

**The Hermiston Herald**

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**Farmers Uphold County Agents.**

A letter to the Editor of The Oregonian, written by Roscoe Howard, a dairy farmer at Grants Pass, Or., commenting on a recent editorial in that paper "What's the Rest of the Story?" which invited suggestions for reduction in public spending, states that "saving can be made by the state, the United States, and the counties by dispensing with the offices of county agent and home demonstration agent."

It is true that an appropriation is made by the county, the state and the federal government for maintaining the agricultural extension service and its officers but when

simmered down to individual taxpayers, only a small portion is paid by each.

In referring to county agents, Mr. Howard says that "they were created to aid the farmer and his family to success and prosperity" but that the result has been failure. Studying the question more carefully, especially in Umatilla county, we see where dairy farmers have been aided materially by projects presented through the county agent's office, such as the "Umatilla Herd Improvement Association" which has aided the dairymen in checking the production of their herds, thus weeding out the boarders, and keeping only the paying dairy cows. Through a recent drive the Umatilla county area was made abortion and tuberculosis free. To continue the chain: the farmer has learned how to store his butterfat properly through bulletins from the extension service and the county agent, which brings up the grade of butterfat. Again the dairymen are benefitted when their cream, which is manufactured by a cooperative creamery, markets at a high grade price, and their stock in the manufacturing plant is enlarged. The plan works in a cycle, and the results cannot be overlooked.

The cry of overproduction which is mentioned in Mr. Howard's letter, is a cry that is growing fainter as the farmer's problem is studied. There is no more food produce on the market than can be consumed.

There is an evidence of the lack of a medium of exchange with which to buy, and it is only the best grade produce that is in demand, and only that which reaches the public market. The farmer has been assisted in reaching this grade of produce by advice given through the county agent.

Had it not been for the county agent's office and the home demonstration agent in Mr. Howard's own county this summer, the unemployment problem would have been a big one this winter with the many transients coming into that section from California. The county agent made a portable cannery that was taken over the county in order that farmers might preserve the excess produce that would otherwise have gone to waste. Much canning was done by farmers for the relief committee and had this organized effort not been made early, the situation would have been acute.

Who can determine better than the farmer himself, whether a county agent is "loafing on the job" and "devoting a large portion of his time to his private business, or play politics?" If a county agent is not getting results in a territory assigned to him, all that is necessary to eliminate him, is for a representative group to appear before the county court, state their case, and request that the county appropriation be withdrawn.

The value of the county agent's

office to farmers in Umatilla county was demonstrated recently when it was learned that the county court planned to strike the appropriation for maintaining that office from the budget this year. A group of influential farmers presented their arguments in favor of the retention of the county agent's office which resulted in the court deciding in their favor. That demonstration in itself is a proof of the value of county agent's work to the farmer.

If there has been an official canvass of farmers in two Oregon counties the extension service has never been informed of such actions. A canvass that would be purely negative does not deal justly with the farmer or the county agent problem.

The Hermiston community is known throughout the state as one of the most progressive little towns in the Northwest, and a lot of the credit for such a record can be contributed to work done through the county agent's office in helping to organize cooperatives, and to give information that put farming on a business basis.

The farmers of Umatilla county had an opportunity to voice their vote upon the subject of the value of the county agent to them, and they returned a majority for retaining these offices.

**HERALD WANT ADS PAY USE THEM!**

**STORAGE REQUIREMENTS LISTED BY SPECIALIST.**

Five requirements for good storage for root crops or pumpkin are given by G. R. Hyslop, farm crops chief at O. S. C., as follows: Good storage must be cool, it is best if dark, it needs to be dry, good ventilation is necessary, and it ought to be convenient.

Many persons do not realize the advantage of handling roots carefully to avoid bruising and consequent spoilage, says Hyslop. One would not think of pitching an apple into a basket or box, yet will throw mangels weighing many times more that are little better protected, he points out. The college has several free publications on storage of vegetables and field crops.

**Testerless Tests Worked Out.**

TOLEDO—Lincoln county will soon have a thriving cow testing association operated without the expense of a tester in charge, as the result of arrangements being made with County Agent Conklin by 20 or more herd owners. Each herd owner will collect his own samples once a month and will keep his milk weights. The county agent will collect the samples once a month and have them tested, returning the reports to the dairymen. It is expected to have from 600 to 800 cows in the association.



**Give Thanks**

Scarcely had the Pilgrims settled in the Bay Colony three hundred and twelve years ago when the terrible New England winter descended upon them.

Only half of the party survived the hardships and suffering of that first year. Those who were spared carried on like the dauntless pioneers they were, and lived and prospered.

Give thanks for the example set us so many years ago. The homely virtues of self-discipline and perseverance are still the unfailing source of abundant prosperity.

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**Money Saved on Sulfur.**

LAKEVIEW—Farmers of Lake county recently pooled orders for a carload of soil sulfur which was obtained through the county agent's office. Total cost delivered here

was \$37.80 a ton, which on the carload amounted to net saving of \$150 to the seven farmers who ordered. Amounts obtained ranged from 1000 pounds to five tons. The sulfur is used mostly as a fertilizer for alfalfa.

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