

WILLAMETTE VALLEY FARMER

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

Oregon Corn Harvest Successful, Making Iowa Look to Its Laurels

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
Farm Editor, The Statesman

NORTH HOWELL—From the looks of things this could be Iowa. Only Iowa won't admit that there is corn being grown any place else. In fact most of the Midwest and farther east simply ignores that corn is being grown west of the Rockies at all.

For instance, in one of the nation's better known farm magazines was a note this month urging farmers to buy corn if they were near the corn belt because, by spring, prices would be at loan level or higher, but if the farmer lived farther west than that, he just better forget about corn and stick to barley.

That's old stuff, Frank Johnson said this week, asking if the Midwest hadn't heard about the wheat allotment acreage sort of changing farming in this area.

"We have to change our methods to meet with requirements," Frank went on. He was sort of the opinion that the allotments for wheat production should have been fixed according to cultivated acreage on the farm rather than upon what amount of wheat was grown the year previous to the allotments.

No Rotation Allowance Made
"You know if you farm right you practice rotation. If the allotments caught you at the time when you had taken your wheat acreage out to put something else in for the rotation, you were caught sort of short. It happened that way to me. I only have six acres for wheat on my 150 acre farm. Some fellows with half that acreage have three times that much wheat allotment because the allotments went into effect at a time when these fellows had their heavy year for planting wheat," Frank said.

However, he wasn't complaining. He was happy with his corn. His neighbors too, were happy with corn. It grows well, they said, in North Howell—just as well about as in the famed Iowa corn country. Certainly much "weller," they jokingly explained, than many "of us would have believed a few years ago. We were just reared to think corn wouldn't grow well here in the Willamette Valley."

On the Frank Johnson farm there are 22 acres of corn, harvest of which is now being completed. The variety used was 355 and the average per acre will be better than 80 bushels. The corn was planted rather early and had a slow beginning. Johnson hadn't expected to make such a good yield—he had 70 bushels to the acre last year.

Corn Talk Happy
When the farm editor called at the Johnson farm a jolly crew of corn harvesters was found. Harvest had been going on, too, at the other farms. Neighbors were helping each other. One farmer remarked he had 10 acres which had already filled a 700-bushel crib and there were still two acres to pick.

Johnson said he noted that corn drilled in, ripened earlier than that planted in check-rows on his farm. He was trying to figure this out and advanced a couple of theories on the problem: The mere stalks in the row absorbed more moisture, taking it out of the ground and ripening the corn more rapidly. In the drilled rows the fertilizer, too, was placed differently, and that might have something to do with the ripening.

"One thing, we might complain a little about," Johnson said, "is that here we have to be a little more careful about putting corn into the cribs than we would in Iowa. It ripens a little more unevenly here. You have to have someone sort out the ears and yet matured as the crib-filling goes on." These immature ears will cause mildew and might do a lot of damage.

Corn isn't to be artificially dried at the Johnson farm. It will remain in the cribs where it dries slowly through ventilation, during the winter, being ready to shell out and market next May and June.

