

# --- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY  
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

"What are they trying to pull now?"  
Too often this is the attitude of farmers and others toward their local government. If not their national government. We're picking on farmers and rural residents because, being many miles removed from the county seat, they may think of themselves as set apart until the tax bill pops them out of their complacency.

Even though the tax statements are now in the mail, there is much more stirring in local government besides taxation. Possible county-wide interim zoning, proposed construction of at least three east-west roads and air pollution are some of the main items. It would pay the farmer to personally drop into the courthouse and find out how this may affect him before a brand new set of regulations suddenly confront him.

Zoning has been reported on thoroughly and recently in this paper. However, it's interesting to note that some of the leading farm magazines are urging zoning. Zoning of land for agricultural-residential use, for instance is a protection for the farmer. "A good road never hurt a farmer," we heard at the recent county agricultural committee meeting. Some more east-west roads are badly needed.

One of these days when the farmer steps out into his field to burn brush or trash he may find himself smack dab up against a county ordinance which says, "no!" An orchardist may find his open pits are definitely outlawed. New regulations may mean quicker replacement than he figured on financially. He had his chance during the voluntary cooperation period and now a new law says he must comply.

During the Monday night meeting of the Rogue Valley section of the Professional Engineers of Oregon it was interesting to hear that the state sanitary authority people are well aware of the orchardist's problems. But they are also aware of what an aroused mass of public opinion can mean.

Ted Gerow, of the state sanitary authority, pointed out that actually the most efficient orchard heater is the open pit since its wider, open surface of flame spreads more heat around the fruit trees. Some orchardists using the return-stack heater found they lost fruit since they needed more of these heaters in ratio to the replaced open pits. He also told the engineers another severe frost season like the last one will mean just as much orchard heater smoke. Replacement of the old style open heaters may turn the smoke to brown instead of black, he said.

Always boosting his profession, regardless of branch, one member said a good agricultural engineer on the job 30 to 35 years ago would have prevented planting so much of the area to pear trees and thus would have stopped the smudging problem.

Monday night we saw some of the best poker-faced humorists and "straight men" outside the professional entertainment business. One engineer remarked that he didn't feel a bit sorry for the orchardists because while he was groping his way down a street through the smudge smoke and his wife was cleaning sooty deposits from their home some of the more prominent orchardists were sunning themselves at Palm Springs and Waikiki.

In the same vein, we might suggest that all pear growers who were at these resort spots during heating season appear at the air pollution meeting at the courthouse Oct. 27 in grass skirts or Bermuda shorts. Even if all pear growers showed up we doubt if there would be enough winter-vacationers for a good chorus line. But if there should be, maybe somebody could sell tickets at the door to pay for the paper work bound to come out of all these meetings.

Again, we repeat the air pollution problem will be worked out by the lumber and fruit industries as rapidly as they can do so profitably. After all, they are in business to make money. A lot of smoke does not produce much orchard heat. Burning waste materials instead of utilizing them in by-products does not make a more profitable lumber mill operation. A more efficient orchard heater means more fruit saved, less expensive on oil burned. Use of all parts from a log means a solid operation now and in the future.

A report on the Oct. 13 Red Bluff, Calif. livestock auction sale might give some indication of how the Jackson county feeder sale will shape up Tuesday, Oct. 27.

Salable were 1,615 head including around 600 calves. Around 85 per cent of the supply was stockers and feeders with the remainder mainly slaughter cows. Stocker and feeder classes were steady to strong, most strength showed on steers over 750 pounds. About 15 per cent of the supply came from out of state shipments from Oregon, Nevada and Idaho. The remainder came from California.

In stocker and feeder steers individuals and part loads good and choice, 290-325-pound calves sold for \$27.50 to \$31.10, including 16 head weighing 294 pounds \$31.10 each and nine head of 325 pounds for \$29.50 each. Individual common and medium calves went for \$20 to \$27. Part loads of good choice 550 to 600 pound yearlings sold for \$26 to \$29.10.

Egg prices generally looked downward the past two weeks, according to an Oct. 12 OSC egg and poultry market review. Egg production is increasing seasonally and outlets under federally aided egg diversion programs have dried up, the OSC economists noted. This is the time of year, also, when eggs move out of storage and hatchery demand drops to a seasonal low. Although egg prices are low-double A extra large eggs, delivered and graded bringing from 41-43 1/2 cents a dozen, demand for this cheap agricultural product has not increased. In fact, fewer housewives are buying eggs.

