

Ranch Ramblings

With the sun shining at just the right angle and the foliage turning yellow, the rural reporter, deservingly or not, took a day off, and taking a postman's holiday turned south at Central Howell school (which also serves as a community meeting center) just to see what was going on in that end of the county.



This windmill, the rural reporter learned, will give if the wind is just right. Otherwise it is more for local color than water. It stands on the deVries farms near Pratum.

one of the many very good ones on Howell Prairie, and saw red clover being combined. The crop was good and Roth was making good use of the sunny days.

Just to make it a holiday, I noted that the coast range was etched exceptionally clear against the western sky and that fall coloring did much for the hills of the Cascades to the east. Mount Hood itself was hidden in a blue autumn haze. The valley, I thought, certainly a good place in which to holiday, even for just one day's drive through the colorful farm country.

But while admiring the mountains and doing a bit of philosophizing, it was easy to note that a large amount of dry ploughing was being done over the prairie. Oats and hairy vetch, clover and rye—some abuzzing—are going into the ground.

An odd windmill on the DeVries farms, just across the road from the W. I. Ruyke place, drew my attention. Investigation revealed that it didn't furnish so much water for the cattle lolling (a good holiday word) in its shadow as local color for the landowner.

Oilheffs Live Here

I talked a bit with Mr. and Mrs. J. Oilheff, who have just recently bought an eight acre ranch with a new house, not too far from Pratum. While the Oilheffs work in a Salem cannery, they enjoy part-time farming and much prefer, they said, to live in the country.

The trip took me through Macleay where cherry orchards were receiving their fall dosages of commercial fertilizer. A little to the east of this spot-in-the-road, I turned south at a rural school

Farm Calendar

- October 10-12—Finish of the Pacific International Livestock Exposition, Portland.
- October 10—Flax Co-operatives meet at Portland.
- October 11—Waldo Hills community club meeting, Waldo Hills.
- October 12—Union Hill community fair.
- October 18—North Howell community fair.
- October 18-20—American Royal Livestock show, Kansas City, Mo.
- October 20-21—Pacific Coast Aberdeen-Angus association show and sale, Pendleton.
- October 24-25—California-Oregon Hereford association show and sale, Klamath Falls.
- November 1—Arabian Horse breeders luncheon meeting, Portland.
- November 2-6—Ogden Livestock show, Ogden, Utah.
- November 12-22—National Grange meeting, Portland.

From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

Are Returning Veterans "Different"?

During the war you heard a lot about how hard it was going to be for returning veterans to get adjusted to civilian life... how they'd be "different."

Well, plenty of them have returned to our town, and a finer, stouter bunch you couldn't ask for. Most of them are back at the same jobs... going with the same nice home-town girls (getting married, some of them, and setting up families)... renewing the same old friendships.

Even their amusements are the same. Nothing more exciting than fishing Seward's creek or picking up horseshoes... enjoying an outdoor barbecue with friendly whoops and beer and pleasant talk.

If they've changed at all it's in the direction of maturity and tolerance... tolerance for everything; except dictators, and those who would destroy our democratic principles of life and let live. And from where I sit, that's another reason to be proud of them.

Joe Marsh

without a visible name (Mental note: Mention that it irks the reporter to have quite so many rural schools without the names posted).

Aumsville is a surprise to those who have not viewed it recently. It has definitely changed front. In years gone, Aumsville was purely a farming town, established in the late 1860's when Amos Davis and Henry L. Turner built a flour mill there. Now a lumber mill has been set up on main street and a coffee shop, quite modern in design, beckons from near the mill. (Coffee shops always beckon the rural reporter). Also there are a number of exceedingly modern looking square new little homes. Population, listed last as 154, must have more than doubled.

But Aumsville is still surrounded by farm lands of beans (with just a sprinkling of late pickers), fiberts, where picking was just beginning and turkeys and dairying.

Dual Purpose Cattle

A little to the south and a little to the east of Aumsville lay the C. E. Lewis ranch. This, I called, when we stopped, a beef farm. I was quickly corrected, however. The Registered Red Polks, Mr. Lewis claims, are dual purpose. He calls them the "poor man's cow" because they produce a good quality beef and a good flow of quality milk. He adds that it is a good dual purpose cow that will average 300 pounds of fat, 8000 pounds of milk and raise a 1000-lb. calf. He now has 40 head of the registered Red Polks, including 20 head in the milking herd. The milk cows have averaged 10,000 pounds of milk and 426 of butterfat.

In recent years, Mr. Lewis has increased his holdings from 80 to 240 acres. Clover and alfalfa are used for pasture, while oats and vetch and clover are cut for hay. He uses waste from a sweet corn cannery mixed with chopped alfalfa for silage—the cow's salad. I looked at the sleek red animals and didn't blame the judges at the recent midwest show for giving them so many blue and purple ribbons.

