

that, due to abundance, top quality Oregon apples are better values this year.

According to Oregon growers the ready-to-market crop of golden-green Newtown pippins deserves a high rank among the apples of the world. They point out that this variety possesses all-around qualities for baking, pie-making, salads and eating out of hand.

In additions to pleasurable appetite-appealing values recent research has revealed that the old advice "an apple a day" had more scientific truth to it than folklore. Besides high mineral content of iron and calcium it is found that apples contain vitamins A, C and G (B complex) plus regulatory pectin.

LAST COUNTY OPENS STAMP PLAN

Increased removal of agricultural surplus from Oregon farms was cited today by M. Louis Belangie, area director of the Surplus Marketing administration with the announcement that Benton county, the last county in the state had come under the food stamp plan on January 28.

Last area in the state to inaugurate the food stamp plan was Benton, Coos, Curry, Linn, Lane, Douglas, Josephine and Jackson counties. Oregon is among the first in the country to have the plan on a statewide basis.

Belangie pointed out that the complete cooperation of the State Public Welfare commission, county commissioners and welfare departments, the food trades thru their Surplus Foods committee, the WPA and public assistance families has made possible the rapid expansion of the stamp plan in this state.

It was estimated by Belangie that in a year's operation of the food stamp plan in Oregon approximately 62,000 public assistance persons will buy nearly \$3,000,000 worth of orange colored food stamps receiving nearly \$1,500,000 worth of blue surplus food stamps free.

The blue food stamps are good only for the purchase of surplus foods as designated by the secretary of agriculture. On the list at present are apples, pears, butter, Irish potatoes, onions, eggs, pork meats, lard, flour, prunes, raisins, corn meal, rice, oranges, grapefruit, dry beans and hominy grits.

Public assistance families are required to buy orange food stamps in the same amount as spent in cash for food prior to the stamp plan. In this manner the food purchased with the blue stamps represents added consumption of those particular surplus commodities which break down agricultural economy and income.

Participation in the food stamp plan is entirely voluntary among those eligible to benefit from the plan by reason of receiving some form of public assistance.

"The amount of surplus foods being moved off over-laden farms is indicated by figures for November which show 139,000 bushels of apples, over two million pounds of butter, nearly three million dozens of eggs, half-million pounds of potatoes, twenty-three million pounds of flours, all these being purchased with the blue stamps thruout the nation," said Belangie.

The health value of surplus foods to under-consuming families was also stressed.

"A blue stamp baby recently won the health prize at a mid-western fair while our figures indicate that stamp-users now eat more appes than non-stamp users," said Belangie. "The stamp plan in conjunction with the school lunch program is placing wholesome, healthful foods where it will do the most good in creating a stronger America tomorrow."

Last month 11,475 school children received hot lunches prepared from surplus commodities under sponsorship of various civic and school groups.

Willamette Project to Provide New Irrigation

If and when the Willamette basin project is carried to completion as now planned 1,345,000 acre feet of usable irrigation water storage will be provided in the eight dams H. A. Rands of the U. S. engineer corps told farmers attending the annual soil improvement short course held at Oregon state college the last week in January.

Rands reviewed the progress that is being made on the construction of the dams and said that the Fern Ridge reservoir on the Long Tom and the Cottage Grove reservoirs will be completed in time to store water for use in the 1942 low water season. These will provide a total of 125,000 acre feet.

Rands also explained that because of the rapid growth of the town of

Sweet Home where one of the major dams is planned surveys are under way to find alternate sites on the south and middle Santiam rivers.

The eight prospective dams taken together will create storage lakes of 26,800 acres or the equivalent of a single circular lake having a diameter of 7 1/4 miles.

INFANT DEATHS DOWN

Oregon's infant mortality rate declined approximately 1.5 points in 1940 from the 1939 rate the public health research department of an Oregon life insurance company reports.

The rate for 1936 was 36.6. The preliminary rate of infant mortality reported to the state board of health for last year was just slightly over 35 which would give the state one of the lowest averages in the country.

Livestock Farms in Coast Region Prove Successful

The establishment and maintenance of pasture on properly adapted cut-over and brush lands in Coos and Curry counties are relatively profitable as a basis for an expanding of sheep and cattle industry in that region according to detailed studies made by federal and state agricultural economists over the past few years.

The detailed findings of these economists Harold R. Hochmuth of the USDA and William W. Gorton of the farm management department at Oregon state college have just been published as station bulletin No. 381 entitled "Ranch Organization and Range Land Use in Coos and Curry Counties, Oregon."

Although many hazards exist in this livestock enterprise the returns are sufficient to warrant such hazards over a period of years, provide operators with a satisfactory income, and at the same time increase the general taxable wealth of the region.

The investigators found that the expansion of the livestock industry in this area in recent years is due to three factors. These are improved transportation, cooperation of forestry officials in the burning of logging slash and brush, and the introduction of improved varieties of grasses. It was found that improved grasses are an especially important item not only for that region but thruout western Oregon, where one of the major needs is the improvement of pasture growth in cut-over lands and in other livestock grazing areas.

The operators in Coos and Curry counties who have been maintaining these improved pastures the longest reported to the investigators that the amount of feed produced is now on an increase rather than decrease. The

gradual improvement in the pastures is being accomplished at little cost aside from the labor of the operator and his family.

It was found that the "theoretical average" ranch in that region runs 500 sheep, makes a ranch income of \$1533, a labor income of \$708 and returns 5 percent on an investment of \$33 per sheep.

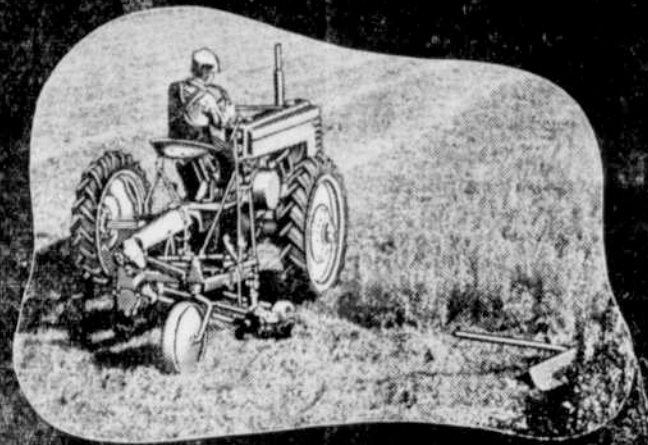
Big Grass Seed Tonnage Sold by LaGrande Firm

An Oregon firm, the Blue Mountain Seed Growers association with headquarters at LaGrande, has completed what is believed to be the largest amount of crested wheat grass seed ever handled by one firm. So far this season sales have totaled 326,000 pounds.

Growers received from \$9.16 to \$9.78 per hundred pounds, the latter price being for the Fairway strain. This seed was sold not only in Oregon but in half a dozen surrounding states and some in the middle west.

For some years after crested wheat grass was introduced in Oregon by the OSC experiment station the seed was high in price, bringing up to 50 cents a pound, but the supply has now caught up with the demand so that prices are reasonable. This makes possible its wide use for pasture and range improvement purposes.

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