Milk Supply Hits Downward Trend

Corvallis – The supply of milk produced in Oregon is continuing its downward trend, reports Stephen C. Marks, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State college.

As 1959 passed the half-way mark, milk production in Oregon trailed the same months of last year by 2 per cent and was 7 per cent under the 10-year average, Marks found as he studied reports from the U.S. department of agriculture.

Production of cheese and butter in the state dropped at an even faster rate, Marks noted. However, more than average amounts of ice cream made in April helped hold the total drop in ice cream at the 2 per cent level.

Cost of producing milk in the state continued to rise, Marks said. The estimated average cost of producing Grade A milk in the Willamette Valley during July was 9½ per cent higher than last year.

Farm wage rates in Oregon are now at a record high, Marks pointed out. Alfalfa hay now costs 50 per cent more than a year ago, and cost of concentrated feeds used by dairymen are also higher.

Over the nation, the amount of milk produced the first half or 1959 fell slightly below that of last year. This reflects a continued reduction in milk cow numbers during the present high level

4-H Club News

Trail Blazers

The Trail Blazers 4-H horse club held its monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. Tom Whittle, Aug. 13. Bob Olsen called the meeting, and Steve Cotton led the flag salute. While Karen Holley, secretary, was absent, Jo Wood took her place and collected the dues. Mrs. Whittle handed out booklets about light horses. There was a discussion about the fair. Gail Stone served refreshments.

Barbara Beck, Reporter.

Farm and Garden

Home Economics Judging

The home economics section of the annual Jackson county 4-H and FFA fair Tuesday had its share of the champions and blue ribbon winners.

Those named as champions in home economics were Gloria Meyer, Eagle Point, Just So Girl; Nancy McKay, Central Point, Dinner Club; Diane Bolz, Medford, beginning knitting; Joyce Roach, Medford, intermediate champion; Linda Johnson, Medford, Charmingly Yours; Salli Jo Eaton, Medford, and Sharon Prowell, Applegate, Mealtime Fun; Aletta Myers, Central Point, Home Living; and Mike Elmore, Applegate, Easy Meals.

Other fair judging results:

HOME ECONOMICS

CLOTHING FOR GIRLS

Just So Girls: Gloria Meyer, Eagle Point, champion; Lana Carpenter, Sandra Hammonds, Eagle Point, Amy Jo Holm, Ashland, Duanis Millard, Medford, Diane Millard, Medford, Arlene Moore, Eagle Point, Kathy Neal, Medford, Lorieta Pierce, Central Point, blue; Jillinda Arthur, Eagle Point, Janice Blank, Eagle Point, Doreen Blumenfeld, Eagle Point, Lynda Bradshaw, Central Point, Andrienne Brion, Grants Pass, Shawn Caperna, Medford, Sara Chancler, Rogue River, (2), Joyce Drennen, Central Point, Joan Eslinger, Medford, Carmen Farlow, Eagle Point, Linnea Ford, Talent, Linda Hitson, Rogue River, Nanette Johnson, Talent, Joan Nelsm, Eagle Point, Marlen Nouguier, Medford. Linda Pittock, Applegate, Sharon Prowell, Applegate, Katherin Vandagrift, Susan Whinihan, red; Jean Baker, Rogue River, Judy Baker, Rogue River, Marcia Berteau, Medford, Anita Coulter, Rogue River, Debra Derobson, Rogue River, Judy Drake, Grants Pass, Betsy Dunlevy, Medford, Salli Jo Eaton, Medford, Molly Ely, Medford, Kathleen Goldt, Rogue River, Susan Head, Applegate, Patsy Jo Hurley, Rogue River and Marcy Miller, Medford, white.

