

The Valley Agriculturist and His Work

Markets -- Crops -- Farm Home -- Livestock

The Diversified Interests of
Willamette Valley Farmers

Editor's Note

Mrs. Madeline Cullin, 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.

BERRY CULTURE REAL SCIENCE

J. C. Morris, Grower at
Pleasant View, Tells of
Methods Used

By MRS. EARL COOK
PLEASANT VIEW, May 23—When one digs to the bottom and begins to learn about the cultivation and growing of strawberries, it proves to be a very interesting subject.

In an interview with J. C. Morris of this section, the following information was given:

In the beginning the ground is to be as thoroughly cleaned of weeds as possible. This is best done by summer fallowing. Then in the early spring time the ground is plowed, sometimes as many as three times, disced, and rowed and marked in straight rows.

The cost of getting the land ready to plant is about \$15 per acre.

Plants 18 inches apart
Mr. Morris' particular method of planting is to set the plants about 18 inches apart in a solid row, while some growers set the berries in check rows 42 inches each way to allow for cultivation both ways in the field.

When the ground is made ready, plants are dug and thoroughly washed of all dirt to eradicate possible weevil, that work on the roots of the plant. They are then straightened and the roots trimmed to about four inches in length, also old leaves and runners being removed. The plants are then packed into shallow boxes and are ready to take to the field.

Some of Mr. Morris' berries are planted into the row, the roots then being pushed into the ground with the foot and the dirt raked onto them, while others are set by digging a hole with a trowel and placing the roots straight down. The former method is much quicker.

There is considerable expense and labor expended in keeping the plants free from weeds. They must be cultivated several times, which not only kills the weeds, but holds the moisture near the surface of the ground. Also they must be hoed.

Mr. Morris is growing a very early berry that comes and is practically gone before other berries are ready to pick. He does not know a name for it but says it is probably a seedling from the regular Oregon variety.

Berry Very Solid

It is an extremely solid berry, and a long keeper, which makes it excellent for shipping, also for canning. The color of the berry is scarlet and pink mottled. In the beginning of the season the berry is pointed in shape but as the season advances it becomes rounder, rounder and flatter. It is also a medium sized mottled berry with very few seeds. There is more tonnage to the acre as the berries weigh heavier than other varieties.

Mr. Morris has about six acres planted to this variety and 25 acres to Marshall berries.

This season he will employ about 60 pickers and the picking will last approximately six weeks.

BEEF INDUSTRY SIGNS FAVORABLE

OREGON STATE COLLEGE, Corvallis, May 23—Favorable signs for the beef industry but continuing maladjustments in supply and demand factors in the dairy and sheep industries are seen in figures on the livestock situation released today by the extension service at Oregon State college.

Consumption of dairy products has been good this spring, but the estimated production of milk increased more than use of the products, according to the report. Pasture conditions over the country average poorer than usual and holdover stocks of hay, except in some western states, are the lowest in May since 1919. The new hay crop on the whole is the least promising for many years, except 1928.

The supply of beef in storage is light compared to last year and to the average, the college report points out. Holdings of pork products, except lard, have increased until there is now more on hand than last year and the average at this time of the year. Stocks of lamb are light, but the supply available for market is expected to be ample.

Wool markets are showing some firmness because of better demand and a slight reduction in the clip in southern hemisphere countries where 70 percent of the world supply originates.

Scio Cows go To Canada Farm

SCIO, May 23—Three prime registered cows from the S. E. Holt dairy farm near Scio this week were shipped to Vancouver, B. C., by a buyer from that place. The Canadian's purchases in this part of the Willamette valley consisted of 12 registered animals, and good prices were realized, according to reports reaching Scio. Hundreds of Willamette valley dairy cows have gone to the local supply in recent years and the local supply is said still to be adequate for present purposes.

GRAND CHAMPION JERSEY COW



Blonde's Canning Mouse, owned by John S. Ellsworth, Folly Farm, Simsbury, Conn., was selected as the best female Jersey shown and awarded the grand championship ribbon at the 1930 National Dairy Exposition, St. Louis. This is her fifth year in the show ring and the second time she has captured the grand championship at the "National," having won the title in 1926.

Asparagus Beetle Control Possible if Diligent Care is Used by the Agriculturist

By BEULAH H. CRAVEN
MONMOUTH, May 23—During the past few seasons asparagus growers have found the ravages of the asparagus beetle to be perceptibly on the increase, except in cases where effective control has been unremittingly maintained.

