon Farmer" degree and was awarded a gold F. F. A. key. This degree was presented, as were the other nine, by C. A. Howard, state superintendent of public instruction, and Hal Hoos, secretary of state, during the annual Smith-Hughes week-end at Oregon State college in the spring of 1929.

Fox is a younger brother of Jack Fox of Silverton who owns a Jersey dairy herd, and of Floyd Fox, prominent sheep breeder of Waldo Hills. Special encouragement has been given him in developing his superior capabilities along livestock lines and the pursuing of a college training by Warren Crabtree, Silverton Smith-Hughes instructor, by M. G. Gunderson, president of the Coolidge and McClaine bank of Silverton and by W. J. Plummer, manager of the Pacific International Livestock exposition.

FURTHER UPRISING OCCURS AT JOLIET

JOLIET, Ill., March 20.—(AP)—New unrest in the model Illinois state penitentiary, which was swept by a million dollar fire Wednesday, today broke into a first hearing by a legislative investigating committee as it listened to white haired Warden Henry C. Hill defend his stewardship.

Rushing from the quiet committee room, he gave to investigators a first-hand view of his troublesome job by hurrying away to Stateville in quick time and restoring order in a cell block where convicts staged another futile uprising.

Then he returned to attack the civil service which he said sent "crooked guards" to him, and the parole system which he blamed for crowding 1,795 men into the old state prison, built to hold only 900.

"Mind you," the warden said, "I'm making no general complaint against my guards. But there are disloyal ones among them. As fast as I locate them, I fire them."

Thompson Will Be Confirmed, General Belief

WASHINGTON, March 21.—(AP)—The prediction that Sam H. Thompson would be confirmed without opposition as a farm board member by the senate next December was made today by Chairman McNary of the senate agriculture committee.

Oregon Farmers Urged to Grow More Seed Flax to Meet Increasing Demand of Linseed Oil Mills

A short time ago the Statesman published a story telling that there would be a good market for flax seed during the coming year and that Portland firms were anxious to get seed contracts.

Since that time many inquiries have come in regarding the planting of flax for seed. The following communication from Archer-Daniels-Midland company, manufacturers of linseed oil in Portland will serve to answer many of these questions.

"In a report dated February 11, 1930, the bureau of agricultural economics of the U. S. department of agriculture said that an average yields the net returns per acre from flax seed selling at \$1.50 per bushel would be as profitable as wheat at \$1.10 per bushel. At this writing the flax seed market is at a better price, \$1.58 at Portland, and growers who have spring crops to plant should not overlook the possibilities this crop offers, as compared with wheat and other grains.

"Since we announced a few weeks ago that we were offering contracts again this year for the growing of flaxseed in the Portland territory, a great deal of interest has been shown, and contracts and seed orders are coming in rapidly. Some of the questions which are being most frequently asked us are listed below, together with brief answers to each.

"What sort of soil is necessary for flaxseed, and how is the crop handled?" "Land that will grow good spring wheat will grow good flax seed, and of course the better the land, the better the yield should be. Seed flax is planted with regular seeders, cut with a binder, and threshed with a grain separator, or it can be harvested with the combine.

"When should it be planted, and how much seed per acre?" "Early planting is best, and as soon as soil conditions permit proper working, it can be sown. Forty pounds of seed per acre is used on the average land, although on especially rich ground, such as beaver-dam or dyke-land, as much as 55 pounds is used.

"What are the average yields per acre?" "This naturally varies considerably, depending upon the soil, handling, season, etc., but a general rule is that flaxseed will produce about half as many bushels per acre as wheat on the same land. From 12 to 15 bushels per acre is usual in the Willamette valley, and from there on up to 20, 25, and even 40 or more bushels per acre on the better lands.

"What is to be the price of new crop seed?" "This is impossible to forecast, any more than we can say what the price of wheat or any other grain is going to be. However,

To encourage the work of the boys in the sheep clubs, Ernest Holmington, sheep breeder of Lewisville, will award a registered Lincoln ewe lamb to the boy or girl who has the most outstanding score for Lincoln sheep club work. The award will be made at the state fair in September.

J. L. Allen of the State college and J. R. Beck, county agent, inspected the flock on Holmington's place last week and made arrangements for this special prize. Mr. Allen stated that the sheep were of excellent quality and the award would be greatly valued by the winner. Points for judging the award will be based on 75 per cent on the quality of word done by the member and 25 per cent on the animal to be judged at the time of the state fair.

This is the first time that an award has been made for this type of club work, but is in line with that followed by calf clubs, etc. There are a number of Lincoln club workers eligible for this prize according to Beck.

