

Farm Labor Lightened by New Machines

Future Farming Equipment Output to Be Novel and Large

By Lillie L. Madsen
Farm Editor, The Statesman

The farmer who makes real money from now on will be the farmer who will work out a balanced program for his farm—a balance of harvested feed with farm livestock needs, of livestock against available pasture, equipment against equipment requirements. This is the information which comes from our national as well as our state farm economists.

The last mentioned balance, farmers have stated in recent weeks, will be the toughest assignment.

The reason for this is not only because it is going to be difficult to obtain the equipment. Just as strong a reason is that when the equipment becomes available, the farmer said, "it will be hard to stop buying because we have gone without it so long." It would be easy, he added, to go on a buying spree.

However, farm machinery must be adequate for needs without becoming a capital burden.

Farm machinery manufacturers finally relieved of armament producing, are full of new machinery ideas to make farming attractive to the returning soldier-farmer whose hands and mind have been full of wheels and machinery for the past four years.

Smaller Tractors

Modern farm tractor power, hitherto considered commercially profitable in general farming only on farms with 40 crop acres or more, will be made available with comparable economy and efficiency to the 58 per cent of all United States farms which have smaller crop acreages.

Several manufacturers are working on light tractors which will be welcomed by the five- and ten-acre farmers here in the valley.

New hay machinery galore is in the offing. New types of power take-off operated side delivery tractor rakes; machines to cut, chop and load green hay and grass in the field; self-feeding pick-up balers to operate from windrows; machines for chopping dry hay in the fields, many types of automatic hay bales and loader machines; the one-man hay baler, etc. others.

But other fields have not been neglected in post war farm machinery planning. Some of the machines are already perfected, others nearly so. New machinery has been designed with an eye to those important soil management essentials to conserve and increase the farmer's most important asset—soil fertility. The new sprayers for fluid manures are included here.

There are self-propelled combines, highway mowers, power loaders which ease out the scow and fork, new smaller and lighter corn pickers, cut-off corn pickers, sugar beet harvesters which will top, dig and elevate to the truck, potato machines which, when perfected, will dig and sack in one operation.

Touch Control

One of the big new features in farm machinery is the touch or hydraulic implement control. With this system, a light touch of a finger on a small lever located within convenient reach of the operator raises or lowers the attached equipment, besides regulating the precise depth of its penetration into the ground. Implements can be regulated and adjusted without stopping work, while the tractor is in motion.

When available? That's a question even the manufacturers wish they could answer. In some instances it won't be too long, they say. It takes time to convert from armament to farm machinery. Both material and skilled labor are still scarce; there are strikes to contend with. Local dealers are more or less of the opinion that it will be late in summer, or perhaps even fall, before any quantity of machinery is available. Some of the farm machinery designed for post-war farming will not be offered on the market before 1947.

Some Available

The J. J. Case farm equipment company reports it has been "releasing some equipment at its stores right along, although not in quantities large enough to supply the demand."

