

Farm Market REVIEW

By STEPHEN C. MARKS
Agricultural Economist

AMAZE YOUR FRIENDS WITH OREGON AGRICULTURAL FACTS

Elvera Horrell, OSU extension agricultural economist, has put together some facts and figures which can be used as answers to a sort of do-it-yourself quiz about agriculture in the Beaver state.

Randy Reference Items

What if someone should ask you on a dark street and ask questions as: Where are the farms which produce Oregon's half-billion dollars worth of agricultural products? Which county has the largest farms? What products are the most important? Here are some facts to impress even the most inquisitive stranger:

Oregon farmers sold commodities valued at \$476-million in 1965 with government payments boosting the total to an even half-billion. Crops accounted for 57 per cent and livestock 43 per cent.

Willamette Valley Leads

Six regions make up Oregon's farming districts with the Willamette Valley the leading producer, accounting for nearly half of the crop sales and a third of the livestock sales. Ranking behind in order are the Columbia Basin, South Central, Snake River Basin, Southern Oregon, and Coast and Lower Columbia regions. The Willamette, Southern Oregon, and Coast and Lower Columbia account for the 18 western Oregon counties, the other three districts include the 18 eastern Oregon counties.

Marion Leads Counties

Marion County sold \$45-million in farm products in 1965 to lead the list of counties. Umatilla County was second, Malheur placed third, Clackamas, fourth, and Klamath, fifth. Those five accounted for 35 per cent of the state's sales, at \$176-million.

Wheeler Spreads Are Largest

The Columbia Basin's Wheeler County has the fewest and largest farms. Clackamas County in the Willamette Valley has the most farms. Hood River County has the smallest farms, with Clackamas running second in that category. Umatilla County in the Columbia Basin has the largest amount of cropland and Lincoln County on the Coast has the least.

Agriculture Top Ten

The top 10 commodities in the state in terms of cash receipts and the leading producing county in 1965 are as follows: (1) cattle and calves, Klamath; (2) dairy products, Tillamook; (3) wheat, Umatilla; (4) potatoes, Malheur; (5) greenhouse and nursery, Multnomah; (6) pears, Jackson; (7) barley, Umatilla; (8) chicken eggs, Clackamas; (9) hay, Klamath, and (10) snapbeans, Marion.

Market Steady During Week

Prices held mostly steady at Oregon livestock markets last week but fed cattle and hogs remain under pressure of larger U. S. marketings. Despite larger feedlot inventories and fall marketings, Oregon fed cattle prices are about \$1 higher than last year. Total U. S. red meat output was up 7 per cent from a year earlier at a near record 579 million pounds.

Corn Belt feedlot operators continue to build up inventories at a faster pace than in 1965 despite current losses on feeding margins. Prospects of a record corn crop and improved 1967 prices may account for this.

Hogs Higher

Hog prices around the nation were up a little last week. In Portland barrows and gilts brought as much as 50 cents more. Portland sheep prices were steady.

Local Vegetables Still Around

The Portland wholesale vegetable market may not be as dynamic as some, but it has furnished a good outlet for many tons of Oregon vegetables. Good supplies of local produce items were found at the wholesale level last week, including broc-

coli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, celery, mushrooms dry and green onions, potatoes, squash, bunched vegetables including greens and radishes, and bulk vegetables such as turnips, rutabagas, beets, carrots and parsnips.

Farm Forest Market Slow

Buyers maintained softwood log prices at previous levels during November but stopped buying logs. Hardwood operators were very active in the log market and increased their prices. The hardwood log supply has been very poor.

Oregon Livestock Prices Way Up, Way Down in 1966

Oregon livestock producers found themselves on a price roller coaster during 1966, according to Stephen C. Marks, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State University.

The year started with livestock prices buoyant across the board but ended with prices dropping far below the long-time highs chalked up last winter.

Fed cattle prices hit a seven-year peak of \$30 per hundred pounds by early March, and steer calves touched \$34, according to Marks. Slaughter lamb prices reached an even more dramatic 15-year high of \$29 in January, and hogs topped the list with an 18-year high of \$30.50 per hundred weight.

