

The Great Outdoors

Where Bread, Meat, Clothing, Health and Vigorous Humanity are Produced

Government Helps Wheat Gamblers

Shearers of Lambs Buy and Sell More Crops Than Exist

(U. S. Senator Shipstead of Minnesota in Dearborn Independent)

Talleyrand is said to have boiled down his philosophy, in substance, to the following: "Society is divided into two classes—the shearers and the shorn. Wise men join the former and avoid being caught with the latter."

After the bulk of the wheat leaves the farm, during the autumn months the price begins to soar. The "bull" movement reaches its peak somewhere between the end of January and the first of March. Then the "wise men" of high finance take their profits, the market collapses, the public shoulders the wreck and we have the "fleecing of the lambs."

During the past four years the country has gone through that shearing process three seasons, as follows:

Year	Peak Price	Shearing-time price
1825 January 28	\$2.06	April 3, \$1.36
1922 March	1.72	July 1.05
1921 February	2.02	April 1.23

Intrinsically, or according to the law of supply and demand, wheat was more valuable in the spring, when the price was at the lowest ebb, than in the peak-price winter months. Both the carrying costs and the diminished supply would have added to their value. But what has the question of cost or value to do with the gambling of the bulls and bears?

In three years out of four the market price on the grain exchange drops an average of 70 cents a bushel in 60 or 90 days. If the loss were confined to the actual wheat hauled the shrinkage on the American wheat crop would amount to hundreds of millions of dollars a year. But March 18 last Chicago alone sold 149,000,000 bushels of wheat "futures." During the week ending March 14 Chicago sold 527,000,000 bushels of wheat futures, or double the world visible supply. Early last season the department of agriculture aided the bull propaganda by estimating the American crop as below normal and less than 700,000,000, whereas we had a bumper crop of 872,000,000 bushels.

Then the "world scarcity" theory was heralded far and wide. Now it appears that the world crop of around 2,100,000,000 bushels is above the normal world requirement for consumption. Our department of agriculture, charged by federal statute with administration of the grain futures act, is in the position of aiding the false bull movement in grain futures which is the cause of the financial collapse with all its attendant evils, including the effect on the price of bread to 25,000,000 families.

The wheat skyrocket started from its Chicago foundation early in the late political campaign at \$1.03, soared to \$2.06 at the end of January, kept its high flight for about thirty days to \$2.02 March 2 and finally fell to earth below \$1.40 by April 3.

The average farm price will naturally net about 15 per cent below the Chicago "future," so the growers of the largely increased 1925 acreage may look forward to a farm price between \$1 and \$1.25. As this is not a political campaign year, they must not expect "rainbow" prosperity.

A wheat yield of approximately 500,000 bushels will be harvested in the Tule lake country this year, according to an estimate made by C. A. Henderson, Klamath county agent. Weather conditions this year have been better for Klamath farmers than in many years.

Fertilizers are plant food, not merely stimulants, and should be given in properly balanced rations.

Well made soy bean hay has about the same feeding value as alfalfa hay and one of the other should be used whenever possible.

By scientific seed breeding and selection the returns of the farmer's investment and expense can be increased more than in any other way. Much has already been accomplished.

Washington-Oregon Linen Mill Starts

The Birth of a New Coast Industry That May Mean Millions

(Aumsville Star)

Tuesday Mr. and Mrs. Nipple and son and wife and Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Bradley went to Vancouver, Wash., where they attended the opening of the new Washington-Oregon linen mill. Mrs. P. E. Thomason closed the switch that set the machinery in motion.

Supt. Crawford and wife and James Hawthorn, assistant superintendent of the state prison flax plant, B. C. Miles, wife and son, U. G. Boyer, county clerk, and George Ayer of Salem, were among the visitors.

The first piece of linen that came from the mill was given to Mrs. Thomason and the second went to Mrs. Bradley, who has been exhibiting the product to growers and others here this week.

J. F. Galbreth, in charge of the new mill, said that inside of ten days he would have a crew of men at West Stayton putting up the flax retting and scutching plant and it would be ready to take care of this year's crop.

Fruit Outlook

Raspberries are better than last year. The prune crop will probably be one-fourth of normal.

Evergreen blackberries were damaged more by the freeze than any other fruit.

W. M. Watkins of Sweet Home has a White Leghorn pullet three months old that is laying.

Oregon shipped 602 cars of cherries last year, but this year the crop will probably not be half as large.

Loganberries are a total failure in some localities, but there will probably be more in the state than last year.

In the Rogue River country peaches will give only half the light crop predicted six weeks ago. Hood River promises a 50-per-cent increase over last year.

