

Willamette Valley Farmer

News and Views of Farm and Garden—BY LILLIE L. MADSEN.

Oregon Rates High in Bean Production

By Lillie L. Madsen
Farm Editor, The Statesman

With cherries harvested and the Salem Cherry festival history, Willamette valley festival-minded folk have turned their attention to the Santiam Bean festival which got under way at Stayton Tuesday night and will continue until Saturday midnight.

It takes a lot of beans to make a festival and the United States has them. The national acreage of beans is close to 90,000 acres, with Oregon's 4,400 acres topping all other bean growing states in tonnage production per acre at an average of 5.2. California is second with five tons and Indiana produces the nation's low at one-half ton per acre. The 1946 yield in Oregon was 7.9 tons per acre, three times the national average.

In 1929, only 800 acres were grown in Oregon, indicating an industry of comparatively rapid and steady growth. This year it is estimated 12,000 bean pickers will be needed to harvest the immense crop. Picking will begin the first week in August. A few scattering yards have made small pickings this week.

Cost of Production Told

Those who feel that beans in the green are costing too much should just take a look at the actual cost of production. Oregon pole bean growers used an average of 104 hours of man labor plus \$21 in costs other than labor in producing a ton of ungraded beans last year, according to figures obtained in a cost-of-production study carried on by the farm crops department at the college experiment station.

Cost of production averaged \$104.60 per ton for the 67 growers surveyed in the Willamette valley. The range was from a low of \$87.50 per ton for the 10 lowest, to a high of \$151.40 for the 10 least efficient producers.

Management Needed

The study revealed that good management as evidenced by the high yields and economical use of labor was the chief factor in low costs. High yields and high cost bring economical production if labor costs, exclusive of picking, were excessive.

The low cost producers had about average sized fields of around 10 acres, and obtained yields of about 10 tons per acre compared with an average of 7.9 tons of ungraded beans. The high cost producers had fields only about half average size and obtained yields of only five tons per acre. The efficient operators used 40 per cent less labor, excluding picking, than the high cost operators, in producing twice as big yields.

The average investment in farm property used in producing an acre of beans was \$784, including land valued at \$431 per acre. Growers estimated that "normal" value of the land would be about \$241.

Work Near for School Program At Salem Heights

Bids on improvements to the Salem Heights school will be received in the office of Architect Lyle Bartholomew up to Monday, August 9, it was announced Wednesday by E. F. Carleton, school board clerk.

Work is expected to start as soon as the contract is let.

Contemplated improvements include two new classrooms, a library room, a new heating plant and additional playgrounds.

FLAX PRIZES LARGE

Prizes for Marion county flax growers in the Oregon Flax festival at Mt. Angel Aug. 20-21, will consist of a substantial amount of cash offered in 12 different classes. Prizes will also be offered for out-of-county flax, in which the Marion county growers may also enter their product.



Floyd Bates, Salem (left), president of the Oregon Jersey Cattle club, M. N. Tibbles, Independence (center), president of the Polk county club, and Jens Svith, Grants Pass (formerly of Salem), secretary of the state club, look over the first issue of the Oregon Review a new publication to be issued quarterly to all members of the state club. The first issue came out Sunday in time for the annual Oregon Jersey Cattle club picnic held at Independence. (Farm Photo for The Statesman.)

