

# --- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY  
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

## State Farm Prices Move Up in Sept., U.S. Unchanged

Corvallis - Oregon farm prices moved up in September in contrast to national farm prices which held unchanged, reported Mrs. Elvera Horrell, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State college.

Although Oregon farm prices pointed upward in September, individual farm commodities presented an up-and-down pattern, Mrs. Horrell found as she studied reports from the U. S. department of agriculture. Poultry and egg prices in the state dipped lower, wool prices improved, and Oregon potato prices also moved up.

Prices on dairy cows held unchanged, but milk and milkfat prices in Oregon improved a little. Beef cattle and calf prices ranged from unchanged to higher, but hogs and lambs were lower. Wheat prices were lower, but other grain and hay prices rose in the state.

Putting them all together, the general level of Oregon farm prices averaged about a 1 per cent increase in September and stands about 1 per cent higher than September 1958, Mrs. Horrell said.

In contrast to Oregon's upward trend, prices received by the nation's farmers held unchanged during the month ending Sept. 15, Mrs. Horrell added. Lower prices for meat animals, grains, oil-bearing crops, and potatoes were offset by higher price tags on dairy products, fruit, and eggs.

Meanwhile, prices farmers had to pay for things they buy held steady with prices received. As a result, the buying power of farm products held unchanged last month and the parity ratio to the government's yardstick for measuring the relationship between prices received and prices paid by farmers - remained at 80.7 points below September 1958.

The more unfavorable ratio this year has resulted more from falling farm prices than from rising costs, Mrs. Horrell pointed out. Prices received by farmers are down 6 per cent from last year. Prices paid, including taxes, interest, and wage rates, are up only 1 per cent.

## OSC Study Shows Good Ram Pays

Corvallis - An outstanding ram will pay for itself within a year by producing above average lambs, reports Dr. Ralph Bogart, animal husbandman at the Oregon State college agricultural experiment station.

OSC researchers compared grade, weight and selling price of offspring from outstanding rams with offspring of average rams. They found the difference is enough that one lamb crop will cover cost of the better ram.

Lambs sired by the two best rams averaged 90 pounds at weaning, and graded good and choice. Lambs from the two least desirable rams averaged 76.5 pounds at weaning, and graded high utility and low good. The better lambs sold for 2 cents a pound more.

Weaning weight, conformation and condition of the rams were considered in selecting those for the research project. Of the 10 rams studied to date, Bogart pointed out that even the poorest were rated average or better. Much greater differences would be evident in offspring if rams were selected randomly, he emphasized.

## Yellow Dwarf Hits Cereal Crops

Corvallis - Willamette Valley farmers suffered a possible \$4,700,000 loss this year as yellow dwarf virus doubled its 1958 toll to destroy nearly one-fourth of the valley's cereal grain crops.

Oat fields were hit hardest with 27 per cent of the potential crop ravaged by the disease. Barley ran second with a 22 per cent loss. Spring wheat loss was about 17 per cent and winter wheat, 4 per cent.

Loss figures were estimated by county agents after talking with growers, warehousemen and others in the trade, explained Dr. William B. Raymer, plant pathologist at the Oregon State college agricultural experiment station.

Is coffee actually worth a dime? When coffee raised to a dollar a pound or more on the grocer's shelf all the restaurants and lunch counters around town doubled the price from a nickel to a dime. But, now coffee has dropped considerably in price. So, why doesn't the per cup price drop, also? Is it because of higher costs of handling? Higher labor costs? Or what? Or, is it just because the merchant doesn't want to turn loose of a little extra profit?

That, my friend, involves a lot of economic theory. For instance, why does a tomato grower get \$20 a ton for his tomatoes in the Sacramento valley and the chain store which buys them sell 'em for what amounts to \$500 a ton? Costs of handling and processing, is the economist's answer. Then they break down the consumer's dollar into so much for raising the farm product, so much for transportation, so much for processing, so much for retailing it. Economists have been lecturing and writing on the big middle-man profits as if the general public the "common man" (if there is such a character) was unaware of it.

A conversation with a "working stiff" recently at one of the local lunch counters convinces us that the working man is well informed on this point. This man, a pipefitter, had stopped in Sacramento while looking for a job recently and observed many things. One of these was the difference in price of tomatoes to the farmer and to the consumer. He was just as well informed on what is happening in international trade. Like too many of the American public, however, he had stopped being angry about it and figured it would solve itself when enough people are out of work and the farmer is hurt with the rest.

