

## Flax Growers Not Throwing In Sponge Yet

**By Lillie L. Madsen**  
Farm Editor, The Statesman

Oregon's flax industry is being battered from both sides, but its handlers haven't thrown in the sponge yet, says George Schmidt, Mt. Angel, who in spite of his youthful appearance, has grown flax for 15 years and this year has 60 acres of it on his 300 acre farm.

The crop in the valley is good this year and Schmidt believes that this will give an overall average of two tons to the acre and some will go as high as four tons. It was estimated at Mt. Angel this week, where the entire city is getting ready for the annual Oregon Flax Festival to open Friday night with the coronation of the queen, that there are between two and three thousand acres of flax in the country.

But considerable number of Willamette valley growers, and in some cases, whole districts, have quit flax in favor of other crops that currently are paying better with less hazard. The number of active processing plants in the state is down to seven from a peak of 14 when the government was begging for more and more flax and was willing to pay for it. Now it appears, say flax processors, to be of little consequence to the country as a whole whether this domestic industry survives or not.

**American Way Tried**

If the western Oregon flax industry is to survive in the face of foreign competition, it will be through the typical American system of mechanizing the process of production and handling to such an extent that the advantage of cheap labor abroad can be overcome.

Among new processing machines and methods completed or being studied by state and federal agricultural engineers and agronomists stationed at the state college, are a sloping feed table to scutching machines which reduces labor requirements 60 per cent; an experimental dryer to use artificial heat on retted straw instead of spreading it in the field; and comb attachments to scutchers which increase the yield and improve the quality of fiber.

Studies seeking ways of shortening the retting time are also being conducted under a coordinated research program by which all projects are cleared by a central committee representing all agencies concerned. Both bacterial and chemical retting are studied.

On the production end, new varieties are being developed to combine high yield of fiber with rust resistance, while weed control methods with chemicals are being improved. Close-cutting mowers designed to eliminate slower and more expensive pullers are also in process of development. A machine that will cut within a half inch of the ground on smooth fields is promised which will cover 20 acres a day instead of the eight now harvested by pullers.

**Tow Goes to Rugs**

For the present, the reasonably efficient growers and processors are getting by fairly well with the aid of high price for flax seed and a good market for all the tow that is produced. Plants using the tow for upholstery and in making rugs are taking all Oregon's production and even shipping in some from Peru.

This market for tow may be permanent, but it is hardly reasonable to expect flax seed prices to remain in the present guaranteed high level. Thus it appears that the industry here must be ready with cheaper production if it is to hold its share of the American market for high grade flax fiber.

Because fiber flax is grown by only an infinitesimal percentage of American farmers, any call for protection is scarcely heard in Washington at all. There are disadvantages as well as advantages in growing a monopoly crop. Lack of governmental protection is one of the disadvantages. But the Oregon flax industry is trying, with the aid of state and federal research, to furnish its own protection through greater efficiency which will lower costs of protection.

**Flax Show Arranged**

To prove that Oregon can produce flax equal to any produced, Mt. Angel, one of the smaller communities, but one of the most cooperative in the state, is this week staging its annual flax festival which will include more than parades, program and carnivals. There will be an excellent display of linen, flax fiber and flax seed. The fiber is being judged as part of the festival.

This week Meier & Frank is featuring a flax industry display in its windows. The display shows flax in all its stages of processing from seed to the finished textile. The Mt. Angel flax plant supplied the seed and fiber exhibits and Mrs. John Begin has loaned her loom with a partly woven towel. There will be finished linen articles by Mrs. Begin, Clara Duda, Mrs. Ray Telfer and Minnie Weiss, all of Mt. Angel.

**Young Grangers Auxiliary Meets**

UNION HILL — The Young Grangers auxiliary met at the grange hall Saturday night. Games were enjoyed and watermelons were served. On August 24 the group has planned a picnic at Silver Falls State Park and a hike around the trails.

Mrs. Walter Marble, who has been visiting at the home of her sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. Verry Scott, has returned to her home in Shelton, Wash.



