

## Outstanding 4-H Member Follows Brother, Sister

Long and active participation in the Jackson county 4-H program is a tradition with Truman Elmore and his three brothers, of Applegate.

His older brother now at Oregon State college was active in 4-H work in Jackson county for 10 years. His older sister, now married, has a like record. The younger brothers and sisters plan to continue in the family way.

Truman has been active in a number of 4-H projects such as forestry, electricity, tractor maintenance, beef and sheep. Now his main project is hogs. These many projects his success with them and his ability as a junior leader has earned him the title of "4-H Boy of the Month" for January.

### Hogs Main Project

Truman is specializing in Poland China hogs and now has six hogs. He usually tries to keep about six sows, he said. The lanky, towheaded young farmer has three beef animals left over from his beef project and 10 sheep.

These projects of Truman's fit right into the family farm operation which consists of 620 acres on which the Elmore raise corn, hay, 75 head of Angus beef animals, 500 head of Corriedale sheep and 35 head of Poland China hogs.

The 4-H senior member has a successful background of 4-H competition behind him.

### Grading Proposed For Dressed Turkeys

Salem—A bill to require grading and grade labeling of all dressed turkeys sold through commercial channels in Oregon will be introduced in the 1959 legislature under sponsorship of the Oregon Turkey Improvement association.

At its annual meeting in Iowa earlier this month, the National Turkey association went on record requesting U. S. Department of Agriculture to establish compulsory grading and grade labeling of all turkeys sold in the U. S. At that meeting, Walt Schweder of Portland was elected president of the national federation for the coming year.

## Lahontan Alfalfa Said Best Type For This Area

Farmers in the southern Oregon area who plan to plant alfalfa for hay production this spring should choose the variety to be planted with more than usual care said H. H. White, superintendent, Southern Oregon Branch Experiment station.

The spotted alfalfa aphid—a scourge of alfalfa fields in much of the United States in recent years, has reached Oregon. Infestations were found this past season in Umatilla, Gilliam, and Morrow counties, White noted. The pest has been a serious factor in California hay production in recent years where it did an estimated \$15,000,000 damage to alfalfa in 1955. Why it has not crossed the state line from California into the southern Oregon area remains a mystery, he remarked.

The spotted alfalfa aphid can be controlled by insecticides such as malathion, parathion, Demeton, and phosphon. However, this type of control is expensive and all the above materials except malathion are extremely poisonous to humans and warm blooded animals. This makes them very hazardous to use on alfalfa meadows to be cut for hay.

Probably the best control method known to date for southern Oregon growers is to plant the Lahontan variety which is known to have a high degree of resistance to the spotted alfalfa aphid as well as resistance to stem nematode and bacterial wilt. Besides being resistant to the spotted alfalfa aphid, stem nematodes, and bacterial wilt, Lahontan is one of the highest hay yielders adapted to the southern Oregon area. Because of its resistance and vigor, plantings on the Experiment station have lasted much longer than most other varieties, even Talent.

Requirements for junior membership in the AGCC are simple. Young people must be individual owners of one or more pure bred Guernseys, and at least one of the animals must be registered or become registered at the time the youngsters application for membership is processed. Applications for membership must be endorsed by a state 4-H club leader, county 4-H club agent, county agent, vocational agricultural supervisor, or an adult member of the AGCC.

Full details on the new junior membership program may be obtained from the American Guernsey Cattle club, Peterborough, N.H.

# Farm and Garden

## --- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY  
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

The talks during the pear and peach growers' meetings this week proved that agriculture is worked successfully on a business-like and scientific basis.

The dollar sign and the consumer of the fruit were both prominent in the background of much of the discussion and information provided at both meetings. Economy in handling the fruit was featured in both sessions. Pear growers heard about experiments performed locally in bulk-handling of their fruit. Peach growers learned about the newer type peach picking box.

Bulk handling operations in the United States originated in the Wenatchee and Yakima, Wash., areas. Although there has been lots of interest in this new type of fruit handling, the dollar sign is the real criterion, pointed out Donald Langmo, assistant industrial engineer, Oregon State college.

During the experiments the researchers tried to learn what is happening to the fruit with both field box and bin handling of the fruit. In other words, would fewer stem punctures and skin breaks result to pears through bulk handling? During the experiments several methods of bulk handling were examined. There was the gate arrangement for tilt dumping of fruit, dry dump with the bins containing built-in flaps raised and lowered by levels and the wet dump.

