

# Oregon Agricultural College Is the Farmer's Friend

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



VIEW OF OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AT CORVALLIS, OR. ITS SOLE AIM IS TO AID AGRICULTURISTS.

## Storing Winter Onions Found of Great Value

**N**EXT in importance to good soil and growing conditions in onion growing is a suitable place for storage," says Professor A. G. Bouquet, of the Oregon Agricultural College vegetable gardening department in speaking of the onion industry in the Willamette Valley. "From one to two dollars per bushel is cleared each year on onions that are properly stored. An onion crop of from 500 to 600 acres is stored on average years by the Valley growers. The price of onions ranges from \$1.10 in September, \$2.50 to \$3 or \$4 in March. The cost of storage is from 5 to 8 cents per bushel. It is thus seen that profits are more than doubled by successful winter storage.

"Most of the onion crop of this section is stored in Washington County in the vicinities of Beaverton, Hillsboro and Sherwood. Storage houses are seen on nearly every onion farm. These houses have special construction. They are constructed with double hollow walls and are ventilated by open ventilators at the ground line with openings at the roof from which warm air escapes, thus providing a splendid circulation of air. The temperature is kept somewhere between 33 and 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

"It is very necessary that the onions go into storage well cured and thoroughly dry. They are piled on racks in storage houses usually to a height of ten to twelve inches on each rack. Should the onions become frozen in the storage they still may possibly be uninjured if not handled and allowed to thaw out slowly. Alternate freezing and thawing, however, will ruin the bulbs."

## Report Hog Cholera.

Failure to report hog cholera has caused one Oregon owner the loss of a hundred head of hogs by this disease. Other hog growers have hauled the carcasses of hogs that died of cholera to the woodlot, where they are picked by crows, magpies and other scavengers, and bits of the infected flesh carried to other farms. Dogs have also acted as carriers of the disease, and doubtless drainage waters have assisted in scattering the germs. All these cases should have been reported to the county agricultural agent, says H. T. French, state leader of county agent work, and he would have had the infected carcasses burned, thus preventing the spread. All swine ailments should be reported, since possibly they may have been caused by cholera germs. Nothing is gained by the individual farmer by keeping the facts secret, and great harm is done both to himself and to his neighbors.

## Want By-Products Data.

A study of the by-products situation in the Northwest is being made by an expert horticultural commission from Utah, and the two members, Mr. Smith and Professor Leon Batchelor, making the investigations in Idaho, Washington, Oregon and California, spent three days at the Oregon Agricultural College, getting Oregon data on that subject. A great deal of investigational work in utilizing by-products has been done by the College horticultural department and a good deal of valuable data has been gathered.

## Students Get Vacation.

Hundreds of Oregon Agricultural College students are now spending their Christmas vacation with their home folk. Large bodies returning to distant parts of the state traveled home on special trains provided for their accommodation. While most of them have no doubt felt the pinch of money stringency and are at the same time keenly alive to the call for relief by sufferers from the war, they also recognize their filial duties and are going to express them in a good, old-fashioned home-coming.

## Using of Crop Remnants as Organic Soil Matter

**W**HILE such crop remnants as stubble, corn stover and spoiled hay should be returned to the soil when not otherwise used on the farm, there are other forms of these remnants that should never be put to this use. Screenings from seed-cleanings, as well as potato, celery and onion tops, should be burned in order to prevent the spread of weed, insect and disease pests, according to authorities of the Oregon Agricultural College.

The problem of utilizing to best advantage the unused portions of crops in maintaining soil fertility without at the same time scattering weeds, insects and plant diseases, was presented to Professor W. L. Powers, assistant agronomist, who proposes rotation as a solution. Clover, vetch or peas may be grown on a plot one year, followed by a grain crop the next. Then corn, potatoes or other cultivated crops can be grown, and at the last cultivation clover or vetch sowed. This may be turned under the next year, adding soil fertility to the value of \$3.40 for each ton of clover and \$9 for each ton of vetch. All unused portions of the crops with the exception of potatoes, can be turned under with no danger of spreading disease, since no disease will live in so many kinds of crops.

"So far as spreading disease is concerned," said Professor Bailey, of the plant pathology department, "straw and corn stover are harmless, but potato tops, celery tops and onion tops should be removed from the field and burned when long period rotation is practiced. Diseases such as blight and leaf spot may be spread in the remnants and their fertility value is not great enough to warrant their use as fertilizers with all the danger involved."

## Better Dairy Stock Sought.

"Of all things accomplished in this county this year I believe the campaign for better breeding of dairy stock will have the most beneficial effects," says Roy C. Jones, county agriculturist of Tillamook County. "Although the county has not been turned upside-down, it is certain that much good has been done. Several men who have heretofore used scrub bulls, are now planning to buy registered bulls for next season's work, and several other men who have been using purebred sires, are discarding their old ones and looking for better ones. The most enthusiastic breeders of the county have joined in organizing county breeders' associations of both Holsteins and Jerseys. The Holstein men have already raised the money to buy a carload of first-class registered bulls and heifers to bring to this county, as foundation stock for pure-bred herds."

## Highest Award for College.

Because it excelled in its display of educational exhibits the Oregon Agricultural College has been granted the highest award certificate by the recent Manufacturers' and Land Products Show. The certificate is signed by the president, David M. Dunne, and the secretary-manager, Louis W. Buckley, and will be kept along with other trophies won by the College. The exhibits for which it was granted were prepared by R. D. Hetzel and his extension staff from material furnished by various departments of the College. Some of the strong features were illustrated lectures, a model farmstead, model dairy buildings, equipment for the marketing of poultry products, and juvenile industrial club work.