Charmingly Yours: Linda Johnson, Medford, champion; Joyce Anderson, Central Point, Judy Bagley, Talent, Janet Burk, Eagle Point, Mary Ann Carnegie, Medford, Paulette Creel, Talent, Kathleen Goddard, Ashland, Connie Goehring, Eagle Point, Carol Hale, Shady Cove, Ellen Hay, Eagle Point, Cecilia Kee, Shady Cove, Margaret Nelmes, Eagle Point, Anita Pierce, Central Point, Eileen Pullman, Medford, and Janis Torray, blue; Carolyn Bailey, Medford, Carolyn Barnes, Medford, Diane Bolz, Medford, Diana Lee Buckles, Medford, Nancy Elmgren, Medford, Michelle Ely, Medford, Suzanne Flynn, Central Point, Judy Frink, Central Point, Margaret Goodwin, Medford, Mary Kay Hochstatter, Medford, Valerie Knights, Medford, Alice Kuitert, Grants Pass, Mary Leavens, Medford, Aletta Meyers, Central Point, Linda Paulson, Shady Cove, Shirley Roach, Medford, Sarah Robinson, Medford, Carol Straus, Central Point, Kathy Thompson, Barbara Wheeler, Central Point, Paulette Anderson, Eagle Point, Diane Brewster, Grants Pass, and Diane Wheeler, Shady Cove, red; Barbara Aeschliman, Medford, Patricia Ann Bowling, Central Point, Kathleen Frederick, Central Point, Elaine Ruth Johnson, Central Point, Sharon Mace, Medford, Linda Romanchuck, Medford, Barbara Rominger, Central Point, Judith Sanderson, Shady Cove, and Sherri Watson, Shady Cove, white.

CHILD CARE

Mary Ann Carnegie, Medford, champion; Dixie Duggan, Central Point, red; Mary Kay Hochstatter, Medford, red; Martha Merriman, Medford, white.

FOOD PREPARATION

Meal Time Fun: Salli Jo Eaton, Medford, and Sharon Provell, Applegate, both champions; Carol House, Medford, Luana Loffer, Medford, Myrna Long Central Point, Daunis Millard, Medford, Diane Millard, Medford, Terry Stevens, Central Point, blue; Carolyn Bailey, Medford, Madge Barker, Jacksonville, Loule Barker, Jacksonville, Mary Ann Barker, Jacksonville, Marcia Berteau, Medford, James Carnegie, Medford, Diann Debrick, Central Point, Judy Drake, Grants Pass, Molly Ely, Medford, Jeanette Hoglen, Medford, Randy Hvall, Applegate, Nanette Johnson, Talent, Mary Ellen Kurz, Central Point, Margaret Nelmes, Eagle Point, Tony Note, Medford, Tommy Piete, Applegate, Ramona Rausch, Medford, Dana Sorum, Medford, and Jonathan Rode, Medford, red; Terry Lee Campbell, Phoenix, Mary Anne Cantrall, Jacksonville, Randy Curliss, Medford, Susan Lee Cox, Central Point, Judy Curliss, Medford, Michelle Curliss, Medford, Gayle Anne House, Medford, Nancy James, Ashland, Clyde Kennedy, Eagle Point, Judy Kieff, Medford, Nancy Luschen, Medford, Virginia Mace, Medford, Steve Nelson, Medford, Robert Pullman, Medford, Shannyn Talley, Vicky Warrick, Lake Creek, Richard Bottger, Medford and Linda Neel, Medford, white.

KNITTING

Knitting, beginning: Diane Bolz, Medford, champion; Matha Bollard, Sally Herriott, Applegate Lynn Saunders, Grants Pass, and Bonnie Simmonds, Medford, blue; Patricia Ann Bowling, Central Point, Nelda Chapman, Talent, Judy Drake, Grants Pass, Carol Foote, Central Point, Kathy Rempert, Central Point, red.

Knitting, intermediate: Joyce Roach, Medford, champion; Patsy Charley, Eagle Point, Mary Herriott, Medford, Carolee Kuest, Medford, Marilyn Watson, Medford, blue; Joyce Critten, Talent, Collean Franek, Medford, Judy Frink, Central Point, Rosemary Rempert, Central Point, Carol Roach, Medford, and Kathy Thompson, red.

