

# Willamette Valley Farmer

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



Pictured here are Mrs. R. E. Stout and her five-year-old son, Eddie, who with Mr. Stout are newcomers to Oregon's half-million dollar holly industry. The Stouts, who have their holly ranch on the Croisan road south of Salem, moved out here last March and report they are enjoying greatly taking their first crop. Cutting-holly alone this year will go better than \$250,000 in the state. (Photo by state department of agriculture.)

## Red Raspberry Production Costs Vary

By Lillie L. Madsen  
Farm Editor, The Statesman

Cost of producing raspberries in western Oregon is 12.9 cents a pound. Oblique-banded leaf roller, which threatened to wreck the raspberry industry five years ago, can be controlled.

These conclusions are two results of intensive and extensive experiments in raspberry culture carried on at Oregon State college experiment station in recent years. Costs of production for processing in the Willamette valley is covered in a new bulletin prepared by Gustav W. Kuklman and D. Curtis Mumford. The war on the pest and diseases is covered by Joe Schuh and Dr. Don C. Mote, in a separate bulletin.

Raspberry culture is no small item in the Willamette valley. Of the 2,100 acres in Oregon 90 per cent are grown here in the valley. Almost an equal amount of black raspberries, the "black caps" of Oregon, are grown in the state. Multnomah county leads all others in amount produced, with Clackamas county, second. Marion county rates fifth in numbers of acres of red raspberries, with Linn county third. The other high producing county is Washington county. Yamhill tops all others in acreage of the black raspberries.

**Cost Figured Per Acre**  
The cost of producing red raspberries in 1947 on 294 acres, yielding 4,705 pounds per acre, averaged \$608.93 per acre and 12.9 cents per pound reports Kuklman and Mumford. The two agree that cost of production in 1948 was very much the same. The cost includes all items of expense in producing and delivering the fruit to the cannery door excepting the cost for crates and hallecks. This cost is omitted as canneries customarily furnish growers with them.

The cost of man labor was \$460 or 75 per cent of the total cost. Pruning was the largest pre-harvest cost. All excepting four of the 38 red raspberry growers studied in the valley, practiced one or more methods of soil fertilization. Twenty-five growers applied commercial fertilizers including limestone; 20 growers put in a cover crop, and 18 growers applied barnyard manure. Total cost of all fertilizer materials averaged \$19.72 per acre or about two-fifths cent per pound of berries produced.

**Raspberry Land High**  
The value of the land producing the red raspberries averaged \$434 per acre. This value, says Kuklman, was estimated by the growers from a conservative, long-term standpoint. The average capital represented by the plantings over the life of the stand was \$186 per acre, exclusive of the land value. Cost of establishing per average acre on 20 fields containing 68 acres averaged \$371.84. On the basis of keeping a planting for a period of 10 crop years, the cost including interest, averaged \$37.18 per crop year.

The cost of red raspberry production per pound was 55 per cent higher on the group of 13 plantings with the highest cost than it was on the group of 13 plantings with the lowest cost. The respective figures were 16.96 and 10.92 cents per pound. The average size of the plantings in the two groups was quite similar. The big difference lay in the average yield produced per acre. The high group averaged 2,948 pounds for the high cost group, and 6,898 pounds for the low cost group. If the yield is small, each pound of berries must bear a larger share of the overhead costs than if the yield is large.

**Plant Cost Told**  
The cost of plantings figured \$40.76 per acre. An average of 1537 plants were set per acre. The price averaged \$26 per thousand. The width

of rows varied from six feet to 10. Nearly two-thirds of all plantings studied were spaced either eight or eight and a half feet between rows. The spacing of the plants in the row varied from two and a half to 6 feet. Nearly half of the plantings were set three feet apart. Cuthbert comprised two-thirds of the total red raspberry acre studied. Other varieties were Washington, Newberg, Willamette, Latham and Taylor.

