

FARM

Summary Given On Recent Farm Policy Meetings

The eight month slide in farm prices, the tightening squeeze between cost of food production and prices farmers get, and loopholes in import regulations topped the list of concerns voiced by Oregon farmers during two days of "shirt-sleeves" hearings in Pendleton and Rickreall this week.

More than 300 farmers attended the two afternoon meetings, which were sponsored by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in an attempt to gather information and suggestions for Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman to use in formulating new farm programs and policies.

Many of the growers took the floor to express worry over the worsening farm income situation and criticize government handling of some farm programs. They also called for government action to further restrict farm commodity imports, increase bargaining power of farmers in the marketplace, and provide more assistance to agricultural research, extension and conservation programs.

The majority of those who attended the Pendleton meeting were wheat and cattle ranchers. Dairy, sheep, grass seed and processing crops were represented at the Rickreall meeting. Both sessions were under the direction of R. E. Schadee of Gresham, chairman of the state Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee.

Administration Criticized
One of the most outspoken critics at Rickreall was Fulton McGill of Independence, publisher of the Oregon Daily News-Letter. He accused the USDA and the Johnson administration of following a "cheap food" policy and declared the meeting was nothing but a "snow job" to stall for time. Lloyd Nickolson of Ft. Klamath pursued the same tack and said the farmer's troubles had just begun. "The Johnson and Freeman administration is out to sell the farmer's blood for votes," he charged. "The government wants fewer farms and is pursuing policies which will liquidate 75 per cent of them. When

prices reach a level where farmers can make money, the President tells housewives to buy cheap cuts of meat." He pointed out that the farm debt had doubled in 10 years and that imports were increasing while farm prices dropped or remained static.

Allen Wheeler, master of the Oregon State Grange, said there is a serious need for collective bargaining legislation to protect farmers who join cooperatives and bargaining associations from reprisals by processors and buyers.

He said U. S. Senate Bill 109 would help the situation, but that it needed more strength to pass. He pointed out that several Oregon bills along the same lines seemed destined to die in committee.

'Basically Healthy'

Gale Gilmore, representing the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation, maintained that agriculture is basically healthy and the parity ratio was useful as a guideline, but nothing more. "We would be politically naive if we believed we would agree with everything any administration did in the way of farm programs, but we would also be naive to believe there were no areas where farmers and government could not cooperate," he said.

Jim Heater, chairman of the new Oregon Strawberry Commission, also called for more cooperation with USDA and Land Grant colleges in the area of research and market development.

Other speakers called for a better market reporting system, help in learning to export products to other countries, laws to require labeling of foreign imports for consumer protection, more money for research and programs which would return growers a fair return without driving the products off the market because of high prices.

Wheat Men Speak

The wheat ranchers told ASCS representatives that bumper wheat crops in Australia and Canada, good yields in Russia for the first time in several years, and extra U. S. wheat allotments granted by the Secretary of Agriculture are threatening to put the U. S. wheat grower back into the overproduction and low price squeeze that just a year ago was proclaimed a thing of the past by many farm policy experts.

Larry Williams, president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, said that the one thing the government could do for ranchers is "to leave us alone if we can prove we can solve our own problems."

The cattlemen outlined a national, voluntary program to cut beef production by 5 per cent, as a means of dragging prices out of the current low spot. The program is being put together under the auspices of the American National Cattlemen's Association. Cattlemen present at the Pendleton session made a strong plea for further restriction of foreign meat imports and a government pledge not to interfere with an anticipated rise in retail meat prices, in light of the voluntary industry drive to bring supply into balance with demand.

Farm spokesmen also called for an end to government price forecasts, more government support for various soil and grassland conservation practices, and beefing up of regulatory activities under provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act and the Agricultural Perishable Commodities Act, to prevent buyer discrimination against the farmer.



THE DOMESTIC WHEAT UTILIZATION committee of the Oregon Wheat Growers League recently put on an all day "tasting party" in the rotunda of the State Capitol, serving legislators as well as visitors during the day. Two dishes of "Bulgur Wheat" were served to approximately 500 people during the day.

Besides the bulgur feed, the Oregon Wheat Commission booth showing the market development program in the Asian area

was also on display in the rotunda. Shown above (left to right), are Mrs. Gail McKinnis, Summerville, chairman of the Wheat League's committee; Charlene Weatherford, Olex; Jessie Pattee, Condon; Mrs. Lindsay (Diana) Kincaid, Ione; Lovene Case, Allicel; and Mrs. Bob (Suzanne) Jepsen, Ione. Representative Don Wilson of Benton County takes time off from his busy legislative activities to taste the bulgur dishes.

Cattle Producers Outline Program To Senator Morse

Determination on the part of cattle producers to expedite a self-help program of beef supply management was apparent during the recent evening meeting of Senator Wayne Morse with the livestock producers of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association at the Portland Imperial Hotel.

Senator Morse listened as the cattlemen explained that the aim of the program is that of reducing production of live meat so the supply is ample but not in excess of demand. In return, producers could maintain a profit position in the market.