The roller coaster hit the downward stretch in late March, however, and by early November choice steers were being cashed in at prices averaging 22 per cent below the year's high point. While fed steer prices improved a little in December, they still finished the year 20 per cent under the 1966 peak and 5 per cent below a year ago, it was noted.

The price plunge for hogs and lambs was even more cataclysmic, according to Marks. From mid-winter to November, prices for top grade hogs dropped 31 per cent. Although there was some later improvement, year end prices averaged 25 per cent below the 1966 high and were 23 per cent lower than a year ago.

Slaughter lamb prices dropped 25 per cent below the year's starting point to a low of \$22. Lamb prices showed little improvement and finished the year 20 per cent under last winter's high and around \$2.50 below year-earlier prices.

The roller coaster price patterns in 1966 were spurred by record red meat production totals. Hog slaughter the week before Christmas was up 45 per cent from the same week in 1965. Sheep and lamb slaughter was slightly less but imports of land and other red meats took up the slack. Record supplies of broilers and turkeys also contributed to the competition for the consumer's meat dollar.

Two Trackers Meet

A meeting of the Two Trackers 4-H club was called to order by Frances Abrams, vice president, on January 3. The secretary read the minutes and called the roll. Most of the members attended. Our leader, Floyd Jones, showed us the first prize ribbon we won in the parade. We divided into groups and studied for our tests. Then the meeting closed.

Jill Scott, reporter

Spending their vacations at the ranch home of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Smouse were their daughter Cheryl, and son, Kenneth Lynn, both from OSU, and son Carl from Salem. Accompanying Kenneth Lynn were two college friends, Willis Hobart and Dale Stennett. Carl returned to his school in Salem on January 8.

FARM



HOT DOG BUSES, such as this one, are common sights in Japan and show work being done by the Oregon Wheat League to promote wheat consumption in that country.

Oregon Winter Wheat Acreage 30% Above 1965

Oregon wheat growers are ahead of the national trend in wheat plantings, according to Stephen C. Marks, Oregon State extension agricultural economist.

Marks says the annual USDA December report on winter wheat seedings shows that Oregon growers seeded 997,000 acres or 30 per cent more than in fall, 1965. Nationally, winter wheat plantings are up 26 per cent.

The larger seedings follow a 32 per cent increase in the national wheat acreage allotment for the coming year. The allotment boost was made in anticipation of increased domestic demand and greater export needs for wheat, points out Marks. The boost also was prompted by lower carryover stocks, expected to total only 400 million bushels on July 1, 1967.

The size of the new wheat crop will help determine the amount of wheat shipped overseas under government programs during the balance of the wheat marketing year, it was noted. The President last week allocated 900,000 tons of grain to India and 500,000 tons to Pakistan for shipment through March. This included half wheat and half sorghum grains.

Marks says partial production data show Oregon's 1967 winter wheat crop may amount to some 33,890,000 bushels. This would be 37 per cent larger than the crop harvested in 1966, and 45 per cent over the 1960-64 acreage.

Nationally, the winter wheat crop is expected to be 21 per cent greater than the 1966 harvest of 1,056,821,000 bushels. This would be a new record for winter wheat production in this country.

Local Wheat Use Jumps in Japan

By JOHN WELBES
Executive Vice President,
Oregon Wheat League

Due to activities of the Oregon Wheat Growers League, the consumption of wheat foods in Japan has increased from 33 pounds per person in the late fifties to 75 pounds per person this year. This increase has been due to introducing new wheat products in the area as shown by this bus selling hot dogs which are new to their diet and will result in greater cash sales of U. S. wheat.

In the 1959-60 marketing year, Japan imported about 30 million bushels of wheat from the United States. This year, 1966-67, the League is estimating Japan will import in excess of 75 million bushels from the U. S., or an increase of over 250% in a six year period.

