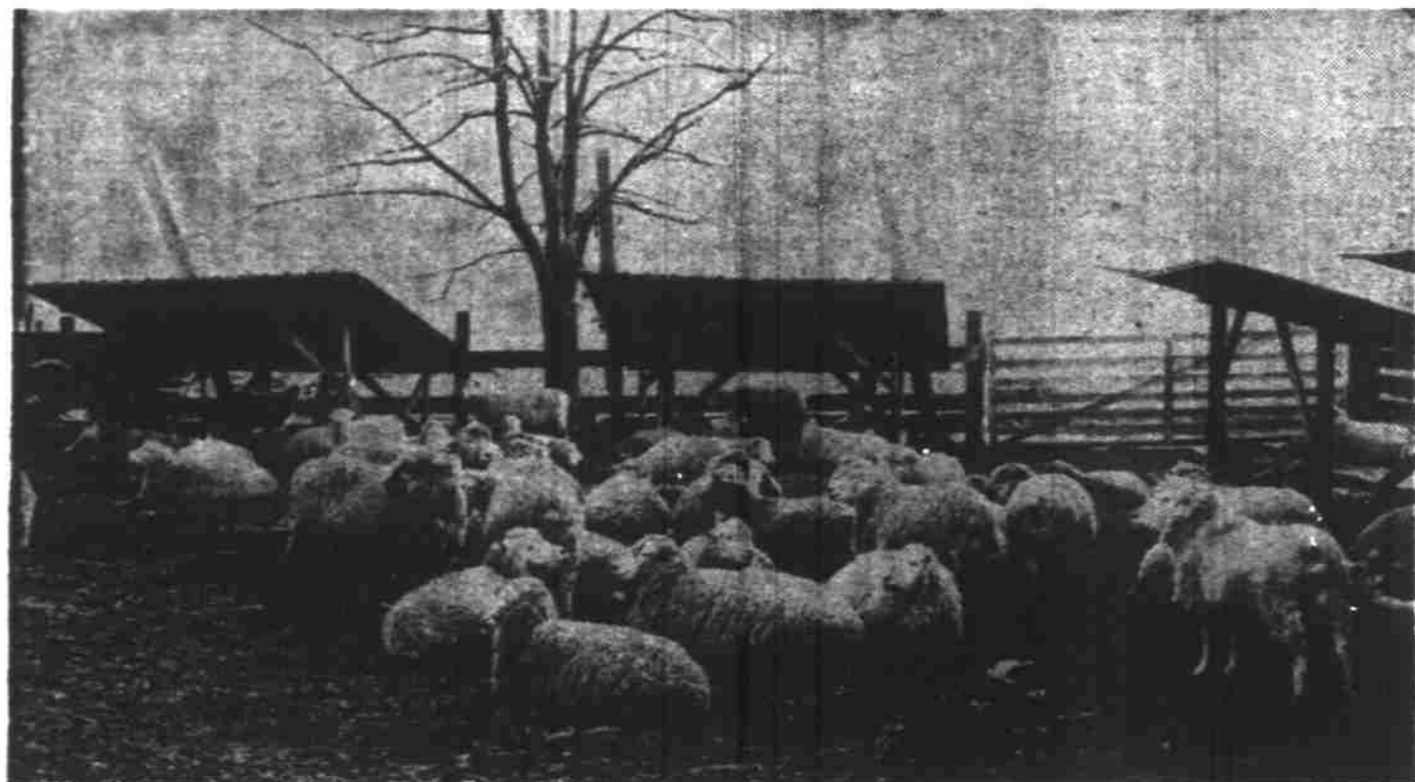


Four of a Kind Beats Two Pair



DONALD—Quadruplets (top photo) arrived this week at the Russell Tautfest sheep ranch here, and one is prouder of them than Russell Jr. who holds two (at right) while his father corrals the other pair. At center is the mother. Quads are the first Tautfest has seen in 20 years of sheep-ranching. His high-producing flock is shown below. (Statesman Farm Photos.)

Donald Quadruplet Lambs Thriving on Baby-food Diet

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
Farm Editor, The Statesman

DONALD—When they come in pairs, it's pretty good. When they come in triplets, it's very good. When they come in quadruplets and are all strong and healthy, it's most remarkable.

