

Poultry Man Warns Against Bargain Chick

"A shortage of eggs may be felt next fall," Noel Bennion, extension specialist in poultry, OSE, told the poultry and turkey committee of the Yamhill program planning committee at its annual meeting held recently. "Leaders of the poultry industry and the USDA specialists are, therefore, urging farmers to start more chicks this spring than normally," Bennion stated.

The committee urged farmers to be cautious in buying chicks from outside the state since the Newcastle disease has reached serious proportions in many parts of the United States. To date there have been no serious outbreaks in Oregon. However, poultrymen are warned that the disease may be brought in when so-called "bargain" chicks are purchased outside the state.

Culling Recommended
"Heavy culling is important at this time," Bennion stated. "By culling, the poultry producers' feed costs will be reduced." It was, however, pointed out that culling should be practiced on a year-round basis.

The committee recommended that from 75 to 100 per cent of the chickens kept for layers be culled after the first laying season. It was pointed out that the second year layers produce 25 per cent less eggs than do the first year layers and that during the molting period, between the first and second year, the chicken will consume approximately 20 pounds of food.

The recommendations were reviewed concerning the size of poultry flocks. It was pointed out that a commercial flock should have not less than 2,000 laying hens. A side line poultry enterprise on the farm should have approximately 500 hens which would permit the marketing of eggs twice weekly, and the average family-size flock should be about 25 hens.

Turkey Being Eaten

The turkey outlook was also discussed by the committee. Bennion pointed out that the maximum amount of turkey in storage was reached on Dec. 1, 1947, when there were 86 million pounds in the 28 principal cities in the nation. On Jan. 1, 1948, there were 80 million pounds of turkey in storage. These figures are considerably below a year ago when, on December 1, there were 118 million pounds in storage, January 1, 128 million pounds, and storage figures for February 1 were 140 million pounds. This year, for the first time, the peak storage was reached on December 1. Usually, as is noted in last year's figures, the peak storage is reached in February. On Sept. 1, 1947, this 140 million figure had been cut down to between 30 and 40 million pounds at which time the new crop of turkeys began coming on. If this rate of consumption would continue there would be little or no turkey meat in storage to carry over into this next season.

The ranging of turkeys on sod was discussed, and while it is too early to be able to determine all the results, one grower pointed out that he had been able to produce turkeys averaging 20 1/2 pounds with an average consumption of 90.1 pounds of feed per bird. This practice will be followed closely for another year and then more exact recommendations can be made.

Dormant Spray Days for Orchard Are Getting Short

Dormant strength sprays for tree fruits must be applied before the buds open in order to avoid spray injury to the trees, says D. L. Rasmussen, assistant county agent. Liquid lime sulfur and dormant oils will control certain species of scale without harmful effect to the tree as long as the buds have not opened.

Liquid lime sulfur 10 gallons to 100 gallons of spray is the usual amount of lime sulfur and dormant oils will control certain species of scale without harmful effect to the tree as long as the buds have not opened. Some growers use a combination lime sulfur-oil spray which usually does not exceed 3 gallons liquid lime sulfur and one gallon oil to 100 gallons of spray.

Lime sulfur or oil used as dormant sprays for prunes and plums and sweet and sour cherries, but at slightly different strengths than for apples and pears. Rasmussen says that liquid lime sulfur should not be used on peach trees in this area because of burning.

"Don't spray your trees unless you know what you're spraying for," says Rasmussen. Growers should also remember, he adds, that dormant lime sulfur can be safely used on apples, pears, prunes, and cherries; and that dormant oil is the only safe material to use on peach trees for scale control.

GRAIN EXPORT DOWN
The USDA announced grain export quotas for March, including nearly 357 million bushels as wheat and flour, one-half million bushels of rye, and more than one-third of a million bushels of barley. The total is slightly less than for February. Most of the grain for March export quotas has already been acquired.

BEEF BOSS SOIL
Professor says: "One thousand pounds of beef, live weight, takes off the farm land 27 pounds of nitrogen, 16.9 pounds of phosphate P2O5, 2.3 pounds of potash K2O and 18.6 pounds of limestone." Wisdom suggests putting it back.

Willamette Valley Farmer

News and Views of Farms and Gardens—By LILLIE L. MADSEN



Ronald Jones, left, is general host for the Farmers Union convention which is expected to draw 400 farmers, 125 of which will be delegates to Salem, next week. Right is James G. Patton, national Farmers Union president, who will be the honor guest and featured speaker at the convention.

Hay Expected To Be Short This Season

Fall planting of hay crops was much lighter this past year, and with the recent drought in California causing that area to have a short hay crop, Harry A. Schoth, federal agronomist at Corvallis, is suggesting that Willamette valley farmers increase the acreage of annual pasture this spring.

Schoth indicates that Californians are already looking for pasture in Oregon for some of their livestock.

One of the best annual pastures is sudan grass and the new sweet sudan has been found to produce 28 per cent more feed than ordinary sudan, Schoth says, adding that some other things that can be used for annual pastures are yellow blossom sweet clover, spring grains, and possibly some crimson clover.

Making More Silage
Another way of increasing the forage capacity, says Schoth. A lot of pasture is wasted in that it is allowed to get too mature before used. This grass can be put into silos and makes excellent forage for late summer use. It is a little late in the year to do very much about increasing the hay production except to fertilize the acreage now planted such as putting land plaster on alfalfa and clover and possibly fertilizing grain crops with ammonium sulphate or ammonium nitrate.