Easy Meals: Mike Elmore, Applegate, champion; Linda Pittock, Applegate, Terry Calhoun, Medford, Lanny Minor, Central Point, Barbara Moore, Central Point, Jennifer Nevin, Eagle Point, Linda Pickell, Medford, Billy Piete, Applegate, Linda Pittock, Applegate, Eileen Pullman, Medford, Donna Bailey, Central Point, Jean Bailey, Medford, Terry Calhoun, Medford, Jimmie Christensen, Jacksonville, Ruth Daniels, Central Point and Julia Jones, Central Point, blue; Shirley Romanchuck, Medford, Patsy Sutton, Florence Woolfolk, Eagle Point, Deane Bailey, Cheryl Kastings, Sharon Mace, Medford, Diane Maehren, Medford, Carol Millard, Medford, Theresa Newcomb, Medford, Robert Earl Piete, Applegate, Gae Redding, Medford, Sheila Butler, Medford, Linda Chisum, Medford, Susan Cornutt, Central Point, Dianne Davy, Medford, Thomas Herriott, Applegate, Judy Hill, Eagle Point, Valerie Knights, Medford and Cathy Legler, Central Point, red; Darlene Thompson, Central Point, Janice Neel, Medford, Christine Mix, Phoenix, Virgil Prowell, Applegate, Cherylee Becker, Medford, Linda Lee Cox, Medford, Mady Denney, Central Point, Izora Hayes, Eagle Point, Marcy Miller, Medford, Marlene Nouguier, Medford, Nancy Carroll, Eagle Point, Terry Davis, Central Point, white.

Senior loaf of whole wheat bread: Dinner, Nancy McKay, Central Point, champion; Patsy Charley, Eagle Point, Sharon Coffman, Central Point, Karen Jossy, Eagle Point, and Elaine McKay, Central Point, Blue; Mary Herriott, Applegate, JoAnna Malloroy, Eagle Point, Nyla Murray, Medford, Norma Noble, Eagle Point, Alice Woolfolk, Eagle Point, and Evelyn Young, Medford, red; Linda Cornutt, Central Point, and Carolyn Tiegs, Central Point, white.

Sweet Cherry Bulletin Now Out

Corvallis – New sweet cherry varieties under test in Oregon are described in a bulletin published by the Oregon State college agricultural experiment station.

The sweet cherry industry has been unique in the remarkable stability of varieties grown in the past, the new bulletin points out. Most varieties now grown originated many years ago. For instance, Royal Anne, a well-known and widely grown variety, was popular in Europe in the early 18th century and was described as early as 1667.

The last 25 years have seen a great deal of work to develop new sweet cherry varieties, however, the bulletin says. Better pollinizing, better processing quality, hardiness, resistance to virus disease, firmer flesh, resistance to cracking, and more uniformity of ripening have been sought by horticultural scientists.

Several of the new varieties described in the bulletin are larger and more uniform in size, firmer in texture, have smaller pits, and are less subject to bruising and discoloration

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

What's going on at the county fair?

Plenty goes on at the annual Jackson County 4-H and FFA fair which the casual onlooker probably never sees. A man with a head full of questions can see considerable, however. Fair-goers might start with these questions—Why aren't the roads through the fairgrounds in better condition and better lighted? What condition are the buildings in? Is the over-all appearance of the fairgrounds good, fair or poor? Do we have a fairgrounds and set of buildings which represents well a fast-growing agricultural community? Do the townsfolk get out to the fair or just the farmers and 4-H and FFA families?

Other questions might be—should we divorce the FFA from the 4-H and make a separate fair for them to simplify fair organization? Is there enough general interest for a large general county fair which the Kiwanis club faithful are striving to promote? These are just a few questions which come to mind. You probably have others.

An informed fair-goer also has lots of questions on the agricultural economy of the Rogue River valley as he strolls through the exhibits or perches on the hard wooden benches above the show rings. Watching 4-H and FFA events is somewhat like watching the jayvees in basketball and football. Some of these junior farmers will go on to make the first team. Others through lack of ability, money or the big desire may never get there. Some 800 4-H club members and 65 FFA boys are participating in the conuty fair. It's a cinch only a small percentage of them will go on to farming.

We were lucky enough to tour the fair with a man who is both farmer and member of a business which lends money to farmers. We watched youngsters haul large, blocky Herefords and black, bulky Angus into position in the show ring. Some of his observations may have been somewhat cynical and a little too cut and dried.

"Why don't they teach those kids responsibility, sportsmanship and agricultural knowledge in that order?" he asked. "That's the way those things rank in importance. Few of the kids will use their agricultural knowledge, but all of them should get other things out of 4-H, FFA and the fair."

This expert also pointed to the signs of how well the various segments of the valley's farm economy were doing. The smaller exhibits of beef, sheep and hogs showed these sections of the local farm industry are prospering. Last year the barn pens were full of livestock. This year we saw several empty pens in the barns. It's too expensive to buy the animals and not practical to keep them long enough for the fair when they could be sold sooner.

