

Average Farmer Produces Foods For Twenty-Six Persons Annually

"We've grown from a nation in which one of every four workers had to produce food—to a nation in which one farmer is producing food for 26," according to Esther Kirmlis, Morrow County Extension Agent. "To get food from one producer to the 26 consumers," she continues, "we have created a vast system of marketing—storing, transporting, processing, wholesaling and retailing. These advances have placed most of us so far from the land that we often take food eating for granted."

Farm-city week will be observed in Oregon and across the U. S. November 17-23 to bring about better understanding of the farmer and the city dwellers' problems, opportunities and mode of living.

Marketing information specialists from Oregon State University say there is need for urban people to recognize the farmer as the supplier of food and raw materials and as one of their best and most dependable consumers. And, there is need for farm families to recognize all Americans as customers en-

titled to better information about quality of the farm products, services provided and the fairness of their costs.

In Oregon more than 40,000 families call a farm their home according to the 1959 agriculture census. Some farms are less than 10 acres, others larger than 1,000 acres. The average farm is 500 acres. (Morrow County's farms average 3714 acres). As Oregon's largest primary industry, farming generates more than one-half billion dollars in buying power. Oregon farm products sold out-of-state bring in more than 200 million dollars a year. It takes over 77,000 workers to do this. For each farm worker, an investment of \$32,000 in land, equipment and supplies is required. (\$134,793 in Morrow county). Oregon farm families have more than 2 1/4 billion dollars invested in their farm business—an amount equal to two-thirds of the annual income received by all Oregonians.

Oregon farmers spend more than 300 million dollars a year for goods and services to produce crops and livestock, say OSU marketing specialists. Dollars spent for goods and services provide employment and income for thousands of city dwellers in the state. In addition, farm

families buy the same things that city families do—food, clothing, drugs, furniture, appliances and other products and services.

Oregon farmer's efficiency has helped to keep food prices that Oregon homemakers pay at a low level compared to incomes. In 1950, for example, one hour's work in an Oregon factory bought 3.4 pounds of hamburger. In 1960 the same amount of work brought 4.5 pounds.

"We're eating better than we did 25 years ago," says Miss Kirmlis. "We buy more processed foods. Of every \$20 spent for groceries, we pay from \$1.50 to \$2.00 for packaging that helps to keep the food in good condition and attracts our attention. We expect and enjoy fresh vegetables and fruit all year."

Today's grocery basket usually contains supplies, cigarettes, toilet articles, and other non-food items which usually get charged to the grocery bill.

"Most people of the world spend half of their disposable income for food; we spend about a fifth—20 percent," says the agent in summary. "If we had bought, in 1960, the same kinds and quantities of food we ate in 1935-39, we would have spent only 14 percent of our 1960 income."

4-H Livestock Judging Day Set

Morrow County 4-H Livestock club members will have a chance to test their judging skill at a "4-H Livestock Judging Day," Saturday, November 18. The event will start at 1:00 p. m. at the Herb Ekstrom ranch at Ione, announced Joe Hay, County Extension agent.

The field day is the first in a series of four judging events which will be held for 4-H livestock club members. Scores from each event will be kept. Club members with high average scores from the four events will be chosen for state fair and Pacific International livestock judging teams this year.

4-H members will be judging two classes of beef at the Ekstrom ranch. The group will then move to the Kenneth Smouse ranch to judge two classes of hogs and one or two classes of sheep. Club members are asked to study their new livestock and dairy judging bulletin. Livestock judges should first look, then compare, and then place as the bulletin suggests.

"We will need to get started at 1:00 P. M. sharp as the days are getting short. We want to be through by 3:30 so everyone will have time to get home for chores," Hay said. A lot of fun and experience is in store for all who attend the judging day, he indicated.



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ANNUAL MEETING

OF MEMBERS OF

Columbia Basin Electric Co-op.

INCORPORATED

FAIR PAVILION -- HEPPNER

Saturday, Nov. 18

REGISTRATION 10:30 A. M.
REGULAR MEETING 1:30 P. M.

GUEST SPEAKER

Harold Cantrell

Manager, Walla Walla Area Office,
Bonneville Power Administration

NUMEROUS

ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

WILL BE PRESENTED AS

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Public Invited To The Meeting At 1:30