

WILLAMETTE VALLEY FARMER

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

Closer Ties Between Farmers, Labor Unions Seen at Meeting

That in union there is still strength was indicated Wednesday when the CIO, the AF of L, the state Grange and the Oregon Farmers Union all came out for "a closer tie-up for work in legislature."

Representatives of the three former organizations appeared at the Oregon State Farmers Union convention in its second day at the Veterans of Foreign Wars building. More than 300 Farmer Union delegates and members were in attendance.

Ranch Ramblings

While visiting on the L. S. Lorenzen farm near Dayton the other day, the ranch rambler walked down through the dairy barn and looked at cows that had been in this herd a long time. One cow in particular that had been in the Lorenzen quite a spell—14 years—was old Scotty Tiny Alice. There were other cows in the herd which had been there around 10 years. The cows that stay in the herd a long time are the cows that make the profit, Lorenzen states. He has been testing first in Dairy Herd Improvement a sociation testing and later in official testing and does not keep any cows that are low in producing ability. The average production in the Lorenzen herd has been over 400 pounds of fat per cow for a long time. Studies of production costs, he says, show that it takes two years on the average for a cow to pay for her raising before she pays profit to the owner. The average production life of a cow is about four to five years. We gathered from the conversation on the Lorenzen farm, that it would be most profitable to select replacements from cows with longevity records.

The Ranch Rambler opines that one of the busiest men in Marion county this week has been Ronald E. Jones, of Brooks, president of the Oregon State Farm Union. He has presided at all sessions of the state convention which ends its three day "sit" Thursday (today). Ronald has done all but babysit which was left in the hands of the new nursery established this year for the first time as a part of the convention. It gave a lot of more time to some mothers of youngsters.

Three Canby FFA boys, Galyn Leffler, Tom Cooper and Merle Nelson, each bought a polled Hereford steer from the Santiam stock farm at Lebanon. The animals were owned by the Vanderhoof Farm at Woodlake, Calif., which has a sort of "sub livestock station" at Lebanon.

Bernard Sprauer and family are the new owners of an 83-acre farm up at Aumsville.

Fruit Tree Pruning Demonstration Set

Pruning young fruit trees will be demonstrated by County Extension Agent D. L. Rasmussen on Tuesday, February 28, at the C. G. Halvorson farm, route 1, Silverton. Halvorson's place is about one mile from Silverton on the Silverton-Marquam highway. Rasmussen's demonstration will begin at 1:30 p.m. It will feature the selection of scaffold limbs on peach, apple, pear, and prune trees that were planted in the spring of 1948.

Farm Calendar

- Feb. 23—Final day of three-day State Convention, Oregon Farmers Union, Veterans of Foreign Wars building, Salem. Election of officers.
- Feb. 24—Hop Growers conference, 208 Memorial Union building, OSC, 9:30 a.m.
- Feb. 24—Fourth Annual Junior Jersey sale, Fairgrounds, Hillsboro.
- Feb. 27-28—Dairy Manufacturers short course and annual convention, Oregon State college campus.
- March 1—Bred gilt sale, county fairgrounds, Prineville. Sponsored by Oregon Swine Growers association.
- March 1—Small Fruits meeting, Dallas City hall, 10 a.m.
- March 2—Mint Growers meeting, Salem.
- March 3—Marion county strawberry growers meeting, Mayflower hall, 2135 Fairgrounds road, Salem, 1:30 p.m.
- March 4—Oregon Swine Growers bred gilt sale, Klamath Falls.
- March 4-12—National 4-H club week.
- March 8—Marion County Livestock association meeting, dinner, 7 p.m. Union Hill, Louis Hennies, Turner, president.
- March 23-25—State FFA convention, La Grande.
- April 1-6—Grand National Junior Livestock Exposition, San Francisco.
- April 4—Oregon Swine Breeders association market hog and carcass show, Pacific International grounds, Portland.
- May 8-19—Oregon state Cattleman's association state convention, Klamath Falls.

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The first of its kind in the United States is this new one-story 46 by 240 foot beef cattle barn pictured here. The barn, one of two new ones built at the Oregon State college experiment station, will house 150 animals and provide for expanding research in breeding studies. The building replaces the old college beef barn destroyed by fire in 1946.

