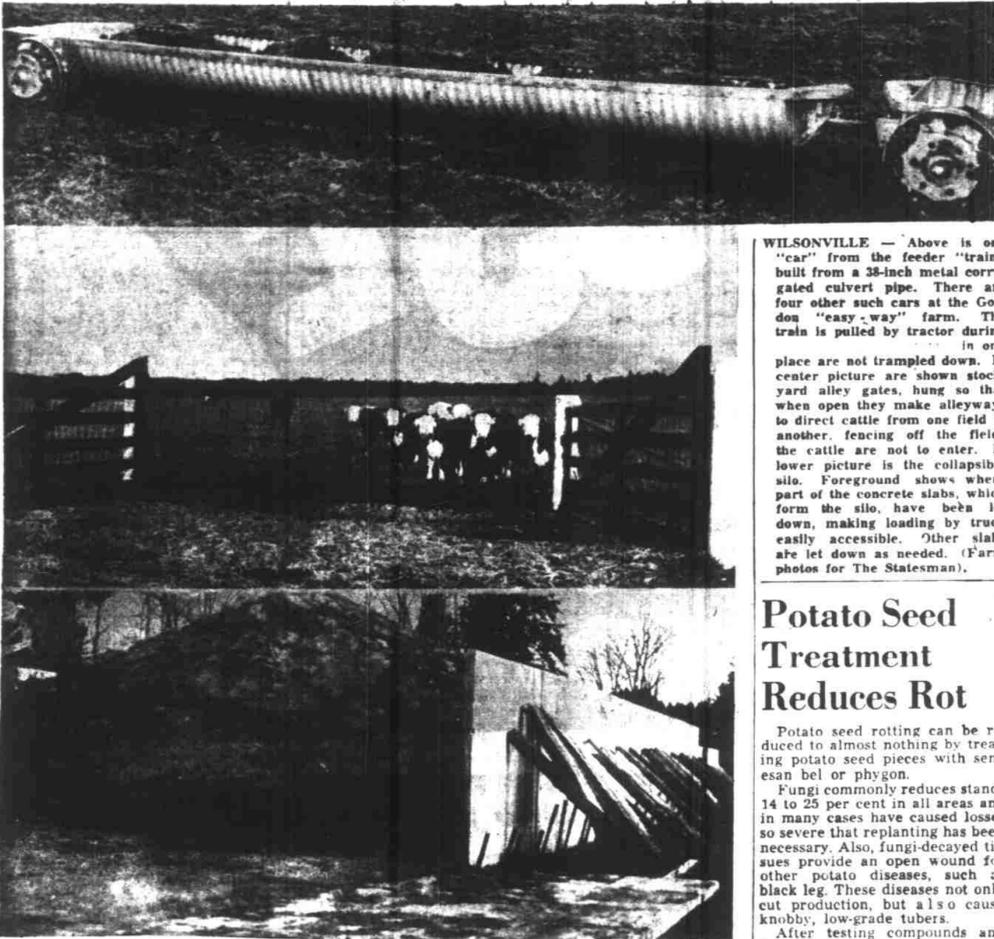


# WILLAMETTE VALLEY FARMER

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

## Clackamas County Farm Features Time-Saving Ideas



WILSONVILLE — Above is one "car" from the feeder "train" built from a 38-inch metal corrugated culvert pipe. There are four other such cars at the Gordon "easy-way" farm. The train is pulled by tractor during one place are not trampled down. In center picture are shown stockyard alley gates, hung so that when open they make alleyways to direct cattle from one field to another, fencing off the fields the cattle are not to enter. In lower picture is the collapsible silo. Foreground shows where part of the concrete slabs, which form the silo, have been let down, making loading by truck easily accessible. Other slabs are let down as needed. (Farm photos for The Statesman).

## 260-Acre Farm Planned To Make Farming 'Easy'

By LILLIE L. MADSEN  
Farm Editor, The Statesman

WILSONVILLE—If you are going to farm the easy way, you have to do some hard planning. That's what C. E. Gordon told us as he explained that his "hard" planning simply meant some very "intensive" planning.

