

FARM

Gross Farm Income Increase Reported

Although farming has not been the most profitable of occupations during the past five years, it has been more so in Morrow county than in many sections of the county.

Local farmers made bigger gains during that period, from the standpoint of gross receipts for their products, than the average, according to a nationwide survey released by the Standard Rate and Data Service.

It shows that their gross income in the past year was \$2,387,000 greater than it was in 1963.

They were able to increase their yield from livestock and poultry and produce larger crops, even though they had a smaller amount of land available to them, because of the government's acreage control programs.

The gain in production is attributed to more efficient operation, due in large measure to the increased use of farm machinery and to more intensive cultivation.

With the growing affluence of the population as a whole, there was a greater demand for agricultural products, both here and abroad. It created a rise in

the price of many commodities, but the farmer and rancher got only a small part of the benefit.

The report lists Morrow county's gross farm income in the past year as \$16,229,000, as compared with the total five years ago of \$13,842,000.

These were the gross figures, before any allowances for taxes and operating costs.

The rise, which amounted to 17 percent, was greater than was chalked up in many farm areas.

Of the local income, approximately 85 percent came from the sale of crops and 35 percent from the marketing of livestock, poultry and dairy products. These figures are based upon the latest Department of Agriculture statistics.

The income figure also takes into account money received from the government and "income in kind," which is the value of home-grown products consumed on the farm.

Offsetting the rise in gross income in the last five years was the sharp increase in taxes, wages, fuel, feed and other production costs.

Beef Statistics Overlooked by Average Consumer

Despite the recent publicity about high retail costs of beef, some information is still being overlooked by consumers, points out S. C. Marks, Oregon State University extension agricultural economist.

What the average homemaker doesn't see when doing her weekly shopping is the fact that prices received by both beef producers and wholesalers have been steadily declining after peaking in June, Marks notes.

For instance, beef prices at the wholesale level are down fully 18 per cent from June's high. Prices received by the producer have dropped as much as 21 per cent.

However, the economist adds, retail prices, which followed the upward trend in winter and spring, have not yet followed the downward trend since June except for week-end "specials" which have appeared in the last two or three weeks.

Meat prices are a major source of conversation because Americans are a nation of meat-eaters, Marks continues. Last year, the United States consumed nearly 238 lbs. per person of red meat, poultry and fish. Of this, just over 109 lb. was beef.

This type of demand continued this spring when the total beef supply failed to keep up with population increases and increased money people had to spend for beef, Marks notes. Beef production was handicapped by the severe winter weather.

In June, the total beef supply available was only one per cent greater than a year earlier and in July it actually dropped below a year earlier. However, he adds, preliminary information indicates August beef supplies were up about three per cent over August, 1968.

At the same time, pork, which is an alternative meat supply for the consumer, was undergoing its usual seasonal decrease in supply during the summer months. This has helped encourage the high retail cost of beef, he added.

Now, however, pork supplies are in a seasonal increase. This along with the increase in beef, should normally lead to somewhat generally lower prices at the meat counter, he said.

House guests of Mrs. Mabel Chaffee last week were her sisters-in-law, Mrs. Naomi DeChenne and Mrs. Alma Chaffee of Spokane, Wash. The ladies returned to their homes Saturday.

The man who invented the alarm clock probably did more than any other person to arouse the working classes.

OSU Field Burning Research Team Reports Progress

Intensive research in many areas related to agricultural field burning is underway at Oregon State University, Robert M. Alexander, director of the OSU Air Resources Center, reported here today at a meeting of the legislative task force on pollution.

"The effort," Alexander said, "is aimed both at reducing harm from field burning and at providing a basis for alternatives leading to the reduction or elimination of the practice."

Chairman of the task force, appointed last month by Robert Smith, speaker of the House of Representatives, is Rep. George Winzard of Lane county.

Other task force members are Reps. Elizabeth Browne and Richard Eymann of Lane county, Rep. Anthony Meeker of Yamhill county, Rep. Gerald Detering of Linn county, Herbert Hardy, Portland attorney, and Alexander.

"During the past year," Alexander said, "OSU researchers have explored a number of potential uses of grass straw residues—especially those from annual crops. These uses include livestock feed, pulp for making paper, and raw material for the manufacture of such industrial products as plastics."

"Research also has been conducted," he said, "on the possibility of using high energy sources to hasten the breakdown of straw residues."

Task force members met during the day with a number of OSU scientists heading up various phases of the research program.

Dr. A. T. Ralston, animal nutritionist, reviewed findings to date in livestock feeding studies.

"We have found," he said, "that supplemental ryegrass straw pellets can produce somewhat better gains on wintering replacement heifers than loose alfalfa hay. The digestibility of ryegrass straw also has been found comparable to that of medium quality hays."

Dr. W. J. Bublitz, pulp and paper chemist, reported that pre-

Early Registration At Pendleton BMCC Passes Prediction

Registration has increased nearly 15% over last year at Blue Mountain Community College, it was reported here by President Wallace McCrae on Tuesday, the second day of registration.

Student enrollment reached 884, and is expected to pass the 900 mark by the end of the week, he said. Last year's figures were at 735 by mid-week. Classes were getting organized and underway on Monday.

"We have more returning second-year students than last year," McCrae confirmed. With the broadened curriculum and added facilities, the college can offer more to second year students and others who want to continue advanced education, technical programs are growing, and one of the most popular new courses has been that of tower control, he pointed out.

A good number of students are enrolled from Morrow county.

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1,781 Cars Move Oregon's Produce

Oregon's shipment of fresh produce moving to market totaled 1,781 carlots in August. Potatoes accounted for all but 452 of the carlots.

Onions were second in the number of carlots with 295 checked by the federal-state shipping point inspection service. Prunes and plums were third with 75 cars. Pears shipped totaled 42 cars and apples 21 cars.

Malheur County, with 720 cars, and the Hermiston-Umatilla section, with 454 carlots, were the heavy potato shippers.

All but one carlot of the onions shipped came from Malheur County. The one carlot was shipped from the Salem area.

Milton-Freewater shipped most of the prunes and plums, 71 cars, and that area also had 17 cars of apples. Pear shipments were out of Hood River and Medford. Hood River had 18 cars and Medford 24. Hood River also shipped four cars of apples.

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