

Valley Family Proves Expert In Many Fields

By BEN MAXWELL, Capital Journal Writer

J. B. Lorence and Sons, farmers of 966 acres in the Monmouth area, are producers of grass seeds, fescue, clover, vetch, peas, lupus, malt barley and a newly introduced strain of German rye, tetrapelkus.

To accomplish these extensive operations in a minimum amount of time and with greatest efficiency, they use a tractor equipped with a blade; a large wheel tractor of 4-5 plow capacity, two three-plow tractors, one two-plow tractor, two self-propelled combines, a wind tower and an assortment of disks, plows and harrows. Farm transportation includes two pickups, four trucks and three automobiles.

Best Equipped Shop
To keep all this machinery running at greatest efficiency and without any unnecessary loss of

time, the Lorences have probably the best-equipped, non-commercial farm machine shop in Polk county.

In their shop is a steel lathe with an 18-inch swing and an eight foot bed, welding equipment, power drills and a diversity of small power and hand tools essential for quick repair or part replacement on their array of farm machinery. "In our busy farming months of seeding and harvesting we can't afford a long delay from a breakdown," says Bob Lorence. "Waiting for a part from a Portland warehouse, or a factory in San Jose or somewhere in Iowa is out of the question. We don't wait, we make that part ourselves. That's why we have an expanding machine shop. And we're getting more shop equipment all the time."

To illustrate the point, Bob Lorence showed this reporter an unloaded truck bearing a grinder, power hack saw and a shaper recently acquired at an independence liquidation sale. "We're going to have to enlarge our shop before we can set these machines up," Bob remarked.

Build Own Equipment

J. B. Lorence and Sons not only repair their own farm machines, they also build equipment to suit their particular needs. In 1948, when farm machines were hard to come by, they constructed a self-propelling wind rower. Next they constructed a six-foot rotor tiller for row crops. It will work to a depth of eight inches and is powered by a 100 horse power diesel engine.

The tiller is driven by a torque tube, ground power is chain driven. Their buck rake, built of odd parts during war times when farm machinery was practically off the market, is self-propelled, and has a 16-foot lift of two ton capacity. When not in use for its designed purpose, it provides a convenient, adjustable platform for painting farm buildings.

J. B. Lorence and Sons do not so-called commercial shop work. They help a neighbor out now and then when his machinery breaks down but their business is farming. However, the family has more than a rule of thumb experience with tools and design.

One is a graduate industrial engineer, another has a degree in mechanical engineering and yet another Lorence is a graduate in farm management. They are qualified by training and experience to take care of their own design and shop problems.

Besides field crops, the Lorences run 200 head of sheep.

Landers and Paul Rutland, OSC shepherd, will conduct demonstration classes on shearing, preparation of wool for market, and care for shearing equipment. Each student will shear about 10 sheep during the two days. Equipment will be furnished by the school.

Instruction is open to any Oregon resident regardless of age who is big enough to hold and shear a sheep, usually about age 15, Landers explains. He says the school is designed primarily for folks with farm flocks rather than as training for commercial shears.

Some young "alumni" of the school have gone semi-commercial, however, putting themselves through college with money earned from summer shearing stints for neighbors.

Landers has conducted more than 25 schools since starting the program in 1951 with classes averaging about 14 persons.

OSC to Give Sheep Shear Lessons Free

Free instruction in sheep shearing is available this spring to both adults and youths at five two-day schools sponsored by Oregon State College, announces John H. Landers, OSC animal husbandry specialist.

Schools are scheduled March 18 and 19, March 20 and 21, and March 22 and 23 at OSC; April 11 and 12 at The Dalles; and May 10 and 11 at Prineville. Applications are available from county extension agents or high school vocational agriculture instructors.

Each two-day class will be limited to 15 persons selected by a committee that will review applications to determine individual need and possible benefit from the course. Applications should reach Landers not later than March 1.

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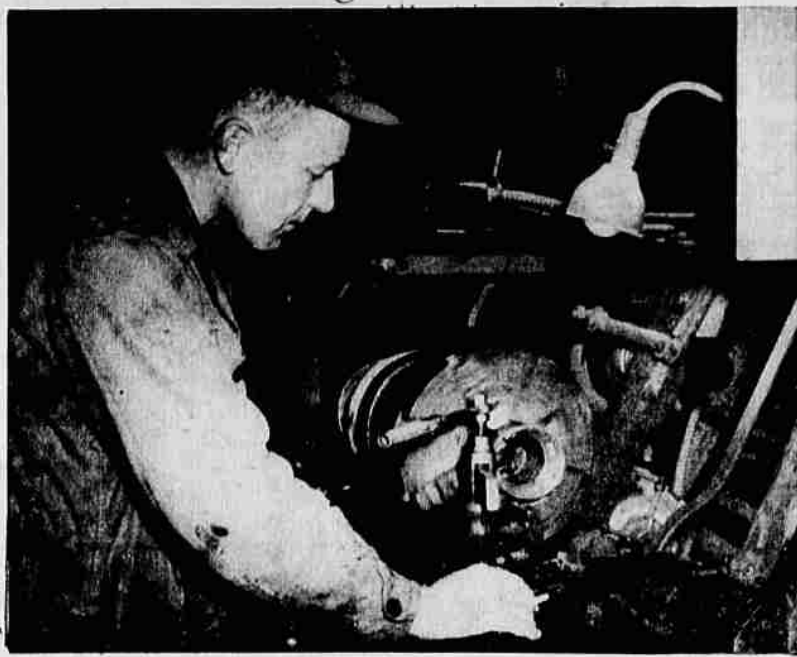
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Working on the Lathe



