

The Statesman's Farmer-of-the-Week

FARMER OF THE WEEK

Ernest C. Brunk farms his grandfather's land donation claim but that doesn't mean that what was good enough for Grandpa is good enough for the grandson.



Ernest C. Brunk

On Tuesday, Ernest had 75 acres of crop land fertilized by airplane, and it took about an hour of actual flying time over the field to put the 7,500 pounds of ammonium sulphate (from the Salem plant) onto the ground. It would have taken his grandfather considerably longer.

Ernest runs 300 acres of Polk county land. But he seems to enjoy most his 22 acres of peaches and 31 acres of cherries. He regrets that they were almost in the pink of bloom this week and may be a bit past prime on Blossom Day. The cherries will be fine, however, he says.

Last year the fruit crop was small, but the year before 11 acres of trees gave more than 5,000 boxes of peaches and the 31-acres of cherries yielded 120 tons of fruit.

Dortha Brunk started out to be a school teacher but was talked out of the idea while practicing teaching at Eola. Ernest says she "sure put a crimp in a good career."

The have two sons which put the Brunk acre well on the way to be farmed by the fourth generation of Brunks. Dale, 18, is a

Future Farmer student in Salem High, and Gordon, 13, is showing a decided yen for farming... and baseball. And that is another thing the Brunk men have in common. Mr. Brunk felt badly he had to miss three Senator games last summer and spall his no-miss record of the year prior. When they aren't farming or going to ball games the Brunks are fishing or hunting.

Gooseberry Fly Traps Set Up in Hubbard Fields

C. E. Bradley, Hubbard gooseberry grower, and Oregon State college entomology specialist, Robert W. Evert, set up two yellow currant fly emergence cages on Saturday at the Bradley farm. These cages will cover small plots that were stocked with wormy gooseberries last summer.

The worms or larvae have been in the soil ever since. However, they have changed into pupae and will eventually come to the surface as flies. When Bradley finds the first fly in one of the cages, he and other gooseberry growers will apply lead arsenate sprays within one week and maintain a protective spray cover until the berries are harvested.

These sprays will kill the flies and keep them from laying their eggs under the skin of currants and gooseberries. Failure to kill the yellow currant flies causes cull fruit and complete loss of the crop.

Marion county gooseberry growers who would like to know when Bradley finds the first yellow currant fly can write or call D. L. Rasmussen, county extension agent, Salem. Growers in other Willamette valley counties can write Robert W. Evert, entomology specialist, Oregon State college, Corvallis.

Mt. Angel Cow Tops County Dairy Record

A Mt. Angel college Holstein cow topped Marion County Dairy Herd Improvement association's production this month with 89.2 pounds of butterfat. Bob Clark, Aurora, had second high cow, a Jersey producing 84.3 pounds of fat. Third high was another Holstein from Frank Popping's herd at Mt. Angel, with 81.5 pounds of fat; and fourth high, a Guernsey in William Frith's herd at St. Paul, with 80.7 pounds.

Peter Mitchell, Mt. Angel supervisor, reports many dairymen have been forced to shift from grass to corn silage until pasture is ready for use. This shift has resulted in a drop in milk flow and, many dairymen say, a less attractive color to the milk. Ben A. Newell, county extension agent (livestock) points to many experiments showing grass silage to have many times the Vitamin A content of corn silage. Leonard Chinn, supervisor of one half of

Farm Calendar

- April 7—Market Hog exhibition, 10:30 a.m., state fair grounds.
- April 7—4-H Poultry club local leaders meet, OSC Poultry building, 10 a.m.
- April 8—Homemakers festival, First Methodist church, Salem State and Church sts. Dan W. Poling, speaker.
- April 12—Oregon Swine Growers meeting, Carcass display, 1 p.m., Valley Packing company.
- April 14—Polk county Homemakers festival Monmouth 10 a.m. IOOF hall.
- April 17-18—Second annual Aberdeen Angus show and sale, Klamath Falls.
- April 21—Pacific Northwest Guernsey sale, Pacific International building, North Portland.
- April 24—Marion county Jersey Cattle club, RNA hall, Quincy.
- April 28-29—Marion county 4-H club show, Silvertown.
- April 29—Yamhill County Homemakers festival, McMinnville.
- May 27-28—Linn County Lamb show, Scio.
- June 4—Marion County Lamb show, Turner.
- June 14-24—4-H Summer school.
- June 22—Oregon Bay Chick Association, Oregon State college.
- June 28-July 1—Fourth annual Leadership Institute for Town and Country churches, OSC. William Teutsch, general chairman.

WOOL GROWERS
Two new directors were elected and 12 were reelected at the recent annual members meeting of the Pacific Wool Growers. Floyd M. Edwards of Albany and Stanley Christensen of McMinnville will serve for the first time this year.

