

Ag Council Decides Program Of Expanded Research Needed

Corvallis — Oregon's multi-million dollar agricultural industry is in danger of losing its share of local and national markets unless economic and production problems facing the state's farmers are quickly solved.

This was the conclusion reached recently by the executive committee of the Oregon agricultural research and advisory council at a Corvallis meeting. Looking over market and production problems now threatening farmers in Oregon, the committee decided an expanded agricultural research program was needed immediately to keep the \$576 million in actual purchasing power created by agriculture flowing into the state each year.

Best way to expand present research under way at the Oregon State college agricultural experiment station would be to supply needed help to agricultural scientists now at the station, the committee concluded. At present, they found, many of the scientists spend much of their time doing routine tasks such as planting, weeding, and washing.

This is helping the scientists from concentrating on problems facing the state's agricultural industry, Gordon Walker, Independence farmer and chairman of the advisory council, observed. It also means less mileage out of each tax dollar than if scientists could spend full time on creative research, he added.

As a result of their study, the executive committee members unanimously urged the department station to request an increased budget to provide skilled labor to help the scientists. Agricultural technicians and graduate assistants could be hired with the

expanded budget to do specialized technical tasks at a much lower cost per hour than at present, it was pointed out. The expanded budget would also allow the experiment station to spend more time on badly needed basic research so that a backlog of scientific information about agriculture could be developed, according to F. E. Price, director of the OSC agricultural experiment station. This type of information can be vitally important during periods of disease outbreak or economic crisis in agriculture, he said, as well as helping develop new products and more efficient practices for Oregon farmers.

Need for an increased research budget was emphasized by Lyle W. Hammack, Portland, secretary of the council. Agricultural research has been holding the line on requests for support during the last six years, he said. Because of increased costs during this period, however, agricultural research hasn't been able to keep ahead of pressing problems in the industry, Hammack noted.

"The time has come" to move forward again with agricultural research if Oregon farmers are to be able to compete successfully in national markets, Hammack said. An expanded research program will be needed to make up for research lost the last several years, he continued.

Agriculture Big Industry

Agriculture is a big industry in Oregon, Walker pointed out, and needs big figures in the research budget to insure adequate development of Oregon agriculture.

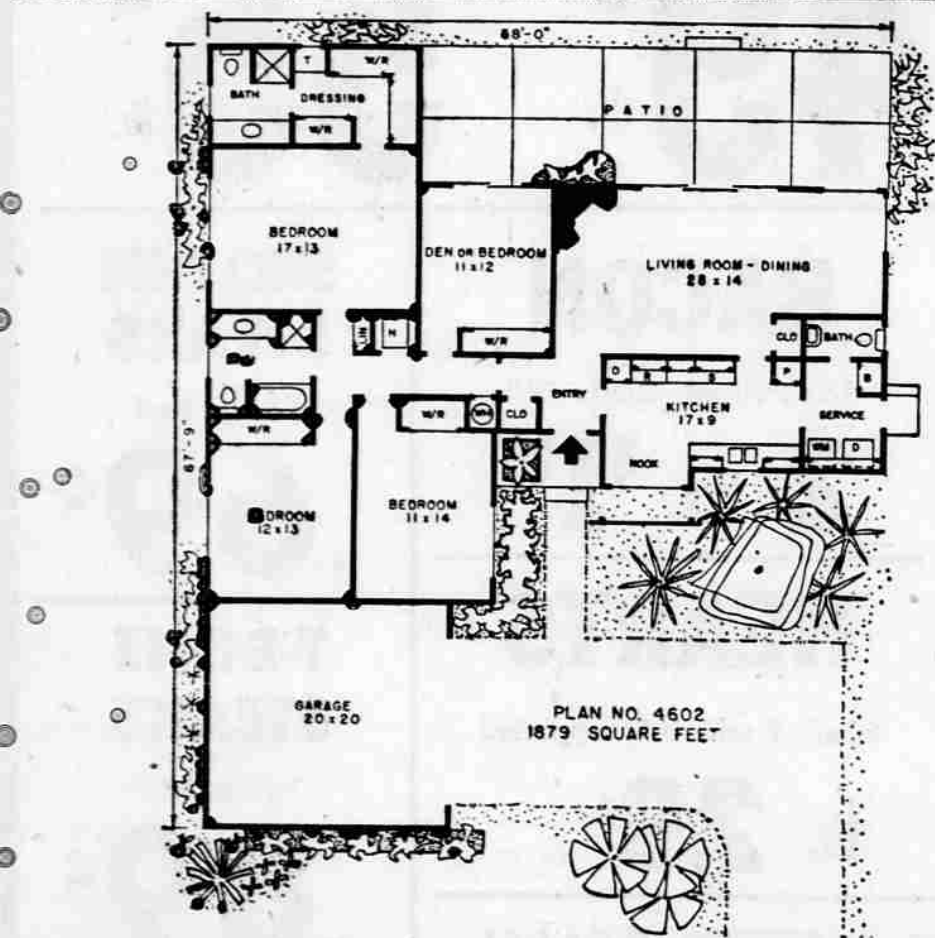
Oregon agriculture generates over a half-billion dollars in actual purchasing power in the state each year, Price indicated, providing an annual payroll of around \$247 million for the equivalent of 70,500 full-time jobs. Gross farm income alone from the marketing of some 100 farm commodities each year totals around \$400 million, he added.

