

Blueberry Harvesting at Aurora Farm Underway

Demand Now Exceeding Supply

By BEN MAXWELL
Capital Journal Writer

Blueberries now being harvested from about 25 acres in Marion county averaged three quarters of a ton to the acre in 1955 and with the prevailing 1956 price of 22 cents a pound paid by processors should yield producers in the neighborhood of \$10,000.

Fruit now being harvested at the blueberry farm of Ray Leach, president of the Blueberry Growers association of Oregon, from a four-acre planting near Aurora is expected to yield a profitable crop from bushes four to seven years of age. Oregon Blueberry Growers association consists of about 70 members who have a total of 125 acres.

Also Has Nursery

Leach, who not only is a producer but also a blueberry nursery man, states that 10 years are required for a planting to come into full production and that an established plantation has a profitable duration of from 40 to 60 years. Most of Oregon's blueberries are grown in fields ranging from one half to five acres though there are some plantations up to 20 acres. A small profit may be anticipated after the fourth year.

Blueberries are a member of the vaccinium family. The variety corymbosum, sometimes called high bush blueberry, and the variety of culture, is particular about soil conditions. It delights in an acid soil and grows best where the soil is loose and aerated and rich in organic matter. On heavier, loam soils it is desirable to loosen the soil by addition of sawdust, peat, sand or leaf mold. Where sawdust is used addition of nitrogen in the form of sulphate of ammonia is feasible since the plants are demanding in respect to nitrogen. A soil that will grow good rhododendrons or azaleas will likely produce fine blueberry bushes.

Most Need Irrigation

Most blueberry plantings in the Willamette valley are advantageously irrigated by an application of water every 10 to 14 days during the summer.

Early this week Leach was picking Atlantic, a mid-season variety harvested early in July and producing about 75 to 80 berries to the cup. An earlier variety was harvested between June 15 and July 10; a later variety will be picked after July 25. Average picking season for each of the varieties is three to four weeks. Leach's plantings have 870 plants to the acre.

More Than 40 Varieties

More than 40 varieties of blueberries have been introduced commercially during the past 50 years. Only a few have survived the test of time. Atlantic is one of the favorites. A new variety, Berkeley, lately developed by the department of agriculture, has promise as a worthwhile introduction. Berries from Berkeley are exceptionally large, 70 to the cup not being exceptional. Other promising new varieties are Colville and Ivanhoe.

Highbush blueberries in their native state are indigenous to the Atlantic coast and were brought under cultivation about 1910. Huckleberries found along the Oregon coast are evergreen blueberries and those on Cascade slopes are mountain blueberries though they, too, are called huckleberries.

SAFETY PAYS ON HIGHWAYS

Falls kill about 2,000 or more farm residents each year and injure many thousands of others. Work falls occur chiefly in barns and other buildings, but also from hay racks and haystacks, scaffolds, ladders, and trees. Home falls happen most frequently on stairs, but they include also many slipping and tripping mishaps.

'Safety Pays All Ways' Theme Of Annual Farm Safety Week

July 23-29 has been designated by President Eisenhower as the 13th National Farm Safety Week, with the slogan for the week, "Safety Pays All Ways."

In proclaiming Farm Safety Week, the President reminded that more farm workers died by accident last year than workers in any other major industry and pointed out that experience in industry has proven accident prevention measures always pay.

"The annual observance of Farm Safety Week has done much to direct national attention to the need for constant observance of safety precautions on the part of all residents and workers on the farm," the President said in his proclamation, then added:

"I request all persons and organizations interested in the welfare of farm people to join in this campaign to reduce the tragic loss of life."

Cosponsoring the campaign with the U. S. Department of Agriculture is the National Safety Council, whose president, Ned H. Dearborn, said, "The meaning behind the Farm Safety Week keynote slogan

Harvesting Blueberries on Aurora Farm



Ray Leach, president of the Blueberry Growers Association of Oregon, displays a cluster of large berries produced on the recently introduced variety, Berkeley. Berries from this variety run about 70 to the cup as compared with 75 to 80 for the standard variety, Atlantic. Harvesting of blueberries is now going on at Leach's four-acre planting near Aurora. (Capital Journal Photo.)

