

Oregon Agricultural College is the Friend of the Farmer

Page of News Notes and Interesting Articles Specially Written by College Experts For This Newspaper.



View of Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Oregon, the Sole Aim of Which Is to Aid Agriculturists.

RISE IN FRUIT PRICES FROM ORCHARD TO TABLE.

SUCH fruit is sold in the orchard at about a dollar a box, and in the home of consumers at three to five dollars a box. It is not easy to say in all cases just where the extra prices are attached to the producers' price, but Dr. Hector Macpherson, professor of Economics at Oregon Agricultural College, cites the following cases where this has been successfully done.

Growers of Wenatchee Valley received \$1.45 per box for extra fancy Jonathan's, and consumers in Chicago paid for the same fruit \$8.00 per box. The difference, \$6.55, was distributed 10 cents to Growers' Association, 50 cents to railway company, \$2 to wholesaler and \$3.50 to retailer.

Baldwin apples grown in Massachusetts brought the producers \$2.25 per barrel, and cost consumers in Boston \$7.50 per barrel. The difference, \$5.25, was distributed 25 cents to pickers, 25 cents for barrel, 25 cents for freight, 25 cents for commission, 15 cents for sorting, 10 cents for carting, \$2.00 to wholesaler and \$1.50 to retailer.

Oranges that netted California growers \$1.07 per box cost consumers in New England \$3 per box. The difference, \$1.93, was distributed 40 cents to packers and sellers, 93 cents to cooling and shipping, and 60 cents to retailer.

Only in the case of the oranges did the grower receive much more than either of the two selling firms, and in case of western apples he received less than the wholesaler and less than half as much as the retailer, notwithstanding his heavy investment and year's labor. The oranges were produced and sold under effective organization conditions.

RURAL TEACHERS AS LEADERS.

THE rural teacher's biggest field of work is forwarding the new developments of community life in their districts, according to A. I. O'Reilly, rural supervisor of Lane county. Mr. O'Reilly, who is the first Oregon teacher successfully to put into practice the home credit system, made the teacher's importance in the social life of the district the leading point in his address before the teachers of the O. A. C. summer school. Community organization and co-operation, and other forms of social effort in the country, demand the best thought and effort of the rural teacher. It was also claimed that those schools prosper best educationally whose teachers become leaders socially.

STANDARDIZATION OF FRUIT.

"STANDARDIZATION is as necessary as organization in solving the marketing problems of the Northwest fruit men," says Professor C. I. Lewis, who has labored for eight years in the Agricultural College and among the growers of Oregon to bring about organization. This organization has been effected by forming local associations that are affiliated with vast distributing associations that are powerful enough to care for the growers' interests. But the work of standardization has only just begun.

"We must find out what standards are wanted by the trade, and then establish them accordingly. When once established, they must be rigidly maintained, so that dealers and consumers may know precisely what they will get when they put in an order. In fact, it is only the standards that the trade cares anything about, and if it could standardize fruit through individual growers in sufficient quantities, it would be satisfied. But organization makes the establishment and maintenance of standards possible, and the

growers are now in a position to proceed with standardization.

"To secure the data upon which standards can be based, we have begun extensive research and survey work. We are following the prune at every stage of its journey from the tree to the table, to learn what standards are most acceptable and profitable. Like surveys must be made with each of the other important fruits before the desirable classes and standards can be fixed.

"More work has been done in standardizing by-products than in standardizing fresh fruit, and the marketing is far more successful. The lesson of this is plain."

LIVESTOCK AND DAIRYING EXTENSION DEPARTMENTS.

GENERAL animal husbandry has been separated from dairying in the Extension work of the Agricultural College, and placed in charge of a farm animal specialist, Professor Ralph Reynolds, formerly a stockman of Union county. These two important subjects of farm and dairy industries have been in charge of Professor E. B. Fitts, who will now be able to give all his attention to extension work in dairying, while Professor Reynolds will devote all his time to extension work with horses, cattle, sheep and swine.

Professor Reynolds, who is a graduate of the Agricultural College and of the University of Wisconsin, will visit the stock raisers of the state and confer with them on the various phases of the livestock industry. Questions of feeding and managing farm animals will be considered, but the subject of better herds, secured by better sires and by other means, will receive an extra share of attention. It is expected that this phase of the work will be advanced rapidly, since farmers are generally beginning to take much interest in improving their herds.

HOW FARMERS BUY AND SELL.

FARMERS generally receive the lowest price that their produce is ever sold for, and pay the highest prices that their supplies ever command. This condition, according to economists at the Oregon Agricultural College, is but one of the evils of the present system of unorganized marketing. While it is natural that produce prices should rise as they travel from the producer, it is very burdensome when middlemen absorb, as at present, from 50 to 60 per cent of the cost to the consumer. Since nearly all the added cost is a result of wasteful methods of city distribution, consumers as well as producer should organize to eliminate the waste. High prices charged to farmers are caused in part by the extravagant methods of city retail trade, since farmers pay a share of the small phone order, immediate delivery and other expenses, although getting none of its benefits.

PRESERVING EGGS.

"EGGs may be preserved for several months by different methods," says Professor James Dryden of the poultry department of the Oregon Agricultural College.

The Lime Method—Dissolve a pound of lime in five gallons of water. The water should be boiled previously to sterilize it, and then cooled. Stir thoroughly, and let settle. Then pour off the clear liquid into a wooden or earthen jar or tub. Fill with eggs to within an inch of the top of the liquid. This will allow for evaporation. The liquid should not be allowed to get lower than the top of the eggs. When the vessel is filled with eggs, cover it with coarse muslin or factory, over which spread

a paste of lime to exclude the air.