The total investment of state funds in agricultural research in Oregon is considerably less than one-half of one per cent of this total gross farm income, Price reported. Many progressive industries today set aside from 5 to 10 per cent of their gross sales for research, he pointed out.

On the executive committee of the council are Walker, Oregon State Horticultural society; Hammack, Oregon Dairy Industries; Carey L. Strome, Junction City, Oregon Seed Growers league; Larry Williams, Canyon City, Oregon Cattleman's association; Cecil R. Tulley, Portland, Northwest Cannery and Freezers; Charles Swango, Eugene, Western Oregon Livestock growers; James A. Doty, Portland, Oregon Association of Nurserymen; Leon H. Funk, Eugene, Essential Oil Growers; and Frank Anderson, Heppner, Oregon Wheat Growers league.

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This Week's Town, Country House



By HIAWATHA ESTES

Planned for the family with a busy social life, this trim contemporary home will make entertaining especially easy and delightful.

The exterior is one to be proud of in any neighborhood. The clean lines of the rock roof accent the long, low look. Slumpstone blocks laid in straight Roman tiers veneer broad areas of the facade from the foundation planter to the boxed gables. Brick or random stone could be substituted if desired. A colorful perforated masonry screen shields the front windows from the street.

From the sheltered entry a panel door leads to the entrance foyer. Big and open, the living-dining area extends across the back, looking out to the patio and rear garden through broad sliding glass

doors. Corner windows light the dining alcove, and the big fireplace can be enjoyed from all parts of this pleasant room.

For quick family meals, the eating area in the kitchen is both convenient and attractive. Refrigerator, oven and surface cooking unit are built-in. An expanse of cupboards, pantry, broom closet and game closet provide a "place for everything" near the work area. Laundry appliances are in the service area, and the half-bath is handy to the work area and play yard.

The master bedroom has its own private three-quarter bath and dressing room. Wardrobes line three walls and a window located above the built-in vanity table provides ample light and ventilation.

The children's rooms are comfortably spacious, with wide, high-set windows and

large wardrobes. The den, which opens sliding glass doors to the patio, could serve as a fourth family bedroom or guest room.

Recessed fixtures, a pull-man lavatory, a tub and separate stall shower are attractive features of the family bath.

The garage could be attached in front, or — if your lot is wide enough — located at the side next to the service area and connected by a breezeway.

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 and Country Homes, may be purchased for \$1. Send all orders for either plans or books to Hiawatha Estes, P.O. Box 404-7, Northridge, Calif.

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE G. COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Like the weather food prices is one subject that everybody talks about but nobody ever does anything about — although a lot of people try.

The average housewife and the husband who pays the bill can't understand why the farmer keeps complaining he isn't getting enough money for what he raises, yet the food prices on many items keep rising.

Complicating this problem is the fact that the price spread between farmers and consumers is increasing. According to last year's statistics, farmers received an average of 40 cents of every retail dollar consumers spent. Authorities say the spread is going to be even less during this year.

