

Best Honey Crop Predicted for Oregon by Apiary Supervisor For State: Warnings Are Given

Some Districts Show Decrease in Honey Because Seed Crops, Potatoes Utilize Increasing Acreage; Insect Dusting Menace

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
Farm Editor, The Statesman

Prospects are good for the best honey crop Oregon has had in years. A Burr Black, state apiary supervisor for the department of agriculture, returned to Salem and his office Tuesday afternoon after a tour of the eastern part of the state where 80 per cent of Oregon's commercial honey crop is produced.

In central Oregon, which includes the Redmond and Bend country, prospects are very good for the yield. However, much clover land is being put into potatoes. At Prineville, Black said, present prospects were also good but beekeepers were expressing fear that bee pastures may dry out.

An unfavorable spot was found at Vale where hot weather had seared the bloom. Many bees have been moved out because of this and the heavy dusting of crops.

In the Nyasa, Ontario and nearby Idaho district the honey flow is on, and prospects are good. Some localities are getting poorly flavored honey from carrots and onion seed crops. There has been excessive swarming in this area, too, resulting in rather weak colonies.

Potatoes, barley and other seed crops are replacing bee pastures in Baker, lessening the colonies. At LaGrande, the season has been good to date, but things were beginning to show signs of drying up, Black said. Milton-Freewater is also showing prospects for a very favorable crop. Little honey is found in the Hermiston and Umatilla area.

The Dalles is showing considerable distress from drought. Leaves are curling on trees. It was evident that some of the valley rain should have fallen there, Black said.

New territory was the Burns and Lakeview district where bee men were moving in for the yellow sweet clover. This will be good, said Black, if frosts do not come too early.

Fair in Valley
In the Willamette valley the crop is only fair. This is due largely to the continued late rains. The flow is good but bees did not have time to build up. Valley bees will be in better shape next year because of the vast flow coming on in late June and July.

Reports from Southern Oregon—Medford and Ashland—seem favorable although it is too early to tell. Danger of poisoning from arsenical dusting by airplane is feared. Where airplanes are used, difficulty is experienced in containing the dust to the plants for which they are intended. They are scattered over a wider territory and several bee pastures are being effected. In the Dalles area, while not an important bee area, three-fourths of the bees have been killed this year because of dusting for cherry maggot. This was the first time dusting was found necessary, on large scale, for the maggot in the Dalles district.

Reports from the fireweed district are also sketchy as yet. Black feared the fires were greatly reducing the crop for this year.

The number of Oregon's colonies has changed little in the last 10 years. The average is between 52,000 and 56,000 colonies in the state. Last year there were nearly two million pounds of honey taken from these. Black expected this to be upped 25 per cent this year if the conditions continue favorable.

More Potatoes
Lots of clover and alfalfa fields are going into potatoes, barley and other seed crops cutting the bee pastures, but there are many more back-yard hives of honey than ever before. Marion, Washington and Lane county have many more people who own bees but the number of colonies is small. For instance, in Marion county there are 300 beekeepers and 2500 colonies. In Malheur there are 45 beekeepers and 6000 colonies.

Black said that the disease situation on a whole was not bad. Rather it was pretty satisfactory, he added.

"We find places where people pull old hives out of woodsheds and other places of storage, bringing diseases out of hiding, too," he explained. "There has been some difficulty in obtaining enough deputies and inspectors to watch the entire territory, but we really feel we have the state pretty well covered under the circumstances."

JERSEY IS SOLD
A registered Jersey, Society You'll Do Better, was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Schlack of Salem. The American Jersey Cattle club records each change of ownership, each production record and each type classification of Jerseys in the 48 states. More than 36,000 Jerseys found new homes last year.

Willamette Valley Farmer

News and Views of Farm and Garden



Shown in the picture is a winnow haler at work on a farm where labor has not been a problem even this year—the penitentiary farm. Because of labor shortages Willamette valley hay farmers have this year introduced more modern hay machinery than in any one year previous, one farmer remarked this week. It is expected that after the war when machinery is available, Willamette valley farmers will add considerable in the line of hay harvest-equipment.

(MORE VALLEY FARM NEWS ON PAGE 10)

Children to Pick Beans In Valley

Women and children throughout the Willamette valley are being mobilized in on the harvest of Oregon's big snap bean crop, which last year was valued at over \$3,100,000, a slight increase over the previous year. Approximately 4500 acres of pole and snap beans have been planted in Oregon this year, the bureau of agriculture estimates, which is about the same as the acreage harvest last year.

Boys and girls and women will be depended on again this year to harvest the major portion of the crop. About 125 youth platoons, which have proved themselves in past years and in other crops, will be in the fields this year. In addition, several women's platoons—a new type of harvest group in Oregon this year—will help out especially in the Salem and Portland areas, plus hundreds of people in family groups and youngsters working as independents.

Bean picking began in several areas this week and with the demands for pickers expected within the next week or two. County farm labor officers are preparing to place pickers.

The age of the picker is the most important factor influencing the amount of beans picked. A study conducted in 1944, showed that two grade school children can usually pick about the same as an adult, with approximately 150 pounds a day being the average for pickers of all ages. Grade schoolers averaged about 100 pounds, high schoolers 150 pounds and adults nearly 200.

Pickers with previous experience did about 13 per cent better, and platoon children, working under an adult leader, picked about 16 per cent more beans. There was evidence that pickers will pick as much in seven or even six hours as they will in eight, if they are informed of the shorter hours in advance.