But, says Gordon, it has paid off for him both in time saved, in more profit, and in more pleasure.

Gordon's 260-acre farm, near the Willamette River, over the line in Clackamas County, is every acre irrigated grass and clover. The soil is excellent, and seed crops, hops, berries, grain or cannerly crops would grow equally well on the soil. These crops, however, would be "work." Nothing easy about them. The cattle harvests his grass and clover.

### Cattle Markets Grass

That's number one step in his easy-way farming. The farm is full of additional "easier ways," even to run a grass farm which is supposed to be easy farming in itself. I'm sorry there isn't space to go into all of these. I'll just mention three of them—to me—bigger "easier way" equipment: The stockyard alley gates, the train of portable feeders and the collapsible silo.

To most farmers, the time the silo collapses is a bad time. Gordon's silo is built to do exactly that. He says his folding concrete silo is easy to fill and even easier to empty. It can be converted into a self-feeder, and the whole thing is built at a total cost of \$1,500 a ton capacity, which figures about one-tenth the cost of the conventional concrete silo. This is the way he did it: He poured a 30x160-foot ground slab of concrete, six inch thick. On this slab he used a simple

frame to make 9x5-foot rod-reinforced concrete panels, pouring them four at a time.

The panels, six inches thick at one end and tapering to four inches at the top, form the sectional ends and sides of the silo. A concrete curb six inches wide and around the outer boundary of the ground slab, forms a slot to hold the panels upright. Holes in the top end make the panels easy to lift into place with a tractor hoist.

### Walls Go Up With Silage

The wall goes up as the silo fills. One end wall and a couple of side panels are set up first. Trucks drive across the open part of the silo and ease their loads onto a silage loader, which elevates grass and clover onto the pile. As the silo fills, more side panels go up and the last grass is spread over the top.

Gordon put 1,400 tons of grass and clover silage into his sectional silo this past season. It tested out at an average of 14 per cent protein, with practically no spoilage.

To use the silage, the panels are lowered one by one onto a concrete curb seven feet away around the perimeter. This makes a convenient platform for either loading or feeding.

His homemade feeders both haul and feed the silage, and can be spotted anywhere in the pasture.

### Builds Farm Shop

Gordon built the portable feeders in his farm shop, using half-sections of 38-inch corrugated metal culvert 16-feet long. He bought them flattened on the bottom. On one end of each section he figured old truck axles and wheels,

picked up at a wrecking yard, after cutting the rims off the wheels. He linked five of the sections together to make a train, and put a hitch on the front one to hook onto the tractor.

The feeders are 18 inches high—low enough for a calf. The 16-foot sections cost \$48 for materials—each will handle 20 head. Gordon says that by pulling the train of feeders from field-to-field at two-hour intervals, he can feed 200 cattle easily.

### Moving Cattle Easy

Moving cattle from field to field isn't the difficult matter on the Gordon farm that it is on the average farm. His gates are all arranged like a stockyard alley. The end of each cross-fence is recessed about 10 feet from the line fence, and the gates are set at right angle. Across the lane opposite each double set of field gates is another gate, which swings out to join one of the field fences and shuts off the lane. Moving cattle from field to field, or to the loading corral is an easy matter with this gate arrangement. There is no place for the cattle to go but where Gordon wants them to go.

Gordon's cattle have been grading "good" consistently. He markets his grass through his beef cattle put on pasture in the spring and marketed grass-fat in the summer and fall.

## Potato Seed Treatment Reduces Rot

Potato seed rotting can be reduced to almost nothing by treating potato seed pieces with semesan bel or phygion.

Fungus commonly reduces stands 14 to 25 per cent in all areas and in many cases has caused losses so severe that replanting has been necessary. Also, fungus-decayed tissues provide an open wound for other potato diseases, such as black leg. These diseases not only cut production, but also cause knobby, low-grade tubers.

### After testing compounds and treating methods for two years, researchers recommend:

1. Soak all seed potatoes 1 to 2 hours in mercuric chloride—four ounces in 30 gallons of water—at least two to four weeks before cutting and planting. This is a "clean-up" treatment that kills fungi and bacteria living on tuber surfaces.

