

# WILLAMETTE VALLEY FARMER

## News and Views of Farm and Garden --By LILLIE L. MADSEN

### Mint, Geese Mink, Sheep Mix at Talbot

By Lillie L. Madsen  
Farm Editor, The Statesman  
Diversified, says N. Webster, means "distributed, variegated." He uses "diversified farming" as an illustration.

Now I know exactly to what he refers. It's the E. B. Henningsen ranch in the Jefferson area at Talbot. There are, for instance, horses, sheep, geese, Hereford cattle and a Bantam chicken. There are also mint and mink. There were goats and timber.

It all started about 25 years ago when Mr. Henningsen (known to the rest of the county as Ernie) bought an island in the Santiam river in the Talbot area. He isn't a native of Talbot. He was born in Astoria of Danish parents, and was reared in the Roberts district, near Salem.

**First, He Logs**  
Mr. Henningsen played Crusoe and batched on his island while he logged it off. For 10 years he logged and was one of the last to drive a log raft out of the Santiam.

We — Mr. Henningsen, the farm photographer and the farm editor — went for a tour in a pick-up truck out over the island. We crossed the Santiam on a narrow fill-in of soil, and a bit of water; traveled over the middle of mint fields, just coming through the river silt; and ran alongside of the edge of the Santiam where it had cut great swaths in the soil, and where — in one location — the government had spent a bit of money on reventments.

**River is Changeable**  
The Santiam, Mr. Henningsen said, never can make up its mind just where it wants to go. Part of what was river when he first came to the Talbot area, is now good mint fields. Part of what was then good tillable land is now swift, deep river.

"But you got to be philosophical if you will farm land along the river," he pointed out. "You got to figure if the river cuts off some of your land one year and deposits it on that of a neighbor's, it may deposit the neighbor's soil on your land next year."

The goats followed logging, and says Mr. Henningsen, "people don't realize the value of goats. All they now know about are bulldozers. If you are not in too big a hurry the goats do a marvelous job of clearing land at little cost." He ran 450 of them on his island of 275 acres. He is farming some 800 acres in all. This acreage was acquired by the purchase of a number of smaller farms and stretching them into one bigger property.

