

# Farm and Garden

## Sheepman Remarks Methods Different In New Zealand

"There's a big difference!" is the way New Zealand sheepman Don Hopkirk, summed up the comparison between U. S. sheep production and that of his two-island country of New Zealand.

One of the main differences is New Zealanders do not give their sheep a supplementary grain ration. The animals feed entirely off the grasslands.

The ruddy-faced and raw-boned young man is from Teranaki on the West coast of North Island. He and seven other young fellow country men are visiting this country on a Rotary exchange program. Tuesday and Wednesday they were in Medford.

Main sheep raising center is the east coast of North Island where five to six sheep are raised to an acre. In the high country of North Island are the large sheep ranges of 30,000 to 40,000 acres supporting only one sheep per 20 acres.

"Raising animals is our largest industry in New Zealand. Sheep alone number 40 million compared to the 2½ million our export income comes from these sheep and also dairy animals.

The young sheepman and his fellow travelers had visited the sheep ranges of Idaho and eastern Washington and wasn't too impressed. The dry country made his party thirst for the greener scenery on the coast.

"Since we fatten our sheep on grass, we can put them on the market far cheaper than you can your grain-fed animals," the New Zealander said. "We have no comparable range-land like your government reserves for grazing."

"Sheep raising is also vastly different from Australia," Hopkirk said. "There they graze sheep on large ranges while we graze ours in fenced off acreage called paddocks. They are grazed from one paddock to another."

Main breed used in the fertile grass-growing flat country is the Romney. This sheep requires better conditions but also produces a better grade of wool, it was explained. The Merino type is used in the high country.

In New Zealand lambs are usually weaned at 100 days. In the hill country lambs are sold to the flat country farmers for fattening.

All stock is sold at auction as is the wool. These sales are handled by stock firms, it was ex-

## New Class Added To Sheep Contest

Corvallis—Expansion of Oregon's state-wide sheep production contest to permit entries of smaller flocks than in past years has been announced by the Oregon Purebred Sheep Breeders association and Oregon State college, joint sponsors.

The contest was started three years ago to encourage production and marketing practices that enable farm flock operators to increase profits from lamb and wool sales. Awards go to farmers whose annual records show the highest gross income per ewe in production of lamb and wool.

A new class for flocks of 20 to 50 ewes has been added for the 1958 contest. The minimum size flock was formerly 35 ewes. Other classes in the revised program are flocks of 50 to 100 ewes and flocks over 100, reported S. A. Jackson, Benton county extension agent and secretary of the purebred breeders association.

Contest chairman C. M. Hubbard, Junction City sheep breeder, said the revised entry requirements are more nearly tailored to Oregon's sheep management picture. Many Oregon counties, he says, have sizeable numbers of flocks with less than 35 ewes.

Enrollment cards for the 1958 contest are now available at county extension offices, Jackson reports. All Oregon market lamb producers are eligible to enroll ewe flocks. The contest includes a study of major phases of flock management, such as breeding, feeding, and marketing, in an attempt to learn where management dollars are best spent for biggest net returns.

Contest results for the past few years have emphasized the value of getting Oregon lambs on the early May-June markets when competition from other areas is light, Hubbard says.

Awards for farm flock operators whose 1957 records show the highest gross income per ewe in production of lamb and wool will be announced at the annual meeting of the purebred breeders association, Nov. 9 at Salem.

Meanwhile, market development chief, urges all fryer and broiler producers who have not completed and returned their registration blanks already to hurry. Additional blanks are available at the state department of agriculture in Salem, and the offices of the county extension agents.

Closing of the registration period and rescheduling of the referendum will be announced as soon as possible.

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## Fire Prevention Rules Listed For Rural Area

Corvallis—Nearly half of Oregon's 58 fire fatalities in 1956 were children under 10 years of age.

This grim reminder comes from the farm and home safety committee of the Oregon State college extension service for "1957 Fire Prevention Week," which ends October 12.

Twenty-six Oregon youngsters under 10 years of age died in the state's 10,838 fires in dwellings covered by insurance during 1956, according to the recently published Oregon state fire marshal report for 1956. Many additional fires occurred in non-insured homes not included in the report, the OSC committee explains.

While fire struck an average of 29 Oregon homes every day in 1956, the greatest loss came during winter months when heaters, furnaces, stoves, and electricity receive heaviest use.