There were shipped from Oregon by rail, boat and truck, aside from oats less than carloads, apples amounting to 5513 carloads of the crop of 1924. Of these 365 carloads went from the Willamette valley, 356 from Rogue River and Umpqua valleys, 4186 from Hood River and Wasco counties, 600 from Umatilla county and 450 from Umatilla, Union, Baker and Malheur counties. There will not be half a crop this year in this valley, but Hood River expects a 75-per-cent yield. Cool weather this spring discouraged the codling moth and the quality will be improved.

Reclamation Settlers Need More Money

Washington, D. C.—Only 10 per cent of prospective settlers on reclamation projects have cash capital of more than \$2500.

Settlers on new projects investigated in Oregon, Washington, Utah, Nevada and Wyoming should have from \$4000 to \$7000 to succeed.

This is the summary of economics reports made by experts as announced by Elwood Mead, commissioner of reclamation.

The statement results from a study of the reports made by representatives of the reclamation service collaborating with local committees of bankers and business men. The conclusion of all those participating came to the same result, Mead said, pointing out that local interests are found to concur with the outside investigators.

The problem presented, in his view, is making up in credit the difference between the capital the would-be settler has available and the sum he needs to see him through. Men with \$1500 to \$3000 can be secured in reasonable number, he says, and the federal or the state government must step forward with the advances which settlers must have.

Farms Pay 2 of Linn's Taxes

Halsey Next to Lowest City in the County per Capita

Tax statistics compiled by the Oregon Voter for every county in the state reveal the fact that in Linn county 30.72 per cent of the total tax is paid by property within cities while 69.28 per cent is paid by property outside of cities. In the state 52.64 per cent of the taxes are paid on property in cities and 47.36 on that outside.

Farm property pays 40.28 per cent of Lane county taxes and 25.97 per cent of those of the state. Here are the sources of Linn county taxes:

Outside of Cities	Amount	Per Cent
Farm property	\$454,473	40.28
Lumber and timber	206,557	18.31
Railroads and utilities	98,822	8.76
All other	21,969	1.94
In Cities		
Railroads and utilities	35,845	3.18
All other	3160,67	27.53
Total	\$1,128,333	100.00

The average rate in Linn county unincorporated territory is 32.35 mills, slightly above the average of 31.93 for all incorporated territory in the state. Within Linn county cities the rate is 58.8 mills, against 47.39 for all the cities in Oregon.

Following are the rates and per capita taxes for Linn county cities and towns:

City	Rate	Per Capita
Albany	58.2	\$44.25
Lebanon	64.1	38.57
Brownsville	62.5	29.77
Halsey	41.8	29.75
Harrisburg	53.6	33.57
Scio	66	30.62
Sodaville	41.2	9.13
Sweet Home	56.4	13.37

Halsey is next to the lowest per capita. Linn county will pay \$70,620 for high and grade schools and \$79,679 toward higher institutions of learning. Roads and road bonds will take \$345,835.

THE MARKETS

Portland

Wheat—Hard white, soft white, northern spring, \$1.59; western red, western white, \$1.58; hard winter and \$1.57.
Hay—Alfalfa, \$19@20 ton; valley timothy, \$20@21; eastern Oregon timothy, \$23@24.
Butterfat—42c delivered Portland.
Eggs—Ranch, 27@31c.
Cheese—Prices f. o. b. Tillamook: Triples, 26c; loaf, 27c per lb.
Cattle—Steers, good, \$7.75@9.00.
Hogs—Medium to choice, \$11.50@13.25.
Sheep—Lambs, medium to choice, \$6.50@11.00.

Seattle

Wheat—Soft white, hard winter and northern spring, \$1.60; western white, \$1.59; western red, \$1.58; Big Bend bluestem, \$1.63.
Hay—Alfalfa, \$24; D. C. \$28; timothy, \$26; D. C. \$28; mixed hay, \$24.
Butterfat—43c.
Eggs—Ranch, 32@37c.
Hogs—Prime, \$13.25@13.50.
Cattle—Choice steers, \$8.50@9.00.
Cheese—Oregon fancy to retailers, 27c per lb.; do standard, 25c; Washington fancy triples, 25c.

Spokane

Hogs—Good to choice, \$12.50@12.75.
Cattle—Prime steers, \$8.50@9.00.

Milk is coming into its own. Per capita consumption increased seven quarts during the past year, figures from the United States Department of Agriculture indicate.

It will cost less for a farmer to help a neighbor rid his fields of chinch bugs than to combat them himself when they cross his property line, says the United States Department of Agriculture. Wheat fields developing infestation should be sprayed in June, and co-operation helps.

