

WILLAMETTE VALLEY FARMER

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

Hop Marketing Referendum Prompts Meetings

A small group of hop growers has been holding meetings this past week discussing the referendum which will be held by the U. S. Department of Agriculture Nov. 17-26 to determine whether hop growers in Oregon, California, Washington and Idaho favor termination of the currently effective marketing order program.

In consequence of the meetings, Oregon hopmen are this week receiving letters explaining why the growers would be faced with termination or continuation of the order.

The letter states that to give the hop growers as much pertinent information as possible prior to casting their vote on the referendum, there is enclosed with the letter a brief listing of facts and prospects "which would be faced by hop growers under termination and continuation of the agreement." The letter also urges the growers to mark and mail the ballot promptly after giving "it careful consideration."

"Hot" Hops Feared

The attached brief of "facts and prospects facing all hop growers" gives five prospects in case of

termination and an equal number in case of continuance. These are: (in case of the marketing agreement termination) 1, 26,000 bales of "hot" hops now in growers' hands would be released on the market. 2, The release of these bales plus any new 1932 "hot" hops and prospective heavy 1933 surplus production would seriously affect the present improving hop market, particularly on "futures." 3, Growers would face enormous uncontrolled surpluses for some years to come even with continued heavy plowouts. 4, Protection of heavy investments in picking and drying equipment indicates a long struggle, with most growers badly hurt during an extended period of acreage adjustment without surplus control. 5, About one-third of all hop production is now by grower-dealers, brewer growers and some others with a definite sale's advantage through close association with dealers and brewers. This could fill at least half of all market needs, and not over half of the hops from all other growers would find a market at any price.

Orderly Reduction Wanted
If the marketing agreement is

continued: 1, All growers of all varieties, including grower-dealers and brewer-growers, could continue to have equal opportunity to fill their share of market needs. 2, Continuing plowouts are in prospect even with a fair price on the salable quantity, under the "cuts" necessary while the heavy surplus acreage is going out. 3, Growers could reduce acreage while diversifying with other crops on an orderly basis, with fair market income from their salable production during this changeover. 4, Further amendments can be made to improve operations under the agreement. Establishment of a reserve pool has been suggested to facilitate a conservative initial salable quantity, with a reserve for prompt release on a specified basis as market needs developed. Elimination of brewer members voting on control board determinations has been suggested. 5, New legislation to permit acreage regulation or incentives for plowouts is most possible while growers are regulating their surpluses under a marketing agreement.

Balloting By Mail
All hop growers will receive a

ballot for mail voting. The decision to hold this referendum, a letter going out by the United States department of agriculture, production and marketing administration, explains, is based on a petition to the secretary of agriculture requesting such action. The petition is signed by a substantial number of hop growers.

Under the existing law the secretary may terminate the program whenever he finds that its provisions obstruct or do not tend to effectuate the declared policy in the FMA act. It also provides that the secretary shall terminate the program whenever he finds that such termination is favored by a majority of the growers of hops who during a representative period, produced more than half of the hops grown for the market in the area. If such required majority of growers favor termination of the hop order, the effective date of such termination would be July 1, 1933.

The order provides for a "salable quantity" of each grower's hops, as an effort to control surplus hops.

Yamhill South 40 Club Meet Dated

Livestock marketing will be the topic presented to the Yamhill County South Forty Club by Prof. E. Clark, livestock specialist with Benson, Bodine and Clark Commission Company, North Portland, when the group meets Wednesday, Nov. 19, at 8 p.m. in the Fair building, McMinnville. Jack Hansell, secretary, is making arrangements.

Marketing trends and conditioning livestock will be two of the points that will be discussed by Clark. All persons interested in livestock marketing are invited to attend the meeting. Hansell said, adding that membership in the club is not required for attendance.

WALDO HILLS TO SERVE

J. J. Thompson of Salem, president of the Marion County Livestock Association, has announced Saturday, Dec. 13, for the annual meeting. This year's stockman dinner will be held in the evening at the Waldo Hills Community Hall, five miles south of Silverton.

State Explains Legal Produce Sale Methods

The manner in which certain commodities may be sold legally in Oregon is set forth in regulations recently drawn by the State Department of Agriculture and is now effective.

Under this order, dressed chickens must be sold only by weight, and not by numerical count. The same applies to all meats. The general order covering these situations says liquid commodities shall be sold by weight or by liquid measure and other commodities may be sold by weight, measure or numerical count—EXCEPT that in each instance the seller must follow the general consumer usage. Thus, lumber continues to be sold by the length or board feet, eggs by count and gasoline by liquid measure.

