

Willamette Valley Farmer

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

More Damage Done by Deer Than Disease

(See Story Page 1)
Wild deer and not diseases, worries Russell Nelson, who with his father, John Nelson, formerly grew considerable certified strawberry plants on their Hazelnut Ridge road ranch above Scotts Mills.

"You just can't keep the deer out of the strawberry fields," Nelson says. "Not even with the eight-foot fence which is being recommended by the state game commission. Just as soon as hunting season is over, the deer seemed to know it and were back in the fields. There were four there the other evening, eating off the plants—and that was in spite of the tall backdrop we put up to keep them out."

Last year the deer hopped the fence and ate off plants that would have produced more than \$2000 worth of berries, the Nelsons explained. This cancelled plans for certification. The ruling of the past year prohibiting growers from harvesting both plants and berries, kept the Nelsons out of going back into the plant-raising business. However, now that this ruling has been rescinded they are thinking of growing some acreage for certification again.

Plants Healthy in Hills
Plants grow well in the hill country, the Nelsons point out. While they spray and dust, weed and hoe continuously, they have found none of the worms which have bothered the valley-floor growers.

Plant growing is good and it is interesting the younger Mr. Nelson said this week, pointing to the minimum price for Oregon certified Marshall strawberries plants to be dug next spring at \$21 per 1000, combination grade, FOB ranch. This price was unanimously agreed upon at a recent meeting of the Oregon Certified Plant Growers association in Salem.

Ken Gray of Tidewater, president of the association, says that the price of strawberries has closely paralleled the price of certified plants during the past few years. Since the cash price for strawberries averaged 21 cents a pound during the 1948 season, the certified strawberry plant growers feel that the \$21 price for their plants should be agreeable to the trade.

Other minimum prices announced by the association were \$25 per 1000 for Oregon Grade A and \$18 for Oregon Grade B plants.

Silverton Hills Home Ec Club Elects Officers

SILVERTON HILLS—Mrs. Victor Howard was made chairman of the Silverton Hills Home Economics club at its Thursday election. Mrs. Anton Sacher is vice chairman; Mrs. Crete Carnell, secretary-treasurer. The group will hold an all-day quilting party Wednesday at the hall.

Also announced as an event for the Silverton Hills hall is the Silver Crest school pie social on the night of November 17.

SEED CROP SHORT

Forecasts now being made available for 21 kinds of grass and legume seeds total a fourth less than last year and a fifth less than the five-year 1942-46 average. Several of the nations leading grass seed crops turned out only half of last year's production. Clover seeds are expected to be about average. Forecasts will be discussed at the seed league meeting at Portland later this fall.



Salem's first big rabbit show proved a success during the weekend with 351 entries. Pictured here are Mrs. Alfred Pauli, left, Mrs. Robert Johnson and Chester Fredrickson, all contributing toward the success of the show. The Pauli Rabbitry also won tops in best commercial in the Capital City competition, while Fredrickson was winner in the commercial open class in fancy breeds. (Farm Photo for The Statesman.)

Cattle Are Added to OSC Test Program

Thirteen head of young registered Hereford cattle have just arrived at Oregon State college to be added to the research breeding herds of the agricultural experiment station. Addition of these animals, selected by members of the animal husbandry staff, is another step in the livestock improvement research program recently expanded and readjusted.

Cattle, sheep and swine at OSC are now managed on a performance basis, says Dr. Fred F. McKenzie, head of the department of animal husbandry. Animals are retained in the breeding herd only when they demonstrate their capacity to gain rapidly and to convert rough feeds into meat efficiently. Longevity and high fertility are also sought.

"As much as 25 per cent difference exists between two young steers of different parentage in the amount of feed necessary to put them into marketable condition," said Dr. McKenzie. "Obviously the cattle industry cannot continue to progress with such a wide variation. Improved breeding is needed to produce strains of livestock which will be consistently good converters of feed into meat."

The program at Oregon State is geared into a similar national research project under the federal research and marketing act. It is in line with these objectives that all selections of breeding stock are being made, said Dr. McKenzie. Whether the new Herefords will meet the final test will be determined from actual records of feeding gains.

The 13 Herefords were imported from British Columbia, 10 being sired by Atok Lionheart, an English bull brought to Canada to the Earlscourt Farms, Ltd., at Lytton, B. C. The remaining three are by a son of Atok Lionheart, a three year old bull recently purchased by Charles Redd of Utah.

Late November Is Time to Fertilize

The late dormant season this month is the next proper season for applying orchard fertilizer, extension men tell us. They add that tree fruits use from three to 10 times as much nitrogen as phosphorus and that nitrogen alone is the most economical fertilizer to use three out of five years.

Under heavy cropping the nitrogen runs down rapidly and it is advised to keep a moderate supply of nitrogen in the tree. If tree growth is already sufficient for heavy production, no fertilizer may be needed.

