

# Farm and Garden

## Seed Testing Given Speed-up

Corvallis—Faster seed testing service for Oregon's multi-million dollar grass and legume seed industry was announced this week by Oregon State college agricultural experiment station.

A new quick test for "live seed," plus an increased staff of technicians, is expected to cut testing time during the peak September period, reports Mrs. Louisa Jensen, technician in charge of the OSC seed laboratory.

Tests for seed purity, formerly causing time lags up to four weeks, should be completed within two or three days this year with addition of six technicians, Mrs. Jensen stated.

Seed germination tests require one to four weeks, varying with types of seed. However, seed viability—closely related to seed germination—can be measured in one-day service with the new quick test. While official seed certification requires the longer germination test, Mrs. Jensen said the quick method should be valuable to both buyers and sellers wanting immediate information on percentage of "live seed."

Key to the quick test is a colorless stain, tetrazolium, that turns red through chemical reaction with enzymes in live seed of grasses, legumes, and vetches. It is effective even on dormant seed.

The OSC laboratory, official state testing station for Oregon, operates on a fee basis and conducts tests on 15,000 to 20,000 seed samples annually.

An average American farm uses up to 100 per cent more electric current than it needed 15 years ago.



**CAMP FIRE DEMONSTRATION**—Faye Chapman, 13, and Steve Chapman, 11, both of the Sis-Q 4-H club give a demonstration of the proper way to build a campfire. The demonstration was one of many given at the 4-H and FFA county fair this week at the county fair grounds. Faye blows on the pile of wood to fan the flames as her brother waits expectantly.

## Milk Cows Drop In Total Number

Corvallis—The number of milk cows on Oregon farms has dropped to the lowest point on record and milk production continues a downward trend, reports Oregon State college extension service.

Oregon has 178,000 milk cows this summer, 2½ per cent drop from last year and the smallest number in 23 years of record, according to Stephen C. Marks, OSC agricultural economist. The report is based on a mid-summer inventory by the state crop reporting service.

Milk production in Oregon last month dropped 2 million pounds below the same month a year ago, Marks said.

Hot weather throughout most of Oregon during the past month has also lowered

milk production, says Don E. Anderson, OSC dairy specialist.

When temperatures are 80 degrees or higher, farmers are advised to provide animals with shade and make sure fresh drinking water is near.

Pasture production has also dipped sharply during the hot weather. Supplemental feed, especially grain, is now necessary, Anderson states. He adds that a good fly-control program to ease irritation of cows might easily boost a cow's daily production by two or three pounds.

There are more than 2,500,000 acres of tree farms in the Douglas fir regions of the Pacific northwest.

## Offer Changes In Egg Law For This State

Salem—The 1959 legislature may be asked to make some amendments to the Oregon law establishing grades and standards for eggs. This developed recently when the egg law advisory committee to the state department of agriculture approved several amendments.

The advisory committee is appointed by the Oregon poultry council and will take their recommendations to this group for approval.

One of the major changes suggested is more liberal tolerances, which means movement toward the federal egg standards and the tolerances recently adopted by the state of Washington.

The proposals also include a requirement that producers selling eggs off their premises should have a state permit. Such a permit is already required by wholesalers and jobbers.

### Requirements Explained

Producers selling graded or ungraded eggs to the holder of an egg dealer's permit would not themselves be required to have a permit. Neither would a permit be required for sale to consumers of eggs previously candled as required by law. The price tag on the permit is \$3.

Under the proposed amendments, the case fee in existence for a number of years would be continued. The committee also proposed administrative authority be given the director of agriculture to set case fees within certain levels. For small sales, the committee suggested reports should be required on an annual basis, rather than semi-annual as now.

Another new proposal will be to give authority to the department to audit any egg dealer's books and records to determine whether the proper case fees are being paid.

A final suggestion of the committee would make it unlawful for any producer or egg dealer to place a grade and size label on eggs unless they were actually candled with facilities approved by the department.

# --- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE G. COWLEY  
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

This is county fair time. A time when the harvest is in and people take a little time to view what they and their neighbors have reaped from bountiful Mother Nature.