Ewalt Tells "How" of Good Feed Silage

More than one hundred farmers, veterans and others brought 40 samples of silage for grading at the recent silage forum held in Mayflower hall, Salem. H. F. Ewalt, Corvallis, Fred Davis, Woodburn and George Kruse, Mt. Angel, graded the samples. After a two hour discussion of the samples and silage in general Ewalt made a four point summary to include:

1. Cut grass and legumes in the early bloom stage. The majority of samples would have made better feed if cut from three to seven days earlier.
2. Do a good job of cutting. Cut short, add molasses, from 30 to 80 pounds per ton and tramp well, especially on top of the silo.
3. Crops that would make poor hay make fairly good silage when cut in the immature stages. In other words, more total dry matter will be consumed as silage than as poor hay.
4. Cut when the crop has 65 to 70 per cent moisture.

Watts, Silverton Topped La Grande Swine Sale

Marion County Extension Agent Ben A. Newell, who arranged the meeting, brought out several points on use of silage for beef cattle and sheep.

Sheep are making good use of grass and legume silage. Ewe's are eating up to eight pounds per day with free choice hay. Beef cattle make gains of 10 to 25 per cent better on grass silage than on dry hay. Usually grain can be cut down about one-third when feeding beef with comparable gains.

Beef cattle will consume only 40 to 50 pounds of grass silage a day while dairy cows are taking 100 pounds or more in some herds. George Kruse, Mt. Angel, reported 110 pounds per cow each day in his Holstein herd. Many Jersey and Guernsey cows are eating 80 pounds or more.

Grass silages will average two and one-half to three per cent digestible protein while corn is usually one per cent or less. Dairy cows require about one and one-half pounds of digestible protein a day to maintain her body. This means that 150 pounds of corn silage would supply her requirements or 60 to 80 pounds of grass silage.

The value of silage is often in question and Newell suggests the following thumb rule to follow. Good grass or legume silage is worth one-third as much as good alfalfa hay. Cannery and field corn silage is worth one-fourth to one-fifth what good alfalfa is.

Junior Jersey Sale Slated at Hillsboro

Twenty-two animals including calves, bred heifers and producing cows have been consigned to the fourth annual Junior Jersey sale which will be held at the Washington county fairgrounds, Hillsboro, Saturday, February 25, starting at 1 p.m., the sale committee headed by Fred Knox, Gaston, has announced. All bidding will be restricted to 4-H and FFA members.

A limit of two animals to any one buyer has been set, according to Joe Cox, Washington county extension agent, who serves as secretary of his county Jersey cattle club. The sale is being held in cooperation with other county Jersey cattle clubs in the state. The sale committee includes Neal Miller, Woodburn; L. S. Lorenzen, Dayton; Marvin Pangborn, Tillamook; Mancel, Melott, V. D. Foster, and J. B. Thomas, all of Hillsboro.

Farm Dairy Prices Slightly Down, 1950

Oregon farm prices for butterfat, milk, and dairy cows show little change as 1949 closed and 1950 started, reports of the USDA released Wednesday, show. However, prices received by Oregon farmers are definitely under a year earlier. During the 30 day period ending January 15, butterfat prices in Oregon held unchanged, but are five cents a pound under last January.

The wholesale price of milk to Oregon farmers on January 15 is a nickel higher than a month earlier. However, the price is 82 cents a hundredweight under a year ago. Dairy cow prices in Oregon after holding steady during the last four months of 1949, dropped \$5 a head at mid-January, compared to a year ago on January 15 dairy cow prices averaged \$35 a head less to Oregon producers. The average United States price for dairy cows dropped only \$12 a head during the same period.

GRANGE DINNER SUNDAY FAIRFIELD

The Fairfield Grange will hold a no-host dinner Sunday, February 26, at 1:30 p.m. in the Grange hall. The entire community is invited. The Grange will serve coffee.

Foreign Mint Oil Markets Recovering

Large exports of mint oil have helped to support the market in recent months.

Foreign markets for mint oil made a striking recovery during 1949. This probably accounts to a considerable extent for the strength in the market since harvest.

Nearly 600,000 pounds were shipped out during the first ten months. This is twice the rather small shipments during 1948, and somewhat more than in any other calendar year. Assuming that shipments in November and December continued at about the same rate as in the preceding ten months of the year, the total for 1949 would be around 700,000 pounds. However, exports in 1948 were small and the average for 1948 and 1949 would not greatly exceed the average for prewar years.

Fertilizer Use Increased on Oregon Farms

Use of commercial fertilizer has increased more than five times in the state during the past 10 years, says Arthur S. King, Oregon State college extension soil conservation specialist, who adds that the rapid increase in commercial fertilizer use appears likely to continue if farmers are to hold their own against plant food losses.

