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.

DRAINING CHEAP NOW, IS WORD

Farmers who are Able to Install Tile are Advised to do so

Farmers of western Oregon who are able to finance it, can install tile drainage under present conditions at a minimum cost and furnish some work for unemployed in addition, says Dr. W. L. Powers, who has studied the drainage problem closely for many years. Such drainage is the first step needed in improvement of a third of the Willamette valley floor soils, and will decrease the unit cost of production.

"Scarcely a quarter section is on the valley floor but what would benefit from some tile drainage," says Dr. Powers. "Four out of five farms could be tiled without district outlet ditches, while a quarter million acres need either community or district outlets.

"Drainage is the most permanent improvement that can be put on the farm, and one that needs no fire insurance to protect it. Removing the excess water improves soil structure, increases the root pastures and increases the usable moisture during the growing season. Drainage affords better air circulation, makes the soil warmer, aids decay and nitrification, lengthens the growing season, prevents either erosion or accumulation of toxic acids or alkali, and prevents heaving or ferezing out."

The soils extension specialist will assist in laying out a tile drainage system which can be developed gradually as money and time are available, says Dr. Powers. Many farmers begin with the most necessary unit first, being careful to keep accurate maps so extensions may be made later. Tile is best bought in not less than a single carload lot, he says.

Seasonable drainage activities for the late fall include cleaning out dead furrows and other surface runs and seeing that all present tile outlets are clear so that water will not stand on the surface.

KITCHEN SHORTCUT SERIES SCHEDULED

Farm management experts have long been telling farmers how they can cut down on their work by cutting the waste motion out of their chore routes. Now the home management specialists come along with the observation that homemakers can profit equally or more from a check-up on their "kitchen chores" where, surveys show, the average woman spends half of her working time

More than 450 Oregon homemakers in 39 different towns are now enrolled in just such an organized effort to save time and have signed up for a series of eight letters giving specific examples of "Short Cuts in Kitchen Work," which will be on Monday, November 16.

The "short cut" letters deal with such simple but effective time savers as keeping a broken or bent handled spoon in the coffee can, keeping the bread knife right in the bread box, or keeping the salt, pepper and flour shakers near the stove. The letters cover the three general divisions of cooking, serving and cleaning. Enrollment may be made direct with Mrs. Zelta Rodenwold, extension economist, Oregon State college.

April Toms Pull Scales To 30 Mark

An april hatch tom that pulls the scales down to the 30-pound mark brings a smile all over the face of Henry Domes, turkey breeder of the McCoy district.

Domes, proud owner of the grand champion bird at the Pacific International, says he has spring hatch pullets that weigh 16 and 17 pounds. His heaviest bird is a 36-pound yearling tom. He breeds White Holand exclusively.

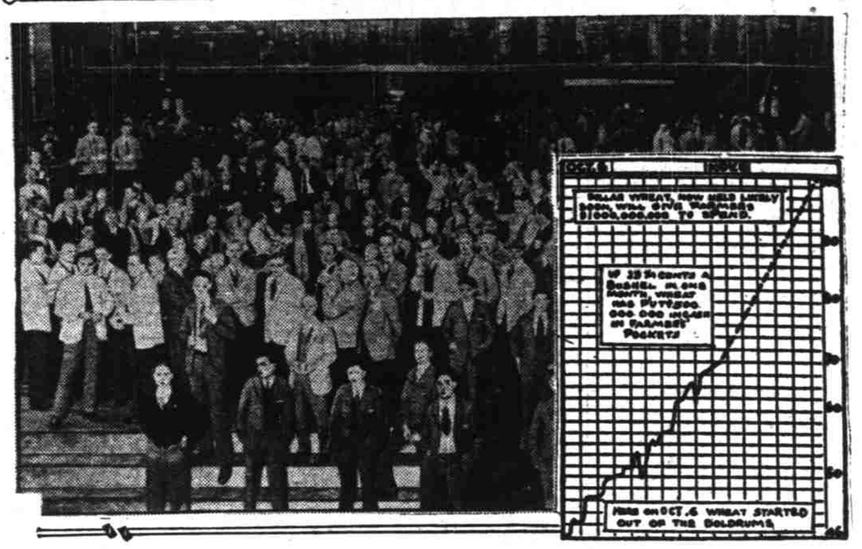
Although he has been in the turkey "game" but five years, Domes has worked up until he has the largest turkey farm in Polk county, with 1300 birds. He says orders for Thanksgiving have been coming in pretty steadily, but that he always makes his biggest sale for meat purposes at Christmas time. He does not rely on these two big sales, however, as his main forte is the breeding end of the business.

