

The Valley Agriculturist and His Work

Markets -- Crops -- Farm Home -- Livestock

The Diversified Interests of Willamette Valley Farmers

Editor's Note

Mrs. Madeleine Cullin, Valley News editor of The Oregon Statesman, is in charge of the editorial work of this paper. Each Sunday she writes concerning the agricultural interests of valley farmers. Contributions of merit are invited.

J. B. LORENCE 'Greens,' Other Vegetables Uses MACHINES

Horses Were "Boarders" so He Turned to Machines, Reported

By BEULAH HESSE CRAVEN
J. B. Lorence, one of the successful young farmers of Polk, has for the past three years accomplished every task on a 300 acre farm entirely with machinery. Asked to state the chief benefit accruing from his elimination of farm horses, he replied: "Reduction of drudgery. My horses were 'boarders' many months each year. I didn't realize on them as an investment, and their care took time that now can employ much more profitably."



THE NEW TRACTOR AND LAMB SHOWING THE PLANTER FOR GREENS. THE PLANTER SHOULD BE LEFT IN POSITION TO BE USED FOR ALL TYPES OF SOILS. THE LAMB SHOULD BE USED FOR ALL TYPES OF SOILS. THE LAMB SHOULD BE USED FOR ALL TYPES OF SOILS.

The Lorence farm—only one mile north of Monmouth—may be described as a practical laboratory for the demonstration of machine efficiency. Every sort of modern farm implement participates in the equipment, including a large tractor of the caterpillar type; a combine and a flax puller. A motor truck replaces the wagon-and-team form of transfer. Electrical appliances expedite labor both within and without the farmhouse.

Lorence does grain, flax and sheep farming, principally keeping registered Cotswolds. Cows are kept only for family use; and a flock of Plymouth Rock chickens supply the table and furnish some commercial profit.

Studies Flax
He has been experimenting with flax for a number of years; and for about two and one-half years has served as assistant supervisor of flax production in Polk, Benson and Yamhill counties. He is of the opinion that flax culture is of definite value in a number of ways, and is likely to be increased in Oregon. It should be continued for its humanitarian value in providing legitimate and interesting work for inmates of the state penitentiary, if for no other reason, he thinks.

In connection with this point of view, Lorence said he recalled a time when Oregon convicts were allotted the job of carrying cordwood, stick by stick, from one side of the prison woodyard to another, and back again to its final position to provide them with physical exercise. Contrasting this hopeless effort with the work now provided in the flax plant, he remarked that convicts, busily occupied in this new atmosphere, display generally, a wholesome activity interest, and while attending to their duties with zest, are being rehabilitated into self-respecting workers like the employes of any other similar manufactory.

A second important consideration concerning flax, is that in a favorable season it brings an income appreciably greater than any other agricultural crop at the present time. Citing his personal experience, he said that his first venture in flax brought him a bumper crop; but the next year he reaped a dismal failure.

Discouraged, he dropped its production for a time. Then he decided not to be licked while the grass was down, he explained, humorously, "so I began planting it again, and my 1930 crop brought me an average of \$80 per acre."

This return is a course, phenomenal, and dependent on rather ideal conditions. Lorence thinks that preparation for flax culture should be begun at least two years before the actual planting, by clovering and summer fallowing to exterminate weed growth.

Part of his \$80 per acre crop was grown on land sown to the second consecutive flax crop; and part of it was a third consecutive crop. The land bearing the third annual planting produced the best return.

He does not, however, advocate this procedure as advisable on all grades and conditions of soil. His land was new ground, cleared of timber in recent years, and has been used extensively as sheep pasture. It is possessed a natural sub-irrigation which, combined with the other advantageous features, rendered it ideal for flax culture.

During the past two years flax pullers have been distributed, numerically, to take care of all flax crops seasonably; and this year there will be pulper service for approximately every 50 acres of crop.

Flax should be sown in March, Lorence thinks, but naturally, in a season like the present, that is impossible. Last year, owing to weather conditions, he couldn't start planting flax until April 3, continuing until April 10. And, obviously, he harvested a splendid crop.

He believes that flax is especially valuable, also, as a rotation crop, as 40 to 60 bushels of acre wheat has been grown in rotation on flax fields in this community.