Grazing Methods in New Zealand Told

Opportunities for expansion in sheep and cattle numbers on western Oregon farms await only a practical demonstration by someone to show what is possible using the New Zealand grazing system in the opinion of Ron Buick, who is spending a month in this area on a visit from his homeland at Masterton, N. Z.

Application of phosphate "to feed the clovers to take nitrogen from the air for the grasses to feed on" and enough forage eating animals to maintain the grass below two inches in height are cornerstones of N. Z. pasture management.

Heavy Concentrations

To control the grass, New Zealanders stock their land with concentrations that seem fantastic to Oregon farmers. Buick had 2000 year-old lambs and 250 steers 2½ to 3½ years old eating the grass on his 400-acre farm this spring. During the winter, with the help of 20 acres of turnips, he ran 2000 lambs and 40 cattle.

Much of the land in New Zealand is carrying five ewes per acre along with replacement yearlings and the usual crop of lambs and an additional one head of cattle per acre. Areas of more uniform rainfall have raised this to 10 ewes and other stock per acre.

The Masterton area, where Buick is located, is one of the drier districts. Rainfall is 30 inches per year, temperatures range from 90 high in summer to 16 low in winter.

Short Herbage

"Short herbage is of much more nutritive value and we have proven that parasites are not a serious problem where the grass is kept short," Buick stated. Some of the best pastures annually produce up to two tons of protein per acre.

New Zealand, which is about the same size as Oregon, has 32 million sheep and two million milking cows. This is 46 times as many sheep and eight times as many cows as Oregon.

Dearborn then addressed this message to all farm people: "We have been brought up with the traditional American admiration for boldness and daring, and typical American admiration for the pioneering heroes who would never let consideration of personal safety deter them from adventure and progress. But your safety—work, on the highway, and at home—depends upon many factors beyond your control, and the safety of others depends upon many factors beyond their control."

"Certainly, you can do your utmost to protect yourself and those you love from tragic accidents. But that alone is not enough. What every rural area needs is an organized movement, a crusade against accidents."

"The main purpose of organized safety work, safety regulations, and law enforcement is to keep you from hurting others and others from hurting you. The most effective way to accomplish this is to work together for the good of all. 'Safety Pays All Ways'—if you work at it always."

Holstein Bulls Given Award

Two Oregon owned Holstein bulls, Hallrose Ranger 99015, owned by S. R. Hall, Troutdale, and Verway Imperial Ormsby Lyong 99332, owned by Oregon State College, have recently been recognized as Silver Medal Production Sires by the Holstein-Friesian Association of America. Awarded on a basis of performance of the bull's daughters as compared with the production of their dams, this recognition is accorded only a select few of the many Holstein bulls in service.

Records of the bulls show Hallrose Ranger as having 17 daughters with 12,596 pounds of milk for 500 pounds of live weight, the 17 dams with 11,828 pounds of milk and 470 pounds of live weight. Verway Imperial Ormsby Lyong has 10 daughters with 14,212 pounds of milk

as many milking cows as we have in this state.

Buick is not greatly impressed with Willamette valley pasture management but is quick to point out that New Zealanders are specialists in the business where as here each farmer produces a wide variety of crops. "The economy of New Zealand is based on lamb, dairy products and wool," he said.

Both Cattle, Sheep

Keeping pastures short eliminates the long blades of grass on which parasite eggs develop into the infective larvae stage according to Buick. New Zealand sheepmen keep many cattle and cattlemen also use sheep to "keep the pastures in order" since cattle can handle larger quantities of coarse grass and sheep bite closer to the ground than do cattle.

Southdown rams bred to Romney ewes give the crossbred lamb which are basis of the lamb industry except in the very rough areas of the South Island where the ewes run strongly to Merino blood.

The lambs are sold at much higher weights than here, maximum weight for top priced lambs this year was 36 pounds dressed weight which corresponds to about 75 pounds live weight. The most desirable weight is 32 pounds dressed. Price this year was 30 cents per pound on the dressed weight for number one grade.

New Zealand sheep have but two predators according to Buick. Kea or native parrots in the South Island strike sheep with their long beaks and kill by tearing away the kidneys. In hinterland areas wild pigs cause some loss by eating newly-born lambs.