2. Dip all seed pieces in phygion—1 pound in 10 pounds of water—immediately after cutting if using a picker-type planter. Phygion-treated seed can be planted immediately or held in storage for later planting. But plant immediately if seed has been dipped in semesan bel—one pound in 10 gallons of water. Seed pieces will not form the needed protective, corky layer after treatment with semesan bel.

3. If using a rubber-unit planter, fill the fungicide tank with semesan bel or Phygion, using above mixtures. Both chemicals provide excellent protection against decay fungi and no injury has resulted from semesan bel-treated seed pieces that were planted immediately after treatment.

## Polk County 4-H Tour Set For Saturday

The Polk County 4-H livestock tour will be held Saturday, reports John Grimes, Polk County 4-H extension agent who is charting the course.

Farm visits will include: 10 a.m. Burton Bell, dairy; 11 a.m. Don Bisbee Independence, swine; noon-sack lunch at county fairgrounds; 1:30 p.m. Don Rowland, Rickreall, beef; 2:30 p.m. Ronald Hogg, Salem, sheep.

Bell will show the 4-H club members his milking barns, loafing sheds, calf management, and pasture rotation.

Swine production at Bisbee's will include observation of Tamworth and Tamworth-crossbred hogs, metal home-made self feeders; farrowing equipment, feed grinding and mixing equipment. Bisbee is feeding milk substitute to three weeks old weaned pigs.

Rowland has been barn feeding a large number of beef cattle all winter. Grain rations and silage will be discussed at this farm.

Ronald Hogg, nationally known sheep judge, will show his Hampshire sheep, which he raises on the Polk County side of Salem. Hogg, too, has some of the top sheep dogs in the state and may demonstrate how these work.

A class of stock will be available at each farm for the 4-Hers to judge, and Don Anderson, dairy specialist at Oregon State College will assist Bell with the dairy phase, while John Landers, livestock specialist at Oregon State College, will judge the 4-H judges on their placings in swine, beef and sheep.

Ted Jenny, manager of the Mayflower Milk distributors, reports that the club members will be furnished with chocolate milk and dixie cups provided by the Salem Mayflower plant. John Hansen, County Extension agent, will talk on the Polk County Fat Lamb show scheduled for May 29 at Rickreall.

## Grain Storage Plans Now Ready

A new selection of grain storage plans is available now at the Marion county agent's office in Salem. Plans for grain bins of capacity of from 200 to 10,000 bushels are ready for inspection, Ben A. Newell reports.

Many grain storage plans show buildings which could be converted later to garage, poultry house, machine shed, or other utility uses after the grain storage pressure is relieved.

Government loans and support prices may require good, solid rodent proof bins that are also dry, Newell added.

### SCIO MAN NAMED

Jim Ruby, Scio, has been named president of the Linn County Dairy Herd Improvement association. Warren Cooley, Albany, is the new vice president, and Harold Glenn will continue to serve as secretary-treasurer.

## Farm Calendar

April 22—Silver Creek Soil Conservation hearing Middle Grove school, 8 p.m.

April 22—Marion County Roberts extension unit, Mrs. A. D. Graham home.

April 22—Marion County Silvertown extension unit, First Christian church.

April 23—South Salem Addition to Santiam Soil conservation district, Sunnyside.

April 26—Third annual Oregon Aberdeen Angus association, Salem, state fairgrounds.

May 2-8—National Home Demonstration Week.

May 24—California Wool Show and Ram Sale, Sacramento.

May 31—Marion County Spring 4-H Show, Silvertown.

May 3—Marion County Farm Bureau annual business meeting and election.

May 13-15—Linn County Spring 4-H Fair, Albany Union high school.

May 15—Marion County Jersey Cattle Club Spring Show, state fairgrounds.

May 17-19—Oregon Cattleman association, Baker.

May 20-22—City of Salem 4-H Spring Show, State School for the Blind.

May 22—Oregon Wool Growers association executive committee meeting, Salem.

May 22—Fat Lamb Show, Municipal Park, Junction City.

