

WILLAMETTE VALLEY FARMER

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

Great Variety Discovered in Salem Markets

By Lillie L. Madsen
Farm Editor, The Statesman
I visited the wholesale produce dealers in Salem this week and found out that if mid-valley residents don't have the proper vegetables and fruits in their diet it is their own fault.

There are three large general wholesale produce dealers in Salem and these have the most amazing array of fruits and vegetables. Unless I had seen it myself, I doubt I could have believed that so much variety was available through Salem wholesale fruit and vegetable markets or that such quantities were supplied by local Willamette valley growers. Besides the produce supplied locally, carloads are being brought in from other states and other countries.

Pink Grapefruit Here

The first carload of pink grapefruit arrived early this week from Texas. A couple of carloads of summer Valencia oranges were coming in this week. The oranges, coming from southern California, will not all go to Salem, but will be distributed between Eugene, Salem and Portland.

A carload of bananas came into Salem Wednesday. These were grown in Central America under irrigation. Few bananas, one of the wholesale dealers told me, are now picked in the wilds as formerly. They are grown under cultivation and after each crop is harvested the plantation owner brings in bulldozers and knocks down the trees. They regrow and produce bananas all in one year. As a result the fruit is much larger than the old uncultivated varieties were.

Netted Gem potatoes are beginning to arrive from Sunnyside, Wash., and from Redmond in eastern Oregon. In one wholesale house I found some good looking pears (but not many of them) from Hood River, and in another I found some pears as well as prunes from Yakima. Yakima Delicious and Jonathan apples also arrived this week in small quantities.

Carrots from Santiam

Because most of the local crop was going to canneries and freezing plants, fresh corn for the Salem tables was being brought out of Portland Tuesday and Wednesday.

Beautiful carrots and tomatoes came by the truck load from the Santiam area near Jefferson while I was in one of the wholesale houses.

Celery hearts, once so popular in the valley, are sold in every fancy fresh vegetable market, are now most difficult to obtain. I was told, however, a few crates of fine white ones for Salem grocers arrived Tuesday from the Eugene area. Nice bunches of green celery, which has almost replaced the white variety, arrived by truckloads from the Lake Labish district.

"And that district," said Ralph Ennor of Valley Fruit and Produce company, "is one of our biggest mines so far as vegetables are concerned."

I was shown Danish, Marblehead and Hubbard squash, onions (harvest of these just got well underway in the Labish area this week), carrots, beets, red radishes, fresh green onions, shell beans, Giant Wonder green beans, all from the Labish district.

Spear melons arrived Tuesday and Wednesday in limited quantities from the Salem and Grand Island areas. More than 100 crates of lettuce (each crate containing three to four dozen heads) are used in Salem daily, and almost 80 crates of celery are used.

Yams Look Good
Sweet potatoes just began coming in from California this week and I found five baskets of Louisiana yams ready to leave the wholesale houses for Salem retail markets. The yams, because of the freight rates, are thrown in higher price brackets than are the sweet potatoes, but they looked exceptionally fine.

Just as I was leaving one of the wholesale houses, A. W. (Sam) Zysset of Gervais, Route 1, arrived with the first load of ice cream melons of the year. I stayed long enough to taste them and found that the sunny late summer had given them unusually fine flavor and inside coloring this season.

Salem, I learned, is the center of one of the coast's biggest vegetable producing areas, and Salem residents use a big quantity of the locally grown produce.

Besides Valley Fruit and Produce Company, the two other Salem wholesale distributors are Beaver State Produce company and Pacific Fruit and Produce company.

WEED BOOTH PLANNED

Marion county's weed control district will be one exhibitor at the North Marion county fair that starts in Woodburn today. J. K. Neufeldt, weed inspector, and County Extension Agent Ben A. Newell will have a booth on weeds and weed control materials and methods.

In an effort to prevent knots in the lumber, foresters are experimentally removing buds more than 1/4 inches high on young pines.



A. W. (Sam) Zysset (right), gardener out on Route 1, Gervais, knows his stuff is good so insisted that his purchaser, Ralph Ennor (left) of Valley Fruit and Produce company taste before purchasing. Zysset brought the first load of local ice cream melons into the wholesale produce houses at Salem late Tuesday. (Farm photo for the Statesman.)



Attractive farm signs such as this are beginning to appear throughout the Willamette valley. Travelers in Michigan in the New England states and in the old south have long found them interesting and they should be encouraged here in the valley. This one is found on Highway 99E north of Salem. (Farm photo for the Statesman.)

Winter Peas Crop to Lose Price Props

Government price support protection was withdrawn this week from Austrian winter peas.

The United States department of agriculture, which will take over bulk of the three-times normal 1950 crop is carrying out price support commitment of \$4.52 a hundred pounds to growers, will exclude peas from the 1951 program.

On other varieties of winter cover crop seeds, of which Oregon is a major producer, the USDA increased 1951 rates on hairy vetch and crimson clover, but reduced the supports for common ryegrass and common Willamette vetch.

Next year's support on hairy vetch will be \$14.70 a hundred pounds, up 20 cents from this year's \$14.50. Crimson clover is up 20 cents to \$16.50. Common ryegrass will be propped at \$6.75 a drop of 50 cents. The support on common and Willamette vetch will be \$6, a 57 cent cut from this year.

