

# FARM NOTES

# Farm and Garden

## Commodity Groups Face Law Changes Acreage Deadline Set for July 1

(Note: This is fourth in a series prepared by the state department of agriculture on 1959 legislation.)

Salem — Oregon's agricultural commodity commissions — grower-created and grower-propelled vehicles to promote a particular product — have more freedom of action as a result of 1959 legislation. Until this year these self-help programs have operated tightly under the wing of Mother Oregon. But the recent legislation, heeding advice of the interim committee on government reorganization, made changes that actually bring the commission work closer to the growers who support it.

These changes are effective July 1. The major ones include:

1. Public budget hearings for the growers. (So far growers seem unaware of this change as few have appeared at the budget hearings held in June by the seven established commissions.)
2. An annual budget, instead of biennial as in the past when the legislature approved the budget and when it had to be projected two to three years in advance.
3. Deposit of commission funds in their own bank accounts, in banks approved as a state depository. Checks will require two bonded signatures and accounts and records will continue under periodic state audit.
4. A single emergency fund item in the budget to cover unforeseen emergencies. Hereafter, the commission could go to the state emergency board for unbudgeted pressing needs.
5. Certification of the budget to the secretary of state through the director of agriculture who will ascertain if it has been prepared and adopted as the law required.
6. Commission adoption of uniform reasonable rules on travel and similar expenses. Employees will still be under state civil service and retirement.
7. gubernatorial recognition under the law of recommendations made by growers or grower organizations for appointment of commission members. (Actually, all governors have done this on a voluntary basis.)

The contribution the growers make to the program henceforth becomes an assessment rather than a tax. The changes enumerated above apply to the general act under which commissions are now created and also the specific wheat and potato commission laws.

The state department of agriculture continues to perform the duties of receiving holders and others for a reasonable moratorium on payment of debts owed by pay-  
trymen.

Washington — (UPI) — Four congressmen have introduced legislation to authorize federal marketing programs for chickens, eggs and turkeys. The bill would permit each industry to set up a marketing program on approval of two-thirds of the producers. Purposes of the programs could include promotion of consumption, education, research and marketing aid to "stabilize" the industry.

Each industry would finance its own program.

Washington — (UPI) — The Farm Bureau Federation has called on the Agriculture Department to fight a proposed turkey marketing act. The bill, sponsored by the National Turkey Federation, is awaiting hearings by the House and Senate Agriculture committees. The measure would authorize a national marketing order program for turkey producers.

petitions, holding hearings and conducting the grower vote to deny or approve creation of a commission. Also the director of agriculture and dean of the OSC school of agriculture or their respective representative continue as ex-officio members of each commission.

Aside from the interim committee changes, the amended law also includes some house-keeping changes recommended by the department of agriculture and the commissions. These relate mainly to the general commission act.

These will permit more than one kind of type of a commodity (as canberries instead of a single berry) to come under a single program; allow two-thirds of the original signers to withdraw a petition; permit the department to submit a supplemental budget to cover hearings and referendum costs; permit the commission to audit records of persons required to pay or collect the assessments; permit a write-off after five years of small or uncollectible assessments; closes reports of growers and handlers to public scrutiny; clarifies procedures to increase or decrease the assessment, to limit or expand powers to continue or discontinue a commission.

A farmer on land on which no wheat was seeded for any of the years of 1957, 1958 and 1959, may apply on or before wheat acreage allotment for the 1960 winter wheat crop, said Donald Nichols, chairman of the Jackson County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committee.

Even if wheat was produced on the farm in 1959, the farm is still considered a new wheat farm if it did not have a 1959 allotment, and the farmer must apply at the County Office as a new producer, Mr. Nichols said.

An important requirement for obtaining a new allotment is to file a written application before the July 1 deadline. This application may be made out on forms which can be obtained in person or by mail from the County ASC office.

The chairman pointed out that factors considered in determining whether a farmer is eligible for a new farm allotment will include the tillable acreage, type of soil, and topography of the farm. The operator's farming system is studied and the extent to which his livelihood depends on his farming operations. He is also asked the reason wheat was not planted on his farm in past years.

