

# Oregon Farm Output Makes Big Name, Too

By Lillie L. Madsen  
Farm Editor, The Statesman

Quite a block of Oregon's wheat producers find themselves living out of a cracker box. More wheat producers would like to live from out a cracker box if there were only more cracker boxes.

There can't be more cracker boxes filled in Oregon unless an "eat more crackers" campaign is inaugurated. At least that seems to be the opinion of those who are now manufacturing crackers. There isn't, they say, profitable room for more cracker plants in Oregon.

Cracker flour is milled by most of the flour mill companies in the state. The amount of cracker flour milled, depends only upon the demand from cracker bakeries. One miller estimated some months ago that at least 10 times as much cracker flour is milled in Oregon as is used here.

Since most of the varieties of wheat grown in Oregon are particularly well adapted to making cracker flour, more cracker flour could be milled if a market was available.

**Flour Shipped**

Best of cracker flour, cookie flour is also manufactured here in large quantities. Richard K. Baum of the Oregon wheat commission once made the statement that the quality of the soft wheat flours make especially good cookies. At present some flour is shipped out of Oregon to California and other states, and in these shipments, at least two sacks of cookie flour are shipped out to one of the cracker flour.

This cracker thinking all came about because of the conversation of two farmers.

"Not much of the stuff we grow gets into national business. Outside of the canneries, Oregon doesn't have many interesting processing plants for farm products," said one farmer.

"You can say that again! I don't see why some of all this 'romance' of processing we read about can't be done here in Oregon," the other answered. There was more in the same trend.

It was then I thought of Oregon crackers and the new plant in Portland which turns out over a dozen million crackers a day. Certainly crackers are largely flour. Just as certainly cracker flour is largely wheat.

**Largest Company Here**

The cracker and biscuit industry in Oregon is dominated by two large companies, the two largest companies in the nation. The National Biscuit company is the largest. The Sunshine Biscuit company is second in output in the nation. Both of these companies operate mills of their own. Both also buy additional soft wheat flours.

The Sunshine Biscuit company bakes soda crackers at its Portland bakery on a six-day week schedule. Some cookies and a full line of candies are made there. There are many other bakery plants, much larger, owned by this company. But its largest flour mill is located at The Dalles. This has a milling capacity of four thousand 100-pound bags per day. The wheat used is brought directly from the growers in almost all instances.

The National Biscuit company completed its new \$10,000,000 plant at Portland this fall. It opened for operation in October. Rated as the biggest bakery west of Chicago, the plant embraces 350,000 square feet of floor space. Capacity is a million and a half dollars worth of bakery products a month. This company processes more than 45 per cent of the crackers used in the United States.

**400-foot Ovens**

The ovens alone in this new plant are each 400 feet long and there are six of them. They occupy a huge room measuring 750 by 150 feet. Pans of batter are placed on a slowly moving belt (that's where the term "band" oven comes from). The belt is timed to take the batter through a heated tunnel for the proper baking period. When done the product moves to the packaging department. In an eight hour shift one of the six ovens consumes 125 barrels of flour.

For each barrel of flour—how many bushels of wheat are used? The wheat growers can go on from here.

The National Biscuit company officials gave as one of their reasons for locating in Portland that here was the center of the supply of raw materials which make up about 52 per cent of the manufacturing costs.

And now to get back to Mr. Baum of the wheat commission. In a recent report published by Oregon's wheat commission, he said: "The soft wheat varieties grown in the northwest territory are all desirable excepting Rex. There is a great need for local wheat in volume which runs 10 per cent to 11 per cent protein. Low protein wheat necessitates importing Montana wheats for strength, whereas local varieties of sufficient strength would be used if available."

**Buy Molasses Early For Next Spring, Feeders Are Told**

As molasses supplies for silage making in 1951 will probably be short, dairymen and stock feeders are being encouraged to lay in a supply now if ensiling will be one of their jobs next spring. Prices are expected to remain higher than last season and bulk or barrel storage now may pay dividends.

Cane molasses can well be fed free choice to dairy cows, according to Ben A. Newell, county extension agent. They will consume from 2 to 6 pounds a day. To compare the dollar value of the total digestible nutrients value of molasses with oats, multiply the price per ton by 9 cents and the price of oats by 7 cents.