Interest in pure and vigorous seed is rapidly growing in Oregon, and the exhibit of the Agricultural College at the State Fair attracted a great deal of attention. Seed was tested free of charge for farmers and many of them took advantage of it to find out the fitness of their seed to produce a good clean crop of heavy yield.

## Number of Graduates Show College Growth

**A**N increase in the number of graduates from 171 in 1914 to approximately 231 in 1915, indicates measurably well the growth of the Agricultural College during the last 10 years. The graduating class of 1905 numbered just 50, since which time the increase has been about 450 per cent. The class of 1907, the last preceding President Kerr's administration, was 66 strong, the increase since being about 350 per cent.

This growth has affected every department. There are 11 candidates for post-graduate degrees this year as against three last, 210 for the bachelor's degree as against 159 last year, seven for pharmacy certificates as against three last year, and three for music diplomas as against six last year.

This increase has been secured in the face of a rise of standards amounting within that time to three full years of high school work. In addition to this the degree requirements call for an increasing amount of technical training and practical experience.

## Home Beautiful on the Farm.

The home on the farm without a tree or bush or flower is like a man without a soul. The house is there, but much of the enjoyment of country life is lacking. Every farmer in the State of Oregon should be interested in landscape gardening. There is nothing that indicates prosperity better. Our farmers might well afford to give this subject more attention, and the special series of lectures on this vital subject to be given during the Winter short course at Oregon Agricultural College will therefore bring it to their notice. Problems connected with the laying out of grounds, arrangement of buildings, construction of walks and roads, the planting of trees and shrubbery, etc., will be taken up. Special lists of trees and shrubbery will be suggested for each section of the state.

## Printing Is Educational.

"Printing is, as I see it, one of the most educational of all the industrial subjects that may be offered in our school work," says Frank H. Shepherd, who has charge of industrial education field work at the Oregon Agricultural College. "I should try to install small printing plants in each school in which manual training is taught. The art of printing comes into closer touch with all other subjects of the course of study than any other subject of industrial education. Seventh and eighth grade boys and girls take to this work very enthusiastically, and it opens up a broad field of general education in correlation with their work in grammar, spelling, composition and all other branches."

## Farmers' Week Grows.

Additional features of interest and additional interest of features go hand-in-hand in making up the programme of exercises for rural conference week at the Agricultural College. As the idea develops it becomes increasingly plain that the magnitude of work laid out is matched only by the strength of the forces by which it is to be performed. Exhibits are being prepared, schedules arranged and committees created to carry out every detail necessary to make the vast fund of good things serve for doing the most good to the greatest number of those in attendance. The date is February 1 to 7, inclusive, a social conference closing the work on Sunday.

Still another edition of the Oregon Station Trap Nest, by Professor James Dryden, has been issued in response to the steady demand. Those who desire copies please write to O. A. C., Corvallis, Or., asking for them by name.

## Care of Potted Plants During Winter Season

**A** COMPOST that suits the requirements of house plants when re-potted for the winter is made of one measure of loam soil, one-half measure of sand, and one measure each of well-rotted manure and leaf mold. This formula is recommended by David Masterton, superintendent of the Oregon Agricultural College green houses, who supplies additional information on the winter care of potted plants as follows:

"A very prevalent mistake in caring for house plants in winter is to give them an over-supply of water. As a rule water should be used sparingly so as to admit plenty of air to the soil, or the plant will be retarded in its growth instead of benefited. The individual requirements of each species ought to be studied closely.

"In this region where the air is quite dense with moisture during the winter months, evaporation from the leaves of plants takes place slowly. Where there is a dry atmosphere to be taken into account as is the case in a heated room in winter, it is advisable to sponge the plants or spray with an atomizer frequently. This not only increases the humidity of the air but keeps open the breathing pores of the plant, which is necessary for normal growth.

"A temperature above 60 degrees in the house is adverse to the best development of most plants and it is better to put them in a room which is of very moderate temperature. In the College greenhouses the winter temperatures are kept at an average of 50 to 60 degrees, and even lower for such plants as cineranas.

"If it becomes necessary to use an insecticide, a good one can be made with Ivory soap, dissolving one pound of soap in five to seven gallons of warm water. For scale insects a stronger solution will be required and the plants should be rinsed afterward in clear water."

## Required Farm Tools.

Farmers, being more or less isolated and dependent on their own resources, should find a skilful use of the ordinary wood-working tools of great service, say the Oregon Agricultural College industrial arts authorities. "Ordinary carpentry work, such as making gates, woodsheds and chicken coops, does not call for a large kit of tools," says Professor Thayer. "But those secured should be of the best kinds available. A cross-cut and a rip saw, a large and a small plane, a square, marking gauge, hammer, screw-driver, brace and bits, with two or more chisels and a drawknife, should answer very well."

## Teachers Inspect College.

Teachers of Linn and Benton Counties, about 600 of them, made a partial tour of the Agricultural College grounds and buildings last Tuesday to inspect the work of the different departments. It was the desire of the visiting teachers to secure a more detailed knowledge of the work of the school, since the industrial courses of the public schools are founded largely on the work of the Agricultural College.

## Ode to Evening.

Sunset tints the clouds with gold;  
Purple shadows, fold on fold,  
Up the valley creep and cling  
While the bells sweet vespers ring.

Thoughts of day are far from me;  
The glories only now I see;  
Cares and toils and pain all cease  
In this sweet and holy peace.

Bathed in purple, veiled in light,  
Rise the mountains in their might,  
Glorious in the afterglow  
Blessings over all they throw.

See, the glories fade away,  
Fade the amethyst to gray,  
Blends the gold with deepest rose,  
So the solemn twilight grows.

—Evelyn C. Kinder.