Twenty-two of the 26 children

lost their lives during the six cold months from November through April, a majority of them victims of heating equipment fires. Charles Ross, OSC committee member, urges inspection and elimination of home fire hazards "to protect little ones who cannot protect themselves." Home fire drills to train children are also suggested.

Fire safety in the home and on the farm can be achieved by anyone who takes the trouble to learn and live by a simple set of rules, Ross says. He adds that fire prevention week ought to serve as a reminder to all Oregon families to review the following rules:

1. Be sure the heater or furnace is in good condition. Look out for cracked stoves or other defects.
2. See that automatic mechanisms on heaters and furnaces operate properly.
3. Be sure smoke pipes are tight at the joint, not rusted or worn through. Flues should be a safe distance from woodwork.
4. Never overwork or force a furnace or heater that is giving insufficient heat.
5. Never try to quicken a fire by using kerosene.
6. Always keep a metal screen in front of a burning fireplace.
7. Handle hot ashes with care, always deposit them in a metal container equipped with a cover.
8. Keep flammable materials and rubbish away from furnaces and heaters. Get rid of flammable trash.

The OSC specialist also advises home check-ups of electrical hazards before starting the heavy winter season. An inspection by Portland firemen of more than 30,000 homes a few years ago showed that nearly one-fifth of all fuse boxes were overfused and nearly 10 percent of the homes had defective wiring.

When in doubt as to whether wiring is safe, consult with a power company representative, Ross advises.

The complete schedule of the hearings follows, all but two of which will be at 1:30 o'clock.

Oct. 15—Portland, State Office building, hearing room 36.

Oct. 16—Tillamook, courthouse, circuit court room.

Oct. 17—Coquille, county extension office, courthouse.

Oct. 18—Gold Hill, grange hall.

Oct. 18—Roseburg, courthouse auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 19—Eugene, county extension office, 1170 Pearl st.

Oct. 21—Klamath Falls, fairgrounds lecture room.

Oct. 22—Lakeview, courthouse.

Oct. 23—Burns, courthouse.

Oct. 24—Canyon City, courthouse.

Oct. 25—Ontario, armory.

Oct. 26—Prineville, courthouse.

Oct. 29—Baker, courthouse.

Oct. 30—Enterprise, courthouse.

Oct. 31—Pendleton, courthouse.

Nov. 1—The Dalles, Pacific Power and Light building.

Nov. 1—Salem, 8 p.m., State Department of Agriculture building.

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## Hearing Scheduled About Commission By Local Beef Men

Need for creation of an Oregon Beef commission will be the subject of a hearing at Gold Hill Grange hall on Friday, Oct. 18, it was announced.

This will be one of a series of 17 hearings conducted by the state department of agriculture and held throughout the state from Oct. 15 to Nov. 1. Director Robert J. Steward announced this week.

The Oregon Cattlemen's association filed the petition asking for hearings and referendum on the commission in July. The scheduled hearings will help department officials determine whether there is need for a self-help program for the Oregon beef industry. If the department decides in favor of the petitioners, the proposed commission must still be approved by a producer vote.

The commission proposal affects all who are producing beef for market, including those who sell dairy cattle for meat.

If the commission should be created, producers could be assessed up to 10 cents per animal on all sales for slaughter or for shipment out of the state. These funds would be restricted to use on solving problems associated with marketing of beef. The petition also places other limitations upon the beef commission.

Director Steward said he hopes all interested persons will attend at least one of the hearings.

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## Pear Crop Short Of Record Year

The 1957 pear crop in the Rogue River valley exceeded pre-harvest estimates but fell short of the record 1956 production, a spokesman for the Medford Pear Shippers association said today.

An initial reported pack-out of 2,439,469 boxes of all varieties coupled with about 10,400 tons of cannery pears will bring the total over the predicted 2,850,000 boxes. With some cannery tonnage still unreported, the total production in the Medford district stands at 2,876,000 boxes. Not included in the pack-out box total are some pears that are being held in field lugs in cold storage for later packing or for inclusion in gift packages.

Total Bartlett production fell below expectations. D'Anjou and Bosc figures were about as expected and the Comice crop exceeded pre-harvest predictions.

Local fruit men indicate that this production represents about 50 per cent of the total pear crop in Oregon.

Shippers report that marketing of the crop is under way with Bartletts and Bosc moving out in good order. The market continues strong and most shippers report good demand and satisfactory prices, due to the excellent quality of the fruit. The prospects of good movement of the crop are very favorable, spokesmen said.