And most remarkable are the quadruplet lambs born Sunday at the Russell Tautfest farm a mile and a half north of here. The four-year-old Romney mother is most proud of her little flock and guards them carefully, although there is considerable variance in their appearance. One little white one in particular shows the Romney breeding of her mother. The others are more or less of undecipherable parentage. But all four are very lively, romp around and over their mother, nurse her and take on the auxiliary feeding which Mr. Tautfest gives them, with considerable gusto.

"I'm not feeding them cow's milk," Mr. Tautfest explained, adding that he had lost a few this year by feeding cow's milk in incorrect dosages.

"It is very difficult to give a tiny lamb just the right amount of cow's milk," the sheep owner said, "so I'm giving these real baby food and they seem to be thriving on it."

The crop of lambs, so far, is proving good on the Tautfest ranch. It has been averaging 180 per cent, and last year the season closed with an average slightly under 120 per cent of reproduction.

Before the quadruplet lambs

arrived, there had been a set of triplets and a number pairs of twins. Only the yearling ewes were featuring singles this year, it appeared.

"It's a lot in how you feed the ewes before they are bred," Mr. Tautfest stated. "This year I put them on green pasture before breeding time. They are producing very well."

His feeding program is quite startling to many dry-land farmers.

"I used to dryland farm myself," the rancher explains. "I had a hard time to feed 50 ewes well on 40 acres. They nearly starved to death. Last year I ran 200 ewes on 30 acres, and this year I'm running 300 on 40 acres."

The Tautfests are living on the place his father bought shortly after the turn of the century and the place on which the present owner was born. Sheep have been the main crop for at least 20 years. Four years ago Mr. Tautfest sank an eight-inch 110 foot deep well and then removed the irrigation for the entire place. Everything is planted into ladino clover which is irrigated. The sheep are run on a pasture for four days and then removed to another pasture, while the first one freshens up under irrigation. There is a third pasture to carry them for its four days before they are returned to the first one.

Lambs Finish As Premiums

Last year, using this program, more than 80 per cent of the lambs sold went out as "tops," Mr. Tautfest said. Starting Nov. 1, the

ewes have been on alfalfa hay as supplementary feed. They consume approximately 13 bales of hay a day.

"Since the first of November, I've fed 50 ton of nice alfalfa hay from Eastern Oregon," he said. "It's been running about \$50 a ton, and then people wonder why it costs to raise sheep?"

Pregnancy disease had been prevalent in the ewes this year on the Tautfest ranch. Other shepherds were reporting some trouble too, I had learned, in stopping at various sheep farms.

"It's because of lack of sugar," Mr. Tautfest said. "As soon as I started feeding them molasses, the trouble stopped. I put it in an old washtub and let them drink themselves. Some of them drink it up like water and we have to watch these a bit, although none have become ill on my place by eating it."

Has Turkeys, Too

"Some sheepmen prefer to put it in the grain, but I haven't been feeding grain. Some put it on the hay, which, I understand is also good," Mr. Tautfest said as he lead us over to view the 500 little Beltville White turkeys now installed in the brooder house. This is the second year that the Tautfests have raised these little family fryers. They plan to add 500 each two weeks until approximately 3500 have been reached.

"These little turkeys are much in demand," the sheepman said, adding that it was all the livestock besides the sheep, on the ranch. "We even buy all the milk we use," he explained.

Peach Pruning Is Annual Job

Pruning peaches is a yearly job requiring many small cuts on each tree. These cuts are more to save the strongest one-year-old wood and remove old, weak, or dead wood. The wood produced in 1931 will bear the peach crop in 1932.

Knowing the fruiting habit of the peach helps the peach grower do a better job of pruning. After he has selected three to five scaffold branches for each tree, the grower's main pruning job is to select the best one-year-old wood. This wood is about as thick as a lead pencil or a piece of chalk.

It is sturdy enough to support the peach crop. Its vigor, as indicated by its thickness, insures plenty of leaves, necessary to help manufacture food for use in the tree. The vigorous wood grows out and up from the scaffold branches.

Annual pruning of peach trees also permits removal of peach "mummies," from which the brown rot fungus is carried over to the new crop. These "mummies" or dried up peaches should be destroyed.