# WILLAMETTE VALLEY FARMER

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



You get four women together, no matter where they are from, they'll find something to talk about. This picture is proof. Here are from left to right, Mrs. Vern Scott, secretary of the Oregon Wool Growers association; Mrs. Floyd T. Fox, president of the association; June Burke, newly appointed county extension agent in home economics, Marion county, and Sang Won Woo of Seoul, South Korea. The four got together at the recent Marion County Livestock association meeting at Waldo Hills and in a few minutes they were visiting like old-time friends. (Farm Photo for The Statesman.)



The new officers for the Marion County Livestock association, from left to right, J. J. Thompson, Salem, vice president; Alvin Hartley, Silverton Hills, president; Ben A. Newell, Marion county agent, secretary, and Lyle McKinley, Woodburn, director. (Statesman Farm photo.)

## Chick Raisers Are Expecting Price Boost

Poultrymen can expect to pay a little more for baby chicks next year.

Chick prices, following the general price pattern, are inching upwards, Noel Bennion, Oregon State college extension poultry specialist, has learned as a result of his annual statewide hatchery "intention" survey.

Oregon's 1951 chick hatch, the specialist predicts, will approach thirteen million birds, five per cent above this year.

To carry out the survey, hatcheries throughout the state were contacted. How many chicks do you intend to hatch next year, and what prices are you expecting to ask, were among questions asked.

**White Leghorns Down**

Only reductions in chick prices are expected in White Leghorns, the survey revealed. Hatcherymen expect an average 17 cents apiece for straight run White Leghorn chicks as compared with an average 18 cents received this year. Sexed White Leghorn pullets will bring about 35 cents as compared with 36 cents received in 1950.

These are average prices, the specialist emphasizes, arriving at by averaging returns from the survey report forms. Prices will vary somewhat by locality and the survey merely reported thinking of hatcherymen in October this year—several months ahead of peak hatchery operations.

**13 Cents Expected**

Advanced are predicted for heavy type chicks, especially cockerels which will go into broiler production. Hatcherymen expect to receive about 13 cents apiece for heavy type cockerels as compared with 12 cents, the average receiving price this year.

Premium for hatching eggs will stay about 20 cents above the price for grade A large when the producer furnishes the males. In cases where the hatcheryman provides the male birds, the margin will average about two cents less a dozen, the survey shows.

## Nematode Staff Member Added

The addition of Dr. Harold J. Jensen, a specialist in nematode problems, to the staff of the Oregon State college agricultural experiment station has been announced by F. E. Price, dean and director of agriculture.

Although nematodes are becoming increasingly important as plant parasites, their significance as pests has been overlooked in the past. Many agricultural crops are attacked and suffer losses ranging from a trace to almost complete crop failure.

Dr. Jensen, one of a very limited number of men specially trained in nematology, will conduct research for the experiment station on nematode problems of the state. In addition, he will offer a graduate course in nematology in the department of botany and plant pathology. The new course will make OSC the second state college in the U. S. offering specialized study in the field of nematology.

Dr. Jensen, who is from Mount Vernon, Wash., received his doctor's at the University of California this year. He had previously attended the University of Washington.

New Mexico's ancient capital city, Santa Fe, is situated at an altitude of over 7,000 feet.

## Ranch Ramblings

These two weeks it just can't be rambling that the farm editor is to do if she is to keep even one jump behind the agricultural meetings scheduled. No one knows just how it happened, but it does seem that the farmers have scheduled themselves pretty full. While the meetings all come under different heads, a lot of them overlap so far as attendance is concerned.

It started Tuesday with two meetings scheduled. There was the Guernsey breeders association meeting at the Osborn hotel at Eugene and the Polk County Farm Warehouse tour across the river.

Then Wednesday the Northwest Turkey show opened at Roseburg, North Marion county soil district election was held at Woodburn, the Marion County Breeders association at Silverton, the Willamette valley fall meeting at Salem.

The rest of this week includes the annual meeting of the Nut Growers Society of Oregon and Washington, Thursday and Friday at Salem, the Oregon State Holstein association meeting Thursday, Salem; the annual Wheat Growers league Thursday to Saturday at The Dalles, the state corn show at Silverton, Friday and Saturday. Next week is almost as full, the Calendar shows.

