

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.

INDUSTRIAL CLUB MEMBER MADE MONEY IN POULTRY

PROFIT of \$32.33 on an investment of \$110.98 for eight months was made by E. Vernon Rains, a member of the boys' industrial club, who engaged in the poultry contest conducted by the Agricultural College and the State School Superintendent. This is a 30 per cent gain, and since the period of actual investment hardly averaged six months, the actual rate of profit was about 60 per cent. And in addition to the money gain the flock has been transformed from mongrel to pure-breds, and the contestant has a valuable stock of industrial and business experience that will stand him in good stead for the remainder of his natural life.

During the eight months of contest, from January 1 to September 1, the average size of Vernon's flock of layers was 40 hens. From this flock he secured 4021 eggs, an average of 100 eggs for each hen. This was an average of but 12.6 eggs per hen for each month of the contest.

The eggs were sold mostly to the neighbors and to his own family, a few going to the local market. Only a few were sold as high as 40 cents a dozen, and some were sold at 15 cents per dozen. Feed was all bought except the green feed, and the prevailing retail market price was paid. Vernon says that hens must have green feed to keep them in health and vigor, and that they must have meat if they are expected to lay.

Chickens were hatched by incubator and by hens, the latter proving the most satisfactory. From 305 incubator eggs 213 chickens were hatched, and from 288 eggs set under hens 221 chickens were hatched. Vernon set two hens at the same time when possible, and gave all the chicks to one, resetting the other.

That he made mistakes, he admits, in his report. The worst mistake was feeding young chicks wet mash to the extent that they would not eat grains. They grew so slowly that at four months of age they weighed but a pound each.

On his report, Vernon was graded 100 per cent. He has yet to make an exhibit of two pullets and one cockerel at a fair, where it will be scored by local judges. This score will be added to his 100 report score and average made for his final grade. Valuable prizes go to the winner, so that his profits may be still further increased. But he is entirely satisfied with his experience, and says that for a small amount of trouble he received great pleasure and fair compensation, and that the contest brought him into contact with the real world.

THINKS MALHEUR WILL BE A GREAT DAIRY COUNTRY.

HAY THAT NOW SELLS at \$5 a ton in the stack in Malheur County should, if marketed through the dairy cow, bring \$15 to \$20 a ton, thinks E. B. Fitts, O. A. C. Extension dairyman. He has just spent two weeks in the irrigated districts of that county and is impressed with the opportunities offered there for successful dairying. The climate is very favorable to the production of alfalfa hay and corn silage, and enormous yields of both crops are secured. A combination of these feeds with a little grain is what he calls an ideal ration for a dairy cow.

"Corn grows in great luxuriance," says Professor Fitts, "and it is estimated that there are 2,000 acres devoted to this crop this year. Some of this corn will yield about 100 bushels to the acre.

"Silos are being built and very large yields of ensilage are reported. County Agriculturist W. R. Shinn and myself weighed the yield from a measured square rod on the farm of E. B. Conkin and secured 286 pounds, which is a rate of 45,760 pounds per acre, 22½ tons—a yield seldom exceeded even in the corn growing sections of the East.

"Dairying is in its infancy as yet, but I find a desire for information on dairy subjects wherever I go. A cheese factory is in successful operation at Nyssa and provides a good market for the milk that is produced.

"I feel safe in making the prediction that dairying will soon become one of the leading industries of the irrigated sections of Malheur County, and prove a large factor in developing the county and adding to its wealth."

SELECTING SEED SAMPLES FOR TESTING AT THE FAIR.

FARMERS who wish to take advantage of the offer of free seed testing by the Agricultural College at the Oregon State Fair, are offered the following directions for securing satisfactory tests:

In order to secure samples that are strictly representative of the entire lot, all small seeds, such as grasses, clovers and alfalfa, should be spread on a cloth or clean floor and thoroughly mixed. This is necessary in order to make the test a reliable guide to the character and quality of the entire lot. If samples are taken from the top of the sack more than the normal amount of chaff and light seed will be secured and less than the normal amount of some of the small, heavy weed seeds, such as dodder and mustard.

After having thoroughly mixed the lot of seed, samples of each lot of the small grains are taken by dipping up a heaping tablespoonful and putting it into a bottle or sack which is to be properly closed and correctly labeled.

Samples of cereals and other large grains should include six heaping tablespoonfuls of each kind. These samples are to be put into receptacles and properly labeled.

Tests for purity will be made at the fair as largely as possible, by Miss Jacobs, expert seed tester for the College and U. S. Department of Agriculture. Miss Jacobs will have seed germinators in operation in this exhibit, but farmers who wish reports on the germinating quality of their seed will necessarily have to wait until after the fair to receive them. It requires at least six days to make a reliable test of germination.

COLLEGE YEAR OPENS.

REGISTRATION at the Oregon Agricultural College began Friday, September 18, and instructional work began on the Tuesday following. The number of upper classmen and graduates who returned to continue college work is somewhat larger than last year. Owing to the higher standards of admission and to disturbed business conditions throughout the whole world, the number of freshmen entering show a slight decrease over the number last year. Entrance statistics have not been compiled but it is probable that the considerable number of vocational students will bring the total registration slightly in advance of that of last year. This is the first year in which vocational work, open to eighth grade students of required age and to more mature men and women, has been carried by the Agricultural College, and there are indications that the work of the course will attract a great many students. College buildings, grounds and equip-

ment are in better condition for the beginning of the school year than ever before. Also thirty-nine new members have been added to the faculty, either to fill newly created positions or vacancies caused by resignation. The outlook for a good and prosperous year is exceptionally bright.

