

# Farm and Garden

## Farm Wage Rates Hit Record High, Farm Prices Gain

Corvallis — National farm wage rates to hired workers are now at record highs, according to Mrs. Elvera Horrell, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State college.

Wages advanced faster than rural living costs in both 1956 and 1957, resulting in buying power greater than at any time except in 1945 and 1946.

Preliminary estimates show that farm operators in the nation also fared well, in spite of rising operating costs. Incomes were up for the second consecutive year.

Oregon and national farm prices followed different patterns throughout the year. At the close of 1957, farm prices in Oregon dragged a little behind the close of 1956. National prices, on the other hand, were as much as 3 per cent higher than the 1956 close. Both Oregon and the U.S. averaged higher for the year.

Farm prices in Oregon crept up 1 per cent during December, due mainly to substantial increases in meat animal and egg prices which offset lower prices in many of the crops. National farm prices leveled off from November to December as higher prices for meat animals and sweet potatoes counteracted price declines in cotton, tomatoes, milk and oranges.

Although farm costs continued to rise, the rise was too slight to have much effect on farm-product buying power. Mr. Horrell reports. A slight rise in prices of production items, especially feeder livestock and motor vehicles more than compensated for a drop in family living items.

### WASHING CASUALTY

Dover-Foxcroft, Me. — Two-year-old Patricia Nutting crawled into her mother's washing machine. It took firemen and mechanics working with blow torches and crowbars three hours to free her.

## New Order Explained About Vaccinations

Salem — Vaccinates under 30 months of age in beef cattle, and vaccinates under 24 months of age in dairy cattle may now be removed from a herd quarantined for brucellosis in both range and dairy areas, according to an administrative order of the state department of agriculture.

This change in the department's regulations came as a result of conferences with cattlemen from the Klamath county area, who maintained the former regulation, which allowed vaccinated calves under 18 months of age to be removed, was too strict. After investigation, department experts decided the rule could be changed without risking effectiveness of the program.

Don Parker, assistant attorney general with the state department of agriculture,

said that this order points out the advantages of a flexible brucellosis law. The 1957 legislature authorized the department to adopt and issue regulations necessary for enabling the state and the various counties to become modified certified brucellosis free areas, to maintain that status. The regulations adopted by Oregon's department of agriculture must be in line with minimum federal standards.

Discussion Welcomed If the regulations had been a part of the state law, Parker continued, it would have been impossible to change them until the next time the legislature meets. The attorney added that the department welcomes talks with cattlemen about their ideas for improving the program.

Another important change contained in the administrative order concerns brucellosis suspects originating from brucellosis-infected herds that are moved to or sold through a stockyard or livestock auction market. The new regulation stipulates these animals must be sold only for slaughter and moved directly to a slaughtering establishment that has federal, state or municipal meat inspection.

This section was added to Oregon's rules because the department had received reports that some out-of-state sellers are bringing brucellosis suspects into Oregon in an attempt to sell them.

The administrative order, signed Jan. 13, also declares owners of cattle herds must use the official veterinarian in their area for vaccination and testing for brucellosis and tuberculosis. However, with approval of the department, the owner may use another official veterinarian of his choice, provided he pays the cost of required testing and vaccinations.

The order states this requirement is necessary in order to achieve the most efficient and economical use of the tax funds which have been appropriated to carry out the program in Oregon.

## Many Oil Meters Checked in 1957

Salem — Oregon residents who heat their homes and offices with fuel oil will be reassured to know the state department of agriculture inspected more than 3,000 fuel oil meters for accuracy in 1957.

Of these liquid measures tested, 446 were over two inches in diameter, and 2,562 were two inches or under in size.

More than one-third of the meters tested by department inspectors last year needed minor adjustments, and 150 were condemned for repairs. After repaired and retested, the condemned meters were put back into service.

In order to do this inspecting, over one million gallons of gasoline and other fuel oils were pumped into the department's testing equipment. After checking the amount delivered, the oil was returned to the companies' tanks.

The department's two test trucks used for meter inspection traveled 30,106 miles during 1957.

## Animal Industry Conference Dated At Oregon State

More than a dozen of the country's top animal nutritionists and chemists will report latest research findings to help farmers increase livestock feed efficiency, Feb. 6 and 7, at Oregon State college.

The Oregon Feed and Seed Dealers association and OSC will co-sponsor the 16th annual Animal Industry conference, J. E. Oldfield, OSC animal husbandman, is program chairman.

