

## Hay and Wheat Leading Crops In State in 1965

Oregon farmers again led the nation in value of snap beans for processing, filberts, several kinds of canberries, and several kinds of seeds during the 1965 crop season.

The state's crop output reached a record high in both tonnage and value, reports Mrs. Elvera Horrell, Oregon State University extension agricultural economist.

Reports indicated a total harvest of 5.8 million tons with a farm value of \$281 million. This meant a 7 percent tonnage increase and a 5 percent gain in value.

Substantial increase in field crops, tree fruits and nuts, and vegetables more than offset declines in seeds and berries.

Hay was the leading crop in terms of value in 1965. The other nine crops making up the "top ten" included, in order: wheat, potatoes, pears, barley, snap beans, strawberries, rye-grass seed, cherries, and green peas. Green peas just nosed out oats for tenth spot.

Values quoted are derived from estimated production of crops and season prices received by growers based on sales made up to December 1, with an allowance for the rest of the season. They do not reflect the net farm income, influenced by rising farm expenses.

Field crops accounted for nearly three out of every five tons produced in Oregon this past year and nearly \$3 out of every \$5 of value. These crops include grain and hay, potatoes, peppermint, sugar beets, dry peas, and hops.

Oregon produces more than a third of the domestic seed crop supply and leads the nation in production of seven different seed crops. However, weather was unfavorable for seed production in 1965 and the tonnage dropped about a fifth.

Tree fruits and nuts continued to recover from 1963 drops, with apples, pears and prunes contributing most to this recovery.

Berries were pulled sharply lower by strawberries which suffered considerable freeze damage. However, this loss was made up, to some extent, by a record high tame blackberry crop.

The value of Oregon's vegetables moved higher as increases in processing vegetables more than offset declines in vegetables for fresh markets.

## Peterson Returns From Wheat Tour To South American Countries

Oscar E. Peterson arrived home Saturday night following a month-long tour of South America, the trip being sponsored by the Oregon Wheat Growers' League.

He arrived in Portland Thursday by jet plane after a 20-hour flight for Sao Paulo, Brazil, and then left for Newport to attend a meeting of the Oregon Rural Area Development committee, of which he is a member representing eastern Oregon. The meeting was held in Newport Thursday and in Coos Bay Friday where a program was presented. "The Oregon Coast Looks Ahead."

Accompanying him to the coastal meeting was Harris Higgins, former county judge of Hood River county.

Peterson had written a letter from Argentina to tell of his travels there, but brought it home with him because he felt the plane trip would bring him home quicker than it would come by mail. It follows:

"We are no win Argentina. Came in by way of the lake country from a little place called Puerto Montt, Chile, where we arrived by plane yesterday."

"The trip here was by both bus and boat. In fact, this is repeated three times. First, bus ride, then boat ride, and by through beautiful mountain country. Gorgeous mountain scenery and snow-capped peaks.

**Roads Steep, Winding**  
"The bus ride across the mountain in Puerto Blest, Argentina, was most interesting. Steep and winding road and through some of the heaviest thickets of greenery I have ever seen. We see fuchsias and shasta daisies growing in abundance along the roadside. In fact, there seems to be many wild flowers growing here. Yet not exactly wild, either. We at home certainly do not call the fuchsia a wild flower."

"On arrival at Bariloche we checked in at the Liao Hotel, a very nice lodge and right on the lake, Lake Nahuel Huapi. We enjoyed some leisure time in this beautiful lake and mountain country. A few of us hired a boat with attendant and done some fishing. Only Roy Hobby of our group seemed to be the lucky one, catching a rainbow trout some 30 inches long. It was hard to leave this mountain resort among such picturesque surroundings but we must proceed and are now in Buenos Aires."

"Yes, we are in Argentina and the country of Peron. Most interesting and certainly different. Less Indian at least. Buenos Aires is said to be about 98% white; 84% native born and of Italian, German and Spanish descent. Four million people or six million with the suburbs."

