

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 to valley farmers. Contributions of merit are invited.

HOP MARKETS SHOW ACTIVITY

April Prices Advance to Highest Point of Season With Stocks Small

Pacific coast hop markets developed marked activity during April, and prices advanced to the highest point of the season to date, according to the Monthly Hop Market Review of the United States bureau of agricultural economics. An improved domestic demand, together with a realization that stocks remaining in first hands, now reduced to around 25,000 bales in the three Pacific coast states, are the smallest in many years, and a firm holding policy by growers for higher prices, were the principal factors in the stronger hop market situation.

Sales of all grades of both new and old hops, with a top of 12 1/2c net to grower for 1930 choice clusters, were reported in Oregon markets. Around 1400 bales of 1930 crop Oregon clusters were sold during April, at prices ranging from 15 1/2-19 1/2c per lb, depending on quality and origin. Other sales of Oregon hops included around 1100 bales 1929 clusters at 8-11c; 115 bales 1930 Fuggles at 15 1/2-16c; 379 bales 1929 Fuggles at 8-10c; 192 bales 1929 Fuggles at 8 1/4c. Stocks of Oregon hops remaining in first hands, now total only around 4800 bales 1930 crop, 4-500 bales 1929 crop, and 875 bales older growth, according to trade estimates. These are the smallest Oregon stocks on record for this time of year. Although contracting of hops has not been active during the past month, a few one-year contracts at 15c, and one three-year contract at 16c for the first year, and 17c for the two succeeding years, have been written in Oregon markets.

Washington hop markets were also active during the past month, and sales of around 700 bales Yakima Valley Clusters were reported, at from 15-17 1/2c net to grower. Dealers in the Yakima market were generally offering 15-16c for mediums, 16-17c for primes, and 17 1/2c for Choice Clusters. Growers here were more active around 2-2 1/2c above these prices.

California Market Strong California hop markets were strong and higher during April. Trading was rather quiet early in the month, but showed considerable activity the last two weeks. Growers are now being bid 17-17 1/2c for 1930 crop, compared with 13 1/2-14c a month ago. Fairly large sales were reported from the Sacramento and Sonoma districts, with the light remaining stocks, which are being cleaned up early in the month. Market strength largely came from increased demand from domestic markets. Midwestern and Atlantic seaboard dealers provided the best anticipations. Remaining quantities, using supplies accumulated earlier in the season. Foreign inquiry was slow all of the month. Market undertone continues strong, with small stocks remaining, both in California and Pacific northwestern markets. Present California supplies are the lightest in many years, and an extremely small carryover is now anticipated. Remaining supplies are in strong hands, with growers generally holding for prices several cents above present levels. Careful trade estimates of holdings by California growers of May 1, show the following amounts by districts, still on hand: 1930 crop Mendocino none; Sonoma 2346 bales; Sacramento 2457 bales; 1929 crop, Mendocino 234 bales; Sonoma 2782 bales; Sacramento none, 1928 crop, Mendocino approximately 400; Sonoma 2286 bales; Sacramento 573 bales. In addition, Sacramento growers have 723 bales from older crops.

Scattered inquiry has been received by California growers for three-year term contracts, but no transactions have been reported, with growers showing little interest. A few one-year contracts were made in the Sacramento and Sonoma districts. Sacramento trade reports indicate acreage will be slightly increased over last year. Trade estimates place the 1931 acreage as follows: Mendocino, 600 acres, compared with 2000 acres in 1929. Sacramento 600 acres in 1929. Sacramento 1446 acres, compared with 1323 acres in 1930 and 2582 acres in 1929.

The season in California has been dry so far, and non-irrigated yards would welcome additional moisture. Mendocino reports the season as somewhat backward, due to cool weather. Mendocino sales during April was confined to 160 bales 1930 crop, with growers receiving 12 1/2c, according to trade reports. Sonoma district sales included approximately 550 bales 1930 crop, realizing 14 1/2-15c early in the month, with later sales bringing 16c, and with growers refusing offers of 17c as the month ended. One lot of 1929 crop sold at 12c net to grower. Growers refused offers of 17c for three-year term contracts. A one-year contract netted 16c. Early month Sacramento sales brought 13 1/2-15c, but as the month ended growers were being offered 17-17 1/2c, with no takers reported. Growers also refused offers of 15c for three-year contracts. One year sales consisted of 400 bales at 14 1/2c, 400 bales at 15c, and 125 bales at 16c.

The New York market showed a slightly firmer feeling during April, reflecting an increased demand and higher replacement value. Prices remained unchanged from those of a month ago.