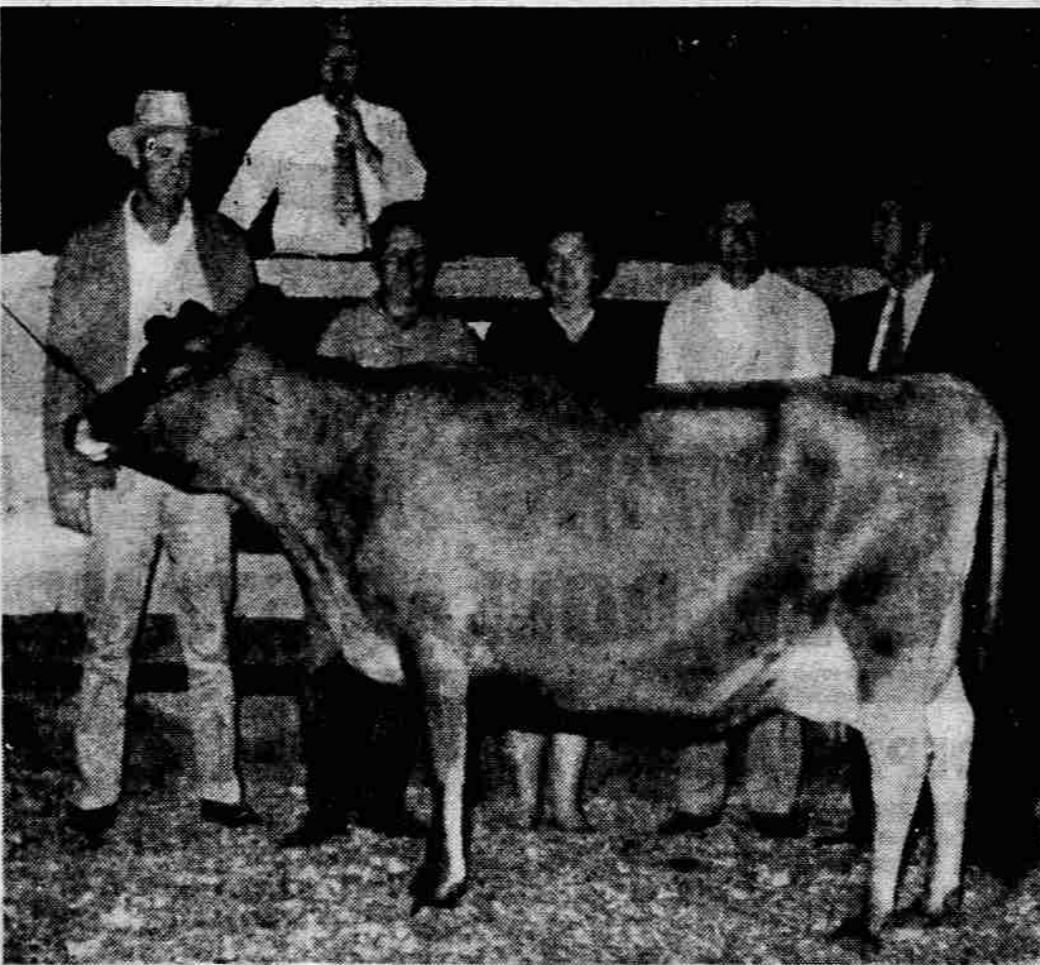
As beef prices hold at low levels cattlemen are watching to see how many feedlot operators and farmers are holding back on their stock USDA's quarterly survey of feedlot operators and farmers in 21 feeding states, as of Oct. 15, shows 20 per cent more cattle and calves on feed than a year ago. The nine cornbelt states show a 15 per cent increase over a year ago and the four western states reported a whopping 34 per cent more cattle on feed.

Many of these feeders plan to go to market about Oct. 1. This may mean 24 per cent larger marketings than a year ago. Good and choice steer calves ranged from \$28.20 to \$32.80 and Ontario and \$27.50 to \$31.75 at Klamath Falls, according to the Oct. 15 OSC meat animal review.