Neither sheep or cattle are housed at any time during the year. Lambing percentage on the North Island last year was 86 to 88 per cent with more protected areas up to 100 per cent. Buick rotates his stock between paddocks of about 15 acres each. His grass pasture seeding is 32 pounds of certified perennial ryegrass plus 8 pounds of certified white clover. Temporary pastures are usually rape or turnips with chummoeller, a high branching kale-like plant.

Late in July, Buick with his wife, the former Muriel White of Salem, and twin sons, is returning to New Zealand.

Angus Affair Due July 15

The public is invited to a full day of Aberdeen-Angus cattle exhibits, contests and demonstrations sponsored by the Oregon Aberdeen-Angus association at Harold Ray's Hawthorn Farm, Hillsboro, next Sunday, July 15.

Carlton McCleod, Brooks, president of the association, says inspection of the noted Ray herd of puterbred Angus will start at 10:30 a. m. Many champions at former livestock exhibitions of the Pacific coast are included among the animals to be displayed, from the Ray and other leading herds in Oregon.

At 11 a. m. there will be a combined judging and weight guessing contest. Bull calves, heifer calves and fed steers will be included among the four classes to be judged.

Sherm Guttridge, former owner of Ox-Bow Angus ranch at Prairie City, will act as judge and explain his official placings after the noon lunch.

Fred Spencer, herdsman at Hawthorn Farms and Rex McPeckers of Alta Vista Ranch, Chula Vista, Calif., are to give clipping, grooming and hoof trimming demonstrations. Angus type will be explained by Bill Roche.

Plans for the annual fall sale of Aberdeen-Angus cattle to be held at the State fairgrounds in Salem early in November will also be discussed during the day.

Hawthorn Farms is located on route 1, box 312, Hillsboro, 3 miles east of the city on Airport road.

Schedule for Cereal Tour July 17 Given

Marion county's cereal tour, scheduled for July 17, will show the touring group the importance of fall grain fertilization.

First stop of the afternoon tour will be at the North Marion high school FFA and OSC cooperative nursery, here Dr. Wilson Foote, professor of farm crops at Oregon State College, will discuss the 80 cereal varieties present. Foote is in charge of the cereal plant breeding program at the college.

From the nursery the tour moves on to the Paul Singer farm, one mile north of Donald, Singer has pointed out that he lost \$800 by not following through an entire wheat field with his fertilizer program. During the stop at his farm fertilization and production practices will be discussed.

The final stop is to be on the Joe Zorn farm near Champego. Zorn has used up to 80 pounds of available nitrogen per acre on winter wheat.

All persons interested in grain production are invited to make the tour, says Marion County Extension Agent Hollis Ottaway.

Post-Harvest Strawberry Care Due After Picking Completed

After harvest care of strawberry plants does the greatest good when started soon after harvest is completed. Topping, shallow cultivation, root weevil control, weed control, irrigation, runner removal, and fertilizing are included in after harvest practices.

Although not all these practices necessarily apply to every strawberry planting, County Agent D. L. Rasmussen says some of them have general usage in this area.

Continue Weevil Control

Root weevil control should be continued as long as adult weevils are found in the field during the summer. This requires an occasional inspection trip through the field and baiting or dusting when the adults are found.

After harvest dusting of malathion or parathion will control strawberry aphids and reduce the spread of virus diseases. Oregon State College Extension Circular 385 gives detail on aphid control and copies may be obtained through the offices of county extension agents.

After harvest control and cultivation do much to save moisture and tide over non-irrigated plantings till the fall rains begin. If a grower cuts the tops off his strawberry plants, this should be done immediately after harvest or not at all.

Topping an Aid

Topping helps control foliage diseases such as leaf spot and gives partial control of the strawberry crown moth. Perhaps the greatest benefit from topping is that it prevents many weeds from going to seed, makes it easier to use equipment in the field, and does some good in conserving soil moisture for the plant.

Topping with a mowing machine requires careful handling to prevent cutting into the crowns. Some growers use rotary type grass cutters and other topping equipment.

After topping, close cultivation is easier than before. It is also easier to narrow the rows to the desired width.