## Weather Man Meets With Pear Shippers

John Manning, field representative of the International Apple association and Paul Caubin, representing the Water Resources Development Corp., were guests at a meeting of the Medford Pear Shippers Association, held recently in Medford.

Manning is on a field inspection tour of the major fruit districts of the nation and while in this area conferred with Ray Reter, Medford grower and shipper, president of the International Apple Association.

Caubin reported on the techniques and engineering problems of weather modification and told of the research carried on by Water Resources Development Corp. to further this relatively new science. Caubin explained the methods employed in attempting to suppress the hail potential of storms in this area and described new equipment being developed for use here and elsewhere in their world-wide operations.

Caubin said he could foresee the day, in the next 1 to 20 years, when man could more accurately predict and control costly storms, with the aid of visual reports of weather in the northern hemisphere transmitted from an earth satellite.

Water Resources Development Corp. of Denver, Colorado, has just completed their fourth year of hail suppression work on behalf of local fruit growers. Next year's program will be expanded in an effort to effect even better control, Caubin said.

## Forty-Nine Licenses Issued Hay Dealers

Salem—To date, 49 licenses have been issued under the new hay dealer's licensing and bonding law, according to Frank McKennon, chief of the plant division of the state department of agriculture.

Probably more dealers are subject to this law and the department is attempting to contact them. Everyone, whether an individual or a business concern, who buys hay from producers for resale is required to be licensed and bonded under this act.

Application blanks are available at the department headquarters in Salem, the branch office in Portland, and at shipping point inspection offices in Milton-Freewater, Ontario, Redmond, Hood River, Klamath Falls and Medford.

## Farm Prices Decline To Last Year's Level

Corvallis—Farm prices in Oregon, eased downward in September to the same level as a year ago, according to Mrs. Elvera Horrell, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State college.

Nationally, farm prices last month dropped three points last month. In contrast to the Oregon situation, however, the national index remains about 4 per cent higher than September of last year, Mrs. Horrell said.

Reviewing reports from the U. S. department of agriculture, Mrs. Horrell found that lower prices for meat animals and for most commercial vegetables were the major causes of the price declines. However, feed grains, oil-bearing crops, fruit, potatoes, and wool prices across the nation were also lower. Higher prices were listed for hay, cotton, tobacco, and dairy and poultry products.

Meanwhile, farm costs as measured by the parity index—the government's yardstick of what it costs a farmer to live and produce crops—increased back up to the record high reached earlier this year, Mrs. Horrell found. The index now stands three per cent above September, 1956.

Prices paid by farmers for family living items reached a new all-time high in mid-September after holding steady for about three months. Sharply-up clothing prices, particularly for woolen and cotton clothing, led the price rise.

Farm operation costs also climbed, as lower feed and seed prices only partially offset higher prices on motor supplies, farm machinery, fertilizer, and feeder livestock. Freight rate increases which were effective in late August, were partly responsible for the increase in farm operation costs, Mrs. Horrell found.

The dropping prices and climbing costs put some pressure on farm product buying power. The ratio of prices received to prices paid farmers stood at 83 at mid-September—one point below August, but one point above a year ago.

## Meat Parcel Markings Often Said Incorrect

Salem—Inspection in Columbia River and northeastern Oregon towns last week revealed that meat packages in over half the markets inspected were not correct as far as net weight markings, according to O. K. Beals, foods and dairies weights and measures chief for the state department of agriculture.

Beals stressed that the discrepancies were not large, but indicated the most common error found was that the full tare weight of the wrappings was not considered. Incorrect weight markings are of importance to the consumer when it is realized that a one ounce error amounts to five cents, on each pound of meat at 80 cents a pound. Merchandisers who have incorrectly marked the net weights on meat packages are liable for prosecution.

Meat counters in major markets throughout the state are being checked by the department. Already inspected are the Willamette Valley and north coastal regions; in a recheck of the Willamette valley, most of the early errors found have been corrected.

## Apiary Inspector Named For State Department

Salem—Kenneth Goeden, Salem, will serve as state apiary inspector for Oregon's department of agriculture, according to Frank McKennon, plant industry chief. Goeden replaces A. Burr Black, Salem, who retired Sept. 30 after serving the department in this capacity since 1935.

An entomologist with the department's plant pest and disease surveys for three years, Goeden obtained two B.S. degrees, one in entomology and one in horticulture, at Oregon State college in 1954.

Lincoln, Neb. was called Lancaster until 1867.