**Pest Controlled**  
The oblique-banded leaf roller, which threatened to wreck the entire industry unless controlled, is common throughout the Willamette valley, Dr. Mote states. Its chief damage is caused by the habit of the larvae in getting into the cups of the raspberries from where they are so difficult to dislodge that they ruin the sale or use of the fruit.

The adult moths, whose wings are marked by oblique dark bands as the name implies, fly mostly at twilight. They hide on the under side of leaves and when flushed, dart quickly to another hiding place.

Parasites play an important role in holding the insect in check under normal conditions. The entomologists found 29 different parasites of more effective parasites, making a vicious cycle for the berry grower.

Commercial raspberry growers now follow a standard spray or dusting schedule with DDT, applied between May 1 and 15. As most hibernating worms live over an old caner, good cultural control consists of removing and burning the old canes not earlier than November 1 nor later than March 1.

Cleaning up the raspberry patch during the winter months has become a "must" with those who wish to grow good red raspberries.

## Reimer Gets Pear Development Medal

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to pear culture, F. C. Reimer, former superintendent of the southern Oregon branch experiment station, has been awarded the coveted Wilder medal by the American Pomological society at its recent 100th annual meeting in Yakima. Professor Reimer, who retired in 1947 after 36 years as head of the branch station, developed blight-resistant pear stock now used for nursery stock. He also developed methods of pear scab control and a pressure tester to determine best picking time for pears. The award is given to only one man each year.

## Hop Production Still Below Pre-war Days

The 1948 production hops in reporting counties which before the war accounted for more than 90 per cent of the world's total is now indicated at approximately 117.3 million pounds according to the United States Department of Agriculture's office of foreign agricultural relations.

Some recovery from wartime lows is reported in several of the important producing areas in central Europe, but the estimated harvest in that area is still about 40 per cent under the prewar average.

## Farm Crop Virus Control Must Be Had

Virus diseases must be controlled if Oregon specialty crops are to continue, says Dr. Frank P. McWhorter, plant pathologist at the state experiment station. There is a vital need for more fundamental research in this line, he adds.

Dr. McWhorter, in discussing Oregon's virus problem Wednesday, cites the example of clover which, except for ladino, is almost sure to have an abundance of virus infected plants. Most clovers are weakened by the yellow bean mosaic virus which causes infected plants to age prematurely and which frequently kills stands of crimson and subterranean clover.

Fortunately plant viruses are not infectious to animals, but they reduce or at least change the plant food available and thus change the diet of animals that eat virus infected plants. Dr. McWhorter points out. Practically no work has been done on this aspect of the increasingly serious virus problem.

This is but one aspect of fundamental research which Dr. McWhorter says needs to be done on virus control if its steady and sometimes rapid inroads on Oregon crops are to be halted.

The Oregon bulb industry, which now includes the largest and most successful planting of garden lilies in the world, depends for its existence on the control of lily and other viruses. Rapid costs for presence of bulb viruses have aided in successful control of these thus far, McWhorter said.

Pea crop of the Umatilla county area suffered tremendous losses from virus this last season when at least 10,000 acres were damaged or ruined. The virus that did this was present only as a trace in 1947, which shows how rapidly these diseases develop, McWhorter pointed out.

## Mohair Raisers Wage War Against Misuse

A campaign to end misuse of the term "mohair" in upholstery fabrics and other products containing little or no mohair was put into motion at the annual convention of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers association.

The proposed campaign includes application to the Federal Trade Commission for rules governing the use of the word "mohair", notification to better business bureaus of the "gross deception" practiced upon the public, and drastic legal action against offenders.

## Linn County Elects 1949 Ag Committee

George L. Koo of Tangent was elected president of the Linn county A. A. committee for 1949 at this week's annual meeting of the Linn County Agricultural Conservation association. The meeting was held in Albany.

Others elected were Ed Russell, Sweet Home, vice chairman, and Victor A. Koo, third member of the committee. Gerald Detering of Harrisburg and Glen Isom, Brownsville, were elected as alternates to fill possible vacancies that may occur in the county committee during 1949.