Opening day speakers include F. H. Kratzer, poultry nutritionist, University of California, discussing protein for poultry; V. H. Chelidini, director, science research institute, OSC, speaking on the contributions of basic research in animal nutrition; and A. O. Shaw, head of dairy husbandry, Washington State college, reporting dairy cattle feeding research at WSC.

Hormones and other feed additives in beef cattle nutrition will be discussed by Wise Burroughs, nationally prominent animal husbandman of Iowa State college. The place of agricultural chemistry research in animal nutrition will be reviewed by J. R. Haag, OSC agricultural chemist.

Other first day speakers are Laurent Michaud, scientist for the Merck, Sharp and Dohme research laboratories, Rahway, N. J., reporting medicated feeds for turkeys; and George Arscott, OSC poultry researcher, who will review latest findings in poultry nutrition research at the college.

Tranquilizing drugs in livestock feeding, a highlight of the second day program, will be reported by D. C. Church, OSC animal husbandman. Other topics include roughage utilization by cattle by Burroughs and a talk on Pakistan's people and livestock by Shaw, who returned recently from a world tour.

Greater feed efficiency through supplementing Oregon's low-cost roughages with concentrates will be discussed by David C. England, OSC animal husbandman. Kratzer will report research findings on feeding turkey breeder hens.

## Ag Dept. Chemist Gets High Rating

Salem — James Launer of Salem, chemist with the state department of agriculture, ranks among the top three feed analysts in the nation according to J. D. Patterson, the department's chief chemist.

This announcement was the result of information released by the Association of American Feed Control Officials. Every other month, identical feed samples are sent for analysis to more than 125 laboratories throughout the nation, including most of the state laboratories. The entries are reconciled for accuracy by the Association of American Feed Control Officials. Launer's rank among the top three was determined from analyses submitted during a five-year period.

## Market Influences Noted By Promotion Leader

R. A. Patterson, manager of the Oregon-Washington-California Pear Bureau, was a guest speaker at the Medford Pear Shippers association at meeting held recently.

Patterson noted the marketing of the winter pear crop has been influenced by several major factors: the large volume of pear production this year, the heavy supply of apples on the domestic market at low prices, the good supply of bananas and a weaker economic picture in the prime markets.

Food and produce items feel the pinch first in a depressed economy, Patterson said, with other consumer items taking precedence with the buying public. He noted increased industry promotion is needed to stimulate consumer demand in the face of buyer resistance and competition from other produce items for the food dollar. Two promotion programs are planned for the coming months, in addition to the program completed in December of 1957. The first one was launched January 16 and continues through mid-February, with another planned for March.

Patterson expressed the thought that a reduction in the supply of tangerines, due to the freezing weather in Florida, would have a beneficial effect on the winter pear market.

The Sunapee, or golden trout has been found in only four places: Lake Sunapee, and Big Dan Hole Pond in New Hampshire, Averill Lake in Vermont and Floods Pond in Maine.

## --- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY  
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

People are making plans for a Pear Blossom Festival here again. Tentative date set is April 12. So far no definite plans have been made. During the recent meeting held in Medford it was suggested this year the annual event be called "The International Pear Blossom Festival." This sounds like a step in the right direction. We think this should be more than just a community celebration. Why not start to lift it up to the level of the "Apple Blossom Festival" in Wenatchee, Wash.? This would have two advantages. It would give an already well-promoted industry even more promotion and it would attract more tourist business. As chamber of commerce officials are so fond of remarking—every tourist car attracted to Southern Oregon means an average of \$16 to \$18 a day spent—figuring an average of three persons to a car.

It takes ideas to put on such a celebration so anybody having them should drop a card or letter to—"Pear Blossom Festival," 11 Almond st., Medford. This is a good chance for various farm organizations to stick in their oars and pull with the rest of the community in putting on a first class celebration.

Those pear growers and shippers following the experiment on controlled atmospheric storage of pears at the Myron Root and company packing plant will be glad to know the project is proceeding satisfactorily. Eventual aim is to keep the oxygen in the air-tight tent at a 5 per cent level. Don Root says this week the 10 per cent barrier was passed. A big problem is preventing the sodium hydroxide solution used in the air-scrubbing process from changing to sodium carbonate crystals. However, so far that problem is under control.

Don't forget the annual meeting of the Jackson County Stockmen's association slated for Feb. 11, starting at 10:30 a.m. in Central Point. Guest speakers will include Robert Stewart, director of the state department of agriculture, and Ted Hyde, chairman of the beef commission committee of the Oregon Cattlemen's association. Those responsible for the program are Collier H. Buffington and Merton Bradshaw. Both the Jackson County Stockmen's association and the auxiliary organization, the Jackson County Cow Belles, will elect officers. Members of the nominating committee for the former are Herb Carlton, Prospect; Ernest J. Lathrop, Central Point, and Richard R. Hein, Ashland.

