

Prune Processing Nears Peak

Drying, Canning Fruit Gets Under Way; Two Counties List 3900 Acres

By BEN MAXWELL
Capital Journal Writer

Drying and canning Italian prunes from about 3600 producing acres in Polk and Marion counties is now approaching a peak. In Marion county, where average yield last year was two tons to the acre, gross value of prunes to growers has been estimated at \$104,000.

At the Carl Gerlinger dehydrator on Dallas Road prunes from 230 acres owned by Gerlinger, Eugene McDonald, his plant manager, or under lease, are entering the dehydrator at a rate of about 1000 bushels daily. Drying started Sept. 6, and if good weather prevails will continue until early October.

This year prunes are drying at the rate of 16 pounds of dried prunes to 60 pounds of green fruit. Grover McDonald, stroyed property later.

Steps to Stop Infestation of Rats Told

With the approach of fall, rats begin their migration back from the fields, reminds Oris Rudd, Marion county extension agent.

They will be seeking any suitable shelter for the winter, open buildings, piles of lumber, debris accumulations, inhabited houses, any place which offers protection.

Now is the time to take steps to rat-proof premises to keep these pests away. A good place to start is in recovering piles of junk. Burn trash and old, useless lumber. Next, rat-proof all buildings, including the house. By building them out and destroying their favorite haunts you can discourage the build up of any great rat populations.

Don't think that you're safe from a rat infestation just because you live in the city, Rudd cautions. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that there are 50 million rats in city and towns—as many as there are on farms.

Suburban residents, particularly, will want to take steps to prevent rat infestations. If you have buildings which cannot be rat-proofed, then it will be advisable to set out bait as a control measure.

Warfarin will control rats if properly distributed. An apple box turned over a bait container makes a good bait station; or a piece of drain tile with bait put inside; or simply lean a board against a wall and place bait inside. The important thing is to see that bait is placed in dark, secluded places where rats may feed undisturbed. Warfarin is an accumulative poison so put out plenty of bait.

Rats cost the people of the United States an estimated one billion dollars annually in food eaten and contaminated, and in damaged property. No estimate has been made of the loss from rat-borne disease. A few dollars spent now for control can save many dollars in wasted and de-

Some Can Be Prunes, Others Plums



It depends on how they are processed to determine what the same fruit will be called when sold. Pictured at the top is a scene at the Gerlinger dehydrator near Dallas where 10 tons of prunes, dried by temperature up to 175 degrees, pass through the dehydrator every 24 hours. Below is the processing line at Blue Lake Packers, Inc. in West Salem where the same fruit is canned and sold as "Purple Plums." (Capital Journal Photo).

Gerlinger employes who have been associated with the prune business since 1911, relates that he has observed prunes dry 14 to 24 pounds on a 60 pound green basis during the past 40 years. In Gerlinger's modern, oil fired plant where a drying temperature from 170 to 175 degrees is maintained, 24 hours are required to process prunes from a green to a dry stage. Production is about 10 tons of dried prunes daily.

This Polk County dehydrator is not a custom dryer. At present about 50 pickers are employed in Gerlinger's orchards and 15 others operate his dehydrator.

Blue Lake Packers, Inc. are now processing prunes along with other crops. Canned prunes of the Italian variety are not now called such by the Purple Plum Association of which Blue Lake is a member. Rather 24 northwest processors label their canned Italian prunes as "Purple Plums" and their label asserts that purple plums "cost less than any other canned fruit." Blue Lake is also pitting and freezing some Italian prunes.

A first commercial planting of Italian prunes is attributed to Dr. J. R. Cardwell of Portland who set out an orchard in 1871 and built a dryer. Between 1890 and 1900 prune orchards became popular among tree fruit raisers and attained a peak in 1929 when some 188,000 tons were harvested. About one half of these were dried, the other half shipped to eastern centers.