Burning Stumps Draw Attention

ST. HELENS—Considerable interest is being shown in the charpitting method of burning stumps by Columbia county farmers, many of whom have been consulting with County Agent George Nelson on the subject. Nelson plans to hold a demonstration meeting in the near future on the charpitting of stumps, which, he says, seems to be a feasible method involving only labor with no outlay for other expenses.

Oats smut and barley stripe were unusually prevalent in Iowa small grain fields this year.

EYES OF WORLD FOCUSED ON THIS PIT



The spectacular rise in wheat—heralded as the first step toward complete economic recovery—has focused the world's attention on the famous wheat pit in the Chicago Board of Trade. This picture shows traders on the greatest wheat market in the world as the rise in the grain added $50,000,000 to farmers' pockets. Diagram graphically indicates the wheat advance from 23½ cents October 6 to 70 cents November 6. Dollar wheat is held likely within a reasonable length of time.

The Country Hereabouts

CANYON CITY—Crested wheat grass in Grant county this fall looked even more promising than had been anticipated, reports County Agent R. G. Johnson who has been checking over the grass nurseries recently. When no other grass was showing any signs of life, it had at least a one-inch green sprout on it. Although this was probably the dryest year the county has ever had, this grass, under very dry conditions, stooled out more, showed no summer killing, and in all cases where it was in its secondary year, seeded heavily, Johnson says.

ROSEBURG—Present indications are that the Northwestern Turkey show to be held at Oakland December 17, 18 and 19 will be bigger than ever, with higher quality birds shown, says J. C. Leedy, county agent. The show will have a 4-H club division this year for the first time.

MEDFORD — Many Jackson county orchardists are watching with interest a demonstration of the value of fall and winter irrigation of pear orchards in which H. Van Hoevenberg of Sams Valley and D. Clark of Medford are cooperating with County Agent T. P. Wilcox.

THE DALLES—L. A. Schanno of Mill creek, in cooperation with County Agent W. Wray Lawrence, has started a cover crop demonstration on his orchard, in which wheat was used at a heavy rate, in addition to hairy vetch, Hungarian vetch and Austrian winter field peas. Neilson brothers of Mill creek and H. A. Walter, Three Mile, are planning similar demonstration trials.

NORTH BEND—A box of timesaving, inexpensive kitchen equipment was featured at a recent club meeting planned by Mrs. Echo P. Schepman of North Bend. The box of kitchen articles, together with the written demonstration lecture which accompanies it, was prepared by Mrs. Zelta F. Rodenwold, extension economist, home management. It was borrowed from the home economics extension office at Corvallis. Other groups may obtain this equipment box by paying postage to and from Corvallis.

EUGENE—Lane county homemakers from 27 different communities are enrolled for home economics extension work this fall, according to Gertrude Skow, county home demonstration agent. Economical meals and meal planning has attracted 19 communities and the year-round garden project numbers 13 widely separated groups. Other home economics extension activities enrolling Lane county women include a kitchen rearrangement project, a study of time scheduling for the home and homemaker, and an analysis of food purchasing habits and attitudes.

PLEASANT VALLEY—Locally produced vegetables and fruits formed the basis of the balanced luncheon prepared by the home extension unit of Pleasant Valley recently. This group, under the direct supervision of Frances Clinton, home demonstration agent, considered practical suggestions for preparing economical meals together with methods for obtaining an attractive finished product.

LINCOLN—Another old landmark of Lincoln is a thing of the past since the high winds of this week blew down the huge cottonwood tree which stood near the site of the former Lincoln store and wharf on the banks of the Willamette river. There was a tree house in its branches built by two Lincoln boys, now deceased, Lorin Walling and Chester Abrams.