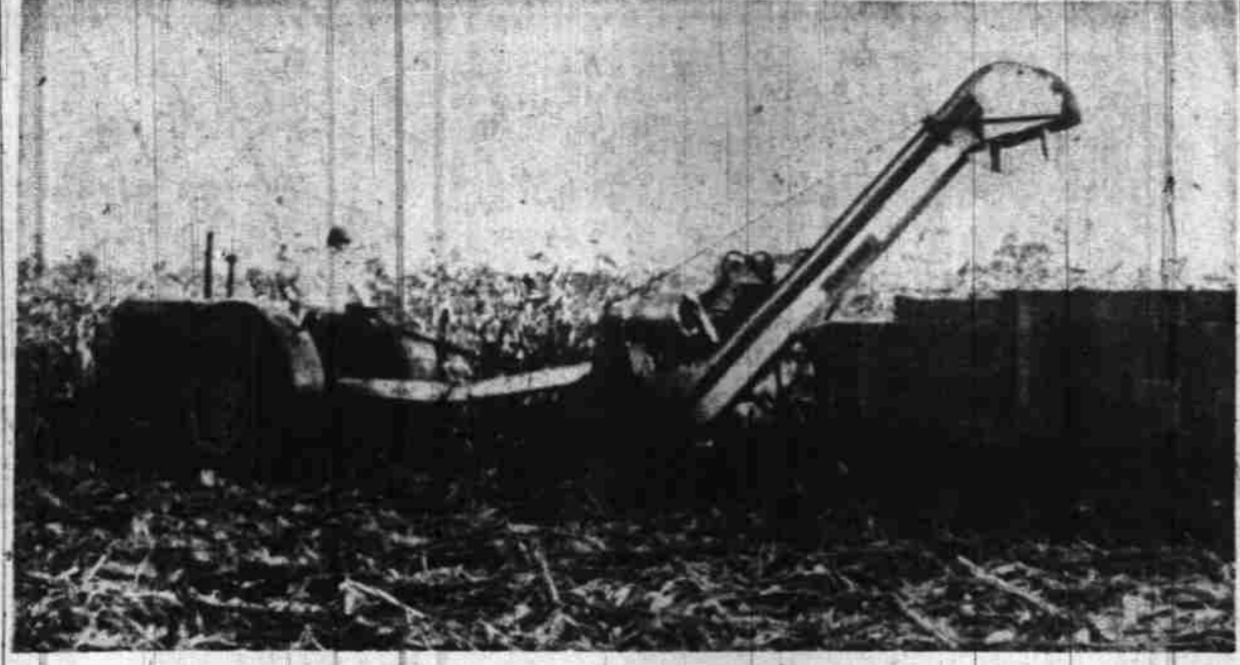
National Crop Down
Other Willamette Valley farmers are reporting a good corn crop, too, this year—when early prophecies were for "no corn." As a whole, the USDA crop service is reporting a smaller 1954 corn crop harvest than usual. A report released Tuesday shows that estimates are for 7 per cent smaller crop in 1954 than in 1953 and a 4 per cent below the 10-year average crop.

