

# 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.

## YIELDS BIGGER ON FERTILIZER

### Joe Serres, Student, Gets Top Harvest Berries as Result Experiment

WOODBURN, Nov. 28—Two years ago Joe Serres, high school student here, rented two acres of land from his father at ten dollars an acre and planted Marshall strawberries. The first year he inventoried the planting at \$80 an acre or \$160 for the patch and also sold \$36 worth of berries. He placed this value on the planting because that was about the average cost of establishing an acre of strawberries as determined by the Oregon experiment station in an extensive survey of berry farms in the Willamette valley. His cost was less than this so that he showed a net profit of \$50.90 and a labor income of \$73.90.

Last spring the Woodburn Fruit Growers' association wanted to try out various kinds and rates of application of commercial fertilizers so Joe agreed to cooperate by applying fertilizer and keeping records and the association to furnish the fertilizer.

Values Increased  
Ten different plots of two rows each were laid out and the fertilizer applied in March. Every plot showed an increased yield valued at from \$17.17 to \$73.17 an acre over the average of the unfertilized area. One year's results are not considered enough to draw conclusions from so the trial will be continued. The fertilizer was applied October 23 this year as a field trip of the third year class which is studying fruit growing.

Strawberry yields were below normal last year but the price was good and Joe got one of the best yields in the neighborhood, resulting in a net profit of \$73.21 and a labor income of \$100.41. His field was 1872 pounds to the acre.

### Will Plant More

Next spring Joe plans to rent five acres more from his father at \$15 per acre cash rent, and plant it to strawberries. He figures he can afford to pay this much rather than rent other land that has not been properly rotated in past years. This land is tilled and has been in clover and corn the past two years so should be high in fertility and relatively freed of weeds.

Other improved practices adopted or planned as a result of the past experience and class instruction are the check row system of planting to reduce soil erosion, getting a field trip of the hill soil as these apparently do better than local plants, continuation of fertilizer trials, probably dusting to control the spittle bug, and topping and roguing to reduce crown borer damage.

## BURNETT TO LEAD DAIRY DISCUSSIONS

A series of ten weekly meetings to discuss dairying will be conducted by R. E. Burnett, vocational agricultural instructor of Woodburn, at the Lutheraan community hall a half mile east of Monitor, beginning Monday, November 30, at 8 p. m.

The particular phases of the dairy enterprise that will be discussed will be determined by the members of the group at the first meeting. Work of this nature is an additional service offered by Smith-Hughes vocational agricultural instructors and sponsored by the state and federal boards for vocational education.

### 616 to 100 Said Good Wheat-Pork Fodder Formula

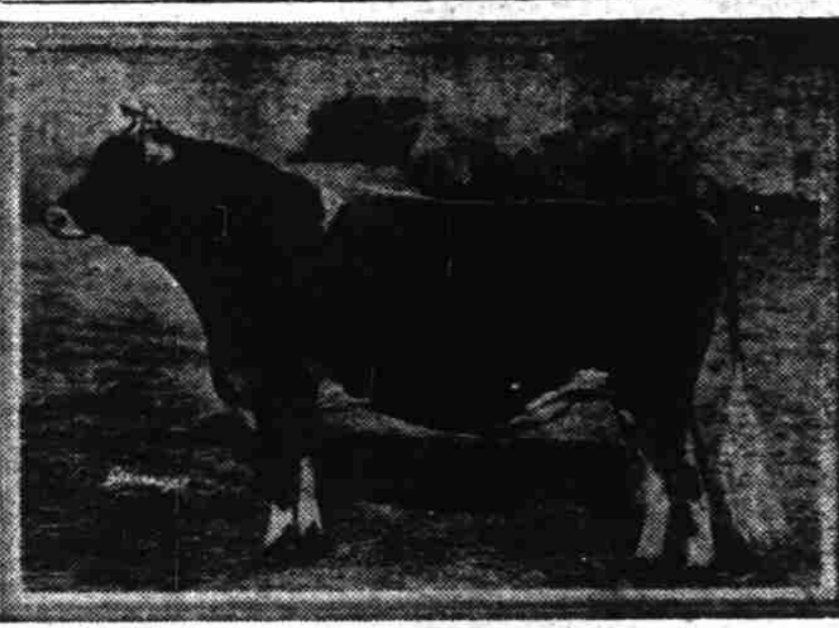
"Where the cost of 616 pounds of wheat is less than the price of 100 pounds of hog, it will pay to use wheat extensively for hog feeding."