The farm-retail spread is the difference between the retail price of a product and its farm value or payment to the farmers. Another name for this is the product's marketing margin or charge.

A rise in annual average marketing charges is expected this year. The payment the farmers receive, however, will probably remain the same, according to the United States Department of Agriculture studies.

These charges are made for services in getting the products from the farm onto the diningroom table. Such services include assembling the products, storing, transporting, wholesaling and retailing them. According to the USDA report, transportation is one of the largest items. It comprises 10 to 15 per cent of the marketing costs.

Directly affecting the farm-retail spread are depreciation charges, rent, taxes, advertising, fuel, power and other utilities. Other items are supplies, containers, and profits.

Wage rates which represent the major cost factor are expected to continue upward. Marketing firms also buy equipment, supplies, and other items which are expected to rise higher. Such firms may offset possible price increases by more efficiency, however.

In the 1940's the farm-retail spread increased less than farm or retail prices. Since 1950, there has been a continuous increase in the spread. These changes are mostly independent of supply and demand factors influencing farm and retail prices.

The spread also shows some effects of service changes — washing and pre-packaging, for instance.

Generally, the more highly processed the product, the smaller the farmer's share, according to the study. Short-run fluctuations are caused mainly by seasonal movements of prices due to production cycles.

Foods derived from animals and animal products tend to have a higher farmer's share than those directly from crops because farm inputs are relatively greater for animal products than for crops.

A serious attempt to combat this spread — at least in the dairy business — is the idea of producer pooling of milk. A working organization was conceived after the failure of the milk co-op in Jackson county.

Early in January, 1951 Paul Steveson, a milk producer, approached a number of dairymen on the feasibility of organizing the Grade A Milk Producers.

A number of dairymen including Delbert Mongold, Dick Westenberg, Harold Lass and Martin Schnack met with Steveson at his home.

The Jackson County Dairymen's association included all dairymen regardless of the milk product produced. However, those attending the meeting felt there should be a separate organization because of the great variety of problems in producing and marketing fluid milk for bottle and can trade.

Following several meetings at the home of the Paul Stevesons, Phoenix, the group drew up and filed articles of incorporation and by-laws which was named the Milk Producers league. Dick Westenberg was named chairman and William Auel was hired as manager. The five men assessed themselves and received donations from a number of other people interested in the organization.

During the first meeting on Feb. 21, 1951 in the Holland hotel the league enlisted a membership of about 30 per cent of the Grade A milk producers in what is known as the Medford milk shed.

During the first regular meeting of the league April 28, 1951 in the Jackson county court house Dick Westenberg was elected president, Martin Schnack vice president and W. E. Davies secretary.

A representative of the milk marketing administration told the group that his organization favors establishment of marketing pools, but warned against making such a pool without complete producer participation. Another factor he warned against was some strong distributor opposition.

During a special membership meeting May 28, 1951 the majority of the membership voted to form a pool. The pooling operations started June 1, 1951.

"We met with strong opposition from the distributors in the area," one of the founders stated. "They didn't know just how good we were. Also there was considerable apprehension on the part of various milk producers as to how feasible the arrangement was."

Manager Bill Auel and the board of directors faced such problems as establishing a governing policy, payouts, quotas, checking tests and weights plus many individual complaints from its members. New members signed up as the activities became better known to the independent dairymen.

One of the more serious problems confronting the early organization was its relations with the Milk Marketing administration. Many discussions and disputes were held over milk prices and distributor margins. Other problems centered around petitioning the administration for hearings in the area on price adjustments, cost structure and many other matters over which the state board had jurisdiction.

The Milk Market administration established a market pool for all milk in the area following a league request in March, 1952.

Then the independent milk producers were faced with the problem of finding a pooling agent. During a meeting in the Holland hotel on March 27, 1952 a delegation from the independent milk producers were told of the by-laws and league policies.

The independent producers voted to join the league and did during the semi-annual meeting held a short time later. League members soon realized that milk consumption by the public was fast becoming a problem. To meet this milk consumption decline an advertising program was started.

