

# WILLAMETTE VALLEY FARMER

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

## Farmers Cautioned to Buy, Sell Carefully to Avoid Squeeze in '53

By LILLIE L. MADSEN  
Farm Editor, The Statesman

If the farmer can avoid being caught between the shaky prices for his produce, and the rising costs for his purchases, 1953 should be a good year, farm economists were predicting as the curtain was rolling down on 1952.

All indications are that business enters the New Year and the new administration with increased confidence. If the farmer will watch his selling carefully and do his buying with even more care, he will come out okay, these economists say, as they warn that there can be no philandering this new year in either the going or the coming markets. Buyers have not gone on a strike. Customers are still in a buying mood, but they are asking a bit more for their money. Like the farmer should do, the buying public is looking over the situation before forking out the price.

The buying caution which has been thrown to the wind in post-war days, had better be blowing back again if the farmer is not going to find himself, along with other businesses, out on a limb from which neither the Republicans nor the Democrats can rescue him, these economists indicate.

Looking ahead, fewer lambs are on feed this year than for some time past, although the number has been declining gradually in recent years. Fewer lambs for early disposal, is the suggestion. Watch ewes carefully that they weather lambing in good condition and that lambs born are also lambs saved for market. A couple of lamb losses, particularly in the smaller flocks, can mean profit loss.

Beef cattle prices have been uncertain of late and apparently will remain uncertain for some time to come. The buying public is rediscovering there are other meats than beef. Even restaurateurs are reporting that the eating public is substituting fowl and fish for the \$4 and \$5 plate steaks.

Market indications are better for common kinds of meat than for the Oregon. The Pacific Northwest has more cattle on feed than usual but in some of the larger cattle states such as California and Colorado, fewer cattle are on feed than have been in recent years.

Remember that potential egg layers were down in number 5 per cent this past November. A year ago sufficient early chicks should be ordered to fill the houses to capacity with layers in early fall.

Dairy meetings held recently indicate that prospects are pretty good in that score. But warnings are being issued not to keep poor producers with the present cost of feed. If you plan to seed spring wheat, buy your seed now is the warning. The general wheat outlook not only in the Pacific Northwest, but in the entire wheat producing country is bad. Dry weather prevented seeding of much wheat and killed that which was planted in much of the country. Estimates of planted acreage run from 50 per cent down of normal growing conditions at this time of year.

The year just closing has been one of mixed blessings for Oregon farmers. One of the heaviest crops on record, sharply declining livestock prices, record high farm income, and almost record high farm costs, make the final outcome rather hazy.

Prices received for most crops so far this season have been lower than last year. But the tonnage was greater, so that the value of the 1952 crop production reached the record high level of \$284,508,000 in Oregon. This estimate by Niels I. Nielsen, in charge of the Oregon crop reporting service for the USDA, is 9 per cent above last year and more than four times the pre-war average.

Oregon's fields, gardens and orchards produced 4,627,700 tons of food, feed and seed. Oregon's gross income reached a record high of \$459,000,000, about \$29,000,000 more than last year. Crop receipts were up \$37,000,000, while livestock receipts were down \$8,000,000.

Cattle and lamb prices dropped from 25 to 35 per cent during the year. Hog prices, which took their big slide in 1951, showed a further decline of around 10 per cent in 1952. Farm economists are predicting a further cattle price decline of the 1952 crop slightly less than last year. Tonnage in the Oregon berryfields was second largest on record, and up 45 per cent from 1951. However, lower prices brought the value of the year's production up only 30 per cent.

While production of tree fruits and nuts reached 304,100 tons, larger than the year previous, it was below the 10-year average and prices averaged about 6 per cent under the 1951 season.

A connection between the Nile and the Red Sea, in effect forming a Suez Canal, existed at several periods in ancient times.

## Creamery Patrons' Day Draws 1,000



## Three Marion County Berry Growers Rate

Three Marion county growers are among the 27 Oregon Marshall strawberry plant growers whose fields have passed inspections for certification during the 1952-53 season. Local growers are Lorren Barr, Silverton; Schumacher Brothers, Sublimity; and George Veal, Salem.

All fields must also pass a root disease inspection before plants can be dug and sold as Oregon certified plants. An estimated 16 million plants will be produced from 154 acres if all fields pass the last inspection to be made early in 1953.

This is a noticeable decrease from the estimated 30 million plants produced from nearly 300 acres during the 1951-52 season. Several million plants from last year's crop were never dug because supply of plants exceeded the demand.

Most Oregon strawberry growers credit the use of certified plants with helping them stay in the strawberry business during the past 10 years. Although there is room for improvement, production per acre from certified plants has been greater than that from non-certified plants, according to D. L. Rasmussen, county extension agent.

The Oregon strawberry plant certification program has been headed by R. Ralph Clark, horticultural specialist, Oregon State College. Clark has been assisted during 1952 by Norman Dobie, OSEC certification specialist. Lists of growers who have passed the first three inspections may be obtained from Clark or Oregon County extension agents.

