

Farm Notes

Washington—UPI—The number of workers on the nation's farms is getting smaller. A total of 8,600,000 persons were at work on farms in late October. This was 1 per cent less than a year ago and 6 per cent below the average for the same month in the past five years.

The Agriculture Department said the decline has been due to steady improvement in farm practices and machinery. Despite the drop in manpower, farm production has gone steadily higher.

Washington—UPI—An agriculture department expert said today the nation probably would have surplus production of feed and livestock for as far ahead as anyone could foresee.

Orlin J. Scoville, head of the department's Cost, Income and Efficiency Research branch, said that as long as technological progress continued at its present pace, production of feed and livestock would increase faster than consumption unless there was a long, severe drought.

Washington—UPI—The agriculture department's economic forecasters predicted today that the long rise in farm assets might come to a halt in 1960 or 1961.

A new credit and finance report showed that farm assets and equities rose in 1959. But the increase was only about 2½ per cent, the smallest rise since 1955. The report said the steady rise in farm land values was expected to slacken or stop in the next year or so.

Washington—UPI—Farm production expenses will hit an all-time high of about 26 billion dollars this year and are likely to go higher in 1960, an agriculture department report predicted today.

The expected increase, combined with a further drop in farm prices, would tighten the cost-price squeeze on U.S. farmers.

Washington—UPI—Chick production by commercial hatcheries in October was 11 per cent below the same month last year, the agriculture department said today. It forecast that the November hatch also will be down from 1958.

The deadlines are the result of low prices for both broiler chickens and eggs this year.

Washington—UPI—Interior Secretary Fred Seaton says the administration will propose several new starts on reclamation projects in the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 1960.

Seaton made the announcement at a news conference recently but did not say how many new starts would be recommended.

For the past two years the administration on reclamation projects.

Washington—UPI—The agriculture department predicted today that Christmas trees

may be cheaper in the future.

Forestry experts point out that plantation-grown Christmas trees have been commanding relatively high prices, up to two dollars each on the stump in some cases compared with only 25 cents on the stump for wild trees.

This has attracted many new producers, and supplies will be going up sharply in future years, the department said.

Washington—UPI—The agriculture department has announced the purchase of 5,985,000 pounds of frozen ground beef for \$2,423,000.

This brings the government's beef purchases in recent weeks to a total of 10,584,000 pounds at \$4,278,000. The meat will go into the school lunch program.

Soil Fertility Tests Given 11,000 Acres in County

By EUGENE WINTERS
County Extension Agent

The soil fertility picture of Jackson County soils is taking shape with soil test reports from nearly 750 fields covering about 11,000 acres during the last six years being used as an inventory.

The inventory shows that about one-fourth of the soils are neutral in reaction, one-fourth moderately acid and the remaining one-half of the tested soils are slightly acid. The most desirable range for good truck and field crop production is from slightly acid to a neutral reaction.

The lime requirement tests show that good response could be expected by alfalfa from up to two tons of lime per acre in six out of ten fields tested. Lime should be applied only on the basis of a soil test. Overliming can be harmful.

More than one-half of the area tested would show economic response to phosphorus applications in the production of such crops as alfalfa, grass-legume forage and hay and grains. Nearly one-third of these fields should have annual applications of phosphorus for optimum yields.

Some Need Potassium

Nearly three of each ten fields tested with a legume stand would benefit from applications of potassium fertilizer. The potassium levels have for the most part been high enough for grain crops and solid grass stands.

From the tests magnesium is usually found in good supply for most crops. Growers of cole (cabbage) crops may need to add magnesium occasionally.

Not all soils being tested had a boron test. On the basis of those tested, boron may be a limiting factor in legume yields, especially alfalfa. The amount of boron needed to fulfill plant requirements is quite small. Excess applications can sterilize the soil.

Gardening Tips

Disease can be at least partially controlled in gardens and home orchards by raking up the old leaves and other refuse from trees and shrubs.