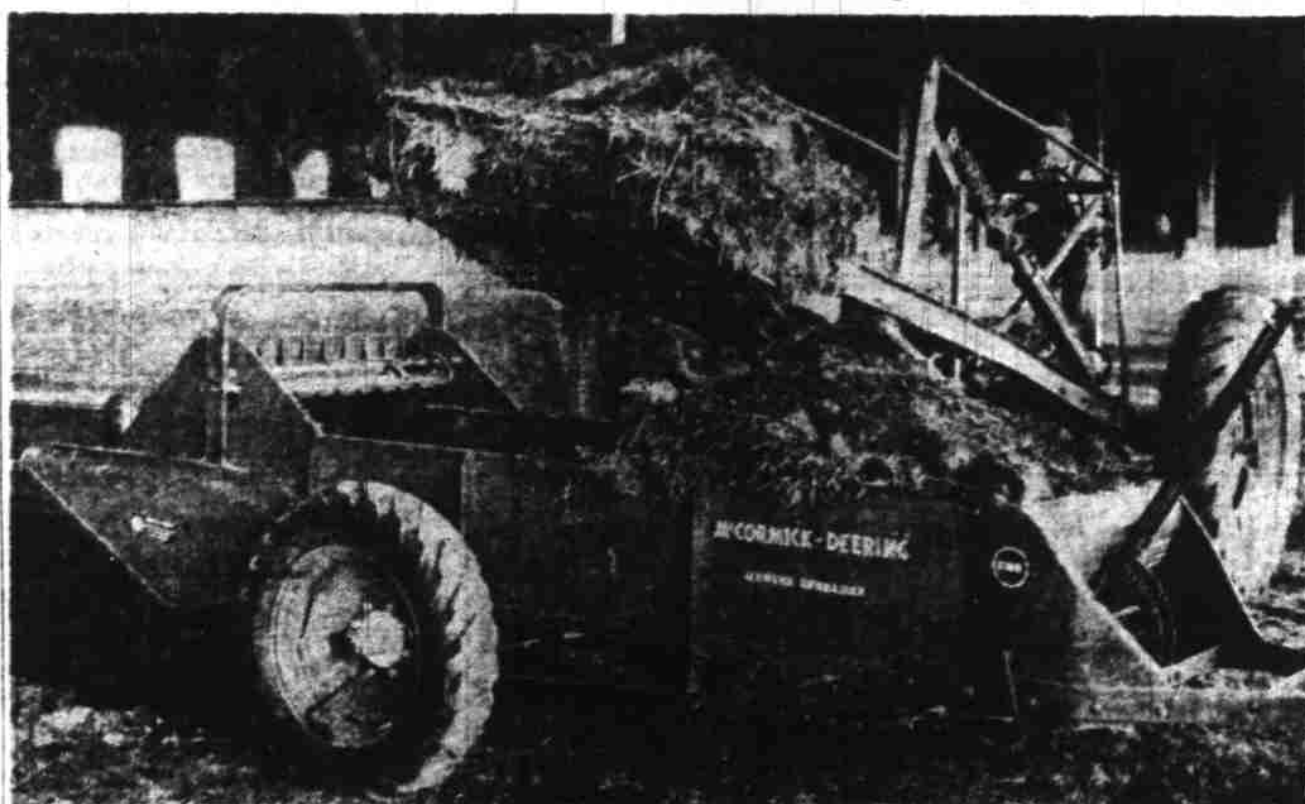
Allis-Chalmers managers say that "both the one-man pick-up baler and the side delivery tractor rake are postwar machines scheduled for production as soon as manufacturing facilities can be provided, and are not available for some months to come."

Some of the International Harvester company output is now available in small quantities. But a fully small, dealers say, as they look down their by-no-means small list of farmers waiting for this or that piece of equipment.

Two accompanying pictures show a post-war piece of equipment which will be appreciated greatly by farmers when it becomes available. Other equipment will be shown in future issues of The Statesman's farm page.

Willamette Valley Farmer

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



Postwar farming will see the tractor-operated loader replacing the scow and fork. The new loader, introduced by International Harvester at a recent big field demonstration of postwar farm equipment, attaches to tractors and is operated by lift-all control. Tines adapt the loader for use as a fork, and a tine cover adapts the loader for use as a scow. These views show the loader employed in its two major uses.



Bigger and Better Roasting Chick Is Goal of Contest

Noel Bennion, well known in the Willamette valley for his poultry talks, has accepted membership on a national committee on procedure and awards in connection with a three-year national contest to stimulate breeding of better type chickens for meat purposes.

This contest, conducted under the terms of a private grant of \$5000 for awards alone, is designed to develop the chick of tomorrow, says H. L. Shrader, federal extension poultry husbandman, who notified Bennion of his appointment.

Bennion believes emphasis on breeding of better meat type chickens will be of real benefit to Oregon where larger numbers of these birds are grown for both local use and export. Breeders here have as their goal a meat type chicken comparable to the broad breasted Bronze turkey developed in this state.

Bennion is extension poultryman at Oregon State college.

State Research Specialist Lauds Lodgepole Pine

Lodgepole pine stands in Oregon, now practically ignored by commercial lumber operations, may become valuable as a source of poles, says John B. Grantham, research specialist at the Oregon forest products laboratory.

Poles from lodgepole pine have greater strength than western red cedar, he reports, and have less weight than Douglas fir. All three species have about the same weight-strength ratio. Existing preservatives may be used to advantage with these poles, he adds.

At present there is an acute shortage of pole material.

If Experiment Holds Mary's Little Lamb Won't Drag Her Tail

If North Dakota experiment station wins out on its idea first come to light in 1913, sheepmen may be able to save themselves from one of their most unpleasant spring-time lambing chores—docking.

In 1913, the station brought a tailless fat-rumped breed of sheep in from Siberia. Since then, the experimenters have been crossing to improve mutton and wool quality, neither of which was good in the importation.

The station reports that now it has a Notail flock, white not 100 per cent tailless, it nevertheless is possessed largely of either no tails at all, or such short tails that docking is not required.

One more crossing, officials state, and they hope the breed will be "set."

Long before the manufacture of paper in China or by the Nile, wasps were producing wood pulp for their nests.

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Farmers Face Heavy January Date Schedule

Oregon farmers are facing a busy month of meetings in January. Many of the annual farm organization meetings have been set for this month, considered one of the "easy" months on the farm. Special meetings, including informational and educational, have all been arranged for January this year.