**Beef, Wheat Exported**  
"In a sight seeing tour of the city we saw the many lovely avenues and plazas as well as the busy waterfront. Much shipping takes place from this 100 miles inland harbor of the Atlantic coast. Principal products for export are beef, hides and wheat. We see some huge grain terminals. Agricultural products are principal exports from Argentina, and last year amounted to 1.4 billion dollars worth. The agricultural area radiates out about 300 miles. The

wheat industry is great but not too profitable near Buenos Aires as land is too valuable. But wheat, more than 11 million tons were raised last year. The average yield per acre is around 25 bushel.

"But it is cropping every year for a number of years, then some rotation. They say some summer fallowing is done farther out. The average farm is around 750 acres in size although there are larger Estancias, somewhat near what they call a "Hacienda" farther up north where the owner lives in the city and operates by remote control.

"Many farm operators live in town, because of schools, poorer roads in the country and lack of electric cooperatives. This was a tour of the city, but gathered much of my information from a very capable guide.

**Stockyards Big**  
"A few of us took a day off, hired a driver with car and went out to see the stockyards and a drive out into the country. Huge stockyards and packing plants with capacity for 10,000 head of cattle. The kill is around 500 per day now but can go up to 3,000. Not being too familiar with packing plants and salesyards, I could only judge that it is one of the most modern and up-to-date systems that can be found anywhere. Trucks arrive constantly. This day, 410 loads had arrived, they said. Sales were going on and bringing around 11c for choice 600- to 800 pound animals. Price seems quite stable, going from 11c to 13c, we were told."

"Riders were around everywhere and were on nice looking horses. There must have been 40 or 50 riders, and they were always on hand, bringing the cattle from one corral to another. The cattle are mostly the Angus type, although we saw a few Herefords and some Holsteins."

**Land Worth \$400 Acre**  
"Our drive continued out into the country, and we visited one or two of the Estancias. From 8000 to 12,000 acres these were, one of which was principally dairy, milking some 3,000 cows per day now, all Holsteins. It was a 9,000-acre dairy farm with land around \$400 per acre. Twenty-four milking machines were in operation."

"But this is the best of grass country. One farm, 12,000 acres, where we visited was practically all grazing and a natural for cattle. This land was valued at possibly \$250 per acre. They said the cattle for market were practically 99% grass fed. As a whole it all looked quite simple with owners living in town and overseers and trained helpers in charge. The farms visited had been in the families for 150 or more years. Rainfall in the area is quite constant, averaging around 40 inches per year. We wanted to see some of the wheat country but that is pretty far out and not for this trip. Harvest had been pretty well completed there, though. We saw some of it as we came in by plane, and it looked as if farms were nicely developed, nice buildings, trees around, and so on."

**Peron Influence Felt**  
"Should say something about the government of Argentina. There are many political parties. Twenty four, someone said. The Peronista is possibly the greatest. Military dictatorship brought Peron into prominence. He was elected president in 1946. By some it is said he all but ruined Argentina, which became somewhat of a welfare state. Railroads, electric power companies and even the stockyards were taken over by the government. Peron encouraged industrial growth at the expense of agriculture. He had a strong following from the labor movement and together, with wife Evita, was a strong supporter of the women's suffrage movement. But the dictator rule was soon ended. Evita died and Peron himself was forced to go into exile. There is still much political unrest but government is more stable than for a great many years. It is now said to be somewhat democratic and free enterprise is coming into its own."

"Am finishing this in Sao Paulo, Brazil. We are nearing the end of the tour. The tour really ends three days hence and in Brazil, but I am leaving the group tomorrow to go back to the States and home in Oregon. It is hard to leave the tour group as we have really gotten to be like one large family and there is still a bit left of the planned tour not finished. However, I appreciate being placed on the State Rural Area Development committee and wish to attend meetings in Newport and Coos Bay, February 10 and 11. I am intensely interested in promotion as always. Perhaps I can bring out something a little later what this group is doing or planning to do on a statewide basis."

**Bakers to Return From Mesa, Arizona**  
Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Baker of Ione will return home from their winter vacation in Mesa, Ariz., next week, they write from the south.

"We have really been enjoying the winter here, although we have had a lot more rain than usual," they said. "Have been having some more this week, but the sun is out this morning and we hope the rain is over for now."

