

**County Agent News . .**

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 ton. This is around seven to eight dollars lower than last year at this time. In the producing areas, prices were unchanged this week, with the Yakima valley quotation around \$20 a ton at the farm. In the Madras area, growers are receiving \$21 to \$23. Supplies are plentiful and trading is slow. At Freewater, prices paid were \$18 at the farm. With the big hay crop that is being produced throughout the country, it appears that cowmen may get a break on some cheaper priced hay than during the past two or three years.

Congress last week passed legislation to provide for the control and eradication of scrapie and blue-tongue in sheep. These two diseases, which have been introduced into the United States from foreign countries in the past two years, had reached the point where they were threatening the sheep industry in the United States. With both of them bordering Oregon, this legislation should be of interest to all sheep operators.

With much being said these days as to means of increasing efficiency in livestock production in order to bridge the gap between the high cost of production and the low cost of market animals, many livestockmen should be interested in feed efficiency programs. Selecting a herd sire that has proved itself a high gainer will do much to cut down cost of production by siring fast gaining calves. In looking through the recent report of the

Union Experiment Station, it is interesting to note the variation in gains per day and T. D. N. required per each hundred pound gain in live weight between the high and low bulls and heifers fed this year in stalls there at the station. The high bull gained 3.04 pounds per day, the low bull 1.92, which gives a difference of 1.12 pounds per day. This could make a great deal of difference on the gain of fifty calves which might be sired by one bull. The high heifer at the station gained 2.38, the low heifer, 1.50, with a difference of .88. The high bull made a saving of 158.6, with the high heifer, 175.9 pounds of T. D. N. per each hundred pounds gained during the test over a 120 day feed period.

Again this year, for the fourth consecutive year, there were no significant differences in yields between fertilized plots at the fertilizer demonstration plot. The plot was located at the L. L. Howton farm south of Lone, this year, and was harvested last Friday.

Seven plots, replicated four times, compared various amounts of ammonium nitrate with unfertilized checks. Applied in mid-November, 1952, on late October seeded Orford, plots containing equivalents to 16, 33, 50, 67, 84 and 101 pounds of actual nitrogen were compared to unfertilized checks. Soil and moisture samples were taken in mid-November, May and at harvesting time to correlate with yields.

The highest yielding plot was that of 67 lbs. actual nitrogen. It yielded only a 21 bushel increase over the unfertilized check. Figuring the cost of fertilizer at \$9.38 and the price of the increase in wheat as \$4.20, there would be a loss of \$5.18 per acre for the application.

Fertilizer plots during past years have been put out in the Eightmile, North Lexington and South Lone communities. Next year's plot will be put in the Gooseberry community.

Some recent information received through the Oregon State college economists office show that sixty thousand farmers in Oregon stacked up close to half a billion dollars last year from the sale of crops, livestock, and livestock products. This amount

is not expected to hold for 1953, though, as lower farm prices are undermining this year's farm income. Nearly three-fifths last year came from the sale of crop products, and approximately two-fifths from the sale of livestock and livestock products. These are estimates made before production expenses were taken out, and do not represent a net income to the farmer. Here's a national average. For every dollar that farmers take in from the sale of farm products about 70 cents is paid out for farm operating expenses. The major share of Oregon's farm income comes from so-called principle crops. Some half million dollars comes to Oregon farmers annually from sales of a dozen rarely heard of specialty crops. These are grown on 136 farms, according to the report. Two crops—sugar beets and dill for oil—account for about nine-tenths of the half million. The remaining tenth (about \$50,000) comes from such crops as cascara seed, dill seed, mustard seed, rape seed, sunflower seed, sweet corn for seed, ginseng, goldenseal, wormwood, and teasels. Twenty-four of the thirty-six counties in Oregon—two out of every three—placed among the one hundred leading agricultural counties of the nation in 1950.

Several new diseases have been showing up of late in neighboring states, which prompts us to be on the lookout for symptoms. One of the latest is blue-tongue in sheep. It has shown up in quite a number of flocks in California. Blue-tongue is a virus disease of sheep, spread by biting insects such as sand flies. There is no evidence that it can be spread by contact. Blue-tongue is characterized, first, by fever and lassitude, followed by swelling and inflammation of the nose, tongue, gums and throat. The mucous membrane of the affected parts become a bluish or purplish color, hence the name, blue tongue. The exposed parts often

**4-H CLUB NEWS**

**PEACHY PRESERVERS MEET**

A regular meeting of the Peachy Preservers was held at Patsy and Janet Wright's home on July 14th. The meeting was called to order by president Janet Wright. Pat Peck led the flag pledges. All members were present but Sally Palmer, who is in New York on a tour of the U. N. The different contests and prizes were given to us by our leader, Muriel Palmer. The meeting then adjourned to the kitchen where Janet Wright gave a demonstration on frozen jams. Refreshments of punch, cookies, ice cream, and the jam were served to us by Mrs. Wright and Patsy and Janet.

**IONE CAMP COOKERY CLUB**

We had a meeting at the home of our leader, Mrs. G. L. Swanson Tuesday, Aug 11. We had a picnic and tried out our stove which we made ourselves out of a one-gallon can and a reflector oven. We held our meeting after we cleaned up camp.

Jack Crum, reporter

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