On Friday, Jan. 4, the Marion county dairy cattlemen will meet at Mt. Angel for an organization meeting of the Marion County Breeders' association. Artificial insemination arrangements will be the purpose of this meeting, called for 8 p. m.

On Saturday, Jan. 5, the state Farmers Union will hold its annual meeting at the VFW hall, Salem.

Monday, Jan. 7, the farmer committees from all Oregon counties will gather at Corvallis for their opening of a three-day annual AAA conference.

Wednesday, Jan. 9, will see the opening of two meetings. The Oregon Dairymen's association will begin a two-day session at Salem. The golden anniversary of the Oregon Wool Growers association will open at Pendleton.

Jersey Sale

Tuesday, Jan. 15, Oregon Seed Growers league will meet at Portland for a two-day session. The famous Laws Jersey sale at Gresham has also been scheduled for that day and will draw a number of valley folk.

A state-wide marketing conference will open at Oregon State college for a three-day session, January 15.

On Sunday, Jan. 20, the Marion county Jersey Cattle club will hold its annual meeting at Bethel school.

The stockholders of the Willamette Production Credit association, of which George H. Fullenwider is president, will hold its annual luncheon and business session, Thursday, Jan. 24 at Salem, the exact place yet to be announced.

The Oregon Jersey Cattle club will hold its annual business session and dinner at the Marion hotel, Saturday, Jan. 26.

Cull Sheep Showing Jaw Defects, Advice

The United States department of agriculture research has revealed that sheep with jaws of unequal length are not so good producers of meat and wool as normal sheep. Since the condition is hereditary, the department suggests that sheepmen should cull their flocks and use for breeding only sheep free from this defect.

The scientists have observed that the abnormality occurs rather frequently and becomes more pronounced as the animals develop from birth to maturity.

Wilster Studies Milk And Cheese Methods

Dr. G. H. Wilster, head of the dairy manufacturing instructional and research work at Oregon State college, has taken sabbatical leave for one year to accept a special research assignment at the University of Illinois.

Dr. Wilster is working on a fellowship in the department of dairy husbandry conducting a special study on factors involved in the preservation of whole milk powder. He also will have an opportunity to do some special work in cheese manufacturing.

P. M. Brandt, head of the dairy department, believes the year at Illinois will prepare Dr. Wilster for still more extensive service to the Oregon dairy industry. Because of the low enrollment of men at the college, instructional duties are also low this year. These, it is expected, will greatly increase when the men who have been at war return to college.

Oregon Dairy Meeting Has Big Program

Federal controls affecting the dairy industry, quality maintenance, the dairy council work, and the outlook for artificial breeding are some of the main program features for the annual session of the Oregon Dairymen's association at the Salem Chamber of Commerce Jan. 9 to 11 inclusive.

First day is devoted entirely to committee meetings, while the afternoon of the second day is given over to individual meetings of the three principal breed associations. The annual banquet is Thursday night at the Marion hotel where Governor Earl Snell will be one of the speakers.

Holiday to Talk

President Lee Holiday of Klamath Falls will open the regular session Thursday morning with the annual presidential address. Other topics and speakers that day are "Controlling the Controls," by Paul Messer, executive secretary of Pacific States BEC & P association, and "Price Supports," by G. A. Brown, manager of Portland Challenge office.

Friday program features are "Quality Program Faced by Dairy Industry," O. K. Beals, chief in foods and dairies, state department of agriculture; "Program of the Foods and Drugs Administration of USDA," by Kenneth L. Menfore, chief Seattle office; "The Dairy Council Visits An Oregon County," Mrs. Mary Kruger and Miss Grace Workman; "New Developments in Artificial Insemination," Dr. Fred F. McKenzie, OSC, followed by committee reports and business meeting.

WORLD'S HERDS DECREASE

There has been a slight decrease in world cattle numbers, which now are estimated at 711,000,000 head, two per cent less than the 1936-40 average of 723,000,000. Further reduction in world cattle numbers during 1945 is indicated. Reports indicate that Russia suffered the highest rate of decline among great cattle producing nations. The Philippines show a reduction of 62 per cent in cattle numbers between 1939 and 1945.

Oregon Raised Four Million Crop Tons, '45

Total production of the principal Oregon field, fruit, truck and seed crops in 1945 approximated 4,207,100 tons, the Crop Reporting Service said at the end of the year. This about equals the heavy production of 1944 and 1943 but is 25 per cent above the average production during the 10-year period 1930-1939.

