

WILLAMETTE VALLEY FARMER

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

St. Paul Berry Growers



ST. PAUL, Ore.—Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McKay of St. Paul are among the top strawberry growers in Marion County, although, because of an old field of Marshalls on their farm, they did not rate the exclusive Five Ton Strawberry Club. However, their seven acres of the Northwest variety made better than six tons per acre. (Statesman Farm Photo.)

Marion County Names Wheat Polling Places

Voting places have been announced for the Marion County Wheat Quota vote Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The Gervais-Mt. Angel community farmers will vote at the Gervais High School with Roger Advese, Robert Pence and John Wavra in charge. The Howell-Prairie-Salem communities will vote at Central Howell School, with Roy Rutchman, Fred Hersch, Edgar Nafziger and C. L. Simmons, Jr., in charge. Jefferson-Turner area folk will vote at Cascade High, with Laura Thomas, Mrs. Fred Gilbert, Robert Harris and Lloyd Mason directing. North and South Silverton, vote at the Silverton Armory with Alvin Krug, Harlan Moe and W. J. Haberly directing. St. Paul-Woodburn farmers vote at Broadacres School, with C. H. Coyle, Fred Kahle, Mrs. Lore Giesy and Fred Geshwill supervising. Stayton growers vote at the Stayton City Hall, where Maurice Heister, Fred Hottinger, Douglas Heister and Frank Etzel take care of the voting procedure.

After Care Will Improve Next Year's Strawberry Harvest

Good, after-harvest care given strawberry plantings, greatly influences next year's production. Bud formation for the next year's crop takes place in late summer and fall in standard strawberry varieties. By after-harvest care is meant such practices as cultivation, fertilization application, disease and insect control, runner removal and adequate irrigation wherever possible. Topping of strawberry fields is also good practice, especially if the grower has been bothered by the strawberry crown moth in previous years. Topping the plants back, removes the eggs-laying places for this insect which deposits its eggs usually on the strawberry leaves, and cuts down on possible infestation in the field. Several years ago when this insect was severe, strawberry fields were topped as a common practice and control of the insect was very good. However, in the past few years, it has been neglected—some- what and crown moth infestations have built up. Topping should be done immediately after berry harvest as late topping usually results in decreased yields the following year. Cultivation of fields following harvest should be shallow and only enough to control weeds. Deep cultivation in the summer destroys valuable feeder roots without which the plants do not have the vitality to bear well. The use of fertilizer on strawberry fields is becoming more and more a common practice with the better growers. However, use of fertilizer does not always show the same results in all fields. The application of a complete fertilizer, such as 6-10-10, or a similar one in late summer or early fall, aids in bud development and increased crop next year. An average application of this fertilizer is usually 200 to 300 pounds per acre. Then additional fertilizer applications of 16-20 or a nitrogen fertilizer in the spring give the plant vigor and growth.

Jersey Cows Earn Honor Rolls in Polk

June dairy month showed an increased dairy production in the Polk County Dairy Herd Improvement Association, Milton Corum, supervisor of association, said Wednesday. Corum said the records just compiled showed that 763 cows on standard test produced an average of 709 pounds of milk, which included an average butterfat content of 33.9 pounds for the month, while the 206 cows on owner-sample test averaged 712 pounds of milk and 35.5 pounds of butterfat. New member during the month just passed is Grove Peterson, Independence. Polk County cows that have completed the 305-day milk production on the honor roll include a three-year-old Jersey owned by Walter Lierman, with a milk production of 10,728 pounds of milk, and a 624.6 pounds of butterfat; a nine year old Jersey owned by Lloyd Spire, Dallas, with a production of 9,643 pounds of milk and 566 pounds of butterfat; a three-year-old grade Jersey owned by Walter and Elmer Werth, Willamina, producing 9,746 pounds of milk, containing 459.2 pounds of butterfat; and two Jerseys owned by M. B. Findley, Rickreall, producing 8,567 pounds of milk with 448.8 pounds of butterfat, and 10,397 pounds of milk containing 428.3 pounds of butterfat.

Salem Cucumber Growers



Mr. and Mrs. Ambrie Bagley are completing their under-glass tomato crops for the summer season and busy with their cucumbers now. Above, the two are assorting cukes, a very "dareful" job, which Mrs. Bagley supervises. Each cuke has to be the exact size and smoothness to meet the different grade requirements, she explains. Bagley has farmed under glass since 1916. (Statesman Farm Photo.)

