

Willamette Valley Farmer

News and Views of Farm and Garden — BY LILLIE L. MADSEN

Turkeys on Assembly Cleaner

By Lillie L. Madsen
Farm and Garden Editor

Unless you see it for yourself, you won't believe it. But turkeys can be killed, dressed and in the cooler 30 minutes after they are unloaded from the farmer's crate.

O. F. Ryals, who is manager of the Salem branch of the Northwest Poultry and Dairy Products company, and Mrs. Ryals, who is in the office, was saying that when this war, with its extra rush and worries, is over, they are going to take a month off and get acquainted with what is going on in their home town. There is plenty going on behind both closed and open doors, they opine, that the average Salemite doesn't even guess at.

Out at the products' company this week I saw a new assembly line — turkeys. I stood in one end of the processing building and saw birds being unloaded from the trucks and by a turn of my head, saw the immaculately dressed birds drop off the overhead system and wheeled away to the cold storage rooms. The whole process from the last gobble to the final touch of grooming took a trifle less than 30 minutes a bird. And while one bird was being dressed, the same was being done to scores of others.

Considerable turkey-catching is done at night in order to have the turkeys on hand in the morning. Under this present system, the birds must be taken care of just as received.

At the loading dock the birds are removed from the crate, the feet clamped into the carriers which travel continuously, along a 450-foot conveyor.

The turkeys are hung head down, but they don't mind this—long. Only a few seconds after being hung up, they are neatly stabbed in the throat. One employee has complete charge of the killing.

The travelogue then continues to the scalding vat, followed by the automatic buffer, where 85 per cent of the feathers are removed, then to the wing clipper, on to the manual buffer—operated, says Mr. Ryals, by an artist. Next is the long line where hand finishers clean off the last pin feathers. From the hand pickers, the birds go to the torch station, on to the last rites, the showers, where 13 nozzles spray the birds thoroughly as their lengths are traveled. The birds come out all dressed up and are fitted with paper bonnets and whisked away to the cooler.

The poultry assembly line is rather new in Salem, but it has speeded up work greatly. By January 31, when the turkey season will be wound up, it is expected that over 125,000 turkeys, forming about 2 1/2 million pounds will have traveled its course. Besides this about 50,000 pounds of chicken each month of the year are taking their final journey.

While watching the somewhat gruesome travel of the fowls I learned that a Salem farmer hauled away the huge stock of feathers and used them for fertilizer on his fields; that some of the good handpickers made as much as \$2.00 an hour, several made \$1.50, and the average of all pickers in the products plant was \$1 an hour.

There are 70 employees at the Salem plant. At present all the turkeys go to the government. The company this spring will build a 40-foot addition as a receiving station for its live chickens. The poultry is all purchased from Willamette Valley farmers, with Woodburn, Molalla and Lebanon forming something of a boundary for the territory from which it is collected.

Questions Arise In Farm Insurance

While congress has passed a crop insurance bill which authorizes insurance on wheat and flax beginning with the crop for harvest in 1945, it is not known if a 1945 insurance program can be put into operation on any new crop.

Insurance for wheat and flax is limited to 75 per cent of the average yield on the insured farm.

The crop insurance bill authorizes an appropriation of 30 million dollars to the war food administrator for payments to flax growers to increase the production of flaxseed in 1945. Payments would be made by the AAA. WFA has asked farmers to expand 1945 plantings to five million acres—a 52 per cent increase over the acreage of flax in 1944.

Dry Milk, Mix Needed This Year

Military requirements point up the need for meeting the 1945 milk production goals, with the requirements for dry whole milk and dry ice cream mix still increasing, and requirements for Cheddar cheese and evaporated milk expected to be as large in 1945 as in 1944.



Anna Perlick and Augustine Reibenstein make the pin-feathers fly on the poultry "assembly line" at Northwest Poultry and Dairy Products company.

Peterson Talks on Food Production for Oregon; Discusses Agriculture

State Agriculture Director Declares High Food Production Necessary for Duration of War

Continued high production of overall food stuffs is still necessary, in the opinion of Elmer L. Peterson, state director of agriculture. While admitting governmental agencies frequently sent out conflicting opinions for "the need of huge stocks of foods with continued high production" and "the need of curtailment in production of certain food stuffs", the tightening of rationing "is not such as to make us complacent," said Peterson, in an interview this week.