Cattlemen, in trouble at present beef prices, need 30 cents per pound for their top animals. Larry Williams, president, OCA, told Senator Morse. Sorley needed is cost of production plus a 5% margin of profit, Williams said.

The cattlemen are confident that supply can be brought in line with demand without calling for curtailment of herds. Ron Baker, Hermiston, chairman of the livestock marketing committee, explained how this could be accomplished — feeders are asked to market cattle for slaughter as soon as they reach suitable grade or at lighter weights; ranchers are urged to rigidly cull cow herds and be wary of excessive weights on cattle marketed off of grass.

But if the cattlemen are to better their own position, they must have help at the import level, warned Denny Jones, Juniper, OCA First Vice President. Senator Morse pledged his continued support in curbing beef imports. He said that livestock legislation must be constantly reviewed, and he commended the livestock group for their fact-finding briefing.

Morse said also that the nation faced a great cultural and social loss in the decline of its family farms. Should the present trend continue, the nation will have more teachers than farmers within the next 10 years, he pointed out.

Stitchers Meet

Meeting of the 4-H Super Stitchers was called to order by Cathy Crum, president. The club voted to clean our club house for future meetings. We sent get well cards. All members and our leaders were present. Refreshments were served by Cindy Ekstrom.

—Cassy Chapel, reporter

Jackman Memorial Plans Reported

An E. R. Jackman Memorial will be established at Oregon State University by a statewide committee as a tribute to the late E. R. Jackman, former Oregon State University extension farm crops and range management specialist, agricultural leader and well-known writer for the past half century.

The decision to establish such a memorial was made recently by a committee of Jackman's friends from throughout the state at a meeting with Oregon State University officials.

Detailed plans for the memorial will be worked out later this month, according to R. A. Long of Fort Rock, who was chosen as chairman of the committee. But it is the committee's intent, Long said, to establish a permanent and significant memorial that will enhance improvement and usefulness of agricultural resources in Oregon as well as throughout the West.

Jackman's interest and contributions to agriculture were widespread. He was known personally by thousands of Oregon farmers and ranchers, especially those in the state's cattle and range country, and in the grain, grass seed and potato industries. He was known to millions of persons through his articles in national magazines and his co-authorship of "Gold and the Cattle Country," written with Herman Oliver; "The Oregon Desert," with Reub Long; and "Blazing Forest Trails," with Charles D. Simpson, released a few weeks ago. At the time of his death on May 12, 1967, he had practically completed co-authoring another book about Steens Mountains with John Scharff and Charlie Conkling.

On the statewide committee with Chairman Long are Carey Strome, Junction City; Grant Perry, Portland; Herman Oliver, John Day; Dick Richards, Scappoose; Jens Terjeson, Helix; John Scharff, Burns; Walter Leth, Salem; Frank Ballard, former president and director of the extension service at Oregon State University; James Jackman, Corvallis. James Dunn, OSU, will serve ex-officio as secretary-treasurer.

Game Date Changed

The Little League baseball game, originally scheduled for July 4, between the Indians and Giants, has been postponed until July 7, according to the Indians' coach, Lindsay Kincaid. It will start at 6:00 p.m. at the Little League field in Heppner.

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Summer Water Supply Outlook Predicted 'Usual'

Farmers, ranchers and other water users of Umatilla, Morrow, Gilliam and Sherman counties can expect usual summer water supplies this season, according to a report released today by A. J. Webber, state conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, Portland. Only a possible shortage in the stored water supplies in McKay reservoir can mar this picture.

Snow cover remains only at the highest elevations but is more extensive than usual for June 1 conditions due to frequent cold spells. Precipitation in May has been only half normal but snow-melt brought streamflow up to normal for the month.

Moisture in the soil mantle on upper watersheds is well above average. Soils at lower elevations have begun to dry at the surface.

Coldsprings Reservoir is at capacity at 55,000 acre feet. McKay reservoir received a strong inflow during May and now contains 56,400 acre feet compared with 37,300 a.f. a year ago. This supply is not up to the amount desired for a good water season.

Forecast of streamflow to be expected in the May through July period are set at 100 per cent of the 15-year average (1948-62) for Butter Creek, Umatilla river at Pendleton and the South Fork of the Walla Walla near Milton.

Flow of McKay Creek May through September is expected to be only 13,000 acre feet or 92 percent average this season.

Water supplies for most farmers, ranchers and other water users in Oregon will be near average for the balance of this summer. Less than average water supplies are expected for lands served from the McKay reservoir near Pendleton and from Hood River, White River and the Mile Creeks in Wasco county and Wallawa Lake in the Enterprise — Joseph area. Elsewhere stored water supplies and expected runoff are mostly satisfactory.

Francis Robinson Wins Promotion

Marine Corporal Francis D. Robinson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Robinson of Lexington, was promoted to his present rank in Da Nang, Vietnam while serving with Headquarters Battalion of the First Marine Division.

His promotion was based on time in service and rank, military appearance and his knowledge of selected military subjects.

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