But the sun was going behind the coast range, and big flocks of geese were flying south. The day's holiday was over. I came home through Waldo Hills, too late to see other than the farmers driving their cows in for evening milking or hounding up their sheep and hogs.

Polk County Prune Picking Quickly Over

Oregon's prunes are again harvested. As a whole growers report themselves as well satisfied with the yield.

In Polk county, a leading prune growing district of the state, packers paid drier than 12 cents a pound for dried prunes this year as compared with nine and a quarter cents last year.

The prune crop was about 10 per cent larger than the crop in 1945, said Frank Neufeld, president of the Polk County Prune Growers association, in commenting on the crop in his locality.

Prunes were of very fine quality in most orchards, especially where the trees were sprayed. These orchards suffered very little damage from brown rot.

The weatherman played right into the hands of the prune growers. In mid-September 10 days or so of clear, sunny weather brought out an ample number of prune pickers in all sections, and the crop was harvested handily. However, drier and shyer men were at a premium throughout the season.

All sections report a speedy harvest this year due largely to the weather and more plentiful number of pickers. In Polk county picking was completed in 15 days. Normally, the crop is harvested in about 20 days.

A shortage of boxes, which has dogged fruit growers throughout the state, was responsible for some slowing of picking.

Wanted at Once Experienced Office Girl

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Willamette Valley Farmer



Pictured here is Karl E. Wiper of Salem and his champion South-down shown at the Pacific International. Champion ewe and reserve champion ram winners were animals shown by Claude Steusloff, also of Salem. Steusloff entries took the bulk of South-down awards at the judging in Portland Monday.

Dusted Vetch Yields Higher Growers Say

The status of hairy vetch dusting is being closely watched in Polk county. While so far the number of dusted lots cleaned and tested for germination has been small, there has been a sufficient number, says W. C. Leth, county agent, to indicate germination from dusted fields is a great deal higher than from undusted ones.

In some warehouses in Polk county there are undusted lots with germinations as low as 20 per cent, and dusted lots are germinating as high as 94 per cent. The average of several dusted lots in one warehouse in the county is 83 per cent, which is considered very good, as 70 per cent is all that is necessary for salability.

Less Weevils

During the week several growers, as well as warehousemen, were interviewed relative to the effect of the dusting program on hairy vetch seed, and one warehouseman reported less than 10 per cent as many weevil in the warehouse this year than last, when no dusting was done. Many growers report the test weight of seed is much greater. One Austrian pea grower who also used DDT dust applied by plane, reports that he will have less than one-third the proportion of weevils seed this year than he has had in other years, and he gives credit entirely to the dust and method of dusting employed this year.

Hairy vetch is a safe crop to grow from the market standpoint, as the government has established a 1947 purchase price of 12 cents a pound.

Rates of Seeding

There has been some question about there being enough hairy vetch for local seed requirements.

NOW BUYING FILBERTS AND WALNUTS

Will again buy and receive at the Shryder Truck & Transfer from Monday to Thursday, inclusive. Fridays at the Woodburn Fruit Growers Warehouse, Woodburn. No deliveries on Saturday. Phone 4966.

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Drainage District Finished 3 Miles North of Woodburn

The Woodburn-Hubbard drainage district recently has completed three miles of ditch cleaning and ditch enlargement. The work was done in cooperation with the county agricultural conservation program of which W. W. Tate, Sublimity, is chairman.

Under the conservation project, 22 farmers signed a community agreement to participate in the

practice, and appointed William Chase, Aurora, as manager. A power shovel was engaged and used during the late summer to complete the work. Approximately 16,000 yards of earth were removed.

Paul Simon, route 2, Woodburn, chairman of the board for the district, says this will improve 214 acres of highly productive peat bottom land. Part of the cost will be borne by the government under the 1946 agricultural conservation program as its share in maintaining soil resources. The farm program pays eight

Jersey Sale Set for October 15, Mt. Angel

Mrs. Antoinette Vanderbeck of Mt. Angel and Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Brook of Salem find themselves with more cattle than they can handle during the winter so will sell 37 head of registered Jerseys at a joint sale Tuesday, October 15, at the Vanderbeck ranch five

miles northeast of Silverton at Jack's bridge. The sale will begin at 1 o'clock with a benefit lunch served at noon. Col. J. W. Hughes, Forest Grove, will cry the auction and M. G. Gunderson, Silverton will manage the sale.

INDUSTRY DRAWS FEAFY

John Pfaff, farm labor assistant in Polk county, has resigned to go into business in Independence. No successor has been named, pending the determination of congress what disposition is to be made of the farm labor program.

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Baby Strollers	\$12.75	Hook Scrapers	75¢
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