A general depression, he indicated, would take care of the support price payments on agricultural surpluses and the surpluses themselves. We are sorry he isn't mad about the food-economics situation because an aroused public is a demanding one. Then, usually something gets done—one way or another.

We have read suggestions by both economists and farm-state politicians. For some reason they don't even run parallel. Neither one can be all wrong or all right. But, if they are both so sure they are right why don't they agree more on what should be done? Maybe the politician isn't as well informed as he thinks he is. Being "public pressure-informed" and well informed are two different things.

The pipe-fitter in his well-worn khaki work-clothes said, politically, he favors a return to the days of President Theodore Roosevelt and Sen. William Howard Taft and their policies of high tariffs on competing foreign goods exported to the U.S. Just who benefits when a large chain store sells quantities of clothing manufactured in Hong Kong from Australian wool when a woolen mill in the northern end of the state closes up throwing people out of work because it can't meet this foreign competition? It may benefit the chain store stockholders and momentarily the people who buy the clothes cheaper, but it generally throws the national economy at least a little out of kilter. When this incident is joined with similar other ones than it comes broomranging back in higher taxes (fewer local companies to carry the tax burden), and lower employment.

"This thing is going to go on and on until a lot of people are hurt," our lunch acquaintance remarked. "As long as the big U. S. companies are building overseas plants cheaper foreign made goods will continue to come into this country in ever increasing numbers. And it won't make any difference what political party wins an election, because for several years this cycle will continue to its bitter end."

We hope you are wrong, Mac, but labor as well as capital and government must share the blame for what is happening just as surely as if a labor boss went overseas and dug the first shovel of dirt for the new plant and personally brought over the foreign goods. Higher labor costs have forced in foreign goods, but at the same time maybe the trade barriers were dropped too low by an overly generous, reciprocal-trade minded government. Our pipefitter friends say we should buy only the foreign goods we need. That might be the more practical and workable answer. We don't know.

## Oregon Weed Meet Set Here Next Week

The Oregon Weed conference will be held in Medford for the first time Nov. 12 and 13, according to Ray Hubbell, Jackson county weed supervisor, and conference president.

"Top men in research from industry, colleges, experiment stations and area farmers will present their findings and tell what the future may hold in the relatively new field of chemical weed control," Hubbell said.

All the meetings will be held in the Medford YMCA building Thursday and Friday, Hubbell announced. The conference starts at 10 a.m., Thursday. Approximately 300 persons are expected to attend the meeting from throughout the state.

One of the highlights of the program for weed supervisors will be a talk on weed control and plantings on Oregon highways by Mark H. Astrup, landscape engineer, state highway department, Salem, Friday morning.

Thursday morning, Don Berry, Jackson county extension agent will speak on herbicide use in tree fruit farming. Following Berry, Otto Bohner, Central Point farmer, will speak on "How I Control Weeds on My Farm."

Tieing in with Berry's talk will be a speech on vegetable and fruit weed research by Dr. Garvin Crabtree, Oregon State college, Friday morning. Directed at the irrigation district managers and water-users is a talk by Dean Boyle, bureau of reclamation, Boise, Idaho on ditchbank and aquatic weed control, Thursday morning.

Thursday afternoon, Dr. Bayer, extension weed specialist, Davis, Calif., will talk on getting the most out of soil sterilants.

On a weed districts panel Thursday afternoon will be Rex Warren, moderator; Jess R. Grisham, agricultural commissioner, Yreka, Calif.; Harold Schieferstein, Klamath Falls; and Roy Hubbell, Medford.



**COW PALACE CHAMPION**—Tim Topper, grand champion steer of the Grand National Livestock Exposition in San Francisco recently, was shown with his owners, Mr. and Mrs. H. Skinner Hard, of Bakersfield, Calif. The Champion steer, a 1000-pound Hereford was covered with his royal purple robe and was auctioned off to the highest bidder on Nov. 4 at the Cow Palace in San Francisco. (UPI Telephoto)

## GARDENING TIPS

By DON BERRY  
County Agent  
COMPOSTING MATERIALS

Both English and black walnut leaves can be used for composting or humus material. This is also true for oak and other tree leaves.

Walnut leaves do not cause the soil to become unusually acid and are not detrimental to plant growth. Their composition is not much different from other tree leaves and can be used for the same purposes.

Walnut leaves are not the best for mulching. They tend to form a packed layer and prevent proper soil aeration.

**VEGETABLE STORAGE**  
Plan on storing vegetables? Many vegetable crops can be kept fresh for several weeks or throughout the entire winter.

Vegetables placed in storage should be sound and free from cuts, cracks, or injury. A diseased or injured specimen in storage could damage the entire supply.