This is one of a number of observations on feeding wheat to livestock made by H. A. Lindgren, livestock specialist in the state college extension service. At present low pork prices wheat must be about 54c to make it profitable as a major feed for hogs, Lindgren said. He advised grinding the wheat and feeding it either with skim milk or 10 per cent tankage or fish meal.

For lambs, however, wheat is best fed whole, Lindgren said. Alfalfa hay is the best balancer to use with it, though in some sections excellent results have been obtained by feeding some oil cake with wheat.

FALLS CITY—Thanksgiving is past, but it was only the first of the week that Mrs. Thomas Smith gathered some green beans and cauliflower from her garden. And the vegetable made a mighty fine dinner, she reports.

## GRAND CHAMPION BULL AND COW



Oxford Lassie's Design, top, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Farrell of Tennessee, and Lavender Lady, lower, owned by Hugh W. Bonnell of Ohio, grand champions at the recent National Dairy exposition at St. Louis, Mo. The bull has an undefeated record in the ring this year and has been grand champion of a number of shows. Lavender Lady, eight years old, has official production record of 535.68 pounds of butterfat, 6,988 pounds of milk, the equivalent of 667 pounds of butter and 4,654 quarts of milk a year.

## Phase of Prune Packing Resembles Coal Mining, But There Ends Likeness

Prune growing might have lacked glamour for Marlon county farmers this past season, but that as it may, when this writer had a chance recently to go through the cooperative prune packing plant out on Howard street, the hundreds of pounds of prunes there were an interesting sight.

Others there maybe—even among the growers—who don't know how prunes are packed. So those who stay with these printed words are going to see what the writer saw.

Prunes, as everyone knows, are dried right from the tree. The dried product is hauled, in this case, to the co-op plant, where storage is made and packing handled as orders come in. Huge bins, the most elephantine one holding 95,000 pounds, hold the dried prunes. The average bin contains 50 to 80,000 pounds.

And believe it or not, when packing begins, these prunes are so secure in the bins that it is necessary to take them out with pick and shovel!

Except that it is under roof, instead of under ground, and that the "diggers" need no cap-lights, the sight bears some resemblance to coal mining. It really is easy to imagine the bright, glistening mass of prunes a smooth vein of coal.

The prunes are "mined" from the bins tumbled into small carts and taken to a bucket elevator, which conveys them up a story to the steam bath processor. They stay briefly in this bath of boiling hot water, which sprays them from the top nozzles; then pass to a steam bath and then are washed again, being joggled about all the time on the constantly moving conveyor.

As the fruit emerges from this conveyor, four women keep an eagle eye on it to pick from the moving stream any culls. The prunes are not touched by hand after they enter the processor, where they remain three minutes under terrific heat.

How really hot they get may be seen in the fact that the prunes run a temperature of 180 degrees after they are boxed, and that it takes them 24 hours to cool.

### 5 Per Cent Average On Investment Made By Dairymen, Shown

Did you know that Oregon dairymen averaged 5 per cent on their investment for the year ending April 17?

Average cost of producing butterfat for the year from April to April was 40 cents a pound, a reduction of 10 cents a pound?

Irrigated sections of eastern Oregon led in low cost production, irrigated pastures and cheap alfalfa giving a seven-cent advantage over the Willamette valley and five-cent advantage over the coast dairy section?

These facts were presented from a survey of 514 Oregon farms in 22 counties.