## Hop Market Slows Down As Year Ends

Hop markets turned inactive late in December following the announcement that the hop marketing agreement and order will be terminated on July 1, 1953, according to the market news service of the department of agriculture.

Trading, what has been fairly active in 1953 crop hops for future delivery came to a complete halt, and markets were entirely nominal at the close of December.

Buyers of both spot and future delivery hops were out of the market for growers appeared generally inclined to wait further market developments.

It was reported Wednesday that 50 to 75 per cent of the 1953 crop of hops in Oregon, Washington and Idaho had already been contracted, while reports from California indicate a somewhat larger percentage had been sold.

Supplies of 1952 crop salar hops were at a low level with demand very moderate early in the month. At the close of December there was no market for 1952 crop spot hops, but based on earlier sales, prices were nominal at 11 1/2 to 13 cents per pound for seedling hops, 6 to 8 cents per leaf and stem content.

The market for 1953 hops for future delivery was also nominal and quotations placed at 45 cents per pound for seeded clusters, 47 1/2 cents for semi-seedless and 50 cents per pound for seedless hops, basis 6 per cent leaves and stems.

Forster says the Lebanon meeting should be of great interest to all livestockmen in the county as it will cover reports from Francis Williams, county trapper; discussion, Oregon's livestock disease problems by Dr. R. R. Younce, state veterinarian; a talk on combating livestock diseases by Dr. O. H. Muth, Oregon State College, and a report dealing with feeding livestock by Joe Johnson, acting head of the animal husbandry department at the state college.

**FAIR-BOARD TO MEET**  
The Linn County fair board will hold its annual meeting in the Albany courthouse on Jan. 19 reports L. E. Arnold, Lebanon, president. The purpose of the meetings, says Arnold, is to adopt a budget for 1953 and elect new officers. Other board members are R. A. Talbott, Albany, and Tim Kelly, Jefferson.



MT. ANGEL—Business men of Mt. Angel had a busy day Tuesday when they served dinner for the creamery Patrons' Day. From left are Fred Schwab, Harold Bourbonnais and Clem Butsch, serving Mrs. Joe Smith and her little daughter, Beatrice Anna.

## Guernsey Cow Sets Production Record

August J. Minke Jr., Mt. Angel, has made a Guernsey state champion record with his registered cow, Favorite's Dora Daisey. Her production of 16,610 pounds of milk and 861 pounds of butterfat is the highest Herd Improvement Registry record for a six-year-old in the state.

The sire of the cow, Bonhill Favorite, owned by J. R. Alexander, Hillsboro, has two daughters in the Performance Register of The American Guernsey Cattle Club.

## Trench Silo Plans Should Be Made Now

Spillage in trench type silos has been at a minimum this season, Ben A. Newell, Marion County agent, reported Wednesday, as he urged farmers to investigate and possibly arrange for one prior to the grass season this spring.

There is a lot of variety in types of construction, Newell points out as he adds that the type as a whole holds promise of a cheap way to store grass silage on local farms.

Where sloping land provides good drainage for trenches, they have been particularly effective. Filling is much quicker but extra care is needed to be sure enough packing is done to force out all air pockets. Silage crops should be cut when young and tender.

Newell described one of the successful trenches as built on top of the ground. It sets, he said, on a concrete slab and has treated poles for sides which are lined with 2 by 6 tongue and groove carddecking. Most of the silos have been covered with 12 to 14 inches of sawdust with good results.

Fossil sequoia trees were known to science long before the living specimens were discovered in California.

Supplies of baling wire, nails and fencing materials may fall short of demand during 1953 unless sufficient orders are placed early to boost lagging mill output, W. M. Tate, committee chairman of the Marion County production and marketing administration committee, cautioned farmers this week.

"We have been advised that beginning in early September steel mills began reporting empty space on their rolling schedules for bales of wire, coiled baling wire, nails, woven wire fencing, netting and barbed wire," Tate reported. This situation has grown steadily worse. If orders sufficient to utilize full mill capacity are not placed shortly, it is quite possible that shortages will occur next spring and summer.

## Valley Farm Income Down During 1952

Reports from various counties indicate that in the Willamette Valley the gross farm income dropped during 1952.

In Marion County the gross income dropped nearly 5 per cent in 1952 from the previous year. The widely diversified agriculture returned \$23,800,000 to land owners as compared with \$34,350,000 in 1951.

Cost of operations were up sharply that net return for the farmer fell far short of the past several seasons.

Potatoes and truck crops, including onions, green beans and sweet corn, accounted for \$4,750,000. Tree fruits and nuts brought farmers \$2,000,000 and small fruits returned \$3,000,000.

High on the farm crop list was \$3,500,000 worth of grain, and \$2,250,000 in grass seed crops. Peppermint accounts for \$1,666,000, poultry and eggs, \$3,800,000 while turkeys returned \$2,500,000 and beef sheep and hogs about \$1,500,000.

