

WILLAMETTE VALLEY FARMER

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

Oregon Food Gift Boxes Available —If You Hunt Hard

Willamette people as a whole are sending and giving at home more and more fancy food items out of Oregon soil, one prominent grocer at Salem told me Tuesday afternoon as I stood watching him making up a package of Oregon cheese, Oregon cranberries and Oregon prunes.

"But," he added, "it's still funny how many people want to send packages of the famous Wisconsin cheese. I'll bet we have packed a half-hundred packages of Wisconsin cheese to go back to Wisconsin as Christmas gifts. If they want to send cheese to a cheese state why don't they send Oregon cheese?"

I could answer that question myself. Wherever you go in grocer stores here in the valley, you can find nice little packages ranging from \$2.50 and up for fancy cheeses — all strating with "Wis."

I took time out Tuesday to go into five different grocer stores here in the valley. In each I asked the same question: "Do you have any gift packages of Oregon cheese?"

In four, I found the same answer, "No, but we could make you up one." Surrounded by Wisconsin in the gift store, I found a very fine gift package of four varieties of Oregon cheese. All around this package were other nice gift packages of Wisconsin cheese.

The grocer told me this was the last one of the Oregon boxes. He added, "You know these gift boxes of Oregon cheese aren't too good a buy. You can buy the same packages separate at less money. We didn't figure folk would buy them so we only made 50 of them. They certainly went fast. Next year we'll make more."

That proves something, doesn't it? Perhaps the cheese does come a bit higher. But there is time and good looking packaging included. Time is an element for most of us who work. And I noted that the Oregon package was every bit as good a buy as were the many different Wisconsin packages. I have nothing against Wisconsin cheese. My background is Wisconsin, but the Oregon cheese is right up at the top.

For a number of years, my Wisconsin relatives have sent me a box of cheese for the holidays. I have returned the compliment—with Oregon cheese—we've all enjoyed the exchange.

Make Nice Gift I found some delightful little round three-pound cheeses in a few of the grocery stores. They were packed with a sack of filberts (they, too, come in interesting little burlap sacks) or a box of Oregon prunes, make a nice gift for east, south, north or right here at home.

When it came to prunes, I had considerable difficulty, too. Wherever I went I could buy California prunes, in fancy and plain packages. Only twice in my ramblings did I find Oregon PRUNES. The capitals are intentional. The Oregon prunes I found were exceptionally fine. They were done up in attractive five and 10-pound packages already to ship. They had been packed in Salem, the label said.

One grocer had some very attractive mixed packages of nuts, jellies and jams, all Oregon products and labeled so. To a similar package another grocer had added cranberries in attractive cellophane bags.

No Yule Packages I tried to get a fancy package of Oregon fish—there is an oyster association with headquarters in Salem—I could buy the cans individually but nowhere did I find a Christmas package of such. I found jars of canned turkey and of canned chicken—Oregon canned, that is—but there were no Christmas packages of these.

In early November, when I was spending my vacation in Southern California, I found hundreds of fancy packed California foods with large advertisements calling attention to the "colorful, delightful, romantic gifts right out from the land of sun and desert."

50 Per Cent Of Dairy Cows Said Underfed

Fifty percent of Oregon's dairy cows are underfed. This defect in dairy cattle feeding greatly over shadows any deficiencies of vitamins or trace-mineral elements, claims H. P. Ewalt, Oregon State college extension dairy specialist.

Most essential minerals, for example, are found in hay or forage plants and will supply adequate amounts providing dairy animals get enough supplemental grain feed to meet their requirements.

Cows are forced to graze on scattered plants in unproductive pastures, malnutrition is a possibility, Ewalt admits. Fertilizer applications, which may or may not alter composition of plants, should increase forage production and palatability.

Dairymen frequently lose money by not paying attention to their protein percentage, Ewalt states. With good legume silage and hay, a 10 percent digestible protein content is plenty. This can be obtained through use of a farm grains mix—50 percent oats; 25 percent barley; and 25 percent millrun.

Where poor roughages are fed, it is economical to raise the protein content to 16 percent digestible nutrients. A common dairy feeding error, says the specialist, is holding back on relatively cheap hay and expecting to take up the slack by increasing the higher priced grain ration.

Second to feed shortage as a feeding error is protein deficiency. Phosphorus deficiency, usually detected by poor appetite, ranks as the most common mineral lack. Where cows get all the high quality roughages they will eat and receive a grain mixture of the necessary protein content, mineral requirements will usually be met.

The college feed recommendations are contained in an experiment station bulletin, No. 464, which is entitled, "Feeding for Milk Production." A chart to use in figuring amount of grain supplement required on the basis of milk flow is extension circular No. 398, and is entitled, "Barn Chart." Both are available free.

Two recent visitors to other lands have been scheduled for the first general assembly Tuesday, following a Monday program devoted largely to a weed conference.

China Farming Topic E. R. Jackson, extension range management specialist of Montana State college, will speak on "China As I Saw It." Mr. Jackson spent a year in China as an agricultural adviser. His travels took him into the hinterlands of the Orient where few white men have been.

Dr. A. L. Strand, president of Oregon State college, will discuss his recent experiences in the Philippines as a member of the government survey mission. The South American picture will be described Wednesday afternoon by E. R. Jackson, OSC farmer crop specialist and secretary-treasurer of the seed league.