Walt Leth, former county agent over in Polk county, has planted 150 acres of grass this fall on his lamp Adair farm. Including in the seeding were Alta fescue, sub clover, rye, mixed vetches, Albuzzo rye, common ryegrass, red fescue, perennial rye, crimson clover. This went in at 50 pounds to the acre and with it went 100 pounds of ammonium sulphate. The soil was also limed at the rate of two to three tons to the acre. The spot is going to pasture some 500 ewes. At present, there are 370 ewes in the Leth flock but this number is going to be upped in 1951.

Walt is running crossbreds, mostly Romney ewes, and using Suffolk, Hampshire and South-down rams.

State presidents of the Oregon Jersey Cattle club get at least one present during each term in office. John Lienhart, senior, Woodburn, makes a gavel out of an Oregon wood and presents it to the president. Saturday, John Lienhart, junior, made the presentation to Marlin Fox of Molalla. Marlin gets to keep it, too. He doesn't have to hand it on to the next president.

The farmers have quite a time when Doug McKay's around (He's Governor Douglas McKay on the front page of our paper, you know). A lot of them went to

school with him at Oregon State. They start out with "Doug", get "McKay" and "Mack" tangled up in it somewhere and finally settle for "the governor". Now, the general greeting to Doug when he enters a farm crowd, which he does quite frequently, is "Hi, Governor!" He's got one on most of them, though. With this Scotch memory of his he knows just what to call almost each one of them now as he comes into a room of farmers.

Consumers attending farm meetings are telling the farmers how to interest them in buying the farm products. The farmers are actually beginning to listen, to the idea, too. Walter Holt, of Pacific International Livestock exposition fame, and also a Mel Hagood, soil conservation specialist at Oregon State college, will assist Ragsdale in the demonstration.

The blasting will deepen an outlet ditch for a tile drainage system.

Anyone interested in observing the placement of dynamite and methods used in this type of ditching is invited to do so, Hansen stated.

Everything new but the name?

## Sheepbreeders Arrange Full Day's Program

An array of prominent names appear on the speaking roster planned for the annual meeting of the Oregon Purebred Sheep Breeders association. The meeting will be held at the American Legion club at 2650 South Commercial street, Salem, December 19, starting at 1:30 p.m. Claude Steusloff is president of the group.

Judge T. Brand will be banquet speaker at 6:30. He will be introduced by Walter Holt, manager of the Pacific International Livestock association, banquet toastmaster.

Other speakers during the afternoon and evening sessions include W. P. Wing, secretary of the California Wool Growers; Howard Vaughn, Dixon, Calif., president of the National Wool Growers; W. J. Steiwer, president of the Oregon Wool Growers; Mrs. Floyd T. Fox, president of the Oregon Wool Growers auxiliary. Ronald Hogg, Salem sheep breeder, and George Cadmus, former Oregon State college faculty member, now with the Philomath Feed company.

Vaughn will show pictures taken of the Royal Livestock show in England, of sheep projects both in England and Switzerland. Steiwer will report on the national wool growers' convention held this past week in Casper, Wyo. Hogg who judged at the Chicago International show, will speak on that event, and Cadmus will speak on the sheep feed outlook for the coming year.

Also to appear on the afternoon program will be a breeders' forum directed by Floyd Edwards of Albany.

A feature of the meeting will be the presentation of the Oregon Purebred Sheepbreeders trophy. This trophy is presented each year to the exhibitor who contributes the most to breed type at the annual ram sale. Eugene F. Hubbard of Corvallis will make the presentation.

The association has approximately 100 members, Mr. Steusloff reports.

## Polk County Plans Big Ditching Show

Ditching with dynamite will be demonstrated at the Elbert Ragsdale farm, Saturday, December 9 at 10 a.m., according to N. John Hansen, county extension agent.

Mel Hagood, soil conservation specialist at Oregon State college, will assist Ragsdale in the demonstration.

The blasting will deepen an outlet ditch for a tile drainage system.

Anyone interested in observing the placement of dynamite and methods used in this type of ditching is invited to do so, Hansen stated.

