

# UNDYING FAITH WON BATTLE AGAINST ODDS FOR NEBRASKA'S BEST FARMER

Written especially for HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES Through Autocaster Service By A. A. Hoopingartner.

They call her "Nebraska's Best Farmer." Truly a compliment, because Nebraska is noted for its good farmers. Yet she is considered the "best," because, well, because she has managed through 27 years of widowhood to assume and pay for more than 400 acres of the best land in Cedar County; because she never had a "bad crop;" and because she has been first and always, a mother.

Her name is Mrs. N. F. Lydon. Her farm is the pride of Cedar County, Nebraska.

She has won her battle with the world. A few days ago she said she was going to retire, not because she is tired and bent and worn, but only because she conquered odds that would make strong men cower and is now entitled to a few years of ease. Twenty-seven years of farming would take its toll from the average woman. Not so with Mrs. Lydon. Sixty-four years of age, there's virile youth in her step, her eyes, her figure. Anything but "an old woman."

In 1896 Mrs. Lydon, with her husband and two sons, went to Cedar County and bought for \$3,200 the 160 acre farm which is still the home place. They paid \$1,200 cash and gave a mortgage of \$2,000 for the balance. Their "house" was two rooms at one end of a huge barn.

But they had courage, and faith, and perseverance. Three years later Mr. Lydon was killed by a runaway team. His young widow, with three small sons, seven, three and one years old, faced the great crisis.

Relatives back east begged her to sell the farm and move to town. That couldn't be done, Mrs. Lydon replied, because the farm would have to be sold at a sacrifice. And there was the mortgage, too!

"I wouldn't give up," she said. "I must carry on—alone. I have youth, health, and my three sons to live for. Soon the boys will be able to help." So she threw herself into her task. Although tiny of stature, delicately molded, she asked no one for help. She decided to work out her own problems.

She rented all the plowed land on her place on shares and with the feed from her share of the crops she raised hogs and cattle. She marketed her produce and shipped her hogs and cattle.

She never asked a cent more than her things were worth. She always demanded a square deal. And always got it!

Her growing boys were taken care of always. She never let them work too hard. They went through country school, but learned more from their mother.

Mrs. Lydon was able in 1905 to abandon the barn-home and build a comfortable house. Two years later she quit renting the land and with her oldest son, Tom, managed the entire farm, planting and harvesting with their own hands.

Of course, success came. In 1915 Mrs. Lydon bought another section of land. Six years later she bought still more.

Today her land—400 acres—is worth \$200 an acre. She has turned the farms over to her sons, and she has finally taken the advice of her relatives and "retired to town."

### Orderly Marketing.

(Morrow County Farm Bureau News.)

According to the Orderly Marketing Association the run of cattle to the North Portland yard last Monday was moderate and came nearer being in line with about what the market called for than for two weeks. Holding down the supply to 2367 cattle and 237 calves was very well worked out by the efforts of zone men and growers and in one zone in particular 12 cars were held back which helped even up the supply.

Shippers are urged to order their stock cars at least ten days in advance so that the railway companies can have better distribution of cars and the work of the Orderly Marketing committee be facilitated by getting advance notices of the number of stock to be expected on the market.

### Nebraska's Best Farmer



Mrs. N. F. Lydon, Laurel, Neb., is called Nebraska's best farmer. After 27 years of struggle she is the owner of 400 acres of Cedar county's best farm land. At her husband's death in 1899, she assumed all debts and with her three little boys went to work. Below, is shown the combined house, barn and granery—their first home. She has never had a crop failure.

FOR SALE—A few White Leghorn cockerels of the Tankard strain, from the world record poultry farm. Mrs. J. W. Stevens, Heppner. 22-23.

### FARM POINTERS.

(From O. A. C.)

Change in the size of dairy herds is having an effect on the trend of the industry in Oregon, says the experiment station. With improved machinery the coast district herds are increasing in size to the maximum carrying capacity of the farm. Size of the dairy farm is also increasing in the Willamette valley area, while the side-line dairy operated in connection with small fruit or truck farming tends to decrease slightly.

One cutworm control recommended by the experiment station is made by dissolving one pound of sodium fluoride in two gallons of water into which is stirred two quarts of molasses and 16 pounds of bran. This combination is thoroughly mixed and is good for control of either cutworm or earwig. This poison bait can often be purchased already mixed with the exception of water.

In every dairy section of Oregon competition for the raw product is of the keenest, says a recent report of the experiment station. Unfortunately this competition is not of good character—being for quantity mostly and not for quality. In most sections there are from 6 to 12 additional buyers from other creameries bidding for the product regardless of quality. Even concessions of varied na-

ture, although of little consequence, are sometimes offered as inducements to the regular basic buying price.

The number of calves per 100 cows is the vital factor in the cattle business on eastern Oregon ranches, says the experiment station. Poorly managed herds are getting a calf crop of only 50 per cent while under the best conditions the average may be as high as 75 per cent. The average calf crop in Oregon is about 65 per cent—that is, from 100 cows bred this year 65 calves may be weaned next year.

Biting insects actually chew and swallow portions of the solid substance of the plant together with any stomach poison that may be applied through spray or dust, the Oregon experiment station notes. Such insects are the larvae or caterpillars of moths, butterflies and beetles, and grasshoppers. Such insects are readily destroyed when they eat arsenical

or other stomach poison.

The average wool clip in Oregon has been reported as having better than 8 pounds per fleece, the experiment station reported. This is the first and only state that has been so listed by the United States department of agriculture.

Car shortages in the heavy shipping season have been much less severe than for a number of years prior to the organization of the Regional Railway Advisory Board. These boards have through educational campaigns encouraged shippers to order their cars far enough in advance so that emergencies could be taken care of.

Shippers of livestock especially should order their cars at least 10 days in advance and when shipping to eastern markets it is recommended that three weeks notice be given. This will facilitate the movement of livestock and grain to markets and will insure ample supply of cars.

### Fair Exhibits Should be Uniform.

(Morrow County Farm Bureau News.)

The best Fair exhibits are made up of uniform marketable sized products. Many exhibitors are disappointed every year because they do not get prizes on large uniform exhibits. Exhibits should conform as nearly as possible to market size. For instance extra large potatoes are not as marketable as medium size potatoes that can be served at hotels or restaurants for a single portion. Mr. Dean, who judged crops at the North Morrow County Fair last year, makes the following comment:

"At the North Morrow County Fair last year many of the exhibits plainly showed that they were selected solely on account of size. Monstrosities are not desirable commercial products. Smooth, well matured vegetables of uniform size make much better exhibits than many of those shown last year."

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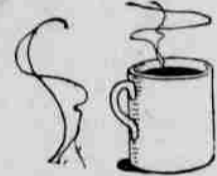
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