## No Sharp Drop Seen In Fed Cattle Price

Corvallis—Fed cattle prices in Oregon are not expected to drop as sharply during the heavy October-November marketing season as they did a year ago, report Oregon State college agricultural economists.

Cattle slaughter is now rising seasonally but prices may decline only \$2 to \$3 a hundred-weight compared to a drop of \$4 to \$5 last fall when the 1956 drought forced fall slaughter to a record high, the economists say.

A general downturn in cattle slaughter is expected to continue in 1958, pointing to favorable prices for fed cattle in the year ahead. Large hay supplies and cheap feed grains are predicted also, but feeder's margins may be squeezed by the higher prices being paid for feeder animals.

Meanwhile, hog production is responding to generally good prices with national increases expected in both this fall and next spring's pig crops. This dims hog price prospects for next fall, the economists report in the current issue of the OSC "Oregon Farm and Market Outlook" circular. Copies of the circular are available from county extension offices.

Good range conditions during the past summer brought mixed blessings to lamb producers. A larger than usual percentage of western lambs are ready for slaughter this fall. This is holding prices down for fat lambs. At the same time, the supply of feeder lambs is smaller and prices higher than last fall.

## Time To Spray Lilacs For Blight Disease

Now is the time to spray lilac plants for blight, Clifford B. Cordy, county horticulture agent, said today. The blight, similar to that found on other trees and shrubs in the valley, should be controlled now instead of waiting until spring.

Black streaks will appear on the sides of the shoots with signs of wilting or dying leaves, Cordy said. The plant should be sprayed thoroughly with a solution of one-quarter pound of neutral copper in three gallons of water combined with a little spreader sticker, he said.

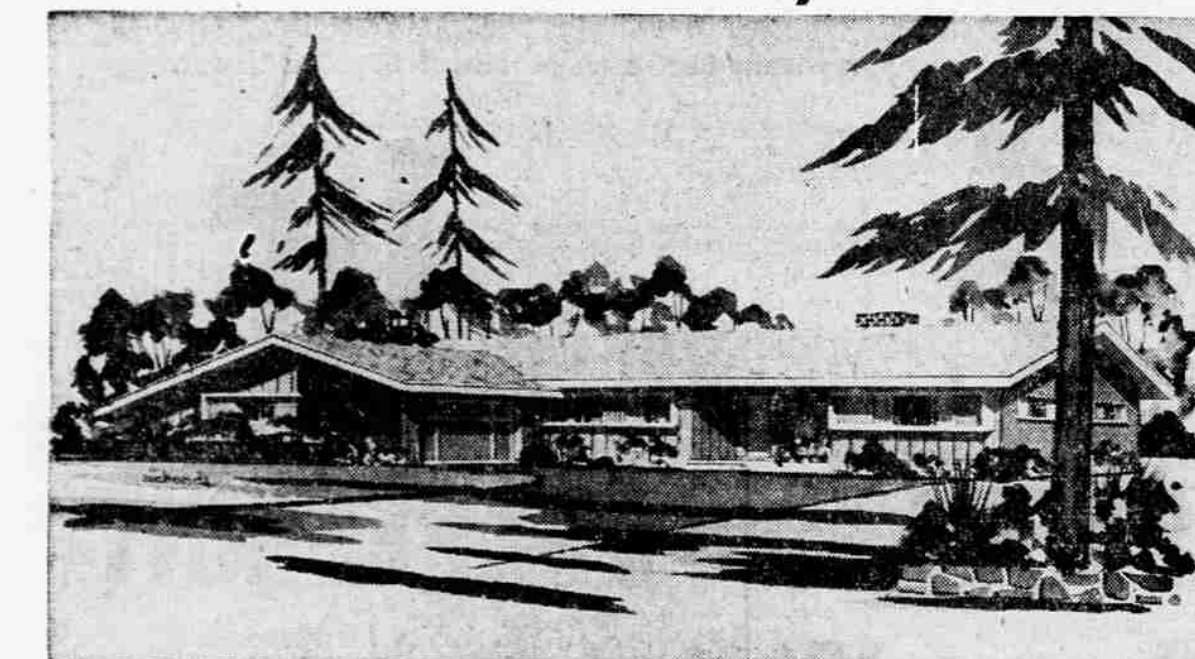
He added that peaches and apricots should be sprayed before Oct. 20 for control of peach blight and peach leaf curl. Spray to be used is a solution of five pounds of fifty per cent or seven pounds of thirty-five per cent neutral copper per 100 gallons of water. For small quantities combine one-quarter pound neutral copper in three gallons of water.