Breeding Practice Now Getting Started
On January 1, 1945, there were 185 artificial breeding associations or units of associations in the United States. They provide breeding service for 342,012 cows in 42,090 herds and own 630 breeding bulls.

While artificial breeding is just getting a good start in Oregon, states servicing 15,000 cows or more are Wisconsin with \$7,344; Ohio, 46,696; New York, 37,584; Pennsylvania, 23,878; Indiana, 19,985; Iowa, 19,109; Nebraska, 15,802; and New Jersey, 15,024.

Pulling Flax On Program for Next Few Weeks

While some flax is being pulled this week, heavy harvest will begin next week in the Mt. Angel, Jefferson, Silverton and Salem areas.

Reports from the Santiam district indicate that this year's crop will be one of the best crops harvested. Grading has been completed by Roland Dimick and W. A. Gilkey and it is expected that most of the fields will be pulled. The crop is said to be far better than those of the past two years. The plant is putting up a new shed, the fifth one for the association. I. R. Hammer of Stayton is in charge of building.

"We hope to have this new shed ready in about four or five weeks and will deseed part of the new crop as it comes in in order to continue retting operations," Alfred Lentschner, manager of the plant, said.

There are a few more poor fields in Marion county than there seem to be in the Jefferson neighborhood. Some of the growers who planted their flax late this spring report that it cannot be pulled but will have to be deseeded in the field.

Leonard Brothers at the Silverton plant report that one-third of their flax will have to be cut for seed. Other Marion county flax growers are reporting the same.



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In Salem Markets

"It is neither a matter of points nor a matter of lack of supply with us in beef and sheep departments," A. R. Tartar said Wednesday at Valley Packing company, "it's simply a matter of manpower."

He went on to explain that in the beef division more cattle could be had for slaughtering and more could be sold by the plant if sufficient help were available.

So far as lambs are concerned, Tartar said, Valley Packing company could dispose of all it could get if there were men enough to kill them. None offered by the company has as yet been turned down, he added.

While 438 lambs were killed at the plant the week ending Tuesday night, none were received. Officials said they would buy again around August 1. They suggested that growers call for appointments rather than bring in their lambs promiscuously in order to avoid the slaughtering congestion which occurred these past two weeks. No more will be bought than can be handled as received, officials stated.

Suggestion was also made that farmers cull their flocks, bringing in the very best and fattening the poorer ones on fall pasture before attempting to market.

When it comes to hogs, Valley Packing officials admitted, that is a different story. Only 64 were killed during the week where that many used to be killed in an hour.

So many farmers are no longer separating the farm milk. There is no skim milk on which to fatten hogs. Buying feed to fatten them doesn't seem to make for large profits. Therefore, the local, along with numerous other slaughtering plants, have no pork.

During the week, 89 cattle and 37 veals were killed. Bringing in cattle were: B. Findley of Rickreall, Kyle Bros. of Monroe, A. T. Hudel of Mill City and A. Collins of Sweet Home. Selling hogs were Ernest Werner, Jr., Silverton; W. P. Feres, Stayton; Albert Kline, Aumsville; L. D. Fessler, Woodburn, and Arthur Gath, Turner.

Lazy Hens on Way Out During Culling Season

Now is the time to eliminate low producing hens from the poultry flock. The demand for both poultry meat and eggs far exceeds the supply at present. This condition is causing some poultrymen to wonder whether they should keep all their hens to produce eggs, or sell the low producers for meat. O. E. Mikessell, county agent in Linn county, said this week that saving only the best producers is the wise procedure.

Persistence of production is one of the main factors that affect the number of eggs a bird will produce. A bird with low persistence will stop laying and start to molt in May, June or July, and will usually be out of production from four to six months. These early moulters should be removed from the flock.

Appropriation for Predatory Animals Now Allocated

The current appropriation for predatory animal control provided by the state department of agriculture in cooperation with the U. S. biological survey, this week has been allocated.

Allocation for the year July 1, 1945, to June, 1946, shows a total of \$21,250. Counties sharing in the allocation do so to the extent to which they provide match funds.

TO TEST SCALES
Hop and bean scales will be tested at the department of agriculture on 12th street on Thursday and Friday of this week.

Turkeys Go to Military First, Civilians Later

You can't go out and buy a crippled turkey from a grower unless you are an authorized dealer or unless you obtain a release from the regional headquarters of the office of marketing service.

Most of the processors in Oregon are authorized buyers and are permitted purchase of crippled or injured birds as well as regular grade A, B and C stock.

An embargo or set-aside order on all turkeys in principal turkey producing states has been in effect since May. This means that all turkeys, regardless of condition, age, size or sex must be sold to an authorized dealer unless a release is obtained.

Releases may be obtained by submitting an application to Paul C. Adams, Office of Marketing Service, 621 Market St., San Francisco. The set-aside is expected to remain in force until the needs of the armed forces for turkeys are supplied, probably around November 1.

DUST FOR WORMS

Dusting cabbage plants for cabbage worms is a job that may last until the crop is harvested, as worms will continue to appear until September or later. In general, dusts give better results than sprays. A rotenone and pyrethrum dust mixture is preferred, but as dust mixture is preferred, but as pyrethrum dust is now difficult to obtain, rotenone can be used alone. The dust can be used at weekly intervals, according to directions of the manufacturer.

Hand-picking repeated week after week is hard work, but pays dividends. White butterflies, parents of cabbage worms, give notice of impending attacks and hover over plants from March to October.

Emperor Hirohito of Japan is the 124th of his line to reign.



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