He points to a report by the Production and Marketing Administration which states that Oregon farmers used slightly less than 4,000 tons of commercial plant food annually as recently as 1939. During a 12-month period ending in July, 1948, more than 20,000 tons were spread.

King emphasizes that these figures indicate actual amounts of plant food — nitrogen, phosphor-

Fertilizer Use Increased on Oregon Farms

ous, potash. Since commercial fertilizers contain a considerable percentage of inert material, the specialist estimates Oregon's annual fertilizer purchases at upwards of 100,000 tons annually. Lime and landplaster are not included.

Field crops — seed, grain, pasture, and hay — account for the greatest increase in fertilizer use. Oregon farmers now use more fertilizer for these field crops than any other western state. Increased use rates, however, on intensively cultivated crops have also added to the total tonnage figure.

In 1939, King says, commercial fertilizers were providing only one and one-half pounds of plant food per Oregon crop land acre. Ten years later, increased use was providing eight pounds. Despite this increase, King declares that it is scarcely enough now to keep up with natural plant food losses by leaching under good farming conditions. If represents only a minute fraction of the plant food removed by crops harvested each year.

Thus, King predicts that much

Watts, Silverton Topped La Grande Swine Sale

A Marion county swine grower topped the Oregon Swine Growers gilt sale in La Grande this week. Elton Watts, Silverton, sold a growthy Chester White gilt for \$145 to Ben L. Robinson of Imbler. Second high animal was a Berkshire from the Oregon State college herd. She was purchased by Cecil DeLong, 4-H club boy from La Grande.

The thirty eight gilts, of the eight breeds sold, averaged \$90.75. Harry L. Wells of Island City took home eight of the animals to run on wheat stubble and use low quality grain.

Elmer Stangel of Wilsonville sold the top Yorkshire for \$110 to Ralph Baum of Caldwell, Idaho. Grady Romans of Vale topped Durcs at \$110. Buyer was Elwyn Bingham of Alico, Ore. A Poland China from Leonard Forster of Tangent brought \$105 for top in that breed. Ray Fuller of Alico was the buyer.

Two more sales are scheduled for March first at Prineville and March third at Klamath Falls, according to Ben A. Newell, Salem, secretary of the Oregon Swine Growers.

Economy Rules Here to Stay, Patton Says

(Story also on page 1.)
No one likes restrictions, James G. Patton, National Farmers Union president, told his audience at Waller hall Wednesday night, a meeting to which the public was especially invited. "We'd all like to go back to the time without restrictions, the time of free homesteaded land — only there isn't any more free land," he continued as he explained "that regimentation was upon us whether we like them or not. They are something we blame onto the government."

But the government is not to blame for all of them, he said, adding that "I remember seeing a lot of farmers who were regimented by something besides government in 1932."

This, he said was an age of atomic energy, of airplanes and planned programs.

"Even competition that is planned and provided," he said, "is better than continuously cutting labor hours and lessening production," as he urged decentralization of industry, support of the CVA program, making patents available, and providing adequate credit as means to "free up" industry.

In foreign policy, Patton said we were "pikers." We thought in terms of protection when we should think more in terms of expansion.

Patton was introduced Wednesday night by Ronald Jones, state president, who, in turn, was introduced by Gus Schlicker, president of the Marion county union, greater use will be made of commercial fertilizers in the future as Oregon farmers find it necessary to recoup soil fertility losses.

chairman on the evening.
Earlier in the day, Patton addressed both the Farm Union and the Farmer Union insurance sessions at VFW hall.

Here he urged building agriculture on an integration line. Agriculture competes against itself too often, he stated. No other industry would so separate its marketing and distribution, and its purchasing of raw materials, he pointed out.

Governor Douglas McKay, the only outside speaker to be heard at the 1949 convention, spoke briefly at the Wednesday morning session on the problems of Oregon agriculture. He urged a program that would provide for proper grading; proper labeling and proper promotion of Oregon farm products as well as further fabrication of lumber and processing of foods. The fiber industry, he said, was set back, largely through lack of proper promotion.

"If fibers were shelled and put into cellophane bags and sold like Planters Peanuts," he said, "Oregon couldn't grow enough to supply the demand."

SHEEP PRODUCTS DOWN

Lamb and sheep prices averaged a slight advance to Oregon farmers during the past 30 days. Sheep stepped up the most, and averaged 50 cents higher while lambs strengthened about 15 cents a hundredweight on the average. But lamb prices are about 80 cents a hundredweight under a year ago, while the farm value of sheep is equal to prices 12 months earlier. Wool prices have remained unchanged during the past four months. The value is also the same as a year ago.

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