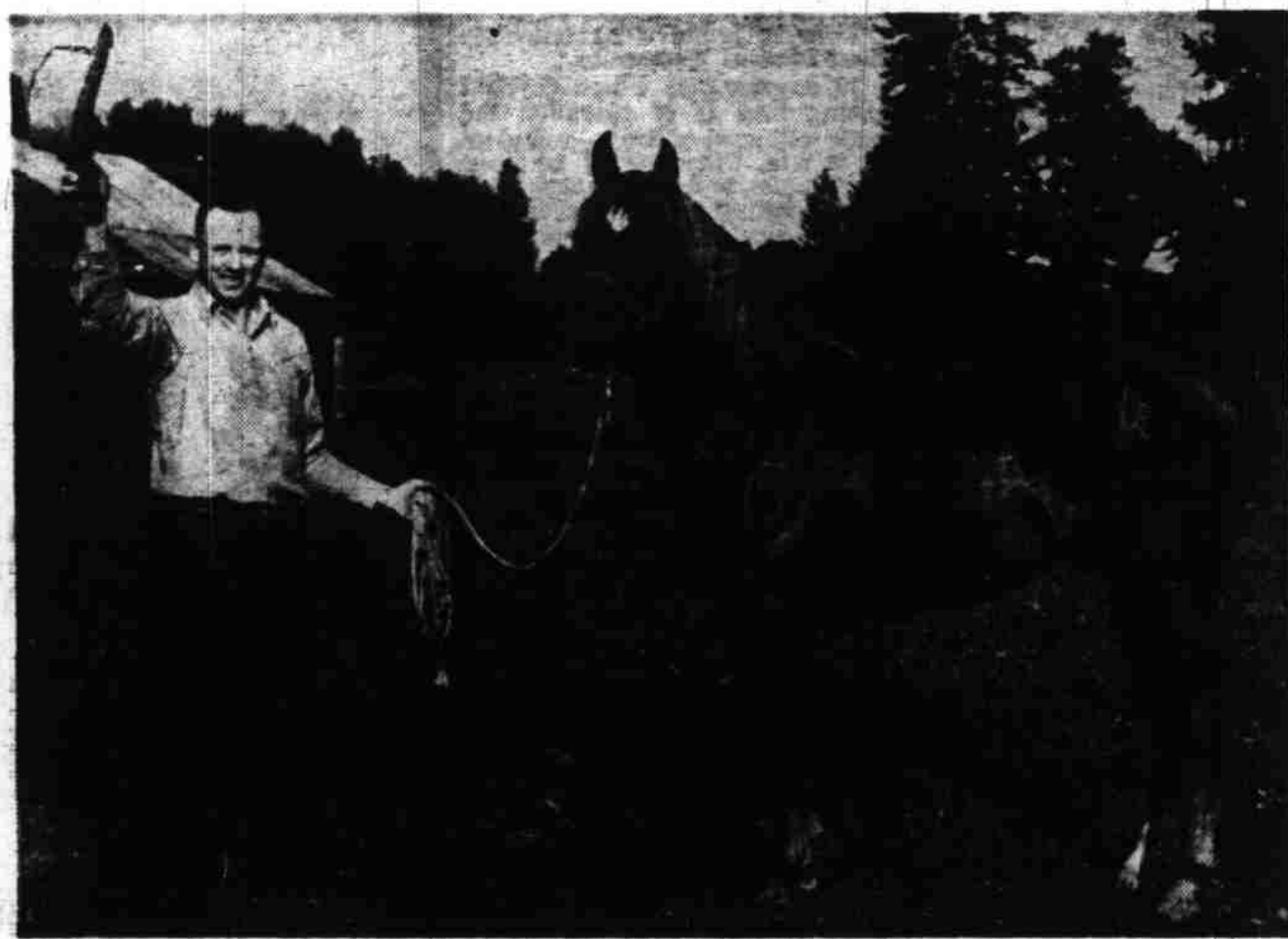
Mrs. Henningsen was born in Astoria, was graduated from Monmouth in the days of Oregon Normal school, and taught in the area close enough to the Henningsen property to meet and marry Ernie. Mint fields started

Fifteen years ago, they started mint fields on the farms and now have 230 acres of the flavor-plant. "It looks good this year," Henningsen says. "I don't know what the price will be but the crop is going to be okay. I imagine it'll turn out all right. I haven't noticed folk quitting chewing gum or heard of them refusing to eat mint ice cream."

The sheep and the geese really belong to the mint crop. "They are part of my hired help," says Mr. Henningsen.

This is the second year for the geese as "hired hands." They are "weeder," going through the mint fields eating off the grasses and weeds, which would otherwise have to be removed by hand and hoe. Weeds grow rapidly in the river-silt soil, especially when the sprinklers are working and the weather warms up a bit. They go rapidly when a flock of 70 geese follow the path of sprinklers, relishing the weeds while they are young and tender.

**Geese are Nesting**  
At present the geese are nesting and one finds them sitting on nests in the most unlikely places all over the Henningsen ranches. Wandering about in a bit of meadowland, beneath the scattered trees



Silver Flex (the horse) will be seen at the sixth annual Willamette Valley Horseman's association Western Horse show and Gymkhana at the Oregon state fairgrounds on Saturday and Sunday, E. B. Henningsen (the man) will be seen there also likely, but Henningsen won't be riding this trip. He's just going to watch what Silver Flex, one of the nation's top cutting horses, will do. Flex, who used to belong to Henningsen, now belongs to Grant Farris of Salem.

was a wild goose, perfectly at ease with a tame goose and gander.

Last season, the Henningsens rented sheep as a try-out for weeding. This spring they bought 290 yearlings to assist the geese in the weeding project. Lambs and mint certainly are "naturals" in field as well as on the dining table, Henningsen reports.

Older ewes eat off the mint. Light yearlings are best. The bigger ones get too big and you don't get so good a price in the fall.

Mink, which used to be farmed on the home ranch, are now mostly leased out on shares to growers in Tillamook and Astoria. All Henningsen mink are now mutations. Dark mink, they tell you, are passing out of the picture.