While looking at what good, fertile soil has yielded it might be a good time also to check over practices which have made the soil fertile enough for good crops. Proper use of the soil is not something developed in this modern age. What we know about the soil has been developed through generation after generation.

Ancient people also used manure, lime and crop rotations with legumes to restore nitrogen to the soil. Pamphlets to show such practices now can be found in the county agent's office. However, the Romans had several pamphlets. One such instruction manual is known as Columella's "Husbandry." It was used by at least 15 generations. It told of the amounts of material needed, proper time for farming operations and what combinations of practices were best for what kinds of soils.

After Rome fell and up to the French Revolution farming practices like the old "home remedy" grew out of lore handed down from one generation to the next. How good such farming practices were could be seen by the numerous plagues and famines which cursed European civilization at that time.

At the same time the Moors, the great architects, engineers, and scientists of the east who left us so many things also set up practical irrigation. The knowledge developed by one of these Moors was put into print. It came to southwest America with the Spaniards.

In the early 1800's Jethro Tull, an Englishman, gave the world the grain drill and cultivator. This made it easier to grow crops in rows and free of weeds. However, by following Tull's advice the farmers, until recently were over-cultivating.

Then the two-field system—a switch from grain to fallow—progressed to the "four-course" system. In this Norfolk system developed in Holland turnips were raised as the intertilled crop, followed by wheat and two years of clover or clover mixed grass. At times the second year of grass could be replaced by another year of grain. Clover helped keep the soil fertile. This practice, too, often was overdone. Later it was learned what types of rotation was best for what soils.

Meanwhile other scientists were trying to learn what made plants grow. A Frenchman in the 16th century thought manures and plant remains gave the salt back to the ground. Others carried on the experiments.

Finally a French scientist set down a table of chemical elements. Plants and animals use oxygen and through respiration "burn" organic food. Another French soil scientist started experimenting in the fields in the early 1800's. He studied the soil by weighing it and making chemical analysis.

Then a German chemist, Justus von Liebig, developed a comparatively simple theory. The crops increase or grow fewer according to the minerals plants get from manure.

A number of American farmers about the mid-1800's took an interest in soil development. Work was done in the field during and after the Civil War. About 1890 more experiments were carried on in the field, following the creation of land grant colleges.

A number of experiment stations about 1900 were studying soil management. Later F. H. King of the University of Wisconsin and Cyril G. Hopkins at the University of Illinois carried soil management further. King studied Chinese agriculture and applied to American soil science what he learned from the peasants. Hopkins promoted the use of lime, finely ground, raw rock phosphate and clover. His writings were used by many farmers to improve greatly mid-western farming.

Finally, Milton Whitney, chief of the bureau of soils, started more intensive investigations of the soil. Other scientists picked up his work and carried it to the present advanced science it is.

Your milk bill may be higher if present negotiations by representatives of this state's dairy farmers are successful. As mentioned before, the long spell of hot, dry weather has been hard on pastures. For the first time in many years dairymen are now feeding hay in the summer. High labor costs are also affecting the increased milk producing costs. Of course, this demand for milk price increases isn't a sudden thing. It's something which has been developing as production costs gradually increased.

A recent dairy market review from Oregon State college shows that milk cows on Oregon farms are the smallest in number for 23 years. Milk production has resumed a downward trend. Closer culling while cattle prices kept climbing is probably responsible, the experts explain. Probably much of that hamburger you bought in cheaper grades was from old milk cows.

Fewer milk cows and poorer pasture conditions caused milk production to drop to 114 million pounds or 2 million pounds less than last year. Until June milk production in this state was on the increase.

This picture has broadened out to include the entire country. July was the third month in a row that milk output lagged, according to OSC economists.

Something else affecting the dairy herd and beef, too, is that the outlook for Oregon's grain production dropped during July. Continued hot, dry winds caused shriveling and shattering of unharvested grain, according to the Oregon crop and livestock reporting service. Strong winds on July 12 caused considerable loss to unharvested grains in the Columbia river counties, also.

Oregon's wheat crop was forecast at 28,060,000 bushels as of Aug. 1 compared with 26,788,000 bushels in 1957.