Directors reelected were R. V. Hobb, Salem; H. G. Avery, Union; C. M. Hubbard, Junction City; J. T. Alexander, Chehalis, Wash.; S. S. Brown, Troy, Idaho; C. E. Grell, Portland; C. C. Eubank, Ogden, Utah; E. F. McCombs, Orelak, Calif.; R. G. McKenzie, Sizer; G. A. Sandner, Scio; Gaylord Madison, Echo; H. P. Spillman, Powell Butte. A 15th director, representing the public, is to be appointed by the director of extension, Oregon State college, as provided in the by-laws.

The DHIA work, reports Bryon Gordon, Route 1, Silvertown, as a new member in the association. Marcus Wampack, Mt. Angel, is also starting a testing program for the first time.

Farmers Come Down to Earth Via the Air

By Lillie L. Madsen
Farm Editor, The Statesman
Polk county farmers have been up in the air this week. They were up in the air last month, too, and things being what they are over there, they plan to be up in the air again along in late May or June.

In fact, Polk county farmers are so much up in the air that they have organized one cooperative group to accommodate themselves, and may organize another.

The group already organized is the Polk County Dusting Cooperative. Charles Ross, Dallas, is president, and John Dickinson, Independence, is secretary. Directors include Wesley Schenk, Willamina; Gerald Freeman, Rickrealt; and Wylie Gardner, Dallas. Approximately 12,000 acres are expected to be under the co-op's dusting program this year which includes hairy vetch and Austrian peas only. Dusting is usually let out by bid and cost to the farmer was right around \$5 an acre last season.

Mr. Ross recalls that prior to the dusting co-op, germination of hairy vetch had dropped down to 30 per cent. Last year it was up to 80 or better.

Big Cash Crop Saved
"We have saved one of our big Polk county cash crops by our co-op," says Mr. Ross. He adds that besides the co-op there are a number of farmers who deal directly with airplane companies which dust.

But dusting for legume weevil isn't the only thing that is done by airplane on Polk county farms. This year, when the crop land has been too wet to get on until late land plaster and other early fertilizers have been spread by plane. Oats were sown in February, and S. E. Starr sowed 50 acres of Austrian peas in February. They are growing nicely now, he reported. Some farmers in Polk county tried sowing wheat in February. While this is coming along, it is not doing as well as some of the other crops planted by plane. Rye grass has been planted in this manner successfully for the past few years.

The airplane co-op was organized four years ago. It has been, Ross says, an education not only to the farmers but also to the fliers. At first the plane flew far above the ground and would contract for dusting only certain acreages in the open. Now they fly much closer to the ground.

They are able to aim much more correctly at the field to be dusted and no field seems too difficult for them to handle.

The farmers who have planted and fertilized by plane this spring admit "it probably cost us quite a bit more than it would have by ground work," but they add, "our fields have been too wet to get out this spring and we will probably make up in returns the amount we may have expended in getting the materials on in correct time."

Jersey Show Date Set
Clackamas County Jersey Cattle club has chosen June 16 for its annual spring Jersey show. This will be at the Canby fairgrounds and more than 100 entries are already listed, says Elmer Deetz, chairman of the event.

Speaking of dairy barns and set ups, Art Schwab over at Mt. Angel has a new three-cow pit-type milking parlor. Henry, and his son Joe, plan to run about 50 cows through this new set-up.

Henry Zorn, Champoeg, one of the oldest Jersey breeders in Marion county, has a new three-cow pit-type milking parlor. Henry, and his son Joe, plan to run about 50 cows through this new set-up.

The quality of even the best orchards slipped a bit in 1948, but turning under cover crops at an early date did help some.

Neal Thompson of Canby has been doing rather better than good in the production of ladino clover seed. Neal just had a lot of seed cleaned up which tested 99.88 per cent pure. That is awfully close to perfect. Oregon certainly does produce some top quality seeds.

U. F. Buserie & Son of Woodburn is boasting a bit on the side of Lilac Remus Chief Baronet, which was recently announced by the American Jersey Cattle club as a tested sire. Baronet's ten daughters have averaged more than two times the butterfat production of the average dairy cow in the United States. They produced an average of 8,508 pounds of milk testing 5.8 and averaging 490 pounds of fat each. Baronet was bred by M. N. Tibbles of Independence in 1940 and bought by Arthur Buserie in 1941.

The farmers must have something special over at Woodburn, because Pauline's Eagle Double Boy, owned by Herbert S. Coleman, Woodburn, has been rated as a Superior Sire by the national cattle club. He has 15 daughters



Shown here is the way farming is done in Polk county. It is expected approximately 12,000 acres of Austrian peas and hairy vetch will be given this treatment in Polk county late in May or early in June. Dusting at that time will be done for the control of weevil.

Ranch Ramblings

By Rural Reporter
Come April Fool's Day, says Art King, extension specialist at Oregon State college, cultivating equipment should be in the walnut orchards, and everything worked at least once by April 15. The reason, he says, for the early cultivation is to stop growth of the cover crop and weeds that take moisture and plant food from the trees. If the plant food is used up, then the cover crop does not decay when turned under. Also, it leaves the tree lacking in plant food.