"It's a funny business, this mink business," Mr. Henningsen explains. "If you breed towards platinum, then the women change their minds and must have dark ones. If you breed toward dark, they want mutations. You can hardly keep up with it."

**Cattle Important**  
Hereford cattle, along with mint, is one of the big projects on the Henningsen ranch. Herefords — there are now 50 of them on the ranch — were started here 13 years ago when the Henningsens bought 15 head from Bill McKinney, son of John W. McKinney, the pioneer Hereford cattle breeder in Oregon.

These were of the Domino blood line and the herd has been kept pure. Market for the stock has been excellent. It all goes for breeding stock and there have been no carry-overs.

But it was over a cup of coffee — the national Scandinavian drink — (for the farm editor and farm photographer, like Henningsen, have a Danish derivation, and Mrs. Henningsen's ancestry is Swedish) that the Henningsens told of their real loves — the horses.

They had the first cutting horse — Silver Flex — brought into Oregon. Mr. Henningsen is a director in the national cutting horse association, and he is a great believer in the present and the future of the Quarter horse, to which the cuttings belong. While Silver Flex was sold not long ago to Grant Farris of Salem, there will soon be colts, the offspring of Silver Flex, on the Henningsen ranch.

The Bantam? That, Mrs. Henningsen explained, was an Easter present which now has been given the freedom of the lawn. "We don't," she added, "intend to go in for extensive Bantam breeding."

Approximately 145,000 members of 3,152 farm youth clubs in new Japan are now actively engaged in pursuits similar to those of American 4-H Club members.

### Poults Have Poor Eyesight First Weeks

Starvation usually accounts for a high percentage of turkey poult death losses during the first two weeks of the brooding period. This management reminder is from Noel L. Bennion, state college extension poultry specialist, who points out that turkey poults are hatched with extremely poor eyesight. As a consequence, many of them will never find food and water unless assisted.

Good lighting with plenty of feed and water accessible in the brooder house are essential in starting poults. At least 50 per cent of the mortality normally experienced in raising market turkeys, Bennion relates, usually occurs during the first two weeks of the brooding season.

**Marbles Used**  
Anything which can be done to attract poults to feed and water will usually lessen the amount of handling required. Many successful operators place tender young chopped greens, rolled oats, clabbered milk, or highly colored marbles in mash hoppers or in drinking water at least twice daily to encourage eating. Chopped greens on clabbered milk, for example, provides a striking contrast that seems to attract poults.

Egg cases flats covered with feed and placed under or close to brooder covers during the first few days of the brooding period will also stimulate feed consumption.

**Testing Crops Urged**  
Feeling a poult's crop is an easy method to determine if it is eating, Bennion adds. In some cases, it may be necessary to dip beaks in feed and water several times to induce eating. Some growers practice this method as they remove poults from their shipping crates.

Some feed manufacturers are now assisting producers by manufacturing colored crushed pellets which aid in attracting poults to feed hoppers.

Unless temperatures in the brooder house are reasonably warm, poults will have a tendency to remain under the cover, and refuse to eat and drink. Brooder houses must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before poults arrive, the specialist concludes.

### Church Institute Sets Summer Theme

Conservation of Souls and Soils" has been selected as the theme for the 1950 Leadership Institute for Town and County Churches at Oregon State college July 11 to 14, reports W. L. Tuetsch, assistant director of the extension service and institute chairman.

The institute is sponsored by Oregon State college in cooperation with the Oregon Council of Churches, the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon and the Home Missions Council of North

America, and the other denominations. It is interdenominational, Teutach stresses.

Both pastors and laymen from town and country churches will spend the week on the campus reviewing rural problems, especially as they concern conservation and becoming acquainted with methods that have been effective in town and country work. Members of the regular and summer session faculties and religious and lay leaders will be on the institute staff.

### Hop Harvest Cost Raised by Control

Restricted harvesting of hops in Oregon last year under the hop control program caused a 20 per cent increase in the estimated cost of production, according to results of a survey by the Oregon State college agricultural experiment station.

The estimate of the average cost of hop production in western Oregon in 1949 was made by Dr. G. W. Kuhlman, agricultural economist. The compiled figures revealed that production costs increased more than 10 cents per pound as a result of restricted harvesting.