Lorence was born on this place known as Poplar Bay Farm, and has been actively farming all his lifetime. He is an Oregon state college graduate, who is an interesting exponent of progressive methods which are judiciously tempered by the sturdy, dependable ways and means culled from practical experience. His father, C. Lorence, active operator of this farm for many years—and now enjoying the leisure of retirement—has long been identified with farming achievement in Polk. He contributed a very valuable aid to farmers of this region by pro-

GROWERS TOLD TO HOLD HOPS

Market may be Strengthened if Sales are not Forced

Growers who are still holding hops are being urged by local dealers not to part with them at too low a figure. A marked rise in the hop market is expected within the next 90 days if growers will heed the warning issued. The following statement of conditions and holdings serves to reveal the present situation:

Hop Situation on the Pacific Coast

Year	April 1, 1931
In growers hands:	
1930	
California	6,030 bales
Oregon	6,360 "
Washington	2,628 "
Total	14,916 bales
1929	
California	3,410 bales
Oregon	5,943 "
Washington	3,511 "
Total	11,864 "
1928	
California	3,734 bales
Washington	930 "
Calif. Old Odds	495 "
Total	5,122 "
Visible sup. in growers hands	31,902 bales
1930 Crop	
In California	
13 Sonoma growers own	2,680 bales
12 Sacramento growers own	3,210 "
2 Mendocino growers own	140 "
1930 Crop	
In Oregon	
12 growers own	3,399 bales
12 growers own	1,849 "
9 growers own	671 "
11 growers own	341 "
1930 crop	
In Washington	
9 growers own	1,857 bales
Bal. all small lots	769 "
Total	14,916 bales

plenty of beets. Plan in succession from ten days to two weeks for greens and young beets. The half-grown beet root is now a table delicacy and much more highly esteemed than the mature root which not so long ago was the only form in which the beet was served, and then usually as a pickle.

Young beets, hot and dressed with melted butter, are one of the finest of vegetables. A variety of methods of preparing them is now found in most cookbooks. One of the most popular is the sweet and sour dressing, the base of which is melted butter and corn-starch or flour, the former making a smoother sauce, thinned with the water in which the beets were boiled, to which is added sugar and vinegar of the desired tartness. The beets are sliced small and stirred into the sauce and heated through.

Bortsch, or beet soup, a Russian dish, is now becoming fairly well known and is served in kosher restaurants as a regular article on the bill of fare.

The leaves of the beet provide one of the most attractive in the list of "greens" as they have no sharp flavor or irritants such as dandelions, mustard and turnip greens and which is liked by many and disliked by others. The beet green has a mild characteristic flavor that is universally liked.

While the leaves of beets which are also grown for their roots are as fine quality as the entire beet family offers for greens, the Swiss chard offers a better quantity of greens material in much smaller space. This is a beet of more complex character that does not run to root but devoted all its energies to producing huge crinkled, ruffled, yellow-green leaves with heavy midribs and stems, which are also edible. The Swiss chard is the ideal material for summer greens.

A row of Swiss chards will keep the table supplied all summer if the plants are given opportunity to develop by being spaced 8 inches apart. The leaves should be cut and allowed to wilt in a cool place. The soil should be the better the soil the better the leaf growth.

BLOSSOM BLIGHT SUBJECT OF STUDY

Condition may Result From Brown rot Survey Shows

DALLAS, April 4—Blossom blight to both pines and cherries is quite common in the Willamette valley and is often attributed to cold rainy weather or lack of insect pollination, whereas the condition may be the result of brown rot, according to H. P. Bars, plant pathologist of the state college. It is estimated that one-third of the blossom crop is due to blight, and in cherries has been found to run from 45 to 80 per cent.

In brown rot, says Mr. Bars, the infection starts at some point on the flower, on the green calyx, or on the pistil where pollen is received. The infected tissue becomes brown and gradually spreads over the flower until it is entirely brown, it then passes down the stalk to the base of other blossoms, darkening and finally killing the blossoms. The flowers may shrivel up and stick to the twig.

The appearance is quite different when the blossoms fail to set due to the weather. The petals drop and the fruit may start to form, but usually remains undersized and the young fruit and stems will turn a sickly yellowish all over and finally drop off.