Annual pruning is a necessary orchard management practice in peach plantings. When used with a good soil fertility and pest control program, it is a means of maintaining the production of quality peaches, says D. R. Rasmussen, Marion County horticulture agent.

Bermuda-Grass Seed To Offer Competition

The 1931 production of Bermuda-grass seed is estimated to be some two million pounds. This is a little less than the 1930 production but is about one-fourth more than the average produced during the past five years.

Bermuda-grass seed is not grown in Oregon but it does offer some competition to Oregon grown seeds. The seed is grown commercially in Arizona and Southern California.

FARM GIRLS

WASHINGTON (INS)—A group of social workers who met in Washington recently, decided that rural families should make life more attractive for their daughters if they want to keep the girls on the farm. At the conference sponsored by the Agriculture

Silage to Be Scored, Feb. 21

Silage making season is just around the corner and methods of making more palatable nutritious feed for next season will be discussed at 1 p. m., Thursday, Feb. 21 in Salem.

Silage feeders are invited to the Mayflower Hall in North Salem to have their silage samples graded and scored and also learn new silage making methods.

Extension Dairyman H. P. Ewalt and a committee of feeders will grade silage samples that feeders bring in.

Department. It was reported that girls are deserting the farm in far greater numbers than their brothers are.

WILLAMETTE VALLEY FARMER

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

Farm Buying Power Down In Past Year

Sliding prices and climbing costs have crowded the farm parity ratio back to the mid-October level, according to this week's USDA review.

For the first time in three months, prices received by farmers, nationally, showed a decline. The index lost nearly 2 per cent during the past month. Lower prices for eggs, turkeys, cotton and cottonseed, most meat animals, and citrus fruit are primarily responsible for the downturn.

Higher prices for butterfat, chickens, veal calves, hay and rice only partly offset the decrease.

Farm costs, on the other hand, forged ahead another three points during the month. Higher prices paid by farmers last month for feeder cattle, feed, and food, were partly offset by lower prices of clothing and building materials.

Add to that increases in farm wage rates, taxes and interest payable on mortgages secured by farms, and you have a picture of an over-all gain of 5 1/2 per cent in the parity index during the past 12-month period. In other words, Elvera Horrell, state extension economist, reports, the farm buying power has gone down about five per cent in the past 12 months.

Revolutionary Corn Growing Method Works

A new system of growing corn that uses some of the most revolutionary ideas ever advanced in agriculture is paying off with whopping profits on an Indiana farm.

The February issue of Country Gentleman reports that last fall the system produced 125.5 bushels of corn to the acre on land that had not yielded more than 30 bushels to the acre for the last 10 years. Net profits per acre after deducting all expenses from labor through taxes was \$103.18.

Dr. George Scarseth, a distinguished agronomist and director of American Farm Research Association, developed the system for a run-down farm that he had just bought and wanted to pay for as quickly as possible.

Heavy Fertilization Used

He planted on May 24 with an experimental mulch planter; there was no plowing, disking or other soil preparation—the crop simply was planted through a mulch of weeds and cornstalks. One kernel was dropped every 8 to 10 inches in 40-inch rows, giving a stand of 17,000 stalks per acre. The planter placed fertilizer at two depths: (1) 300 pounds of 10-10-10 in a split band, three inches deep in the row—to get the seedlings off to a fast start ahead of the weeds; (2) 800 pounds of 10-10-10 in a band nine inches deep—to feed the corn as it grew.

Weeds were controlled but not killed by two shallow disk cultivations. To be certain there was plenty of nitrogen to grow both corn and weeds, the crop was side-dressed with 200 pounds of ammonium nitrate per acre, six inches deep a foot from one side of the row. This was done July 6, at the second and last cultivation.

Production cost per acre was \$85.07.

Weeds Good Cover Crop

Dr. Scarseth believes that weeds, fed enough nutrients so they won't rob the crop, can be almost as important as clover or grass in building fertility and preventing erosion. He plans to plant corn continuously, without any rotation with soybeans or oats and legumes. Most legume rotations leave land bare over winter at least half the time, with the ground exposed to harmful erosion. And with conventional plowing and clean cultivation corn land is bare in the spring, when much erosion takes place.

