

Historical Review Slated For Fruit Growers Session

A historical review of the Fruit Growers League of Jackson county will be featured during a meeting of that organization starting at 1:30 p.m. Friday, in the Medford YMCA.

Much of the information is contained in the writings of the late E. W. Carlton, well-known valley orchardist and one of the organizers of the league, according to an organization spokesman.

In his writings, Carlton noted that 1913 was a year of severe pear blight infestation in the valley. A committee of citizens and orchardists were organized to effect a clear-up. The Jackson county court appointed a dozen or more inspectors to assist growers in the work or eradication. Distribution and news stories in local papers were included in the large publicity campaign. W. A. Sumner was chairman of the committee with E. W. Carlton serving as secretary. From the work of the committee came the idea to form a permanent organization of fruit growers and farmers to promote the interests of those engaged in agriculture.

A mass meeting of those interested was called for May 30, 1914. Minutes of that meeting show R. C. Washburn called the meeting to order. C. M. Thomas was elected as meeting chairman and E. W. Carlton elected secretary.

A committee was named to present a slate of officers for a permanent organization to be called the Farmers and Fruit Growers League of Jackson County. Farming interests soon were affiliating in other farm organizations and taking less part in the original league so the name later was changed to the Fruit Growers League of Jackson County. Unfortunately many of the league records were destroyed by fire in the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce office in the late 1920's.

"The present organization, officially incorporated in 1932 represents an industry which each year contributes several millions of payroll dollars to the economy of the area and produces a high quality fruit favored throughout the world," a spokesman said.

Winter Pear Capital

"Medford, in the heart of the pear producing district, is known as 'The Winter Pear Capital of the World.' The 1957 crop produced over 3 million boxes of all varieties, and each year, produced nearly one-third of all the winter pears grown in this country and 75 per cent of the nation's crop of Bosc pears.

Jackson county ranks with the top three counties of the United States as a pear producing area," an industry spokesman related.

"The Medford district was one of the first to ship pears commercially and many of the innovations and advancements in horticultural practices and marketing techniques were pioneered in this area."

On Friday's agenda are election of officers and directors for 1958, reports of committees on activities of the league and a talk by Raymond Reter, president of the International Apple association.

More Produce Worth Less Faces Oregon Farmers

Corvallis — More produce worth less money—that was the picture facing Oregon farmers as they harvested their 1957 crops, according to Mrs. Elvera Horrell, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State college. Better livestock prices during the year before.

U.S. department of agriculture reports show Oregon farm prices last year averaged somewhat above 1956 even though prices were lower at the end of the year than at the start, Mrs. Horrell found. Crop prices averaged 4 per cent lower than in 1956. It was up to livestock prices, chalking up a 7 per cent gain to account for the higher average.

But prices paid by farmers, nationally, for production items rose nearly 4 per cent during the year to an all-time high, Mrs. Horrell said. Farmers' buying power, as expressed in the national parity ratio — the relationship between prices received and prices paid farmers — averaged 82 for the year, the same as in 1956.

Oregon's crop harvest in

1957 was good due to excellent growing conditions and ideal harvesting weather. Crop tonnage, when the final count was made, topped 1956 production by 7 per cent. But Mrs. Horrell calculated that the farm value of these crops fell short of 1956 by a like amount.

Looking at 1957 crops, group by group, Mrs. Horrell found that the state produced more field crops, berries, and tree fruits and nuts but less seed crops and vegetables than a year earlier. Only the tree fruits and nuts group was valued higher than in 1956 as increases in the value of apples, cherries, filberts, and walnuts more than offset lowered values on pears, peaches, and prunes.

Value of vegetable crops remained about the same in 1957 as in 1956, with fresh market vegetables down a trifle and processing vegetable a little higher. Seed crops were spotty and averaged about a fifth lower. Berry values skidded 12 per cent. Field crop values, which account for about three-fifths of the crop value in the state, were off 8 per cent.

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

In spite of the usual wide differences of opinion at the recent Jackson county agricultural committee meeting everybody agreed that beef prices are "just about where they should be." They also agreed that if prices on this commodity climbed any higher it would hurt the industry since consumers would shift to a different type of meat. Utility feeders are bringing about \$17.70 a hundredweight.

Main reasons given for the boost in beef prices were that the female stuff was slaughtered in the drought area and feeds are cheaper now than they have been for several years.

Farmers attending the meeting at the courthouse remarked it has taken several years to bring the beef prices back in balance again. Beef prices should go up if they move in any direction, it was remarked. If the feed prices should suddenly change beef prices will be forced to shift just as quickly, some of the farmers remarked.