CORVALLIS—Enrollment for service material which supplements KOAC radio lectures on "Your money's worth in household textiles" now number 114 and come from 18 different counties of the state, according to the home economics extension office. These sheets contain guides for buying common household textiles such as towels, sheets, blankets and curtains. Any homemaker who has satisfactory radio reception may enroll for these mimeographed sheets and use them to supplement the Thursday afternoon radio lectures over KOAC.

AMITY—With Thanksgiving approaching, it will be a busy time on a number of "turkey ranches" here. Mack Bros. have more than 300 birds; Mrs. Joe McKee, 200; G. H. Giffin near Whitson, 1,00; Zorn Sornson, between 300 and 400. All have their turkeys marked against theft.

LINCOLN—D. R. Ruble, well known horticulturist of Lincoln, has one of the finest fall vegetable gardens in Polk county. Mr. Ruble tried an experiment this year by planting the vegetables this fall usually grown in the spring and irrigating them. Four plantings were made in late July, twice in August, and the last in September. Lettuce, onions, radishes, turnips and colirabi were planted.

JEFFERSON—D. W. Porter and Joe Yagelski of the Scravelhill district are busy setting out several hundred gooseberry plants this year.

SCIO—McKinley Huntington, president and manager of the Oregon Turkey Growers, is expected here from Roseburg shortly to conduct a demonstration on killing and peparation for market of turkeys.

Nitrogen Makes Growth in Tree

ROSEBURG—In a recently completed test in which R. B. Montgomery of Looking Glass cooperated with County Agent J. C. Leedy to determine the effect of various fertilizers on yield and quality of prunes, nitrogen produced a substantial increase in the growth of the trees. The four pound applications of ammonium sulfate per tree, however, had a detrimental effect on the quality of the prunes, resulting in a low drying test per bushel.

More than 5,000 samples were analyzed in laboratories of the dairy and food division of the Iowa department of agriculture last year. Nearly 2,000 samples were of seeds.

Characteristics Labish Peat Soils Gathered in Series of Soil Studies

By DR. W. L. POWERS
(Soil Scientist, Oregon Experiment Station)

Studies with profile samples of peat from Lake Labish and other peat areas of the northwest show that the Marion county deposit belongs to the low moor or nearly neutral sedge peat group. The willow sedge peat of Lake Labish is formed by material that decays fairly readily and is nearly neutral in reaction. The occurrence of a marly layer in the substratum has operated to prevent much acidity developing.

Early experiments with peat from the Harris ranch about 15 years ago resulted in a maximum yield of oats being obtained in greenhouse studies where potassium sulfate was used. This led to use of potassium sulfate by growers on the Lake bed. In some earlier trials an investment of $25 an acre in potassium sulfate doubled the onion crop.

High Nitrogen Content

A few years later attention was again called to fertility problems in Lake Labish resulting in several years of field and laboratory studies, which included the Marion county peat soil. Chemical analyses has shown these soils to be high in total nitrogen and sulfur and low in potassium. The organic matter of the surface layer is from 50 to 80 per cent. Nearly all of these soils contain contributions of mineral inwash.

The net amount of nearly available or exchange bases is moderate and tends to decrease as the content of organic matter increases and the increase would aproach toward the marly substratum. Cropped and uncropped series of stoneware jars of peat in the greenhouse have afforded opportunity to study the effect of fertilizers on soil solution where uncropped and on the yield in companion cropped jars. Water soluble potassium is generally very limited and is increased after treatment with potassic salts, barnyard manure or calcium sulfate or a combination containing two or all of these.

Potassic Salt Needed

Oats, cotton, tomatoes, field peas, mint, and fiber flax have been grown in plant house and field fertilizer trials with this soil. The treatments which have increased the water soluble potassium have resulted in increased yields and improved the quality of the products. Full efficiency of potassic salts is not obtained except in the presence of a fair supply of nitrates. Potassium sulfate has given slightly larger yields than potassium chloride and also a higher quality of product. Potassic salts increase the length, strength, and yields of flax fiber and the yield of mint oil.

The formation of nitrates and control of acidity is aided by deepened or improved or complete drainage, liming, and soil inoculation. This inoculation has been accomplished by use of fertile upland soil or with a light application of well decomposed barnyard manure.