After surveying the world outlook, the growers will get down to Oregon problems. The use of defoliant materials which cause premature ripening or drying of plants—will be discussed by J. R. McCambridge of the Chipman Chemical Company. In cases where defoliant can be used, they enable a farmer to set his own harvest dates for seed crops.

Growers Say Tree Scale On Increase

An increased number of scale clusters on the limbs and twigs of some fruit and nut trees in the Salem area is bringing about early winter plans for the control of these pests, according to reports being received by County Extension Agent D. L. Rasmussen.

Most growers are planning to apply sprays containing dormant oil emulsion. Growers report that the Lecanium scale population has noticeably increased on some Italian prune orchards during the past two years. However, Lecanium and other species of scale have also been building up on some peach, cherry, apple, pear, and filbert orchards. Even walnut orchards may be attacked by scale.

Rasmussen says the standard control for Lecanium scale is to apply an oil-emulsion spray in the early spring as the winter buds are beginning to swell. The spray should contain four percent actual oil. Under no circumstances should dormant oil sprays be applied after the buds start to open or spray injury will probably result.

"The interest being shown by farmers in controlling scale is encouraging," says Rasmussen. "Progressive farmers know that scales devalue trees and shorten terminal growth. Fruit or nut production decreases in badly infested orchards."

Arrangements to pool an order of dormant oil emulsion for nearly 30 growers have already been completed by Orchard Heights district farmer James B. Best and Abe Withers. Most of the oil will be used on Italian prune trees in the Liberty, Zena, Oakgrove, and Orchard Heights district, according to Best and Withers.

"Dormant oil-emulsion in 28-gallon drums can be purchased by farmers for 30-35 cents per gallon," says Rasmussen. "Less than a dime lot will cost more."

Oil emulsion can be obtained through most feed and seed stores, farmer cooperatives and companies handling agricultural chemicals, Rasmussen says.

Seed League To Hear About Foreign Lands An international flavor will be added to discussions of Oregon problems at the tenth annual Oregon Seed Growers League Convention at the Multnomah hotel in Portland, December 18, 19 and 20, according to Carey Strome of Junction City, president. Nearly 600 persons are expected to attend.

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Tuesday afternoon will be devoted to committee meetings on potatoes, weeds and defoliants, ladino clover, legislation and federal programs, insect pests, pollination, harvesting methods, and fertilizers and soil analyses. Growers will be guests of the agricultural committee of the Portland Chamber of Commerce at a banquet Tuesday night.



Here is a group of products off from the Oregon soil. With the exception of the holly, these items can be used as gift items the year around. There are scores of others along the same line which make nice gifts at anytime. (Farm Photo for The Statesman.)

Women Should Know About Electric Fuses

A penny in the fuse socket may cost you your home. That's what Alma Hartman, extension home economist, is telling farm women over in Yamhill county.

She says that many people are still unaware of the danger of overheating wires by replacing burned out fuses with a penny. In a recent survey she points out that pennies had been used to "fix" fuses in 106 out of 443 farm homes.

Alma explains that the fuse is a protection and when it "blows" that's the warning that the wires are overloaded. More electricity is being carried than the circuit can handle safely.

Too few women are familiar, says Miss Hartman, with the size of wires in the house and the size of fuses recommended for them. Check, she says, with your electrician if there is any doubt as to the size of fuse needed.

She adds that the 15 ampere fuse is recommended for most light circuits. Appliance circuits can take a 20 ampere fuse.

Hop Agreement Poses Problem For Growers Oregon hop growers must decide — and soon — whether they are going to grow hops or "certificates."

This is the view taken by G. R. Hoerner of Oregon State college. The extension hop specialist explains that certificates under the hop marketing agreement must accompany all hops offered for sale. On the other hand, that portion of a grower's crop not covered by certificates may not be sold.

Too Many Hops The marketing agreement is intended to bring hop supplies into line with supply and demand. In recent years, Hoerner adds, hop production has tended to lean heavily toward over-supply. As a consequence, prices have been low. Effect of the market agreement is to bring growers a better price for their product.

Growers may now either sell that portion of their crops covered by certificates—about 85 percent of the total last year — or sell the certificates. In the latter case, the portion of the yard no longer covered by certificates is not eligible to go into trade channels.

Last year, many Oregon growers sold the certificates for their entire crop. Some even sold certificates to out-of-state growers. This explains why many Oregon

Polk Gross Income High, Net Income Down

While Polk county agricultural income reached an all-time high during 1950, net income, in many instances was down. N. John Hansen, county extension agent, stated Wednesday. Rising costs reduced the net income, he pointed out.

Animal and dairy production accounted for 42 percent of the county income, Hansen stated. The seed crop at \$1,739,000 topped all other cash receipts. Dairy products were second high with \$1,642,600. Three other divisions ran over the one million dollar mark: meat animals and wool at \$1,543,000; grain and hay at \$1,070,000 and specialty field and drug crops at \$1,400,000.

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Honor Cows To Be Named Dec. 18 Meet

The annual meeting of Marion County's Dairy Herd Improvement Association in Salem, December, 18 will announce the high production records of the 1950 testing year. Ben A. Newell, Marion County extension agent, reports.

President Fred Davis of Woodburn, said the meeting would start at 10:30 a. m. in the Mayflower hall in north Salem. Besides the DHIA supervisors reports that will honor high production cows and the herds with the high averages, a full program has been arranged. Professor Floyd Wolberg of Oregon State college dairy department, will report on testing throughout the state.

Bill Williams, manager of the Marion County Dairy Breeders association, will discuss the relation of the testing and breeding programs.

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