Considering feed grains, barley yield prospects dropped from July estimate of 38.0 bushels to 36.0 on Aug. 1. Oats dropped from 37.0 bushels to 33.0 bushels. However, corn has improved to an estimated high yield of 72 bushels per acre. Rye production has hit a record high yield this year of 18.0 bushels per acre.

Hay production is slightly down from last year—about 2 per cent. Frequent rains during the cutting season interfered. However, locally, Sams Valley area farmers reported that the storms passed them as if they were on an island.

Although a farmer friend strongly advises us to wait for about a month before buying our locker beef, we don't see much of a drop in beef prices, according to what the Oregon crop and livestock reporting service notes.

## Potato Nematode Seen In Oregon Dahlia Plants

Salem—Plan survey pathologists for the state department of agriculture have discovered the potato rot nematode in dahlia tubers in three commercial plantings in Oregon.

Frank McKennon, chief of the department's division of plant industry reports the first isolation was made early this year and the last in June. McKennon says investigations so far point to the fact that imported tubers are involved in all cases. He says the department has been working on this problem and that tubers from every com-

## Coyote Declared Most Sought After Predatory Animal

Salem—Coyotes accounted for 60 per cent of all the predatory animals taken in Oregon during the last fiscal year reported M. E. Knickerbocker, chief of the state department of agriculture's division of animal industry, and Melvin E. Smith, district U.S. Fish and Wildlife agent.

They point out that the fiscal year report of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and cooperating state agencies shows 7,951 predators were killed including 4,838 coyotes, 2,830 bobcats, 281 bears and two mountain lions.

In addition to these predators a secondary group of wild animals totaling 5,598 were taken by cooperative hunters working in 35 counties. This group included 627 foxes, 1,329 badgers, 547 skunks, 1,225 raccoons and 1,700 porcupines.

About 12 per cent of the total predators were taken in Malheur county. At the other end of the scale only two animals—both bears—were killed in Polk county.

Smith's annual summary points out that the coyote continues to be the most troublesome predator in the state and ranges from the Pacific coast through the Cascades to Wallowa and Blue mountains.

He adds that increasing human population and the coyote's ability to adapt to man's way of life makes control increasingly difficult.

Like the coyote, the bobcat ranges throughout the state. This animal was responsible for the loss of a considerable number of lambs in both eastern and western Oregon last year. Hunters trapped 500 more bobcats than the year earlier.

Principal damages caused by bears occurred on tree farms in western Oregon, though a limited amount of damages to sheep on summer ranges in the Blue mountain counties are charged to this animal.

The poultry population in the Willamette valley is the greatest prey of the introduced fox. The 627 foxes taken compares with 492 the previous year.

Besides the state department of agriculture, other agencies cooperating in the predatory control program are the state game commission, the county courts, the bureau of land management, private timber companies and livestock associations.

## Field Day Set On Farm Pasture

Three cows to the acre on ladino and alfalfa pasture, with no bloom in the pasture program being followed this summer by Victor and Glenn Birds-eye, according to Earle Jossy, county extension agent.

Ninety head of cattle have lived on about 30 acres of pasture all summer. Pasture is fed on a daily rotation program. The forage grows for about 25 days at which time it is six to eight inches high. The cows are turned into this in the morning, by night the ground is bare. The next day they get another patch.

Dairymen, livestock growers and others who are interested are invited by the Birds-eye to see this operation. They, in cooperation with the Jackson county extension service, will hold a field day Wednesday, August 27, starting at 1:30 p.m. at the Elliott dairy ranch just north of Ross lane on the Central Point-Jacksonville highway.

Most dairymen and livestock growers will find something they can use to increase production of their pastures in this field session.

found in the United States at Aberdeen, Idaho. More recently an infestation was discovered in a limited area in Wisconsin.

It is now recognized that the potato rot nematode is the same species as found in bulbous iris for many years. At least one western state has been allowing a one per cent tolerance in the iris without causing apparent harm or concern to the industry.

Department officials feel that Oregon dahlia stock may be cleaner than that in other states which have not carried out extensive survey work for the nematode.