Total damage of fruit in bins equivalent to 22 boxes was 10.3 per cent as compared to 7.77 per cent damage in field boxes. In the bins equivalent to 13 field boxes damage was 8.66 per cent compared to 9.30 per cent from field boxes. Damage in the 27-box size bin was 22 per cent compared to 19.16 per cent in the field box method.

Langmo emphasized that much more work has to be done in the bulk handling research. Cliff Cordy, county horticultural agent, suggested during the local experiments that considerable damage came before the dumping. However, information on this is extremely limited, Langmo pointed out.

Brief examinations showed 10 per cent damage in the pickers' sacks compared to 12 1/2 per cent in the field boxes and 20 per cent in the pallet bins. Preliminary studies show a high degree of damage all the way into the packing house from the field and requires considerable attention, Langmo emphasized.

Wendel Spence, local fruit grower, showed and explained the new type of peach picking box with which he plans to replace the conventional picking bucket. This type of box is not new, Spence said. Information on it was obtained from the "Western Fruit Grower" magazine.

The box with its web-like harness holds 23 pounds net weight and holds equivalent to two-thirds of a field box. One drawback is that the web snap on strap cross-harness inclines to cut into the picker's shoulders. The hooks on the straps, however, are easy to remove from the screws eyes on the box. During the time he has used them, Spence said he observed no spillage or broken boxes.

Once the picker unsnaps his harness the boxes are used just like field or lug boxes, Spence explained. They can be nested and one-third more of these boxes can be delivered back to the orchards. Using 700 boxes 8 to 10 tons of fruit can be picked each day without running out. This type of operation eliminates a second handling of the fruit from the tree into the lug boxes, the local grower pointed out.

Another advantage of this type of picking, picking can be better controlled. Boxes can be placed where the picking is being done. Then, too, the fruit can be picked as to color, cullage, etc. Spence said he used to pay by the hour for picking but when the new picking box started paying by piece work. Good pickers, he said, could pick a ton a day. Some would fall as low as 200 pounds and these would be eliminated.

Cost of operations with the new box is approximately \$6.50 a ton of fruit, Spence noted. The boxes can be handled two at a time in cold storage, he said. The smaller boxes make it possible for the women sorters to use them without needing male help.

Grant Merrill of Grant Merrill Orchards, Inc., Red Bluff, Calif., said he had used this type of picking box before and found it wasn't too satisfactory. He said his pickers preferred the canvass buckets. However, Spence said when given a choice the pickers in his orchard preferred the new type of picking box. Merrill estimated the cost at a dollar for the harness and about 75 cents per box. The cross harness is manufactured in Yakima, Wash., he said.

While the hot stove league is functioning in the orchard business, dairymen, too, are considering their production. January is dairy month, reminds Earle Jossy, county extension agent. Primary purpose of a Dairy Herd Improvement association is to provide members with an economical method of obtaining information they can use to improve the production efficiency of their herds, Jossy explained.

Dependable records of identification, feed costs, production and returns enable the herd owner to cull the least profitable cows and to feed the remaining cows according to their ability to produce. He can also select replacement heifers from his most productive cows, Jossy noted.

DHIA is organized and operated by the farmers with the backing of the United States Department of Agriculture through the extension service. State extension dairymen and local county agents service the associations. In turn they use the records obtained to encourage non-participating dairymen to take advantage of the facilities and in proving the productive ability of the sires.

About 18 per cent of the dairy cows in Jackson county are tested, Jossy noted. About 18 per cent are tested in Oregon. About 10 per cent of the cows in the United States are tested.

Annual average production of all cows in the USA (including those tested) is 6,300 pounds of milk. The yearly average production of all cows in the United States under DHIA testing is 8,872 pounds of milk. Average annual production of cows not tested is 5,960 pounds of milk. This amounts to about \$175 worth of milk in favor of a tested cow over a cow which is not tested or a difference of about \$7,000 in a herd of 40 cows, Jossy noted.

This national cooperative dairy herd improvement program has three record-keeping plans—standard DHIA, owner-sampler and Oregon Weigh-a-Day.

Under the DHIA program, the supervisor visits each member farm each month to weigh and sample milk. He may also weigh the grain fed each cow and the roughage fed the herd. He also calculates the standard DHIA production and feed records for cows and herd. The records include production to date, monthly and year-to-date herd totals, total and average feed cost and income over feed cost for the herd. Production records made in the herd are used also for proving sires in the national sire-proving program.