One of the farmers remarked that the proposed beef commission could help considerably in stabilizing the beef price picture by increasing the consumer demand for beef through promotion programs. Poultrymen are already promoting their product which is cutting into the demand for red meat, it was pointed out.

The market is decidedly up for calves with day-old calves bringing from \$18 to \$20 apiece, it was reported. One cattleman reports the best of the day old white face calves are bringing as high as \$24 each. Bulls are reported way up.

One livestock expert figures the feeders will stay pretty much the same. When the grass-fed California cows come on the market then the price may drop two or three cents for cows. Fat cows are expected to drop considerably, according to this source. He agrees with reports made at the county ag meeting which started all types of cattle have jumped \$2 since before Christmas.

Apparently 39 per cent increase nationally, however, Jackson county won't grow many fryers. These are grown more in concentrated areas, particularly in the south since they can make better use of the marketing facilities that way. By concentrating them in smaller areas can make more efficient use of program, total facilities—killing plants and feed plants. Alabama is a case in point. Fryer companies supply feed, medicine. Quite a problem to come out on them. Good markets pretty much controlled by large companies. Set up more efficient operations, too.

Portland, Los Angeles and Fort Worth, Tex., were rated the three highest beef markets in the United States as of Monday and Tuesday of last week, according to a current farm publication. Choice grade steers in Portland and Los Angeles brought \$25 to \$26.75 per hundred weight. Fort Worth hit the market at \$25 to \$27 per hundred weight. Omaha usually leads the market, but this city's market held at \$22.50 to \$24.50 per hundred weight. Other listings for choice grade steers for the same period were: Chicago at \$23.50 to \$25, Ogden at \$23 to \$24.60, Stockton at \$24 to \$26, Kansas City at \$22 to \$24 and Denver at 24 to 26.

The high veal market is considered the reason for the big price on calves with the best white face calves at a day old bringing as high as \$24 each. A local feed dealer remarked that many of those buying calves fail to take proper care of them. Some of those precautions include proper protection for the calf on the way home in the truck, proper housing to keep them warm and keeping feeding utensils clean and disinfected.

Under proper housing, a heat bulb can be used inexpensively to keep the calf warm for a few days. Shelters should have proper ventilation without drafts. When feeding them with milk substitutes follow the directions on them carefully. If cow's milk issued two quarts at a feeding should be the maximum for the first few days, the dealer advises. It is generally agreed that it is much better to keep the calf a little hungry than to overfeed it. Also, fresh, clean hay and a good grain mixture should be provided after the first few days. Naturally, a clean supply of water each day is also necessary.

The feed store man advised that calves be kept in confinement for the first three or four months. Above all, they shouldn't be turned loose on wet, cold ground to get pneumonia, he said. They also should be kept separated one from another in early life. Keep them in stanchions when feeding, this man advises. If you have any questions on the health of your calf get in touch with the veterinarian.

Our friends on the Richard J. Savage turkey farm say they only have a few big tom turkeys left now. The holidays cleaned them out. Turkeys at that time were bringing 52 cents a pound for hens and 42 cents for toms. This represents an increase of a few cents over Thanksgiving. Then, too, they sold large quantities on wholesale which they feel brings in slightly more revenue since less handling is involved. The mills with their large blocks of orders also helped the turkey business during the holidays. The Savages expect to start building up their flocks with poultis this spring and start "the whole mad cycle all over again."

Asked if he expected a large livestock sale this week, one of the local auctioneers replied, "I never know until almost time for the sale. Keep thinking we will have a smaller sale but so far they keep coming. Don't know where they come from, but they come."

Tennessee Ernie Named To Sell Bull at Red Bluff

Red Bluff, Calif., Feb. 11, 1958—Tennessee Ernie Ford, America's leading TV variety star, and breeder of registered Hereford cattle on his Lake County, Calif. ranch, will be the guest auctioneer named to sell a registered polled Hereford bull for the March of Dimes at the seventh annual Red Bluff Bull Sale, Feb. 6, 7, 8, Sidney Watson, a committee member announced today.

Ford was the featured entertainer at a recent Red Bluff bull sale show, where he won the "pea pickin' hearts" of western cow folks.

The bull, RRR Pres Michief 46 was donated for the star role by the Rolling Ridge Ranch of Cottonwood, Calif. He has been pronounced as "very good" by Bill Owens, veteran Tehama County cowman and bull sale committee man who aided in his selection.

The 1958 Red Bluff Bull Sale will feature the auction of 281 horned and polled Herefords, 51 Shorthorns and 26 Angus. The sale of the March of Dimes bull will open the program Saturday morning, Feb. 8 at the Tehama county fairgrounds and will precede the sale of horned and polled Hereford bulls.