Any place with a furnace is usually too warm and dry for most vegetable storage. Vegetables can be stored in cellars, basements, outdoor pits, banks of soil, and in many types of special buildings. Often a room can be partitioned off for cool storage. Screened inlets for fresh, cool air will provide ventilation and temperature regulation.

A room where canned vegetables and fruit keep well is useful for storage of pumpkins, squash, tomatoes, onions and potatoes. Bins are good for potatoes and onion storage if they are off the floor to allow free air circulation. This also should prevent rats and mice from nesting in the stored food.

Where winters are dry or drainage is good, outdoor cellars, pits or mounds of various kinds can be used for storage. Beets, carrots, parsnips, rutabagas, salsify and turnips can be stored where they are grown if drainage is good. The tops should be cut off fairly close and soil from between the rows can be thrown over the roots.

Mound storage can be a round or long pile according to the amount to be stored. A finished pile should be three to four feet high.

**Cover Lightly**  
The covering should be light at first and be increased as needed to prevent freezing. A shallow trench around the base will carry off the excess water. For areas where rainfall is heavy, cover the mound with boards. A narrow piece of hardware cloth placed vertically around the mound will keep rodents out.

Pit storages made of tile are economical, easy to build, and quite permanent. Tile storages will hold some vegetables in very good condition for six months or more. Tile storage is built in units of one or more tile according

to the amounts of space needed. An 18 by 30 inch tile will hold three bushel baskets.

Tile should be located on well-drained soil, shaded from the sun and close to the kitchen.

Dig the hole 6 inches deeper than the tile length and just large enough to let the tile fit snug. Place three standard bricks, on end, equally spaced around the bottom of the hole. Rest the tile on these bricks. Place 2 inches of coarse gravel in the bottom of the hole and fill in soil around the outside of the tile and mound it up to the lip. The storage chamber and material to be stored should be precooled. For easy handling, place fruit and vegetables in bushel baskets or other containers. Long handled wire hooks will help in raising and lowering the baskets.

**To Keep Out Rodents**  
Place a square of one-half inch hardware cloth over the tile to provide aeration and keep out rodents. Spread a bushel of dry leaves over the hardware cloth for insulation. Cover this with a waterproof lid, giving at least 4 inches of room above the insulation. Weight down the lid. An old tub or shallow box makes a good lid.

Cabbage keeps well at temperatures just above freezing. Celery will freeze at 28 to 29 degrees. Onions keep best at temperatures ranging from 36 to 45 degrees. Start potatoes off in storage a few days at 60 to 65 degrees to permit drying and callusing of mechanical injuries. Then drop the temperature to 34 to 38 degrees.

Pumpkins and squash should be mature and free from mechanical damage when stored. Cut them with at least 2 inches of stem and leave in the field for 2 weeks to mature the crop if weather is favorable. Place the fruits separately on racks or shelves in a well ventilated dry storage at a temperature between 50 and 60 degrees.

Tomato fruits that are full grown and green or showing a slight amount of color when picked will ripen normally when stored at 55 to 70 degrees. Handle tomatoes carefully as they should be sound and without bruises.

**SDA's Lauener Rated Top Feeds Chemist**

Salem - Outstanding recognition for James Lauener's work as feeds chemist for the Oregon department of agriculture is contained in a report at the recent American feed control officials meeting in Washington, D.C.

Through Lauener's work, the Oregon laboratory rates No. 1 among the states in accuracy of analytical work on feeds. This rating is based on five continuous years of collaborative work with the national check sample work.

## More States Write Laws On Marketing

Salem - The trend toward increasing marketing promotional activities under legislative authority of various states, is growing. Legislative sessions this year included both new authorizing acts in some states and revised existing authority in others.

These findings come from a National Association of Marketing Officials survey of 1959 legislation on marketing promotional activities. The survey was conducted by Market Development Chief Paul T. Rowell of the Oregon Department of Agriculture, as chairman of the NAMO committee on marketing services and promotion of agricultural products.

Rowell reported on this 1959 survey at the NAMO annual meeting in North Carolina in October. It supplements his committee's 1958 survey, which was the first of this nature.

The 1959 survey shows both additional commodity self-help programs established under existing legislation and new legislation creating others.

**Division Created**  
A marketing division was created this year in the Iowa state department of agriculture. It is authorized to gather and diffuse useful information concerning the marketing of Iowa farm products, and to cooperate in promotion of their sales, distribution and merchandising.

In several states - including Wisconsin, Washington and Hawaii - bills for new marketing enabling acts were held over for further consideration at their next legislative sessions.