Under the owner-sampler program the DHIA supervisor leaves sample bottles and record sheet at the farm each month. The evening of that day and the next morning the owner weighs the milk yield of each cow and records the weight on his record sheet. He also takes a sample of each cow's milk for butterfat testing. He may also record the amount of grain fed each cow and the amount of

## Wheeler County Ends Testing on Bangs Program

Salem—Oregon moved a step closer toward certification as a brucellosis-free state with completion of testing in Wheeler county in December, M. E. Knickerbocker, chief of the division of animal industry stated in his report to the state director of agriculture.

This brings the total of Oregon counties which have reached this goal to 28, as the drive to reach a sought-for deadline of June, 1959, is pressed.

Reports from Dr. A. G. Beagle, in charge of federal veterinarians in Oregon and the state veterinarian, Dr. L. E. Bodenweiser, show that all herds in Willowa county have been scheduled for testing and all but 12 herds in Gilliam county.

The records show a total 697 herds, comprising 24,700 cattle were tested in December, yielding 189 reactors and 546 suspects among 73 reactor herds containing 7,139 cattle.

A total 21,960 calves in 1,093 herds were vaccinated against brucellosis (Bang's) disease. There were 2,338 herds milk or cream ring tested, containing 46,760 estimated cattle, with 162 suspcious herds disclosed.

"There is no limitation on the vaccination of heifer calves against brucellosis at the proper age at Federal expense, and cattle owners should utilize the service offered and have all dairy calves between five and eight months of age and beef calves be-

roughage fed the herd. The next day the samples are tested and records calculated by the supervisor. The dairyman receives his records by mail.

Under the Oregon weigh-a-day program a dairyman enrolls in weigh-a-day a month plan and obtains necessary forms and instructions from his county extension agent. The dairyman weighs each cow's milk morning and evening on the 15th of the month. He records the weights on the record forms supplied him. Milk records for each cow for the month, production-to-date, monthly herd records, and year-to-date herd totals are calculated by using the computer table in the record kit.

## Centennial Soil Study Underway

Salem—Soil augers are boring into the secrets of many farm lands in a spring offshoot of the Century Farm program instituted last year by the Oregon Historical society and the State Department of Agriculture.

In this Centennial soils probe, the state Extension Service joins the Century Farm sponsors to determine the effect of 100 years of land use on the available plant nutrients.

The extension service proposed the soils studies of the historical farms and actual soil samples are now being collected by the county extension agents in the 15 counties where Century Farms were recognized last year.

The soil samples will be tested in the state soil testing laboratory at Corvallis. Owners and the public will be advised of results.

At this point, no one knows quite what the sampling procedures may reveal. It isn't quite as easy to define the end result of this secondary program as it was of the Century Farm program itself.

### By-Products Expected

But here are some by-products which the soils special-

tween four to 12 months, given this immunization," the federal veterinarian urged. Brucellosis of animals is transmittable to humans as undulant fever and causes serious, long-lasting illness in most humans affected, Dr. Beagle emphasized, in addition to stressing the serious economic losses suffered with disease-infected cattle.

Of efforts to eradicate tuberculosis infection in cattle, 432 herds (6,513 cattle) were tested and two reactors found on two infected premises with 21 suspects listed.

Gene Winters county extension agent here, said there are a number of "kinks" to be taken out of the Century Farm testing program before it will be started in Jackson county. He is awaiting further word from Oregon state college.

ists at the extension service and the other sponsors say may come forth:

1. Useful and constructive historical facts pertaining to agriculture and land use.

2. Basic facts about Oregon soils that may need further study.

And Tom Vaughan, director of the historical society, is wondering if the tests will reveal that soil patterns had an important role in the early settlements in the state.

In 1958, 354 farmers received the Century Farm award at Oregon State Fair ceremonies climaxing the program that year. In the soil testing, farms in commercial production will be covered first. The soil testing started early this month and will be continued through mid-February.

The sponsors say general results of the survey will be available early in May. Fittingly, enough, this means that first announcements of the Centennial soil studies will coincide with Oregon's annual conservation week.

The Northwest Plant Food association aided by the National Plant Food Institute will pay for the chemical work at the soil testing laboratory. Century Farmers themselves won't be called upon to do a thing but permit the free soil testing to be performed on their lands and to aid with a history of the land's production through the years.