Plant Silage Corn
Another crop that can be used to increase the forage is field corn. Considerable silage has been made from this crop and there are many silos that are idle at the present time. The agronomist believes this is a good year to grow some corn and fill these silos.

Schoth also adds that there are some concentrated efforts being made toward the improvement of clover in the valley. There are several diseases and insect pests of clover that will be given special study in an effort to aid the growing of this crop which has been declining in the valley as a whole.

LINDOW COW WINS AWARD
Volunteer Noble Alice, a registered Jersey cow owned by Mr. and Mrs. John E. Lindow of Independence, has completed a production record of 12,978 pounds of milk and 76 pounds of butterfat which has qualified her for the Medal of Merit and Silver Medal awards of the American Jersey Cattle club. The record of Noble Alice was made on a 305-day test at the age of three years. All her tests were verified by both Oregon State college and the American Jersey Cattle club. In compiling the record she produced more than three and one-half times as much butterfat as the average dairy cow in the United States.

Farmers Plan Big Meeting For Salem

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
Farm Editor, The Statesman
More than 400 farmers will gather at Salem next week for the annual three-day convention of the Oregon Farmers Union of which Ronald Jones, Brooks, is president. Double that number at least are expected to hear James G. Patton, national president, at the public meeting to be held at 8:15 at the Salem high school auditorium.

The banquet Wednesday night, preceding the address of President Patton, will highlight the social part of the convention. This will also be given at the high school at 6:30. The junior banquet will be at the chamber of commerce Tuesday.

Jones will officially open the convention Tuesday at 10 a.m. and the following the opening ceremonies, Lyle Thomas, secretary, will give his annual report. At 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, President Patton will make his first convention appearance.

Jones will give his annual report at 2:15 of the opening day. Ed Bell speaking on the wheat commission, Carl Stuy reporting on his Holland trip and reports of the cooperatives will complete the business for Tuesday, with the annual junior banquet set for 6:30 that evening.

The second day will open on Wednesday at 9:30 and be given over chiefly to reports. Included will be those of army engineers on the Willamette project; Frank Ballard on extension service; Arnold Bodker on soil conservation; Secretary Thomas on life insurance program, and the county reports.

Following final reports of committees on Thursday morning, the convention will swing into its heavy business session which will include awards, election of officers and their installation.

All of the sessions, with the exception of the public meeting Wednesday night and the two banquets, will be held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars building.

The Farmers Union Cooperative association will meet Monday, also at the Veterans of Foreign Wars building, for its annual business session, reports of which will be made at the convention of the Farmers Union.

Chester Wohler of Washington county will preside. Election of officers, reports on the year's transactions and amending of by-laws will be included in the day's business.

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Right Time to Make Grapevine Cuttings

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Lebanon Plans For Annual Turkey Day, February 25

If you are interested in turkeys, Lebanon is the place to be next Wednesday, February 25, says D. W. Porter, president of the Linn County Turkey Growers association. The annual Lebanon Turkey Day is to be held with a full day's program to start at 10:30 in the morning.

Featured speakers on the program are Clyde Williamson, president of the Bank of Albany, who will speak on "The overall business outlook for 1948 and how it will affect Linn county farmers"; D. W. Foling, dean of men, Oregon State college, who speaks on "The Marshall Plan and what it means to the American Farmer"; James Harper, prof. of poultry husbandry, Oregon State college, who will talk on "Turkey Research at Oregon State college—Results in 1947 and plans for 1948".

"Turkey management—How to cut production costs" is the subject of a panel discussion to be carried on by Charles Fullager, Brownsville; R. Borovicka, Scio; D. W. Porter, Albany; and N. L. Bennion, O. S. C. extension poultryman. All are turkey growers with the exception of Bennion.

At noon a free turkey dinner is to be served sponsored by the Lebanon chamber of commerce. In fact, this is the 10th Annual Turkey Day sponsored by the chamber.

Farm Calendar

Feb. 19 — Marion County Guernsey Breeders, 1 p. m. Dairy Co-op Building, Salem.
Feb. 20 — Annual meeting of Pacific Cooperative Poultry Producers, Portland.
Feb. 20 — Guernsey Growers meeting, Salem Chamber of Commerce.
Feb. 23 — Tri-county Hereford Sale, LaGrande.
Feb. 24-26 — Oregon State Farmers Union convention, VFW hall, Salem.
Feb. 25 — Yamhill county grange conference.
Feb. 25 — Linn County Turkey Day, Lebanon.
Feb. 28 — Second annual Jersey sale with 4-H and FFA boys as purchasers, Hillsboro fair ground.
March 20 — Oregon 4-H and FFA Guernsey heifer sale, Fairgrounds, Salem.

Vetch Certification Date Set, March 1

Unless the applications for Willamette vetch certification are received by the county agents before March 1, fields cannot be inspected and therefore will be ineligible for certification. Premium prices for certified vetch cannot be assured. However, farmers who have their fields inspected

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can take advantage of any premium which may be offered. The cost of field inspection is only 10 cents per acre with a minimum charge of \$1 and a maximum of \$5.

the farmer does not necessarily need to carry on the certification after the field inspection.

BABY CHICK CALL LAGGING
The production of baby chicks in commercial hatcheries of Oregon during December totaled 80,000. This was well below the year ago output of 136,000 chicks hatched. Hatcherymen report that the high cost of feed is limiting demand for chicks at the present time.

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