

FARM

Weekly Market Review

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Service

Wheat and Milk Better Income Earners This Winter

Among Oregon's four leading income producing farm commodities which last year accounted for about half of the state's total cash receipts from farm marketings only two are returning producers better prices than last winter. These are dairy products and wheat. The second and fourth largest sources of Oregon agriculture income. Milk prices are up 15 per cent and white wheat prices are 10 per cent higher.

Livestock, the number one farm income earner in Oregon, remain on a much lower price scale than a year ago. This is also true for eggs and turkeys.

Broiler prices pulled out of the recent slump and now are higher than they were a year ago. Livestock Under Pressure

In the Oregon livestock markets the past week, feeder cattle prices held up well considering the rather sharp drop in fed cattle prices in recent weeks. While cow-calf operators favor current price levels on feeder cattle, feedlot operators are in a dilemma because of the widening gap between feeder and slaughter steer prices and the continued high cost of inputs.

Whereas prices of feeder cattle are not much different than a year ago slaughter steer prices are \$4 to \$5 under the seven year high reached last winter. The problem is a larger supply of heavyweight cattle and greater competition from pork and poultry.

Domestic head meat production continues to run well above a year earlier, thanks to increased marketings and heavier average slaughter weights. Beef carcass weights have been running around 28 pounds heavier than last winter. Lamb and mutton tonnage has been up 25 to 33 per cent and weekly pork has been running at least 25 per cent or more above a year earlier.

The amazing increase in lamb marketings has depressed lamb prices to a point \$9 under a year ago at Portland. Either lamb feeders had a much larger inventory on feed this winter or more sheep are being sent to slaughter than expected.

In the hog markets, prices were down \$9 to \$10 from a year earlier in recent weeks. Such a wild price gyrations from one year to the next is certainly undesirable. Pork continues to lose more of its share of the meat market to beef and poultry.

Wool in Doldrums
The doldrums in wool markets this winter contrast sharply with the buoyant market conditions that prevailed a year ago. This should be a good year to hold wool for later date. Wool buyers have been unaggressive. Their enthusiasm is being dampened by the larger domestic stocks of apparel wool than a year ago and a slow down in mill orders and mill use.

Wool prices dropped sharply since last summer. The range is as much as 23 per cent under a year ago on 3/4 blood wool the grade produced in volume in Oregon.

Wheat Prices Perk Up
White wheat markets were given a shot in the arm after huge purchase authorizations were issued to India on February 21. Around 300,000 tons of white wheat were included and there was another PA for 200,000 tons designated for either Soft Red Winter or Soft White. Government export assistance under Title I of Public Law 480 continues to be an important factor in domestic wheat pricing.

Barley Drops to New Low
Barley, on the other hand, dropped to new season's low of \$48.50 a ton as February drew to a close. Weakness in the barley market during the current season reflects the lack of export demand. Japan, our large-

est barley customer has been buying large quantities in Canada where a record crop was produced in 1966 and in Australia where a much larger harvest was taken last year.

Corn exports also trail far behind last season but prices are up \$4 a ton. Meantime, milo continues to enjoy broad export demand; so despite bigger stocks milo prices are around \$3 a ton higher this winter.

Eggs Off Nine Cents
Oregon egg prices edged lower last week and they are much lower than they were a year ago but they are still higher than they were in 1965. Prices to Portland area producers in late February were nine cents a dozen lower on the Large and Medium sizes and six cents under a year ago.

Milk Cow Decrease Slowed
Dairy farmers in Oregon and most other states seem to be responding to higher milk prices by slowing down herd liquidation. Oregon's milk cow population was trimmed only 1,000 head last year in contrast to the 1961-65 annual average reduction of 8,400 head.

Evidence of a slowdown in the milk cow sell-off shows up in the milk tank, too. Oregon's January milk output was the same as a year earlier and the U. S. flow gained slightly.

U. S. Canadian Wheat Producers Agree on Points

By JOHN WELBES
Executive Vice President
Oregon Wheat League

Charles Gibbings, president of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, and Mearl Gifford, representing U. S. wheat interests, have issued the following statement following a meeting of Canadian and U. S. wheat producers.

"In an effort to arrive at a community of interests, representatives of Canadian and U. S. wheat producers met February 15, in Denver, Colo., to discuss items of mutual concern which are currently being negotiated under the auspices of the general agreement on tariffs and trade in Geneva, Switzerland.