## Local Area Cattleman Tries Out Reforestation

Deane Owens, a Rogue River valley cattleman, owns 200 acres of cut over land near Moon Prairie, in the Dead Indian area.

In 1947, the timber was cut, leaving a picture of devastation. Today, 12 years later, the land is covered with down logs and shows little evidence of young trees being established by nature. Owens purchased the property from a logger in 1950.

This spring the owner decided nature was not going to reforest the acreage for many years, if ever. There are 120 acres of flat ground adjoining a beautiful stand of Douglas fir and white fir. The owner planted 20,000 Ponderosa pine seedlings this spring on an 8 foot by 8 foot spacing, covering an area of 30 acres. Next spring another planting will be completed. Ponderosa pine is being planted because of its ability to survive on exposed slopes. After the pines become established, creating a forest cover, it is expected that fir seeds will blow into the planted area and become established.

To Seed Plot Approximately another 60 acres lies on a north slope. As in the other area, natural reproduction is not becoming established. A sample plot, consisting of two acres will be seeded this fall, using white fir seed. The seed will be treated with enduron to repel rodents. In addition a five acre sample plot will be planted using 2 year old white fir seedlings. The procedure proving most successful will be followed to reforest the balance of the 60 acres. The white fir trees will be grown primarily for Christmas trees. By practicing stump culture, many trees will be cut from each stump. A percentage of the trees will be allowed to grow into saw timber.

Reforestation, as practiced by Deane Owens, qualifies for Federal cost share up to 50% of the cost. Other interested woodland owners are no doubt going to be reforesting their cut over land in the near future. For information, they are asked to contact the service forester, Oregon State Dept. of Forestry, Phone NO 4-1213.

In the past, Jackson County woodland owners have not carried on forestry practices to the extent being followed in Josephine county and the counties to the north.

Jackson county claims 2,779 forest owners with 387,000 acres. Of this total 2,006 owners control from 10 to 99 acres each. Lately, county interest in forestry has increased rapidly. A forest demonstration plot has been established on the John Black property, Forest Creek. Throughout the State of Oregon, demonstration areas have contributed much to the forestry education of school children and

## Attend Meeting Of Credit Men

Officers and directors of the Southern Oregon Production Credit association were among the 50 or more credit officials attending a state agricultural credit conference at the Imperial hotel June 4-5 in Portland, Ore., Irvin Patten, secretary-treasurer, announced this week.

Patten said administrative and operating problems will be aired during the two-day workshop session which is attracting the farmer and rancher directors of 8 production credit associations, one or two members of the 12th district farm credit board, and officials of the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Spokane. The association secretary-treasurer and Directors Lester Adams, Lawrence Michaels, Lawrence Luy, Wesley Chappell and Gordon Kershaw will represent the Southern Oregon Production Credit association.

Tips for healthy, beautiful lawns are included in three pocket-size booklets: "Starting a New Lawn," "Lawn Care and Maintenance," and "Lawn Pests and Problems." The brief, illustrated, easy-to-use booklets were prepared by Wilbur Bluhm, Marion county extension agent, in cooperation with the OSC extension staff.

Oregon residents may obtain free copies from their local county extension office or from the OSC bulletin clerk, Corvallis.

Lawn Booklets Issued by OSC

Corvallis — If the grass is already greener on the other side of the fence, you may find the reasons in a set of new booklets just published by Oregon State college extension service.

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# --- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY  
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Remember such expressions as the "boarding house reach," and such songs as "Who Put the Overalls in Mrs. Murphy's Chowder?" What's happened to the grand old institution which spawned them?

During this, Oregon's Centennial year we think it is only fitting we talk a little about the old-fashioned boardinghouse. A few still exist. However, they are confined mainly to the small towns — small farming and logging communities. In larger towns and cities they have given way to the glamour of bachelor apartments and young men's and women's clubs. Like the old washer woman on "suds row" that staunch, reliable "home away from home" did its duty plainly but well.

The women in charge of the boardinghouses where we rounded out our stomachs were as interesting as their homes. One such woman in a southwestern Washington logging town was famous throughout that area for her wedding cakes and pies. When heavy construction crews for the new highway moved into town she fed three shifts of a dozen men each.