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## Largest Rabbit Show Noted at County Fair

Kathleen Badcock of Evans Valley had the Grand Champion exhibit in the rabbit division at the 4-H and FFA fair being held at the fairgrounds in Medford this week.

Competing in the largest Rabbit show held in the county to date she had the top exhibit of over 100 cages of rabbits, according to Glenn Klein, county 4-H agent.

Daryl Zapell of Talent was the top rabbit showman as she bested over 30 competitors in the showmanship classes for rabbit exhibitors.

The complete results in the rabbit show are as follows:  
New Zealand Senior Doe: 1—Margaret Stone, Evans Valley; 2—Barbara Wood, Evans Valley; 3—Tamara Mars, Evans Valley; 4—Linda Stone, Evans Valley; 5—Kathleen Badcock, Evans Valley; 6—Jo Ann Wood, Evans Valley; 7—Woody Newman, Howard; 8—Daryl Zapell, Talent and 10—Patricia Hiltson, Talent.

New Zealand Senior Buck: 1—Charles Badcock, Evans Valley; 2—Joyce Josephson, West Side; 3—Betty Jo Howell, Talent; 4—Dean Sommer, Talent; 5—Margaret Stone, Evans Valley; 6—Anthony Glidden, Phoenix; 7—Larry Surum, Southwest Medford; 8—John Eversizer, Evans Valley.

New Zealand Intermediate Doe: 1—Grand champion Kathleen Badcock, Evans Valley; 2—Gary Spires, Howard; 3—Charles Badcock, Evans Valley; 4—John Eversizer, Evans Valley; 5—Daryl Zapell, Talent; 6—Robert Spirts, Howard; 7—Carole Leon, Griffin Creek; 8—Penny Anderson, Rogue River; 9—Keith Longie, Howard and 10—Anthony Glidden, Phoenix.

New Zealand Intermediate Buck: 1—Charles Badcock, Evans Valley; 2—Margaret Stone, Evans Valley; 3—Anthony Glidden, Phoenix; 4—Jo Ann Wood, Evans Valley; 5—Kathleen Badcock, Evans Valley; 6—Betty Jo Howell, Talent; 7—Anthony Glidden, Phoenix; 8—Linda Sommer, Talent; 9—Dean Sommer, Talent and 10—Marvel Lichtenstein, Evans Valley.

New Zealand Junior Doe: 1—Jo Ann Wood, Evans Valley; 2—Kathleen Badcock, Evans Valley; 3—Patricia Hiltson, Evans Valley; 4—Charles Badcock, Evans Valley; 5—Betty Jo Howell, Talent; 6—Betty Jo Howell, Talent; 7—Anthony Glidden, Phoenix; 8—Linda Sommer, Talent; 9—Dean Sommer, Talent and 10—Marvel Lichtenstein, Evans Valley.

## Oregon Farm Wages Rate Second to Washington

Corvallis—Oregon farm workers receive the second highest farm wage rates in the U.S., topped only by Washington, according to an Oregon State college extension economist.

Average hourly wage rate paid farm laborers recently in Oregon was \$1.12 an hour compared with \$1.20 in Washington and \$1.06 in California. Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts followed the three highest Pacific Coast states.

These average wage rate figures compiled by the U.S. department of agriculture include all types of wages whether paid on a monthly, weekly, hourly or daily basis. If a house, garden produce, or board and room are included in the farm wage, it is also totaled in the overall composite rate.

Oregon kept pace with the average 1½ per cent net increase in wage rates reported during the past year for the entire country and also approached Washington's wage level, while Washington rates

## 94 Warehousemen Licensed in State

Salem—Ninety-four warehousemen or firms and 192 grain warehouses were licensed in Oregon by the state department of agriculture, at the close of the fiscal year on June 30.

The department reports that one application for a license was refused because requirements of the law were not met.

John E. Wallin, warehouse inspector, reports that two warehouses in the Willamette valley have made repairs to buildings and premises to meet sanitation requirements of the law.