For the housewife—the Oregon crop and livestock reporting service indicates more sweet corn will be canned and on the market shelves this year at more than reasonable prices. This year's production is 44 per cent above the nine year average of 1948-57. This is a record sweet corn crop. The more plentiful canning beets should be more plentiful, too, and cheaper, carrots should be slightly cheaper and broccoli and cauliflower, too. Asparagus had a bumper crop, too, which will mean cheaper processed asparagus prices for the housewife.

Dairy farmers in Oregon are still in the old cost-price squeeze—Cost of Grade A milk production in the Willamette valley, for instance, climbed to an all-time September high. However prices to Oregon dairy farmers averaged slightly less than a year ago. Farm price of alfalfa hay alone is up 54 per cent from a year ago September. Increasing farm wages and high price of dairy concentrates also added to the problem.

With the cool fall weather, slug activity increases, and with the first fall rains these pests begin their egg laying. Most home garden crops are not particularly susceptible to slug activity at this time, however some perennial flowers and fall garden crops may be attacked by these pests. Metaldehyde baits or dusts are recommended for control. These will be obtained at the local garden supply stores. Slug control is a continuing process around the home and garden. Now is a good time to reduce slug populations. On the average, homemakers paid some \$11 more for fruits and vegetables and \$3 more for baked goods and bread in 1958 than in 1957.



**TOP SELLING COW**—LaPine Basil Sprite, consigned by W. D. Mongold, Eagle Point, was top selling cow at the Oregon Select Jersey sale at \$1,375. Shown with the "Sprite" are (right to left) W. D. Mongold, breeder and consignor, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Olson, Koppin Jersey Farm managers, the buyer, James Cosner and Russel Palmer, contending bidders and Emery Alderman, auctioneer in the box. "Sprite" sold as junior four-year-old, 290 days in milk with 608 pounds of butterfat to date. She is classified excellent as was her sire and dam. Her dam, also bred by the Mongolds was sired by an excellent classified, senior, superior sire and the grand-dam was the excellent classified, silver, gold and medal of merit cow, Design Golden Shirley.

## All the Bird but the Cluck Goes to Market in South

Salem — In at least one big southern broiler operation, about all the bird but the noise goes to market. In this plant, the head, legs, feet and feathers are ground, cooked, and put in concentrate for poultry feed as they are high in protein.

This report comes from Paul T. Rowell, chief of the division of market development, Oregon department of agriculture. He toured the northern Georgia broiler area Oct. 7 as a feature of the annual meeting of the National Association of Marketing Officials.

Rowell carried back to Oregon with him an Atlanta daily newspaper containing an editorial headed, "Now Is An Excellent Time To Buy Georgia Fryers." This editorial said in part: "The price at Georgia farms for top-quality frying chickens has hit the lowest point ever recorded in the many years the USDA has kept track of such matters."

That price was 13 1/2c per pound and, at the same time, fryers in Arkansas were bringing growers as low as 12c a pound. The Atlanta paper's retail market ads quoted USDA inspected fryers at 23 to 25c per pound, and breasts and legs in quarters at 29c per pound.

**Story of Expansion**  
Behind these prices is a story of the gigantic expansion of fryer production in the Georgia broiler area. Rowell visited three of the big broiler producers' operations.

At a large processing plant in Gainesville he witnessed three-pound live birds being slaughtered and processed at the rate of 100 birds per minute or 6,000 per hour. At this plant (Jesse Jewell Co.) Rowell says the manager told the NAMO group that they ice pack only 30 per cent of their output compared with 98 per cent for the Georgia plants as a whole.

The other 70 per cent of the Jewell output is in frozen and pre-cooked products, as he is an industry pioneer. This plant is marketing a new product featuring frozen filets. This boned meat pressed — not ground — into round portions about 2 1/2 inches in diameter and 1/2 inch thick and weighing 2 1/2 ounces. These are packed four to a consumer carton.

Jewell raises his own fryers. The new Oregon Beef council has delayed start of collections of voluntary contributions for its support until Dec. 1. The seven-member council announced the one-month delay following its second meeting, held in Salem Oct. 15. Ted Hyde of Bly, newly elected chairman, said the council does not want to start collections until it feels cattle owners throughout Oregon are familiar with the new program, which was authorized by the 1959 legislature. In the interim, the council members will carry information to all county and state cattle and farm associations it can reach before Dec. 1. All auction markets, one of the points of collections, will also be reached to explain the program and seek full cooperation. The council activity in promoting Oregon beef will be supported by 10-cent per head contributions authorized by cattle owners as animals go through any brand inspection points in the state. The mid-October meeting was attended by the full council, which also includes Jack Wilson, North Powder; Richard Westerberg, Ashland; and Mrs. Carolyn Magruder, Clatskanie.