Here in Oregon, under the Oregon enabling act, a Highland Bentgrass commission was created this year by seed producers. An Oregon Beef council was created by the 1959 legislature and will be supported by voluntary contributions at 10 cents per animal collected at the time of state brand inspection.

Rowell says "commodity groups throughout the country are becoming increasingly aware that if they don't develop and publicize the value of their product no one else will. They recognize other commodities are plying their wares with the trade and the public to gain consumer favor."

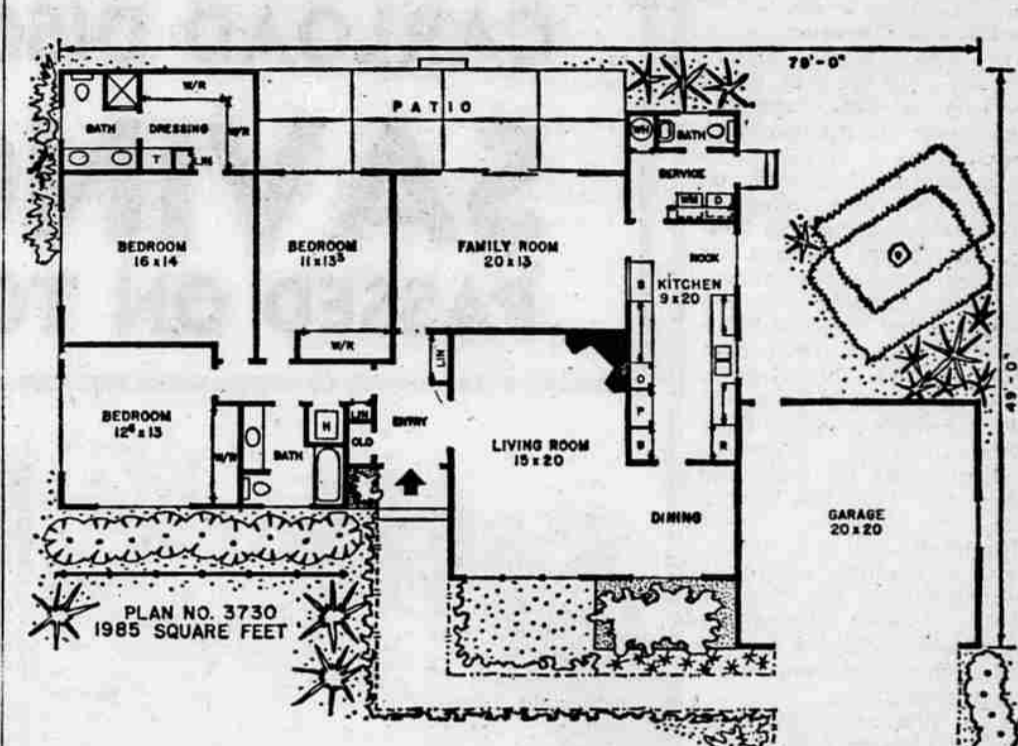
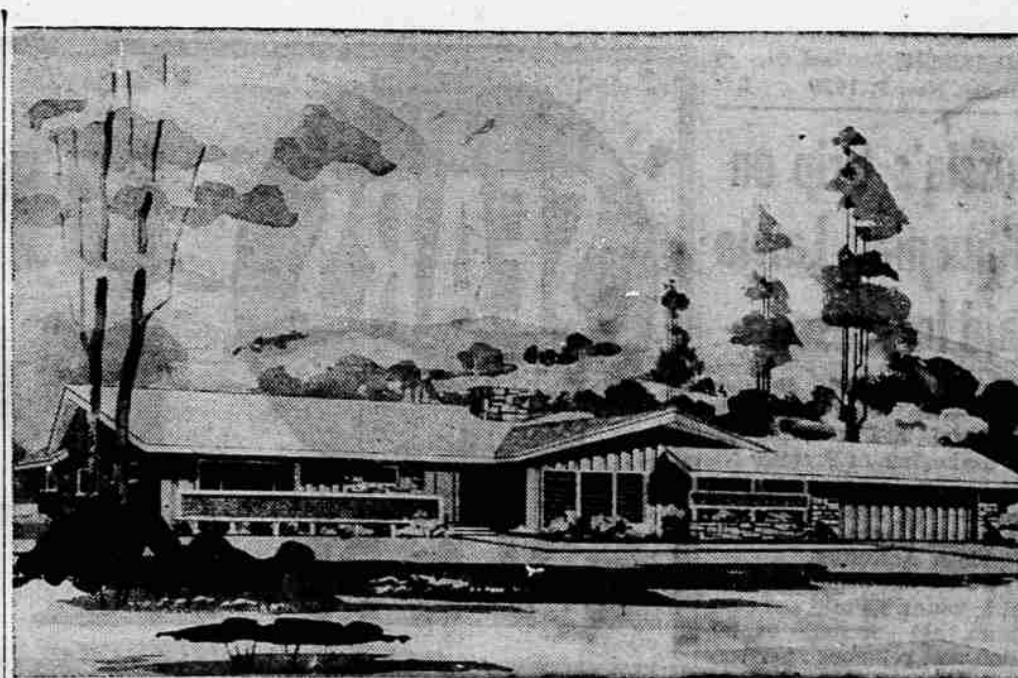
## Better Pork Seen For Oregon Farms