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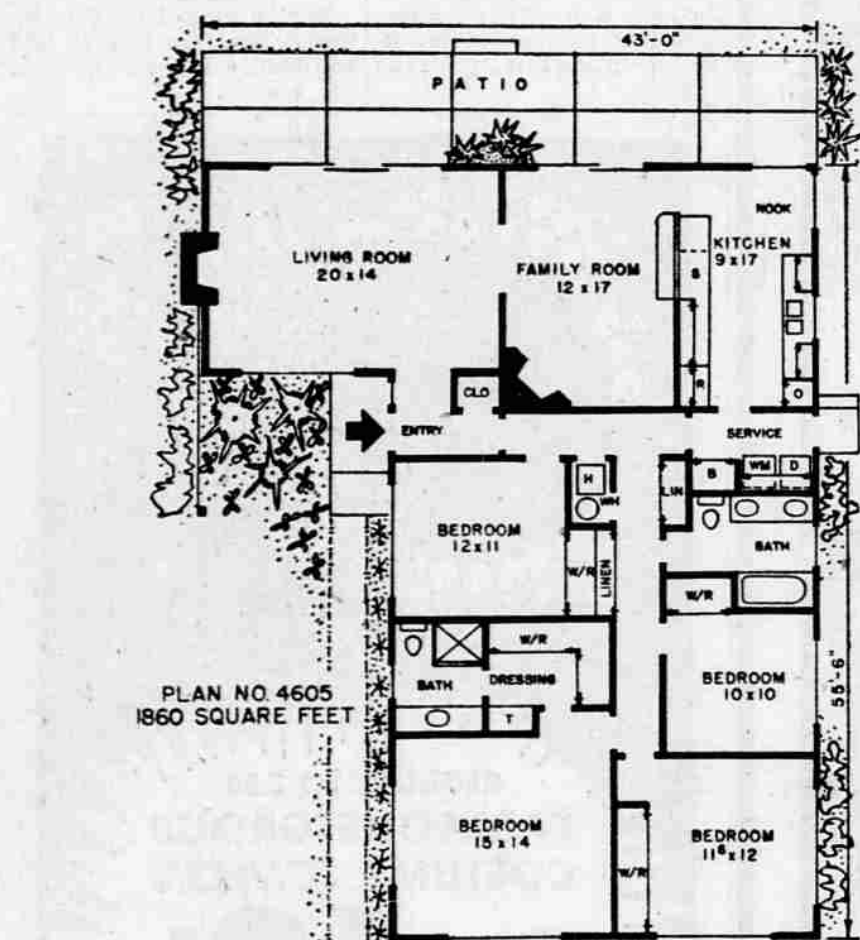
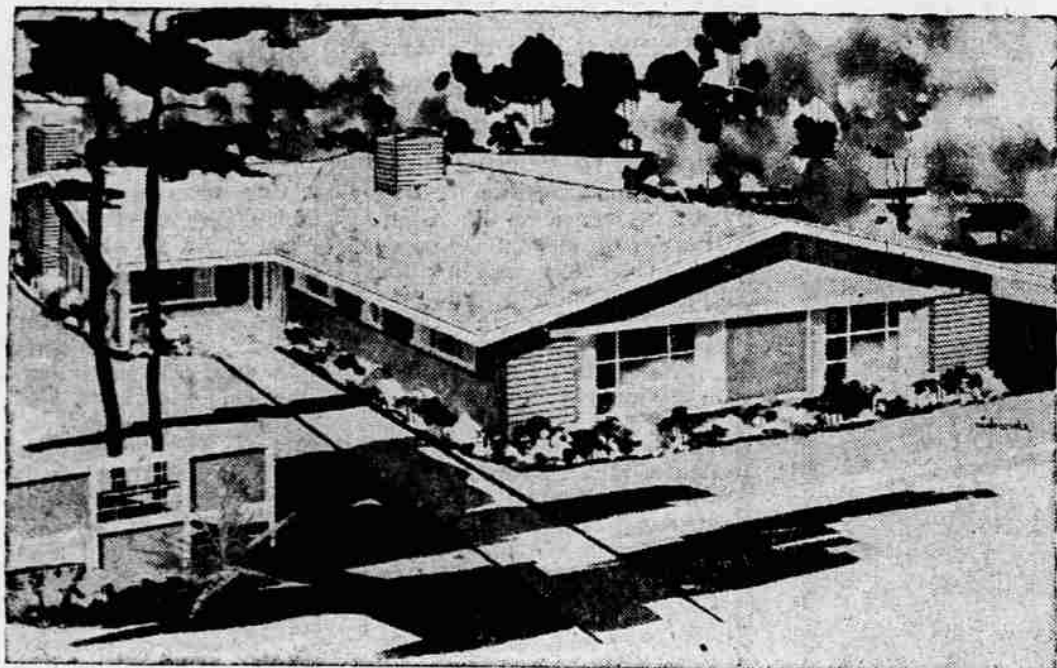
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## This Week's Home for Modern Living



