

Valley Farms and Their Workers:

News of the Prosperous Willamette Valley and of the Varied Agricultural Pursuits of interest to its Diversified Farmers.

Edited by GENEVIEVE MORGAN
This page is a regular Sunday feature of The Statesman. Farm news, farm information, the story of the successes of various farm operators published herein.

ALFALFA USES INCREASE FAST

Nearly 200 Polk County Farmers Grow hay; big Increase Noted

(Editor's Note—This is report on second series of articles prepared by J. R. Beck, county agent of Polk county, describing certain features of agricultural development during the past five years. It relates to successful growing of alfalfa and the remarkable increase from 70 to 3,500 acres in a period of five years, with a return of \$25,000 to the county each year.)

Western Oregon farmers tried alfalfa growing without great success until 1922 when O. T. McWhorter, county agent of Washington county working with the farmers developed the features that have firmly established this crop. Other county agents took up these practices until nearly every county now has large acreages.

Pence Early Grower
Until the re-establishment of county agent service in 1924 in Polk county, little alfalfa was grown, one of the earlier fields being that of Robert Pence on the former Nesmith farm near Rickreall, which has produced as much as five tons per acre and is still in as good production. Where five acres was considered a sizable field, there are many now of 20 and 30 acres and that of Byron Ruddle of Oak Point has one field of 100 acres.

Through cooperation with the county agent, livestock men and poultry men have been finding new uses for alfalfa and replacing other hay crops. From three to five tons is an average yield, providing pasture in the early spring and in the dry weeks before fall rains. Alfalfa hay brings two dollars on the market above other hays so on this basis it means six to ten dollars per acre in the farmers pocket.

Byrd Walling of the Lincoln district was the first to take up the practice of pasturing sheep on alfalfa in the early spring. Other prominent sheep men to follow this are James Riddell, J. B. Stump and So. Ziesche farms. **Home's Link Wm. Riddell and Sons** and others. W. O. Morrow pastured 23 pigs or 3-5 of an acre from April to August and added 1,000 pounds of grain. The increased weight of the hogs less the cost of grain, brought a return of \$265 for less than an acre of alfalfa.

Feeding alfalfa hay in January increased butterfat production five pounds per cow for Joe Elise of Buell. Alfalfa soil rejuvenated a field for Ed Harmon of Buena Vista and increased his wheat crop 15 bushels per acre. Some of the first fields in the county were planted by W. N. Bosley, J. B. Stump, W. R. Rowell, M. L. Capps, D. R. Ruble, Claud Boothby, Henry Keyt, T. E. Blair, Ernest Ziesche, the latter having developed the first successful alfalfa silage and alfalfa meal in this section.

Preparation for planting has several important features, testing the soil, use of genuine Grimm variety of seed, inoculation, and late seeding on firm well-drained seed bed, severe cultivation each year to eliminate weeds. Stands have failed where these rules have not been followed. Demonstrations for the use of land-plaster, super-phosphate and cultivation have been carried on continuously. An outstanding demonstration was held on the Ernest Helmsington place this year.

Nearly 200 farmers in the county are growing alfalfa. It is the county agent's opinion that the job is not yet complete, that the livestock demands of the county and available acreage will justify at least 7,000 acres additional and "in future years we will probably wonder at how simple the growing of alfalfa really is. Pioneer farming is quickly forgotten by those now directly connected with it."

The Country Hereabouts

MACLEAY, Nov. 7—Kephart shipped 41 head of high grade cows and heifers to California this week. They were mostly Guerneys.