The picture above shows John Lorence working a bearing race on the J. B. Lorence and Sons shop lathe with an 18-inch swing and eight-foot bed. This big steel lathe, an initial piece of the shop's power equipment, is used in turning brake drums, shafts, axles and threads.

News of Farm

Edited by
CLAUDE STEUSLOFF

Sheepman Describes Lamb Improvements

Lamb production is best improved by selecting lambs with heavy weaning weights or twins from young mothers. "To increase twins in a flock, put twins from young ewes in to the flock as replacements," Terrill advised. Records show that twin lambs which weigh less than singles at weaning time gain "almost" all the weight back by the time they are mature.

"We need ways to select lamb carcasses for larger eye of loins, tenderness and meatiness but the question is, how can these be determined in live lambs," the speaker continued. The Belleville research station is now working on progeny carcass information which is the first step. As much as four pounds difference in feed needed per pound of gain has been found in certain rams tested.

Concerning wool, "grow the grade that is best adapted to your locality. In the Willamette valley I would select largely for fleeces weight," the specialist concluded.

Potatoes Losing Skins But Not Popularity
Potatoes are losing their skins but not their popularity, say Oregon State college extension marketing specialists. New commercially prepared potato products are finding wide favor.

The specialists report that the quantity of fresh potatoes used in homes has dropped in the past 10 years, but that processed potato foods are rapidly filling the gap. One out of every six pounds of potatoes today is used in some processed form.

Disorders of Strawberries Get Discussion
Soil sterilants, topped off with timely dusting or spraying, will control most strawberry plant disorders but they are costly and it is better to plant disease-free stock, Robert Every and E. K. Vaughan, Oregon State college specialists, told a berry owners meeting in Salem last week.

Nuclear stocks, which go out to selected growers of certified strawberry plants in Oregon, are grown in a locked and carefully guarded greenhouse at the plant propagation center in Corvallis. Fungi, insects and humans are kept out by various devices to insure purity of the foundation material which is grown in 25 plant flats.

Soil fumigants, applied at rates which would cost \$1,500 per acre, have given no significant control of red stele, one of the most bothersome diseases of Marshall berries. The new Siletz is at present immune but Vaughan said that through hybridization, fungi may become dangerous to Siletz at any time.

Vaughan warned that nematodes, which have caused almost 100 per cent loss in strawberry patches in the East, may at any time start work on Willamette valley berry fields. Thus far they have only been troublesome on Oregon vegetable crops but they are capable of attacking themselves in 1,700 species of plants.

"There seems to be growing resistance to some breeders trying to grow bigger and bigger lambs. I believe future improvement in our marketing of lambs will come from selling more, lighter lambs from our ewes," he stated.

Improved purebreds are needed to make the most gains in cross-breeding work and this will increase value of purebreds as the practice becomes more common, according to Terrill.

Groder Urges Single Group For Growers

"All strawberry growers and processors should be drawn together in one group so that broad industry problems such as varieties, production and use could be decided effectively," Roland Groder, Oregon State college fruit and vegetable marketing specialist, told a Marion county strawberry growers gathering last week as he outlined a forward look at the trade.

Consolidation in industries except agriculture has drawn a few keen, top leaders into control, he said. "In Oregon we cannot increase our strawberry farm size as they have done in other areas but we can get 50 small farmers to grow the same product and hire someone to sell it," Groder continued.

Groder stated that if farmers had kept cost records many would have been out of the strawberry business several years ago. The saturation point for berries was reached two years ago.

Storage holdings of strawberries in the U. S., as of Jan. 1, were nearly 200 million pounds, 39.3 per cent higher than the year previous. "To get rid of them we must move 33 million pounds per month, the most ever handled before is 21 million pounds," Groder said. "Freezer counters in retail stores of the nation have expanded rapidly but supplies are now ample and the question is—can the push be continued into homes of consumers?" he went on.

Groder noted that the Marshall variety, for which Oregon is famous, has size, color and eye appeal which led processors to pay a little more than for less desirable stock. But, there are indications that other improved varieties may be moving in.

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