When the Talent irrigation project hits full operation farmers will have to seriously consider rotation of pastures. Since agricultural authorities believe reclaimed land benefited by this project will consist of small subsistence farms it means daily rotation. Those with larger acreages may be able to rotate their acreage on a five-day basis. The chopping system is used in a few cases now in the county, we are told. However, this is a costly method and one which most farmers are unable to afford. It consists of keeping stock in a feed lot and using machines to cut the pasture and chop it up for feeding. More grass in a pasture is utilized by keeping it away from the trampling hooves of the stock, but it also means constant daily feeding of the chopped material.

Such methods are necessary to prevent the animals from picking up worms which they have a good chance of doing if allowed to stand in the same irrigated pasture constantly. Also, better use is made of the pasture by alternating the grazing. One county farmer estimates he carried stock on 30 acres less by using this method. It's something to think about anyway.

Considerable interest in forestry practices has been developing lately in the county, according to local agricultural authorities. ASC officials said of the first 50 applications made under the agricultural conservation practices program, 15 were for forestry. This covers the period from Jan. 1 to the present. Authorities say this represents more such applications than have been made for the past three years.

One farmer figures he can make \$1,000 an acre by planting forestry seedlings. There is a reported shortage of such seedlings in several nurseries throughout the state. While farmers become interested in the acreage reserve program of the soil bank they should also bear in mind that cut-over land should not be neglected either. Anyone can come under the ACP program while the acreage reserve requirements are much stricter. Cut-over land should not be neglected, an agricultural authority pointed out.

## Research Being Conducted On New Irradiated Foods

Corvallis — A roomful of 1,200 white rats at Oregon State college is helping to answer questions about the wholesomeness and safety of irradiated foods that some day soon may be on tables in homes across America.

The irradiated foods — promising new product of the atomic age — are being fed to the rats to see whether they affect length of life, gains, or number of off-spring.

To date, no differences have been found between rats on irradiated and non-irradiated foods, according to Dr. Edward C. Bubl, leader of the project started in September 1954. Foods under test are pork, peaches, carrots and jam.

The foods are irradiated for preservation at the Idaho Falls, Idaho, atomic energy installation and then shipped to OSC in cans. They are stored for at least six months at room temperature as part of the test of the effectiveness of the food treatment.

Ten other U.S. research centers are also working on other phases of the research that is sponsored by the surgeon general's office, department of army.

Since OSC started its diet studies with rats in 1954, it has been awarded some \$128,000 by the surgeon general's office. A new grant of \$33,600 was received this month to continue the work through the fall of 1958.

The white rats that are the test animals are carefully picked and observed, Bubl pointed out. Brothers and sisters are used in comparisons with one third receiving untreated foods, one third receiving normal-dose level irradiated foods, and one third receiving a double-dose irradiated food diet.

When the rats die, body tissues are examined by Dr. Jesse F. Bone, agricultural experiment station veterinarian, to see if they have been changed by the irradiated diet. No differences in body tissue have been noted in tests to date. Some of the rats have been on test two years, long past the usual life span of ordinary rats.

Bubl and other ag chemists at OSC are also studying problems of flavor changes that develop in irradiated foods. Still other studies on irradiated foods are underway at OSC in the food technology and bacteriology departments. Special grants have been received for all of the various projects.

Dead Line on Classified Ads: 5:30 p.m. for following day, except 10 a.m. for Monday; for Sunday, noon Saturday.

## Further Information Given On Safflower

A new type of agricultural industry may be started in the Rogue River valley following a few commercial plantings this spring and more extensive research, it was learned last night.

Approximately 19 farmers met in the agronomy station of the Southern Oregon Branch Experiment station to hear how the Safflower can be raised profitably. H. H. White, station superintendent emphasized that his organization is not pushing development of the plant commercially and that "a lot of work has to be done."

The 19 were among the group of farmers who have shown an interest in developing the plant for commercial sale of the seed and their farm lands represent a wide variety of soil types. White indicated this particularly is important to gain more knowledge of the plant's growing conditions. Total plantings will be limited to 300 acres in the county.

The plant is a member of the thistle family and produces a bright yellow blossom.

### Used in Paint

Oil from its seeds is used in high quality paint and enamels, some in synthetic resin materials and could even be used in plastics, according to John A. Yungen, agronomist at the station.

