

# Oregon Agricultural College is the Friend of the Farmer

Page of News Notes and Interesting Articles Written by College Experts.



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

## FARM MARKET PROBLEMS NOW UP FOR SOLUTION.

**A** CO-OPERATIVE effort to secure more profitable farm organization and farm markets is being made by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Oregon Agricultural College. President Kerr has been authorized by the Board of Regents to establish in the Agricultural College a bureau of farm organization and markets to act with groups of farmers in obtaining ample and profitable markets for farm produce.

It will be the aim of the bureau to ascertain the most profitable methods of gathering, storing, manufacturing and shipping farm products, in each of the leading agricultural industries, and place this information before the individual grower. Reports of the most successful operations will be collected, together with photographs and blueprints of typical farm factories, such as creameries and canneries, and these will be filed in the bureau offices. Information, based on this material, will then be given to the farmers through printed bulletins, press notices, lecturers and demonstrations.

As a result of these activities it is expected that the farmers of the state will secure a more nearly just share in the profits of their investment and labor.

## FINDING NUMBER OF TONS OF HAY IN THE STACK.

**S**UBTRACT the width from the distance over the stack, found by measuring from the ground on one side over the stack down to the ground on the other side, divide by two, and multiply by the width and then by the length, which will give the number of cubic feet. To find the number of tons, divide by 512, if the stack has stood 20 days or less, by 422 if between 20 and 60 days, and by 380, if more than 60 days. "This is a fairly accurate rule," says Dean J. A. Bexell, in the Oregon Agricultural College text on "Farm Accounting and Business Methods." A more nearly accurate method is given as follows:

Subtract the width from the "over," as above defined; divide by the height, then multiply successively by the over, the width, the length, and .225. This will give the number of cubic feet, and the number of tons may be found as above.

The former rule is not only very easily applied, but the reasons for each operation will doubtless be clear to all who give the subject any thought. It is plain that in measuring from the ground on one side of the stack up, and across and down to the ground on the other side that all measurements taken were either distances up, down, or across. By subtracting the width, the remaining distances are either up or down. Since these were equal, dividing by two gives the distance up, or the height of the stack. The volume has been reduced to a very nearly equivalent volume having regular dimensions, in which the cubic contents are found by multiplying together the length, breadth and height. The small inaccuracy arises from the fact that near the top of the stack the measuring string cuts the corners, causing the degree of error to vary slightly with the shape of the stack. Ordinarily it may be disregarded with no injustice to either buyer or seller.

## NEED OF IRRIGATION IN WILLAMETTE VALLEY.

**T**HE FACT that evaporation from water surface in the vicinity of Corvallis is 24 inches from May 1 to October, while the average rainfall for the same period is but 5.52 inches, indicates the possibility of profitable irrigation. That irrigation is actually profitable under certain conditions has been shown in a seven-year test with nine standard Willamette Valley crops, conducted by the Agricultural College. The results of these experiments have been written up by Professor W. L. Powers, and will soon be published in bulletin form for the benefit of Willamette Valley farmers.

In a general way it may be said that irrigation caused an increase of 65 per cent in the average yield of all crops, and increased the profits of production to the extent of \$2.66 per acre-inch of all water economically used. The water was pumped from the summer water table, and while the cost was in fact much less than \$1 per acre-inch, the profits were figured on that basis.

And on this basis corn showed an increased profit of 43 cents per acre-inch of water, kale 60, beets \$1.15, alfalfa \$1.65, clover \$2.71, beans \$2.79, carrots \$6.83 and potatoes, \$7.75. While the most profitable amount of water varies with the different crops, it runs on some as high as 6 acre-inches in dry seasons. This makes the actual profit from irrigation \$16.26 per acre. When water is secured in commercial lots at corresponding prices the profits would be greatly increased over these figures.

The main conditions governing the profits of irrigation are character of soil and moisture content. In all free-working soils in which the moisture content has dropped to 15 or 20 per cent, varying with the crops, irrigation not only greatly increases the yield, but it lowers the dry matter cost and brings a splendid profit to the user.

## BEEKEEPING ON THE FARM.

**T**HE VALUE of bees in increasing the yield of various farm crops is explained in "Beekeeping for the Oregon Farmers," a bulletin written by H. F. Wilson, entomologist of the Oregon Experiment Station. Those interested in this subject may get free copies by sending requests to the Oregon Agricultural College. Conditions under which beekeeping proves profitable or unprofitable are pointed out in this bulletin, and methods of handling that secure the most satisfactory results are fully explained. One deduction that holds possible interest for every farmer of the state is that bees on the farm are often highly profitable, even though not paying for their expense in honey products. Their influence in enlarging crop production by their pollination work is worth far more than their keep costs. The bulletin also contains a distribution map of bees in Oregon, and a brief history of the beekeeping industry in this state.