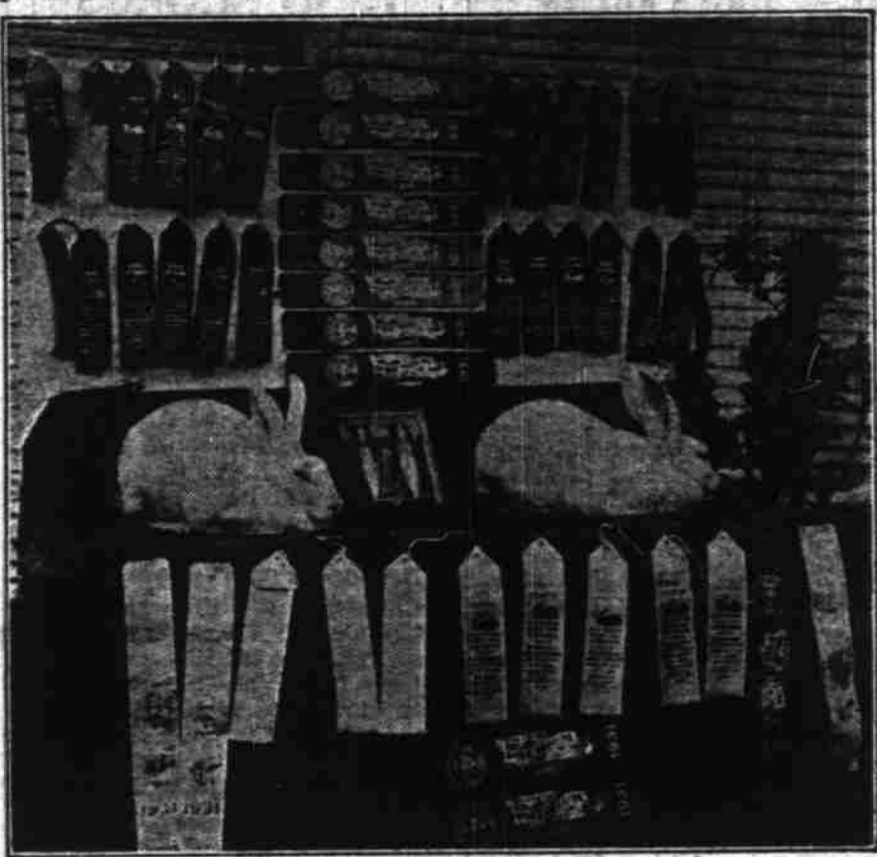
ROSEDALE—Mr. and Mrs. Joe Origg are in Washington near Ridgefield, a few days reporting the district of 20 acres of potatoes they have there. The work is done by tractors.

LIBERTY—Harold Jedd and Roland Jory left Wednesday with a large truck load of dried prunes bound for Pendleton and The Dalles.

SILVERTON HILLS—Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Murray have been enjoying ripe strawberries for some time this autumn picked from their own patch. While there are usually autumn strawberries in this community it is said that this year's yield has been better and much larger than in commonly so.

BETHANY—P. C. Sonnyson is reporting a pear blossom tree in bloom. A few days ago Mr. Sonnyson brought a sprig from his tree to Silverton to show the people what this community could do.

CONTENTED BUNNIES? YOU BET!



And why shouldn't they be? They helped win for A. S. Washburn 22 ribbons, a silver trophy (displayed) and cash specials at the Pacific International. Some state fair ribbons were won, too. The rabbits above are Ermine Rex, and were judged the best in the Rex show. Washburn has 30 rabbits entered in the show.

Manure Most Valuable; Spread While Fresh; Usual Handling Loss Said to Run as High as 80 Per Cent

A large part of the value of farm manures is lost under ordinary methods of handling. In some instances the loss runs as high as 80 per cent. However, with proper care the loss may be cut down to 20 per cent. The best method of handling manure is to spread it on the fields as soon as it is made, point out soil specialists at the State college. But if this practice is not possible or desirable, the manure may be protected from loss by putting it under shelter during the rainy season. The liquid manure, which is relatively high in nitrogen, and therefore valuable, is readily washed out of exposed manure piles. There is also a loss of nitrogen in the form of ammonia resulting from fermentation of piled manure.

W. L. Powers, soil scientist in charge, and C. V. Ruzek, soil scientist, suggest the use of gypsum or superphosphate to prevent the loss due to fermentation. The addition of these chemicals not only saves the escaping ammonia but

also adds to the value of the manure. Manure as it is produced has a nitrogen content that is out of proportion to the phosphorus content to properly feed growing plants. For this reason phosphorus is added to get the best results from the manure.

