

Oregon Agricultural College is the Friend of the Farmer

Page of News Notes and Interesting Articles Written by College Experts.



Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Oregon, the Sole Aim of Which Is to Aid Agriculturists.

GIRLS' ORGANIZATIONS. ... NOT ALL of the advantages of college life at O. A. C. are derived from the class room exercises. A considerable proportion of the real value of a college education comes from the associations maintained with other students. Working with others, advising and receiving advice, adjusting opinions and subordinating self, are some of the advantages received by those active in student organizations.

The Young Women's Christian Association is a live and efficient force in character development among the college women. The weekly meetings are well attended and many channels for usefulness are thus opened to those who participate in this work.

The Madrigal Club is a girls' musical organization, and in its activities many pleasant hours are spent by those gifted with good voices. Music receives much attention in the college, and all students may take such musical training as they are capable and desirous of receiving.

The Home Economics Club is organized with the idea of bringing to the college community speakers who are capable of presenting subjects in Home Economics which might otherwise be unobtainable.

Many happy occasions are afforded by excursions to the nearby mountains or to the ocean beaches of the Pacific, while small picnics, informal social functions, and visits to the homes of the instructors and townspeople are of frequent occurrence. A systematic effort is being made by the women of the faculty to create a "home" feeling among the students and to offer an opportunity for better acquaintanceship between the faculty women and women students.

All the women of the college are eligible, of course, to offices in the student body organizations and the various classes. They are members of such prominent college societies as the Mask and Dagger and the Literary societies, and of such professional or technical clubs as the Commercial Club and the Pharmaceutical Association. They have their own system of athletic sports, under the direction of a professor of physical education for women, and with an exclusive gymnasium, equipped in a thoroughly modern fashion for up-building the health and encouraging the happiness of the women students of the college.

GRADE APPLES STRICTLY. SPECIAL pains with their grading should be taken this year by all our fruit men, if we are to retain our present markets and secure the new ones necessary to take the place of those lost by the European wars. The crop is fairly large, says Professor C. I. Lewis, the Agricultural College horticulturist, whose efforts to secure high standards for fruit and faithful adherence to those standards has done so much to place Oregon fruit in the front rank. His views of present conditions and how best to meet them follow.

"While our fruit crop is not so large as the 1912 crop it is larger than that of 1913. The apple crop in the entire United States bids fair to be large. The Canadian crop is good. And our European market is somewhat limited, so that it behooves us to be very careful of the grade of fruit we put on the market.

"The dry summer has caused a great deal of very dry fruit. Much of this fruit is probably too small to be profitably marketed. It would be much better to keep this small, in-

ferior fruit at home and work it into by-products, evaporated, vinegar, canned, than to try to market it in boxes. In some sections there is considerable fruit that has been more or less damaged by scab, insect stings and fruit pests. A rumor has reached me recently to the effect that some of our fruit growers' associations are planning to use some of this fruit in their second grade class this year.

"To use this fruit would be a fatal mistake for the fruit growers of the Northwest. On the contrary, we should follow very strictly our grading rules. These rules may be secured from any of the various selling agencies, such as the North Pacific Fruit Distributors of Spokane and Portland, and the Northwest Fruit Exchange of Portland. These associations have adopted fixed grades and if fruit is sold through them it must come up to grade. If inferior fruit having worm stings, scab, etc., is loaded on the market it is going to hurt the sale of the better fruit. We will actually make more money by dumping such fruit into the river than to attempt to sell it. I would urge upon all fruit growers, and all individual growers that are working independently, to grade stricter this year than they ever did before. The future of the fruit industry demands it. Our market is undoubtedly going to be restricted, and we must look up new markets to take the place of much of the fruit that has heretofore gone to Europe. It will be only by careful grading that we can hope to secure results this year."

SPECIMEN WIREWORM WANTED.

OREGON gardeners and farmers whose crops have been troubled by wireworms are urgently requested to send in specimens to the entomologists of the Agricultural College. The Department of Entomology is making an extensive study of wireworms (*Eilateridae*), and false wireworms (*Eleodes* sp.), with a view to learn more intimately their life habits, time of maturing, etc., in different parts of the state. If growers who are interested will bear this request in mind, they may very often with but little trouble collect a great deal of material which will be of value in better protection of the crops. Wireworms may be found collected in the soil about the base of plants, especially root crops such as onions, potatoes and field beets. They likewise often gather in large numbers in roots of mature corn. In harvesting their fall crops farmers may often find them in these and other similar places and can readily take them up, put them in boxes or cans and mail them to the department of Entomology, Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis. A report of the date and place of capture should accompany the collection. The co-operation of growers in this matter will be thoroughly appreciated by officers of the department.