In cases where under long-established practice a certain commodity is sold either by weight, measure or numerical count, either of such measures of quantity may be continued. Oranges, long sold either by weight or numerical count, come under this ruling.

The order also stipulates that where different methods of measurement have been used in wholesale or retail trade channels for the same commodity, the wholesaler may continue with the measure in use in wholesaling and the retailer may continue using the measure established in retailing. Milk—sold at wholesale by the pound and at retail by the quart—is a commodity in point.

Certain commodities are exempt from the order. These include foodstuffs in interstate commerce; commodities in standard containers the dimensions of which have been established by law or regulation; and food sold or dispensed for immediate consumption or use where sold.

A companion order requires the proper labeling of all foods to show quantity of contents of the package.

Work Rushed On Drive-In Near Hubbard

HUBBARD—Ground work is being rushed for the new drive-in theater on Shirley Avenue, just off Highway 99E, north of Hubbard. The work is now in process for the 12 ramp-theater, large enough to accommodate 300 cars, by W. T. Lord, whose land has been leased for the theater. Plans call for a March 1 opening.

European scenes will be shown on the program of the Hubbard P-TA meeting Monday at 8 p.m. Mrs. George Parkey will show slides of pictures she took in Europe this summer. Violin music will be provided by John Schaber, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Schaber of Hubbard.

Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Simms will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary Sunday with 10 of their 11 children expected home with their families. The Simms were married in Washington County, Arkansas, and came to Hubbard in 1946.

William McNary took four of the scouts from troop 58 on an overnight hike Saturday. Participating in the outing were Floyd Dominick, Rickie Lamb, Russell Colgan and Ronnie Cooper.

Mr. and Mrs. William Johnson of Mitchell, Neb., were guests the past week of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Bridge. A boys' 4-H cooking class II has been organized under the leadership of Mrs. N. A. Mann with Russell Colgan elected as president; Kenny Graham, vice president; Craig Ensign, secretary; Ronald Cooper, treasurer; Rickie Lamb, song leader; and Floyd Dominick, reporter. First project will be making a cream soup.

USDA reports 4-H club membership in 1931 to have passed the two million mark in the United States. The exact figure 2,064,139.

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Valley Dairy Cows Making High Ratings

A 32.8 pound average butterfat production was rung up in October by 1,482 Marion County dairy cows on Dairy Herd Improvement Association test. During the fall months Harley McCannan and Joe Bilyeu have been supervising the test. This past week a young Swiss dairyman, Paul Weber, has been training with Bilyeu.

F. Bujerrie's Jersey, Nora, produced the best record for the month with 103.3 pounds of butterfat or 1,435 pounds of milk. Felix Mullens' Jersey, Lila, at Jefferson, was next high with 95.2 pounds of fat. Torvend & Phillips, Silverton, rated 3rd place with Bonnie, a Jersey, making 84.4 pounds of fat.

Frank Gratsinger, Gervais, recorded the high 10-month record with Caroline, another Jersey, over five years of age, making 939.2 pounds of fat. A. J. Minke's Guernsey, Cherry, at Mt. Angel, was high four-year-old with 589.7 pounds of fat in 305 days. Frank Crooks, Woodburn, is owner of the top three-year-old, with a record of 510.9 pounds of fat. Buford and Orville Brown, Woodburn, had the top two-year-old, a Guernsey with 414.9 pounds of butterfat.

Total production of the tested cows was \$50,000 pounds of milk and 34 tons of butterfat.

Polk County's 30 herds on DHIA test showed an average production of 573 pounds of milk and 29 pounds of butterfat for 838 cows.

Top cow in milk production for the month was a Jersey-Holstein cow owned by Leonard Kinkaid, Salem. She produced 1,686 pounds of milk containing 69 pounds of butterfat. High butterfat producer for the month was a Jersey owned by Dick DeJong of Ballston with 87.4 pounds.

Other high cows in milk production include a Jersey of DeJong's with 1,409 pounds; a Guernsey owned by Russell Hill, Salem, 1,365 pounds; another Jersey of DeJong's, 1,311 pounds; a Guernsey of Elmer Bork, Monmouth, 1,280 pounds. In butterfat production the four highs were owned by DeJong: two at 77.3 pounds, another at 72 pounds and one at 71 pounds.