May 23—Rural Life Sunday.

May 29-June 1—Lions Club Home and Garden Show, state fairgrounds.

May 29—Polk County Fat Lambs Show, Rickreall fairgrounds.

May 29—Linn County Lamb and Wool Show, Scio.

June 2—Annual meeting of the American Jersey Cattle club, Springfield, Mass.

June 4-5—Tri-county Fat Stock show and sale, Bend.

June 7-11—Oregon State Grange annual convention, Albany.

June 7-8—All Breed Dairy Show, Albany.

June 11-12—Willamette Valley Guernsey Spring Show, state fairgrounds, Salem.

June 15-25—4-H club summer school.

June 17—Oregon Poultry Hatchery association annual meeting, Withycombe Hall, 10 a.m.

June 18—Oregon Poultry Improvement association annual meeting, Withycombe Hall, 10 a.m.

## Jerseys Make Big Butterfat Average

The registered Jersey herd of Herbert S. Coleman, Woodburn, has been added to the dairy honor roll in recent days.

The herd of 51 Jerseys completed a 12-month test period on Herd Improvement, for an average production of 8,798 pounds of milk containing 948 pounds of butterfat.

## Fruit Picking Eased by Use Of Harnesses

Take a tip from transient fruit pickers, says Frank Purdum, Salem fruit grower. Use picking harnesses for tree fruits picked into buckets. Picking harnesses ease harvesting of cherries, peaches and other stone fruits.

Purdum is enthusiastic about harnesses for his cherry pickers. He says only one bucket of cherries not dropped by a picker will pay for a harness.

A harness carries the weight of the fruit on the picker's shoulders. Both hands are free for picking. Two snap-hooks secure the bucket to the harness but still keep the pail out of the way. Fruit bruising is reduced because the bucket is always within fingertip distance.

A picker can leave his bucket hooked to the harness while he moved his ladder. With a picking harness, the bucket is always in position to receive fruit. To empty it, the picker can either kneel by the box or first unhook the bucket from the harness.

Shoulder straps are adjustable so that children and adults can use the same harness. Growers like Purdum usually assign a harness to a picker who doesn't own one. The picker turns in the harness when the season is over. After a picker has used one, a picking harness becomes as important as a bucket in harvesting stone fruits.

## Farmers Ask Inclusion in Soil District

Two soil conservation districts in Marion county probably will be enlarged if favorable action is taken at both hearings and committee discussions this week. A referendum will be scheduled for later this spring upon favorable action.

Landowners in the Howell Prairie, Hazel Green and Quinby addition to the Silver Creek Soil Conservation District will hold a legal hearing Thursday night at 8 at Middle Grove school.

Communities included in this proposed addition include Howell Prairie, Brush Creek, Pratum, Middle Grove, Hazel Green, Chama, Clear Lake, Mission Bottom, and Quinby.

Landowners in the Sunnyside-Liberty areas will vote Friday on South Salem addition to the Santiam district. Polls will be open at Sunnyside school from 1 to 8 p.m.

### WATER DISTRICT FORMS

MEDFORD — The Kings Highway Water District is being organized south of here. Voters approved formation of the new district, 133-72.

## Kill Cover Crops Now

Turning over orchard and cane-brake field cover crop now can conserve moisture during the spring and summer months says D. L. Rasmussen, Marion County extension horticulturist.

Even though cover crops may not have made much growth, they should be knocked down as soon as possible. Failure to kill cover crops will result in the loss of several acre-inches of soil moisture through cover crop and weed growth during the next few weeks.

Soil moisture is the limiting factor for tree fruits and nuts growing in non-irrigated orchards in western Oregon, Rasmussen says. Only during fall, winter and early spring months is there enough soil moisture to support both the trees and cover crops.

Cover crops should be knocked down by shallow cultivation. This lessens damage to feeder roots of trees and berry plants. In killing cover crops, it is not necessary to completely cover the crop refuse with soil. If the cover crop is killed and knocked down, it eventually will decompose in the soil.

Additional cultivations will be necessary during the summer to kill weeds and volunteer cover crops, Rasmussen adds.

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