The Century Farm program itself is a continuing one, with the historical society and state department of agriculture to announce the 1959 event later. Whether the Centennial Soils search will be carried into future years is still undetermined.

Counties with 1958 Century Farms are: Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Coos, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Wasco, Yamhill, and Washington.

Recommended changes deal with length of main roots, elimination of minimum crown diameter on plants and addition of Northwest plants under the grade restrictions of the Marshall and Siletz varieties.

## Local Men Attend Feed Conference

Central Point—Keith N. Hockersmith, field man for Grange Cooperative Supply association, and W. G. Beard, orchardist and beef raiser, of the Medford area, are attending the 17th annual Oregon Animal Industry conference Jan. 29 and 30 at Oregon State college.

Subject matter will consist of methods to feed livestock and poultry more efficiently in today's highly mechanized agriculture, Hockersmith said. Ways will be examined to the supplements in prepared feed to total energy level of feed rather than the body weight of individual animals, he explained. Need for this technique is a rather logical outgrowth of the development of automation in animal agriculture. Individual feeding is becoming increasingly difficult as larger and larger herds and flocks are handled by farms, Hockersmith noted.

Outstanding guest speakers will include Dr. Fred Hill, poultry nutritionist Cornell university; Dr. A. J. Ward, animal nutritionist, University of British Columbia; and Dr. C. A. Bottoroff, American Cyanamid company.

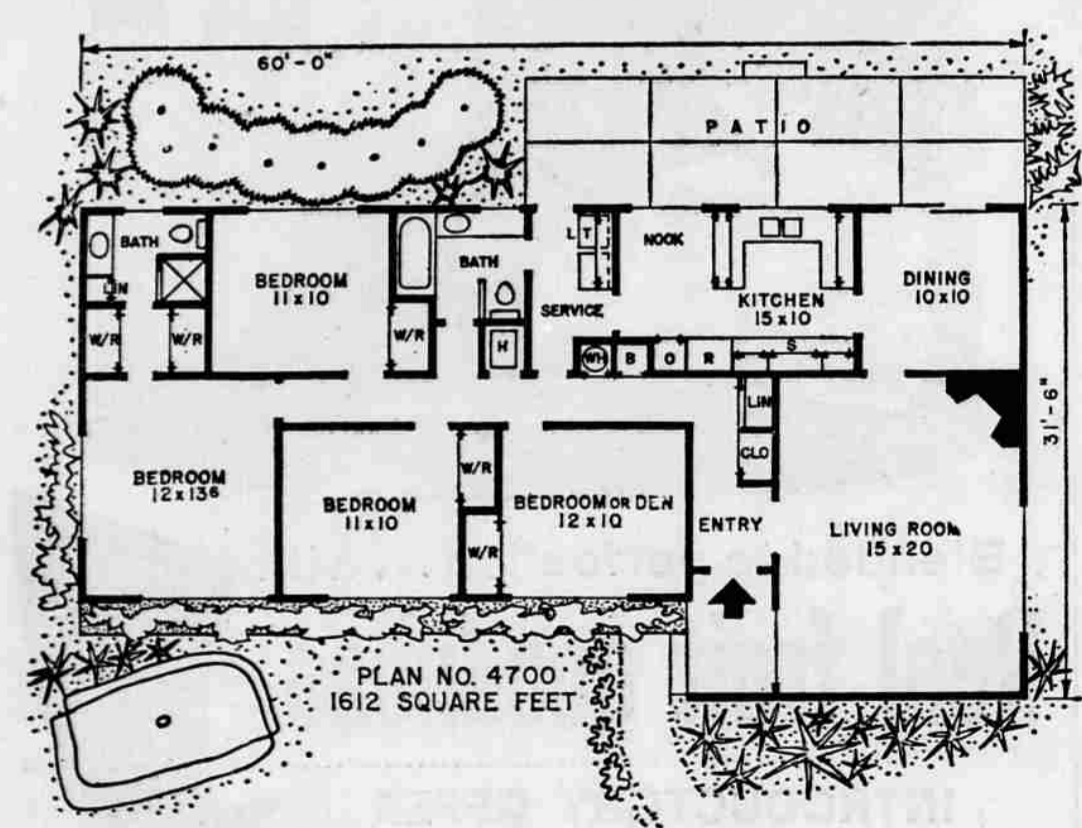
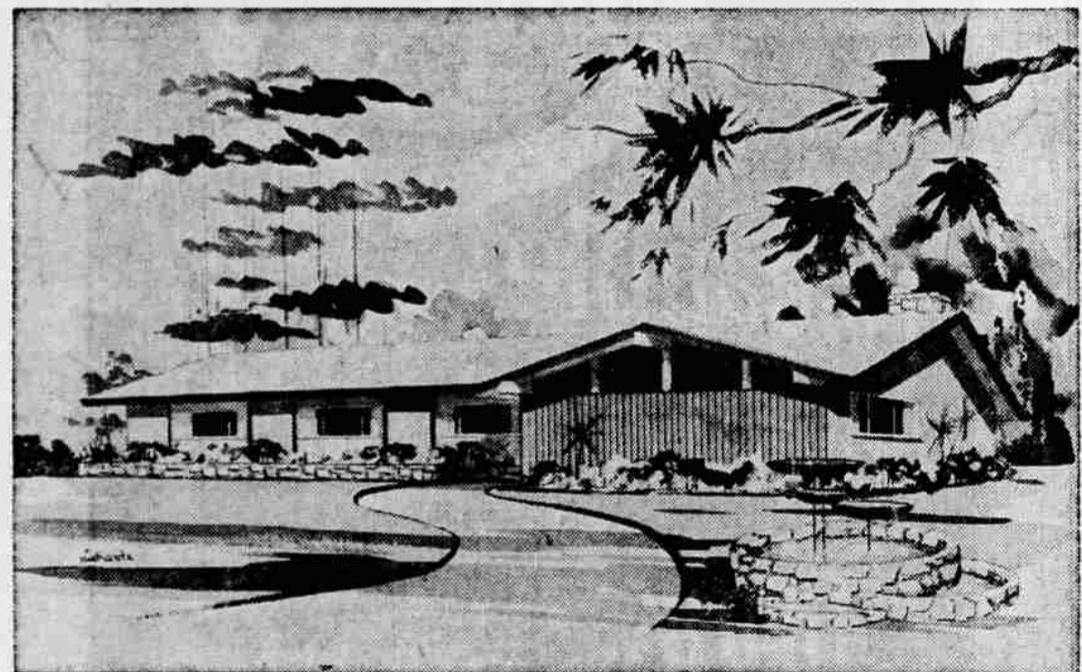
Among subjects to be discussed at the two day meeting are the pellet feeding of sheep, developments in poultry and turkey feeding, modern concepts in swine feeding, and the use of baled, wafered, and pelleted hay.