Corvallis - Willamette Valley Oregon-grown pork will result from the new industry-sponsored swine testing station near Hermiston, predicts Dr. J. C. Miller, head of the dairy and animal husbandry department at Oregon State College.

Boars and market hogs will be accepted for testing Oct. 24 at the Umatilla branch of the OSC agricultural experiment station. Swine testing facilities have been provided there by the Oregon Wheat Commission. Dr. David England, OSC animal husbandman, will be in charge.

Dedication ceremonies for the swine testing facilities will be held early next spring at the close of the first testing period, England reports. Pigs will be on test from the time they weigh about 50 pounds until they reach 200 pounds, approximately 100 days.

Miller says the increasing supply of feed grains and high hog market in the Pacific Northwest are combining to make hog production a "natural" for many Oregon farmers. Pacific Coast states now ship in about 70 per cent of their pork needs, mainly from the Midwest. He said the new testing station should stimulate hog production by giving better animals.



## This Week's Home for Living

By HIAWATHA ESTES

This is a sensible open plan due to the arrangement of the living, dining, kitchen and family areas which automatically increases the size and usefulness of each room.

Unexpected guests can be ushered into a presentable front living room without as much as a glimpse of scattered toys. The corner fireplace is the focal point of furniture arrangement. The dining ell means that all of the area of the family room can be used for family living and does not have to be used as a part-time dining room.

The kitchen is especially roomy and light. In addition to all the latest built-in appliances, it has a broom closet, an oversized pantry and a large eating nook have been included in this design.

The family room is partially open to the kitchen. Sliding glass doors to the patio extend the livable limits of this room.

A very short hall connects the center-hall entry with all three large bedrooms. The master dressing room not only has two wardrobes but also a dressing table and linen closet.

**Tree Planting Steps Explained**  
Corvallis - Four steps to successful tree planting—good ground preparation, prompt care of trees, correct planting and care after planting - are discussed in a new bulletin distributed by the Oregon State college agricultural extension service.

Charles R. Ross, OSC extension farm forestry specialist, helped edit the bulletin which gives detailed illustrated instructions for planting trees in both eastern and western Oregon.

Oregon residents can get a copy of "Plant Your Trees Right" from their county extension office, or from the OSC bulletin clerk, Corvallis. The bulletin is published jointly by the extension services of OSC, University of Idaho, and Washington State university.

Twin pullman lavatories are features of the master bath - together with a tile shower. The water closet has been located for maximum privacy. The family bath also has a pullman lavatory plus a tub with shower over. An additional half bath is off the service. If finances are limited, the master dressing room and bath could be eliminated and constructed at a later date.

The rock covered roof of this modern home extends out from the exterior walls to give large eave overhangs for protection from the weather. The board on board siding and stone veneer and planters are enhanced by framed screens. Windows are a combination

of louver and aluminum casement. Complete working drawing of the above plan can be obtained at a cost of \$7.50 for the first 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-T, Northridge, Calif.

## Southern Counties List Most Estrays

Southern Oregon areas reported most of the animal estrays which are listed on the current "strayed or stolen" report of the state department of agriculture. The list includes reports from 9 owners of three horses and 11 cattle and calves missing between mid-August and the end of September.

The department's livestock officers and brand inspectors as well as sheriffs' offices and state police have descriptions of the animals. All but four of the 14 animals are branded.

A recent survey found that there are 990 national concerns in the U.S. whose names start with the word "American."

## California Changes Bang's Regulations

Salem - California has announced that beginning Jan. 2, 1961 all female dairy cattle entering that state must be brucellosis vaccinates.

Entries 14 months from now must have been vaccinated for brucellosis between four and through 12 months of age, with official health certificate to certify this fact.

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