Canning prunes reaches sizeable proportions in 1919 and a peak in 1946 when 3,575,000 cases were packed. That year there was a great surplus of canned prunes and processors figuratively ate much of their own pack.

13 Polk Farmers Sign for Soil Bank in 1st Week

DALLAS — Thirteen growers in Polk county had signed up for 246.5 acres of acreage reserve up to the first of this week the Polk county agent's office said Wednesday. The payments for these acreage reserves would amount to \$6871.33.

Last week a meeting was held here for those farmers in the county interested in the acreage reserve. Speakers at the meeting were Ted Duwood, state ASC officer; and Arnold Bodker, executive secretary of the state ASC committee, who explained the acreage reserve program.

Oregon, Washington Farmers Low in Development of Ponds

WASHINGTON — Despite a recent spurt, Oregon and Washington farmers have developed less than a quarter the number of farm ponds which the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) figures are necessary for proper conservation.

The agency's records show that Oregon farmers called for technical aid last year to build 221 ponds for livestock water, irrigation, irrigation sources or to control water runoff. It brought the total number in the state to 1,798. In neighboring Washington, an additional 118 ponds were placed in service, bringing the state's total to 1,115.

By contrast, Oregon had only 353 ponds in 1950 and Washington but 311. At the same time, however, SCS estimates there is a need for 6,503 additional ponds in Oregon and for 3,664 more in Washington. The service also reported progress in its program for improved water application on farm lands in the two states. This includes the regulation and improvement of all types of irrigation.

Notes on the News



"Which party had the mink coat trouble? I'm for them."

2,900 Cows Under Production Test by Marion County DHIA

Two thousand nine hundred dairy cows were on production test with the Dairy Herd Improvement Association in Marion County.

James Phillips, Silverton, president of the association, says August production was down from July with the average cow producing 736 pounds of milk and 84.4 pounds of butterfat. The 57 herds on standard test gave nearly two million pounds of milk and 45 tons of butterfat in August. Racette Brothers' Holstein No. 20 was high milk producer, giving 2,640 pounds in 31 days. She made an even 100 pounds of butterfat. Starlett, a milking Shorthorn in the C. J. Jorgenson herd at Jefferson made 2,250 pounds of milk and 112.5 pounds of fat in August. Top Jersey in milk was Ginger in the William Vogt herd, Salem. She gave 1,767 pounds of milk and 93.5 pounds of fat. The heavy Guernsey milker was a grade at Racette Brothers giving 1,710 pounds of milk and 79 pounds of fat.

James Phillips drew high honors for high herd average. His 39 Jerseys averaged 55.4 pounds of fat and 1,015 pounds of milk in August. Felix Muller, Jefferson was second with six Jerseys making 49.5 pounds of fat and 815 pounds of milk. Frank Gratsinger, Gervais with 63 Jerseys averaged 46.8 pounds of fat and 848 pounds of milk. William Vogt, Salem was fourth. His 23 Jerseys averaged 46.8 pounds of fat and 859 pounds of milk. Carol Ellison, Mt. Angel was fifth at 43.6 pounds for 18 cows and MacLaren School, Woodburn, and G. K. Austin, Aurora, each averaged 43 pounds of fat.

In addition to Phillips, Orval Hairgass, Jefferson and Van Flue Brothers at Silverton had over 1,000 pounds of milk per cow for the month.

Eight cows produced over 100 pounds of fat each during the month. Fifty-seven cows were above 75 pounds of fat and 16 herds were above the 40-pound fat average per cow.

Radioman Stays On Air 132 Hours

MERCED, Calif. — A young Merced radio announcer is claiming a record for continuous broadcasting—132 hours, 5 1/2 days. Ken (Castaway) Collins, 24, of station KYOS stopped the marathon radio show Wednesday night on the advice of physicians.

He lost six pounds. Station president Robert Garrett said the former record was 127 hours, set last month at Memphis, Tenn. Collins mostly played records. Fellow employes brought him food and liquids.