WACONDA, March 21.—A 629-acre farm near Scappoose has a history almost as old as Oregon agriculture. Daniel Freeman, veteran farmer of this section and owner of the land, has recently divided this into 20 three-acre poultry tracts which will be gifts to 20 fortunate settlers.

Pedigreed Leghorn chickens will populate the laying houses of these Scappoose poultry farms.

Prune Group To See Movie

SUNNYSIDE, March 21.—The prune growers of the Pacific coast will receive much help and inspiration from the moving picture just released by Uncle Sam, a two-reel film made mostly in Oregon, telling what happens to the life of the Oregon prune from the tree to the market. The title of the picture is "Cooperative Marketing of Dried Prunes," and will be shown and distributed over the United States by educational agencies.

The notice of the release of this picture appeared in the Oregonian of March 15, special from Oregon State college.

POLK COUNTY 4-H CLUBS ARE BUSY

New Clubs Organized and Old Ones Flourishing Recently

DALLAS, March 20.—Additional 4-H clubs have been organized for this year, the latest being two purebred sheep clubs. The Oak Grove club, under the leadership of Jesse Walling, is starting its second year with Ellis Walling as president; Clarence Primus, vice president; Maxine Pawk, secretary; and Marcell Reavis.

A new club organized at Month with Kathleen McCrae as leader, consists of Jimmie Riddell, president; Theodore McCaleb, vice president; Donald and Cleo McCaleb, Raymond Adams, Kermit Roth and Arthur Riney. Month also has an angora goat club of which Mrs. Vida Powell is leader. This club is starting its fifth year. Walter Smith is president, Eunice Powell, vice president; Louis Powell, secretary. Other members are Jimmie Riddell, Kathleen McCrae, David, Donald, Theo and Cleo McCaleb. Three of these young people have been in club work four years, three for three years and two for two years.

Pedee has recently formed an angora club with Mrs. Alice Ritter as leader. There are five members in this group of which Bobbie Arnold is president, and was previously a member of the former goat club. The others are taking the work for the first time.

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TURKEY CROP TO INCREASE

Survey Predicts More Turkeys and Fewer Chickens in 1931

OREGON STATE COLLEGE, Corvallis, March 20.—The poultry population of Oregon during 1931 will probably include more turkeys but fewer chickens, according to an outlook report just issued by L. R. Brethaupt, agricultural economist of the Oregon extension service.

Although prices for turkeys were slightly lower in 1930 than during other recent years, returns were fairly good, as compared to other products, and the outlook for 1931 appears favorable from the demand standpoint, the report says. Little is known, however, about the probable supply from other states.

Poultrymen apparently plan to raise fewer pullets this year than usual, in spite of the fact that the market outlook for eggs during the 1931-32 marketing year appears quite favorable, says Brethaupt. Commercial hatcheries of the United States turned out only 50 per cent of the usual hatch for January and 60 per cent for February, and an even greater reduction was made on the Pacific coast.

The mild open weather of the winter months has resulted in an unusually heavy egg production, even though the number of hens on farms throughout the country has been reduced. The present trend is toward normal production, however, and low egg prices have brought about increased consumption.

consist of packages of Swift's Premium sliced bacon. The Silverton boys hope to "bring home the bacon" if not successful enough to win the cash awards. The subjects the Silverton boys chose dealt largely with production, grading, selling, and methods of killing, dressing, packing and distributing farm animal products.

The local boys entering are Thomas Miller, Ernest Erickson, Clyde Parsons, Freeman Keller, Jake Ehl, Clifton Strom, Bernie Oas, Palmer Torvond, Ross Marquam, Fred Schmidt, Victor Hadley, Dwight Foots, Harvey Mikkelsen, Elser Aarhus, Harry Way and Harlan Lee.

LAD LOSES EYE
MEDFORD, Ore., March 21.—(AP)—Ronald Smith, young son of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Smith, died and fell on a knife recently. The knife blade punctured one eye and inflicted a deep scalp wound.

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Berry Crop Will Be Heavy, Report

HOLLYWOOD, March 21.—E. Thoma of this district, who has in a large patch of strawberries, is very optimistic with regard to the prospects of a large crop of berries this year. His berries look fine for this time of year and the open winter has been very favorable to the growth of the plants.

Thoma is also entering the berry field still heavily by putting out a half acre of Cuthbert red raspberries.

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James Grafton Rogers (above), of Denver, Colorado, has been elected into office as new Under Secretary of State, succeeding Nelson T. Stone. He was warmly received at the nation's capital by Secretary Stimson.