BY HIAWATHA ESTES

Glass creates striking effects in this Contemporary home, relating the living areas to the outdoors. Sliding walls of glass unite the living room and family room to the full rear patio, and wide picture windows face the street in the living room and two of the four bedrooms. Other bedroom windows are high-set casements that allow unbroken wall areas for the placement of furniture.

The sleeping and activity areas in this 1860 square foot home are well separated from each other for quiet and privacy. The central hall channels movement to any room from either the front or rear entrance, without the need for

any room to be used as a walk-way.

Fireplaces add a hospitable touch to both the living room and family room. Sliding doors can be closed to separate these two distinctive rooms when adults wish to entertain without interruption of children's activities. Yet when more room is needed for parties or large groups these double doors slide into the wall to merge the areas for easy entertaining.

The half-wall serving bar over the kitchen cooking unit will make it easy to use the family room as a separate dining room when entertaining.

light and ample wardrobe space make the family bedrooms attractive and comfortable.

Stucco and concrete block are suggested as low-cost exterior materials, topped by a gleaming crushed rock roof. If desired, the garage could be attached to the front of the bedroom wing. The entire plan can be rotated 90 degrees to fit a wider lot.

Complete working drawing 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 your satisfaction, a new home plan book, Homes for Living, may be purchased for \$1. Send all orders for either plans or books to Hiawatha Estes, P.O. Box 407-7, Northridge, Calif.

## Seeks Removal of Turkey Ban

Salem—The state department of agriculture is urging extra efforts on the part of the USDA's foreign agricultural service to obtain a prompt removal of Canada's ban on U.S. turkeys.

In a letter to Gustave Burmeister, assistant administrator of the foreign agricultural service, the department's market development chief, Paul T. Rowell, pointed out that Canada has removed its ban on imports of fowl, including hens and roosters, but not turkeys.

Rowell said, "We realize that Canada's ban on U.S. turkeys was coincidental with establishment of a turkey price support program there last year and that U.S. turkey producers as a whole have lost only about one per cent of their market. However, with the loss of Oregon's market for one out of every seven birds produced in our state, it becomes a matter of serious concern to a heavy impact on Oregon turkey growers."

The department has protested this ban in behalf of Oregon turkey producers ever since it was put into effect by Canada in July of last year. Around 15 per cent of Oregon's turkey production has gone there, even under their regular 5 cents per pound import duty.

## 4-H Horsemen Win Trip Awards

Four 4-H horsemen won trips to the Oregon state fair with their demonstrations of "Recipe for Horsemanship" and "Horns Off" during the 4-H and FFA county fair.

Winners were Penny Sampert and Marsha Watson, both of the West Side Horse club, and Romelle and Gary Fossen of Ruch.

Red ribbon award—Ann Carter, Ashland, and Nelda Chapman, Talent; Heather Rode, Medford; Nikki Hammond, Central Point and Jack Peek, Central Point; Dennis Cornutt, Gold Hill, and Susan Wright, Medford.

White ribbon award—Dennis Fisher, Medford; Linda Sommer, Talent, and Daryl Zapell, Talent; Faye Chapman and Steve Chapman, both of Talent.

Carnauba wax is used in the manufacture of shoe, floor and furniture polishes, phonograph records, electric insulators, lubricating oil, sound film, soap and also candles.