Electric Fan Cures Fresh-cut Grain

It Is Done at Less Cost Than Under the Old Method

The 48th annual convention of the National Electric Light association is in session in San Francisco this week. Is it possible that forty-eight years have passed since there was first a field for such an organization? Forty-four years ago the editor of the Enterprise first saw an electric light other than the aurora borealis. It was used to light the boring of the tunnel for the coast railroad through the mountains between San Francisco and Santa Cruz. Two successive crews of Chinese workers had been killed by the explosion of natural gas in that tunnel while coal-oil lanterns were used, and in desperation the contractors resorted to the new light. The next year the same editor received by telegraph for his paper the account of the initial turning on of the current in the streets of San Jose, the first city on the coast to so use electricity.

A survey reported at this week's San Francisco meeting shows that 44 per cent of the homes in the United States, and 68 per cent of those within reach of electric service, are lighted by electricity. A good many farmers where it is available are using the wire-brought power. It is taking the drudgery out of washing, ironing, churning and many tasks on the farm and new uses are found for it every day.

Last year Charles Mead, near Ripon, Wis., cured the crop from a field of barley by using an electric fan. As fast as the grain was cut it was stacked around a framework in the shape of an Indian wigwam, under which was the outlet of a pipe receiving air from the fan.

A stack of barley 16 feet in diameter and 17 feet high was built over the frame. It contained 1450 bundles and was so built that all parts of it afforded practically the same resistance to the air flow. Tests of this were made by introducing smoke into the intake. In all cases the smoke came out all over the stack uniformly. The fan ran off and on for twelve days and consumed about 36 kilowatts of power, or about as much as was required for light in the house and barn in a month. When thrashed the grain was declared perfect.

Shocking and loading are done away with, the bundles dropping from the binder on a conveyor running to a basket rack and hauled to the stack. No grain is lost by shattering before it reaches the stack or eaten from the shock by rats, mice, squirrels or birds. No grain is damaged by weather. The field is ready for plowing or pasture as soon as the grain is cut.

We are much less affected by the weather than people were in former times or than people are in parts of the country where occasionally a "twister" comes along and tosses them into tree-tops and distributes pieces of their houses and barns over adjoining townships.

On a rainy day a family can go forty or fifty miles in a closed car, make a day's visit and go home in the evening, over a smooth pavement, none the worse for the weather, unless the chauffeur of the party finds it necessary to crawl under the car occasionally

to see what has made the blessed thing balk.

The day may be near when all the farmer needs in the way of harvest weather will be dry days in which to cut his grain and stack it in sheds and he will cure it there, rain or shine, all at less cost than by present methods. And there will be no more weather-stained grain.

Choice of Tractor Depends on Needs

Several Suggestions Made to Use as a Guide.

Before buying a tractor most farmers want to know what kind will meet the need of their farms. Because of frequent requests from farmers for help in this matter the engineering staff at the New Jersey State College of Agriculture, New Brunswick, has drawn up a group of suggestions which may be used as a guide to prospective buyers.

1. Choose from the ranks of those which have been tried by years of use, from the manufacturer who has a local representative with a stock of repair parts near at hand.
2. A reasonable amount of service should go with a machine of this type. See if your agent is in the habit of following up his sales to see that he has satisfied customers.
3. A belt pulley controlled by a friction clutch is usually desired. Study the size and location of this pulley.
4. A mechanical governor is very desirable for belt work.
5. At the present price of gasoline it is economical to have a tractor that will operate successfully on kerosene at any load.
6. An air cleaner is essential to long life of the engine if used in dusty fields.
7. A magneto with an impulse starter provides as nearly as possible sure ignition and ease and safety in cranking.
8. It is very important to see that the tractor hitch and implement hitch are suited to each other in height and lateral adjustment.
9. Most working parts should be enclosed, and run in oil.
10. A tractor pulling a two-bottom plow would suit most New Jersey farms on which a tractor can be profitably used. Some might need a three-bottom outfit. Only a few would require a larger one.

"Flushing" Recommended for the Breeding Ewes

Preparation for breeding is the beginning of the direct work for the harvest of lambs hoped for the next spring. The period of gestation in sheep is 147 to 150 days. The mating, therefore, should begin practically five months before the first lambs are wanted. The ewes should be gaining in condition at the time of mating. Such a condition will cause more of the ewes to come in heat quickly and to settle at the first mating, as well as a larger number of twin lambs. Changing the ewes to especially good pasture or giving a little extra feed beginning ten days before the breeding season, will serve to bring about this desired condition. This extra feeding, whether from extra pasture or additional feed given, is called "flushing." It has been recommended and followed by successful shepherds for generations and carefully controlled experiments have proved that good results do follow the practice. Trim off the excess wool around dock of all ewes. Neglecting to do this is often the cause of many ewes failing to get with lamb.