Mrs. B's back was permanently hunched from bending over the cook stove from early in the morning to late at night. Her thick black hair was wrapped into a tight bun. She was too busy to fix it otherwise. She enjoyed the rough and ready humor of the men. And her swift Irish wit was a match for anyone. She was both judge and counselor in many arguments and personal difficulties.

Many of her boys would return on visits. The high moulding along her walls were lined with souvenir dishes sent her from all over the United States — or wherever a footloose boarder may wander. Cups and saucers of varied designs were another part of her collection. Wooden planters hung from wires near the porch steps.

A boarder entered the weathered board wood frame house through the front parlor. There the boarders would gather until Mrs. B. called, "All right, come and get it." Breakfast consisted of eggs, fried or boiled, pancakes piled high on platters, dry or cooked cereal, toast with home-made jam or jelly, large white-enamel pitchers of scalding black coffee, or milk, and bowls of fruit. Dinner consisted of the same hearty type of meal, but based on meat and potatoes and other vegetables, when in season, from Mrs. B's garden.

This spunky little Irish woman paid off the mortgage on her home through her cooking and baking after her husband's health failed him under the pressure of the depression. She was typical of the boardinghouse landladies we knew. She like others we knew raised her family while supporting them on her meager earnings. Often these women assumed the role of cupid and a few marriages of boarders resulted. Their accomplishments in the culinary arts were well-known from the banker to the youngest logger, farm hand or clerk. They were important personages in their own right.

You can either wade into a controversy or you can jump into it. We're jumping into it. What do you know about sorghum grass? All we know is what the experts tell us and most of that is in negative comments. There has even been some talk in this state of outlawing the grass as it has been in other states. OSC researchers and their co-workers in the field say there is nothing conclusive yet from their experiments and studies.

To see what it will do in the Rogue River valley an experimental plot of this kind to the Johnson grass has been established at the Southern Oregon Branch Experiment Station on Hanley rd. However, the local agricultural experts are also keeping an eye on what has gone on and what is going on with this grass variety in other parts of the country.

Some reports from OSC state that Sorghum grass there produces fairly well and lives through reasonably successfully. Under Corvallis climatic conditions it doesn't look as if it would become a weed pest. However, in the Rogue River valley Johnson grass, Bermuda grass and other hot-weather grasses do all right and sorghum grass might flourish also, experts say.

One agricultural expert suggests that stockmen consider perennial Sudan grass. This is reported to do well in several localities and considerably outyields the ordinary Sudan grass. It rates good for general forage. However, nobody knows definitely whether it will winter over year after year.

Sorghum grass was first noted in 1943 by an Argentine scientist. It is considered a cross between Johnson grass and a sorghum. This grass variety came to the United States from Argentina, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. It is a perennial and looks like Johnson grass only coarser and taller. The rhizome or root mass is short, thick and turns up close to the crown. Stalks are non-sweet and pithy.