However the carry-over stocks

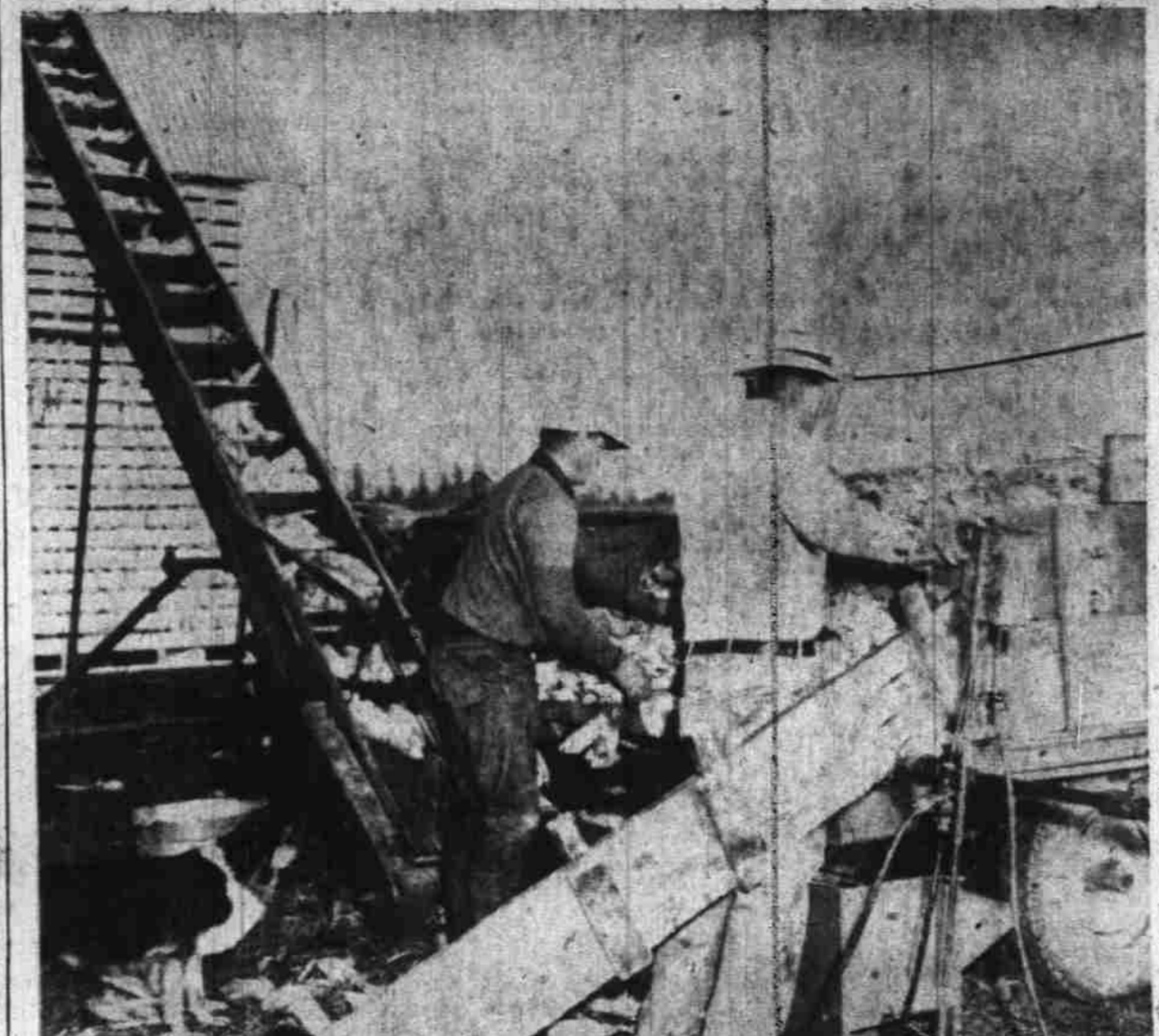
of corn in all positions in October were the largest on record. Farm stocks of corn in October totaled nearly 9 per cent more than a year ago and nearly one-fifth larger than the average carry-over.

Corn prices during October averaged around 12 cents per bushel above a year ago at the principal midwest markets.

Marion County lays claims to be the center of Oregon corn business this year. The Marion County show has been scheduled for Nov. 20 at Central Howell, while the Oregon State Corn Show will be at the Woodburn Armory on December 3-4.



NORTH HOWELL—Corn harvest in the Willamette Valley has passed the hand-work stage and is quite a big machine project each fall. Picture No. 1 shows George Yachter manning the picker which fills two truckloads an hour, such as the truck pictured here.



No. 2—shows Ed Schubert, left, and Joe Erpeling, watching out for immature ears of corn as the corn is mechanically removed from the truck and hoisted into the bins.

Holly Crop Nearly Ready For Harvest

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
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Within the next four to six weeks, one of Oregon's biggest specialty farm crops will be harvested. Not only will it be harvested from the more than 700 acres planted into the product commercially, but from the home garden and curbside plantings as well.

I am referring to English Holly, which yields some \$150,000 or more annually to Oregon growers.

While Oregon State says that "although the demand at present would seem to justify some expansion in acreage," the experts add that this demand is not sufficient to warrant the planting of holly, which because of wrong variety of growing conditions, will not meet the rigid requirements that are sure to develop by the time it comes into production.

Those of you who are seriously interested in growing holly, should visit commercial acreages during the next few weeks to look over the process. But it is not the time to spend much time questioning the grower. This should be reserved until after the holidays when his slack period is on hand.