Farm Calendar

- July 29 — Guernsey field day, Amity.
- July 29-31 — Stayton Bean festival.
- July 29-31 — North Willamette valley livestock and crops tour starting at Red Hills experiment station, Oregon City.
- July 31 — Linn-Benton Guernsey field day at Lester Erb farm three miles east of Albany airport.
- Aug. 1 — Silverton Pioneer picnic, Coolidge & McClaine park, Silverton.
- Aug. 2 — South Willamette valley livestock and crops tour, starting at Oregon State college.
- Aug. 3 — Annual meeting of Oregon Poultry Improvement association, Benton hotel, Corvallis.
- Aug. 3 — Hop and bean scale testing, Independence, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., farm employment office.
- Aug. 4 — Hop and bean scale testing, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., St. Paul's bank; 1:30 to 3 p.m., Donald Mercantile company; 3:30 to 4:45 p.m., Woodburn Farmers Fire Relief association.
- Aug. 4-5 — Pullorum testing and flock selecting school, poultry building, Corvallis.
- Aug. 5 — Hop and bean scale testing, Mt. Angel, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., at Schwab's warehouse; 1:30 to 3 p.m., Buchanan Cellers Grain company, Canby.
- Aug. 7 — Willamette valley purebred ram and ewe sale, Albany, 9:30 p.m.
- Aug. 10 — Yamhill home extension units picnic at Lafayette locks.
- Aug. 14 — Oregon ram sale, Pendleton, 10 a.m.
- Aug. 14-15 — White Salmon (Wash.) rodeo.
- Aug. 15 — Oregon State Farmers Union picnic, Champcoeg, 11 a.m.
- Aug. 15 — Marion County Jersey Cattle club picnic, Champcoeg, 1 p.m.
- Aug. 17 — Lebanon herb tea.
- Aug. 18-21 — Tillamook county fair.
- Aug. 20-22 — Oregon Flax festival, Mt. Angel.
- Aug. 23-28 — Multnomah county fair, Gresham.
- Aug. 26-28 — Polk county fair, Dallas.

New Alfalfa Believed Good In Valley

Progress with a new alfalfa variety and in reclaiming old orchard soils poisoned by heavy accumulations of arsenate sprays were developments of more than local interest seen at the recent field day at the farm crops area of the Oregon branch experiment station near Talent.

Harold H. White is now the agronomist in charge of the crops work at the station, working under the general direction of Dr. E. S. Degman, superintendent of all branch experiment station work in the Medford area.

The new variety, as yet unnamed, is referred to as French alfalfa since it was obtained by the USDA from France some years ago and sent to Oregon where it was planted in 1937 among 21 varieties in plot tests on the tract.

It soon revealed superior characteristics, including ability to start early growth, recover quickly after cutting, and continue growth later in the fall. Stands lived longer, apparently because of resistance to nematode and disease attacks.

Best plants from the test rows were selected out in 1941, since which time seed has been increased, partly on the station and partly in cooperation with local growers. Seed enough for release for general use is expected to be on hand by the fall of 1949.

Grows in West Oregon

Harry A. Scotho, federal agronomist at Oregon State college believes the variety will prove superior to others now used in western Oregon and northern California. It may not be hardy enough for colder regions.

A portion of the station tract formerly in orchard has failed to grow profitable crops until this year because of an accumulation of arsenate of lead amounting to 1600 pounds per acre in the top eight inches of soil.

As sweet clover proved to be tolerant of the arsenic, it was grown for two years and plowed under last fall. Then 500 pounds of soil sulphur was added per acre. The poison was counteracted by this treatment so that excellent grain crops are growing on the land this year. A check plot left untreated and seeded at the same time consists mostly of weeds.

Former Student Succeeds Teacher As Nut Specialist

John H. Painter, a USDA specialist who had the late C. E. Schuster as his major professor when studying horticulture at Oregon State college 24 years ago, has been appointed to succeed Professor Schuster as nut production specialist stationed at Oregon State college.

Painter's official title, as was Schuster's, is horticulturalist, USDA, division of fruit and vegetable crops and diseases. In practice he will carry on the work in nut production other than that concerned with disease control which continues with Dr. Paul W. Miller of the same division.

Chief field of work for the new man will be with walnut and filbert problems, though some attention may be given to Chinese chestnuts, said R. S. Beese, acting director of the experiment station. In announcing Painter's assignment to the cooperative work in this state.

A graduate of the University of Maryland, Painter came to Oregon State for graduate work in 1922 and obtained his master's degree two years later. He joined the USDA staff at once and has, for the past 10 years, been head of the research station in Cairo, Ga., devoted to study of the tung, production and disease of tung nuts. These were introduced from China as the source of the world's best drying oils for paints, lacquers and other waterproof materials.

None of these figures include accidents that are considered "off the farm," Huber adds.

Ranch Ramblings

The Ranch Rambler sat listening to Bill Meier, an old-time thresher in Polk county hills, tell of days gone by. Bill said he had a pretty nice outfit with cook wagon and all and it used to be fun to steam up at 4 a. m. and awaken the natives with the shrill call of the old steam whistle. Now Bill has a Jersey dairy out near the prison annex.

