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Washington County Land Productive Crop Failures Are Unknown

By Wm. F. Cyrus, County Agricultural Agent

Silver and gold medal Jersey cows holding records for milk production for their age and breed. Bred Plymouth Rock hens that lead all others of their breed in the United States for egg production. Holstein cattle that are blue ribbon winners at Pacific northwest shows, and certified Netted Gem and Burbank seed potatoes that are the most productive strains of these varieties in Oregon have been developed in the eastern part of Washington County. High yielding, high quality crops and livestock aid in keeping the Washington County farmer from feeling the effects of economic depressions as seriously as do the people in some one crop areas.

Situated close to Portland with the advantage of a city market together with the facilities of rail and water transportation to all parts of the world there is the stimulus of a usually good market to develop the best in crops and produce, livestock products of the highest quality. Possessing a variety of soil types, all of them from the river banks to the tops of the hills usually fertile land, the county is well fitted to the diversity of farming conducted throughout its extent.

Producing more than 50 per cent of the fresh milk sold in Portland Washington County leads all the other counties of the state, except one, in the number of dairy cattle. Jerseys and Holsteins are both represented by fine herds in the eastern part of the county. J. J. Van Kleek and Sons are the owners of a Jersey herd in which there have been many gold and silver medal cows for milk production. J. A. Lindow and Sons have a fine Holstein herd which has won many prizes on the show circuit through this territory in competition with herds from all over the Pacific Northwest. There are many other herds of both of these breeds in this part of the county and Guernsey herds are also owned by farmers in this territory.

Alfalfa is steadily taking a more and more important place in the dairy farming business of the county. With more than 6500 acres of this crop, some of the older fields are in the eastern part of the county. Dairy men are finding that because of the high yield they can keep more cows on the farm. Some dairy farmers in this section have stated that raising alfalfa has enabled them to double the number of cows they were able to keep on the same farm. VanKleek reports that one field of alfalfa on his farm yielded this year six and two-thirds tons per acre. Alfalfa in this county is grown without irrigation and this yield is not unusually high.

Laying 330 eggs which had a market value of \$9.11 in 365 days was the record made in 1929 by a Bred Plymouth Rock hen bred and owned by W. A. VanKleek. This record was made in the Western Washington egg laying contest conducted at Puyallup. This hen produced more eggs than any hen of her breed in contests in the United States during 1928 and 1929 and tied with a White Leghorn hen for the largest number of eggs laid by an individual of any breed during that time. Her record gives her the distinction of being the second highest hen for all breeds in all contests in the United States for that period.

VanKleek hens have made records before in the Washington egg laying contest. In 1926 and 1927 a hen owned by this breeder laid 329 eggs in 365 days which made her the champion contest egg producer for that year in the United States. Consistently close attention by VanKleek to size of egg, vigor, health and size of bird in his breeding work has resulted in the development of a strain which leads the breed in production and from which there is constant demand for eggs throughout the year for hatching purposes.

Poultry raising, usually taken up by the farmer as a sideline to his farming business, has become throughout the eastern part of Washington County a highly specialized intensive type of farming. Under careful management a good income is being made both by the commercial egg producer and by the commercial hatchery. The White Leghorn is the breed that predominates. With an effective marketing organization close at hand that has built up a nationwide reputation for high quality the Washington county egg producer is in a rather favorable position. Prosperity for the commercial poultryman means prosperity for the hatchery.

Washington County leads the entire State of Oregon in the amount of certified Burbank seed potatoes grown. Most of these are grown in two sections of the county. North of Beaverton in the Cedar Mill and Bethany sections and on Chehalum Mountain. H. P. Strickler, Sherwood, was the first grower of certified seed in the county and most of the certified Burbank seed now grown on Chehalum Mountain came from the Strickler farm or from seed that did come from this farm.

Netted Gem potato seed grown by H. R. Findley, at Cedar Mill, are widely known throughout potato producing sections for their high yielding qualities. One carload of seed shipped to Yakima, Washington, by Findley and sold to growers there to supply the demand from that valley for his seed. High quality seed of the Gem variety equal to that distributed by Findley can be grown in this county and will find a ready market where they want good seed.

Netted Gem seed grown by Findley and planted in the plots at the irrigation branch experiment station at Prosser, Washington, had not shown a single diseased unit when the dis-eased count was made about the first of August. High quality seed grown in this county, packed and shipped

in a careful way generally gives satisfaction. Much of our Burbank seed has for some years been taken into California.

Further proof of the quality of potatoes from this county is shown in the winnings of exhibitors at the Portland show and at the Spokane potato show. First prizes have been won at Spokane, and first prizes and sweepstakes honors several times at the Portland show. Other honors have been won at the Oregon State fair at Salem, and at the Clarke County, Washington potato show.

Grain and forage crops hold an important place in the farming system of eastern Washington County. Eighteen farmers in 1930 grew slightly more than 300 acres of certified grain. Certification means that the grower is taking more than ordinary precautions to keep his grain crop free from mixture and noxious weeds. This improvement means better yields with the same preparation of land and a more ready market. High quality is again demonstrated in the grain crops of this section by the prizes won by farmers of this county at the Land Products show held at Portland each November in connection with the Pacific International Livestock show. G. A. Plieth and Sons living several miles southwest of Beaverton, have been consistent winners in the market wheat classes at this show. R. M. Scott, living in the same community, has won the sweepstakes on oats at this show repeatedly. Inlay Brothers, of Reedville, and H. R. Findley have also been consistent winners in the grain classes at Portland.