Pictured above is a flax puller which will be used for Willamette Valley's flax fiber crop this year. While the flax puller is still used, a new machine that will cut within a half inch of the ground on smooth fields is promised. This, it is said, will cover 20 acres a day instead of the eight now harvested by pullers such as this. The cutter is only one of more efficient machines being studied by state and federal men at the state college.

## Oregon Corn Show Revived This Year

Oregon will have a state corn show this fall after a war-time lapse in this type of competition. The sixth annual Oregon state corn show will be held in conjunction with the Pacific International Livestock exposition in Portland as a part of the land products show.

Rex Warren, extension crops specialist at the state college and former Yamhill county agent, and Dr. R. E. Fore, college professor in farm crops, are co-chairmen. Three divisions in the show are being announced, an open class division for adults, a 4-H division and a Future Farmers division. Approximately \$1,000 in premiums are offered. In addition, a permanent sweepstakes trophy will be provided in memory of the late Professor G. R. Hyslop.

The show is financed by a \$2,500 appropriation by the state legislature.

## Land Products Show Adds New Division

A new division has been added to the land products show at the state fair this year. The section will include materials gathered from forest, field, orchard and vegetable garden.

While garden flowers are not to be used, snowberry, teal, cat-tails, seedpods, mullein, Queen Anne's Lace and like materials, may be used. Mosses, interesting rocks, cones, weathered woods, are listed as valuable additions.

Leaves and grasses may be dipped in bleach to whiten, or in oil stain to brown. Seed pods and grasses may be dried, glazed or silvered. While materials may be punched or supported by wires or tying, exhibitors are urged not to let the devices show in the entries.

Pleasing arrangements, Mrs. W. E. Knover of the land products' division, reports, may include three types of materials: the heaviest-appearing low, near container; the painted and small ivory materials high, forming the silhouette; and a transition material between these. She adds that the same principals in this display should be followed as in making flower arrangements.



Jim Anderson, head of the Oregon Flax Festival which gets underway at Mt. Angel Friday night, takes a brief time off from the festival offices to inspect the harvest of flax at the George Schmidt farm near Mt. Angel.

## Ranch Ramblings

By Rural Reporter

Oregon's state department of agriculture has launched a campaign to convince Oregon farmers that they must improve the quality of products to keep their markets. Motorists along the highways can't but notice how many more highway-shoppers stop at stands where the fruit and vegetables are attractively displayed.

Ronald E. Jones, president of the Oregon Farmers Union, says farmers are too far removed from contact with consumers to realize the importance of quality. He says farmers shouldn't put even their second quality products on the market.

Morton Tompkins, master of the state grange, believes quality improvement can be stimulated by premium payments for quality products.

Specialists tell us that there are now 300 different kinds of fleas to worry about. The flea census was cited in the current Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association. They are a health menace to livestock and poultry.

Washington State college poultry husbandry men advise changing chickens to white wheat which can either be kept in hoppers or fed three times daily to the extent of all the chickens will eat at each feeding, when the birds are from four to eight weeks old. The birds should be encouraged to roost at the end of the fourth week.

Crimson clover seed yield this year has been low in the Willamette valley. Seedmen report their purity tests are very good but germination tests are poor. The government is offering to purchase crimson cloverseed this year at a base price of \$11.50 per hundredweight of 98 per cent pure seed of 85 per cent germination. Much local seed has been found to be below the required germination test.

## Willamette Valley In Barley Contest

Clackamas county is interested in the Pacific northwest 1947 barley contest and its cash awards totaling \$2,000 to be held at the Pacific International Livestock show this autumn, says Hollis Ottaway, Clackamas assistant county agent.

The contest, jointly sponsored by the Great Western Maltting company and the Oregon and Washington Brewers Institutes, Inc., offers a first prize of \$250 for two-row barley from each of three Oregon and Washington geographical districts. Another \$250 first prize will be given for the best six-row barley entered from Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

The Willamette valley is one of the areas designated, and each contestant must have grown at least 10 acres of barley and submit a minimum of 100 pounds for judging.