Farrol Goble of Sitka is going to farm the Calvin Mikkelsen Clackamas county farm and Calvin is definitely coming back to Marion county — he says.

First you don't take care of them enough. Then you give them too much care. That's the way growing things are. In this case it is a blackcap planting. The name of the owner of the field is omitted for fear of embarrassment. But the incident is so common, we were told, that it should be repeated. The leaves of the plants in question showed sun scald and yellowish color indicating lack of nitrogen although fertility of the land is high. Here is what happened. The plants were busy all spring establishing a feeder root system which extended from one row to the other. Weeds came along also as a late spring prevented early cultivation. We will get those weeds out good," said the owner. And he did, but he cultivated so deeply that feeder roots, which form at the surface of the soil, were pretty well destroyed. Most of the moisture was lost as deeply as cultivator teeth penetrated the soil. This doesn't mean blackcap growers are not to cultivate at all, we were told, but they should not cultivate so late or so deeply as to destroy the feeder roots.

Alfred Jensen, of near Silverton, who had an exceptionally fine crop of lambs early this spring — being short just one of 200 per cent in crop — had bad luck, this last week. He lost seven of his registered Suffolks. Alfred, being that kind of farmer, called on a veterinarian for help. The doctor pronounced it pneumonia and thought that their susceptibility might be from lack of minerals. The thought was that the mineral might be cobalt but no definite conclusions have been reached yet.

Over at Molalla, Steve Eymann believes in good green pasture as a means of saving lots of expensive purchased concentrates for his turkeys. It works, he says, just the same as for the dairyman. Suggestion was a first of September planting of common ryegrass and crimson clover fertilized with 200 pounds per acre of 16-20-0 ammonium phosphate. When 16-20 is not available the suggestion is for 200 pounds of ammonium sulphate and 500 pounds of superphosphate. Planting for quick fall growth should be heavier than common with 20 pounds of ryegrass and 10 to 15 pounds of crimson clover per acre.

PIE CHERRY TREES GROW

There are going to be a lot of pies made over in Yoderville direction. Perry Yoder has a very nice pie cherry orchard. He expresses pleasure at the growth of his trees have made this year following a liberal application of barnyard manure. And the growth of red root in his orchard doesn't bother him a bit. He explains that when red root shows up it is a sign that the soil is building up.

The Leaning Tower of Pisa is now more than 16 feet off slant.

Changes Made In FFA Loan Program Told

Recent congressional changes in the inspired mortgage program of the Farmers Home administration, United States department of agriculture will broaden opportunities of farmers to obtain real estate credit. An assured market for insured mortgages and an increase of one-half of 1 per cent in the interest rate are provided in amendments to the Bankhead Jones farm tenant act, approved June 19, B. W. McVeigh, supervisor in Marion county reports.

Lenders who extend credit to eligible farmers for the purchase, enlargement or development of farms under the insured farm mortgage program may assign the mortgage to the government and receive payment in full at the end of a specified period established by the government. The loan will carry an interest rate of 3 per cent and a 1 per cent insured mortgage charge. Repayment of the loans is fully guaranteed by the government. The loans are limited to 90 per cent of the borrower's total investment in the farm and are repayable over a 40-year period.

The congress has appropriated \$15,000,000 for direct farm ownership loans for the present fiscal year. Direct farm ownership loans are made by the FHA and can be made for 100 per cent to purchase, enlarge or improve a family type sized farm. In Marion and Polk counties no loan may exceed \$12,000.

The Salem office of the FHA is located at 460 N. High street, room 223, and it serves Marion and Polk counties.

Jersey Sale Plans Begin to Take Shape

Charles Adams, Artesia, Calif., one of the leading auctioneers of the country, will cry the Oregon Jersey sale to be held at Salem September 18. Floyd Bates, Salem, president of the Oregon Jersey Cattle club, reports.

The state sales committee has already been at work selecting the 40 odd head of Jersey to be sold. They selected only those between the ages of 10 months and seven years having produced records of 500 pounds butterfat or better on a 305 day basis and helpers from dams so qualifying. Homer Shelby, Albany, is sales committee chairman.

Albany Fair Building Nearing Completion

Although Linn county fair building is to be the scene of the eighth annual Willamette valley purebred ram and ewe sale on Saturday, August 7, the building will not be formally dedicated until the fall 4-H fair, Sept. 1-3.