It is best to use enough litter to absorb all the liquid manure. The most common type of litter used is grain straw. When easily obtainable, muck, peat, leaves, fern, or mosses can be used for litter. Sawdust and shavings will absorb large amounts of liquids but may be undesirable since they contain but small quantities of plant food, are slow to decompose, and when used in large amounts will lock up the soil's nitrate supply.

The soil department investigation also showed that the rate and frequency of application of manure to the land plays an important part in its efficient use. Manure applied at the rate of eight tons per acre gave more economical results than 12-ton or 32-ton applications in the college trials.

NEWCOMER GOES IN FOR RABBITS

A. S. Washburn Expresses Great Faith in Future Of Red Breed

Giving up a lucrative confectionary business in Colorado to travel in search of health, A. S. Washburn finds himself well launched in a rabbitry business on the south edge of Salem. A few months ago, that was far from his mind.

Nor did he think a few months ago that today he would display with pride 32 ribbons, a silver trophy and two special prizes—all winnings on 30 rabbits exhibited at the Pacific International Livestock show.

Washburn also made some winnings at the state fair, where he first made exhibition of the Rex and pedigreed New Zealand rabbits, in which he specializes. The former is for pets and the New Zealand for meat purposes. Frough he has played along with rabbits for a number of years, but as a business, he entered it only recently.

Castorrex is new. He is proud of his Rex rabbits, the newest addition being the Castorrex, first bred in 1919 by a Frenchman, Monsieur L. Abbe Gillet. The name Castorrex was given to this breed because the fur bears such a close resemblance to beaver in color and thickness. Castor is the French name for the English beaver; rex is the Latin word for king. Washburn imported his first Rex rabbits two years ago from France.

He started here in mid-summer, and already has constructed a hutch with 112 hutches four-high. A row of display hutches has also been built and frame of another rabbitry is up.

Washburn builds his display hutches with wire "floors", which he finds more convenient than the wooden slopping ones.

Feeds Alfalfa Hay
The feed he uses may surprise some rabbit growers; he feeds baled alfalfa hay and rolled barley largely. All feeding is done through a v-shaped feeder constructed between the hutches. His rabbits always get to eat twice daily.

coat, which is very soft. The fur is as dense and soft as a mole's, in fact.

Experiments too Mr. Washburn thinks the future of the breed is immense and says it will set a new value in rabbit culture.

Castorrex rabbits are those possessing the same texture of fur as the Castorrex, but of different colors, and have been bred to the Castorrex. Washburn is doing considerable experimenting along this line and has already developed several novelties. He has also a number of Erminers, one of the finest Colorex.

He believes that when the Erminers is produced in large enough numbers to reach the fur market it will demand prices equalled only to the sable fur. Washburn's place is on route three, box 16.

RESULTS ON TUSKO MILK BOTTLE TOLD

The Tusko-sized milk bottle which revolved slowly in the Dairy Cooperative display booth at the stock show attracted a whirlwind of guesses in the contest to estimate the number of quarts of grade A milk a glass milk bottle the same size would contain. Experts from the various state colleges made exact measurements and calculated the liquid contents to a mathematical pint. Their findings were placed in an envelope which was not opened until the contest closed.

Mrs. George Jacobsen, John Christensen and H. A. Mathieson, all of Portland, and H. Loughary, Corvallis; D. C. Howard, Vancouver and W. T. Peddler, Vancouver, Wash., were declared the winners after careful checking of the 7000 guesses.

The bottle would contain 721.6 quarts of milk and Mr. Peddler was the only one who guessed exactly. Five prizes were offered but the above six persons will receive orders for Sweetkit \$2 score butter or a loaf of Interstate cheese, awarded by the Dairy Cooperative as prizes.

Horses Come Back to Farm

RICKET, Nov. 7—Farmers in this community are busy plowing and seeding. The W. J. Culver farm and the Meadow Lawn dairy farm that have been farmed by J. J. Jumper of the Meadow Lawn dairy has been using five on his gang plow. Handling five horses is an accomplishment of which everyone cannot boast.

Poultry and Pet Group to Elect
The Oregon Poultry and Pet Stock association will hold its annual election of officers Tuesday night, November 10, at 7:30 o'clock in the chamber of commerce rooms, Multnomah hotel, room OA, Portland.

