

Oregon's Part Time Farmers On Increase

By Little L. Madson
Farm Editor, The Statesman

In recent years someone other than the fulltime farmers has been building up a stake in U.S. agricultural land, the bureau of agricultural economics shows.

In 1930, for instance, 72 per cent of farm purchasers gave "active farmer" as their occupation. Four per cent said they were retired farmers, while only 24 per cent had some non-farm occupation. But in 1946, active-farmer purchasers were down to 64 per cent, retired farmers had dropped to three per cent, and the "other occupation" group represented 33 per cent of all the farm buyers.

Census reports indicate there were 29,041 part-time farms in Oregon in 1939 measured by the yardstick of less than \$600 total value of farm products sold, traded or used by the household. This is 47 per cent of the total of 61,829 farms at that time. Ten years earlier the number was about half that. In 1944, 50.8 per cent of the farms in Oregon were classed as part-time farms, with the gross value of farm products sold or used up to \$1200 because of a better understanding of part-time farming and the increase in farm product prices.

Part-time Farms Increase
While no definite figures on the number of part-time farms in 1947 is yet available, it is known that part-time farms have greatly increased both in number and in the value of products sold, until now many of them are paying actually more than the full-time job.

In 1932, for the first time in American history, the migration from farm to city was reversed, when not a few businessmen looked at the soil and saw more security than in fancily decorated stock certificates. Fear of another depression is given by the government as the current reason for the heavy trend back to land.

But Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Frigaards, near Keizer school, have a different idea of part-time farming. Fear of depression, \$600 or \$1200 value of products sold have no interest for the Frigaards. When asked why they bought their farm when Mr. Frigaard still continues to work with his contract painting, they look at each other, smile and

Willamette Valley Farmer

News and Views of Farm and Garden—BY LITTLE L. MADSON



Mrs. Conrad Frigaard, who is shown here with Mr. Frigaard and a cucumber customer, is one of the pioneers in roadside stands in the Salem area. The Frigaard stand was first opened more than a dozen years ago on their smaller acreage nearer the Keizer school. A year ago they bought the larger place and built the new stand shown here. Mrs. Frigaard received her sales training in Salem stores.

simply say they "like" it. They like living on land. They like having some space around them. They like putting (and it has turned out to be much more than that word ordinarily implies) around on the land on holidays and evenings. And Mrs. Frigaard enjoys the roadside stand from which practically the entire produce of their 22 acres is sold.

Mrs. Frigaard was one of the pioneers in Oregon roadside stands, at least in the Salem district.

Stands New in Oregon
Roadside stands in rural Oregon as a "big business" doesn't date back too far. Fifteen or 20 years ago, one thought of such stands as something that belonged to the south. The rainy season was too long in Oregon for outdoor selling.

"But one year, a dozen or more seasons ago, I had some extra strawberries before the canneries opened. I put them in boxes on a table under a tree in our front lawn. I was surprised how quickly they went," Mrs. Frigaard relates as she describes what she terms "my beginnings" in the roadside stand business. Next year she tried a few other products from their small acreage. These were sold, too. An unused, small chicken coop was converted into a roadside stand. Shortly, this had to be replaced by a bigger one. Last year the Frigaards bought their present 22-acre farm and built the new stand north of Keizer school. Business here, like at the hundreds of roadside stands which have sprung up over western Oregon has been brisk. People enjoy buying farm produce direct from the farmer.

Long Hours Needed
On the Frigaard farm, business started this year with strawberries on May 11. Cane berries, green beans, cucumbers (which will continue until frost), corn, tomatoes, peaches, apples, pears, eggs, all go through the stand which is managed by Mrs. Frigaard while her husband continues his paint job.

"Mine is the harvest and marketing end of the part-time farm while his is the plowing and planting," Mrs. Frigaard tells. The stand will not close until early November, she says.

But farm economists are warning the large number of folk who are flocking to the farms for a "little of that big money" that unless they like being tied down not only during their regular "job time" but on their evenings and days off as well, they had best not tackle that part-time farming about which they have been dreaming.

In a normal prosperous year Americans spend more than three billion dollars annually on vacation travel alone.

Produce Shipments Makes New Record

A fraction over 34,141 carloads of fresh fruits and vegetables were shipped out of Oregon under federal-state shipping point certification in the past year, the state department of agriculture reported Wednesday. The 1946-47 season, representing almost entirely out-of-state shipments, were 699.5 cars ahead of the 1945-46 year and representing the peak to date, of Oregon produce movements under certification.