## POULTRY INDUSTRY HAS BEST PRICES

### General Level Said 110 per Cent of Pre-war Average; Dairy Next

Despite unusually heavy egg production per hen, government indexes show that the egg and poultry industry is in the most favorable position of any of the major farm enterprises, according to data given in the November report of the Oregon agricultural extension service on the farm situation.

The general level of prices for poultry products on October 15 was 110 per cent of the pre-war average, which was higher than any other group of farm commodities. Dairy products came second at 95 per cent of the pre-war. Meat animals were 79, fruits and vegetables 70 and grains 46. There have been some shifts in prices since mid-October, but the general relation to values is probably still about the same.

Outlook reports last winter and spring indicating a reduction in the number of hens this fall and winter have proved correct. A survey of the situation made by the U. S. department of agriculture showed five per cent fewer laying hens on farms on November 1 than a year previous, although the average hen was laying 10 per cent more eggs than a year ago.

"Unusually mild weather in October and heavy feeding induced by cheap grain and relatively favorable prices for eggs were important factors in the increased rate of laying, says the college report. The demand was not good enough to absorb the supplies at the level of prices prevailing early in October and the market took a moderate downturn at a season of the year when prices are usually still going up.

"Cold storage holdings of case eggs November 1 were 5,750,000 cases up from 5,500,000 a year previous and slightly below average on that date, but the movement out of storage during October was below last year and less than average. On the Pacific coast, egg production is lighter than last year and storage stocks less.

"Supplies of poultry in storage totaled 65,690,000 pounds on November 1, somewhat more than a year previous and slightly above average, but the into-storage movement during October was not as great as last year or the average for that month. Turkey holdings amounted to 2,301,000 pounds, or less than a year previous and well below average."

## SLIGHT INCREASE IN SAWING NOTED

SEATTLE—A total of 342 mills reporting to the West Coast Lumbermen's association for the week ending November 21, operated at 27.1 per cent of capacity, as compared to 25.2 per cent of capacity for the preceding week, and 44.5 per cent for the same week last year. For the first 46 weeks of 1931 these mills have operated at 26.7 per cent of capacity as compared to 55.3 per cent for the same period of 1930. During the week ended November 14, 311 of these plants were reported as down and 133 as operating. Eight plants went down during that week. Those operating reported production as 47.1 per cent of their group capacity.

## Feed and Flour Mill at Turner Now Shut Down

TURNER, Nov. 28—The Oregon Feed and Flour mill is closed indefinitely and the public is hoping it is only a temporary shutdown. The business of the mill was cut short early last winter after the disastrous fire and the company forced into small quarters until the new building was ready for use just before harvest.

### SCIO—Deer, driven down from mountain peaks by blankets of snow, are reported to be feeding in the grain fields of farmers in the Cascadia area.

## Apples Benefit From Nitrogen

EUGENE, Nov. 28—Nitrogen used alone or in combination with other fertilizers gave better apple tree growth and vigor in every case in trials conducted on the H. S. Merriam ranch at Goshon. Complete fertilizers gave increased yield, size and color, while nitrogen and phosphorus combinations gave nearly as good results. The fertilizers were applied in February 1929 and February 1930.

## Treats Turnips; Then They Grow

TOLEDO, Nov. 28—Application of superphosphate to one and one-half acres of White Pomeranian and Borfield turnips proved a profitable venture for M. W. Richmond of Silas. An untreated strip across the field left as a check is bare as a floor this fall. Mr. Richmond said, while the treated ground is producing a good crop of turnips.

## Know Your Celery? Then No Use Telling the Fame of That Grown About Labish

By W. R. GWINN  
Are you one of the myriad southerners who usually reach into the celery crates when it comes their way, casually dip it lightly into the salt, subconsciously note that it is "pretty fair" celery, and forthwith pass on to the next course content with the bare fact that it is celery? If so, you are slurring one of the most expensive and particular of the vegetables; for celery has its own technique and it has a story of special interest to Oregonians, Salemites in particular.