"Monday is to be the Oregon picnic, and we hope to go to that. Have seen a lot of Oregon people from the Valley but hardly anyone else from Eastern Oregon."

## State Livestock Price Outlook Good, Says OSU

Oregon livestock producers can look forward to another year of favorable prices during 1966, according to Stephen C. Marks, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State University.

In an article published in the new Oregon Farm and Market Outlook Circular, Marks forecasts a broader demand for red meat during the coming year. Factors behind this increased demand include an increase in the number of U. S. consumers, greater employment and higher incomes, and a willingness to eat more red meat even at higher prices. Supplies of red meat will probably be smaller in 1966, which also will help strengthen the market.

Domestic red meat production in 1965 will drop to around 165 pounds per person, down from 1965 levels and from the record 174.8 pounds consumed in 1964, according to Marks. Each person's share of pork will probably be the smallest in 29 years. Per capita supplies of beef may be a little smaller in 1966, also.

Changes in the red meat supply are a result of livestock production cycles. At the moment, production of hogs and sheep is on the upswing, so more animals are kept for breeding stock and fewer sent to market. On the other hand, there are more cattle being slaughtered, but at lighter weights, because more heifers are being sent to market instead of kept in the breeding herds. This means that an eight-year buildup of U. S. cattle numbers was reversed in 1965.

Cattlemen will be watching the number of cattle in feedlots closely, for some clue as to future prospects, the economist says.

In the past, when more cattle went directly to market without going through feedlots, the cattle cycle consisted only of build-ups and reductions in breeding herds. Now, the rapid growth of cattle feeding has meant a twin cycle, the feedlot numbers of cycle as well as the breeding herd numbers cycle.

There is a possibility of a large build-up of cattle in feedlots this year, with plenty of cattle available in this country as well as in Canada and Mexico. Prospects of lower feed costs because of large feed supplies may encourage feedlot expansion in the cornbelt, also.

Hog prices hit an 18-year fall high in 1965, reaching a \$30 per hundred pound top price at Portland. The 1965 spring pig crop was the smallest since 1937.

## Deniece Matthews Wins News Contest

Ione High school has notified Time Magazine that Deniece Matthews has been named the local winner in Time's 30th annual Current Affairs Contest. Other high-scoring local students include: Karen Nelson, Berniece Matthews, Pat McElli-gott, and Stan Holstein.

Time's Current Affairs Test, given this year to more than one million colleges and high school students in the U. S. and Canada, consists of 100 questions on national and foreign affairs. Also included are such categories as business, sports, entertainment, science, religion, literature and the arts.

Marks says hog prices will hold up well at least until the fall of 1966.

After that, the level of market prices will be influenced by rising production now underway. The higher prices will probably lead to a build-up in production that will put prices on a down skid again in 1967 and 1968.

Higher lamb prices are also expected in 1966, according to Marks. The five-year decline in sheep numbers may be at an end. As more ewes and ewe lambs are held off the market to produce more young, the shortage of lamb meat will help push prices up.

Copies of the latest Oregon Farm and Market Outlook are available at county Extension Service offices.

## Blue Mountain Sets New Class

A new course in wardrobe coordination will be offered by the Blue Mountain Community College evening school starting February 23.

The course will teach how to make and coordinate ladies' wardrobe accessories. Hats will be designed and made, and shoes covered to complement existing or planned wardrobes.

Mrs. Beulah Hynd, Pendleton, will instruct the course in the Home Economics room, Helen McCune Junior High school, Pendleton. Classes will meet from 7 to 10 p.m. each Wednesday for 10 weeks. Registration is \$12.50 plus supplies.

Scheduled for spring term in the evening school is an intermediate Bishop sewing class and a tailoring class, both in Pendleton.

Mr. and Mrs. Bud Collins of Hood River visited Saturday night and Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Gardner. On Sunday morning Mr. and Mrs. Jack Van-Winkles joined the group for breakfast in the Gardner home. Mr. and Mrs. Collins formerly lived in Heppner where he was representative of the Standard Oil Company.

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