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Planting Date Advice Given

How late can I plant? This question is often asked at this time of year by farmers planting crimson clover and pastures and city folk planting lawns.

Marion County Extension Agent Hollis Ottaway has this advice about dates for planting. While crimson clover is often planted in late August and through September, the better fields come from the earlier plantings. Take a chance until the first of October.

Pastures are in the same category. They need some warm growing weather before early fall frosts. Plant this month. Although lawns are planted at heavier rates and will withstand frosts somewhat better than field crops, plant that lawn now.

A suggestion for field crops is to plant oats anytime, but wait until mid-October to plant wheat. The final answer hinges on the weather. If you can foresee a late, mild winter, take a chance on a later date, the county agent concludes.

YUGO REFUGEES RESCUED

VENICE, Italy — A Yugoslav soldier, three civilians and a girl student were rescued last night from a storm-tossed rowboat in which they had fled from the Port of Pola. They were taken aboard an Italian motorboat which found them in distress in high waves of the upper Adriatic. They asked for political refuge in Italy.

Longshoremen Session Opens

SEATTLE — A two-day meeting of the Pacific Coast Federated Executive Board of the International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union auxiliaries opened here Friday.

One of the speakers scheduled for Friday was Mrs. Hazel Meri, area director of the union's welfare trust fund. The federation president is Mrs. Valerie Taylor of North Bend, Ore.

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Premium List At Corn Show Adds Features

Trophy Offered Best 50-Pound Sack Picked Mechanically

Two new features have been added to the premium list for the 19th annual Marion County Corn show to be held Saturday, Nov. 17, at Central Howell school.

A trophy is to be awarded for the best 50 pound sack of corn, mechanically picked and shelled from the 1956 crop. T. R. Hobart, chairman of the corn show committee, said this is designed to point up growing importance of marketing superior corn with mechanized equipment. Much of this year's crop in Marion county will be harvested with specialized picker-shellers or adapted combine harvesters and then artificially dried for immediate sale.

Husbands, Wife Teams
Husbands and wives are to be given the opportunity to compete as a team in a new adult corn judging contest. This is to be held during the evening following the dinner to be served by ladies of the Central Howell Farmers Union auxiliary. The contest is open to city and country folks alike. Prizes will be merchandise such as corn flakes, karo, corn starch and other suitable products.

More than 50 entries are expected in the corn yield contest which will be divided into irrigated and non-irrigated divisions. Juniors and adults are to compete separately, minimum acreage for juniors is one acre, adults must grow at least 5 acres.

Corn Prospects Good
Hollis Ottaway, county agent in charge of crops, said corn prospects are a bit better than ordinary with crop likely to mature about two weeks earlier than last year. Several new hybrid varieties have been shown an excellent adaptation to our conditions.

Ten ear exhibitors will again compete for the handsome trophy which goes with the sweepstakes award. Catalogues for the show are to go out in about two weeks. They will be available at the county agent's office.

Not Available Now
Geige of Switzerland is the same company which came out with D.D.T. Furtig said Simazin is not commercially available at present but the company is active in the weed killer field and will no doubt exploit the market if further tests do not bring out hidden defects. Introductory sales in Switzerland made costs \$3 per acre where it was first used as a roadside weed killer. Geige controls Simazin under international patents, Furtig stated.

Many side effects still must be double checked after this first year's trials. Use of it might not allow growth of a cover crop because chemical remains may act as a soil sterilant. No information is available as to the length of residual effect in the soil or in the edible part of plants grown with it. However, the company is said to have worked out a simple formula for testing crop residue which has received approval of the U.S. Food & Drug administration.

Dark color and vigor of corn which is striking in test plots may be due to killing of nematodes or other soil parasites, Furtig suggested. In one trial, ryegrass and pig weed were liberally sown on the field but they failed to produce plants. Quackgrass and al-

The scientists, landed from the Russian expeditionary ship Ob, include Swedish meteorologist Erik Eriksson and geologist Walter Schilt and Norwegian meteorologist Nils Joergen Schumacher. The names of the Russians were not available.