Red clover and alsike clover seed and vetch seed have for a long time been important cash crops of the county. More than 100 farmers are now growing a special hardy type of red clover to supply the demand for seed from the eastern states where the hardy type is demanded. The cash seed crops already raised a new one is now being added. This is the Austrian Winter field pea. As a seed crop they will usually give a greater return per acre than grain. Here again the seed is grown to supply an eastern demand. This time in the cotton producing section where the peas are used as a cover crop preceding the cotton.

High quality in walnuts and filberts has been attained by growers of Washington County through close attention to methods of production and planting on soils adapted to the growing of these crops. Ferd Groner, living at Scholls, southwest of Beaverton, is frequently spoken of as the father of the English walnut in Oregon and he probably deserves the credit. Through his efforts and leadership the Scholls section has been developed into one of the leading nut producing sections of Oregon. Groner walnuts are in high esteem wherever they are available and have received first honors at many shows.

Apples, pears and peaches are grown throughout the county. Strawberries, black-cap raspberries and peaches are popular crops among many growers and their popularity is accounted for by the revenue returned to the grower when under proper cultural conditions and management. Horseradish is a specialized crop grown in a limited way close around Beaverton which returns a handsome income to the grower. That part of the county east and south of Beaverton is blessed with considerable beaverdam soil. This is highly desirable for onion and truck growing.

Boys' and girls' club work is an important part of the farm life of the eastern part of the county. Livestock and crops club work is carried on from the office of the county agent, in charge.

Donald Jossy of the Rock Creek district is one of the outstanding club boys of the county. Donald has been a consistent winner at the Oregon State fair in the Holstein cattle division and this year has added to his projects by raising hogs and corn. John Lindow, Harvey Stoller, Roger Johnson, Leslie Johnson and John Hansen have also been winners in calf club divisions.

The Kinton Calf Club, J. J. Van Kleek leader, lead all clubs of the county for several years in honors won. John Strickler has made an enviable record in potato club work and the Chehalum Mountain potato club is the outstanding club of this kind in the entire state. This potato club in the six years of its existence has won almost \$3000.00 in cash prizes besides the money made from their potato projects.

Roy and Carl VanKleek of Kinton last year won first and second prizes on corn at the Pacific International Land Products show and twice won the sweepstakes honors on corn at corn shows held within the county. Club work in Washington County is typical of the communities in which the clubs are located.

Dorothy Johnson and Dorothy Powell of Garden Home under the leadership of Mrs. Glen Singletary, won first honors at the Oregon State fair this year in demonstration work. These girls are from a 4-H home beautification club in that community. Thru their own efforts and the cooperation of their parents and club leaders the boys and girls of eastern Washington County are truly developing the head and heart and in so doing are training their hands and becoming more healthy youngsters.

Beaverton Radio and Refrigeration Co.

R. H. Mason and W. R. Stedman have just taken over the Beaverton Radio Company and are now actively pushing their products in Eastern Washington county. They are exclusive distributors of Majestic radios and kindred lines they are now featuring the new Majestic Refrigerator.

Mr. Mason is in charge of the sales end of the business while Mr. Stedman attends to the technical matters. Mr. Stedman has been identified with the radio business since its inception. He served as a radio operator during the war and is thoroughly familiar with the modern receiving sets. Mr. Stedman came here from Portland where he was in business for 30 years. The associates are keenly interested in the development of the Tualatin Valley. The firm will be glad to give a demonstration at any time either at the home or at their shop.

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Church of Christ Beaverton

The Church of Christ was organized about five years ago by Evangelist Teddy Leavitt who held evangelistic meetings in a tent. After the meetings were over the congregation met in the theatre building until the new church building was ready for use.

Brother Frank Cunningham was the first minister called to the field. He ministered to the congregation as a student minister for the period of two years after which time Brother Oscar Cooper was called. He likewise ministered for two years. It would be hard to estimate the work accomplished under the able leadership of these two ministers. One year ago Rev. George W. Springer was engaged as a full time minister at the close of another evangelistic meeting held by Brother Leavitt, Brother and Sister Springer are still on the field.

Rev. Springer reports: "we have just completed a successful year's work at the church at Beaverton. During the past year 47 have been added to the church; 22 by primary

obedience. Three were added to the church by statement and by confession. There is a spirit of fellowship prevailing. We have made 422 calls during the year and we feel that there is a nice relationship between the members of calls made and the growth of the church. The Christian Endeavor doubled itself.

One of the most outstanding accomplishments of the church has been in the work of the Sunday School. The attendance during the summer months has remained above the average for the entire year. We are expecting to go above the hundred mark during coming winter months. We are happy to submit this report and we believe that an emphasis on spirituality and consecration is largely responsible for the present encouraging condition of the church.

Beaverton and the Tualatin Valley are placed nearer Portland by the new highway. The new highway stimulates trade and development in this section. It has so many advantages that it is destined to be one of the most populous areas in Oregon.

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