## Farm Calendar

Dec. 19 — Marion County Jersey Cattle club, Hugh Harris farm, Salem.  
Jan. 25-26 — Western Oregon Livestock association, Astoria.  
Jan. 29 — Oregon Jersey Cattle club annual meeting, Salem.

## Ranch Ramblings

John Gale, owner and operator of Gaymoor Farm, Canby, has enlarged his barn to house his entire herd of Jerseys. John expects to be milking 30 head in his new milking parlor before long and that, together with his retail route, is guaranteed to keep him busy.

Marion County Jersey Cattle club members will gather Sunday at the home of Hugh Harris which lies to the east of Highway 99 about three miles south of Salem. The dinner will be no-host and served at 1 o'clock.

Paul Youngman over in Yamhill county not too far from McMinnville has quite a pasture program. He runs dairy cattle, beef cattle, hogs, and chickens on alta fescue pastures almost the year around. Most of Paul's pastures have subterranean clover seeded in the alta fescue. He said that he had pastured 11 head of cattle for six weeks on slightly more than an acre of alta and sub last spring.

After last weekend's corn show at Canby (up on the map, and down on the terrain) former mid-westerners need not longer keep saying—"but you ought to see the corn back in Iowa." John C. Burtner, news director at Oregon State college, refers to the big yields as having reached "astronomical peaks." The 139.8 bushels, while not the most ever yielded to an acre, is not bad even in Iowa. This was grown by George Moeller of Ontario for the annual Oregon Yield contest.

But it took Marion county's own Dan A. Steffen to head the adult corn shuckers of Oregon. Dan got 16 pounds and 14 1/2 ounces of corn in three minutes. Corn shows in Oregon have usually been held earlier—at least in recent years—and the late show, which most corn growers have been begging for, proved one of the finest Oregon ever had.

## Clackamas County Guernsey Men Elect

L. L. Ramgay, Carver, was elected president of the Clackamas County Guernsey herd for 1949 with directors to include John Headrick, Beaver Creek; Edwin Ridder, Sherwood, and Paul Houston, Oregon City.

Gustav Selander, Sherwood, was elected as a director on the state association, representing the Clackamas county club. Mr. Selander who has been active in the state Guernsey club, is a newcomer to Clackamas county, having recently moved into the Sherwood area from Corvallis. The Selanders' fine herd of Guernseys are on herd improvement and Dairy Herd Improvement association test.

Robert Douglas, born in Scotland, was a student of fruit chemistry and in 1912 was able to extract and prepare commercially the fruit ingredient pectin, which makes fruit juices jell.

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## Safe Treatment Of Yule Trees Avoids Tragedy

(See story page 1)  
Christmas trees which are to be treated with ammonium sulfate solution absorb more of the solution if treated soon after cutting.

But despite treatment, the tree will not be absolutely fireproof. Charles R. Ross, Oregon State college extension farm forestry specialist, warned Wednesday in discussing the dangers of home fires from Christmas trees.

Ross suggests other points to check on the Christmas tree are: the tree electrical lighting system; location of the tree; wrappings and presents which may ignite from contact with flame or faulty electrical circuits.

Ross also states that county home demonstration agents have information on simple fireproofing formulas for making fabrics

## LINDOW COW RATES AGAIN

Signal Star Model 1500465, a registered Jersey cow owned by June Lindow, Independence has completed a production record of 10,915 pounds milk and 679 pounds butterfat which has qualified her for the gold and silver medal awards of the American Jersey Cattle club. Star Model's record was made in 305 day actual production at the age of two years and 11 months. She has also been officially classified for type by the American Jersey Cattle club with the high rating of Good Plus.

## TIME TO MAKE REPORTS

Farmers are reminded by their county AAA offices that only a few days remain to make conservation reports of practices completed in 1948. All reports are due in the county office not later than 15 days following closing date which is December 31.

safe. He says he had in mind cotton sometimes used to decorate the base of a tree.

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