Del Chapman, representative of L. G. McLaren, Shell Oil distributor in Medford, said he had contacted the Pacific Vegetable Oil company in the San Francisco Bay area to learn of marketing arrangements.

The seed would be purchased from the company at a cost of approximately \$3 an acre figuring plantings of 30 to 35 pounds of seed per acre. Chapman said company officials informed him maximum freight rate would probably be \$10 a ton. The company would pay \$70 a ton FOB for the produced seed at the Richmond, Calif., plant, he said.

However, Don Patterson, manager of the Grange Cooperative at Central Point, if he were to haul it for the farmers he would want more than \$10 a ton. "deadheading" (coming back empty) and might take as little as \$8 a ton on a back-haul basis. He said his company would probably haul it in 22 ton loads.

Patterson said it would also squeeze him if, as specified, the Safflower crop were to be harvested the first of September and had to be delivered to Richmond by Oct. 1. Chapman said arrangements might be made to give the haulers more time.

White urged the farmers attending the meeting to make sure they could handle the experimental planting efficiently "then go ahead and do the best you can and make a go of it."

"I can't emphasize too much that one failure will do lots of damage and hundreds of successes cannot erase the effect of that one failure!" White pointed out. "It will take careful management."

White explained that he had experimented with the crop for six years, starting in 1951. Lots of work has to be done yet, he emphasized. This would cover experiments and studies of fertility, rate of seeding and other phases.

"You won't get rich, neither will it cost you a great deal of money," the station superintendent said. "I would figure you would make about as much money as you would from a grain crop, then you won't be disappointed at first."

Chapman explained following the meeting that his company is interested in a plant which may help the farmers and he first noticed it when in California where it is grown extensively in some sections. His company also handles fertilizers through Shell Chemicals corporation, he said.

White explained he became interested in the plant when he learned the seeds could possibly produce a substitute for tung oil which is now imported. That imported oil has become almost essential in certain war materials. If hostilities should shut off normal trade the overseas source of tung oil may be curtailed also, he said.

Yungen explained to the assembled farmers that the Safflower is now grown in the semi-arid areas of the Middle East and Northern Africa, India, Egypt, United States—Northern Great Plains—Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, California, New Mexico, and Utah.

Climatic requirements included semi-arid, hot dry atmospheric conditions and at least 120 days growing season. It needs also a good supply of soil moisture for satisfactory yields.

Annual growth is from 18 to 40 inches in height. Tallest growth reached at the experiment station with one variety was 40 inches, Yungen said. It requires a soil temperature of 40 degrees or more for germination. Shoots start through the soil in five to 20 days after planting.

## SF Banks Lending Money at Lower Interest Rates

San Francisco — Three big banks with headquarters in San Francisco began lending money to their best customers today at a slightly lower interest rate.

The banks were American Trust Company, Crocker-Anglo National Bank and the Bank of America. They cut the so-called prime rate of interest from 4½ per cent to 4 per cent.

The action followed a similar cut announced by Chase-Manhattan Bank in New York on Tuesday. Several other New York banks followed suit.

### 'Wait and See' Attitude

Other major California banks adopted a "wait and see" attitude towards the cut. However, it appeared likely they will have to go along with it if they want to remain competitive.

Only large corporations with impeccable credit ratings qualify for the prime rate on loans.

The cut in the prime rate was a reaction to a Federal Reserve Board announcement that the Federal Reserve Bank in Philadelphia had cut the discount rate from 3 per cent to 2½ per cent.

The discount rate is the interest rate which the Federal Reserve bank charges on money borrowed by commercial banks.

As of Wednesday, none of the 11 other Federal Reserve banks had lowered their discount rates.

The executive committee of the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank met Wednesday to discuss the discount rate. Later, it sent a telegram to the FRB in Washington, presumably asking approval for whatever decision it made.

### Might Not Be Too Good

Herman M. Mangels, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, declined to tell what action the committee took. He merely commented that "under present conditions, it might not be too good" to hold the rediscount rate higher here than in Philadelphia.

However, some observers believed here that the local Federal Reserve Bank might want to hold the present 3 per cent rate on grounds economic conditions are better in the west than elsewhere in the country.

## Oregon Leads States In Filbert Production

Oregon ranked first among the states in 1957 in the production of filberts and second in the production of pears, prunes, sweet cherries and English walnuts. This is revealed in a rating of the states made by the Oregon department of agriculture from the nation's production figures recently issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

## Ex-Medford Man Opens Office in Sunnyville

Leo E. Glascock, son of Mrs. Nora Glascock, 264 Beatty st., Medford, has opened an office in Sunnyville, Calif., where he is a certified public accountant.