Average 1949 yield was estimated at 920 pounds per acre while, under the hop marketing agreement, growers were permitted to harvest an average of only 600 pounds per acre. Estimated cost of production on a full crop basis was 52.7 cents per pound. On a restricted crop basis costs jumped to 83.3 cents per pound. Fixed costs, preharvest costs and harvesting costs were all included in the estimate.

### Trees Require Care When First Planted

If you are one of several hundred farmers who have received tree seedlings this year from the state forestry nursery, or elsewhere, don't make the mistake of "planting and forgetting" them as soon as they are in the ground, says Charles R. Ross, extension service farm forestry specialist. He adds that trees planted for windbreak purposes require care. He suggests that the area, prepared before planting, be fenced against livestock and that the seedlings be watered the first year or so even if a bucket or tank wagon must be used.

In cases where trees have been ordered and soil preparation and fencing have not been completed, Ross offers this alternative: bill them in a garden row for a year or two. They will grow nicely there, he points out, and will lose little growth while waiting to be planted permanently a year hence.

**SMUT PREVENTATIVES PAY**  
Seed treatment to prevent smut on spring-sown grains is good insurance, says C. E. Mikesell, Linn county extension agent. One of the best materials is Ceresan used at the rate of one-half ounce per bushel. Many seed dealers have treated grain available, and also have facilities for treating on custom basis.

### Utah Man Comes To Oregon State

Appointment of Dr. Glen T. Nelson as assistant agricultural economist of the Oregon State college experiment station, to succeed Gordon Rowe, resigned to complete graduate study, has been announced by William A. Schoenfeld, dean and director of agriculture.

Dr. Nelson will do full time research in dairy marketing, beginning work immediately on a cost and efficiency analysis of diversified dairy plants in Oregon and Washington. The analysis is one phase of a western regional program designed to maintain and expand markets for dairy products.

The new staff member is a graduate of Utah State Agricultural college in 1942 with a major in dairy husbandry. After four years of army service he returned to Utah State where he received a master's degree in agricultural economics in 1948, followed by a doctorate in dairy marketing at University of Illinois.

### Clackamas Jersey Club Plans Meeting

The Clackamas County Jersey Cattle club will meet Sunday, April 16, at Firwooden Jersey Farm near Sandy, home of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Malar and son M. C. (Cap) Malar, beginning at 11:30 a.m. A no-host dinner, for which members are reminded to bring their own table service, will be held in the national's capital, June 14 to 21.

be a feature of the day, which will also include a Jersey judging contest in which only women will participate. Some of the outstanding Jerseys owned by the Malars will be the subjects upon which the women will test their judging skill.

Special guests at this meeting will be members of the Multnomah County Jersey Cattle club, who have indicated their acceptance of the invitation. Firwooden Jersey Farm is located 2 1/2 miles southwest of Sandy on the Foot-hills highway (211) between Eagle Creek and Sandy. It is identified by the standard "Registered Jerseys" sign beside the highway.

Plans for the club's spring show, to be held on the county fairgrounds, Canby, Tuesday, May 23, will be discussed.

### Oregon Names 4-H Club June Delegates

Four delegates to represent Oregon at National 4-H club camp in Washington, D. C. — the state's highest 4-H club awards — have been named by L. J. Allen, state 4-H club leader.

They are Roma Deane Otto, 17, Eugene; Margaret Colegrove, 18, Junction City; John A. Klesow, 18, Bend; and Bill Monroe, 18, Multnomah. The four youngsters will attend the twentieth National 4-H club camp which is to be held in the national's capital, June 14 to 21.

The vampire bat legend of the old world is remarkable because real-life bats that suck blood are confined to tropical America.

Everybody's Watching...



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When your farming is diversified you get a lot of interesting mail every day, says Mrs. E. B. Henningsen, who is the manager's manager on the large Henningsen ranch in the Talbot area. The Statesman farm photographer caught Mrs. Henningsen removing the mail from her rural box just as she returned from a shopping trip to town.