Doubles Yield

Sedge peat in Florida has been found to respond to such elements as copper and manganese and zinc and led to including these materials in fertilizer tests with Lake Labish peat. Manganese salts gave a yield of 308 grams of tomatoes as compared to 165 for the untreated check. With manganese and zinc included in the treatment the yield was 365 grams. Manganese sulfate has also doubled the yield of tomatoes from muck near Clatskanie. No significant increase was realized from the use of copper sulfate. Fifty pounds of manganese sulfate an acre may well be included in field trials and promises to be very profitable.

Vertical shrinkage of peat soil is greatest during the first years of cultivation and that the amount will depend upon the depth of the peat, the depth of drainage, kind and composition of peat forming material, and the control of moisture, temperature, and nutrients effecting activity of decomposition microorganisms. Raw peat may shrink to one-fourth of the initial volume upon drying and upon long exposure to moisture may regain only 70 per cent of the original. In designing drains in sedge peat allowance should be made for vertical shrinkage of some 33 per cent. Statements of farmers who have handled Lake Labish peat since its reclamation indicate subsidence of something like an inch a year. Soundings show a depth of peat in the main body of the Lake up to 18 or 21 feet.

Jelly Best Absorber

Chemical studies of colloidal organic matter obtained from cropped and uncropped peat profile layers from Lake Labish the past winter in the studies made in the laboratory of the U. S. Bureau of Chemistry and soils show that peat jelly will absorb 50 per cent more moisture than clay jelly and that it carries about twice as much nitrogen as the peat as a whole from which it is derived and that it has great capacity for absorbing and retaining nutrient bases such as calcium and ammonia in nearly available or exchange form.

The base capacity is even higher in the sedimentary layers which contain about 20 or 25 per cent inorganic material such as ultra-clay or clay colloid. A concentration of bases is believed to occur at the surfaces of the two kinds of component particles in such a mixture. A mixture of clay and peat colloid formed in the presence of lime appears to be of fundamental importance in conserving soil productiveness.

SPEEDY POTATO BATH IS FOUND

New Treatment More Effective Than old Ones, Experiment Shows

A new method of treating potatoes for rhyzoctonia before planting which is quicker and more effective than most methods now in use has been tried out successfully at the Oregon experiment station this year by T. P. Dykstra, federal pathologist in potato diseases.

The two standard methods at present are the mercuric chloride (corrosive sublimate) bath, in which the potaoes must remain for two hours, and the hot formaldehyde bath, which has the disadvantage of requiring that the water be kept at a constant temperature of around 125 degrees. A third method which makes use of organic chemical compounds has proved uncertain and erratic in results.

In 5 Minutes

The new method, originated by Dr. J. G. Leech and associates of the Minnesota experiment station, is based on the mercuric chloride process but changed by the addition of 1 per cent of commercial hydrochloric acid. This acidulated mercuric chloride solution, as it is called, is so greatly increased in effectiveness that a bath of but five minutes is necessary.

Tests of this process were made for the first time this year, and only on a comparatively small scale, but the results are so promising that Dr. Dykstra believes the method is worthy of much more extensive trial, and he has made plans to use it on large plots next year.

Control 96 Per Cent

The tests this year showed that with the new method 96 per cent control was obtained as compared with 16 per cent freedom of disease on the check plot. This control was equal to the old mercuric chloride process and better than the hot formaldehyde method. Dr. Leech advised using double strength mercuric chloride, which would greatly increase the expense, but the tests by Mr. Dykstra showed excellent results with the standard solution, one port to 1,000, with the one per cent acod added.

WORMIEST APPLES IN YEARS, REPORT

Following is the latest report from Paul C. Newman, agricultural statistician, on Oregon fall fruits:

Earlier estimates of worm damage in apples have been fully realized and the production this season is one of the wormiest in recent years. However the quality of the crop after culling is generally good. The fruit sized up well as a rule but some varieties were rather small. Some scab is also reported but the amount of worm damage is so great as to render relatively unimportant other damage factors. The fact that this is the off season on several important varieties causes the damage from worms to be more serious than otherwise. However, it appears that earlier estimates of tonnage will be realized.