High for the 4-year-old cow was a Jersey owner by Burton Bell, Rickreall, 510.6 pounds, followed by a 2-year-old Jersey owned by Don King, Independence, with 501.4 pounds. King's cow was high in milk production with 13,701 pounds of milk. Other high cows were: a Jersey owned by W. E. Shenis, Willamina, 483.3 pounds of butterfat; Walter and Elmer Werth, Willamina, 484.6 pounds; George Knaupp, Monmouth, 477 pounds; Grace Shepherd, Salem, 463.8 pounds of butterfat.

Linn County's 37 dairy herds on the test produced an average of 609 pounds of milk and 31.27 pounds of butterfat during the past month.

High 10-month records reported for two year olds went to Lee Foster's Jersey Cow at Halsey. She produced 9,847 pounds of milk and 497.3 pounds of butterfat in her 305 days record. Floyd Fisher & Sons, Albany, owned a Jersey producing 8,117 pounds of milk and 445.4 pounds of fat.

Top three-year-old was a Jersey cow, June, owned by the Fishers, who produced 9,694 pounds of milk and 501.2 pounds of fat in 287 days. Frank Richardson's Agate, also a Jersey, was a runner up with 8,007 pounds of milk and 488.9 pounds of butterfat. Richardson's farm is at Albany.

In the five-year-old class, Upford and Juelden led 305 day records with Buttermilk, a Guernsey making 602.3 pounds of butterfat in 11,155 pounds of milk.

Glen Thurston, Scio, rated top among the association's herds, with 14 registered Jerseys averaging 43.78 pounds of butterfat and 732 pounds of milk. Next was James Ruby & Son, also of Scio, with 18 Holsteins averaging 42.62 of fat and 1,129 of milk.

Top Linn County cow for the past month was Foster's Nina. She produced 94.3 pounds of butterfat in 1,451 pounds of milk.

A 'Forest' in Every Sack



John B. Woods is shown examining a sack of Douglas fir seeds which will go to a foreign port. Each sack contains 100 pounds of seed which equals approximately 400,000 Douglas fir seeds.



An employee of the Woods Tree Seed Company puts a tray of cones into the drier—a converted prune drier. The cones are cured at slow, steady heat. (Photos by Homer Lyons, Oregon State Board of Forestry.)

Salem Tree-Seed Firm Serves Worldwide Mart

By LILLIE L. MADSEN

Farm Editor, The Statesman
"They may be a terrific pest to a lot of folk, but we find the squirrels a grand help," John B. Woods told me as we sat in his attractive, wood-paneled office at his Salem home.

"They lessen our work a lot," he went on, "Something like monkeys picking coconuts. The squirrels pick the cones off trees and throw them down. Later they cache them in the loose soil beneath the trees. All our pickers have to do is uncache them—a comparatively easy job."

In fact, he added, some fir cone picking families make from \$40 to \$50 a day during a good season. "But to be among the best pickers," he went on, "you have to think somewhat like a squirrel: you have to know how the cones are cached to be a good fir cone harvester. If you catch do that, and the year is good, it'll be quite a lucrative occupation—seasonal of course."

Foreign Market Big

The John B. Woods Tree Seed Company may be listed as one of Salem's small enterprises, but when between 20,000 and 35,000 bushels of cones go through the tree seed drier a year and when half of this amount goes to foreign markets, the business doesn't look too small, I would say.

A foreign market got Mr. Woods into the tree seed business in the beginning. It was 1927, and he had been employed by the Long Bell Company for four years when a New Zealand forester came to this country asking to buy seed.

"I had visions of him wanting some 200 pounds at the outside," Mrs. Woods reminisced. "I was floored when I heard he wanted 2,700. I didn't think there was that much fir seed in the world."

But there was—and much, much more, Mr. Woods learned. That first order was filled from the Sweet Home area—still one of the big fir seed producing districts.

Valley Crop Usually Good
"There always seems to be some crop of cones in the Willamette Valley," Mr. Woods continued, explaining that was why, when he struck out for himself, that he chose Salem as his headquarters.

He stayed with the Long Bell company for 10 years, quitting in 1933—and buying the company's seed business to take with him. But the seed business had to wait. For the next 14 years, after he stepped out of Long Bell, he was employed as forester for the lumber code in Washington, D. C., and in similar positions.

It was in 1947 that he went out on his own and came to Salem.

"And the tree seed years have, as a whole, been pretty good—the fall of 1952 came very nearly being our first 'pass' year," he said. The long drought was too much for the cones. Even the early promise in the year failed to develop. The crop is proving to be scarcely one-tenth of normal.