Reviewing briefly, crop production in Oregon, as throughout the nation, was fortunately on a very high level during all of the war years. In 1939, crop production in Oregon totaled about 3,570,600 tons, but by 1941, it had increased to 3,908,300 tons and in 1943, the peak year, the total stood at 4,209,600 tons. This increase was accomplished both by an expanded acreage and better than average yields brought about mainly by unusually favorable weather conditions. Tree fruit production did not change materially while the output of small fruits declined during the war years.

Cash Receipts Increase

An estimate of cash receipts from the farm marketings during the 1945 calendar year is not yet available. However, during the first nine months of 1945, cash farm income from crops totaled \$93,100,000, the cash income from crops during the calendar year 1944. While this presents a very favorable picture for the war years, it should at the same time be realized that production and handling costs were also greatly increased which tended to offset the much larger income, particularly for those farmers dependent to a large extent on hired labor.

Early season hop prospects were poor but a very favorable summer and fall resulted in a crop 19 per cent above last year. All hop production was also on a high level exceeding both last year and the average.

In comparison with 1944, the commercial apple crop was 19 per cent. Oregon's filbert crop was 23 per cent under the 1944 crop and the walnut crop was 10 per cent under the 1944 production.

There was a small increase in strawberry production but a decrease in raspberries and loganberries.

NITROGEN INCREASES CROPS

With promise of greatly expanded manufacturing capacity of nitrogen fertilizers, compared with prewar years, Oregon farmers can profit by increased use of this important fertilizer, says Dr. W. L. Powers, head of the soils department at the state college. Powers reported in recent fertility experiments an increase of 321 pounds of corn fodder obtained per pound of nitrogen used.

Cows Survived Enemy Better Than People

Reports from the Holstein-Friesian association of America indicate that dairy herds in Holland survived the enemy occupation better than did the people. The number of registered cattle shows a slight increase over prewar years and a higher percentage of young animals, as many of the older cows were slaughtered by the nazis.

The Channel Islands, home of the Guernseys and Jerseys, were in enemy hands for almost five years. There, too, the Germans killed many animals for beef, but enough breeding stock remains to bring herds back to prewar status, reports show.

Country Finds Wide Use for Alta Fescues

Alta fescue, an improved strain of tall fescue, is now used in Oregon both for its high forage value and as a profitable seed crop, in as much as it is meeting good demand in many parts of the country. H. H. Rampton said this week. Rampton is associate federal agronomist stationed at the state college and he has worked with H. A. Scoth, senior federal agronomist, throughout the period of commercial development of this grass.

The first selection of alta fescue was made by Scoth in 1923 from a four-year-old stand of tall fescue. The first seed increase planting was not made until 1932, while the initial commercial seed harvest was as recent as 1936. Since that time, the acreage has increased in Oregon to a total now estimated in excess of 50,000 acres.

Variety of Uses

Experimental results in many states indicate that the grass is suited to a greater variety of conditions in both eastern and western sections of the United States, so long as the average annual precipitation is about 15 inches or better.

These widespread tests show that alta fescue will thrive where meadow fescue, orchard grass, and perennial rye grass are used and will outyield these grasses, says Rampton. It is longer-lived than meadow fescue and perennial rye grass.

Popular in Oregon

This grass has attained wide popularity in Oregon because of its deep-rooting habit which keeps it green during the dry season long after most other grasses have turned brown. It is now used widely as a companion crop for subterranean clover.

Cotton moths migrate north each fall into the face of advancing winter—and death.

Ranch Ramblings

By Rural Reporter

Clackamas county lays claim to another unusual crop. E. A. McMough has harvested around 200 pounds of Regal lily seed which, it is expected, will clean about 140 pounds. Cleaning it is proving quite a job in the warehouse where John Todd is manager.

Cooperatives are expecting to do big business on the east slope of the Willamette valley. Stayton just threw its new large warehouse open to the public Wednesday and served coffee and donuts to several hundred visitors. Silverton has just completed a large new addition to its cooperative warehouse and Mt. Angel finished one to theirs early in the winter.

Three squash growers, hugging the Linn-Marion county line, are

using squash driers this year as a means of preventing decay in storage. M. C. Helms, Guy Aupperle and W. McGill harvested their squash carefully and put them on racks where they could subject them to a low-temperature forced draft heat. The idea is to dry out the outer shell sufficiently so that decay organisms have a hard time getting started. Without some such method the loss in squash held for the grocery trade is frequently terrific.

E. L. Peterson, state director of agriculture, has called a meeting, Jan. 3, 10 a. m., at the Marion courthouse to discuss the establishment of a rigid cherry fly control over the orchards of the county. Albany will hold a similar meeting Thursday afternoon; Dallas Friday morning at 10, and McMinnville Friday afternoon.

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