A generally unfavorable season for pears in the principal commercial section in southern Oregon which began with considerable frost and continued through a serious drought and shortage of water to be brought to a close with an unusual amount of damage from the late brood of the codling moth. The true extent of this damage did not become apparent until picking began. Small sizes resulting from the drought are largely responsible for the below average production this year but worm damage has cut the crop below earlier estimates.

The western Oregon prune crop which goes mostly for drying turned out slightly above early estimates due to generally large sizes and favorable harvest. There has been little brown rot reported.

Woelke Bros. Make Record In Threshing

NORTH HOWELL, Nov. 14—Sixteen years ago when the late Isaac Stevens, a famcus thresherman, sold his outfit to Joe and August Woelke, they little realized that so many changes in the threshing game could take place in one community.

The Woelke boys used the Stevens' separator and engine for one year, having only a "sack buck" and water hauler. The next year they bought a new Case thresher and a Russell engine—the engine was one which Al Beer had used one year, and this combination is still in use and is in splendid running order.

They tried out the new Case on the farm now owned by Conrad Gunderson and Mr. Stevens was there, watching the whole proceeding with much interest. Eleven years ago the Woelke machine threshed 11,413 bushels of wheat and 9,594 bushels of oats. This year just passed they threshed 6,455 bushels of wheat and 7,111 bushels of oats. While some smaller machines and some combines have been used in this section, by far the most telling reason for the difference in wheat especially has been the fact that practically all land formerly sown to wheat is now planted to strawberries.

For many years Raymond Jefferson has been chief engineer for Woelke brothers and for accuracy, no serious breakdowns and general dependability the outfit has few equals.

The early commercial potato crop this year in 19 important potato-growing states totaled 48,600,000 bushels—13 per cent more than in 1930.

Last year B. B. Everett of Palmyra, N. C., made an average of 80 bushels of corn per acre. This year he planted 300 acres.

Window Display Has Hundred Ribbons of Ditmar's Winnings

WOODBURN, Nov. 14. — About 100 ribbons for prize livestock are on display in the windows of the Bank of Woodburn. The ribbons, a majority of which are for first place, are the property of T. A. Ditmar. The trophies were won by Ditmar's famous Duroc Jerseys. He also has in the display several large pictures of prize-winning sows and boars.

A string of over 60 ribbons from the Oregon state fair, Multnomah county fair, Utah state fair, Pacific International Livestock Exposition and the Clackamas county fair. Several ribbons for grand prize winners are in the group.

Ditmar, one of the outstanding hog raisers in the state, has a large farm between Gervais and Fairvale.

IRRIGATION PAYS FOR FRUIT FARMS

So Indicates Results of Experiment Conducted Over Five Years

By EUGENE GROSS

Irrigation pays on small fruits in the Willamette valley, judging from trials conducted on small fruits since 1926 with favorable results. A recent experiment station report shows figures on per cent increase in yields ranging from 57 per cent for black raspberries to 144 per cent for evergeen blackberries.

The increased yield of black raspberries was secured at an increased cost of 44.9 per cent, and the increased yield of evergreen blackberries was produced at an increased cost of 43.2 per cent. Loganberries gave 88.0 per cent increase in yield at an increased cost of 54.8 per cent. Red raspberries gave 88.8 per cent increase in yield at an increased cost of 34.2 per cent. And Marshall strawberries gave 67.9 per cent increase in yield at an increased cost of 64.8 per cent. Etterberg 121 strawberries, however, showed a decrease in yield of 9.3 per cent.

The increases in yield were due to both size and number of berries maturing. Increases in size range from 13.2 per cent for loganberries to 97.1 per cent for evergreen blackberries. The large development of the blackberries was probably due to the fact that they ripen later than the others, it was pointed out by the report.

The advantages of irrigation, as indicated by the experiments, are not entirely restricted to increasing the yield. It makes possible the setting out of new fields of strawberries late in the summer. This gives them a chance to grow some before the next season begins. Strawberries handled in this manner have given yields as high as 6,000 pounds per acre the following year. The canning quality of the berries is also improved, with the exception of the black raspberries which turned a lighter color. The flavor was milder, the texture was firmer, and the color was brighter for the irrigated berries.

Suface irrigation by the furrow or rill system was used in these trials.

Hot weather and short pastures reduced milk production in Minnesota this summer.