## OSC Station Staff Changed

Several changes in the OSC experimental station staff have been announced by R. S. Besse, regular assistant director and acting director this summer during the absence of William A. Schoenfeld, dean and director of agriculture.

R. W. Henderson, associate agronomist and professor of farm crops for the past year, has been added to the administrative staff as assistant to the director. Robert M. Alexander, who has been administrative assistant, has also been made an assistant to the director.

Steady increase in the scope of work of the station, including establishment of new branch stations, has made necessary expansion of the administrative staff, said Besse.

Arland R. Meade, who recently obtained his masters degree in agricultural journalism at University of Wisconsin, has been named experimental station editor.

Harold H. White, associate agricultural economist in the extension service, has been appointed associate agronomist in charge of crop research at the Southern Oregon branch experiment station. He has been on the extension staff since 1931.

## Shorthorn Sale Set For September, Salem

Thirty-three head of cows and heifers have been chosen from the state's best herds for the Oregon Milking Shorthorn Breeders' association sale to be held at the State Fairgrounds at Salem on September 5.

Members of the association, who plan to make the sale one of the top annual events for their organization are consigning only animals that may be used as the foundation for new milking Shorthorn herds or for improvement of herds already established. The consignments were all selected by W. E. Dixon, milking Shorthorn fieldman with the help of the association's sale committee.

Members of the committee include Norman Gail and Veltie Biles of Gold Hill, and Jack Swanson of Lebanon.

Burritt B. Allen of Ravenna, Ohio, livestock auctioneer, will cry the sale.

**Lyons**—Santiam Valley grange met at the hall Friday evening, with Elmer Taylor, master, presiding. It was voted to use \$100 for the festival to be held September 20. It was also voted to give \$50 for the new parsonage being built at the Methodist church. There will be a special meeting Friday evening August 8 with N. John Hansen, Viola Hansen of Albany and Mrs. Constance Hampton of Salem, 4-H club leaders. Anyone interested in 4-H club work is asked to attend.

## Farm Calendar

- Aug. 8-10—Oregon Flax Festival, Mt. Angel.
- Aug. 9—Willamette valley purebred ram and ewe sale, Albany.
- Aug. 11-12—Flock selection and pullover testing school for chicken breeders, Corvallis.
- Aug. 13-16—Tillamook county fair.
- Aug. 13-14—Nut tour days in Willamette valley, with fibberts visited around Forest Grove, first day, and walnuts at Dundee, August 14.
- Aug. 16—Oregon ram sale, Pendleton, 10 a.m.
- Aug. 17—Oregon State Farmers Union picnic, Champeog.
- Aug. 17—Marion county Jersey Cattle club, William Vogt farm, Salem, route 6.
- Aug. 18-24—Multnomah county fair, Gresham.
- Aug. 18—Marion County Guernsey Breeders association.
- Aug. 20—Closing date for dairy entries in Oregon State fair.
- Aug. 23—Northwest Duroc Breeders association sale, Gresham.
- Aug. 24-26—National ram sale, Salt Lake City.
- Aug. 24-26—Oregon Flying Farmers convention, Corvallis.
- Aug. 25-Sept. 1—Pacific National Exhibition, Vancouver, B.C.
- Aug. 26-29—Clackamas county fair, Canby.
- Aug. 27-29—Linn and Marion counties, 4-H fall shows, at Albany and Salem.
- Aug. 28-30—Washington county fair, Hillsboro.
- Sept. 1-7—Oregon state fair.
- Sept. 5—Milking Shorthorn Consignment sale, Salem.
- Sept. 8—Southern Oregon ram sale, Lakeview.
- Sept. 10-14—Pendleton Round-up.
- Sept. 16-17—Annual meeting Oregon Turkey Improvement association, Salem.
- Sept. 20—Santiam Valley grange fair.
- Sept. 20—4-H and FFA fat stock show and sale, Pendleton, 8 p.m.
- Sept. 25—Oregon Jersey Cattle club consignment sale.
- Oct. 3-11—Pacific International Livestock show, Portland.