Rape on Sour Soils

When land is too sour to grow clover or alfalfa, one of the best forage crops for hogs that can be grown is rape. While rape will grow on poor soil, it will not grow as much forage as it will on good sweet rich land; but it will most likely pay to grow some of it for hogs. It would probably make more growth if you would plow the land first, and then work it down well with a disk before sowing the rape.

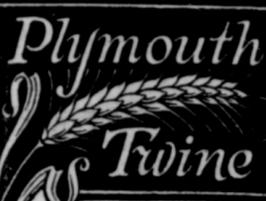
Clover Improves Soil

Sweet clover is a very good crop to improve the land. That is, where sweet clover grows well. It will not do well on acid or sour soil unless the soil is limed. Better crops of grain or corn can be expected after a good crop of sweet clover. It is not difficult to get rid of sweet clover. Buckwheat is a good crop to plow under to improve the soil, but not nearly so good as sweet clover because it is not a legume.

Pears Gaining in Favor

Pears are now a year-around fruit in the market and growing slowly in favor as a fresh fruit while their popularity as a canned fruit for use in various desserts is increasing steadily. The pear has an interesting history as it invaded the United States from the northeast and southwest corners of the country in the days of the early settlers.

Proper spraying of the early Irish potato crop has increased the yield 74 bushels per acre, according to tests made by Dr. R. W. Leiby of the North Carolina experiment station.



THE use of poor twine is likely to cause expensive delay in the rush of the harvest season.

Why take a chance?

Tying troubles are minimized when Plymouth brand is used. Made of high-quality fiber and spun to the Plymouth standard, which means smooth-running twine of uniform size, length and strength. Plymouth Twine is scientifically treated against insect damage, and can be furnished in either the regular or Plymouth Compact Ball.

HILL & C
HALSEY

Value of Crops and Live Stock

Weighted Prices Have Been Used in Estimating Worth of Product.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The combined value of crop and live stock production in the United States last year was \$12,404,000,000, which was \$56,000,000 more than in 1923 when the total value was \$12,348,000,000, according to estimates by the United States Department of Agriculture.

The higher figures for last year are due to the increased value of crops over the preceding year, inasmuch as the value of live stock production shows a decline.

Crop production had a farm value of \$11,404,000,000 compared with \$10,401,000,000 in 1923, but of this value some \$4,951,000,000 worth of crops were fed to live stock whereas in 1923 the value of crops fed to live stock was \$4,286,000,000.

Live stock and live stock products are given a farm value of \$5,951,000,000 compared with \$6,233,000,000 the preceding year, nearly all animal products having decreased in value.

Weighted prices have been used in estimating the value of nearly every crop and animal product, so that the figures are more nearly representative of the prices that farmers received than in previous years when the figures were based mostly on the average 1917 prices. The department points out also that the gross value of either crops or animal products last year was exceeded only in the years 1917 to 1920 inclusive.

The value of the cereal crops in 1924 was \$5,220,000,000 or 45.8 per cent of the total of all crops, as compared with \$4,138,000,000 in 1923 or 39.8 per cent of the value of all crops in that year. Every cereal crop increased in value last year.

The value of the corn crop last year is placed at \$2,890,000,000 as compared with \$743,000,000 and oats \$799,000,000 compared with \$554,000,000.

The cotton crop, including lint and seed, is valued at \$1,701,000,000 last year compared with \$1,657,000,000 in 1923. This increased value was due to larger production inasmuch as the average price per pound of cotton lint was lower than for the preceding year.

Hay and forage crops are given a value of \$1,783,000,000 compared with \$1,619,000,000 in 1923; the fruit crop is \$826,000,000 compared with \$649,000,000; vegetables \$1,018,000,000 compared with \$1,109,000,000.

Nearly all animal products declined in value as compared with 1923; the value of dairy products being \$2,580,000,000 against \$2,652,000,000 the preceding year; animals raised \$2,287,000,000 compared with \$2,440,000,000, and poultry products \$994,000,000 compared with \$1,038,000,000.

Brood for Bee Colony

Peaches, plums and some other fruit trees are furnishing enough nectar to stimulate the bees to brood rearing, and each stand of bees should have two or three frames of brood, if a good queen is present. It takes a good deal of honey to feed this brood; see that the bees have enough or they will dwindle away. The secret of making a big surplus of honey lies in having your colony strong and full of bees before the main honey flow starts.

WHEAT, CORN, OATS and BARLEY

Whole or Ground

FISHER'S EGG PRODUCER

Gives better results

O. W. FRUM