NEW TURNIP IS DECLARED BOON

Woodburn man Describes Vegetable as Remarkable Producer

By W. C. CONNER
About three years ago A. Engbertson, director of the Astor experiment station at Astoria, introduced into this western Oregon coast country a new stock turnip, which after two years field growing tests is proving a remarkable producer and a great boon to dairymen and poultrymen as a succulent root feed.

O. P. Forsberg, of Woodson, who has given this new turnip a tryout, is enthusiastic in regard to its heavy production and great dairy and poultry feed possibilities. He writes as follows:

"I am sending by parcel post to your office a specimen of the new Danish Bortfield turnip, grown on my farm this season. It is a new product on the Pacific coast and consequently not very well known. It is, however, a dairy cow feed of proven value. This is the second season I have been growing it, but up to this time I have not given this Bortfield sufficient feeding tests to confirm its reputation as a very desirable dairy root feed, as we had only a small planting last season and it is just beginning to feed this year's crop.

"However, I am convinced, as far as yield per acre and as a succulent dairy feed, it is certainly all that is claimed for it and that it will meet with general satisfaction and prove one of our best root crops. Dairy cows like this Danish Bortfield turnip better than any root crop we have ever grown or experimented with. We have also discovered that this is a small planting and great feed for poultry and all kinds of poultry eat it freely.

"This turnip is also a good keeper and remains in good whole condition until late in the spring. About the first of the winter it sprouts and is still slightly and its keeping season is at an end.

"It appears to me that it will be to the interest of poultrymen to investigate the value of this great Danish dairy turnip as a winter feed for their chickens and turkeys. Our chickens have done well on it and they eat it more readily and better than any greens we have ever given them.

"The specimen I am mailing to you is not an unusually large turnip of this variety, as I endeavored to select only a fair average in both size and shape. "We have them in our field almost three times as large as the specimen, but by sending you the average size you will be able to arrive at a close estimate of the great yield that may be expected from an average fertile soil.

"I plant them like any other root crop, thin them down to eight inches apart in the row and space them as they cultivate them as you would any similar root crop."

Anyone interested in this Danish Bortfield turnip as a dairy or poultry green feed crop should apply to A. Engbertson, director Astor Experiment Station, Astoria, through whose efforts it was introduced and grown in this coast country. He can give you all the information you desire as to its feed value, soil and everything needed for its successful cultivation.

The specimen of this Bortfield turnip received at The Statesman office is white in color, very solid and firm in texture, is 18 inches long, 18 inches in circumference and weighs 10 pounds. It will be noted that Forsberg states that this is only an average size turnip of this variety. It has every appearance of being a wonderful addition to the root crops of the western Oregon district.

Carload Fruit For Montana's Nedy to Move

The state-wide response of the Oregon Farmers' union to the appeal for food for Montana has been gratifying. Two carloads of apples are to be shipped, and a mixed car of fresh and dried fruits with perhaps sacked vegetables will be assembled in Salem as soon as plans for receiving can be confirmed.

November 5 had been set as the shipping date but it has been found necessary to extend the time a few days.

Mint Production Largely Reduced

A substantial reduction in the expected crop of peppermint oil is indicated in the October report. The output this year for the five principal peppermint producing states, Indiana, Michigan, Oregon, Washington and Ohio, according to the government estimate, will be slightly over 600,000 pounds. This is less than two-thirds of the output in 1930 and slightly more than three-fifths in the 1929 crop.

Mt. Angel Cows Hang Up Records for Travel and Prizes; Herd Home Now

MT. ANGEL, Nov. 7 — If any school boy in Canada or the mid-west were asked where Mt. Angel is located, the answer undoubtedly would be "the home of the Mt. Angel College Stock farm herd in Oregon." Little known four months ago, when it left on the Canadian-Midwest show circuit, the College Stock farm herd of Holsteins returned to Mt. Angel the first of this week recognized as one of the leading herds in the country.

The cattle were exhibited at 15 shows and brought home 92 first prizes and 33 championships. During the time they were on the circuit they traveled the longest distance of any western show herd, having covered over 10,000 miles.