"The Red Bluff Bull Sale has already raised \$81,425.00

Farm Forester Key Figure In Farm Lot Production

While people are arguing over whether or not the timber industry in Oregon is dying out one thing they will generally agree upon is that the growing interest in managed forestry is a bright spot in the future timber supply picture.

According to official statistics a total of 5,361,140 acres of forest lands in the western Washington - western Oregon Douglas fir belt were in certified tree farms at the end of 1957. This represents a 10 per cent increase for the year, according to forestry authorities.

A key man in this program is the farm forester. Such a man operates under an agreement made between the state board of forestry and the state extension service of Oregon State college.

Purpose of this program is to improve and maintain productivity of small woodlands and farm forestlands in Oregon, to reduce wastage in harvesting, marketing, and in the primary processing of forest products, and by so doing, assist in increasing the income and general welfare of the people of this state, according to Dwight L. Phipps, state forester.

Committees Established To ensure mutual cooperation between the state extension service and the state board of forestry an administrative and technical committee have been set up. The administrative committee consists of the state forester, director of the Oregon State college extension service, the regional forester and the dean of the school of forestry at Oregon State college.

The technical committee consists of a forester from each of the aforementioned four agencies to coordinate subject matter and procedure. As key man in this program the farm forester must have a general knowledge of all phases of forestry, according to forestry authorities. He is expected to know all of the answers pertaining to forest management. If a problem arises which he is unable to answer he must contact someone who knows the answer. Also, he is continually seeking new knowledge concerning good forestry practices.

Since 73 per cent of the forest land in the United States is privately owned, according to official estimates, it is obvious the farm forester's job is an important one.

Such a man guides the farmer on how to insure establishment of a timber stand by a natural reproduction. He helps him to determine if the area is capable of reseeding, has sufficient moisture when needed, if enough seed trees are available for natural reproduction, if seedlings are protected from rodents. He also helps the farmer to determine if other growth or underbrush will prevent natural reseeding and if the ground should be scarified prior to seed dispersal.

The farm forester informs the farmer of an approach of a good seed crop year. If such natural reseeding is not possible the farm forester then must educate the farmer in the proper procedure to be followed in establishing a forest stand.

The forester studies the site and advises the producer on the species best suited for the land, capability of the land to produce a forest crop, source of seedlings adaptable for planting, proper care of seedlings prior to planting, if ground preparation is needed prior to planting.

Advice on proper planting procedure will probably include proper spacing for ease of cultivation, proper depth for planting, removal of competing vegetation, packing the ground around the roots.

To make sure these seedlings live, the farm forester shows the farmer how to see that trees receive summer shade, proper cultivating procedure, recommends procedure for disposing of competing vegetation, tree irrigation and possible harm caused by livestock.

Proper thinning practices suggested by the farm forester may include how to prevent windthrow, sun scald and waste. He also educates the farmer in removal of diseased, dying and low value trees.

Aids Decisions This farm forester must help the farmer decide if undesirable trees are beneficial as shade protection for young trees on south slopes. He must also advise the farmer on proper cutting and care of stumps.

Christmas tree production has received considerable interest in the Rogue River valley area recently. Proper forestry practices are also necessary here if the farmer is to get the most from his trees.

The farm forester advises on how to regulate growth for saleable appearance, procedure for raising trees from stumps, and how and when to

trim for perfect form and proper harvesting.

Timber production, of course, is a major part of the farm forester's program. To be sure of getting clear lumber the farmer must be shown proper pruning — what trees should be pruned, when, and how to prune to prevent epicormic branching.

The forester can determine if trees are putting on normal growth through growth studies. This way he can tell the producer what interest rate he is receiving annually from his investment. He instructs the farmer when the market

is right and what trees should be removed to thin the wood lot.

A fire protection plan for the producer as formulated by the forester plans the proper location of firebreaks, indicates snags that should be felled, points out inflammable material which should be eliminated.

He also checks the farmer's fire fighting tools, educates him as to available fire fighting assistance and proper procedure in fighting fire.

The farm forester shows the farmer how to prevent spread of diseases and to combat insect infestation.

Fourth Annual Conference Planned for Angus Breed

St. Joseph, Mo. — The Fourth Annual American Aberdeen-Angus Conference to be held at Fresno State college, Fresno, Calif., March 9, 10 and 11, recognizes the western expansion of the breed. Program plans are nearing completion and an educational and entertaining time is promised the many cattlemen attending the conference.