Sprout Readily
Most of the forms or varieties of English Holly are slow, but robust and hardy growers. They are versatile as to their abilities to withstand heavy pruning, sprouting out readily even after the heaviest cutting back. Mention is made of this characteristic because they have been planted so long in many gardens that they have grown up to obscure a view, or to cut out too much light during winter months. If it is necessary to prune them heavily, keep in mind that the new growth which comes out almost immediately will not be mature enough to give another crop of berries short of two or three years.

Pruning should be done anytime from the time the berries are ready to cut up to early February.

Mulch Needed
Oregon State College studies indicate that over-fertilizing holly with nitrogen may be detrimental to berry production, too. Mulching, plus moderate use of a balanced fertilizer, should keep the tree in good productive condition.

If you plan to do any experimenting with commercial holly growing, be sure that you have a deep fertile, well-drained orchard-type soil. Although holly will grow on a wide range of soil types, the planting should not be made on marginal tree land if you plan to grow good commercial holly. The soil should be retentive of moisture throughout the summer months. Soils three



No. 3—this is the Frank Johnson corn crib, 50 feet long and 12 feet wide, holding 1,800 bushels. Filling is from the roof. There's no scooping or hand-handling of corn necessary.

Wool Growers To Hold Meet In Roseburg

The Oregon Wool Growers Association, which in its earlier years of existence always met east of the Cascades, will hold its annual meeting this year again on the West Slope. Set for Nov. 11-13, the lamb and wool producers will gather in Roseburg at the Umpqua hotel. Last year the group met in Portland.

John Withers of Paisley is president and has announced committee meetings to start at 1:30, Nov. 11. A full program has been arranged for Nov. 12, with an annual banquet that night.

Saturday afternoon of the meetings bring Frank W. Masche, deputy director of the Commodity Stabilization Service in Washington, D. C., to the program. He will present the "New Incentive Program for Wool."

Floyd Fox, Silverton, is a member of the wool growers executive committee, and Mrs. Alvin Hartley, Silverton, is vice president of the women's auxiliary and has been chairman of the "Make It Yourself With Wool" program which completed its judging in Portland a week ago.

to four feet in depth and liberally supplied with organic matter should grow good holly. It is generally accepted that slightly acid soils are best.

Questions---Answers

Questions—Was told that cauliflower often suffered from boron deficiency. Ours isn't doing quite right and we wondered if you could tell us what the deficiency symptoms are? B. W.

Answer—Symptoms are a brownish of the head and development of a hollow stem. Small spots occur on the head which may spread until the entire head is discolored. The taste will be bitter. Distortion of leaves also occurs.

Question—Frankly this is just to settle an argument... but we've failed to find the answer elsewhere. Would you kindly accommodate? Could you tell us where the Beagle dogs originated? Some say they are German and others say they are of American origin from the revolutionary time. N. E. T.

Answer—According to my books, the Beagles are the "oldest British breed." For many years they were, according to this book, "Pedigree Dogs," edited by C. C. Sanderson, "favorite of the Royalty."

Question—Now that the cooler weather has set in, we are being bothered with rats at our farm. Have forgotten what we used to kill them. Would you please tell us? H. J.

Answer—Warfarin or Red Squill, are, I believe, the two most highly recommended poisons for rats. Warfarin is said to be safe because the small amount necessary to kill rats is not harmful to humans or other larger animals (however,

don't take any chances), and Red Squill is also said to be nonpoisonous to humans, dogs, cats, poultry and farm animals. Follow directions on the container very carefully. That's important. If you are trapping, you might bury the traps in a pan of grain or meal. Set the traps over night, removing them in the day time. Some farmers have found that leaving the trap in a sack of grain during the day and setting it at night proves effective. If left around too long, the rats become suspicious.

