

Comprehensive Review of Agricultural Progress Given by Grange

Nine Planning Committees Make Recommendations on Variety of Farm Products

Each spring eight or nine "program planning committees" of the Jackson county Grange's agricultural council meet to draw up a series of reports that constitute the most comprehensive summaries of the county's agricultural picture that are available. Elsewhere on this page will be found condensations of reports from the land use committee, H. E. Conger, chairman, horticulture committee, David B. Lowery, chairman, small farms committee, Arthur Wisner, chairman, farm crops, Arnold Bohner, chairman, poultry, Lawrence Luy, chairman, dairy committee, under Victor P. Birdseye, and the livestock committee, under C. C. Hoover.

Each report surveys the progress made by the various agricultural enterprises during the past year, recommends what appear to be appropriate projects for the future and generally summarizes the condition of the enterprise throughout the county. All the reports reviewed on this page have been accepted by the agricultural council.

Horticulture

Technological advancement in pear production methods has resulted in an increased production of about 20 per cent in Jackson county. The horticulture committee believes that the grade of "finer" low producing blocks may also be unprofitable. Additional experimental work is urged as a means of utilizing pear culls as by-products.

The committee went on record as discouraging additional plantings of apples, peaches, plums, sweet cherries, sour cherries, walnuts, filberts and small fruits.

Regarding apples, the committee said there should be no additional planting in the county but present plantings should be maintained.

The acreage of peaches has increased rapidly in recent years both in Oregon and throughout the United States. Until further fresh market outlets are established it is recommended that no more hale peaches be planted. There is a demand for elbertas for canning but this variety must meet California competition.

There is no market for local consumption of plums, so, before planting, a market outlet should be assured.

Discourage Cherries
Due to the presence of albino cherry, a very destructive virus disease, cherry planting is discouraged until a control is found or a resistant variety developed.

Walnut planting is not recommended except in very favorable locations. Because of heavy overproduction, filbert planting is discouraged.

Sufficient canning berries are now produced for local consumption, the committee declared, and further expansion in boysenberries should be made only with the thought of supplying processors.

There may be some room for expansion in raspberries, provided shipment to out-of-state markets proves successful. A small increase in strawberry acreage will be justified when a good disease resistant variety is developed.

Could Increase Vegetables
A small increase in vegetable acreage would be justified here for supply to local markets, and canneries may also be an outlet for certain truck crops like tomatoes and cabbage. Canneries should be contacted and a labor supply assured before any considerable acreage is planted.

One of the principal problems tackled by the committee was the lack of housing for seasonal labor. The lack of on-the-ranch and orchard housing in this county is a serious obstacle to securing enough of the better class of seasonal workers, they declared. Jackson county probably has less of these facilities than any fruit district on the Pacific coast, it was claimed. In the past the fruit growers have maintained a transient labor camp and have imported contract labor. This year, and in the future, these may not be available, adding to the seriousness of the labor problem.

The committee recommended that growers provide quarters for seasonal workers in this order of preference—cottages, tents with floors and frames, house trailer parks.

Livestock
The liver fluke, ox warble, or heel fly, and general livestock disease problems were thoroughly discussed by the livestock committee. Suggestions were made that the disease control committee study these problems, such as community treatment of wet snail infested areas, certain canals, and the heel fly menace, and develop a program for improved control.

In regard to the testing of animals for brucellosis and tuberculosis, a resolution was presented as follows:
Resolved that this committee go on record as favoring the employment of any registered, practicing veterinarian by any livestock owner, and that county, state and federal agencies accept the tests by such employed licensed veterinarians.

Beef Increase
The committee believes there is a slight increase in the beef enterprise in the county, particularly on the irrigated farms.

In reference to sheep, the committee believes the number of breeding stock have decreased but total numbers of sheep in the county have increased over last year. The increase should be encouraged.

The swine population has increased almost 100 per cent in two years. This enterprise may be expanded so long as grain prices are in line.

The committee believes that stockmen should give more consideration to the production and harvesting of silage crops. A large percentage of the hay crops of the valley are ruined or badly damaged each year by rain. If this were converted into grass silage, losses would be cut. It is apparent that the dairy cow numbers in Jackson county have been on the increase. It is estimated that there are now nearly 13,000 dairy cattle in the county. The marketing situation has eased somewhat insofar as grade A milk is concerned and a considerable amount of market milk is being shipped out of this area and marketed in the Eugene area.

The increase in the production of market milk is bringing greater interest to bear on cows of the lower testing breeds, particularly holsteins, in this area, and the trend of many dairymen is toward keeping at least 50 per cent holsteins along with their high test cows.

Dairy

Control Better
In the 1948 report the committee was considerably concerned with the fact that diseases such as brucellosis were on the increase in this area. This was blamed on the lax program during the war, but with the new brucellosis law and better organization within the county setup, control is now much better than before and the disease incidents is expected to decline rather than increase.