Many plant diseases overwinter on fallen leaves and flowers and dried fruits. These are black spot and rust of roses, apple and pear scab, cherry leaf spot, camellia flower blight, and brown rot of peaches and cherries. Old leaves and fruits remaining on the plant also harbor these disease organisms.

Burning will destroy the disease organisms. Leaves can be composted if buried in the bottom of the pile where decomposition will also destroy the organisms.

Raking can be repeated when dormant spray applications are made on roses, peaches apples and pears.

Crop Yields Hurt But Records Seen; Forecast Given

Corvallis—Crop yields in Oregon and across the country are lower, on the average, than last year because of less favorable weather. Still, by planting more acres, farmers are turning out a record-equaling crop tonnage, and record-breaking supplies of livestock products.

Among this year's crops, corn is hitting a new high in Oregon as well as in the nation as a whole, reports M. D. Thomas, Oregon State college extension agricultural economist.

In a story in the fall issue of the OSC agricultural experiment station magazine, "Oregon's Agricultural Progress," Thomas noted that Oregon's corn crop would have been even larger if spring and early summer weather in the Willamette valley had not been so cold and wet.

Part of the corn increase comes from a shift of acreage away from barley, oats, grain sorghum and other crops and from planting land that was temporarily in the acreage reserve. Increase in corn production more than offsets the decrease in other grain crops, and points toward a further buildup in feed grain stocks despite record numbers of cattle and hogs on feed.

In looking at immediate prospects for some of Oregon's principal farm products, Thomas reported the following situations:

Drought Not So Important

Drought isn't as much of a factor in this fall's cattle market as was feared earlier. Even so, the improvement in forage doesn't seem likely to be enough to push either feeder or fat cattle prices up this winter. It will just keep them from slipping as much as they might have.

Strongest forces in the current cattle market picture are the high level of employment, record incomes and the strong consumer preference for beef. The abundance of corn and sorghum grain also favors feeder cattle.

On the other hand, the fat cattle market is under pressure of record numbers in feedlots and large supplies of pork and poultry.

Hog producers may be easing up some on further increases in pig crops. For the time being, Thomas believes it is safest to plan that the worst hog prices in the current cycle will come next fall.

Foreign suppliers have found the U.S. lamb and mutton market rather thin and easily depressed, but chances are they will continue testing it. Meanwhile, pelleted feeds are giving a boost to lamb feeding in Oregon and other parts of the country.

Pressures to increase efficiency in the dairy business continue strong. Prices of feed, labor and other costs of Willamette Valley dairymen have averaged highest on record for this time of year.

Good Outlook Seen

Poultrymen can expect better prices this winter than last, but they still may not be exactly good.

The potato market picture looks quite bright, mainly because the nation's fall crop is a tenth smaller than last year. But Thomas cautions against over optimism, for potatoes aren't scarce by any means. This is a year when it should pay to follow markets closely, he emphasized.

Strawberry growers across the country are planning about the same acreage for 1960 as harvested this year. Oregon and California growers are planning modest increases, and Washington growers will hold about even. Recent studies indicate that Oregon's competitive position in the strawberry business is about on a par with its neighbors to the north and south.

Copies of "Oregon's Agricultural Progress" are free on request to Oregonians. Requests for the current issue, or to be placed on the regular mailing list, should be sent to bulletin clerk, Industrial building, Oregon State college, Corvallis.

These 3 Couples All Hit Their Mark

Longmeadow, Mass. — The J. D. Beemers, the Jerry Sweitzers and the Jack Ivories spent a pleasant evening together discussing something the three couples had in common — all of the wives were expecting.

"If it's a boy we're going to call him Mark," said Gloria Beemer.

"Why, that's the name we've picked for our son," Mary Jane Sweitzer said.

And Irene Ivory added: "That's the name we've picked."

All three babies were boys. And all three are named Mark.

Record Steel Use By Industry Seen In First Quarter

Cleveland—UPI—A record 21 million tons of steel will be used by the metalworking industry during the first quarter, according to Steel Magazine.