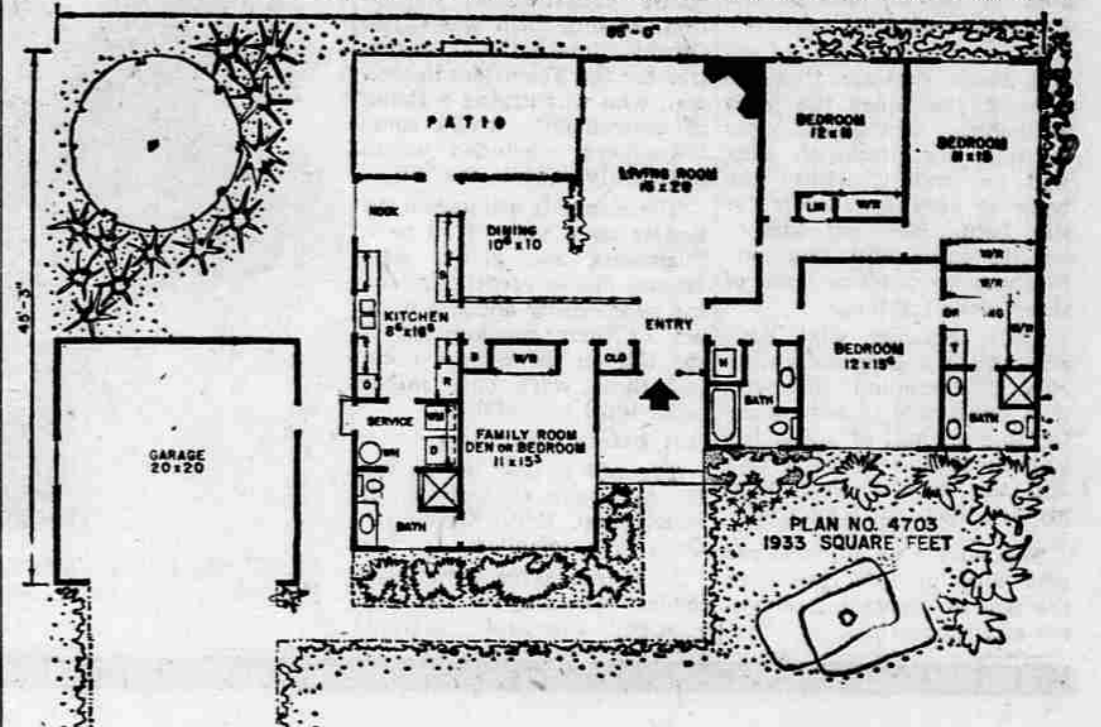
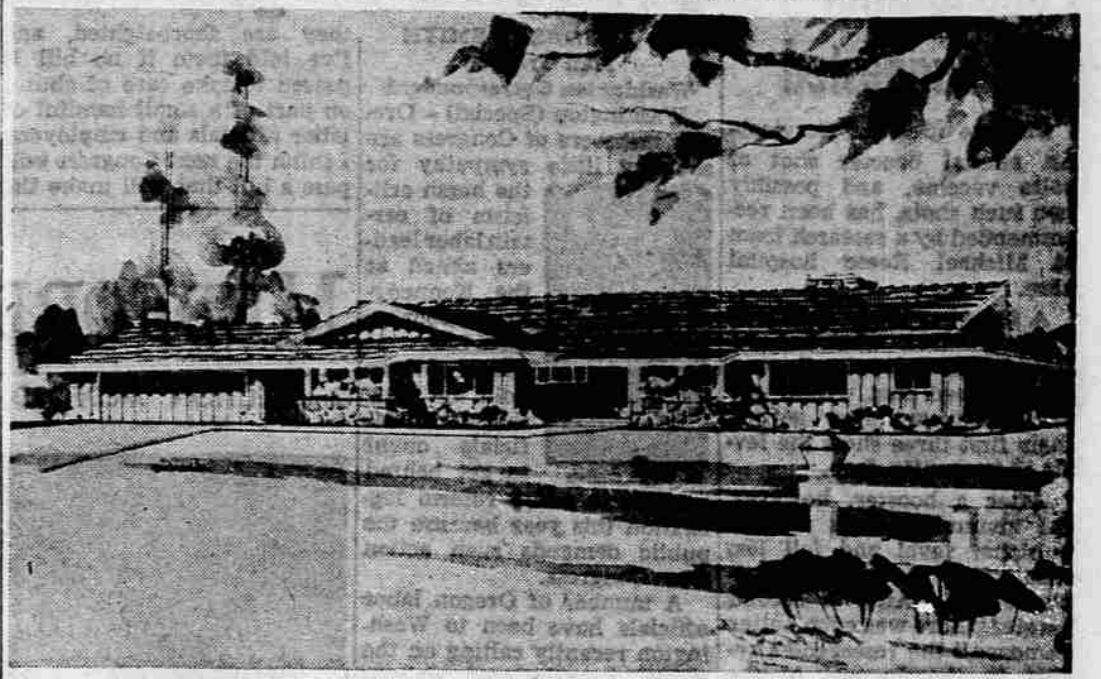
Seeds resemble Johnson grass in color and shape but are longer generally. The seed easily shatters when mature and is quickly and widely spread.