It is reliably reported that many eastern dealers have sold hops at low prices for April, May and June deliveries and consumers are now calling for the improved demand, and the only reason why prices have not advanced is that growers have become too anxious to sell; perhaps from financial necessity, or just want to sell out. Hops in dealers hands are very small and in order to fill orders, they must go to the growers. Dealers who have sold short and have not bought to cover requirements are naturally anxious to depress prices and will undertake to tell you that there are plenty of hops available, but they cannot produce any figures to support their statements.

We suggest that you show these figures to your bankers and arrange to secure additional credit or secure an extension on your present obligations. We can almost dictate the price on our remaining hops, but in order to do so must be united and market our hops in an orderly way, and, if this course is pursued, price will advance to 20c for 1930 crop, 15c for 1929 crop and 10c for 1923 crop, within 60 or 90 days.

The future of the market for the unsold hops on hand today rests entirely with the growers. The market for the last few years has ruled under the cost of production. Here's a chance to make a profit. Why not get it? We appreciate an acknowledgment of this letter, with an expression of your views. Address your reply to F. A. Corroyer, Salem, Oregon.

The following banks and dealers are co-operating to bring about better prices for the hop growers.

First National Bank, Independence; Ladd and Smith Bankers, Salem, Oregon; United States National Bank, Salem, Oregon; Durbill & Corroyer, T. A. Livesley & Co., J. J. Roberts & Co., J. R. Linn and Louis Lachmund.

Red Cross Promotes Home Gardens

Thousands of packages of garden seeds are being distributed in the drought-stricken sections of the country by the American Red Cross. In each collection of seeds is included the following discussion of the value of home-grown vegetables:

"These packages of garden seeds are presented to you with the compliments of the American Red Cross. They are intended to make your spring garden. If they are carefully planted and the garden properly cared for, these seeds will provide an abundance of very nourishing food for your family."

"It has been learned, through many years of experience, that garden produce constitutes one of the most valuable sources of food known from a health point of view. Flour, meal and meat are excellent, but they are not sufficient to maintain good health. Families, and especially children, need vegetables and green foods. They also need milk and fruits. Gardening not only helps to overcome the food shortage, but also provides healthful foods for your family."

"If you are used to making gardens, you will know how and when to plant these seeds. If not, we suggest that you consult someone who does know. Farm agents and others will be glad to advise you. Planters generally are willing to allow sufficient garden space for their tenants. Once you have learned to garden, you will want to have a garden every year."

"Make gardens for food and health."

producing area will expand their acreage this year and that other growers will try popcorn because prices were good for the 1930 crop."

OREGON STATE COLLEGE, Corvallis, April 4—Oregon's acreage of corn grown for grain could be increased 100 per cent or more without overplanting, says a report issued by the Oregon State college extension service. Corn shipments into the state total several times the amount of home-grown corn sold by farmers.

Sales of corn for each of the Oregon farms have not exceeded 200 carloads a year, according to the best available information at the college. Although data on the total amount shipped into the state are incomplete, nearly 1,400 carloads have been received at Portland alone in each of the past two years.

Evidence of the shortage of home-grown supplies of corn is also found in price statistics. The farm price received by corn growers in this state has been from 20 to 30 cents a bushel more than the average for the whole country. The general corn outlook for the United States indicates a five per cent increase in acreage, says the college report. Production is likely to be above average, although it is too early to estimate yields. The carryover of corn from the 1930 crop is expected to be less than average.

BETHEL FARM IS IMPROVED

Fenton Home Displays Latest in Modern Equipment

By MRS. J. R. CARUTHERS
BETHEL, April 4—Mrs. Nellie B. Fenton and her husband, C. A. Fenton of Los Angeles, last May purchased the ten acre ranch on the Pen road, known as the Chalfont place. Mrs. Fenton and her son and daughter, Donald and Margaret, live on the ranch. Mr. Fenton is remaining for the present with his business in California and will join his family here later.

Mrs. Fenton is making many fine improvements on the ranch. A well built three-car garage, 24 by 30 feet, with sleeping quarters and store rooms above has been built. Also a strictly modern hen house, 30 by 50 feet. Incubators are running with 800 hen eggs, and are to be refilled soon with turkey eggs.