FLIES DESTROY CUTWORMS.

MANY CUTWORMS have been parasitized by the species of blowfly that deposits its eggs on the cutworm's neck, whence the larva enters the worm and causes its death. In an insect breeding cage at the Agricultural College Professor Lovett found that 80 per cent of the worms collected in the Willamette Valley are fatally infested. He hopes that this means a reduction of the pest that has wrought such havoc in clover fields and garden crops to a point of little importance for next year. He is very anxious for farmers to co-operate with this natural enemy of the cutworm by cleaning up and burning or plowing under all crop remnants, weeds and other trash of fields and roadways, which may offer breeding homes for the cutworm. All cutworms that have been parasitized by the Trachid fly may retreat to their winter home, spin their cocoon, and go into the pupa stage. But when the warm sunshine of next spring calls them to come forth as moths they will have been consumed, and in their stead there issues from the chrysalis not a cutworm, but a Trachid fly. If farmers will do their part, it seems that the cutworm pest will be cut off from serious damage, possibly for several years.

BUILD UP HORSE HERD GRADING ON ONE LINE.

MEN WHO have made a success of horse breeding are those who have picked out one type and one breed and kept up improvement along the one line, is the viewpoint of Professor Carl W. Kennedy, the new horse man at O. A. C. "The stallions that they used were of the same breed and always pure bred and sound.

"Few men are able to sell all of their poor horses and replace them all at once with good ones, but there are few localities in the state where there are not sound, pure bred, licensed stallions that will greatly improve this work stock. A continual use of these good stallions is always making for improvement. A use of poor stallions or stallions of different breeds is not grading stuff up, but is generally holding it at a standstill or grading it down. The economic, or money view point of livestock raising, demands that the horses be improved. The Oregon Agricultural College is advocating that the farmers and ranchmen choose the breed of horses that they prefer and then breed to a sound, licensed, pure-bred stallion that will improve their stock consistently."

GRAIN FOR RANGE CATTLE.

SEVERAL cattle feeders of the irrigated districts of the Prineville country tried the experiment of feeding grain to their fattening cattle last winter, according to R. E. Reynolds, who has just returned from an extended observation trip through that part of Oregon, where farmers institutes were held by the agricultural advisor and members of the O. A. C. staff. "Very satisfactory results were secured," says Mr. Reynolds, "and further experiments will be carried on this coming winter. Owing to a scarcity of range, cattlemen are considering the advisability of feeding the one-year-olds instead of the two-year-olds, as

was done in the past. Cattle raising is the principal livestock industry, and although hogs would undoubtedly do well there, farmers are reluctant to undertake hog raising because of the distance from market."

WIPE OUT HOG CHOLERA.

HOG CHOLERA will be banished from Oregon and kept out perpetually if the co-operative plans of the Agricultural College and Bureau of Animal Industry succeed. A veterinarian specially trained in methods of combatting hog cholera will be employed to conduct an educational campaign throughout the state. The work will be in charge of the director of Extension, Dr. Virgil W. Knowles, who has been appointed to carry on this work, will co-operate closely with the state livestock sanitary board and the state veterinarian. This work will be begun immediately.

COURSES OF STUDY.

OREGON Agricultural College offers the following courses of study, each of which extends over four years and leads to the degree of Bachelor of Science:

In the School of Agriculture, major courses in—

- General Agriculture.
- Agronomy.
- Animal Husbandry.
- Dairy Husbandry.
- Horticulture.
- Poultry Husbandry.
- Agricultural Chemistry.
- Agricultural Bacteriology.
- Botany and Plant Pathology.
- Economic Zoology.
- Economic Entomology.

In the School of Forestry, major courses in—

- General Forestry.
- Logging Engineering.

In the School of Home Economics, major courses in—

- Domestic Science.
- Domestic Art.
- Home Administration.
- Institutional Management.

In the School of Engineering, major courses in—

- Civil Engineering.
- Electrical Engineering.
- Mechanical Engineering.
- Highway Engineering.
- Irrigation Engineering.
- Industrial Arts.

In the School of Mines, major courses in—

- Mining Engineering.
- Ceramics.
- Chemical Engineering.

In the School of Commerce, a major course in—

- Commerce.
- In the department of Pharmacy, a course in—

- Pharmacy.

In addition to the above baccalaureate courses, provision has been made for the following vocational courses:

- Agriculture (one year).
- Dairy (one year).
- Home Makers' Course (one year).
- Mechanic Arts (three years).
- Forestry (Nov. 2 to April 10).
- Business Short Course (2 years).

*No work below sophomore grade will be given in Civil Engineering during the year 1914-15.

L. R. Breithaupt, in charge of the Harney County Branch Experiment Station, was at the college last week in the interests of his work. Mr. Breithaupt has conducted some very useful experiments in dry farming methods, and is getting hold of facts that will be of great value to farmers of the plateau portions of Oregon.