Hot dog buses are a common sight around public places, such as parks, and baseball and athletic stadiums. These came in to the picture shortly after Wheat Associates, U.S.A., Tokyo, the League's representative in Japan, had their sandwich promotion the first half of 1965. They are now a popular and common sight in Tokyo, operating similar to our ice cream wagons. The bus pictured is one of many owned by this company. The only items they sell are hot dogs and a cola drink. Each wagon has an oven grill where the hot dogs are heated, and the operator usually does all the work inside these small buses. Around one park, for example, there would be at least three or more of these mobile hot dog buses.

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Chemical Tools Now Available To Combat Weeds

By GENE WINTERS
County Extension Agent

The relatively warm and wet weather in late fall and early winter has made near ideal conditions for the germination of weeds in cereal crops.

Research at the Pendleton Experiment Station and other stations and by the weed chemical industry has shown weed competition in the early stages of wheat growth has been the most damaging. One tarweed per square foot at this stage has reduced yields of wheat as much as 10 bushels per acre.

Up to last year there were no herbicides available to use at the early stages of wheat and barley growth which would not damage the grain at least as much as 10 bushels per acre.

Now growers have a chemical tool that will kill most hard to kill annual broad leaved weeds this time of year without damage to wheat or barley when applied according to directions on the label. Like most of the new agriculture chemicals the rates, application and time of application must follow recommendations for expected control.

The chemical bromoxynil, sold under label as Brominil or as Buctril gives excellent control of fiddleneck, purple (blue) mustard and groundsel when applied after the wheat or barley have emerged and before the weeds are past the three or four leaf stage. These 2,4-D resistant weeds cannot be adequately controlled with this material when left to grow beyond the 4-leaf stage.

Fields should be inspected very soon for the number and kinds of weeds present. The possible loss of yield due to weed competition should be compared to the cost and application of weed materials. A yield loss of 4 or 5 bushels would pay for the cost of a timely treatment with one of the bromoxynil products.

For additional details visit with your agriculture chemical dealer or the County Extension Agent.

Rain Readings Vary

December precipitation, including snow melt, according to the reports from the Morrow county weather observers, was above average for the second month in a row. Rain gauge readings varied from over 1 1/2 inches to 3 inches depending upon location. The Heppner December average is about 1.4 inches. Considerable variation in snow fall was observed throughout the agriculture area of the county.

The falacy of the real meaning of yearly annual rainfall in farming country, was again proved at the end of 1966. One observer reported near average rainfall for the calendar year of 1966. But for the most important growing season months of April, May, June, he recorded a total of 1.01 inches.

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'Common Sense' Plan Advised for Wardrobe

By MARJORIE WILCOXEN
County Extension Agent

What's the fashion word for spring? Spring??? With snow in the air? The fashion industry is already promoting fashions, fabrics and patterns for spring. The fashion word is "Variety!" . . . variety of color, silhouette, style, fabric.

But "variety" for some women on a limited clothing budget isn't always an easy thing to have. You don't have to have a large clothing budget to be well-dressed. In fact, many women manage to look chic on a limited allowance.

If you're trying to build a successful wardrobe on a limited budget, it is far wiser to have a few good clothes rather than lots of inexpensive ones. Good clothes—those that show good taste—will remain wearable in quality and line while other exotic fashion trends come and go.

Look close at hand and far ahead when you do your clothes buying. Use the common sense plan. Be fair to yourself and your pocketbook. Remember that clothes are considered an index to a woman's character. They reflect to a large extent what she is, what she thinks and her attitude toward life. You want your clothes to say nice things about you. It is the same old story—high style vs. what looks best on the individual.

The master key to appropriate dress is knowledge of the correct lines for your particular figure type. Analyze yourself for style purposes. Decide which natural lines of your figure are strong and pleasing, and also attractive. Know what illusion of height and width your silhouette gives from front, back and side.

Remember there is magic in

line and design. Learn how to relate the line of your clothes to you. There are some things you can alter. Diet and exercise may help you tone down or round out your curves. But when it's a matter of being too tall or too short, you'll need to use skill in dressing to emphasize your best points and to play down your less attractive ones. Dress illusion is a justified form of deceit—and it's a fascinating project to work at.


Rod Thomson, Morrow County Assessor, and Deputy Joyce Phegley attended an Eastern Oregon assessors' meeting January 10 and 11 at Madras.

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