The metalworking weekly said the outlook for the first three months of 1960 is good, barring a resumption of the steel strike.

Chief reason for the optimistic prediction is the fact that automakers are planning to produce 2.24 million cars during this period.

The magazine said that steel inventories in the nation's metal-working plants are on the upswing after hitting a low of 8 million tons, the lowest level since 1946.

Inventories Climb

Since the back to work movement began, inventories have climbed to 8.5 million tons and are expected to reach 10 million tons by Dec.

31. The replenishing of inventories means that plants are beginning to recall some of the 450,000 to 500,000 workers laid off because of steel shortages created by the strike.

Steel said that even though mills are shipping steel at about 90 per cent of capacity, metal-working plants will not be run at capacity until they've balanced their inventories and accumulated enough steel for uninterrupted operations. The lack of vital parts is restricting operations in automotive, construction, railroad car and farm equipment industries.

The magazine predicts that production will continue to climb with producers expecting to clean up most of the orders placed in the third quarter of 1959 during the first two months of next year. Steel operations last week

hit 92.5 per cent of capacity, showing a 2.5 per cent jump from the previous week. Output was an estimated 2,619,000 ingot tons.

District rates ranged from no change at 98 at Youngstown to a 10 point jump to 92 at western Buffalo, however, was operating at the highest rate—107.5 per cent of capacity.

Price Composite Dips

The price composite on heavy melting steel scrap dipped 83-cents a gross ton to \$42.67 last week, compared with \$39.67 a gross ton paid during the comparable period last year.

Steel predicts that labor peace is near in the cooper industry, hit by strikes since mid-August. Kennecott Copper Corp.'s settlement with the United Steelworkers of America locals is expected to set the pace. Most contracts are expected to be signed by Christmas.

The magazine reports that industrial building will bounce 25 per cent in 1960 and be the number one element of strength in the nation's construction activity next year.

The over-all construction is

Smallest of American republics is El Salvador, which is 160 miles long and 60 miles wide. It is also the most densely populated with about 289 persons a square mile.

The Panama Canal zone extends five miles north and south on each side of the canal.