Farm Bulletins

January 5—at the Marquam community hall. Farmers will meet to discuss current farm problems. The Clackamas county agent and his staff will meet farmers there and Rex Ross, Jersey breeder is arranging the meeting. It starts at 10 a. m.

January 6, 10 a. m. at VFW hall, Salem. Marion county Farmers' union quarterly meeting. No host luncheon at noon. H. D. Ralph, national vice president, speaker.

January 9 and 10. Memorial Union building, Corvallis, county farm labor assistants conference.

January 10, 10 a. m., at Bridgeport, Polk County Farmers union quarterly meeting.

January 11, Oregon State college, Western States conference on virus diseases of stone fruits. Object is to arrive at some uniform procedure for handling the increasing menace to stone fruit industries from spread of virus diseases throughout the west.

January 11, Dallas, Polk county livestock meeting, for all producers of livestock in the county.

January 15, 16 and 17—Oregon Dairymen's association meeting at the Corvallis Memorial Union building.

January 18 and 19, at Corvallis, the AAA conference.

January 22 to Feb. 1, at Corvallis, the 24th annual canners and frozen food packers short course.

January 23 and 24, at Eugene, Oregon Seed Growers' league meeting.

January 25, Salem, a meeting of Marion and Polk county cherry growers.

January 27, at Salem, annual meeting of the Oregon Jersey Cattle club.

January 30, Dallas, the farm accounting meeting for Polk county farmers.

Land Prices Level

Land prices in Oregon are now at about the same level as the World War I land boom peak, according to a discussion of the trend in land values contained in the current issue of the Agricultural Situation and Outlook issued by the OSC extension service.

It is estimated the average American soldier eats approximately five and a quarter pounds of food a day as compared with three and three-quarters pounds for the average civilian.

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Ranch Ramblings

By Rural Reporter

W. G. NIBLER and Ben Newell, both of the county agent's office, have been doing some work on their own in testing controls for wire worm. They report that they found no results from carbon disulphide or naphthalene, but that the new Ethide treatment showed some results. This was tested out on the Harold White place at West Stayton.

Ethide is an entirely new chemical compound developed in the laboratories of the Commercial Solvents corporation. It is said to be powerful, safe and effective as a fumigant. Prior to this test at West Stayton, it has been used chiefly as a fumigant for houses, warehouses, office buildings, stored grain and flour, packaged cereals and furs.

In the test at West Stayton, the Ethide was put into the soil in the spring in sufficient time before planting to permit the gas to escape from the soil before planting.

Albert Barth of Marquam, plans to top dress 40 acres of alta fescue to be used for sheep pasture next spring. An additional acreage of this popular grass will be harvested for seed. Barth is using alta fescue for Canada thistle control in addition to its utilization for pasture and seed.

Year around pastures, uses and methods of purchasing commercial fertilizers, latest methods of raising and feeding swing and sheep are among the subjects outlined for the farmers meeting to be held at the Marquam community hall January 5. J. J. Inskeep, Clackamas county agent and Rex Ross, well known Jersey breeder are making the arrangements. Lunch will be served at noon.

Ben Newell reported that the crops looked pretty tough in Marion county after the late December freezes, but that he was of the opinion that most of them would snap out of it with the rain following.

Chet Lee reports that some of the late October and November grasses seedlings looked pretty good if they had been drilled in. Some of the broadcast seedings were not so good. Vern Jett, who lives north of Shaw was rather disappointed in his September seedings of chewings fescue, but his was broadcast instead of drilled also.

Fourteen acres of alta fescue and subterranean clover, established on the Russell Scramill farm at Macksburg last spring, looked so good that Russell planted an additional 12 acres in September. This is believed to be the first planting of its kind in the Macksburg district. Russell says he expects to utilize this combination for sheep pasture and for seed.

A new plow with plowsole fertilizer attachments will be used in demonstration preparation of soil and fertilization of prunes, berries, hops, flax, field corn, sweet corn. Another new implement for placing fertilizer at plow depth without turning a furrow is also to be constructed from the farm engineering department at the state college.

State Wheat Acreage Lower Than Overtime

In 1939 120,000 acres of wheat were planted in Oregon. In 1927, 1,102,000 acres were grown here. The 1939 crop amounted to 2,340,000 bushels, while the top acreage of 1927 produced 27,540,000 bushels.

The most valuable crop was a smaller one produced in 1920, when the 21,795,000 bushels resulted in a cash farm income of \$36,658,000. The lowest average price over a five year period was from 1930 to 1935, when the seasonal average price of only 59 cents a bushel returned an average cash farm income of only \$8,264,000. The highest average price was from 1915 to 1919 at \$1.62 a bushel.