Ranch Ramblings

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
Farm Editor, The Statesman
OYSTER FARMING—Growing oysters may not seem to be a farming venture, but a lot of Willamette Valley farmers will tell you otherwise. These are the investors in the oyster farms along the Oregon coast. One farmer, asking me about the new seeding experiments—artificially—replied, when I suggested that oysters were not "exactly farming," that: "They aren't grown in apartment houses, business houses or even offices, are they? They are grown right in the ground." Well, he was sort of right, at that. YAQUINA BAY—But the new "seed" being tested out by Oregon State College, while not grown in "offices, business houses or apartments," isn't either, being produced in open ground. However, growing seed oysters artificially may help revive Oregon's native farm-oyster industry, W. P. Breeze of the state college's Marine-research laboratory at Yaquina Bay, says. Researchers report they have found they can raise native oyster larvae (a most unattractive name for little oysters) experimentally in 12-gallon crocks. Now they are testing out raising them in 250 gallon wood tanks, as more practical for commercial use. Conditions are just right for natural oyster seeding about one year in four in Yaquina Bay as well as in other sections of oyster beds along the Oregon line. This has reduced oyster numbers too low for yearly harvesting. The larvae are almost microscopic in size. Soon after they're ejected from their parent's protective shell they swim around, finally attaching, then growing on hard, clean surfaces—such as old oyster shells. These 20 to 30 days are the most critical and that's when death rate mounts, Breeze reports. In Yaquina Bay, barnacles and other organisms foul much of the available attaching surface. Tides, changing water temperatures, and salt content changes also take their toll. Breeze hopes the experiment will boost oyster production along many of the Oregon bays. IT'S THE BERRIES—Well, that's the way Art McKay of St. Paul feels about it. He has seven acres of Northwest strawberries which yielded 85,641 pounds of berries and five acres of Marshalls which yielded 16 tons. But in order to get into the Five Ton Strawberry club, all of the berries grown on his farm, says Don Rasmussen, has to average five-ton per acre—which leaves Art just a trifle short. We had heard that Art and Charlotte had made the club, and they did so far as Northwest were concerned. They had understood that if one field of more than five acres made the average, they were in. That's what we heard too, but Don says it has to be all fields. Anyway Art and Charlotte have a beautiful stand of berries—and the Marshalls are being ploughed out. The Northwest weren't fertilized. It wasn't necessary, Art says, as the plants were put into a field that had grown Indino clover for seven years previously. This was the second year for this patch and the McKays plan to crop it another three at least. Now that the strawberries are all picked for this year, the fields will be cultivated, then the foliage will be cut off and a rotary hoe treatment given. As an experiment the McKays plan to try out a few Shasta berries this coming year. This new variety is popular in California now. While at the McKays, we enjoyed looking over the excellent "crop" of summer chrysanthemums, and wondered, idly, how on earth Charlotte could take care of her very pretty lawn and garden, in addition to the amount of work she did with the berries as well—and then to top it off, standing on her kitchen table, where she was making out checks for the pickers the day we called—were the most luscious glasses of strawberry preserves. We know they were good—she gave us a jar to taste. EXPERIMENTER—That's what Ambrie W. Bagley is at heart. In actuality he's a grower of the beautiful hothouse tomatoes and cucumbers—just as his grandfather, Dexter Field, was back in the nineteenth century. Last fall we stopped by the Bagley-Field greenhouse-farm at 3765 Center St., to see what was going on. We discovered Ambrie deep in a straw experiment in his 98,000 square-foot farm under glass. He placed bales of straw alongside of the plants by means of a pipe-laying machine. A slice of the bale, about six inches wide, was placed down from 14 to 16 inches deep, reaching to the surface of the soil. Each slice was placed like a wall, about six inches from where the plants were set—prior to placing the plants. Steaming the soil released a lot of nitrogen which takes care of decomposing the straw—both when it is used as a regular mulch and in the tomato houses or in the case of these walls of straw. I returned this week to find out what the result was. While he wasn't quite satisfied that the experiment was a big improvement, it had several advantages, he said, for his purposes: The straw subsides ground after steaming which liberates any excess nitrogen. The straw takes away the excessive nitrogen and prevents blossom rot which too much nitrogen may bring about. It cools the ground so that planting can be done more quickly after steaming project. The steaming is done as a sterilization project. WINTER CROP PAYS HELLS—Ambrie said that while he takes a winter and an early summer crop of tomatoes off his soil (he just completed the summer crop this week), the winter crop doesn't pay too well for itself, but it does enable him to keep good help, as it pays the freight" on labor wages for the green house. "Otherwise we wouldn't always be able to pick the help we needed just when we needed it," he explained. So far as growing hothouse tomatoes are concerned, Ambrie said that conditions were changing and outdoor competition was becoming more keen. Shipping is "keeping us on the run," he said. Cucumber harvest is now underway at the greenhouses. As soon as steaming is completed and cultivation ready, then new tomato plants will go into the beds for harvest in late October to January.

