

# Farm and Garden Fruit Shipping Losses Discussed at Meeting

American railroads are faced with an annual freight loss and claim bill averaging more than \$100 million, it was reported here Wednesday at the opening of a regional short course aimed at reducing shipping losses of pears.

An estimated 110 shippers, packers and other fruit handlers from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, California and British Columbia were present for the opening session at the county courthouse. They were told that loss claims increased during the past year over 1955.

**Damages Increase**

V. S. Boomer, Portland, of the Association of American Railroads, said loss damages increased more than 16 per cent during the first 11 months of 1956 compared to a similar period for the previous year.

Boomer presented a study compiled by A. L. Batts, Chicago, executive vice chairman of the AAR's freight claim division, who was earlier scheduled to address the meeting. Batts' report showed that 25 per cent of the fresh fruits, melons and vegetables grown never reach the consumer. Problems contributing to this economic waste include adverse weather, disease and insect loss, and packing and shipping losses.

The most serious problem confronting carriers in connection with shipping losses is rough handling, Batts reported.

**Method Praised**

Credit to this area for introducing the "on-end" method of loading wooden pear boxes was given by A. M. Fielding, San Francisco, superintendent of the Trans-Continental Freight Bureau.

Fielding said the "on-end" method, introduced in the mid-30's in the Medford-Ashland area, remains the most satisfactory loading method to reduce shipping losses. He said his bureau is continuing efforts to have the method adopted elsewhere.

Those attending the course went on an afternoon tour yesterday to study car loading methods at Southern Oregon Sales, Bear Creek orchards and Rogue River orchards.

**Today's Schedule**

Talks scheduled for today were to include reports on car loading, transit temperatures for

cars and various icing schedules, pear storage tests with polyethylene bags and the future of irradiation of perishable foods.

The conference, now in its eighth year, is known as the Northwest Perishable Loss Prevention short course and is sponsored jointly by Oregon State college, Washington State college, the University of Idaho and the American Railway Development association. Chairman of this year's program is Dr. Spencer Apple, head of the Oregon State college horticulture department.

Govert A. Dyke, Spokane, chairman of the short course committee, keynoted Wednesday's session with a history of aimed at getting produce to the consumer in the best possible condition.

## Loan Funds Available To Farmers in County

Soil and water conservation loan funds are now available to eligible farmers in Josephine and Jackson counties. E. M. Denny, county Farmers Home Administration supervisor, said today.

The soil and water conservation loan program of the F.H.A. is designed to help farmers in the improvement, protection and proper use of farmland by providing adequate financing for soil conservation, water development, conservation, and use; and drainage. Denny pointed out.

The loans help farmers and ranchers make good use of land diverted from the production of surplus crops, protect their land resources against adverse weather conditions, and improve their economic circumstances.

## Local Cattlemen Purchase Hereford Bulls at Red Bluff

Nine horned Hereford bulls were purchased and three sold by Josephine and Jackson county cattlemen at the 1957 Red Bluff, Calif., Bull sale held Feb. 7-9.

Q-X Ranch, Josephine county, purchased a bull from Peterson Bros., Ogden, Utah, for \$2,425; Charley Bros., Eagle Point, purchased one from Winterton Bros., Kamas, Utah, for \$1,500; Donald K. Nichols, Ashland, purchased one from Herbert Chandler for \$900; Fleming Bros., Jacksonville, purchased one from John Bohnert, Central Point, for \$620.

E. M. Bigham, Eagle Point, purchased one from Stein Herdofors, for \$700; Charley Bros., Eagle Point, purchased one from John Bohnert, Central Point, for \$700; Fleming Bros., Jacksonville, purchased one from Dudley Parker ranch, Gazelle, Calif., for \$550; Floyd Johnson, Josephine county, purchased one from Fenton O'Connell, Gilroy, Calif., for \$550; and Henry Owens, Eagle Point, also purchased a bull, though purchase price and name of the seller were not available.

John Bohnert, Central Point, also sold a bull to Bill Russell, Upper Lake, Calif., for \$530.

Champion honored Hereford and top seller was purchased for \$2,425; reserve champion, \$1,100; average sale was \$749.44; and total of sales was \$92,930.

There were no Jackson or Josephine county sellers or purchasers listed for polled Herefords. Champion polled Hereford was purchased for \$1,050; reserve champion, \$675; average sale, \$449.69; and total of sales was \$22,035.