The league also helped to form a similar organization in the Klamath basin.

Now with 100 per cent of the milk producers of the county in the league, according to a league member, producers have more control over their product and the prices they receive. This gives them a bargaining power with the distributors.

The way the pooling arrangement works is that the distributors inform Manager Dick Westenberg, Ashland, as to how much milk they need for a certain period. He knows ahead of time how to route the milk.

Raleigh Holmes, Medford, is hired by the league to pick up the milk which is picked up by tank truck or by trucks handling the milk cans.

Of course, each member must live up to his part of the bargain. He is given a quota or a proportion of the milk pool. When he falls below the quota for a period of time and especially over four low months of the year, he will lose a part of the quota. This portion lost will be apportioned out to the other members who can handle it.

The league has since reached a working agreement with the Southern Oregon Milk Producers association of Grants Pass.

Wheat Quotas Voting Planned For June 20

A referendum on 1959-crop wheat marketing quotas will be held here on Friday, June 20, according to Charles White, chairman of the county agricultural stabilization and conservation committee. The polling place will be the Jackson county A.S.C. office in the Courthouse Annex from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Growers eligible to vote are those farmers who will have more than 15 acres of wheat for harvest as grain in 1959. White explained. Growers with 15 acres or less of wheat for harvest, and those in the feed wheat program are not eligible to vote because they are exempted from marketing quota provisions. The vote itself, however, is on marketing quotas for the 1959 wheat crop, not acreage allotments.

Wheat allotments will remain in effect as a means of determining the individual grower's eligibility for price support, whether or not quotas are approved. The level of the available wheat support will depend on the outcome of the vote.

If at least two-thirds of the growers voting approve the quotas, support will be available on the 1959 wheat crop at a national average of not less than \$1.81 per bushel, or 75 per cent of parity. If quotas are not approved by the necessary two-thirds of the voters, support for the crop will be available at about \$1.20 per bushel, or 50 per cent of parity.

White pointed out that if marketing quotas are in effect, there will be penalties on "excess" wheat produced on acreage in excess of acreage allotments. The penalty will be 45 per cent of the wheat parity price as of May 1, 1959.

Arborvitae Hit By Blight Here

Many of the arborvitae in the area are showing dead areas in their foliage. This is usually confined to individual branches or one side of the bush, according to Don Berry, county extension agent.

Much of the trouble appearing in arborvitae is due to a fungus disease called Berckman's blight. This disease works primarily during the winter but shows up during the spring and early summer as discolored and dead areas in the bushes.

Chemical treatments now would be of little help during the summer months. Recommended practices would be cutting out infected branches or rubbing out the dead areas with a gloved hand, and increasing the vigor of the bush through extra care in the way of fertilizers, mulch and water.

Copper sprays applied before the fall rains are effective in preventing this disease from showing up in arborvitae the following year. These would not be applied until the latter part of September or early October.

Warehousemen To Talk Rules

Salem — Wednesday afternoon, June 25, the state department of agriculture will hold a public hearing at its headquarters in Salem on proposed rules and regulations relating to the operation, licensing and maintenance of bonded public warehouses in Oregon.

The five sections of the proposed order deal with licensing, marking and identification of grain and storage facilities, maintenance of quality and quantity of stored grain and maintenance of grounds and physical plants. Copies of the proposed regulations are available at the department's division of grain inspection, 606 S. E. Ninth ave., Portland, 14.

37 CATTLE MISSING

Salem — Two eastern Oregon ranchers report 37 cattle missing on the monthly estray bulletin of the state department of agriculture. The new bulletin covers estray information received through June 6.

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\$77,000 in Prizes Set for State Fair

Salem — Exhibitors at the Oregon state fair, opening here Aug. 28, will have a chance to win more money for fair exhibits than ever before. More than \$77,000 in premium awards are offered this year.

Cattle classes, with premiums of more than \$35,000, again head the list. Second in the amount of premium money to be awarded is the floral and garden department with \$10,650 allocated.

A considerable increase in the number of Oregon counties entering county exhibits is expected as a result of new emphasis on this always popular feature of the fair. Any county entering an exhibit which scores a minimum of 70 points will be awarded a subsidy of \$100. In addition, for the first time, county exhibits will be scored with the winner taking a cup and first prize of \$200. Six other cash prizes will be awarded in this division.