New Variety Oat Expected Out in 1955

A new oat variety, adapted as a companion for legumes, has been released by the Oregon State College agricultural experiment station and the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Foundation seed will be available next spring. The new oat is named Winema and has been tested since 1944. Winema has a stiff, short straw and lodges only under high fertility conditions. Since the variety is sparse-leaved, it shades the ground less than other varieties, making it adaptable as a companion oat for legumes. The spring oat is rust resistant and stands the irrigation necessary for clover and alfalfa. Winema also matures earlier than Cody or Markton. Seven-year tests show it heads about 55 days after planting, almost a week earlier than other varieties. The new variety also yields about 20 per cent higher than Kanota, one of the oats now planted as a legume companion. The tests show that Winema produced 101 bushels per acre, compared to 79 for Kanota. However, the USDA lists some disadvantages for Winema: Its performance is not good on alkaline or muck soils. It tends to shatter when threshed. With sparse foliage it does not yield a large hay crop. The kernel test weight may be low. Original cross of the new variety was made by the USDA plant breeders in 1930. The strain was selected and entered in testing trials in 1944.

They'll Be Ready in 2020



CORVALLIS — Here are a few of the 9,000,000 Douglas Fir trees produced annually from seed at the Oregon Forest Nursery, operated by the Oregon State Forestry Department. This picture shows a dozen year-old seedlings growing to the foot. They are scheduled to be harvested in the Tillamook Burn in the year 2020.

Woodburn Cow Tops Marion County Herds

C. J. Duda of Mt. Angel and Roy McNulty of Woodburn are new members of the Marion County Dairy Herd Improvement Association, making a total of 73 herds now on production testing, according to Ben A. Newell, in whose extension offices in the Marion County Court House, the records are filed. Reed Vincent, Woodburn, supervises the testing of 946 cows in the north end of the county. William Melson, Salem, has 949 cows in his area through the central area and Joe Bilye, records the 478 cows in the southern area. I. F. Buserie & Son, Woodburn, owns the cow with the top butterfat record in the past 30 days. A registered Jersey, "Ann," produced 104 pounds of butterfat and 1,280 pounds of milk during that time. A close second was the Holstein, Inka, in the Marcus Wampack herd at Mt. Angel. She was top milk producer with 2,367 pounds, but fell into second on fat with 101.8 pounds. James Phillips' Jersey, "Minnie," at Silverton, gave 97 pounds of fat and 1,515 pounds of milk. Another Jersey, "Ruby," at the Felix Muller ranch at Jefferson gave 94 pounds of fat and 1,290 pounds of milk in the 30 days. Andrew Kehrl & Son, Woodburn was also in the top group, with a Jersey "F-15" that produced 1,670 pounds of milk and 93.5 pounds of fat. Buserie had three more Jerseys in the top group with one giving 93 pounds of fat in 1,430 pounds of milk, another 89.1 and the third 88.8 pounds of fat. A Guernsey, "Lilly" in August Minke's herd, Mt. Angel, gave

Linn Grassman To Be Announced At Albany Sale

Linn County's Grassman of the Year will be honored at the annual Willamette Valley Rame Sale in Albany on Aug. 7, reports Hubert Willoughby, Harrisburg, winner of the 1951 title and chairman of the 1954 selection committee. Other members of the committee are George Koos, Tangent; R. H. Murphy, Albany; Leonard Forster, Tangent; Terry Elder, Lebanon and C. E. Mikesell, Albany. The group meets July 26 to pick the winner from three farmers who have reached the finals. The 1952 Linn County winner was Merle Manning, Brownsville, while last year's winner was Frank Cochran, Brownsville.