The program this year will be broken down into three main topics including beef carcass evaluation, herd classification program, and discussion of herd management problems. Current developments in research and an up-to-date report on recommendations of the American Angus Association's research committee will be an enlightening portion of the program also.

Registrations begin Sunday evening March 9, at the Fresno Hacienda Motel, headquarters for the conference, will continue through Monday morning. Reservations should be directed to the Fresno Hacienda, Highway 99 at Clinton, P. O. Box 1228, Fresno 15, Calif.

Starting Monday morning breeders of purebred and commercial Angus will get a chance to hear discussed and see demonstrated live grades of slaughter steers and observe an on foot carcass steer show. Later these steers will be slaughtered and the carcasses evaluated.

The entire afternoon program will be devoted to the Angus herd classification program, its value, and how it will work for the breeder of registered Angus. Complete details will be discussed and herd classification demonstrated with several classes of Angus cattle. The audience will also have a chance to use the new official score card and participate in this phase of the program. Following a banquet in the evening at the Fresno Hacienda, reports on developments in dwarfism research and the future plans of the association's research committee will be given.

Tuesday Session The Tuesday morning session will be devoted to herd management. Special emphasis will be placed on cow herd management, purebred and commercial, the selection, development and use of herd bulls, and breeder's her promotion problems. Tuesday afternoon carcasses will be evaluated on the hook. This will be followed by a question and answer session that will conclude the program.

Nationally known agricultural educators and researchers will participate in the program. The department is charged with trying to establish identity, through its brand records, of animals that have strayed. If this cannot be done, the department publishes notice of the taking of an estray and date and time for sale at a public auction.

Hunting for animals reported missing is perhaps the most time-consuming job a brand inspector has. If the livestock cannot be located in the immediate area, a description of the missing animals, complete with brand and fleshmarks, is sent to department headquarters at Salem.

Each month Henry A. Matschner, supervising livestock officer, issues a department estray bulletin. This gives the descriptions of these animals and tells the areas from which they were reported lost, strayed or stolen. This bulletin is issued to brand inspectors, livestock officers, state police and county sheriffs throughout Oregon and bordering towns.

Reserve Sign-Up Set For Wheat Jan. 13-March 7

Producers of spring-planted wheat, who have allotments, can participate in the acreage reserve program of the soil bank again this year, according to Charles White, chairman of the Jackson County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committee.

Sign-up period is from Jan. 13 to March 7. Winter wheat agreements were signed last fall.

White said that by taking part in the acreage reserve program farmers can protect their current income with payments earned while land in the reserve even though the growing season is bad. An added advantage is that this will help cut down surpluses, he said.

To participate farmers must sign a one-year acreage reserve agreement with the county ASC committee. Land placed in the reserve should be specifically designated.

A dollar and cents rate per acre has been established by the county committee for all wheat farms with allotments in Jackson county. The rate varies from the county average according to the farm's relative productivity and farming methods, White explained.