"The discussion centered around the four items of primary concern to wheat producers:

1. An increase in the price of world wheat;
2. Access to the major commercial markets of the world;
3. Increased sharing of the food aid burden by importer and exporter;
4. Agreement on means to manage supplies in an effort to stabilize prices.

"The representatives agreed on the need of a price increase because of mutual problems of increased production cost which are not and have not been met at the current world level of prices.

"We also feel an adequate return to the producer is essential to maintain a strong, pliable industry able to meet expanding and growing needs of a hungry world.

"We feel the problems of access are essential to assure the producer of a stable as well as a growing market for their wheat.

"Increased sharing of the food aid burden is necessary if all countries of the world are to advance in social economic and political development.

"Management of supplies is needed to insure stable prices to both the importing as well as the exporting countries."

The representatives also reaffirm the desirability of these joint meetings, which was one of the continuing series of contracts between the two groups since the first meeting in 1960.

Ron Rew, Pendleton, president of Western Wheat Associates, and Allen Tom, The Dalles, president of the National Association of Wheat Growers, represented Oregon at this meeting.

Harris Pine Mills Low on Timber Sale

Umatilla National Forest Supervisor Wright T. Mallory announces Harris Pine Mills was the successful bidder for the Otter Creek timber sale held February 21. Two bidders were present.

The sale area is located on the Dale District in Grant county. It is along Otter Creek about ten miles east of Dale. An estimated volume of 4,400 M board feet is contained in the sale area.

This timber sale was appraised at \$35,259.00 and sold for \$35,415.00. The final prices bid per thousand feet by species were \$21.75 for ponderosa pine, \$4.02 for Douglas-fir and western larch, and \$1.80 for white fir and other coniferous species.

Metsker maps of Morrow, Gilliam, Umatilla, Wheeler counties on sale at the Gazette-Times, \$1.25 each.

OSU Weed Control Expert Outlines Gains, Problems

An Oregon State University professor who completed his term as president of the Weed Society of America this week says weed control is a key to greater food production in under-developed countries and can bring new agricultural practices in the U. S. and other nations.

Some crops may well be grown in solid stands instead of rows, for example, with chemical weed control advances.

Dr. William R. Furtick, in his presidential address, noted that "for the first time last year, world food production was less than consumption."

Unless dramatic changes can be brought in food production, this deficit of food production will increase sharply, he cautioned. Weed control offers hope for a dramatic change, doubling or tripling crop yields, Furtick said.

"The introduction of fertilizer to solve food shortages as now projected by various international agencies and agencies of our government is doomed to failure" unless accompanied by modern weed control programs, he told the international meeting in Washington, D. C.

"Addition of fertilizer under most cultural practices in the less-developed countries will often cause yield reductions because of the tremendous response of the weeds," Furtick pointed out.

In the United States and other more developed countries, the "highly effective and amazing" highly selective or specific herbicides have opened the need for a thorough review of many basic agricultural practices and potential industrial uses," the OSU agronomist noted.

"Many of the basic concepts of crop production have been based on the need for tillage to destroy the existing vegetation and in many crops, cultivation and hand hoeing to remove competing weeds," he continued.

Now with highly effective chemical weed control, research is needed to determine row spacings and crop densities on the basis of what will give the greatest yields per acre, it was noted. Non-tillage solid stand crop production has been given greatest research emphasis in Europe and shows excellent promise, Furtick said.

With the enormous development of water resources and a critical need for maximum water conservation, control of aquatic weeds takes on added importance, the agronomist stated.

"Unfortunately, the full potential use of herbicides for aquatic weed control has been unduly impeded by the slowness with which regulatory agencies have come to grips with determining the realistic criteria necessary for registration which insures safety to fish, wildlife, livestock and humans, yet permits use, Furtick charged.

Perhaps even more serious is that fact that "too few weed scientists" has become almost as big a problem as "too many

The Wheat Field

By GEORGE W. DEWEY
Legislative Counsel,
Oregon Wheat League

How to provide property tax relief and a property tax limitation are still "the 64 dollar questions" facing members of the Oregon State Legislature. Last week Representative Lee Johnson, chairman of the house taxation committee, told members of the senate taxation committee that property owners will face even a greater jolt next year.

Representative Johnson based approved salary increases for school teachers as evidence to support his allegation. He told the committee that salary increases already authorized in the Salem school district of \$1,200,000 would automatically be the equivalent of a 7.3 mill increase on assessed valuation. He further cited the Beaverton school district's approval of a \$800,000 salary increase as the equivalent of 8 mills on assessed valuation and the Eugene school district's \$1,500,000 increase as equaling a 10 mill increase on assessed valuation.