Irrigation Recommended

After harvest irrigation is recommended wherever water is available. It should be coordinated with a weed control program, either by cultivation or by the use of chemicals followed by irrigation.

Timing of summer fertilizer applications is dependent upon moisture supply. Where irrigation is practiced, the fertilizer can be banded prior to irrigation. In dry land fields, the fertilizer can be applied before the fall rains but preferably not later than mid-August. Since conditions vary from farm to farm, no general fertilizer recommendations can be made.

How ever, not over 30-40 pounds of nitrogen per acre in a mixed fertilizer should be enough for the average strawberry field.

There are also other things besides cost to keep in mind. The value of other plant nutrients in some nitrogen fertilizers, such as sulphur in ammonium sul-

EQUALITY SOUGHT

Parity Term Usage Becoming Involved

Changes Made in Operation of System

By CLAUDE STEUSLOFF
Capital Journal Writer

Farm parity means "equality" or equal value for farm goods" and use of the term become so involved in our complex agricultural situation that Robert Moots, U. S. D. A. agricultural estimates specialist, has written a series of two articles explaining it in a marketing service publication.

Basic concept of parity was defined in the Agricultural Act of 1933 which set 1910 to 1914 as the period when a fair or reasonable relationship existed between agricultural prices and nonfarm prices. For computing parity prices, August 1909-July 1914 was designated as the base period for commodities which farmers sell, 1910-14 was used as the base period

Vote on Wheat Marketing Set For July 20

Farmers growing wheat will decide July 20 how they want to market their 1957 wheat crop.

Robert M. Harper, chairman of the Marion county agricultural stabilization and conservation committee, in announcing the date of the voting said farmers who will harvest more than 15 acres of grain on a farm in 1957, are eligible to cast ballots in the wheat quota referendum.

Polling places will be set up at convenient locations in the counties and growers notified as to where they may vote.

A two-thirds favorable vote will mean that marketing quotas and penalties on excess wheat will be in effect for the 1957 wheat crop.

Under quota, two price support to growers who comply with their wheat acreage allotments will be at the full level available—between 75 and 90 per cent parity.

If more than one-third of the growers voting disapprove quotas, the quotas will not be in effect, and the available price support on the 1957 wheat crop to those who comply with farm wheat acreage allotments will be at a level of 50 per cent of parity.

Harper emphasized that the vote is on wheat marketing quotas and not wheat allotments. Whether or not the vote is favorable on the quotas, acreage allotments will be in effect for the 1957 wheat crop.

Marketing quotas have been approved by growers voting in referendums for the past three wheat crops. Last year, 77.3 per cent of the growers voted favored quotas for the 1956 crop.

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for index of prices paid by farmers, including interest and taxes.

Congress has modified the formula from time to time.

Probably the most important use of parity prices is in federal price support programs. Another important use is in determining the need for marketing agreements, or orders, for agricultural commodities such as fruit, vegetables, potatoes, nuts and hops.

Parity index is a statistical yardstick which measures changes in prices paid by farmers. It changes constantly and is calculated each month by the U. S. D. A. The April 15 index was 284 so prices paid by farmers were almost three times those of 1910-14.

Parity ratio measures farm goods changes in relation to what farmers receive for what they sell and pay for what they buy based on 1910-14 prices. As of April 15 the ratio was 82 so farm purchasing power was 82 percent of 1910-14. All farm products are lumped together in the calculation to get an average for all classes and grades of materials.

Parity price for any product under the original concept is obtained by multiplying 1909-1914 price by parity index and dividing by 100. Corn sold in the base period at 64.2 cents per bushel, this multiplied by 284 (April 15, 1956 parity index) and divided by 100 gives \$1.82, parity price for corn under the old formula.

To provide a more up-to-date pattern for computing parity Congress has made changes, the first of which became effective January, 1950, when the "new" or "modernized" formula came into use.

This modernization is done by using average prices for the preceding 10 years period. Since the index of prices received by farmers measures the average change from 1910-14 to date in prices farmers receive for their products, the new procedure converts the individual product prices to a 1910-14 level but at the same time maintains the relationship among commodities that existed during the most recent 10 year period.