Not five miles from Salem, on the Pacific highway north, is grown a grade of celery unsurpassed in America. In fact, celery from Quinby, twin to the Labish celery, has gained the blue ribbon at the World's fair. It was purely by chance that Lake Labish failed to get the ribbon—the Quinby celery land and the Labish celery land are managed by the same man, Ronald Jones of Brooks, and it chanced that a Quinby specimen was selected instead of a Labish specimen.

The secret of the quality of Labish celery lies largely in the fact that the Japanese, to whom the land is leased, are unsurpassed as truck farmers. Their efficiency is shown in the statistics: This fall's crop which has been completely harvested and marketed, consisted of some 525 carloads from 250 acres. An enviable record? Try to equal it!

Generous With Fertilizer  
There is, of course, a scientific method to the Japanese agriculture. They are firmly convinced that money spent for fertilizer comes back with heavy interest. The vast profits in good years bear out the truth of the conviction. Of course, in years such as last year, when money was especially reticent, people treated luxuries with considerable unconcern; this year celery seems to have impressed many as a necessity for the price and quality of a fair standard, \$1.50 per crate is a reasonable price, and the prevailing one.

Among the fertilizers which they are spread on lavishly are potash, super-phosphate, Red Steer, sheep guano, nitrate of soda, and others. The Japanese, with characteristic racial efficiency, are continually experimenting with other fertilizers. The maximum of profit from a maximum of rational investment seems to be a palpable policy in the instance of celery.

The celery is planted and nurtured in its tender youth inside of hothouses built especially for the purpose. After it has achieved the proper development it is transplanted into the rich, damp soil, where it grows throughout the summer and fall. But unlike Topsy, it doesn't "just grow". It requires much the tender, meticulous care of a hothouse bloom.

For example, it must be boarded up from the ground to the thick top leaves so that the sun rays will not toughen it and discolor it. The white, crisp stalk that your grocer wraps for you is, like a lady's complexion, artificial and desirable. The bleaching lends appearance, crispness, and flavor. If you don't believe it, try some that is unbleached: it will prove to be tough and unpalatable.

Not only must the maturing celery be boarded up and weeded frequently by hand—it must also be watered frequently and scientifically, for it is a thirsty and pampered child of the soil. The Labish Japanese have installed a watering system of their own which sprays the celery in the proper amount and at the proper time. They have merely to start the engines, and immediately the robot Jupiter Pluvis is on the job. Their system is as nearly foolproof as anything which concerns itself with growing-food from the soil can be.

Contrary to the popular opinion, there are a number of white men employed by the Japanese, and the men are always treated fairly by the Japanese. Truckers, boxmakers, engine men, lumpers—white men, many of them.

Celery, in common with other commodities, must have a market if it is to be profitable. California, of course, raises most of its own celery. Washington offers a small market. Other northwestern states—Idaho, Montana and Wyoming particularly, but the majority of Oregon celery is shipped to the middlewest. There is little land in that country suited to the growing of celery, and

## WHEAT DROPS BIG ITEM IN MARKETS

### Hogs Also do Slight run Backwards; hay - Eggs Same; Hops Weak

PORTLAND, Nov. 28—(AP)—A slight recession in hog prices and further drop in wheat were the main sparks of interest in the general market situation here this week.

Big Bend wheat was around 72 1/2 cents as the week ended, with other varieties quoted at 57 1/2. Feed oats was unchanged at \$25 for both white and gray. Hogs were off from ten cents to a quarter. Heavies, 250-290 lbs., were \$4.15-4.75; mediums, 200-230 lbs., \$3.50-5.10; and 160-180 lb. lightweights were \$5-5.10. Feeders and stockers dropped 50c from the top to \$4-4.50.