In places where leaf curl or peach blight have been a problem, Cordy said, repeat the spray in January.

## NAMED TO OFFICE

Eugene—James A. Perry, 105 Geneva ave, Medford, was recently named adjutant officer on the wing staff of the Air Force ROTC cadet wing, at the University of Oregon. Perry is a senior, majoring in liberal arts.

## This Week's Town, Country House Plan



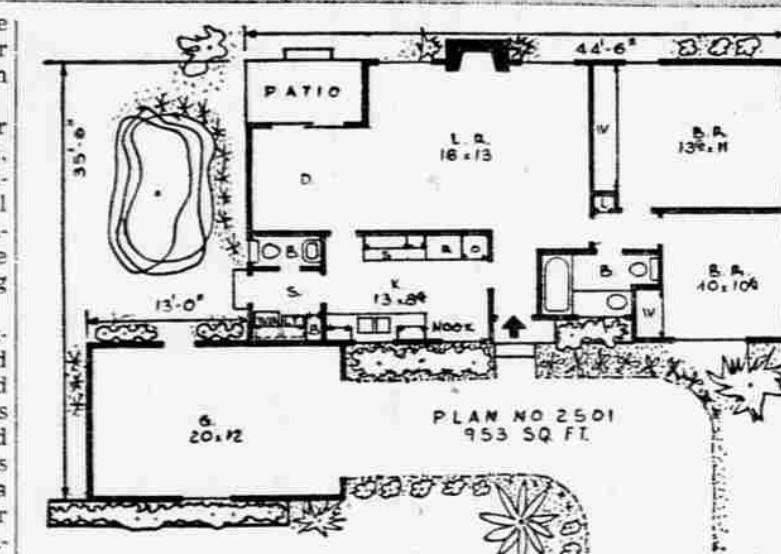
This 953 square foot home keeps a practical eye on your budget, yet it is complete in every detail.

The basically rectangular shape lends itself to the clean, low lines of Modern Ranch styling. Selected to play a dual role, the exterior materials combine harmoniously, and at the same time help to keep building costs to a minimum.

The gleaming rock roof is boxed at the eaves. Box-framed casement windows of standard size repeat the horizontal lines against vertical siding. Painted concrete block masonry trims the garage and extends to a long planter. A second spot for greenery is the planter well inset into the cement entry landing.

The foyer leads directly into the spacious living room, where double casement windows flank the broad fireplace. Sliding glass doors open from the dining alcove to the covered patio and rear garden. In both rooms unbroken wall areas afford a good background for large pieces of furniture or conversational groupings.

Built-in appliances conserve space in the compact kitchen, which is accessible from both the front hall and service entry. Convenient to the work area, garage and play yard is the half-bath off the service room. There is ample space in the service



area for washing machine, dryer and a broom closet.

A storage locker extends across the back of the garage, which could be enlarged to accommodate two cars if desired. A side door to the garage opens near the service door of the home for convenience in unloading supplies after shopping trips.

A minimum-size hall leads to the two bedrooms. Both have large windows on two sides for cross ventilation, high-set for ease in arranging bedroom furniture. Fixtures in the family bath are recessed, and the pullman lavatory has a storage cabinet underneath. The forced air furnace is

## Livestock Meeting Set Nov. 13-15 For West Oregon

Corvallis—Livestock producers from throughout Western Oregon will gather Nov. 13 to 15 at Roseburg for the 22nd annual meeting of the Western Oregon Livestock association.

Committee sessions on six major phases of livestock production and marketing will open the three-day meeting the afternoon of November 13 at the Umpqua hotel, reports Harry Lindgren, Oregon State college livestock specialist and association secretary. Association president is Sam Dement, Myrtle Point rancher.

Committee representatives will be from the 14 western Oregon county livestock associations comprising the regional association, Lindgren says. Committee sessions are slated for markets and beef commission, legislation, wildlife, range and pasture, livestock diseases, and resolutions.

Main speakers, a panel discussion on livestock "production testing," and the annual evening banquet are scheduled the second day. Gordon Dunham, First National Bank fieldman for the Corvallis area, will moderate the panel. Panel members will be Ken Knechtel, sheepman, and L. C. Perrine, Angus cattle breeder, both of Oakland; J. E. Oldfield, OSC animal nutritionist; and T. K. Johnson, OSC swine herdsman.