Dairy Cows Make Good August Record

Marion county DHIA herd averages proved interesting this month. Top honors, according to Ben A. Newell, county extension agent (livestock) went to Marcus Wampac, Mt. Angel with 9 cows averaging 55.8 pounds of fat. St. Benedictine Sisters, Mt. Angel, were second with 20 cows averaging 50.7 pounds. Third was D. C. Brock, Salem, 49.6 pounds on 9 cows; fourth H. C. Stuve, Woodburn, with 15 cows averaging 49.5 pounds of fat. Harry Stewart, West Salem, was fifth with five cows and a 44.8 pound average.

Mikkelsen Is Sixth
With a larger herd, H. Mikkelsen, Woodburn, placed sixth, with 41 head averaging 43.8 pounds of fat. H. A. Barnes and Son, Silverton, was seventh with a 17-cow herd and a 42.7 pound average.

Jim Phillips, Silverton, made 42.4 pounds with five cows and in ninth place was I. O. Williamson, Aurora, with 31 cows and 41.9 pounds of fat. Tenth place went to Elton Watts of Silverton with a

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Ranch Ramblings

"Willamar" is the attractive herd name recently registered by Harold M. and Helen M. Cherry of Salem for their Holstein-Friesian cattle. It is recorded by the Holstein-Friesian association of America. We like the idea of names for places, particularly registered names. There seems to be getting too many duplications in our surnames and a registered name for a place is not so easily duplicated.

Two brothers were named officers of the Portland Livestock exchange when Robert L. Clark, cattle salesman for BoDine & Clark, livestock commission company was named president of the group, and Prosser E. Clark, hog salesman for the same house, was elected secretary. Both brothers are widely known throughout the valley.

In going back to names on places, we stopped at the Robert Harper farm north of Salem because we liked the farm sign there. The painting and woodwork, says Robert cost \$25. The post can be as cheap or as expensive as one likes. This particular pole is of steel and more costly. But the sign is really most attractive.

While there we got to discussing grass with Robert. On his 135 acre farm he has quite a bit of grass including a 20 acre field of chewing fescue that is 16 years old and still going good. The chews, which included one five-acre field that is comparatively new, averaged 250 pounds of seed to the acre. His 25 acres of alta fescue went 350 pounds of seed this year in its "baby" crop.

One of the troubles with fescue on the valley floor is keeping rye grass out of it. Rye grass just loves to grow in everything in the valley, the grass growers tell you.

Farm Calendar

September 21-23 — North Marion County fair, Woodburn.

September 22 — Hereford Dispensary sale, Roy McKibben ranch. Nine miles northeast of Salem.

September 23 — Marion County Dairy Breeders association heifer sale.

September 29-30 — Oregon Cattlemen's association range bull sale, Baker.

September 29-30 — Victoria Horticultural society meeting, Victoria, B. C.

October 6-14 — Pacific International Livestock exposition, North Portland.

November 1-9 — Oregon Wool Growers association 55th annual convention, Imperial Hotel, Portland.

November 8-10 — Agricultural cooperative council of Oregon, 29th annual meeting, Multnomah hotel.

November 13-16 — Oregon Farm Bureau annual meeting, Klamath Falls.

4 year old, a registered Guernsey, with 537.2 pounds of fat and 10,380 pounds of milk. Five years and over honors went to St. Benedict's 6 year old Holstein with 579.3 pounds of fat, 17,230 pounds of milk.
Supervisors of DHIA work in Marion county are Peter Mitchell, Woodburn; Richard Wilson, Gervais; and Marvin Jahn, Brooks.

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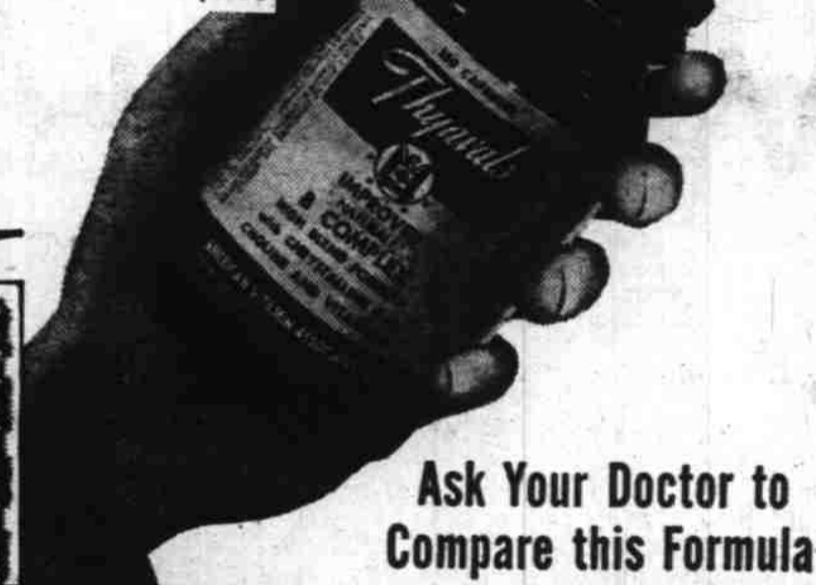
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