Marion County rated 75th among counties in the United States for gross income in 1951 and first in Oregon, but it was expected that Marion fell below this position in 1952.

The Clackamas County report shows a drop of approximately 4 per cent in gross farm income under the previous year, from an all-time high in 1951 of \$25,687,000 the income of Clackamas farms dropped to an estimated \$24,647,750 in 1952.

Of the income, 46.9 per cent came from animal products, while 53.1 per cent was derived from farm crops. This difference has been brought about by lower prices for most animal products, including wool, and most poultry products. Dairy at \$5,100,000, kept pretty much on an even keel with the year previous. Most of the milk from this area is now consumed in the bottle trade as fluid milk. The smaller dairy herds—the ones which formerly produced butterfat for creameries and condensaries have largely disappeared. On these farms are now beef cattle and sheep.

Livestock dropped to \$2,842,750 from \$4,045,000 during the year. Decline in meat prices and in wool is responsible for this decrease. However, reports show that many of the Clackamas farmers anticipated this decline and liquidated all but choice beef breeding cows before the drop. Sheep were on the increase.

Eggs and poultry accounted for \$4,372,000 with forage seed crops \$1,500,000, and hay and grain \$2,105,000 an increase over 1951.

The total farm income in Yamhill County during the past year is estimated at \$19,061,000. This income is fairly evenly divided between the livestock and the crop products, with \$9,264,000 on the livestock side and \$9,797,000 on the sale of crop products.

Biggest farm item in Yamhill the past year was cereals which brought \$3,885,000, with turkeys listed second at \$1,000,000 and dairy third with \$2,706,000.

**LESS HENS EXPECTED**  
Turkey producers are estimating a 12 per cent drop in breeder hens in 1953 from 1952. The total number expected for 1953 is 213,840. The poulters hatched are expected to result in a 12 per cent decrease also, but the number raised in 1953 is expected to show a 10 per cent increase. The price of poulters is expected to be the same in this new year as in 1952 or an average price of 70 cents. The average price of eggs was 29 cents and is expected to remain the same in 1953.

Information concerning the Western Oregon Livestock Association annual meeting at Coquille, Jan. 19-21 will be presented. A brief business meeting will be held at the conclusion of the program by the livestock association to elect officers and directors. Refreshments provided by the livestock association will be served.

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## Rat Draws Money From Bank, Runs to Store to Buy Cheese

By ALTON L. BLAKESLEE  
ST. LOUIS (AP)—Meet a rat that draws money from a bank, and runs to a store to buy cheese. Given a choice of a quarter, dime or nickel, he chooses the quarter, which buys five pieces of cheese. The dime or nickel buys only one.

The rat does this in the laboratory of Dr. Loh Seng Tsai, professor of psychology at Tulane University. The test shows that rats have a sense of value. Dr. Tsai told the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The rats also learn to use tools as well as coins, all indicating a high rate of intelligence.

It's the first time, he says, that rats have been shown to be able to use tools and tokens. It's been shown with apes and chimpanzees and other psychologists have trained chimps to use slot machines.

Now rats, which are cheaper and can be bred to be all alike, can be used for studies of mental processes and behavior in animals, which in turn can help toward a better understanding of the whys and wherefores of the human mind.

The smart-money rat works it this way: The rat pulls a chain, to spill coins from a can hanging overhead. The rat picks up a coin in his mouth, runs over to put it on a saucer in exchange for cheese.

One rat learned the value of the coins, from getting the bigger reward by choosing the more valuable coin.

Other rats have learned to move a miniature car to reach food, use a flying trapeze, or pull a chain to raise a ladder to climb to a high shelf.

Earlier, Dr. Tsai showed that cats and rats could be trained to cooperate and live in peace. Tuesday he reported that a confirmed rat-killing cat had learned to live peaceably and cooperatively with a rat. The cat lets the rat run out of its cage, then both push treadles simultaneously to lower a window to reach their common dish of food.

This cooperation between so-called natural enemies proves there is no such thing as an instinct for fighting, Dr. Tsai declared.

This is biologically, there is a basis for world peace, he said.

**MACLEAY GRANGE TO SEE FILM TONIGHT**  
MACLEAY—Salem's Naval Air Facility will show a motion picture on the training of a naval aviation cadet for a pilot at the Friday night meeting of the Macleay Grange.

The film, which will be shown by John Toevs, YN2, is in technicolor and was filmed at Pensacola, Fla., and at the advanced training command at Corpus Christi, Texas. Hubert Aspinwall, grange member, will give a group of vocal selections during the lecturer's hour.

**POSSES TO CONVENE**  
KLAMATH FALLS (AP)—The annual convention of the Oregon State Association of Municipal Posses will be held here Feb. 14.

captured by the Japanese in Shanghai in the early 30's, and held as a prisoner during World War II. He said the Japanese seized his passport.

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