## TO JUDGE STOCK AT CHICAGO.

**A** DAIRY-JUDGING team of four students from the Oregon Agricultural College, in charge of Professor Graves, head of the Dairy Department, has gone to Chicago to enter the contests at the National Stock Show. On their way to the Eastern metropolis the team inspected the noted Ayrshire herd of J. W. Clise, Seattle, and the Holtsein herds

of Smith and Monroe, Spokane. The Oregon team will contest with teams from the leading agricultural colleges throughout the country and to win must beat more than two dozen teams, representing the very pick of their schools. Team prizes of cash and trophies will be given the winners, and individual winners will receive scholarships in various colleges, all expenses paid, that are offered by representatives of the four leading dairy breeds. The date of the show is October 22 to 31. All expenses of the trip, usually provided by the colleges, are borne by the members of the team, which shows their earnest purpose to learn all they can.

## BEST SIZE OF FARMS FOR EASTERN OREGON.

**E**XPERIMENTAL data so far obtained by the Agricultural College Experiment Station, go to prove that the most successful size of farm in the older settled areas of Eastern Oregon is within the limits of 320 to 640 acres. This estimate supposes that the extensive diversified system of farming best adapted to each locality, is used. The examination of the assessor's tax rolls in a Columbia basin county, made by Professor H. D. Scudder, shows the proportion of the different sized farms as follows:

Farms between 640 and 1,000 acres, 50 per cent.

Farms between 1,000 and 2,000 acres, 34 per cent.

Farms between 2,000 and 5,000 acres, 16 per cent.

## DEMAND FOR ORCHARDISTS.

**T**RAINED orchardists are in great demand in Oregon and in other states. Of 21 graduates of horticulture at the Agricultural College last year five are members of the O. A. C. staff, one is assistant at the Southern Oregon Experiment Station, two are instructors in Eastern universities, one is school landscape gardener of Alameda County, California, four are managers of departments in large commercial orchards, three are graduate students at O. A. C., two are managers of the home orchards, and three are owners of large orchard and garden tracts. Although attractive salaried positions were offered most of the graduates not thus employed, the positions were declined in the belief that further study or working for themselves is more profitable than working for salaries.

## WEED SPECIALIST GOES.

**E.** P. WALLS, author of a widely circulated series of Oregon weed pest letters, has resigned as instructor in Botany at the Agricultural College to accept a position

as farm agent of Talbot County, Maryland, at a salary of \$1,800 per year. His study of the weed problem has been of great value to Oregon farmers and gardeners, and his series of weed articles will be published in one of the leading agricultural papers of the state during the present year.

## INCREASE FERTILITY.

**"T**HE most striking need on the older settled dry farming lands," says Prof. Scudder, "both from the fertility and economic standpoint, is for a more intensive and diversified system of farming to maintain or increase fertility, employing a smaller farm unit, and thus increasing the population and social economic development of the rural districts.

"The present large size of the farms, together with the continuous grain cropping on the 'bonanza' scale, and the practices associated therewith, is reducing the fertility of soil at such a rate as seriously to threaten the permanency of agriculture in this entire region. Associated with these large sized wheat farms, so common in the Columbia Basin in particular, there is a corresponding scanty population, which in some of the oldest and best farming areas of that region is actually on the decrease. Added to this is the fact that, as a rule, the largest land holders are either absentee owners or not permanent residents on the farm, hence the major portion of the income the land produces is taken out of the country instead of remaining there to assist in its development.

"In the richest county of the Columbia Basin dry farming area, it has been estimated that not 10 per cent of the dry farm land owners live on the land, and that less than 5 per cent of the land acreage is lived on by the owner. Many of these land owners live in nearby towns. Many live at a distance and rent their lands. Renters, as a class, as is generally recognized, will not build up a far more aid much in the development of the community."

Judging Swine is a new O. A. C. bulletin, which will be of great interest and help to boys in the pig raising contests as well as to farmers and other growers. The bulletin tells briefly how to know the good hog, and was written by Professor G. R. Samson. Address the Oregon Agricultural College for copies.

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