The dairy committee recommends that because the profits in dairying are not large, new dairies be established only on farms where good pastures are available and where the owner can establish a silage program for economical production. All milk markets in Oregon are flush for the first time in seven years. This makes the establishment of new dairies very unlikely. The committee therefore recommends that all new dairies plan to produce factory milk.

Poultry
It is estimated that the population of the Pacific coast states has increased approximately 60 per cent since 1940. The shifting of population has not reached a stationary point and present trends indicate a continued increase in Jackson county.

The poultry population has not kept pace with this increase and the coast states are, therefore, consuming a greater number of eggs than is produced in the area. The per capita consumption of eggs has increased from about 200 eggs per year before the war to approximately 383 in 1949.

Farm Crops
The farm crops committee believes that while sub clover is a satisfactory pasture crop on certain lands of the county, it does not have a general adaptation on all lands.

The committee is aware of the wide publicity now being given to the various strains and varieties of lotus. Since the narrow leaf birdsfoot trefoil, lotus corniculatus, is a native of Jackson county and since all commercial plantings are of this strain, and since a seed enterprise has been well developed and market outlets built up for this particular variety and an outside demand has exceeded productive supplies, the committee recommends that growers consider only this variety for additional plantings.

The introduction of other varieties would endanger the present enterprise in mixtures that would soon appear.

Clover Important
The production of ladino clover has long been an important seed crop in the county. This clover has proven its superior value for pasture. Frequently farmers have used low grade seed or seed of unknown origin for planting purposes. The committee recommended that only Oregon blue tag seed be used for either seed or forage plantings.

Since alsike clover plantings have destroyed the ladino clover seed enterprise in several Oregon communities by spreading to ladino clover fields with the consequent mixture of the seed crop, and since ladino is a superior seed crop to produce for sale and is generally a better pasture or forage crop than alsike clover, it is recommended that alsike clover and dutch white clover not be used for pasture, forage or seed crop plantings in the county.

"Emergency" Crop
Sudan grass must still be considered as an emergency crop—a crop to fill a particular need rather than a regular year to year crop.

The committee recommends that growers give due consideration to an increase of alta fescue, tuatatin oat grass, smooth brome grass, harding grass, chewing fescue and red creeping fescue.

Small Farms
The subdivision of acreage is still being accomplished in Jackson county, resulting in more small or part-time farms than in 1948. It is apparent that many people are beginning to depend a little more on their small acreages for income and sustenance than they have previously.

Development of the Southern Oregon Rabbit Growers' association and the Jackson County Poultrymen's association will give the operators of small acreages an opportunity to get the most out of these two enterprises.

Outlets Found
During the past year operators of small farms have found outlets for crops such as berries, fruits and vegetables to jobbers who are operating in this area and who market the fruit at the most advantageous points.

Other specialty crops have not come into prominence in the county. With the population continuing to increase in the west, the markets will probably improve for the more intensive crops which have been raised in this area.

Three out of four traffic accidents happen in clear weather on dry roads.

should maintain their present size operations to the maximum of their equipment and financial resources.

4. Those contemplating starting a commercial poultry enterprise should study and analyze present economic conditions and arrange for buildings, equipment, feed supplies and financing prior to embarking on a poultry enterprise.

5. Since three rats consume or waste a quantity of feed equal to that required by two laying hens, all poultry producers should practice an intensive rodent control program.

6. Poultry men considering the production of broilers or capons should first investigate market outlets and probable costs of production. Those now producing broilers are advised to consider marketing their birds at two and one-half to three pounds instead of the usual three to four pounds.

Land Use
Reporting on subsistence homesteads the land use committee said they believe the number of small farms (10 acres or less) is still increasing, but at a lesser rate in 1950 than in either 1948 or 1949.

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JEEPSTER PHAETON HAS NEW POWER, STYLE—Many engineering and styling advances have been incorporated into the 1950 models of the Willys Jeep, now on display at Leever Motor company, 317 East Fifth street. The pictures above show the restyled and rugged-appearing grill, the sports phaeton, and the new Willys "Hurricane" engine.

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Gold Hill club met at the Eskew home on Sardine Creek for the regular meeting on April 12. A record attendance of 23 members and seven adults was present and in absence of Leader Norman Gail the meeting was in charge of Veltie Biles.

New record books for the current year were passed out to the members for use in making report on the various projects. Poultry records were not available and will be handed out later to those members interested in poultry projects.

Next regular meeting will be April 26 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Newham in Gold Hill.

PROBABLY NOT
MACON, Ga. —(UP)—The state highway patrol never officially revealed whether Opal Gloss won her driver's license but pedestrians who saw her ram a bus while an inspector sat beside her doubted it.

Three out of four traffic accidents happen in clear weather on dry roads.

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Ninety-seven per cent of drivers involved in automobile accidents in the U. S. last year had at least one year's driving experience.

SWEARS IN SON'S WIFE
BOSTON —(UP)—Among 193 new lawyers sworn in by Supreme Court Justice Edward A. Conahan Jr., was his daughter-in-law.

Twenty-five per cent of all drivers involved in fatal automobile accidents in the U. S. last year were between the ages of 18 and 24.



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