## Larger Receipts, Higher Cost Scheduled for Farms in 1951

The general farm outlook for Oregon in 1951 for large farm receipts and higher farm costs, according to a report just issued by the extension service at Oregon State college.

Gross farm receipts are expected to be larger for two reasons: a moderate increase in output (if weather permits) and somewhat higher average prices. Higher prices are expected, especially for preferred goods, owing to increasing consumer purchasing power and an expected higher support price level as the parity index of farm cost prices goes up.

The parity index includes commodities bought by farmers for production and living, and also hired labor, taxes and interest. The index is expected to go on up at least 5 per cent during the next 12 months, and a new all-time peak in farm production expenses is expected in 1951.

Consumer demand is expected to be especially strong for meat and the supply of beef and lamb will not be much if any larger. Pork production will be around 5 per cent greater, however.

The report contains sections on 10 phases of the outlook: demand, gross farm income, production costs, net dollar farm income, real farm income, production prospects, national production trends, West Coast trends, and short term commodity outlooks. A schedule of additional outlook reports to follow in groups of Oregon's farm products in 1951 is given.

Current and historical data on farm commodity prices and costs are given in several tables and graphs, and summarized in a special section. Copies of the report are available from county extension agents or from the college.

## Farm Calendar

December 7-8—Northwest Turkey show, Roseburg.

December 7-8—Nut Growers society of Oregon and Washington, annual meeting, Isaak Walton League building, Salem.

December 7—Annual Hoosier association meeting 10:30 a.m., Marion hotel.

December 8-9—Ninth annual Oregon corn show, Silverton armory.

December 10—Clackamas County Jersey Cattle club meeting (story elsewhere on this page).

December 11—Marion County Jersey Cattle club meeting, Mayflower hall, Salem.

December 18-20—Oregon Seed Growers league, 10th annual meeting, Multnomah hotel, Portland.

December 19—Oregon Purebred Sheepbreeders association annual meeting. (Story elsewhere on this page.)

January 3-5—Oregon Dairy-men's association, annual meeting, Grants Pass.

January 11-12—Oregon Essential Oil Growers league, Corvallis.

January 15-17—Western Oregon Livestock association, Grants Pass.

January 29-31—State PMA meeting, Hotel Gearhart.

## TOT-LOTS

CHICAGO -(INS)- An increasing number of cities are providing neighborhood "tot-lots" for small children of pre-primary and primary school age making it unnecessary for parents to send their young a long distance to playgrounds. A typical example of this playground development is in Cambridge, Mass., the American Public Works association reports, where during the summer 12 "tot-lots" were acquired and equipped.

## Corn Show Opens Friday At Armory

Oregon's ninth annual State two-day corn show scheduled for December 8 and 9, at the Silverton Armory, will really begin on Thursday. Exhibits are requested to be brought to the armory Thursday morning. Rex Warren and R. E. Fore, Oregon State college, will arrange and judge the exhibits all before nightfall Thursday.

On Friday, exhibits will be on display from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The soil conservation service will show free movies throughout the day. Farm implements will be on display in the city parking lot across the street from the armory and there will be a special display of hybrid corn brought from Albany.

The Friday program will be repeated Saturday. In addition Saturday afternoon at 3 p.m. a special program will be given. Included in this will be bagpipe music by W. R. Tomlinson, an oldtime fiddlers concert, a square dance exhibition and some talks under the direction of Harry L. Riches, Marion county agent.

Free popcorn will be served throughout both days by the state corn show committee.

## Brucellosis is Topic Of Dr. Yonce Talk On Next Sunday

State Veterinarian Dr. R. R. Yonce, Salem, will be guest speaker at the meeting of the Clackamas County Jersey Cattle club, to be held Sunday, December 10, at the Mark Jersey farm, located on the Barlow-Monitor road that junctions from the south with 99E between Aurora and Canby. Meeting begins with a potluck dinner at noon.

"The Prevention and Control of Brucellosis (Bangs disease)" will be the subject of Dr. Yonce's talk and discussion. Generalities on this scourge of the dairy industry will be localized by County Veterinarian Dr. C. H. Seagraves, Oregon City, who will explain the nature and extent of his work to make this county a "Bangs free area."

The Brooks mountains of northern Alaska are among the least explored areas under the American flag.

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