## Strawberry Plant Changes Planned

Salem—Changes in Oregon strawberry plant grades, with a view to simplification and strengthened grades, will be the topic of a public hearing held Thursday, Feb. 5, in the state department of agriculture building at Salem, Hugh Taylor, chief of the state department of agriculture's division of plant industry announced this week.

Recommended changes deal with length of main roots, elimination of minimum crown diameter on plants and addition of Northwest plants under the grade restrictions of the Marshall and Siletz varieties.

## This Week's Home For Living



By HIAWATHA ESTES  
If you're faced with the problem of a small lot and a large family, this is the plan for you. With four bedrooms, two baths, and plenty of closets, it will be uncrowded, uncluttered and delightfully livable.

The center hall gives easy access to all rooms from both the front and back doors. The work areas are centrally located to save steps when housework is to be done.

Home laundry units are located in the big service area, and overhead cabinets have ample space for soaps and supplies. The family bath is accessible from both the service room and bedroom hall.

In the well lighted kitchen, cupboards over the U-shaped

counter open to both the eating and work areas. Built-in oven and range are against the opposite wall.

The separate dining room is lighted by full-length glass doors that open to the big rear patio.

A huge stone fireplace fills one corner of the unusual living room. A high wide window at the side allows space for furniture beneath. The gable roof at the end of the living room is filled with glass which provides ample light and yet maintains privacy.

The hot water heater and forced air heater have been centrally located for economy of installation and operation.

The bedrooms are exceptionally spacious. A three-quarter bath and dressing

room are part of the master bedroom suite.

Inexpensive, yet durable, building materials have been ingeniously used to create an attractive, contemporary exterior. A stone chimney tops the gleaming rock roof.

A low rock planter extends below the casement windows of the bedroom wing, and for contrast, vertical grooved siding faces the forward wall of the living room.

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. Please allow two weeks for delivery. If the above home does not entirely meet with 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 404-T, Northridge, Calif.



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