The Water-Glass Method—"Water-glass (sodium silicate) may be purchased at the drug stores. Use the liquid form and the commercial grade in the proportions of one part water-glass to eight parts water. Use earthen jars or wooden tubs or barrels that are perfectly clean, and store in a clean, cool place. The material used will cost about a cent for each dozen eggs stored."

BETTER RURAL SCHOOLS.

THAT public opinion in the country should be educated to the point where it demands as good educational facilities for the country boys and girls as for the city children, is the view of Miss Ida Mae Smith, rural school supervisor of Yamhill county, as presented in an address on rural schools before the summer school session of the Oregon Agricultural College. Farmers have advanced modern views in regard to the quality of their horses and cattle, their machinery and their crops. With this commendable idea of these material things, it should be easy to get the farmers to accept a like high standard of schools for their children. City people voluntarily tax themselves to build good school buildings, buy first class equipment and hire the best of teachers. When the rural districts are as liberally supported the quality and quantity of work done in them will measure up with that of the city school. The speaker thinks that the country boy and girl are entitled to this consideration, and will soon have it.

USES OF SUMMER PRUNING.

"SUMMER pruning is for wood on the one hand or for fruit on the other," says Professor C. I. Lewis, horticulturist at the Oregon Agricultural College. "The old adage, 'Prune in winter for wood and in summer for fruit,' is altogether too general. The amount and time of pruning and the age and kind of tree are the determining factors in summer pruning. It may be performed to provide denser shade by forcing out a greater supply of laterals, to shape the tree and control the habit of growth, to remove watersprouts or other undesirable growths, to suppress over rank branches or to correct undesirable fruiting habits. As applied for wood, summer pruning is most useful in the first three years of the tree's life, but it is sometimes used to correct the effect of over-pruning in winter. Judiciously employed summer pruning may gain a year in the development of the tree, but growers that are inexperienced in this practice are advised to prune sparingly and watch closely the effects until the best method are developed."

DISLODGING THE DANDELION.

DANDELIONS that escaped spudding out last spring when the lawn was cleaned up may be set back and killed by one or more applications of a good herbicide, following the recommendations of the Botany and Plant Pathology department, Oregon Agricultural College. Kerosene, applied to the crown or center roots, is one of the treatments recommended. A small tablespoonful of salt applied in the morning of a hot day when the soil is dry is said to kill dandelions, although this may have to be repeated one or more times. Sulphate of ammonia is another detrimental substance. Sulphate of iron is the most generally endorsed chemical plant killer, and may be applied as a dry salt to the center of the rosette. It is most often made up into a spray by dissolving about two pounds of the sulphate in one gallon of water. This kills young plants and injures the older

ones, which are killed only by repeated applications. It should not be applied for several days either before or after the lawn is mowed, since it may kill very young leaves of the lawn plants. It discolors the lawn, walks, clothing, etc., but does the lawn no permanent injury, according to the manufacturers of iron sulphate.

MUSTARD SOLD FOR RAPE.

RAPE SEED for sowing a 20-acre field was recently purchased by a Lane County farmer for forage purposes. When about to begin sowing the seed the farmer became suspicious that it was very badly adulterated, if indeed it was rape seed at all. To determine the matter he called upon the county farm demonstration agent, Floyd W. Rader, who at once pronounced the seed to be mustard. Samples were sent to the co-operative seed testing laboratory of the Agricultural College for final determination, and were pronounced all mustard by the expert tester in charge. Had the seed been sown the loss would have been heavy, including money, time, labor and an enormous crop of weed pests for years to come. Evidences are accumulating that it pays to have seed tested for purity and for germination strength.

ALFALFA FOR FARM SHEEP.

BANDS of sheep prosper on alfalfa hay and pasture in Central Oregon, according to a report made to the O. A. C. Extension division by County Farm Agent A. E. Lovett. A Crook county farmer bought 200 ewes last year at \$2 each. This spring he realized a 125 per cent increase from lambs and secured 12 pounds of wool from the fleece of each sheep. He is breeding for January lambs, but will sell off the poorer members of the flock. This band of sheep was kept on a forty-acre farm, chiefly on alfalfa hay and pasture.

HEMOCRAFTS FOR HOUSEWIVES.

OREGON housewives as well as college students will be given an opportunity to learn house-craft at the Oregon Agricultural College. An instructor, Miss Helen Peer, has been appointed to teach house-decoration, sewing, dressmaking and tailoring, designing, weaving and basketry. Her instruction will be given to the vocation course students, thus making a way whereby broad and helpful principles of house-keeping will be open to the present home-makers of the state. Miss Peer was graduated from Pratt University and has since engaged in teaching. Last summer she was supervisor of the Daily Vacation Bible School of Greater New York, in which capacity she is said to have been splendid. Her former associates think that Oregon women are very fortunate in their opportunity to study home-making under her direction.

ENTOMOLOGIST APPOINTED.

LEROY CHILDS, who has been an assistant in the office of the California Horticultural Commission since finishing his college work at the Stanford University, has been appointed an assistant professor of entomology at the Oregon Agricultural College. Professor Childs was ranked by his teachers at Stanford as one of the very best students graduated by the institution, and is said to be unusually efficient in his office and field work for the commission. He will do special work here in forest entomology, studying insects that damage timber and timber products, and methods of their control,