As with most pests, there can be no lagging along the guard-lines in order to succeed in its extermination. "External vigilance is the price of safety"—but it is encouraging to know that prompt measures enforced now will save a large part of the June crop. The experiment station of Oregon State college offers this control program: "Cut crop clean to market size. Destroy all volunteer plants and crop remnant. Leave trap rows and spray with arsenate of lead (10 teaspoonsful to gallon of water) after larvae have hatched. Spray after crop is cut to destroy adults before cleaning patch for winter. Poultry is of value in destroying beetle."

The commercial grower of asparagus usually goes after the

pest before the first beetle appears. For the home grower who has a small patch for family use, and who generally does not observe the havoc perpetrated by the beetle until his asparagus is half devastated, the following procedure is offered.

Method Important
Cut every stalk of asparagus, except some ten to twenty well grown ones. If some have started to "top out" leave them, as they tend to hold the spray more thoroughly. Spray heavily with the stomach poison—arsenate of lead. We use a quart capacity cow sprayer, filling it with a solution of one tablespoonful arsenate of lead, and one teaspoonful of soap flakes (dissolved) to the quart of water. The soap is helpful in rendering the mixture adherent to the stalks. Casein spreader, or skim milk, might be used.

Spray twice the same day if possible. If any stalks containing larvae are cut they should be burned at once, being careful to convey them from the garden on newspapers to avoid scattering of future beetles.

"Traps" Visited Often
If one can take time to spray these "traps" three or four times a week an enormous diminution will be apparent. As new stalks appear we keep them cut close. We don't know whether or not asparagus so sprayed would be harmfully inedible for the human body, but we do not eat any of it during this intensive spraying period.

During this spray period, one small gardener said he visited his "traps" several times and "bugged" them—an old time method of holding a tomato can or small bucket containing a little coal oil close to the stalk and, with a stick or discarded tooth brush, flipping the beetles into the coal oil.

If this method of spraying is followed for a week, the beetle will be found on the wane. They feed mostly on the asparagus tips—avidly preferring tender ones—but the larvae are often deposited from bottom to top of a stalk. Keep a close lookout for larvae, and cut and burn each stalk on which they appear; and spray the "traps" once or twice a week and your new crop will be practically unharmed.

Young chicks or turkeys, or ducks, will take care of the beetles on the ground, but they do not secure those that cling to the stalk tops. Adult fowls, we find, do more harm to the new growth than the benefit counteracts.

Oak Trees May Be Safe This Year

OREGON STATE COLLEGE, Corvallis, May 23—Oak trees in certain sections of western Oregon, defoliated last year by the oak looper, are not likely to be killed or permanently injured by the ravages of this pest, according to conclusions reached through research carried on by Philip C. Johnson, graduate student in entomology.

Johnson has spent nearly two years studying the history and habits of this pest, Eileporia somnaria, and finds that previous infestations have occurred which usually run their course in three years at least before parasites gain control and cause the practical disappearance of the looper.

Though no careful observations have been made this spring probabilities are that the infestation will continue another season, though many of the natural enemies were abundant last year. Where park or shade trees are attacked they may be protected by a spray application of arsenate of lead and water from two to four pounds per 100 gallons. Johnson, a graduate in forestry, has carried on his investigations under the direction of Dr. Joseph Chamberlain, forest entomologist here. His thesis, just submitted contains much new data collected on this and related species of leaf eating insects.

GRANGE LECTURER BUSY
WALLACE ROAD, May 21—State Grange Lecturer Mrs. Marie Flint McCall of Wallace Road, left here Wednesday enroute to Columbia grange where she will speak at lecturer's hour. Governor Julius Meier and George W. Joseph both attend Columbia

OREGON SHEEP IN GOOD SHAPE

Unfavorable Weather did
Little Serious Damage,
Survey Reveals

In Oregon weather conditions during April were less favorable due to a dry windstorm and cold night temperatures, according to the May 1 report of the Federal-State crop reporting service. Good rains in May are needed to develop large feet which is short in many places. Lambs and ewes are all in good shape with few losses and a few dry ewes. Movement to market is expected a little later in eastern sections but in western sections, about the same time as last year.