The grass is more drought resistant than Sudan or Johnson grass. There is slight difference in yields of Sorghum grass and Johnson grass in other states. It is not as good for forage as Sudan since it is coarser, drier and not as sweet. It does not recover as quickly as Sudan after mowing or grazing. It has winter-killed in many tests in Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado. It seems to have only one potential advantage. Sorghum is a perennial in areas where it does not winter-kill.

This grass is prohibited as a noxious weed in Arizona, California, Georgia, Indiana, Missouri, Nevada, Washington and Virginia, as of Oct. 1, 1959. Prior to this date it had been banned in several other states.

Reports from other areas show: It has winter-killed several years at Lubbock, Tex. Recovers slowly after use in Oklahoma. No advantage over Sudangrass in Nebraska. Is not winter hardy in Colorado and not considered as good as Sudangrass there. Inferior to Sudangrass in New Mexico — coarser, drier and not as sweet. Placed on the noxious weed list in Washington and is no better than recommended forage crops.

## This Week's Home of Distinction



Here is a spacious modern-ranch style home which will never be out dated. The wide front entry is well lighted by a stationary glass window next to the entrance door which extends

## Outlooks Given For Agriculture By Department

Washington (UPI) — The Agriculture Department's monthly situation report gives these thumb nail outlooks:

Hogs — expanding production continues to dominate hog outlook. Farm prices will continue well below a year earlier through next winter.

Milk-farm production and prices continue near last year's levels.

Eggs — heavy production probably will continue through 1959.

Broilers — prices are likely to rise in late July under impact of strong seasonal demand and fewer birds resulting from lower weekly settings since mid-April.

Soybeans — a heavy domestic crush and record exports are likely to leave smaller carry-over than had been expected.

Wheat — the seasonal price decline this year is expected to be about normal. Seasonal low for hard red winter prices

from the floor to the top of the door. From the entry, a center hall provides access to all major rooms of the house.

There's a private dressing room and bath next to the large master bedroom. The dressing room contains a large double wardrobe and dressing table. The bath features a tile shower, semi-private water-closet and a dual pullman lavatory.

The two family bedrooms and the main bath complete the sleeping area. The family bath contains an enclosed tub with shower over, a partially enclosed water closet and a pullman lavatory with ample drawer and shelf storage below.

Just to the left of the entry is an all-purpose room that can be used as a den, library, fourth bedroom or family room.

Furniture groupings can be easily arranged around the large corner fireplace in the

es will be reached in late June or early July. Potatoes — prices have improved considerably the last month and probably will rise further in next few weeks.

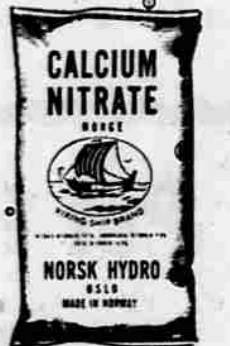
Tobacco — cigarette and cigar output continued to climb in first quarter of this year.

Wool — activity in the wool industry is picking up, in the United States and the world. Mill consumption has risen in the major consuming countries.

Complete working drawing 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, Homes for Living, may be purchased for \$1. Send all orders for either plans or books to Hiawatha Estes, P. O. Box 404-F, Northridge, Calif.

## FRUIT GROWERS... Rogue River soils are acid!

VIKING SHIP CALCIUM NITRATE helps combat soil acidity... supplies beneficial nitrate nitrogen.



Acid soils like those in the Rogue River Valley are low in calcium and subject to water saturation that can cause serious damage to fruit tree roots.

When it comes to protecting trees from the harmful effects of excess acidity, the kind of nitrogen fertilizer you choose can be vitally important.

Viking Ship Calcium Nitrate is the choice of experienced growers because it contains:

- 20% water-soluble calcium that can help reduce excess acidity and improve soil structure for better penetration of water and nutrients.
- beneficial nitrate nitrogen — readily available to tree roots without conversion delay. Nitrate nitrogen is not held in upper soil layers but moves with water to the root zone.

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