The average price received for corn during 1946-55 was \$1.49 per bushel. During the same period the prices received index averaged 261 percent of its 1910-14 average. So the adjusted price for corn is \$1.49 divided by 261 percent or 57.1 cents per bushel. Since the April 15, 1956 parity index for corn was 284 percent of 1910-14 the modern parity price for corn, April 1956 was .571 multiplied by 284 percent, divided by 100, or \$1.62 per bushel.

The new price index is based on about 350 price series instead of only about 175 series used in the old formula.

"Modernized" parity raises the parity price for some commodities and lowers it for others so Congress has provided special procedures to avoid sharp reduction in the level of parity prices for the commodity prices which are lowered. Commodities were classed nonbasic and basic and different procedures were set up for them.

"Transitional" parity was used to provide gradual adjustment to lower levels for nonbasic commodities. The original formula parity price was reduced by 5 per cent during 1951, 15 percent in 1952 and 25 percent in 1954. Last year the original formula parity prices were reduced by 30 percent and 45 percent will be taken off each year until all nonbasic products have made the transition to the "modern" formula level.

Whenever the "modern" formula parity price exceeds the transitional price, it becomes the effective parity price. In mid 1955 there still were ten commodities in the transitional stage.

Recent legislation provides that for basic products, corn, wheat, cotton, rice, peanuts and most types of tobacco, the parity price is either the modern or old formula parity, whichever is higher. Beginning in January of this year the old formula parity for basic commodities will be reduced by 5 per cent each year until they reach modern formula parity levels.

On the basis of past records, the National Safety Council says that accidents are killing, on the average, about 40 farm residents each day and injuring one farm person about every half-minute.

SAFETY PAYS ALL YOUR DAYS

Machinery and animals always rank high as types of farm accidents. Whether it's alive or mechanical, it's how you handle such work helps that keeps them helpful and you unharmed.

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Commercial Rose Production, a Farming Specialty



Growth of miscellaneous nursery crops in Marion county in 1955 occupied 130 acres. Shown above is a rose budding operation on River ranch near Wilsonville where Fred Edmunds Jr. grows 70,000 roses for contract and retail sale. Standing in the background observing the budding operation by Fred Edmunds Jr. and Dave Myer, tier, is Fred Edmunds who served his nurseryman's apprenticeship with Cant in England and for 18 years was curator of the International Rose Test garden in Portland.

Roses Raised for Commercial Sale

Production of nursery stock, an expanding aspect of farming in the Willamette valley, now finds growers of roses for the commercial trade actively engaged in budding their understocks with popular varieties that may find a place in your rose garden two years hence.

At River ranch, R.F.D. Box 333, Wilsonville, Fred Edmunds, for 18 years curator of the International Rose Test garden at Portland, and his son Fred, Jr., are now engaged in budding 70,000 multiflora understock of the Tate strain with roses under contract, additionally they have a considerable block of their own budded with rare and select exhibition varieties for retail sale. About 10,000 cuttings are planted to the acre.

Young Edmunds has developed a technique of cutting buds from bud sticks that allows him to expel the wood from the bud as he makes the cut. This step in efficiency enables him to stick 1400 or more buds a day as he moves down the rows of thornless under stock. Also a 10 percent better take results from use of woodless buds.

Severe freezing weather of last November damaged tops of roses about to be dug but did not kill the buds. Most of his plants have now entirely recovered from freeze injury. Damage to the multiflora understock was negligible. With standards or tree roses the story is different. Most of those budded on multiflora superba were killed outright.

Bush varieties grown at River ranch are budded on 7½ inch cuttings stuck in October. Young Edmunds limits his production to about 70,000 plants, the equivalent of three carloads, because he can

then do most of the work himself except for tying buds and occasional employing hoe hands. He started budding about a week ago assisted by a tier and expects to have all of his budding done by August 20.

A block of about 140 varieties, particularly adapted to this region many being choice exhibition roses are grown on an acre set aside for retail production.

The spotted alfalfa aphid still has not entered Oregon, report state department of agriculture insect survey teams. Survey work is continuing throughout the state and is concentrated now in eastern and southern Oregon, where this pest may enter from infested neighboring states.