## Monitor Man Brings Back Columbia Sheep

Marcus Vetter of Monitor recently returned from the Dakotas and Montana where he bought additions for his band of purebred Columbia sheep. Included in the purchases were five ewes sired by Silver, and a 13 month old Columbia ram. The ram was bought at Candu, N. D., and weighed 235 pounds. It was sired by Silver, a government ram which sired both the grand champion ewe and ram shown at the National Columbia show at Minot, N. D.

## Nuts Are Heating Newberg Building

It's all in a nutshell the way the Oregon Nut Growers, Inc., of Newberg is heating its packing plant.

Decision was reached that something should be done with the thousands of pounds of walnut and filbert shells thrown away each year.

Something was done. The plant's heat now comes from these shells and culls instead of oil, which was previously burned.

An Iron Fireman bin-feeding stoker, a standard unit except for minor variations, was installed. Plant Superintendent R. L. Parker reports that heavy oil content of the nuts makes them exceptionally good heat producers, and he can get 60 pounds of steam from a cold burner in an hour.

The saving in fuel will pay for the stoker within a year, Parker said, adding that "we are now heating the entire plant instead of only part as we did before."

## Fern Control Viewed On Rutherford Farm

An interesting study in fern control can be observed on the Russell Rutherford farm near Canby. It is seen that where livestock is allowed to pasture a new seeding of alta fescue and subterranean clover on recently cleared land the fern is kept down to a minimum.

On the other side of the fence from the Rutherford pastures, where stock did not have access to the pasture, this weed was actually crowding out the fescue and clover. This would indicate then that the new seeding of permanent pasture on new land where fern is certain to crop up, pasturing should be necessary to keep the weed under control. The pasturing should be done as soon as the pasture is well enough along to prevent damage to future growth. For most seasons this would be approximately two months.

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## Albany Sale First Of Two Ram Sales

Two annual Oregon ram sales are scheduled for August, the first being the annual Willamette Valley purebred ram and ewe sale at Albany, August 9, followed by the older 21st annual Oregon ram sale at Pendleton, August 16.

At Albany there will be offered stud and range rams and some ewes of ten breeds, Suffolks, Hampshire, Romney, Lincoln, Corriedales, Southdowns, Shropshire, Columbia, Dorsets, and Cheviots.

For the Pendleton sale 375 selected rams are listed, nearly 100 more than last year when 280 were sold. Sixteen leading breeders have consigned rams, reports Vic Johnson, Umatilla county agent and secretary of the sale. Breeds include Suffolk, Hampshire, Suffolk-Hampshire cross-breeds, Rambouillets, Crossbred Rambouillets and Lincolns. Colonel Earl W. Walter, famous livestock auctioneer of Filer, Idaho, will cry both sales.

## Oregon Turkey Man Made Vice President

W. T. Geurts, Colton, has been elected western vice-president of the National Turkey Federation to represent the 11 western states.

Geurts, a hatcheryman and turkey grower, has been active in the state and national turkey organizations. Other Oregon delegates to the national meeting in Cleveland, just ended, were Bill Chase of Aurora and W. A. Schwedler, of Portland.

### TRAVEL ALMANAC FOR MOTORISTS

AUG. 7-13

- FLAX FESTIVAL August 8-10 Mt. Angel, Oregon
- SHAKESPEAREAN FESTIVAL August 8-16 Chautauqua Shell, Lithia Park, Ashland, Oregon This is the world's only outdoor Elizabethan theatre.
- ANNUAL OMAK STAMPEDE August 9, 10 Omak, Washington
- TILLAMOOK COUNTY FAIR August 13-16 Tillamook, Oregon Governor Earl Snell, of Oregon, will officiate at the fair's opening, two miles east of Tillamook on Highway 6.
- WAR BONNET ROUND-UP August 13-16 Idaho Falls, Idaho
- DAHLIA PARADE & FLOWER SHOW August 13 Seaside, Oregon
- VAN-GATTA CELEBRATION August 13-17 Vancouver, Washington This 5-day shindig features a big Hudson Bay historical pageant and classical music events.

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- Ask your youngsters not to monopolize the telephone.
- Replace the receiver properly when you finish your call.

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