The new premium book contains a complete schedule of 4-H and FFA events, listing all events scheduled for each of the 10 days of the fair.

A number of new names appear among the department superintendents. Mrs. F. W. Poorman, long time livestock secretary and known to thousands of exhibitors, is the new livestock superintendent. She will be in charge of the cattle, swine, sheep and goat divisions.

There will be a special exhibit of Devon cattle with ribbon awards for first, second and third places. There is a possibility that Sen. Wayne Morse may enter some of his prize Devons.

W. Kay Huntington, Portland landscape architect, will direct the floral and garden department.

Poultry premiums are up, with a total of \$4,250 to be awarded. Kenneth Jennings again heads this department which also includes pigeons and rabbits. The poultry and pison show will not be split this year. Poultry will be shown in the poultry building for the entire ten days of the fair and pigeons and rabbits in the machinery exhibit shed.

An entirely new feature of this year's fair is the Craft and Hobby Department with Delwin Finley of Salem as superintendent. There will be awards for creative hobbies, collections of various kinds and original design models.

Mrs. Laneta King will superintend the art department with premiums of \$2,000 to be awarded. Two new features have been added. There will be a music division under

the direction of Stanley Butler, associate professor of music at Willamette university. Another new feature will be the first all-Oregon colored slide competitive exhibit with showing each evening in the Little Theatre of the main exhibits building.

A. L. Thompson will again direct the salon of photography. Mrs. Dale Mallicoat will be Foods Superintendent and Mrs. Marion Buchanan will be in charge of textiles.

Premiums for horse entries total over \$4,000. This department is again headed by Max Manchester.

The honey bees and land products department, with premiums of \$2,250, will again be headed by Marvin Black.

Ads Must Include Potato Grades

Salem — When potatoes are advertised for sale in Oregon, by newspapers, handbills, highway signs or any other advertising medium, the grade of the potatoes must be stated.

The state department of agriculture calls attention to this portion of the Oregon potato law because some markets and grocery stores are advertising new potatoes without giving the grade.

In addition, all closed containers of potatoes are required to be labeled with the grade of the potatoes in the container, the name and address or registered brand of the grower or packer and the net weight.

Potatoes in open bags or bulk displays are not required to be labeled providing they have been taken from correctly labeled containers by the retailers.

Penalties are provided for infractions of the Oregon potato law, the department adds. Hugh Taylor, assistant plant industry division chief for the department, stated that most markets and groceries cooperate excellently with this phase of the law.

The ROGUE RIVER JERSEY CATTLE CLUB

wishes to thank the following firms for their co-operation and donations. With their help the Junior Spring Dairy Show was a huge success:

- Rogue River Feed and Farm Supply
- Centennial Milling Company
- Grange Co-operative Farm Supply
- Elton's Farm and Garden Store
- Monarch Feed and Seed Co.

Fair Plans Made By Jersey Club

By MARY MONGOLD

Plans were made for participating in the fall fairs at the June meeting of the Rogue River Jersey Cattle club held recently at the Loren Knight home on Redwood highway, Grants Pass. Several breeders told of plans to take animals to the Josephine County fair this year. Altogether a list of twenty-five animals was compiled which should make for a good competition.

The recent junior spring dairy show was discussed and reported as a great success. Over one hundred youngsters participated. Next year the show will be held at the Jackson county Fairgrounds.

After a potluck luncheon at noon, President Ed Parsons conducted a cow judging contest in which all members and guests took part. The milk committee reported a new solids test for milk which has recently been perfected in Denmark. The test is made with a lactometer, it is simple to operate and accurate. This new lactometer is now being manufactured for distribution in America.

Guests present were Helen Tryk and Lois Martin, new Jersey breeders of Gold Hill. The next meeting will be held at their home on the Upper River rd. on July 11.

Poison ivy's clusters of waxy white fruit, resembling bayberry, provide food for more than 50 species of birds.

The eighth bomb explosion in the Kasmire Valley in three months is reported from Srinagar.

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