Oregon's total acreage was reduced markedly from 1939 through 1943, with only 728,000 acres grown in the latter year. Under the stimulus of war demand, however, the acreage was increased in 1944 to 929,000 acres.

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Farm Loan Units to Meet January 10-11

Special meetings of the stockholders of the six national farm loan associations serviced by the Salem Group NFLA office will be held on January 10 and 11. J. J. Sechrist, secretary-treasurer of the associations, has announced.

The meetings for the Dallas, Marion-Polk, Stayton and horticultural associations will be on Wednesday, January 10, in the chamber of commerce rooms in Salem. Willamette and Yamhill NFLA members will meet in the chamber of commerce rooms in McMinnville on Thursday, January 11.

The purpose of the special meetings, Sechrist said, will be to vote on a plan for rehabilitation and consolidation of associations, which is being presented to the members by the Federal Land bank of Spokane. The present strong financial position of the Federal Land bank has placed it in a position to liquidate the losses that some of the associations have suffered on endorsed farm loans and thus rehabilitate all associations so that members who have paid off their loans may receive settlement in full for the stock which they held in the association, he said.

The rehabilitation and consolidation plan has already been presented to and approved by the boards of directors of the six associations involved.

Zinc Deficiency in Fruit Orchards Found

Zinc deficiency in cherry, apple and pear orchards, one gathers is something like vitamin A deficiency in the human race. Infected trees are sprayed with dormant applications of zinc sulphate (if one can get it) at the rate of 25 to 50 pounds per 100 gallons of water. The application should be made in late February or early March, and trees should be sprayed in much the same way as with other dormant applications. For trees mildly infected, a dormant application of zinc sulphate at the rate of 15 to 25 pounds to 100 gallons of water should be used. This information comes of the Washington State college department of agriculture.



In the state department of agriculture laboratories, John Simila works with the official samples of all commercial feeding stuffs offered for sale in the state.

Tag on Food Reveals What's In the Bag

For your own protection, look for the tag—then study it—before buying feeds. This is advice from the state department of agriculture.

In ranch words, if the farmer doesn't get what he expects, it's him for it. The tag is there. It tells you what the bag contains. Better than weeping afterwards, do some careful reading before the bag is yours to be left holding.

The Oregon commercial feed-stuffs law requires, among other things, that "every lot or parcel of commercial feeding stuff offered or exposed for sale or distributed within this state shall be labeled or have affixed thereto a tag in a conspicuous place on the outside thereof, containing a legible and plainly printed statement

in the English language clearly and truly certifying:" the minimum of crude protein, crude fat, crude fibres, ash, and in the case of poultry feeds, the maximum of grit and shell and other mineral matter, and the specific name of each ingredient used in its manufacture.

Protein is the most valuable constituent of feeds. Under the present war time conditions, source of protein for feeding purposes is the limiting factor in the production of feedstuffs.

Samples of all commercial feedings stuffs are taken and analyzed in the state department of agriculture laboratories. But in all purchasing of feeds it must be borne in mind that compliance by the manufacturer with the guaranteed analysis on the label does not always indicate the quality of the feed. The state department of agriculture cannot prevent the sale of a feed if properly registered, labeled and sold in accordance with the feed-stuffs law.

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Livestock and Poultry

ORDERS taken for broad breasted Bronze poultry. Ph. 502 Jefferson.

RABBIT FRYERS a tur. Ph. 2-1234

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Auctions

Stayton Auction
SALES EVERY THURSDAY NITE 7:30 P.M.

1 fresh Jersey cow, 1 fresh Guernsey cow, 1 reg. Hereford bull, 1 purebred Duroc boar, always some good cows to pick from, fat calves, day old calves. Furniture, machinery, 1 saddle in good condition, 2 bicycles. Cream separator, Circulators, wood & oil. Several new springs and mattresses. Don't miss it—some good buys for everyone.

Help Wanted

SWITCH board operator wanted. Marion Hotel.

WANTED: Kitchen helper, day shift. Blue Bird Cafe.

feedstuffs, the purchaser should be guided by his own study and observations, and should seek the advice of the local county agent or the services maintained at the state college. The agricultural department is responsible that the guarantee on the tag of feedstuffs is as claimed.

Market quotations on page 7 today

WARDS

Farm Needs!

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BRITCHER HARNESS 103.00
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