The senate taxation committee received a "warmed over" but interesting tax proposal from John Beatty, Jr., chairman of Multnomah County school district No. 1. Beatty suggested that the sales tax component of HJR 3 be enacted as a law and provide that all funds raised by that tax be allocated to the county in which the tax was collected as a direct offset to real property tax levies.

Beatty said "in our judgment, the effect would provide substantial property tax relief in those counties where such taxes are the highest."

He told the committee that if the State of Oregon were to adopt such a program, their estimate would find Baker County receiving 13.6 mills of property tax relief, Klamath County 27.9 mills, Umatilla County 25.4 mills, and Multnomah County 38.9 mills.

Beatty in support of his proposal, contended that property relief could not be provided through the basic school formula because in urban areas schools account for only a part

weeds," he reported. Shortage of trained personnel is slowing progress in weed control, Furtick said. He called for a society program to help attract more outstanding students into the weed control, a field with "one of the highest productivity rates per worker over experienced in a professional field."

Furtick is leader of an OSU project to help less-developed countries of the world with weed control problems on farm lands. Funds totaling \$478,400 were allocated for three years work last year by the Agency for International Development, U. S. Department of State.

South American countries will draw major attention during the first three years. Findings will have application to other areas of the world, however, and work may be expanded in coming years to African and Asian countries.

Improved Tag Helps in Testing Slaughter Cattle

By GAIL L. McCARTY

The market cattle Brucellosis testing program depends largely on the backtagging of cattle going to slaughter through livestock market centers. If enough cattle are tested through this means, a herd or county can keep up its Brucellosis certification without on-the-ranch testing.

Past experience with backtags led to experimentation for a better, more permanent tag. The new improved State-Federal backtag is easy to read, plasticized to withstand inclement weather, has round corners to prevent curling, and has a dual use. It has numbers on both sides. The white side to be showing on cattle eligible for testing (blood samples to be collected at slaughter), and the yellow side to be showing for non-eligible cattle when identification is needed at the livestock market.

The small numbers and letters at the top of the tag identify where the animal came from. The 92 indicates Oregon and the letters signify the livestock market where the tag was applied. The large number then identifies the seller of the cattle.

The proper identification of

cattle will result in better efficiency, especially in cattle being slaughtered in other states.

Semen Evaluation of Bulls
Approximately 10 percent of the bulls in Oregon which have been semen evaluated have proven to be below the level necessary to fertilize the eggs produced by the cow.

In some instances, according to John Landers, OSU Extension Livestock Specialist, the bulls are completely void of sperm and in other instances there is sufficient quantity of abnormal sperm that fertilization cannot take place. There is no way of identifying the guilty bull without an evaluation of the semen he produces.

Most veterinarians have equipment and the capabilities of making semen evaluation of bulls, Landers said. The cost is nominal when you consider the dependent value of this infertile bull. This is particularly important with the operator who runs one or two bulls.

It is desirable also that the veterinarian make a physical examination of the bull to see that his anatomy is adequate to function properly.

Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Gonty and son Doug, and Mrs. Alice McCabe and son Allen drove to Yakima Sunday, February 26, to meet the Gonty's older son, Tom, who drove over from Seattle where he is employed at the Renton plant of the Boeing Co. Tom brought a birthday cake along to share with the families in honor of brother Doug's 12th birthday.



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one of 28 models. Each offers more of the kind of car you need to tame the wide open western spaces.

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Knifty Sewers Start On Club Projects

The Knifty Sewers 4-H club was organized last November at the City Hall in Lexington. They elected officers as follows: June Ledbetter, president; Carlita Marquardt, vice president; Barbara McCarl, secretary; Anita Davidson, reporter; Kerry Coppock, song and game leader. Meetings are held each second and fourth Mondays.

We had a meeting January 16 at the home of Mrs. Robert Davidson. We discussed what we would make for a practice project. We also signed a paper thanking the Morrow County Grain Growers for the calendars we received in the mail.

At our February 6 meeting we talked about different kinds of materials. We burned threads from different materials. We then practiced sewing on two and four holed buttons. We talked about what we would make for a warm-up article. Barbara McCarl is making a stuffed horse and Anita Davidson is making a stuffed kangaroo for their warm-up articles. Candy bars were served for refreshments.

Anita Davidson, reporter