Weeds did not hurt the corn yields because the corn plants, stimulated by plenty of plant food, outgrew and finally shaded out the weeds. A thick stand of corn is needed to do the job.

The remains of Neanderthal man, who lived about 100,000 years ago, were first discovered in Germany.

Farm Calendar

- Feb. 7-8—Western Oregon Grange Lecturer's school, OSC.
- Feb. 7—Yamhill Dairy Herd Improvement Association, Fair Building, McMinnville, 1:15 p. m.
- Feb. 8—Yamhill Jersey Cattle Club, Frank Finnium's Grand Island, Oscar Hagg speaker, no-host luncheon.
- Feb. 8—Marion County Turkey meeting, Mayflower Hall, 1 p. m.
- Feb. 9—Oregon Jersey Cattle Club directors' meeting, Gattie Pass, 8 p. m.
- Feb. 11-13—State PMA convention, Gearhart.
- Feb. 11—Yamhill-Polk Holstein Breeders Association, Fair Building, McMinnville, 12 noon.
- Feb. 12—Oak Grove Garden Club in Polk County, Topic: Pruning and Spring Bulbs.
- Feb. 14—Brooks Garden Club, 1 p. m. Mrs. Dolly Ramp, hostess.
- Feb. 15—Oregon Cattlemen's Association spring range bull show and sale, Ontario.
- Feb. 15—Stayton Garden Club at Home of Mrs. Louis Freres.
- Feb. 19-21—Oregon State Farmers Union annual convention, Legion Hall, Woodburn.
- Feb. 19—Marion-Polk Irrigation meeting, 10 a. m. Mayflower Hall.
- Feb. 20—Lebanon Turkey Day.
- Feb. 21—Silage Day, Mayflower Hall, 1 p. m.
- Feb. 24-25—Second annual Oregon Polled Association Show and State Fairgrounds, Salem.
- Feb. 27—Willamette Basin Project, Salem.
- Feb. 29—Oregon Swine Growers Bred Gilt sale, Fairgrounds, Klamath Falls.
- Feb. 1-9—National 4-H Club Week.
- March 8—Pacific Rabbit Producers Association, second annual convention, 10 a. m. Mayflower Hall.
- Feb. 15-18—Pacific Dairy and Poultry Association Convention, Coronado, Calif.
- Feb. 19-21—Sheep Shearing School, Corvallis.
- March 24-26—State FFA Convention, Corvallis.
- March 27-29—Stage Agricultural Conference, OSC.
- April 7—Oregon State Holstein Association, 5th annual consignment sale, fairgrounds, Hillsboro.

New Market Outlets Basis Of Research

Oregon's horticulturalists are casting about for fruit by-product outlets as a means of expanding market outlets.

A committee headed by Riddell Lage, Hood River, believes concentrated juices may offer some hope for widening Oregon fruit markets. The committee is busy preparing a preliminary report for the state agricultural conference scheduled March 27-29 at Oregon State College.

Fibert Worm Studied

Fibert worm control and black-line in walnut rootstocks are recognized as serious nut production problems which deserve attention.

Just what should be done to encourage development of new market outlets is on the conference agenda. A prune concentrate has been developed which looks promising and other segments of the industry are exploring similar possibilities. In small fruits, feasibility of concentrates is being investigated by a special sub-committee headed by Glen Scheffer, Boring.

Other horticulture sub-committees and their chairmen are tree fruits, Robert Numamaker, Hood River; and nuts, Gordon Goodpasture, Leaburg.

Horticultural crops completely processed and ready for shipment account for more than 20 per cent of Oregon's agricultural income. A late figure representing value was about one hundred and twenty million dollars. The fact that most of the state horticultural output is sold out-of-state creates a marketing problem.

Shipping Costs High

Transportation costs have been on the increase and in many instances, producers have been hurt. An advantage of fruit concentrates, the committee emphasizes, is that a high value product will go to market in a comparatively small package.

The committee is also re-approaching acreages of various crops in line with present and future demands. The report is expected to carry suggested acreage increases or decreases of the major horticultural crops.

Honey Prices, Production, Up During 1951

Prices received by the nation's beekeepers for honey sold in 1951 averaged 16 cents a pound. This was seven-tenths of a cent above the average price for the year previous, and one cent above the 1949 price.