### Farm Calendar

- April 15-16 — 6th annual Western Horse show and Gymkhana, Oregon state fair grounds, Saturday afternoon and evening, Sunday afternoon.
- April 16 — Marion County Jersey Cattle club, NRA hall, Quincy, 12:36 noon.
- April 16 — Clackamas County Jersey Cattle club, Andy Malar farm, Sandy, 11 a.m.
- April 17 — Oregon Polled Hereford association, 7 p.m. dinner meeting, Cherrin room, Senator hotel.
- April 18 — Polk County 4-H leaders meeting, Rickreall grade school, 8 p.m.
- April 20 — Yamhill County Farmers union, fair building, McMinnville, 8 p.m.
- April 21-29 — Northwest Shrine Rodeo show, Pacific International building, Pete Logan, master of ceremonies.
- April 23 — Yamhill County Livestock association pasture tour, fair building, McMinnville, 10 a.m.
- April 27 — Yamhill Pamaona grange, McMinnville armory, 10 a.m.
- April 30-May 6 — National home demonstration week.
- May 2 — Polk county Home-makers festival, school gymnasium, Rickreall, 10:30 a.m.
- May 7-9 — California Ram sale, Sacramento.
- May 8-10 — Annual Oregon State Cattleman's association convention, Klamath Falls.
- May 13 — Marion County Home-makers festival, Salem armory, 9:30 a.m.
- May 14 — National 4-H club Sunday.
- May 19 — Clackamas county Guernsey field day at Vernon Bockman and Edwin Ridder farms, Willsonville.
- May 25 — Yamhill Spring Jersey show, fairgrounds, McMinnville.
- May 28 — Annual Oregon Holstein picnic, Dupine Farms, Harriburg.
- May 29 — Marion county Spring Jersey show, state fairgrounds.
- May 30 — Clackamas Jersey show, Canby fairgrounds.
- June 1 — Pacific Northwest Guernsey sale, Pacific International, Portland.

From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

**Gabby Enjoys Going to The Dentist**

One of my molars was giving me a bad time Tuesday afternoon, so I slipped over to Doc Jones, hoping to catch him free. When I arrived, Gabby Jackson was sitting there reading a magazine. I said hello to Gabby and he nodded.

Doc comes out and says I'm next. "Wait a minute," I says. (My tooth seemed to have stopped aching.) "How about Gabby?" Doc smiles and says, "Gabby? Why, he's got the finest teeth in the county. He just comes up here and reads the magazines whenever he's in town!"

As Doc went to work he told me that he's glad to have Gabby come up and read magazines... they might not all be fresh off the newsstand, but if Gabby—or anyone wants to while away some time who is he to stand in their way?

From where I sit, this "live and let live" spirit helps make America what it is. If I prefer a friendly glass of beer with my supper and you prefer milk—who's to say one's right and the other wrong?

Joe Marsh

SAILS PACIFIC ALONE—Alfred Peterson, 28, of New York, sits at tiller of his 23-foot cutter "Stormway" in Sydney, Australia, after voyage across Pacific alone from Miami.

## 2 MIDGET MARKETS 2

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YOUNG <b>PORK STEAK</b> 43c lb.	SUGAR CURED <b>SLICED BACON</b> 38c lb.	BEEF <b>POT ROAST</b> 43c lb.
CENTER CUTS <b>LOIN CHOPS</b> 48c lb.	OPEN KETTLE <b>PURE LARD</b> 2 lbs. 25c	LEAN <b>BEEF CUBES</b> 48c lb.

**TRY THIS PORK CHOP RECIPE**

It Sounds Good. Tastes Better. 6 loin chops—1/2 teasp. salt—3 tart apples—3 tabsp. molasses—tabsp. flour—2 cups hot water—1 tabsp. vinegar—1/3 cup raisins. Have chops cut 1 inch thick (We'll gladly cut them for you) sprinkle with salt. Brown well on fat edge on both sides. Arrange in layer in baking dish. Core apples, place 1/4" slices on chops; add molasses. Add flour to fat in skillet; cook until browned; add water. stir until sauce thickens. Add vinegar and raisins; pour sauce over chops. add salt. Cover; bake 350 degrees 1 hour or until apples are tender. Serves 6. Choose Midget Small Loin Chops and It's Sure to be Good.

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