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## Home Improvement Contest Scheduled

The National Lumber Manufacturers association and Farm Journal magazine have joined in sponsoring a 1957 rural home improvement contest featuring \$10,000 in cash prizes.

The contest, designed to spur sales of lumber and wood products and improve farm living, is open to anyone who completes an addition, remodeling or similar home improvement project between Jan. 1 and Oct. 31. Applications for official entry blanks may be obtained at retail lumberyards or from Farm Journal, Philadelphia 5, Pa.

## Nine Carcasses Condemned in State Pilot Meat Program

Salem—The state pilot meat program inspectors condemned nine carcasses or 1.24 per cent of the 725 animals inspected on their third entry into Jackson and Josephine county slaughter plants, according to the state department of agriculture.

This covered operations from Jan. 28 through Feb. 8. Carcasses of eight cattle and one swine were destroyed as unfit for human consumption.

**High Percentage**

The percentage of condemnations, all on post-mortem examinations, was the highest of any area where this short-term study has operated, according to department officials.

On this round, inspectors also condemned 311 livers or 43.4 per cent, and 15 heads or 2 per cent. The three main causes of liver condemnations were fluke, abscesses and parasites.

**Meat Food Products**

Forty pounds of meat food products, divided equally between brisket and trimmed pork, were also condemned.

This pilot study covered four slaughter operations in Josephine county and five in Jackson county. The 725 animals inspected included 334 cattle, 30 calves, 26 sheep, three goats and 332 swine.

The eight cattle were pulled from the slaughter lines because of mastitis, pyemia, abscess, metritis, cancer and tuberculosis and the one hog was condemned because of atrophic rhinitis.

## Landscape Clinic Appointments Due

Appointments are now being taken for the annual landscape clinic, to be held March 4 and 5 in the courthouse auditorium, according to C. B. Cordy, county horticulture agent.

Landscape architects participating in the clinic will be Mrs. F. C. Loris, John Adams, C. E. Corry and I. B. Solberg and George Fredeen from Oregon State college.

Cordy said appointments are being scheduled on a 30-minute basis. During that time a resident desiring advice on landscaping will meet with one of the landscape architects.

Each home owner planning to attend the clinic is requested to bring a photograph and rough sketch of his dwelling, Cordy said. Appointments may be made by telephoning the county agents' office, Medford 2-5264.

## Vegetable Growers Meeting Thursday

All vegetable growers are invited to attend a vegetable marketing and packaging meeting in the county courthouse auditorium Thursday, Feb. 28, at 1:30 p.m., according to Don Berry, county horticulture agent.

Purpose of the meeting is to acquaint local vegetable growers with the latest packaging and marketing methods.

R. H. Groder, fruit and vegetable marketing specialist from Oregon State college, will discuss packaging fresh market vegetables; Gerry Korzan, agricultural economist from Oregon State college, will present information on grower organizations; and Manning Becker of Oregon State college, will discuss competition in marketing and production costs.

## Demonstrations on Pruning Offered

C. B. Cordy and Don Berry, county horticulture agents, today said they would give demonstrations on pruning deciduous trees and flowering plants requiring winter pruning to neighborhood groups upon request.

The county agents explained work schedules prohibit giving individual demonstrations to property owners who have only a limited number of trees to be pruned. However, demonstrations will be given for benefit of several such tree owners at one time.

Groups desiring pruning demonstrations may call the county agents' office in the courthouse, 2-5264, the agents said.

## Highest Producing Dairy Herds in County Named

The Jackson County Dairy Herd Improvement association this week named the five top producing dairy herds in the county for the month of January.

The top herds are owned by L. L. and Blanche Wyant, Ed Ramsey, Grief and Nelson, Birdseye Brothers and Clarence and Sadie Williams.

**Top Herds**

The Wyant herd, consisting of 34 cows, one of which was dry, produced an average of 699 pounds milk and 39.8 pounds butterfat; Ramsey, 41 cows, 5 dry cows, 819 pounds milk, 38.4 pounds butterfat; Grief and Nelson, 17 cows, no dry cows, 793 pounds milk, 37.2 pounds butterfat; Birdseye Brothers, 75 cows, 10 dry cows, 672 pounds milk, 35.5 pounds butterfat; and Williams, 33 cows, 3 dry cows, 650 pounds milk, 34.9 pounds butterfat.