In states east of the Rocky mountains weather conditions during April were generally favorable for the development of the early lamb crop but were unfavorable in most states west of the mountains. While weather during April was too cool for good growth of permanent pastures in some of the eastern states, rains early in the month gave a good start to grain pastures and in most of the early lambing sections a sufficient supply of green feed was available. In most of the western states April was very dry and in the northwestern states, in addition it was cold and windy. The drought situation in the early lamb areas of California was not relieved and pastures continued to dry up. In the range sections of other states range feed made slow growth.

In Washington feed conditions in April were fairly favorable, and so far this spring, ranges have furnished plenty of feed. The lamb crop has made good progress.

In Idaho ranges and pastures made little growth in April and soil moisture is badly depleted and desert water holes are drying up. Conditions of early lambs is still good, but rain and warm weather are needed to bring on range feed that will insure normal growth from now on.

In California there was practically no rain in the early lambing areas in April, with some hot days and considerable wind. Pastures continued to dry up and feed and water are becoming short in many sections. The lambs made relatively better gains than pasture conditions would indicate, but in general, lack weight and high finish. The feed situation forced most lambs to market from 10 to 30 days earlier than usual and shipments eastward in April, of live and dressed lambs, made a new record and slaughter weight, the state continued very heavy. Up to May 1 eastern shipments alive amounted to about 240,000 head, compared to 78,000 last year, and dressed shipments exceeded 50,000 head.

POULTRY INDUSTRY OUTLOOK BRIGHT

OREGON STATE COLLEGE, Corvallis, May 23.—A 37 per cent decrease in the imports of poultry products during the past year and much smaller stocks of poultry on hand in the United States are favorable signs for the poultry industry, reported L. R. Breithaupt, extension economist at Oregon State college, in his farm-market news service issued today.

Imports of poultry, mostly dressed turkeys from Argentina, fell off sharply in 1930, says the report. The total of poultry and poultry products imported was approximately 2,700,000 pounds, or 37 per cent less than in 1929. Furthermore, the cold storage holdings of turkey in this country are now only about half as large as last year and the five-year average in May.

"Stocks of other poultry are also much smaller than a year ago and well below average," Breithaupt says. "Holdings of case and frozen eggs combined are slightly less than a year ago, but above average. Egg production in April was quite a bit short of April, 1930, but consumption also was slightly less. Farm flocks of old hens are now somewhat smaller than at this time in 1930, while the reported output of chicks from commercial hatcheries may be 25 per cent less than last year. Just how many chicks have been hatched on farms is not known."

Codling Moth Spray Due Now

OREGON STATE COLLEGE, Corvallis, May 23—First cover spray for codling moth is due on apples and pears in western Oregon anytime in the third week in May, announces E. G. Thompson, associate entomologist at the experiment station. His observations show that the first brood will be hatching about this time. This spray must be combined this year with the 15-day "scab" spray, he says.

Grange. Mrs. McCall returned Monday from a visit to Lents, where she gave a lecture before the home economics club in Lents hall Friday, visited Milwaukie grange Saturday and Sunday visited an old friend, Mrs. V. C. Osbey of Portland before returning home Monday. While in Lents she was the guest of Grangemaster T. J. Krenger and wife.



The one and only reason for not growing sweet corn in the home garden is because the garden is too small. Otherwise sweet corn is the most desirable of vegetables for the home garden, the king of summer vegetables, always desirable, and too often not of the best quality. This is true because quality corn must be fresh picked and, to get it, must be grown at home.

Corn will grow in any well-worked soil but the best corn requires the best soil. Good corn land is the criterion of a successful farm. Give the garden plenty of fertilizer in that portion of it where corn is to grow. Well-drained, warm soil is to this vegetable's taste with constant moderate moisture. It does not like waterlogged soil.

Warm Weather Crop
Corn is a warm weather crop. In cold wet springs there is often difficulty with seed rotting after it is sown and it has to be replanted. It is wisest to be in no great hurry to get corn planted, as greater speed of growth will be made in warm days and nights.

The time-honored system of planting corn was in hills, three or four stalks to a hill, the hills about three feet apart each way. With the smaller growing corn planting in rows, sowing at the rate of five or six kernels to the foot, planted about two inches deep to the surface of the soil at the lower joints, which nature provides for the anchoring of the plant. Hilling up encourages the formation of these roots and enables them to take hold of the soil more quickly and firmly.

Corn responds to hoeing more quickly than most other crops. The old-fashioned way wastes fruit by rot from contact with the soil and gives unevenly ripened fruit of inferior quality, compared with those up in the air and fully exposed to the sun for even ripening.