The outstanding part of the report, which covers inspections on 72 separate items, is the increase in inspections on cold pack commodities. More than 176 carloads of frozen produce moved out under inspection, compared with only 39.8 carloads the previous year. Of the past year's frozen foods, 132.6 cars were frozen fruits and 44.1 frozen vegetables. Strawberries topped the frozen list with 77.1 carloads.

Farm Calendar

- August 21-23 — Polk County fair, Monmouth.
- August 23—Western Horshoew, Silverton.
- August 23 — Northwest Duroc Breeders association sale, Gresham.
- August 24-26 — Oregon Flying Farmers convention, Corvallis.
- August 25-26 — National ram sale, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- August 25-Sept. 1—Pacific National Exhibition, Vancouver, B.C.
- August 26-29—Clackamas county fair, Canby.
- August 27-29—Linn and Marion county fall 4-H shows, Albany and Salem.
- August 28-30 — Washington County fair, Hillsboro.
- Sept 1-7—Oregon State fair, Salem.
- Sept. 5—Milkling 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—4-H and FFA Fat Stock show and sale, Pendleton, 8 p.m.
- Sept. 20—Santiam Valley fair, Lyons grange hall.
- Sept. 25—Oregon Jersey Cattle club consignment sale, Salem.
- October 3-11—Pacific International Livestock Exposition, Portland.
- October 3-11 — Sixth Annual State Corn show, Pacific International grounds.
- October 15 — Second annual Double M Hereford Ranch sale, Adams.
- October 17-18 — Cal-Oregon Hereford association sale, Klamath Falls.
- Nov. 11-12—Northwest Hereford Breeders association show and sale, La Grande.
- Nov. 12—Annual meeting of agricultural cooperative council of Oregon, Portland.
- Dec. 3-6—Pacific Coast Turkey exhibit, McMinnville.
- Dec. 9-12 — Northwest Turkey show, Roseburg.

SWEET CORN CROP IS BIG

Clackamas county has the best crop of sweet corn seen for many years, says J. J. Inspeck, county agent. Inspeck says that information relative to use of DDT for ear worm control is not too authentic but he believes that this material will give fair control and should be used to protect the county's big crop. DDT should be used as a dust as the silks turn brown. Two applications are desirable, one as the first silks turn and another in four or five days following.

Oregon Fruits Rank Fifth in U.S. Income

Oregon fruit and berry growers shared the fifth highest cash farm income in the nation from these crops this past year, the state department of agriculture reported Wednesday. Oregon fruit growers received \$64,093,000 gross for their products.

In the national picture, California ranked first, Florida second, Washington third and Michigan fourth. The rankings are based on all fruits, including the citrus. Figures from the federal bureau of agricultural economics places the total cash receipts from all farm markets for Oregon last year at \$340,977,000, exclusive of government payments of \$9,102,000. This represents an all-time high farm marketings in Oregon, but reports show that costs likewise increased.

Pears led all other fruits in the 1946 returns to growers in Oregon. Apples were second, prunes third, and strawberries fourth. Oregon ranked second to Louisiana in the production of strawberries in the nation last year. Oregon stood in fourth place in apple production; third in pear production; second in prune, fourth in cherry and fifth in peach production in the five states enumerated.

Swaski to Handle State Locker Work

Kenneth J. Swaski of Smeeth Home, a navy veteran with a broad civilian and armed service background for his new work, has been selected to handle the enforcement work for the new Oregon refrigeration locker law. He recently joined the state department of agriculture staff and will work out of the Salem headquarters.

Swaski knows the locker deal from every angle, having a technical and mechanical school as well as practical experience and also having owned and operated lockers for public use, says O. K. Beals, chief of the department's division of foods and dairies which is directly responsible for administration of the new law. This law, enacted by the last legislature, provides for the sanitary inspection, temperature control regulation and licensing of all locker plants in Oregon. Licensing will proceed as rapidly as inspections are made.

FLAX WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Winners in the Best Flax contest conducted during the recent Mt. Angel Flax festival were George Schmidt who received the prize for the tallest flax; Bernard Smith, who received the cup for the best fiber flax, and Ted Rostvald who drew second prize and Roy Palmer, third. Judges were Rufus Kraschberger, sr., of Canby, Don Fraxler of Cornelius and Clint Christner of Molalla.

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Small T-BONE STEAK 50¢ lb. Tender	Boneless BEEF CUBES 45¢ lb. Braise or Stew	Boneless SIRLOIN STEAK 65¢ lb. No Waste
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