

Undue Expansion Frowned Upon by Land Use Group

(Editor's note: This is the second of a series of articles prepared by the extension service at Oregon State college on the report and recommendations of the Oregon land use planning committee on how Oregon's agricultural program may best be adjusted to meet the impacts of war and national defense.)

Oregon agriculture, like that in the nation as a whole, is faced with a call to meet present food production emergencies and, at the same time, avoid mistakes which led to post-war disaster to the farming industry 20 years ago. With this in mind, the state land use planning committee, in its recent report on adjusting Oregon agriculture to meet the impacts of war on national defense, cautioned against engaging in a general expansion program at this time.

They cited certain definite exceptions to this generalization, however, as it was felt that some crops may well be increased. Expansion was particularly frowned upon where it would require increased indebtedness or larger capital investment. Provided contracts could be obtained or markets otherwise assured, Oregon producers suitably located might well consider expanding the production of certain seed crops, as well as a limited number of specialty crops such as fiber flax.

In any case, expansion needs to be strictly limited to present plant facilities and the safest expansion is from increased production per acre or per animal by the utilization of the best known practices, the committee pointed out. Livestock producers, for example, can increase their output by improving the quality of the breeding stock or by the use of more and better feeds.

In the grain-producing areas of Oregon, particularly the Columbia basin, increased swine and poultry production appears to be justified, the committee held. Feeder livestock such as steers and barren cows now on the ranges could be moved in and handled on a combination pasture and feedlot basis, or feedlot alone, until they reach marketable condition. In western Oregon, livestock operators might undertake an intensive program looking toward the control of brush on lands which have been classified as suitable for grazing and agriculture.

The state committee is made up of leading farmers from different sections of the state and representatives of state and national agricultural agencies, with William A. Schoenfeld, dean and director of agriculture at Oregon State college, as chairman.

119 Acres of Wheat Burn at Mankin Farm

The largest wheat loss by fire in Morrow county so far this season happened last Friday when 119 acres of 40 bushel wheat burned at the Fred Mankin farm east of Ione. Ready response of neighbors and friends kept the fire from spreading to adjacent fields, and saved farm buildings that were jeopardized, said Mr. Mankin who was in town yesterday. The fire was in the south end of the field just south of the farm house.

Mr. Mankin reported having insurance to partly cover the loss, but was not insured for the amount of yield the rest of the field was making, 42 bushels. Harvesting was progressing in this field yesterday, Mr. Mankin said. He expressed appreciation for the generous response of firefighters.

Shortage of Technical Men Causes Concern

Oregon State College—A shortage of trained men in many technical fields has been developed within the past year, leading to an effort by national leaders to encourage students in these fields to complete their courses in college and to get qualified new students to enroll in them, according to reports from the heads of several schools and departments here. Far more calls for engineering graduates are being received than can possibly be filled as members of this year's class were almost all engaged in advance.

Small Fruit Production Big Industry in State

The production of small fruits in Oregon is on the increase and forms an industry of real economic importance to this state, particularly in the Willamette valley, according to facts listed in a new extension circular No. 371, entitled "Small Fruits 1940." This circular is issued by the O. S. C. extension service in cooperation with the United States department of agriculture, and includes detailed production and income statistics for Oregon by

counties.

The production of nine kinds of small fruits in Oregon in 1940 was estimated at 78,172,000 pounds, harvested from 23,300 acres. This compares with a four-year average from 1936 to 1940 of 63,101,600 pounds from 21,896 acres. Cash farm income from small fruits was estimated at \$3,557,500 compared with the four-year average of \$3,433,260.

A relatively large proportion of the commercial fruit industry of the United States is in Oregon, the circular points out. Approximately 6 per cent of the national cash farm

income from this source goes to Oregon producers. The production of large amounts of small fruit annually in Oregon provides raw materials for much canning and cold packing business, from which additional employment and income are derived.

Ivan DeArmond New State Soils Specialist

Ivan DeArmond, until recently a member of the area staff of the Soil Conservation Service, has been appointed extension soil conservation-

ist for Oregon with headquarters at Oregon State college, announces William A. Schoenfeld, dean and director of agriculture.

DeArmond is a graduate of O. S. C. in 1928, after which he was in industrial research work for two years before joining the staff of what was then the Soil Erosion service at Pullman. With the organization of the Soil Conservation service he was transferred to Spokane, and later to western Oregon as area conservationist. He succeeds Grant Perry who is now assistant county agent in Baker county.

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