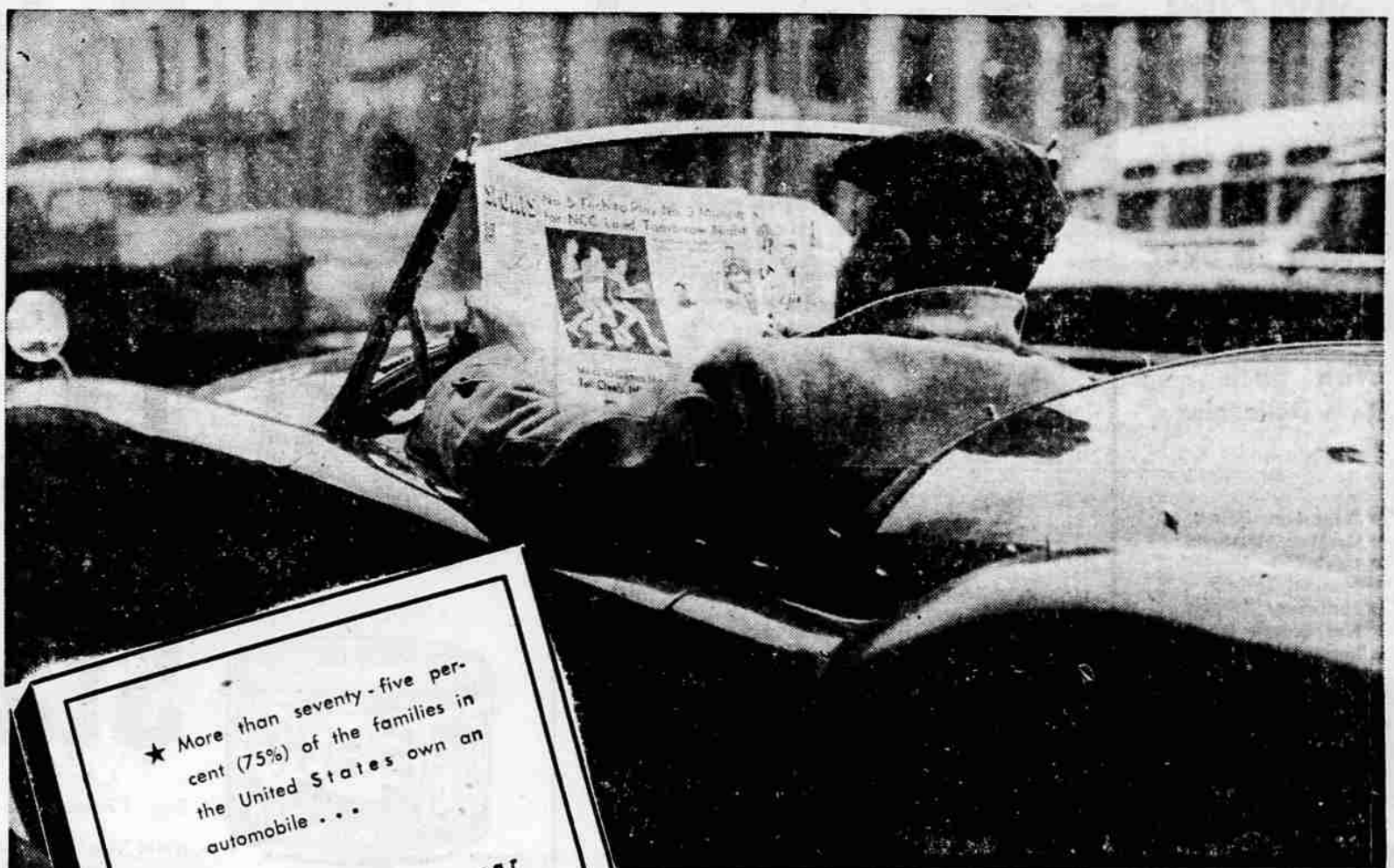
slated to chalk up a record of between \$55 and \$56 billion, compared with 1959's \$54 billion volume. Structural steel fabricators report they expect industry and public utilities to order 45 per cent more fabricated steel next year than they did in 1959.

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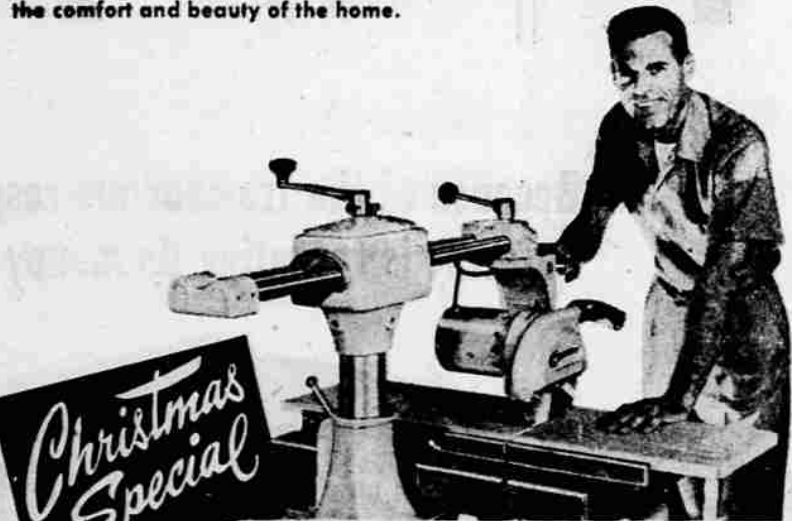
Getting the automobile sales message across to the American consumer is a job of giant proportions. That's why, year after year, manufacturers of automobile parts and accessories continue to increase their newspaper advertising budgets. Gasoline and oil advertisers alone, invested \$30 million dollars in newspaper advertising last year. And, national advertisers as a whole spend more money in newspaper advertising than in TV, radio, magazine and outdoor-combined.

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