Pacific coast 1930 crop choice clusters, valued at \$27,584,000, bringing the total for the first three months of 1931 to 1,086,305 pounds. Imports for March totaled 113,439 pounds, valued at \$19,535.00, making the total for the first quarter of 1931, 284,305 pounds.

STATE CHAMPION SEEKS MORE HONORS



Here we have Dick Rockhill of Grand Island, winner of the state Future Farmers oratorical contest. Dick is shown with his small sister Myrtle and his purebred Jersey calf, "Lianna." Lianna was awarded to Dick when he won the Willamette valley championship contest held at Dayton.

Dick Rockhill Will Go to Boise, Idaho, On May 18 to Represent This State in Northwest F. F. A. Oratorical Contest

By MRS. C. A. FERGUSON
GRAND ISLAND, May 9—Just two years ago the Smith-Hughes vocational agricultural department was introduced into the curriculum of the Dayton high school. Professor Burrill L. Young, Smith-Hughes instructor for the entire time has taken a keen and personal interest in the boys individually as well as in their projects. Among this enthusiastic group of future farmers we find a junior, Dick Rockhill, from Grand Island.

This year Dick is carrying two projects in his vocational agricultural work, that of swine and crop. In his swine project he has two sows and one boar, all of which are purebred duroc-jerseys. The older sow he bought in October 1929 at the age of seven months. Her first litter which came March 15, 1930 consisted of only three fine sturdy pigs. One of these Dick kept and the other two he sold. The one he saved has now developed into a well built young sow, thus making his second one in the project.

Raised Eight Pigs The second litter of pigs from the older sow consisted of nine from which he was successful in raising eight. From this litter he sold six pigs and kept two. Mistakenly stepped into his path of success at that time and during the summer months he lost one pig, the cause of which he thought was due to indigestion. But with determination to win it took more than the losing of one pig to discourage him.

Dick's financial report which they are all compelled to make proved that he had netted all that was invested during the first year. Corn to be Crop His second project which he is starting this year is that of crop and will consist of four acres of sweet corn. At present the ground is being prepared for the planting of the same.

When the topic of the future farmers public speaking contest became an issue of interest during the fore part of the school year, Professor Young insisted that each member of the association make at least one three to five minute speech. Dick apparently had no desire to enter into the realm of public speaking any more than to make his one speech which his instructor required of all future farmer students. After some persuasion by relatives and instructors he yielded to their wishes and began preparing a more lengthy speech on the topic "Why I

Choose to Become a Farmer." Eliminations in the Dayton high were held from time to time until only two contestants remained. In the final try-out the judges gave Dick the decision over his opponent, Thomas Little, whose subject was, "The Electrification of the American Home."

Professor D. Lynn Gubser, principal of the Dayton school, and Prof. Young as well as other interested parties gladly offered helpful suggestions toward preparing him for the Willamette valley sectional public speaking contest held in Dayton, March 19. Dick unanimously won first place in the contest which made him sole owner of the purebred jersey heifer calf offered jointly by Prof. Gubser and the Dayton business men. The calf was 106 days old the evening of the contest and since coming from a high grade herd she promises to be a good foundation for a future dairy herd.

In naming the calf Dick desired to choose a name which would resemble that of Lynn Gubser, from whose dairy herd the calf came. The only feminine line choice that seemed feasible was "Lianna," which name by now the calf is better known.

Since Dick's victory in the sectional contest his interest, along with that of Prof. Gubser and Young, grew toward the winning of the state championship, the contest which was held May 1 on the Oregon State college campus, Corvallis.

With enthusiastic instructors, fellow-students and parents Dick entered the contest Friday afternoon where he again showered himself and school with glory by winning the state championship. His next stop on the ladder of success will be a trip to Boise, Idaho, where he will enter into the regional contest on May 18. The winner of this contest makes the trip to Kansas City in the fall to compete for the "national honor."

This makes the second year that the Dayton high school has been honored in such a way. Last year Douglas Bryon, a senior, won the state championship and made the trip to Phoenix, Arizona where he represented the state in the regional contest.

The picture shows Dick Rockhill and his little sister Myrtle with "Lianna" the purebred jersey heifer calf which he won at the Willamette valley sectional public speaking contest held in Dayton, March 19.

ALFALFA NEEDS SPECIAL CARE
Condition of Ground at Seeding Time Held Important to Crop

DALLAS, May 9—Good weather or last week encouraged farmers to start the seeding of alfalfa. From now on whenever the ground is in the right condition a good many farmers will be busy at this task.

In commenting on the seeding of alfalfa County Agent J. R. Beck states that every once in a while a farmer gets impatient and sows the seed before the ground is ready. This almost always results in either a weedy patch of alfalfa or a poor stand or both.