## Directors State Ag Labor Office Farm Bureau Aim

Salem — The board of directors of the Oregon Farm Bureau federation meeting in Salem Wednesday unanimously recommended county Farm Bureaus establish farm labor offices in county Farm Bureaus across the state.

Gerald Detering, the federation president, said the expanded program for county Farm Bureaus is brought on by new regulations fostered by state and federal agencies which are posing a threat to the farmers rights.

Many of the regulations are tied to the use of the U. S. Employment Service offices in the state and the new requirements are adding to the cost price squeeze on farmers, Detering stated, Detering cited the transportation of migrant farm workers from their permanent homes and back as one example of boosting the cost of farm labor supply. The establishment of a minimum wage for farm workers hired through the employment service is another point of contention, he said.

Federal and state regulations are also factors in the decision of the OFBF to inaugurate a farm employment program through its county units. This does not mean that farmers discontinue use of the U. S. Employment Service, Detering stated, it does mean that farmers are not satisfied with restrictive policies of the secretary of labor in the past year and that the effectiveness of the employment service will be badly dented by proposed controls over the people they are supposed to be serving.

**Paying Good Wages**  
Farmers are presently paying good wages to farm workers, said the Farm Bureau president, and working conditions are being constantly improved through mechanization and modernization. The efficiency of farming is directly related to the prices paid by consumers for food and fibre and it is time we began to look at the quality of our labor supply, he said.

Bark on California's giant sequoia trees sometimes grows to two feet thick. The forecast came in a survey of editors attending the Marsteller-Rickard Farm Editors Forum here. It also showed the editors believe that farmer-controlled marketing organizations will take over the government's role in agriculture by 1980.

Washington — (UPI) — A government survey shows a big percentage of firms in major food marketing industries have taken over other companies in recent years. The Agriculture Department said 19 per cent of the 2,427 companies answering the survey reported they had acquired other firms during the period from 1952 through 1958.

Miami Beach, Fla. — (UPI) — A dairy expert reports many farmers have not found so-called "cow pools" as profitable as they had hoped. Dr. V. H. Nielsen, chairman

## Farm Notes

Washington — (UPI) — Seasonal farm wage rates have hit new record highs in every region of the country, an Agriculture Department report showed today.

For the nation as a whole, the average hourly wage for farm workers was 80.6 cents an hour, up one per cent from last year.

Washington — (UPI) — An Agriculture Department economist says farm price support programs can't solve the income problems of families in low-income rural areas. Buis T. Inman said this was one of the findings in a federal-state study of the problems of low income areas. The study was done under the administration's rural development program.

Washington — (UPI) — The Agriculture Department has announced the purchase of 147,000 pounds of frozen ground lamb for donations to school lunchrooms. The cost was \$88,000. Officials said the lamb purchasing program will continue next week. So far, 189 thousand pounds have been bought at a total price of \$113,000.

Rockton, Ill. — (UPI) — A group of leading farm editors predicted that all farm surpluses will vanish in the next 20 years. The forecast came in a survey of editors attending the Marsteller-Rickard Farm Editors Forum here. It also showed the editors believe that farmer-controlled marketing organizations will take over the government's role in agriculture by 1980.

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Washington — (UPI) — The Agriculture Department has finished its current program of buying frozen pork for donation to school lunchrooms. The operation took 18,459,000 pounds of pork off normal markets at a cost of \$7,619,000.

Washington — (UPI) — Visitors to the World Agriculture Fair at New Delhi, India, this winter will see one of the world's biggest scale models at the U.S. exhibit. The model will reproduce a typical American farming community complete with crops, livestock, a wooded area, a poultry farm and a miniature railroad.

Washington — (UPI) — The Agriculture Department predicted today that production of chicks this month would be smaller than in October, 1958.

Washington — (UPI) — The National Grange has announced it will hold its 93rd annual convention in Long Beach, California Nov. 9-17. The highest drying-air temperature of a crop intended for seeding purposes should never exceed 110 degrees.

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