Vegetable Field Day Set Aug. 3

Increased commercial vegetable yields through fertilization, irrigation, improved varieties and weed control will highlight the Oregon State College fourth annual vegetable crops field day near Corvallis on August 3. From 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. growers, fieldmen, seed dealers and other interested persons are invited to view experimental plants that will be staffed by research workers. The experimental farm is one-half mile east of the Corvallis Willamette River Bridge, then north about one-half mile. 1,310 pounds of milk with 91.7 pounds of fat. St. Benedict Abbey, Mt. Angel, placed with a Holstein giving 85.5 pounds of fat in 1,820 pounds of milk. Tied for 10th place was the Barnes Bros., Silverton, Guernsey, "Teddy," with 1,641 pounds of milk and 85.5 pounds of fat.

Farm Calendar

- July 23 — Wheat Allotment Vote.
- July 25 — Oregon State Jersey Cattle Club picnic, Tillamook.
- July 25 — Marion County Livestock Association picnic, Coolidge & McClaine Park, Silverton 1 p.m.
- July 27-31 — Santiam Bean Festival, Stayton.
- July 29 — Annual Lebanon Garden Club Herb Tea.
- Aug. 3 — Puyallup, Wash., Western Washington Experiment Station field day, 10 a.m.
- Aug. 4-8 — Silverton Centennial Celebration.
- Aug. 6 — Annual Strawberry Industry Banquet, Multnomah Hotel, Portland.
- Aug. 7 — Willamette Valley Ram Sale, Albany.
- Aug. 12-14 — Annual Berrian Farmeroo, Newberg.
- Aug. 22-25 — Linn County Fall Fair, Albany.
- Aug. 25-28 — Clackamas County Fair, Canby.
- Aug. 27-29 — Polk County Fair, Rickreall.
- Sept. 4-11 — Oregon State Fair, Salem.
- Sept. 16-18 — Pendleton Round-Up.
- Sept. 17 — Oregon Turkey Improvement Association Annual meeting, Withycomb hall, OSC, 9:30 a.m.
- Sept. 22-25 — North Marion County Fair, Woodburn.
- Sept. 25 — Oregon Shorthorn Breeders Association, State Fairgrounds, Salem.
- Oct. 9-16 — National Dairy Show, Chicago.
- Oct. 9 — Second annual Willamette Valley Hereford Sale, State Fairgrounds, Salem.
- Oct. 12-15 — National Jersey Show, Chicago.
- Oct. 18-21 — Town and Country Church Conference, OSC.
- Oct. 20-22 — Pacific International Livestock Exposition, North Portland.
- Nov. 4-6 — Western Oregon Livestock Association, annual meeting, Gold Beach.

State Fair Calf Selections Must Be in by Aug. 16

Holstein Calf Selection Day will be a feature of the Oregon State Fair on September 8, according to announcement made Wednesday. The Oregon State Holstein Association is offering registered calves to 4-H and Future Farmer members or veterans of World War II. Applications for taking part in the selection day are due Aug. 16, according to Joe Rogers, independence, chairman of the calf selection committee. Prices, ranging from \$75 to \$200, will be set by Ben Simonson of the Oregon Dairy Breeders. To be eligible, 4-H club members are required to have their applications signed by a county 4-H extension agent. Future Farmer applications are to be signed by instructors. Veterans applications need the signature of a veteran's administration representative.

Worm Tycoon Started Small

WILLOW SPRINGS, Mo. (AP) —M. A. Dickman started growing earthworms as a hobby. Now it's getting into the big business class. In one year he raised and shipped more than a million worms to all parts of the nation and several foreign countries. He sells them to farmers, fishermen, bait dealers and other worm growers.

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Students Like Listening Better Than Dancing

NEW YORK (UP)—Benny Goodman, back on Broadway with a new jazz sextet said here modern college students seem to prefer listening to dancing. Goodman said his daughter, a student at Stanford University, told him that she and her friends would "rather sit and listen." It may be, he said, that modern jazz "isn't conducive to dancing." The former "King of Swing" now appearing at the Basin Street, a New York jazz spot, plans to leave for California in August to play with a symphony orchestra in the Hollywood Bowl.

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PROLIFIC COW
ALLEGAN, Mich. (AP) — A cow on the Charles Brown farm has had six calves in two years: Twins, a single calf, then triplets this year.

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