"We got some seed from Washington. There was some Noble fir, and we are finding small quantities on some of the mountain sides—otherwise we'd have been completely skunked," he smiled.

Has 18 Buying Stations

But this hasn't been like other years, he admitted. Most years in the valley have been good, and the Woods Tree Seed Company developed from a very small beginning until now it has 18 buying stations in Washington and Oregon.

Harvest in the Willamette Valley begins around Aug. 1 in normal years. As the trees climb the mountain slopes, the season becomes later, until at the top of some of the higher points which support trees, harvest is not until late September or October—just before the snow flies. Some have even been gathered with flakes in the air, Mr. Woods admitted.

I wanted to see the drier—the seed plant—where the cones are received, cured, threshed and from where the seeds were sent out to their many interesting destinations.

I found the place—the former prune drier on the Kehne Wain farm on the old Sunnyside road, south of Salem. I have never seen a more immaculate drier.

The cones, arriving in burlap sacks, are taken into the building and air-cured in the sacks, by setting them end up with a six-inch air circulation between. This process takes about a week. Then a group

of women "tray" the cones. Four furnaces are going in the drier at peak time with around 250 bushels cleared a day. Heat is maintained at 90 to 100 degrees—and this temperature must be watched closely. A slip to either side could prove disastrous.

Cones Make Heat

A "churn"—whose turns are geared at 90 R.P.M.—bats the cones forth and back until the seeds are loosened, fall out and through a mesh into a pan at the rate of 2 1/4 bushels in three or four minutes. The empty cones themselves are dumped through another chute into the lower division of the drier where they help make heat in the furnaces.

Next process in the curing of the seed is that of "winging." The so-called wings are provided by nature to give the seeds a ride in the wind—scattering prospective little trees, as it were, over a large area. But for domestic purposes these wings are removed—frequently by putting the unwinged seeds in a sack and knocking this on the floor.

After the seeds have been run through their final cleaning machine, they go out in regular cotton-lined burlap seed sacks.

Much of the domestic market is Oregon's state forestry department. A large per cent of the seed which finds its way into foreign markets, goes to Germany, to France, the British Isles, New Zealand, Australia.

Scandinavian countries take but little of the Oregon grown seed, preferring, instead, the seed grown in the more northern climates—Alaska, Canada.

Sells Small Lots, Too

When asked if he handled small orders, he admitted that he did: "I don't know why. I guess it is just because I enjoy it," he explained.

Sitting at his desk, I picked up a price list on the certified tree seeds of the Pacific Coast. There were 24 varieties of seeds available this fall—sold in small quantities. You pay, I noted, 50 cents for a half ounce of Western hemlock—but you receive almost 18,000 seeds in that order. Sitka Spruce is the same price. However, for Noble fir you pay but 50 cents for a full ounce and you receive only 750 seeds.

Hemlock, the cedars and spruces run from 250,000 to 300,000 seeds in a pound, while sugar pine has but 4,000, Douglas fir 40,000 and Noble fir between 12,000 and 15,000.

While it takes from two to three weeks for Douglas fir seed to germinate, some of the other evergreen seeds will show no life for the first 18 months.

The least expensive seed offered by Mr. Woods is the big-leaf maple, a fast growing tree, the seed of which brings 25 cents for two ounces. Seeds of the madroña tree, too, are inexpensive, although I had thought surely these would be costly. You can buy two ounces of these at 50 cents. Oregon Ash, casahuate and Oregon Myrtle all sell for this price.

There is little difficulty in growing trees from seed, Mr. Woods said. Regular seed flats or a seed bed in the open ground, both prove effective, he explained.

Guernsey Breeder Meeting Planned

Oregon Guernsey Breeders have announced their annual meeting for Corvallis this year on Friday, Nov. 21, says Dick Lyon, Junction City.

All sessions will be at Withycombe Hall, the new dairy building on the Oregon State College campus. The Dairy club at the college will be hosts, and its members invite the attendance of Guernsey breeders and their families.

Valuable Pearl Found by Host

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—Because he was giving an oyster supper for the chairman of the licensing court, Graham Ward went to the trouble of having some special oysters flown in from a coast town 60 miles away.

While eating Ward felt something hard in his mouth. Sure enough it was a pearl, a quarter-inch in diameter which experts later assessed as being of considerable value.

Oregon Farm Job Sought by Morocco Boy

Some farmer may or may not be interested, but here's the plea the Oregon state department of agriculture at Salem has from a 19-year-old boy in Casablanca, Morocco. The youth first became interested in Oregon when he

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