Look in the FFA stock pens and under your feet in the FFA barn and you will see signs of cooperation between agriculture and the lumber industry. Kogap lumber company donated some shredded bark to see how it would work as bedding and for walk-ways. It should be good for hog pens, especially. It mats down and does not stick to shoes so should be good for the walk-ways. This is Kogap's experimental answer to how to utilize lumber waste. This waste would ordinarily have to be burned.

This farm loan expert of ours also remarked that loans were way up in volume because farmers' costs had increased so much. A story on this page from the Southern Oregon rPoduction Credit association office here bear this out. Secretary-treasurer Irvin Patton notes an increase of $338,919.57 in loan volume for the association compared to the previous year. The fiscal year he reports on ended June 30

We wondered out loud if it doesn't take a good sum of dad's coin to buy and maintain the various livestock. Yes, our friend said, too many people clutch the picture of an independently prosperous farmer which the farmer himself gave them. He snorted and suggested that the rising volume of farm costs should be mentioned in every news story of the rise in farm production and prices. He included taxes in the costs category.

"I visited the tax department in the county courthouse the other day and a clerk there was griping about a farmer who constantly complained about his taxes," our friend related. "Maybe he has a right to," I said. I happen to know that the farmer who say owns half of the valley and a sea of cattle is mortgaged to the hilt on his farm buildings, cattle, land, and equipment. What he earns from his farm goes into both interest on his loans and taxes."

Our friend remarked that his loan outfit probably owns 92 per cent of the valley's livestock. In short, the farmer is farming on borrowed money. He's doing something his pay-as-you-go grandfather or even father would never think of doing. Corporation farming will soon be the rule rather than the exception, our friend noted.

Financial boards which control farm financing state flatly there is only one answer to the farm price dilemma—curtail production. It's not foreign markets or price raises. Just curtail production. Like the man in the fairytale whose mill continued to pour salt into the sea, the farmer asks how do I stop it? In farm production quantity and quality seem to go hand in hand.

And just as we were digesting all these big thoughts the boss tossed the state department of agriculture's interesting little magazine, "Oregon's Agricultural Progress" onto the desk. It has an interesting article, "Corporation Farming — Is It For You?" Farming has long been a family affair and this article discusses incorporation by family farmers. It outlines questions to ask if you are thinking of taking this big step. Grant Blanch, OSC agricultural economist points out that most businesses are organized as individual proprietorships, as partnerships or as corporations. And farming is a business as well as a way of life.

Blanch urges every farmer considering incorporation to get a good lawyer. An attorney with a farm background would be the best and Jackson county has a few of these valuable men.

As a footnote to our fair observations it's interesting that a boy played a prominent part in development of the Hereford beef animal. This and the black Angus are two main breeds of beef stock being exhibited at the Jackson county 4-H and FFA fair. Earliest authentic records on the origin of the Hereford breed date back to 1742 in Herefordshire, England. Then, a nine-year-old boy, Benjamin Tomkins was willed by his father a dark red cow with a mottled face named "Silver." He later started a breeding program with two cows named "Pigeon" and "Mottle," plus a bull descendant of the old Silver cow.

The early day English variety were much larger, mature animals sometimes weighing over 3,000 pounds. Gradually this breed changed to less weight with more quality, smoothness and early maturity. A British Admiral and Henry Clay, were prominent figures in bringing Herefords to America. Henry Clay imported a young bull, a cow and a heifer to his home in Lexington, Ky. About 1825 Admiral Coffin sent the bull, "Sir Issac" and a cow to the Massachusettts society for promoting agriculture.

The egg and poultry market looks a little better. Egg producers of the Rogue valley either were too busy or aren't too worried about the general situation. Only a handful attended last Thursday's meeting for organization of an egg-producers' group. Main idea was to start an egg promotional program. Tentative plan is to let all interested join a state organization and possibly organize a local group later.

Bright spots in the poultry picture area are sharp cut in potential layers, hatchings continue lighter, some egg prices improved, more eggs in storage. July hatchings of egg-type chicks were down 21 per cent. Large egg sizes advances a penny a dozen of Aug. 17.

SCS Districts Get U. S. Stamp On Sale Aug. 26

The Sams Valley-Beagle soil conservation district is one of more than 2,800 such districts throughout the country being honored by issuance of a commemorative soil conservation stamp by the post office department, according to Elwood Abbott, district chairman of the board of supervisors.