Hormone Implants Backed By Testing

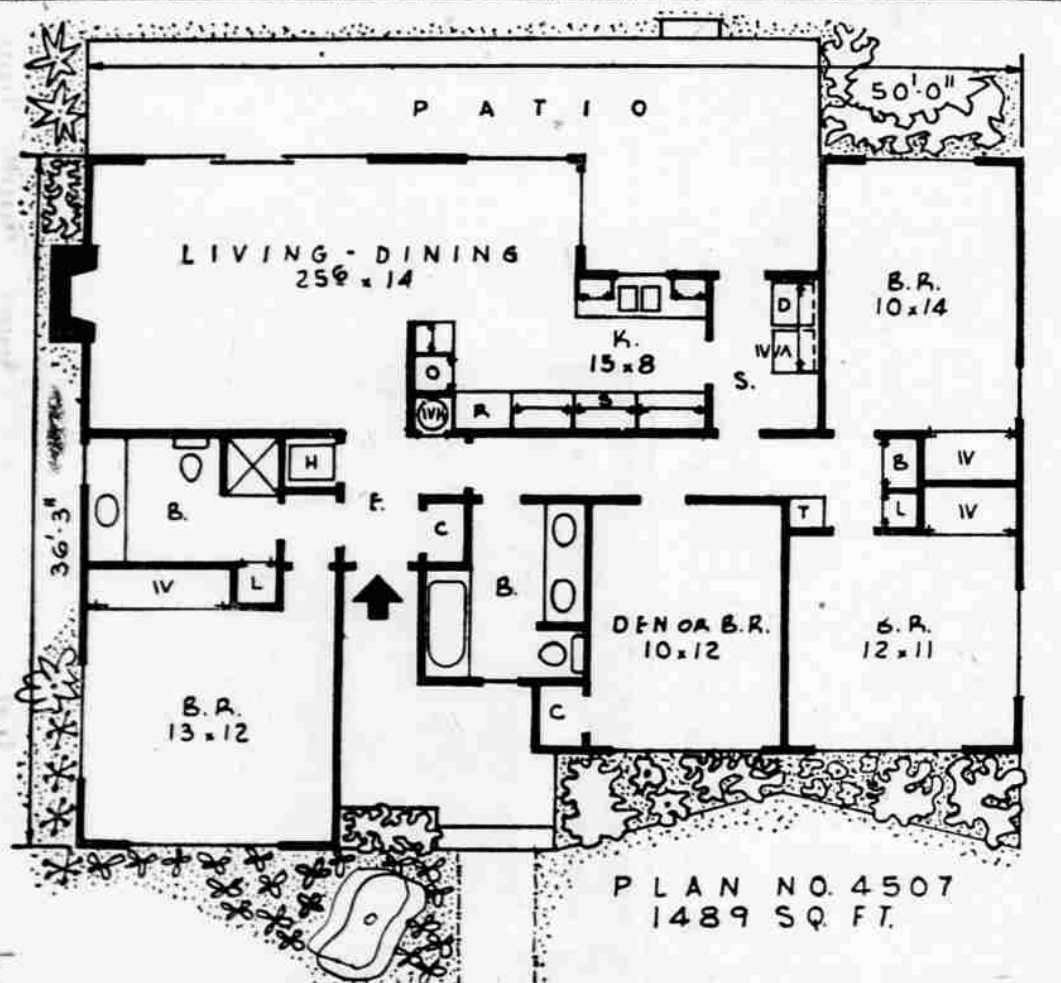
Corvallis—Beef loses none of its good eating qualities when animal weight gains are boosted with recommended dosages of stilbestrol hormone, according to an Oregon State college agricultural experiment station research team.

Twelve trained "taste testers" in the OSC food and dairy technology department found it impossible to detect differences between cooked standing-rib roasts from stilbestrol-treated and untreated young beef steers.

Mrs. Lois Sather and A. F. Anglemier, OSC food technologists, and David C. England, animal husbandman, headed up the research project, using more than 90 young steers in their tests. The steers were kept for a 247-day feeding period, about the maximum time used in commercial operations to finish young steers for slaughter.

The feed ration was primarily peavine silage, with barley and mill feed as the grain, small amounts of beet pulp, and five percent molasses. Some of the steers received an average of 4½ pounds of grain a day, with others averaging as high as 8½ pounds a day over the entire feeding period.

This Week's Town, Country House



By HIWATHA ESTES

This contemporary home expresses a clean-cut approach to modern living. Economical, yet durable materials have been combined with artistry and charm. The roof is of colorful crushed rock. Exposed rafters form an egg-crate pattern over the wide front landing which not only adds to the overall exterior design, but provides light for the entry. Board on board siding gives vertical contrasts to the box-framed window panels. Concrete block planters border the front steps and slant inward beneath the bedroom windows.

Open planning expands the dimensions of the living and working areas. Only a small wall divides the kitchen and dining ell from the spacious

living room. A wide fireplace, centered on the end wall, sets the keynote for informal hospitality, and a wall of sliding glass doors merges the area with the broad rear patio. An ell in the patio near the service entry could be an outdoor dining area in summer.

Built-in appliances, ample counter surface and cupboards add to the efficiency of the kitchen. Home laundry appliances are in the service area, from which a door leads directly into the bedroom hall.

Closets for linens and broom and a telephone table are located off this hallway. The three family bedrooms are large and well lighted and ventilated. Casement windows throughout the house will add greatly to the ease of arranging furniture.

The family bath has a double pullman lavatory and recessed fixtures. The ingenious arrangement of the three-quarter bath in the master bedroom suite makes it accessible from the entry hall. Special features are a separate linen closet, shower and pullman lavatory.

A centrally located forced air unit gives this 1489 square foot home year around temperature control. Complete working drawings of the above plan can be obtained at a cost of \$7.50 for the first set and \$3 for each additional set, when ordered at the same time. This plan will be available for a period of four months from this date. Please allow two weeks for delivery. If the above home does not entirely meet with your satisfaction, a new home plan book, TOWN & COUNTRY HOMES may be purchased for \$1. Send all orders for either plans or books to: Hiwatha, Estes, P.O. Box 404-T, Northridge, Calif.

Jackson County Stockmen's Association

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