Oregon people have had the self-known satisfaction that some of the prize cattle of the world were owned by dairymen of this state, but this was the first herd from Oregon to ever make such an extensive circuit. Lawrence Thomas, herdsman, estimated that over 3,000,000 people saw the cattle. Through news stories, Oregon and Mt. Angel has gained much favorable publicity.

According to John Roelofs, and his assistant, Albert Schmitz, who were in charge of the cattle, the farthest north the herd went was Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and the farthest south was Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The herd was exhibited at the following places: Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina and Prince Albert, Canada; Montana State fair, Helena, North Montana fair, Great Falls; Central Montana fair, Lewistown; Midland Empire fair, Billings, Mont.; South Dakota State fair, Huron, S. D.; Kansas State fair, Hutchinson, Kan.; Oklahoma State fair, Oklahoma City; Oklahoma Free State fair, Muskogee, Okla.; National Dairy Show, St. Louis, Mo.; and the Pacific International Livestock Exposition, Portland, Oregon.

At the Livestock Exposition at Portland the Mt. Angel herd was the only Holstein string. It was the only herd exhibiting that placed two cows above eight in the aged cow class, taking fourth and seventh. The herd was in the money in practically every class in the Holstein division.

On the way to Portland from the home of Fremley exhibitor, St. Louis, the car containing the local herd was attached to a special stock train. Stops were made at Harvey, Minn., Dickinson, N. D., Missoula, Mont., and Sandpoint, Idaho. The Mt. Angel herd was the only Holstein string on the train. At each stop the cattle were exhibited and talks were made on the different breeds.

Some of the outstanding winners of the local herd are as follows: Mt. A. Inda Model A agglutinator bull calf and junior champion Montana State fair; junior champion North Montana fair; junior champion Central Montana fair; first prize senior

bull calf, Kansas State fair; junior champion, Oklahoma State fair, and second prize bull at the National Dairy Show. Tiltamook Little Beauty—This cow was grand champion at Oregon State fair, 1929. This season she has done wonderful work in the show ring. She was grand champion, Montana State fair, Central Montana fair, Midland Empire fair, and grand champion Holstein cow and sweetstakes winner over all dairy cows at North Montana fair. She was grand champion cow, Oklahoma State fair, and fourth prize aged cow at the National Dairy Show.

Begis Walker Matador Artis—Grand champion bull, North Montana State fair, Central Montana State fair and Midland Empire fair. He was first prize aged bull at South Dakota fair, Kansas State fair, Oklahoma State fair, and third prize aged bull at the National Dairy Show.

Sir Colantha Homestead Tidy—first prize two-year-old bull, Regina (Canada) Exposition; first prize North Montana fair, Central Montana fair, Midland Empire fair, and first at Oklahoma State fair. He was grand champion bull at Montana State fair, Kansas State fair and Oklahoma Free State fair, also fifth prize two-year-old bull at the National Dairy Show.

ORANGES, LEMONS GROWN BY MARTIN

MACLEAY, Nov. 7—California boasts of its sun kissed oranges and V. L. Martin, postmaster, has demonstrated that Oregon sunshine can produce oranges just as golden as the sister state. In the postoffice is a little orange tree less than a foot in height with seven golden oranges hanging from its branches.

The oranges range in size, the largest being about the size of a large walnut, but all are perfect in shape.

Mr. Martin also has a lemon tree about three feet high which has one lemon. At present there is a green lemon on the tree the size of an ordinary lemon. Recently a ripe lemon dropped off that was not only as large as any lemon on the market but also with as good a flavor.

PROJECTS IN DEMAND
Eighteen different communities in Clackamas county are actively participating in 33 different home economics project meetings this year according to the program and calendar recently prepared from the office of Thelma Gaylord, home demonstration agent. This calendar was formulated and approved by the county extension committee which is composed of seven women and headed by Mrs. G. W. Thieszen of Milwaukie.

NEW VARIETIES BERRY OFFERED

Experimentors Think Lloyd George Possible Successor to Cuthbert

Two new varieties of red raspberries, Lloyd George and Chief, have just been recommended for trial plantings on a commercial basis throughout the Northwest as a result of three years of study of them at the Oregon State college experiment station. The Lloyd George is considered as a possible successor to Cuthbert as a major commercial crop berry, while Chief is believed to have a more limited field.

