

TUALATIN VALLEY FARM NEWS

BEAVERTON ENTERPRISE—Friday, July 1, 1949

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IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL WEALTH is represented in the growing, green stands of timber. And so, over the coming big week-end, farming values are put in serious jeopardy by careless vacationers.

An unusual dry spell that has extended thru the last two months, coupled with the seasonal development of dry grass, slashings and fallen tree needles, or "duff", sets the stage for disastrous

fire that might well rival the tragic Tillamook burn. Human lives and soil values might vanish in a fury of smoke and flame.

Veteran forestry officials warn that not in two decades have conditions been in such a critical state from a forest fire standpoint. In 1933, 350,000 acres of forests were reduced to a charred wasteland, in the Tillamook burn.

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STATE FARMERS LEAD NATION IN PAYOUTS OF FHA ADVANCES

Oregon stands number one among the states for payouts of farm ownership loans made by the Farmers Home administration during a 10-year period starting in 1938. Walter A. Duffy, Portland, state director, announced recently.

Oregon Hens Top Nation's Average Egg Production

Oregon's rate of egg production per layer during May was the highest of any state, according to the weekly egg and poultry review prepared by the OSU extension service from USDA reports and other data. Each layer on the production line during May turned out nearly 19½ eggs. Some mid-west states run a very close second, but Oregon chickens kept the lead. The U. S. average production per layer during May was slightly over 18 eggs.

The nation's egg production during May was down about 2 percent under a year ago in May, but is holding about the same percent above average. The decrease in egg production during May was due to less layers. The nation's farm flocks in May averaged around 321.9 million layers. This is the lowest number of layers for any month this calendar year. It is also the lowest for May since 1942.

This year's hatchings however are on the increase. Chicks and young chickens on U. S. farms June 1 were estimated at 556 million. This is 14 percent more than a year ago, but is still slightly below average holdings at this time.

The supply of top grade eggs at most coast markets has been currently short of full needs. Lower grade eggs, on the other hand, have increased in supply. Small eggs are also a problem at some markets, especially San Francisco.

Colleague Puts Out List of Peaches OK For Freezing

Peach varieties that do not turn brown and are otherwise suited for freezing are pointed out in a new Oregon State college extension circular, number 532, entitled "Peach Varieties for Oregon" which is now ready for release through the local county extension agent's office or by writing directly to O.S.C.

The circular author, Quentin B. Zielinski, O. S. C. experiment station horticulturist, has included more than 100 peach varieties in the seven page mimeograph. Information contained in the circular is intended to answer frequently asked questions regarding fruit and ripening characteristics of standard and more recent peach variety introductions.

As well as giving variety names, the circular indicates ripening dates for each variety in comparison with the common Elberta variety. Other information includes fleshing color, stone adherence, whether or not the peach has been tested at O.S.C. and variety place of origin.

Harvest Begins On Caneberries In Wash. County

Caneberry pickers are wanted in Washington county, declares Alvin Elkins, manager of the Hillsboro office of the state employment service. Crop is said to be excellent and tentative picking price is 4c per pound plus 1c bonus.

Blackcap harvest is now underway. Caneberry growers are advised that there are platoons of pickers signed up and available through the offices of Ben Scott, farm placement representative whose telephone number is Hillsboro 1761.

Workers desiring picking jobs are furnished transportation to the berry fields from the state employment service office at 124 South Second avenue, Hillsboro.

The local office is part of the nation-wide system of employment offices, affiliated with the U. S. employment service under the Wagner-Peyser act of 1933. It provides a central clearing house for the local labor market, bringing together the worker and the employer.

The placement service reduces waste in job hunting and labor recruiting. Elkins points out, and its services are available for employer and job-seeker. It operates under a six-point program which seeks to meet the individual needs of the county.

Dairy Products Average Return Continues Down

The average price of dairy products received by Oregon producers continues to slip lower. The BAE estimated price for butterfat for the 15th of each month shows a gradual decline to Oregon dairymen.

The average price on May 15 for butterfat was 28½ percent lower than a year ago. The average price for whole milk at wholesale to Oregon farmers was 16 percent under a year ago.

Dairy product prices, however, are not up so high compared to the past 10 years. Butterfat is up 35 percent, while milk prices are up 36 percent.

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