Floyd Mock of Lafayette and Lloyd Baroh of Newberg seem to give proof to Art's statements. Floyd said he had a very satisfactory grade of nuts this past year when most growers had something awful. He cultivated his orchard in early April last year, and Lloyd cultivated even earlier than Floyd. Lloyd's orchard gave out one of the highest cracking percentages of the year, while neighboring orchards had a poor quality walnut at harvest time.

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Blue lupine is still on the increase. Another southern development is the hard-seed strains of crimson clover. Hairy vetch seed production has increased in Texas and Arkansas. Such developments, in the opinion of Cyrus, should not alarm Oregon seed growers but should give them pause for thinking.

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Southern States Growing Cover Crop Seeds

W. F. Cyrus, in a recent issue of Washington County News-Times, gives an interview which is of wide interest in the valley both because he is known as an authority on market seeds and because he has made a trip south through the Oregon seed market territory.

Cash farm income, says Cyrus, in the 14 southern states has increased 150 per cent in the past 20 years. Along with the increase in farm income, the deposits in banks have also increased. A large part of this increase is accounted for in the general overall increased price of farm production. In the opinion of Cyrus, there are other factors that contribute importantly to the bettered financial conditions of the southern farmer.

Farm owner-operators are increasing. These have changed the type of farming. From 1930 to 1948 the acreage planted to cotton was cut in half, but the total production remained practically the same. Cover crops, grown from Pacific Northwest grown seed, play an important part in the soil improvement program. Cyrus believes that the use of Pacific Northwest annual legume seed will continue until something better is developed.

But Oregon farmers and the seed trade can expect continued resistance to high prices. Higher prices in recent years have stimulated efforts throughout the south in developing winter cover crops that will produce, profitably, seed in the area. These efforts are now bringing some success.

Most notable among southern grown crops is variously called wild peas, caley peas or singletary peas. The production and use have increased five times in the past four or five years. They are not entirely satisfactory as a cover crop but seed being available locally at considerably less cost than Oregon vetch seed, growers are using these.

In Willamette valley, meanwhile, where most of the yards are located on rolling river-bottom lands, yield figures show the lack of supplemental water. Last year, Polk county's hop yield averaged 875 pounds; Linn county 678; Marion county 910, and Clackamas county, 768. Hoerner says that six-year irrigation trials on the Oregon State college experimental hop yard, show supplemental water increased yields 25 per cent. Fertilization and disease control are other factors to be considered in obtaining higher yields, Hoerner concludes.

MARKETING IS BIG JOB
At the recent pasture forage livestock conference held in Omaha, Professor R. C. Ashbey, University of Illinois farm economist, termed effective livestock marketing the most difficult and the most important job confronting the farmers of the nation. He urged stockmen to band together to employ salesmen equal to buyers in trading skill and bargaining ability.

THIRD TESTER ADDED
Lawrence Allen of Bend has been added as Marion county's third Dairy Herd Improvement association tester, reports Fred Davis, Woodburn, president of the association. There are now over 100 herds in the county on test, but there is still room for more, says Mr. Davis. Either he or Ben A. Buserie, Marion county extension agent, livestock specialist, may be contacted on registration.

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Irrigation Seen As 'Out' for Oregon Hop Men

Irrigation may be the future difference between "make or break" for Oregon low-yield hop yards now that odds are being stacked against many growers by industry surpluses, believes G. H. Hoerner, hop specialist.

Approximately 5,000 bales from the state's 1948 crop remain unsold. Much of this stock, however, is inferior grade, Hoerner states.

State yield figures for the 1948 crop year relegate Oregon producers to a poor competitive position. The 1948, Washington state per acre average hop yield was 1,725 pounds. California was second high with an average per acre of 1,232 pounds. Idaho ranked third with an average of 1,050, while Oregon, with an average of 895 pounds per acre, ranked fourth.

Higher yields are essential to lower production costs, Hoerner points out, as he emphasizes that most of Washington's hop acreage is located in the irrigated Yakima valley.

Oregon county-by-county yield figures further emphasize the difference between irrigated and non-irrigated hop yards. Umatilla county led the state last year with an average yield of 1,620 pounds per acre.

In Willamette valley, meanwhile, where most of the yards are

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Second Annual Registered and Commercial
ABERDEEN ANGUS SHOW
April 17th
SALE
April 18th
71 head registered females and bulls. 50 head commercial heifers in pens of 3 and 5.
Judge—Wayne Lehard, Deer Park, Wash.
Auctioneer—Col. Earl Walters, Filer, Idaho.
Fairgrounds, Klamath Falls, Ore.
Sponsored by Pacific Coast Aberdeen Angus Breeders Association.



WENATCHEE APPLE QUEEN - Portia Jean Thornton (above), 18-year-old high school girl, will rule as queen over the Apple Blossom Festival at Wenatchee, Wash., May 5-7.

FARMERS NOTE
We expect to close operations for the spring season some time this month.

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