Dr. George M. Darrow, senior pomologist of the bureau of plant industry, who is doing special cooperative research work at Corvallis, announces that the Lloyd George variety is harder and more productive than Cuthbert, that its fruit ripens about 10 days ahead of the Cuthbert, and that the plants bear a fall crop amounting to as much as a ton to the acre on the tips of the new canes.

The berries of this new variety are the largest of any commercial variety yet tested, the largest being almost the size of the average loganberry. They are uniform in size, hold the size well through the season, and more firm than the Cuthbert. Its weaknesses are that its flavor is hardly as appealing to some as the Cuthbert, and it is not quite as sweet. Its canes are somewhat shorter, though more productive per foot.

The variety originated as a chance seedling in England and was introduced there in 1920, since when it has become the leading sort. It was later introduced into New York where it has been recommended by the state experiment station. Eastern nurseries have certified stock.

The Chief variety is recommended because of its exceptional hardness and productiveness, combined with excellent flavor and early ripening, exceeding the Cuthbert by two weeks at Corvallis. The berries are too small for general commercial canning use and the plants are subject to wilt.

For local market purposes its bright red berries that do not turn dark, and its good quality and productiveness make it worth planting on a small scale at least, says Dr. Darrow.

EXCHANGE SUCCESS

That the Josephine county food conservation project is effective is evidenced by the fact that at one field alone more than 50 families called for tomatoes and took them away in 100 or 200 pound lots. This exchange and distribution of food among needy families was carried out through the granges of the county and is under the direct supervision of Sara Wertz, home demonstration agent, and Herbert Howell, agricultural agent.

Good Money In Skunks, Says Sahli

WACONDA, Nov. 7—A. W. Sahli, a farmer at Waconda has two live skunks that bring him a nice income, besides being lively pets for the children.

Sahli says the task of raising and caring for these animals is no more unpleasant than raising chickens or rabbits, once the skunks are tamed.

In these days of depression many new industries have sprung up and it is the opinion of Mr. Sahli that skunk raising will be done on a large scale a few years from now. He says it will be a profitable business if the price remains as good as it is now for oil and skins.

Last winter farmers here sold the oil for \$5 an ounce. This product is said to be used as a base for a high grade perfume. Others say it was used for certain bombs thrown about last winter.

WHEAT CONTINUES SKYWARD CLIMBING

Livestock and hay unchanged; Hops improve; Eggs Drop a Cent

PORTLAND, Nov. 7—(AP)—Further remarkable increase in wheat prices was the only interesting feature of the general market activities here this week. Bluestem increased in value 10 cents for the week, closing around 87 cents, with 84 cents and red at 72 cents. Oats increased another \$2.00 to \$23.00 for both white and gray.

Livestock in practically every department was unchanged. Hogs held the same except for a slight falling off in the price of feeders and stockers which closed at 4.90-5.00. Heavies, 250-290 lbs. were 4.25-5.00; mediums, 200-230 lbs. were 4.75-5.25, and lights, 160-180 lbs., were 5.25 to 5.35.

Both cattle and lambs were unchanged. Goods steers, 600-1100 lbs., were 6.00-6.75; good cows 4.90-4.50, and choice vealers, 7.00-8.00.

Good to choice lambs, 90 lbs. down, were 5.00-5.50; mediums 3.75-5.00, and common 3.00-3.75. The hay list was the same, unchanged for several weeks.

The only change in eggs was a one-cent drop in price of fresh pullets to 18 cents. Fresh extras were 29-31c; standards 27c and fresh mediums 26c.

Prime first butter was off one cent to 29c but other divisions were unchanged at 31c for extras, 30c for standards, and 28c for firsts.

Hops improved from 12-13 1/2 and 13 1/2 cents for 1931 Oregon crop. Italian prunes were 40 cents at 4 and 7 cents, and there was no change in wool at 13 and 15 for eastern Oregon, 13c for valley coarse and 13c for medium.

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