APPLES LEAD FRUIT EXPORT

Carlot Shipments of Pears Run Close Second Recently

OREGON STATE COLLEGE, May 9—Oregon's apple shipments continue to rank first in volume in the carlot fruit and vegetable industry of the state, according to a report just released by the Oregon state college extension service. Pears are a close second. "Carlot shipments of fruits and vegetables have practically doubled in the last ten years," the report says. "Fresh pears account for a large part of the increase in shipments, but loadings of cherries, prunes, potatoes, green peas, onions, celery, cauliflower and cantaloupes have also increased substantially."

Out of a record total of 17,000 carloads of fruits and vegetables shipped in 1930 from Oregon loading points, 5,901 were apples and 5,139 pears. Potatoes accounted for 2,174 carlots. These three commodities made up 12,614 carloads, or 75 per cent of the total.

Fresh prune shipments have averaged 1,000 cars or more in recent years. In 1930, 515 carloads of dried prunes were loaded at Oregon stations, which is about an average amount. Other fruits shipped were 428 carloads of cherries, 45 of peaches, 33 of strawberries, 33 of mixed deciduous fruits and 17 of dried apples.

The cantaloupe business is a jumped up to 131 carloads from 12 in 1929 and practically nothing in former years. The watermelon carlot business was 18 loads, with 5 carlots of miscellaneous melons recorded.

Loadings of celery in 1930 totaled 67 carloads of cauliflower, 49, and onions 615. Tomato shipments were 68 carloads, green peas 73, lettuce 14, asparagus 21, cabbage 8, and mixed vegetables 151.

COAST-ALFALFA MARKETS STRONG Steady to Weaker Central West; Offerings in L. A. are Scarce

Alfalfa markets ranged from steady to somewhat weaker in the central west, but remained comparatively strong on the Pacific coast during the week ending May 8 according to the weekly alfalfa market review of the United States bureau of agricultural economics. Offerings were generally light, but in most cases well about in line with market needs, which have been greatly reduced by improved pasture in most sections.

Inquiry was very slow at Kansas City and quotations on the top grades declined \$1.00 per ton despite lighter offerings than for any previous week this season. Demand was considerably scattered, but was largely from local interests. Recent rains in southern Oklahoma have delayed harvesting for several days and new crop alfalfa is not expected on the Kansas City market from that area for at least another week or ten days. Considerable amounts of the old crop remain in producing sections of Nebraska, according to trade reports, but the quality is generally only fair and movement is slow. Receipts at Omaha were moderate and of only fair quality, for which the demand averaged slow, but quotations were unchanged.

Offerings of the better grades were comparatively scarce at Los Angeles, and moved at prices averaging near the top of the ranges quoted for the previous week. The bulk of the offerings, however, were of weather damaged hay, for which there was comparatively little demand. This quality was delivered in dairying sections at prices ranging from \$13 to \$15 per ton, depending on the percentage of damaged hay.

Offerings during the week included a wide range of types and quality, since the recent rains damaged considerable alfalfa in bales, as well as locally in the fields. Dairymen offered the principal outlet at Los Angeles, although inquiry from the fertilizer trade was of moderate volume, particularly for dry, low grade hay, at prices under \$13 per ton, delivered to citrus growers. Dairymen and feeders in southern and central California were not greatly benefited by the recent rains, since pastures had greatly deteriorated and the green berley feed crop was practically ruined.

A small portion of the later grain hay in that area, however, has been considerably benefited by the rains. Unfavorable weather for harvesting during the past two weeks in the Antelope valley, has retarded the movement, but the light offerings of the top grade from that area generally sold delivered at Los Angeles at \$16 and above. Imperial growers were generally asking \$11-\$12 per ton, f.o.b., ranch, for the better grades.

chicks hatched this year than a year ago, up to and including April. Here on the Pacific coast the decrease runs around 40 per cent. This information is based on reports from commercial hatcheries that were reported on a year ago. Here in Polk county there is quite a number of late orders coming in and the decrease may not be quite so great locally according to the information collected by County Agent J. P. Beck.

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DECREASE IS NOTED IN POULTRY FLOCKS

DALLAS, May 8—The poultry population of the country is on the decrease. This is not only

ed from those of a month ago. The Heater house contains seven rooms, breakfast nook and bath and is up to the minute in every respect, as for instance the bathroom, where all the fixtures will be lavender. The floors will be of hard wood, other woodwork will be gunwood. The house is to be plastered; cedar shakes are to be used on the outside. The living room, dining room and breakfast nook all will have large plate