General Purpose Type
One of the new tomatoes which has been highly praised is Mariglobe. This is an ideal general purpose tomato for table use or for canning. It is a second early, produces smooth fruits of excellent size and shape and is a fine scarlet red in color. It is a very vigorous growing tomato and a gardener can't go wrong on it. It is a wilt resistant variety which is another of its good points. Break O'Day is another of this type developed in Washington.

For size the Ponderosa, both the red and the yellow, are favorites. The yellow Ponderosa is a fancy tomato, highly esteemed by many growers as distinctive in flavor. It is a very showy tomato for the exhibition bench.

The cherry, plum, and pear tomatoes, the miniatures, are the delights of children as a few vines should be grown for the kids. The little tomatoes are excellent to eat out of hand and are fine material for preserves. Plant seed of choice tomatoes for your lawn crops now. The earliest plants are already on the way.

The hands of plant breeders. You can grow almost any kind of a tomato you want. You can grow one kind for salads and for eating raw. You can grow another for canning and for use in making catsup, chili sauce and pickles. You can grow still another for green tomatoes. You can grow miniatures for preserves, and you can grow giants for canning. You can also have a wide variety in coloring from pink through scarlet to purple—as known in tomatoes, which is really a rosy red. You can also have them in yellow.

It is merely a matter of looking over the lists and making a choice. Then, too, you can have them dwarfed and bushy or tall and lanky that need supports to do their utmost.

No good gardener nowadays allows his tomato plants to sprawl over the ground. He trains them. The old-fashioned way wastes fruit by rot from contact with the soil and gives unevenly ripened fruit of inferior quality, compared with those up in the air and fully exposed to the sun for even ripening.

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WATER STOCK TO GET MORE CREAM

J. L. Karnopp is a well known Portland real estate man who owns a fine dairy ranch near Trinitas. When the price of butterfat started to drop last year, he began to figure how he could reduce his costs and make money with his 30 cows. Like most dairy farmers, his cows were watered in the lot before being shut up in the barn for the night. The next morning they got their first drink. Mr. Karnopp got the idea that the cows would increase their production of milk if they were able to get a drink or two during the night.

So he arranged for a drinking cup for every cow. The firm that installed them was also certain the cows would increase in milk production—so sure that they agreed to take their pay for the equipment out of the increased butterfat production. Butterfat production for the five days previous showed an average of 25.28 pounds per day. Production per cow for the first five days following the installation was 32.66 pounds, or an increase of 18%.

Mr. Beck is starting an additional nursery on the F. E. Pence farm east of Rickreall. Plantings of Grimm alfalfa seed from 13 sources have been made for the purpose of comparison and will assist in deciding the localities that provide the best seed for planting here in the valley. Past nursery work indicated that the best grade of seed came from northern Montana.

Strawberries Picking Starts

HUBBARD, May 23—Strawberry picking started here Thursday at the E. E. Mayhew farm north of Hubbard. The berries were delivered to the Ray-Brown cannery at Woodburn. Mr. Mayhew's berries are of excellent quality and a good yield seems apparent.

POLK CARAVAN TO CORVALLIS MONDAY

Farmers interested in Seed
Crops; Irrigation to
Be Viewed

DALLAS, May 23—Polk county farmers interested in seed crops will form a caravan to visit the experiment station at Corvallis Monday, May 25. Preparations for this visit have been made by Professors G. R. Hyalop, P. M. Brandt and C. V. Rusek, cooperating with J. R. Beck, county agent.

Irrigation of dairy pastures that have been conducted at Corvallis for the past three years will be one of the projects to be viewed. Another important one will be the rotation fields where soil fertility has been maintained and increased through following a simple rotation which is adaptable to local farms. Several promising varieties of seed crops will also be inspected.

The caravan will leave Rickreall at 8:40 Monday morning, going through Monmouth and will meet at the agriculture building on the campus. The morning will be spent in visits to one section, and following lunch another section will be inspected, under the supervision of the men in charge of this work.

R. M. Walker of the First National bank of Independence and Ira C. Powell of the Monmouth First National bank are assisting Mr. Beck with local arrangements.

Grimm Alfalfa Held Best For Lands in Polk

DALLAS, May 23—After experiments conducted on the M. V. Prather farm in the Buena Vista district for three years it seems demonstrated that the Grimm variety of alfalfa is the best for seeding in Polk county. This was determined recently when planting of the Grimm and common plantings were inspected by County Agent Beck and Mr. Prather.

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