

# Oregon farms, ranches gross \$1 billion

For the third year in a row, the estimated gross sales from Oregon's farms and ranches were more than \$1 billion. In Morrow County, though, the gross sales were down 7.6 per cent from 1975.

Preliminary estimates made by the Oregon State University Extension Service

indicate a total of \$1.04 billion, which includes \$683.5 million from crop sales and \$354.9 million from livestock and poultry.

Of Oregon's 36 counties, 25 experienced gains in farm sales and 11 had declines. Only one county, Marion, had over \$100 million in farm sales.

Last year Umatilla County also had over \$100 million, but that dropped by \$10 million in 1976 because of price declines for wheat and potatoes.

Total crop sales were down six per cent. Increases in grass and legume seed sales, hay and silage, and small fruits failed to offset a major

drop in the value of grain sales.

Livestock sales were up nine per cent from 1975, mainly due to a significant increase in the value of sales of cattle and calves and a major jump in sales of dairy products.

Grains were once again the state's leading farm commod-

ity with sales of \$189.7 million. However, this is a drop of 20 per cent from last year due to depressed wheat processes. Wheat prices have fallen from an average of \$3.80 a bushel in 1975 to an estimated \$2.75 a bushel in 1976.

Field crop sales were down an estimated \$1 million. Sales increases for some field crops were not enough to offset the drop in value of potato sales.

Potato sales fell \$3 million in spite of a 20 per cent increase in spud acreage. Farmers received an average of \$3.20 hundredweight for potatoes in 1975 and that price fell to an estimated \$2.45 hundredweight in 1976.

Sales of cattle and calves increased by 5.5 per cent for a total of \$163 million. Although cattle prices were somewhat better in 1976, Miles noted that

they still did not reach the cow calf operator's break-even price.

Oregon farm sales estimates are made annually. County extension agents work with contacting producers, brokers, handlers, processors and others in the food chain. Estimates are made on more than 100 crop categories, and figures on major crops are compared with those estimated for the state by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's

Statistical Reporting Service.

Statewide income by commodity groups for 1976 was as follows (with percentage change from 1975 indicated): grains, \$189.6 million (-20 per cent); cattle and calves, \$162.8 million (+5.5 per cent); field crops, \$135.3 million (-7 per cent); specialty crops, \$88.7 million (+22 per cent); grass and legume seed, \$58.3 million (+13 per cent); tree fruits and nuts, \$58 million (-3 per cent); hay and silage, \$56 million

(+25 per cent); eggs and poultry, \$46.5 million (-2 per cent); miscellaneous animals, \$41.8 million (+24 per cent).

Morrow County's total yearly sales were \$63.9 million, a drop of 7.6 per cent from 1975. Gilliam County totalled \$14.5 million, a drop of 15.9 per cent; Grant was \$6.9, a drop of 11.5 per cent; Umatilla County totalled \$95.8 million, down 11.6 per cent; and Wheeler totalled \$4.1 million, increasing 2.6 per cent.

## Morrow County agriculture gross down seven per cent

Morrow County's 1976 estimated gross farm income from agricultural products was down 7 per cent this year from 1975, according to Harold Kerr, Morrow County Agent.

Gross farm sales for 1976 were \$64,083,000, compared to \$68,748,000 in 1975.

U.S.D.A. figures for agri-

culture nation wide, show farmers' costs have risen 5 per cent, further depressing the agricultural picture.

The biggest loss this year comes as no surprise to our wheat producers. Preliminary estimates show a decline of \$4 million, even though 30,000 additional acres of wheat was harvested in Morrow County.

Gross sales of wheat from 221,500 acres (approximately 32,000 irrigated) were \$19,139,000.

Potatoes were the leading crop again, but sales were off \$2½ million, even with 5,000 additional acres. Gross sales of potatoes from 25,300 acres were estimated to be \$30,337,000.

The only commodity which showed a significant increase was alfalfa, and other forage crops, at about \$7.2 million total.

Livestock sales ended up nearly the same, even though numbers have increased in the county. Total estimated sales were \$5.9 million.

Morrow County retained its number four rank in agricultural sales by county in Oregon. First place is Marion, second Umatilla, third is Malheur, and Morrow County is fourth, followed closely by Clackamas and Linn counties in the valley.

## Mayor, three councilmen take oath of office

The mayor and three councilmen were sworn into office Monday at the regular January meeting of the Heppner Common Council.

Mayor Jerry Sweeney was sworn into his second term as mayor by city recorder Marshall Lovgren. Sweeney then administered the oath of office to councilmen Cliff Green, Warren Polcharsky, and Hubert Wilson.

For the sixth year in a row, Robert Jones was elected council chairman.

The council got some housecleaning out of the way, appointing first of the year appointments to city offices and crews.

In other business, the council:

received and read a letter from grade school principal, Don Cole, thanking the council and city engineer Steve Anderson for working with the highway department to erect a fence near the school.

Also discussed was the possibility of a walkway on the city's right-of-way near Gilmore and Court Street. The area is hazardous to children who use the steep route now. The council entertained thoughts of paving the area, with steps on the steep hill. The property is next to residential areas, which also brought discussion. Sweeney said the responsibility still lies with the parents and that parents should "examine the procedure in which their children get to school."

The council turned the engineering over to Anderson

and will instruct him to look at the area.

set Jan. 17 for a supplemental budget hearing. Money concerned is \$5,765 from the Land Conservation and Development Commission for comprehensive plans for the city.

heard from the city of Tacoma, concerning parking meters that that city took out recently. Heppner asked about a possible purchase. The city of Tacoma said they had not decided on what to do with the 1,200 meters, but that Heppner would be on their mailing list when they did.

heard that the Morgan Street bridge, in the works for

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Sweeney takes oath from Marshall Lovgren.



Councilmen, from left, Cliff Green, Hubert Wilson, Warren Polcharsky, take oath from Sweeney. Robert Jones, council chairman, looks on. (G-T Photos)

### NOTICE

Ordinance No. 402, an ordinance calling for a public hearing on the matter of Annexation will be read in the Council Chambers at City Hall, Heppner, Oregon at 5:30 p.m., January 17, 1977. Marshall Lovgren, Recorder City of Heppner, Oregon Published Jan. 6, 1977.

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