LIVESTOCK IN CROOK COUNTY.

ALTHOUGH there is some very good dry farming country in the Madras section of Crook County, but very few livestock are raised on the dry farms, according to R. E. Reynolds, who traveled through that district last month in connection with the O. A. C. farmers' institutes. Very few cattle and only enough horses to do the farm work are generally kept on the unirrigated farms. But with water for irrigation, of which there is an ex-

cellent prospect, this district will, thinks Mr. Reynolds, become one of the best stock countries of the West. With water alfalfa can be grown in abundance and many valuable field crops besides. Already some corn, field peas, turnips and artichokes have been successfully grown upon some of the dry land farms, but their great need is water for irrigation with which the country will surely undergo rapid development, many prosperous homes being built where it is many miles between farmsteads.

LARGE PROFITS IN USING THE PURE-BRED STALLION.

FIVE HUNDRED PER CENT on an investment in five years is a conservative estimate of the additional returns from breeding the best mares to the best sound, pure-bred stallions, as compared to breeding them to grade or mongrel stallions, as shown by figures compiled by the State Registration Board. Reports from stallion owners of the state show a difference in service fees of but \$3 between the cost of breeding to the average pure-bred as compared to the grade or mongrel stallion. Data compiled in Wisconsin shows that the difference in value of the offspring of these two classes of stallions runs from \$50 to \$100 with an average of \$66. This would make returns of 2,200 per cent on the investment and would not be far wrong for this state.

"But let us be more conservative," said Professor Kennedy, the O. A. C. member of the Stallion Registration Board, "and say that the value of the horses will be increased only \$30, less than half the increase found in Wisconsin. And let us pay \$6 additional for our service fees and get the very best horses, while our figures show a cost of but \$3 additional. Then we still have a 500 per cent increase on our investment when the colt is matured, four or five years after paying the additional fee. The board believes that it is a good investment to commence grading up the farm horse stock by mating carefully selected, sound mares with sound, prepotent, pure-bred stallions."

PROFITABLE DAIRY Sires BOUGHT BY CLUB METHOD

FIVE DAIRYMEN of Lane County recently purchased co-operatively a bull calf for the sum of \$250. These men own about 50 cows an average of ten each. The production records of the bull's ancestors practically insure that his daughters will show an increase of 30 pounds of butter-fat over that of the yearly production of their dams. With usual percentage of increase of females allowing 10 per cent for death losses there will be at the end of two years 45 heifers whose excess production will amount to \$405 annually. This will more than pay for the bull and his keep leaving the owners the bull just entering his prime and the young cows just entering their profitable stage.

The foregoing facts and conclusions were pointed out by Professor W. A. Barr Federal and O. A. C. Extension Dairyman who is working to bring about more co-operative buying of dairy sires. He is especially desirous that at least one other group of dairymen buy an Ayreshire bull in the Lane County district so that the owners of this one may rotate ownership with the new group, whereby each member of both associations will have the use of good sires for at least four years. Five

considerations which justify this form of purchase are given by Professor Barr as follows:

1. Each man must recognize the possibility of higher success in combination than as individuals.

2. Each man must lay aside all prejudices and let dollars and cents, rather than sentiment determine the breed that in view of natural production conditions and available markets should be selected.

3. All must agree as to breed of bull, ancestral requirements, and price to be paid.

4. Each man must subscribe his share of the stock to make the purchase, based on the proportional number of his cows.

5. Adopt constitution and by-laws governing the handling, care and use of the association bull.

Copies of constitutions and by-laws may be had of the Extension Division of the Agricultural College, which will also be glad to furnish further information concerning these associations.

Judges of products at the Linn County Fair September 23-25, from Oregon Agricultural College, were R. E. Reynolds, livestock; D. C. Howard, dairy; E. M. D. Bracker, farm machinery; W. S. Brown, fruit and vegetables, and one judge of domestic science exhibits.

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