A kennel has been built and a park fenced for two registered collie dogs and considerable fine fencing is being put in. A large amount of electric work is being done, all of the buildings, old and new, are being wired and four high yard lights have been installed, producing a fine effect when the lights are on in the evening. Most of the ranch was re-set to Royal Ann cherry trees a few years ago, and the old prune trees are now being taken out.

The laws are being set with many choice shrubs and trees, and a pool and rockery are to be added. The Bethel neighbors are very glad to welcome the Fenton family to the community and also their many improvements are a valuable property addition to the district.

OREGON STATE COLLEGE, Corvallis, April 4—Sixteen counties of this state will be visited by a weed control demonstration truck during the last week of March and first two weeks in April, according to a schedule arranged by E. R. Jackman, farm crops extension specialist, with the Chipman Chemical Engineering company, of Boise, owners of the truck.

The tour is designed to demonstrate most effective means of applying chlorate weed killers and showing available equipment. County agents, most of whom have conducted demonstrations of killing perennial weeds with chemicals, will be present at each meeting to discuss local weed problems and identify specimens of weeds brought in.

The tour commenced at Baker March 27 and continued west to Portland, where the truck will leave Oregon for a tour of western Washington, returning to Portland later to continue south to Medford and across the mountains back through eastern Oregon, Washington and Idaho, closing with a meeting at Ontario, March 31. The schedule for Oregon follows:

March 27—Baker, 10 o'clock; LaGrande, 2 o'clock.
April 4—Portland, 1:35; poison oak demonstration for Boy Scouts.
April 5—Portland, for farmers.
April 6—Forest Grove, 10:10; McMinnville, 1:35.
April 7—Dallas, 9:15; Salem, 1:35; (for highway commission).
April 8—Corvallis, 9:15; Eugene, 3:10.
April 10—Medford, 1:10.
April 11—Klamath Falls, 1:15.
April 13—The Dalles, 9:35; (orchardists), 1:40; (grain growers).
April 14—Moro, 9:40.
April 15—Pendleton, 1:35.
May 1—Ontario, 1:40.

LIME DOES NOT CONTROL FRUIT ROT
The statement reported made is that "The use of hydrated lime with lead arsenate practically eliminates decay from perennial canker and Anthracnose, also tends to prevent blight mold and the so-called calyx rot."

Boot Hill cemetery, oldest burying ground in the Texas Panhandle, will be fenced for protection against souvenir hunters.



THE TALL GREEN SCOTCH CURLED KALE IS A DECORATIVE AND ORNAMENTAL VEGETABLE

MARASCHINO FRUIT IS NOW PERFECTED

OREGON STATE COLLEGE, Corvallis, April 4—Perfection of a maraschino process which may provide profitable outlet for the growing surplus of Royal Ann and other white cherries in Oregon is announced by the horticultural products division of the Oregon experiment station. The process is the result of two years of research by H. E. Wiegand, head of the division, and D. E. Bullis, assistant chemist.

Most of the American supply of maraschino cherries in the past has been imported under formulae held as trade secrets. In recent years some demand has arisen for home-branded cherries, which is the first step in the maraschino process. The experiments here have resulted in perfecting improved formulae which will soon be published for the general use of the fruit canning and preserving trade. Hundreds of tests were made to determine the best bleach, the best hardening solution and other treatment to cut down the loss from shrinkage, and otherwise give an attractive product.

Already The Dalles Cooperative Growers' plant and two canneries in Salem have put the new method into commercial practice on a limited scale with entire success. It has been found that the waterhouse cherries and other small sized sorts that have heretofore been severely discounted, are equally suitable for processing for maraschino purposes. The experiment station men are carrying the tests a step farther and attempting to complete the entire process of bleaching, hardening, drying and flavoring in the original barrels, thus avoiding loss from damage in handling. Indications are that this plan will prove successful.

Firebugs Seek Death Penalty Not Life Term

COLUMBUS, O., April 4—(AP)—Death in the electric chair rather than life in the Ohio penitentiary, where the fire they set caused 320 deaths, was the choice Friday of two convicts who confessed they caused the disastrous fire at a warehouse in Columbus.

The convicts, Clinton Grate and Hugh Gobson, today told authorities and newspaper men that if the judge they will face Monday promises to sentence them to the chair, they will enter pleas of guilty.

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