The stamp will be issued Aug. 26 at Rapid City, S. D., at the annual meeting of the Soil Conservation Society of America, and will go on sale at local post offices the following day, Mrs. Abbott said. The stamp, in three colors, depicts a modern conservation farm, and is of 4-cent denomination.

The Sams Valley-Beagle soil conservation district was organized by local farmers in 1952. The district now has 350 cooperators, of whom 96 have basic conservation plans.

Governed

The district is governed by a board consisting of Elwood Abbott, route 2, box 566, Central Point; A. T. Wattenberg, route 1, box 104, Eagle Point; Ramsey Thomson, route 2, box 578, Central Point; Charles Stanley, L. B. Star route, box 177, Eagle Point; William Jess, route 1, box 132, Eagle Point; Burdette L. Dodge, route 3, box 171, Medford; Victor E. Gardner, route 1, box 56, Eagle Point. Technical assistance is provided by the Soil Conservation Service. Robert Lonzway is in charge. Other SCS men working with the district include Keith Allen, Resident Engineer; Oscar Mueller, Soil Scientist; Ira Spires and George Boyce, Engineering Aides.

Here are some of the accomplishments made by the district and its cooperators: 21,141 acres of conservation crop rotation, 18,705 acres planted to pasture, 41 irrigation reservoirs storing 5645 acre feet, 62,658 feet of drain tile, and 1,688 acres of land leveled for surface irrigation.

The soil conservation stamp, Abbott said, is a salute to progress in our own district and other such districts across the country.

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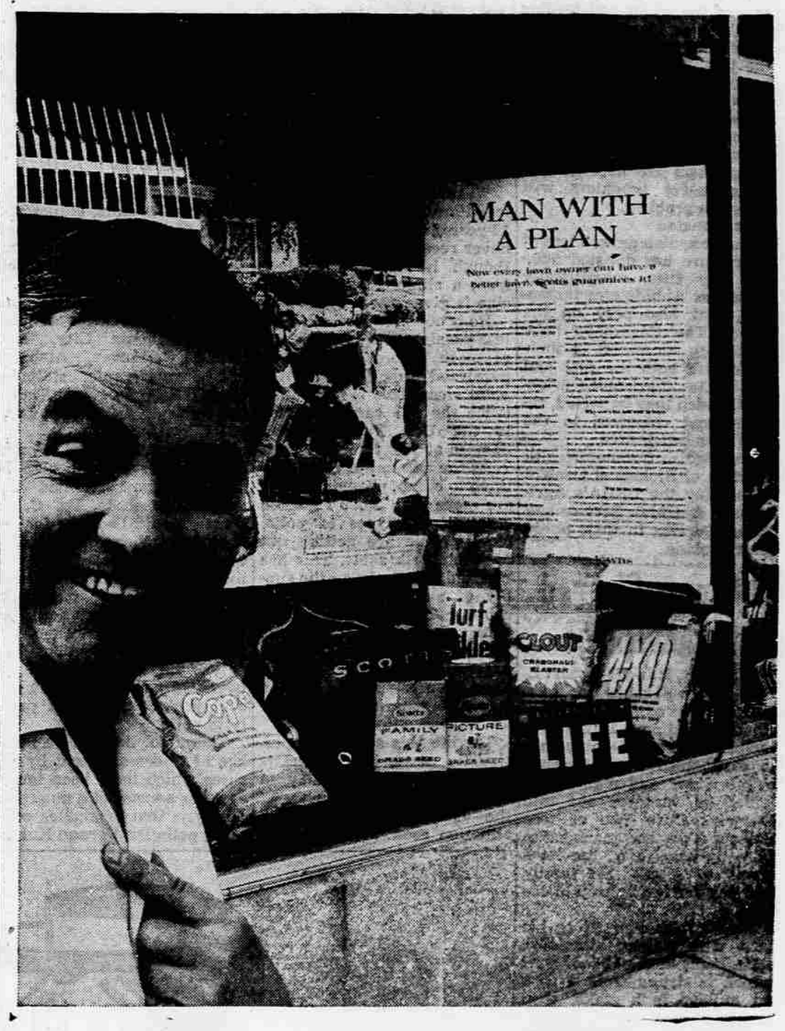

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