A graduate of Medford High school, he received his CPA training at Golden Gate college in San Francisco. He was connected with the California Oregon Power company and the First National bank of Portland while in Medford.

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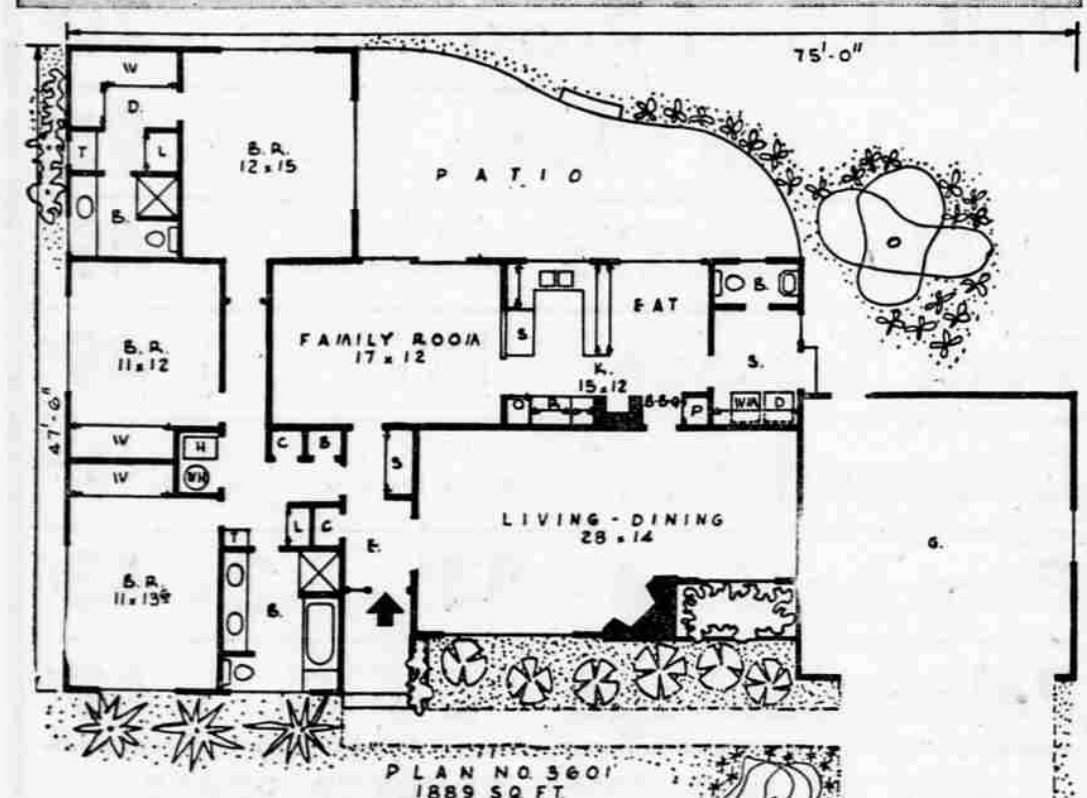
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## This Week's Town, Country House



Here's a home to fall in love with. Across the rear the family area extends in easy, open space from the family room, through the kitchen area, to a family eating room. Wide glass doors open in summer to include the patio for sun, play and relaxation. Built-in oven refrigerator, barbecue and cabinets are along one wall. The range is located against a half-wall which opens to the family room. Cabinets between the kitchen and eating area open on either side.

to a spacious 28 feet, brightened by a corner fireplace and an expanse of casement windows.

The master bedroom suite includes a private three-quarter bath and dressing room with built-in dressing table, linen closet and wardrobe.

The wide sliding-panel wardrobes in the family bedrooms have drawers below and storage shelves above.

The family bath has a pullman with two lavatories, plus both tub and stall shower.

Closets line the halls, providing ample storage for linens, brooms, family storage, a forced air heating unit and water heater.

The modern exterior of this home would make it an attractive addition to any neighborhood. Cedar shakes form the interesting lines of the roof. The rough-cut stone in the chimney and planters lends textural contrast to the vertical board on board siding. Box-framing around the windows repeats the long, low lines of this 1889 square foot home.

Complete working drawings of the above plan can be obtained at a cost of \$7.50 for the first set and \$5 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: Hiawatha Estes, P. O. Box 404-T, Northridge, Cal.

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