Farm Calendar

- Nov. 11-12—Final two days of National Co-operative Milk Producers Federation convention, Multnomah hotel, Portland.
- Nov. 11-12—Final two days of Oregon Farm Bureau Convention, Bend.
- Nov. 15-16—Annual meeting of Agricultural cooperative council for Oregon, Multnomah hotel, Portland.
- Nov. 16—Turkey Growers meeting, 8 p.m. Place to be named.
- Nov. 17-18—Annual meeting of Oregon State Horticultural Society, Corvallis.
- Nov. 17—Linn county dairy tour, Starts N. V. Shelby & Sons farm 10 a.m.
- Nov. 23—Annual meeting Oregon Swine Growers association, Salem.
- Nov. 29-Dec. 1—Annual meeting Oregon Seed League, Multnomah hotel, Portland.
- Dec. 1—Annual meeting of Dairy Herd Improvement association, Salem.
- Dec. 1-3—Pacific Coast Turkey Exhibit, McMinnville.
- Dec. 3-4—S4 a Beekeepers meeting, Public Service Bldg., Portland.
- Dec. 6—Marion County Dairy Breeders' association, Mt. Angel, 10 a.m.
- Dec. 6—Marion County Livestock association, 7 p.m., Salem.
- Dec. 8-10—Northwest Turkey show, Roseburg.
- Dec. 9-19—Annual meeting Nut Growers Society of Oregon and Washington, Vancouver, Wash.
- Dec. 10-12—Seventh annual Oregon Corn show, Canby.

E. L. Potter Honored For Years at OSC

Forty years of service to Oregon State college by E. L. Potter, head of the agricultural economics department, was recognized recently at a dinner sponsored by former and present members of the Withcombe club made up of majors in animal husbandry. Potter was for 20 years head of the department before being transferred to his present position.

Among the alumni of the club who returned for the occasion were Frank Morgan of Salem, Floyd Edwards, Albany; Les Marks, Fossil; Chauncey Hubbard, Junction City; Robert Taylor Adams, L. E. Francis, Tillamook.

Horticultural Society Plans Big Meeting

The 63rd Oregon State Horticultural society annual meeting scheduled for November 17 and 18 in Corvallis is outlined with many interesting speakers and subjects.

Sprinkler irrigation, new developments in spray equipment, spider mite control on fruit trees, management of soils for good vegetable production, grading research, hormone sprays for the reduction of fruit drop, brown rot control of cherries and peaches, and vegetable insect pest control are just a few of the subjects that will be discussed.

Many well known research and department men from California, Oregon and Washington will be present to discuss the subjects.

Both the fruit and vegetable growers will meet together on the mornings of November 17 and 18, and have separate programs during the afternoons.

On the evening of November 17 a program of moving pictures in color of nursery management practices in various parts of the United States has been arranged and will be conducted by the Student Horticultural club at Oregon State college.

Blind-seed Disease Threatens Big Crop

Germination tests made this autumn for the 1948 seed crop of perennial ryegrass by the federal-state seed laboratory at the state college show that blind-seed

disease has taken on alarming proportions and may threaten the entire English ryegrass seed industry in western Oregon.

In one Willamette valley county the fungus disease has become so widespread that nine out of ten fields of perennial or English ryegrass are not fit to be used for seed production next year, the report made by Dr. John R. Harrison, USDA plant pathologist, and Rex Warren, extension farm crops specialist, shows. The disease is spread by wind. Seed under the provisions of the seed certification must reach at least 90 per cent germination. One seed sample ran a germination of 27 per cent. Many others are falling down below 80 per cent.

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Deer are pretty little creatures, Mrs. Russell Nelson, Scotts Mills, admits, but adds they are exasperating to say the least when they hop over eight-foot tall fences, like the one demonstrated here, and eat off strawberry plants to the tune of more than \$2500. Insert shows what healthy foliage should look like, and Nelsons have nine acres of such on their 200-acre farm. (Farm Photo for The Statesman.)

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Million Oregon Farm Acres Need Pensions

It's time that much of Oregon's farm lands received some old age "pension" in the form of commercial fertilizer, Arthur S. King, Oregon State college extension soils specialist says.

Pointing out that much Oregon land has been cropped for more than 100 years and is unmistakably showing signs of old age, King says that upwards of a million acres in the state could profit by applications of fertilizer.

MORE POULTRY IN PROSPECT

Surveys made this week by N. L. Bennon, poultry specialist at Oregon State college, showed that turkey breeders and hatcherymen expect to carry 25 per cent more breeders hens for 1949 than they did in 1948. Producers intend to raise 19 per cent more birds next season, too. Chick hatcheries indicate they intend to hatch 13.4 per cent more chicks. The Oregon survey shows approximately the same trend as is found throughout the United States, Bennon said.

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