Vealers Off 50 Cents  
Steers and cows were unchanged but vealers were off 50c from the top at \$7-7.50. Good steers, all desirable weights, were \$6-6.75, and good cows, \$4-4.50. Lambs held fairly steady. Choice stuff was unchanged at \$5-5.50; mediums were down a quarter to \$3.75-5, and common grade was unchanged at \$3-3.75. The hay list was unchanged from last week's price.

Eggs Held Steady  
Eggs were about the same with fresh extras quoted at 31c; standards 28c; fresh mediums 26c and fresh pullets 18 cents. There was little change in butter with extras 31c, standards 30c, prime-firs 30c and firsts 29 cents. Hop prices softened just a little for 1931 Oregon crop to 12 1/2 and 13 1/2 cents. Italian prunes were the same to a trifle higher at around 4 and 7 cents, and wool held at its former price.

spicuous by their absence. The total estimated cost of erection, repair and roofing projects, according to permits issued by the city building inspector, is but \$8,024, approximately half of last year's total of \$17,730.50, and one-third of the 1929 figure of \$34,991.40.

In quantity, building operations remained comparable with past months. The slump came in size of the jobs. The 29 repair or alteration projects begun during the month averaged \$149 per job, totalling \$4,338. The largest was for \$2,000, the smallest, \$10. New construction was undertaken in 14 instances at a total cost of \$2,740 and an average of \$195. The largest job for the month was \$1,500.

## COMING SOON



COL. W. B. GREELEY

These eight sales involved consideration totaling approximately \$31,545.

## BUILDING PROGRESS HAMPERED BY RAIN

Hindered by the rains, construction operations in the city during November have been at low tide and sizeable jobs con-

## 13-Year-Old Has Record For Awards

MOLALLA, Nov. 28—Armo Hallbacks has won distinction again with his 4-H club Rhode Island chickens. This time at Silverton last week where he won first on his pens of young chickens and first and second on his cockerels in the open class. He competed with twelve other cockerel entries. This was the annual community fair and many entries were placed in poultry.

Armo won first early in the fall at the Colton community fair in both 4-H and open class; at the Clatskanie county fair, first and third in 4-H club; at the Pacific International he won first in 4-H on his pens, and first on pullets and cockerels; at the state fair he won on pens in 4-H club, and 10th in the open class; at the Multnomah fair at Gresham he won second place in the open class but could not enter in 4-H as he was from out of the county; at the Beaver Creek community fair he won first in everything in 4-H and open class.

Armo is the 3-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Hallback of the Meadowbrook district and this is his second year of club work. He has about 200 Rhode Island Red chickens and intends to make purebred chicken raising his life work. He recently had 30 of his finest chickens taken by thieves.

Colonel William B. Greeley, secretary-manager of the West Coast Lumbermen's association, with headquarters in Seattle, will be the featured speaker at a noon meeting of the Salem Chamber of Commerce on December 14. Colonel Greeley is considered one of the greatest authorities in the west on the lumber industry. He has first-hand information on the northwest's greatest industry.

## LUMBERMAN WILL SPEAK HERE SOON

### Col. William B. Greeley to Appear at Chamber's Luncheon Dec. 14

Born in Oswego, New York, he came to California with his parents at an early age. After graduating from the University of California in 1901, he attended Yale Forest school, received a Master of Forestry degree in 1904. That year he entered the United States Forest service, and since that time has held valued positions in forestry.

In 1911 Colonel Greeley was made Assistant Forester at Washington, D. C. During the World War he became chief of the Forestry section in France which included 21,000 forestry troops, running 95 sawmills, producing more than 2,000,000 feet of lumber daily. For his war work he received a citation for meritorious service, the D. S. M. (U. S.) the Legion of Honor (France), and the D. S. O. (Great Britain).

Colonel Greeley is also an author of many books and articles on forestry.

WACONDA, Nov.—J. E. Sharff is plowing and seeding E. B. Jones' 96-acre tract of land in Mission Bottom. Twenty-six head of steers are being fattened for market on the farm known as the Garrison place, which he purchased last year.

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