Installation of wiring and the water system is now in progress and will be finished before the sheep sale. The building is located on a 10 acre tract just south of Albany's Waverly lake. All funds used in the building's construction have come from revenue derived from racing. The finished building will cost in excess of \$30,000.

LEBANON COW HIGH

Highest producing herd in June in Linn County Dairy Herd Improvement association is owned by Ufford and Talley, Lebanon. Their herd of 17 Jerseys and Guernseys produced an average of 1028 pounds of milk and 46 pounds of butterfat per cow.

Poultry Meetings Outlined by L. Lee Association Head

All poultrymen are invited to participate in the annual meeting of the Oregon Poultry Improvement association in Corvallis on August 3, regardless of whether they are association members according to an announcement this week by Lloyd A. Lee, Salem, association president. The meeting will be held at the Benton hotel, starting at 10 a. m.

Featured speaker will be G. T. Klein, extension poultryman from the University of Massachusetts, nationally known authority on the afternoon program will be "Saving Labor on Poultry Farms and in Hatches." In the evening, he will address the association's annual banquet on the subject of "Breeding for Meat and Eggs."

Other program items include discussion of fertility in chickens, by J. E. Parker, OSC poultry head; a flock improvement program by Paul Bernier, college poultry geneticist; a talk on modern trends in poultry production, by Fred Cockell, Milwaukee; and a report of the national plan conference, by Dr. C. E. Holmes, Milwaukee.

The association's annual business meeting and a tour of the college poultry plant and range will complete the session.

A pullorum testing and flock selecting school for persons who expect to qualify as authorized testing and selecting agents under the Oregon poultry improvement plan will be held at the OSC poultry building on August 4 and 5, reports to N. L. Bennion, extension poultryman. Lectures on August 4 will be followed by practical examinations and written examination on August 5. Attendance will be limited.

Demand for Turkeys Exceeds the Supply

The number of turkeys raised this year is down 20 per cent as compared with last year, Noel Bennion, extension poultryman, said at the recent turkey field day held at Corvallis.

Oregon exports of pouls will be about one million and over two million hatching eggs for 1948. The demand for turkey hatching eggs and pouls has exceeded the supply this spring. The number of turkey pouls hatched in Oregon was 25 per cent more than a year ago.

The U. S. food industry filled about 20 million cans in 1947.

Conservation Wildlife Club Theme Sunday

SILVERTON, July 26—Conservation of soil, water and wild life in Oregon formed the theme of the annual Isaac Walton league picnic held Sunday at Silver Falls state park and attended by representatives of 11 different chapters besides the host chapter, Silverton. Picnic arrangements were made by George M. Christenson.

Allen Gribble, president of the local chapter and secretary of the state organization, presided and introduced the various speakers who included Merl J. Brown, Portland, state president, who presented the subject of conservation and urged a more intensive selling program of this to the public. He stated great progress along this line had been made nationally as well as in the state. He also announced the state convention, September 17, 18 and 19 at Waldport.

Jack Hayes, Florence Lake, member of the Southwestern Sportsmen's group, who had just toured the state, told of what other chapters were doing, citing the work of John Day where deer brouses were being planted of mahogany and juniper because of the low growing habit of branches. From Heppner, Hayes reported an over supply of deer which chapter members, working with the state game commission, were coralling to take to sections where they were more scarce.

Don Brush, president of the Oregon City chapter, and Delmer Schmitt, founder of that group, told of some of the problems of the group and its controversies with commercial fishermen. Installing a proper fish ladder was one of the present worries, they said.

Mert Folts, president of the Eugene chapter and one of 12 members of the national executive board, talked on conservation of natural resources. O. K. DeWitt, Lyons, one of four vice-presidents of the state chapter, believed the league should stress soil conservation and preservation of water tables throughout the state as well as sportsmen's problems. It is much more than just a sportsmen's group, he said.

Clarke Bachman, Silverton, state director, announced that places to hatch birds were still needed, and Lloyd Reinholdt, Salem, past state president, and now a member of the national resolutions committee, was also introduced.

Members were registered from Canby, Silverton, Parkwood, Wash., Oregon City, Portland, Salem, Lyons, Eugene, Sublimity, Kansas City, Mo., and Coyle, Okla.

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