Question—Do you know if there has been any experimenting done on when it would be best to have chickens start to lay? We always had our chickens hatched in late April and it seems they just start to lay and the price goes down. Could you tell us when would be the best time to start them so that we'd have eggs before the prices dropped? We are rather new at the business. J. K. L.

Answer—A Utah State Agricultural College economist has this to say about time of starting chicks: Start your chicks in December. This will give you pullets that produce the necessary small and medium eggs during March and April, when their price is at its best, and largest eggs from September to December, when their price is at its best.

Question—Are having a lot of trouble with our Boysenberries. They seem to be diseased. Will spraying in the fall, like you do for peaches, help berries? If so, what should we use? We used to spray in the spring after the pruning was done. Not long ago, noted a field up around McMinnville that was all pruned. We don't prune ours (which is just a small patch for home use) until spring. Is it better to prune now? E. N.

Answer—Probably the commercial grower had some cane spot, if you have leaf or cane spot disease, it is a good idea to prune out the old fruiting canes as soon as harvest is over. If left for the winter rains, the disease spores wash down into the ground. Then (as you say, with peaches) it is good to give the canes an 8-8-10 Bordeaux mixture spray this fall. Use a good spreader-sticker with the spray. During the dormant season, don't forget your lime-sulphur spray.



No. 4—Frank Johnson crawled into the top of his corn bin to show how near the roof the corn comes when the crib is filled. (All Farm Photos for The Statesman)

Farmers Union To Meet Saturday

The annual meeting of the Marion County Farmers Union will be held at Mayflower Hall, Saturday, starting at 10:30 a.m. The morning program will include a talk by

a member of the soil conservation group, along with legislative reports by the Metama local, an agricultural report by the Bethel local, the educational report by the Gervais local and the cooperative report by the Central Howell local.

Joe Bernt, Mt. Angel, is program chairman.

Earl Newbery, secretary of state, will be the featured speaker for the afternoon session.

Officers for the new year will be elected following a report from the nominating committee including Alois Duda, Ed Zimmerman and Hubert Esser.

A no-host luncheon will be held at noon.

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Farm Calendar

- Nov. 5-4—Western Oregon Live-stock Association annual meeting, Gold Beach.
- Nov. 5—Annual meeting Willamette Basin project committee, American Legion Hall, Albany, 9:30 a.m.
- Nov. 5—Oregon Poultry Hatchery annual meeting Mallory Hotel, Portland, 12 p.m.
- Nov. 6—Marion County Farmers Union annual meeting, Mayflower Hall, 10:30 a.m.
- Nov. 8-10—Agricultural Cooperative Council, Portland.
- Nov. 8-10—National Reclamation Association annual meeting, Multnomah Hotel, Portland.
- Nov. 8—Farmers Night at Mt. Angel Business Men's meeting, 6:30 social hour; 7 p.m. dinner, St. Mary's Dining Hall.
- Nov. 9—DHA1 supervisors County Agents conference, Withycombe Hall, 9 a.m.
- Nov. 9—Polk County 2-4 Club, Rickreall Grange hall, 6:30 p.m. banquet.
- Nov. 11-13—Oregon Wool Growers Association, Roseburg.
- Nov. 11—Dinner honoring E. L. Peterson, out-going director of Oregon Agricultural Department, and incoming director, James Short, Neighbor's of Woodcraft Hall, Portland, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 13—Farm Festival sale, 10 a.m., Marquam Methodist church.



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Huge Rock No Meteorite

SALT LAKE CITY (U)—For many years the large ore specimen rested in Utah's statehouse and bore the label "meteorite."

Secretary of State Lamont F. Toronto became suspicious of the label. The geology department at the University of Utah confirmed that the specimen was of geological and not meteorological interest.

Inquiry revealed it came from the Victoria mine near Eureka, weighed 1,300 pounds or more and contained lead, silver, gold and copper.

It reached the state house as part of a Jubo County exhibit and wound up in a dusty corner. Brought out later, it somehow got the "meteorite" label.

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