The 10 top producing cows in the county were Bluey, owned by M. B. Caster, 1,959 pounds

milk, 96 pounds butterfat, 32 days in milk; No. 25, owned by Gilman's Dairy farm, 1,500 pounds milk, 87 pounds butterfat, 39 days in milk; Star, owned by M. B. Caster, 1,764 pounds milk, 82.9 pounds butterfat, 41 days in milk; Nelda, owned by Birdseye Brothers, 1,094 pounds milk, 82.1 pounds butterfat, 35 days in milk.

Marlow, owned by Clarence and Sadie Williams, 1,380 pounds milk, 81.4 pounds butterfat, 31 days in milk; Blackie, owned by M. B. Caster, 1,727 pounds milk, 79.4 pounds butterfat, 59 days in milk; Maybee, owned by Harry Dunn and Sons, 1,442 pounds milk, 79.4 pounds butterfat, 36 days in milk; Belle, owned by Harry Dunn and Sons, 1,442 pounds milk, 77.9 pounds butterfat, 76 days in milk; Hoot-nanny, owned by James and Neola Edge, 2,136 pounds milk, 76.9 pounds butterfat, 49 days in milk; and No. 34, owned by Straus Brothers, 1,789 pounds butterfat, 38 days in milk.

## FFA Chapters Enter Contest

Jackson county Future Farmers of America chapters took honors in all divisions of the Rogue-Umpqua district vocational contest held recently in Roseburg.

Chapters represented included Marshfield, Myrtle Point, Roseburg, Illinois Valley, Grants Pass, Crater, Eagle Point and Phoenix.

Winners in the contests were public speaking, first, Ron Hanson, Eagle Point, second, Bob Lechti, Crater, and third, Mike Burnett, Illinois Valley; stunts, second, Bob Lechti and Carl Vanderpool, Crater; story telling, second, Calvin Rhodes, Crater; hog calling, second, Steve Pratt, Crater, third, Bill Bradshaw, Eagle Point; agricultural mathematics, third, Bill Ryan, Crater and Bill Rasmussen, Phoenix.

Seed identification, first, Jack Esp, Eagle Point, second, David Hughes, Eagle Point; rope work, first, Ed Beeson, Phoenix; arc welding, first, Dave Morris, Crater; secretary's books, first, Crater chapter; treasurer's books, first, Crater chapter, third, Eagle Point chapter; beginner's project book, first, Lewis Nickerson, Crater, second, Don Ryan, Crater; completed project book, first, Lyle Bigham, Crater, third, Bill Ryan, Crater; and chapter scrapbook, first, Crater chapter, third, Eagle Point chapter.

## Date for Soil Bank Sign-Up Extended

Corvallis—Sign-up date for the 1957 conservation reserve program of the Soil Bank has been extended from March 15 to April 15, according to Robert T. Lister, Prineville, chairman of the Oregon state agricultural stabilization and conservation (ASC) committee.

This means farmers have an extra month to plan and sign up for conservation projects under the program, Lister said. But he urged farmers to contact their county ASC office soon, because applications for projects under the conservation reserve are being accepted on a "first come—first served" basis.

The conservation reserve is a national farm program aimed at cutting the acreage of soil-depleting crops and reducing the flow of surplus farm products into government warehouses.

Under the program, however, farmers have an opportunity to receive substantial government assistance—often up to 80 per cent of the actual cost—as they shift their crop land into soil and water conserving uses. Annual "rental" payments are then made to farmers to help them maintain their incomes while their land is being conserved and improved until needed in the future.

More information about the conservation reserve and help in signing up under the program is available from county ASC offices and county extension offices.

## 4-H CLUB NEWS

**Elk-Trail Forestry Squirrels**

The club's first meeting was held at the home of Margaret and Leonard Hanson Saturday, Feb. 16.

Election of officers was held and Margaret Hanson was elected president. Other officers are Cheryl Miller, vice-president; Jolene Casebier, reporter; Linda Naumann, secretary - treasurer; Earl Naumann, song leader; and Leonard Hanson, memory book.

Elk-Trail Forestry Squirrels was chosen as the name of the club. Plans include camping and overnight trips. Next meeting will be at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Trail, Ore. The club's motto is "To Make the Best Better."

Jolene Casebier, Reporter.

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