Oregon producers averaged 15.1 cents a pound for their 1951 honey. This was also a little more than in 1949 and 1950, but well below prices received during the war years.

Beeswax averaged growers a little over 50 cents a pound in the United States last year. Oregon beekeepers received an average of 49 cents a pound for beeswax.

Honey production in the nation was well above the 1950 year and the 1945-1949 average, USDA 1951 reports show. The nation's production last year totaled some 259 million pounds or a little over one-tenth more than in 1950.

While there were fewer colonies in the country last year than the year previous, the yield per colony averaged 46 1/2 cents a pound, the highest since 1941.

Oregon's honey production this year was also above 1950 by seven per cent and above the previous five-year average by four per cent. Production in Oregon last year amounted to a little less than 2 1/2 million pounds. The increase here in output was due to a larger number of colonies. The yield of 35 pounds per colony was the same average as in 1950. Oregon producers held more than one-third of their 1951 crop by late December.

Irate Husband Found Dead

EUGENE (AP)—Irvin Watson, 54, fired a shotgun at his estranged wife Tuesday, missed and began chasing her. Minutes later, after she had telephoned police, he was dead.

Mrs. Watson said she was leaving for work at 6:30 a. m., when Watson, sitting in a parked car across the street, fired at her. She ran between houses to a neighbor's. There she called police.

They found Watson in a backyard, dead of a shotgun blast into the heart. They said he could have stumbled and set the gun off accidentally—or he might have committed suicide.

Equipment for Indoor Garden



The above photo shows how plant bands may be placed in a standard seed flat box.

Seed Box Should Be Deep Enough to Nourish Plants

If you plan to start flower or vegetable seeds indoors this spring, before it is safe to sow them in the garden, don't pave the way to failure by using inadequate equipment.

Seeds can be sprouted on a moist piece of blotting paper, but they will not grow into plants without sufficient soil, or soil substitute, to allow their roots to develop without crowding. Too small a seed box may be a little better than the blotting paper; it will spread the seeds, but cannot provide them with nourishment for growth.

A stout wooden box which holds at least two inches of soil is adequate. The standard "flat" used for the purpose is sold knock-down in sizes from 14 by 21 1/2 inches to 15 by 24 inches. These are easily put together by driving a few nails, and will grow plants to garden size without check.

all lumps out. When you fill the flats, put the lumps in the bottom, and only the finest soil on top.

Light may be a limiting factor when a seed box is kept in a window of your home. A south window that gets the full sun, unshaded by trees and neighboring buildings, will usually be sufficient. With other exposures artificial light, which has been proved to serve the purpose, can easily be provided. Hang a lamp above the box, and let it burn all night. A 40-watt fluorescent lamp can be hung a foot above the box, but a tungsten lamp should be high enough so that it does not bring the temperature of the box higher than 65 degrees at night.

To fill them, porous soil is required, or a substitute. Vermiculite and sphagnum moss are good substitutes, but neither has any nourishment for the plants. Food must be provided as soon as the plants have developed true leaves, otherwise the plants will die.

Soil will nourish the plants without chemical feeding and many amateurs prefer it for this reason. If you do not bring some of your best garden top soil into shelter last fall, then dig it during the first dry-ish day and allow to dry out gradually in a garage or basement. If permitted to dry too fast, it may form clods which are very difficult to break up. When dried slowly, good soil will crumble and can be mixed with sand and humus.

A mixture of one-third top soil, one-third sharp sand and one-third peat moss or humus, will make a good soil for flats. These three ingredients should be well mixed and passed through a sieve to get

Valley Irrigation Meeting Set, Salem

A joint Marion-Polk County irrigation meeting is scheduled for 10 a. m., Tuesday, Feb. 19, at the Mayflower Hall, Salem, reports N. John Hansen and Hollis Ottaway, county extension agents in the two counties.

The meeting will include discussion by Ralph H. Brownstone, engineering specialist, Soil Conservation Service; O. C. Yocum of the O. C. Yocum Construction Company, McMinnville; Floyd Miller, Portland General Electric Company, Oregon City, and A. S. King, conservation specialist, Oregon State College.

Topics on the program include water usage, fertilization along with irrigation, electrical problems connected with irrigation and dam construction. There will be time for questions concerning individual irrigation problems.

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