

Sherman County Turns Rapidly To Bulk Handling

By LeROY C. WRIGHT
Moro, Oregon

Sherman county farmers have increased the storage capacity for wheat to 350,000 bushels through farm storage facilities. 275,000 bushels of this amount has been constructed since 1938; 250,000 bushels of the capacity is in the form of steel bins and the remainder of the bulk storage is in the form of crib elevators. The federal crop loan on wheat is made on the basis of bulk wheat which has encouraged farmers to store their wheat bulk rather than in sacks. The construction and increase in farm storage has been accelerated through the AAA program and the increase in price of sacks, and lack of labor. Sack sewers in this area have been extremely hard to get, consequently nearly all of the producers are considering the handling of their wheat in bulk. The 7 cents per bushel allowance for wheat stored on the farm has helped considerably toward the construction of farm storage facilities.

Over one-third of the farm storage capacity was constructed during the year 1941. Two-thirds of these facilities are located north of Moro where approximately two-thirds of the wheat in Sherman county is produced. Public warehouse facilities in Sherman county, all owned by cooperatives, have a total capacity of 3,218,000 bushels; 716,000 bushels of this capacity is bulk storage. These facilities are comparatively old from the standpoint of total capacity which would indicate that about 30% of the total capacity is bulk. Farm storage facilities, most of them having been built within the last 3 or 4 years, are comparatively new and the capacities are about reversed, with approximately 30% sack facilities and 60 to 70% bulk facilities. This indicates the trend of wheat handling in Sherman county.

The development of better types of farm machinery, the new bulk-equipped combines being lighter in weight in most cases equipped with rubber tires, making the handling of these machines in the field less of a task. The old wooden type of harvester was extremely heavy and by installing bulk equipment the load was too much to handle with the bulk bin which carries from 60 to 140 bushels of wheat. The development in trucks also has made it practical for the average farmer to own a truck and these trucks have been of a type which could very readily handle the wheat direct from the combine without any difficulty. The handling of the wheat direct has removed much of the fire hazard which exists when the wheat is left in sacks in the field until after the entire crop has been harvested. The rapid completion of the harvesting operations and transportation of the crop to the warehouse has also been in favor of this type of storage.

Farm storage handling facilities have made it possible for the average operator to keep his equipment in

PLANNING MORE DEFENSE FOODS



Farmers in this State and elsewhere in America are beginning to make plans for producing more "defense foods" in 1942. Among the highly-nutritious foods needed in greater quantity are milk, cheese, eggs, meats, and vegetables. Good market prices for the year are assured. Every farmer in the nation will be visited this fall by an AAA farm program committeeman who will assist in planning the increases.

the form of trucks to the minimum since it was possible for him to handle his entire crop without any difficulty since most hauls are short. The facilities are located on the ranch where the crop is grown and harvested. Many of the local farmers are using their farm storage facilities only as a facility for part of their crop to relieve the situation during the harvest itself, handling the overflow from the combine while the trucks are going to and from the public warehouses.

Public warehouse facilities plus farm storage capacities in Sherman county at the present time amount to 3,568,000 bushels of wheat. New construction for 1942 will increase the capacity by 400,000 bushels bulk storage. This capacity will handle all of the wheat produced in this county since in the history of the county there never has been a crop to exceed this figure. The 1941 crop amounted to 3,250,000 bushels with approximately 20% cut in acreage. The crop for 1941 in Sherman county was the largest ever produced per acre in the history of the county. The average yield per acre was 30.8 bushels. Sherman county's warehouse facilities are unique in that every bushel of wheat produced and stored in Sherman county is stored in cooperative warehouses which are owned by the farmers and by adding the other farmer-owned facilities in the form of farm storage it means that Sherman county farmers have

11 1/2 Million Dollars Paid in Wheat Loans

By N. C. DONALDSON
Eleven and a half million dollars! That's what these 85 per cent of parity wheat loans meant to Oregon's wheat growers this year.

With the market price stubbornly refusing to budge much above a level about 12 to 15 cents lower than the loan value, wheat growers have retaliated by just refusing to sell any wheat. They've been putting it under federal loan instead.

The last report on wheat loans from the State AAA office shows that Oregon growers have stored 12,367,000 bushels for federal loan since harvest this year. Of this total, 2,002,000 bushels is in farm storage. For this stored wheat, farmers have received \$11,534,000 in federal loans, or an average of just a little under a dollar a bushel. Nowhere else in the world but the United States are farmers getting anywhere near that price for their wheat this year.

Only about 10 per cent of the 1941 crop has been sold since harvest, a survey in the ten Columbia basin wheat counties shows. Made for the purpose of determining the disposition of the crop and where it was stored, the survey disclosed that 10 per cent of the crop has been sold, 10 per cent moved out of the county for storage, 20 percent stored on the farm, and 60 per cent stored in elevators in the county where it was produced. The amount in temporary storage was negligible at the time the survey was made.

complete control of their crop from the time that it is planted until it is ready to sell. Approximately 98% of the farmers in Sherman county are members of a cooperative grain growers association.

"Hot Wheat" Only 1 Percent of Total

By N. C. DONALDSON
In the state's nine major eastern Oregon wheat producing counties, only one farm in every ten growing more than 15 acres of wheat has excess wheat under marketing quotas, and less than one percent of the 1941 crop was "hot."

A statistical report has just been completed in the 1941 wheat marketing quota program in the major wheat counties — Baker, Gilliam, Jefferson, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wasco, and Wheeler. Of the 2685 farms in these nine counties that were subject to marketing quotas, 395 were reported as having excess wheat. Umatilla has the highest number of excess wheat farms, 105, closely followed by Wasco with 103.

In the nine counties, total acres planted to wheat in excess of acreage allotments was 26,535. The total 1941 wheat allotment for these nine counties was 665,404 acres, and on

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this basis the excess acres represent about three per cent or less of the total wheat acreage.

The amount of excess wheat is calculated on the basis of normal yield times excess acres. This normal yield is based on the average for the ten preceding years, and certainly was far exceeded by this year's bumper crop. Thirty-five bushel crops on eleven bushel land were common. Considering all the factors, statisticians believe that less than one per cent of the 1941 wheat crop was "hot" under marketing quotas.

Under marketing quota regulations, an operator had his choice of four ways of disposing of his "hot" wheat before he could obtain his marketing card for the rest of his crop. In the nine counties surveyed, storage of the wheat on the farm or in an elevator was by far the most popular method of handling the "hot" wheat. When the survey was made, 202 farmers had chosen this method of receiving their marketing card. Half as many, 101, paid the 49 cents a bushel penalty. Fifteen growers disposed of their excess wheat by feeding it to livestock consumed on the farm. None chose to deliver excess wheat to the Secretary of Agriculture.

A good many of those growers who stored excess wheat are getting it released by seeding under 1942 acreage allotments by the same amount which they were over 1941 allotments.

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