The governor's office here said the scientists are lost somewhere on the wild Nordaustlandet—second largest island in the archipelago—near Murchison Bay. Blizzard and fog has hindered the search party.

The Norwegian state radio said a Russian helicopter had crashed while searching for the missing men, but that the crew was safely aboard the Ob.

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Simazin Termed as 'Dream Weedicide'

Report Given at Oregon State Field Day

Yield Trial Results
Yield trials at the experiment farm indicate that 25,000 plants (spaced 6 inches apart in 39 inch rows) per acre dressed with 150 pounds of nitrogen gives the highest yield for river bottom areas where irrigation is available.

R. E. Fore who is in charge of corn work said however this corn does not mature quite as early as when fewer plants and less nitrogen are used. The college corn was planted about May 1. It was given 1 1/2 inches of water on June 20; 2 1/2 inches in July and another 3 inches Aug. 10. Fore said he thought another application during July would have increased yields. He presented results of three year trials which emphasize the importance of keeping fertility in balance with water for high yields.

Corn Breeding Important
Corn breeding is an important part of the station corn program. 25,000 corn stalks are de-tasseled and capped with paper bags each season. In addition to maintenance of the inbred lines for production of the standard hybrid corn such as Oregon 355, Oregon 525, Oregon 150 and others, some 64 hybrids are being tested this year and will be harvested for grain and silage yield.

Fore warned the group that corn stalk rot is becoming rather common in the valley. It causes the plant to wither and die prematurely. Some varieties seem resistant, he noted.

Some experimental work is being done with two open-pollinated varieties of popcorn, secured from a grower at Roseburg. Fore is inbreeding the two and is in process of selecting for flavor and size.

More Chickens Given Tests
More chickens, but fewer turkeys, were tested under Oregon's poultry and turkey improvement program in July and August than in the same period last year.

Chickens and turkeys tested during the two months this year totaled 125,815, an increase of 23,060 over July and August, 1955. The testing breakdown was: chickens, 119,007, an increase of 24,431; turkeys, 6,808, a decrease of 1,481. The new testing year began July 1. It is urged for the first two months in detail too early to tell what the figure indicate a trend for the entire year.

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October 5 Set As Deadline For Soil Bank

Applications will be accepted from farmers for the acreage reserve of the soil bank until October 5 by the Marion county A.S.C. office.

Earl Johnson, office manager, whose office is in the Marion county courthouse, says his office will be open from 8 a.m. until noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday to assist farmers in signing-up for the acreage reserve.

The acreage reserve applies only to farmers with wheat allotments who agree to plant part or all of that wheat acreage to grass, sods, cover crop or summer-fallow so long as no harvest is taken from the land. Average wheat yield established for Marion County is 27.3 bushels but each farm has an average yield figure which is available at the A.S.C. office. This average per farm times \$1.24 a bushel is the return for soil bank participation.

Conservation reserve sign-up will start October 1 and the average payment just announced for Marion County is \$13.00 per acre. Contracts run from three to 15 years and eligible land is that which was in crops other than wheat in 1955.

Typhoon Hits Luzon Again

MANILA — Flood rains swept Luzon Island Friday as erratic Typhoon Gilda, packing 80 winds up to 130 miles an hour, slammed into the northern Philippines.

The typhoon struck Luzon for the second time as reports from Sorsogon Province in southwest Luzon said 7 died, 20 were injured and thousands were left homeless. Heavy property damage was reported throughout Sorsogon.

Gilda hit Sorsogon last Wednesday, veered out to the Pacific, changed course again and struck north Luzon and Batanes Island. Torrential rains fell in Manila and throughout Luzon. Gilda is the eighth typhoon to affect Luzon since Aug. 1.

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