

## Testing Begins At New Oregon Swine Station

Corvallis - Twelve Oregon swine breeders have placed a total of 64 purebred pigs on test at the new Oregon swine testing station near Hermiston.

Testing for feed efficiency, growth rate and meatiness of carcasses will be finished about April 1, reports Dr. David England, Oregon State college animal husbandman, who is in charge of the industry-sponsored station.

Breeders who have pigs on test, and the breeds, include: Kenneth J. Smouse and Kenneth L. Smouse, Ione, Yorkshire and Palouse; William E. Crawford, Glendale, Hampshire; John Barrett, Amity, Berkshire; Walter Schaad, Newberg, Chester White; Orval Crimmins, McMinnville, Poland China; Vernon Heckman, Carlton, Chester White; Gordon Dromgoole, Yamhill, Tamworth; Earl Simantei, Cornelius, Poland China and Yorkshire; Philip Gentemann, Estacada, Palouse; Oscar McCarty, Echo, Landrace; and OSC, Corvallis, Berkshire.

### To Decide On Sale

Whether a public sale will be held at the end of the test period will be decided Jan. 8 at a meeting of swine producers and other interested persons. Those attending the meeting at OSC also will set dates for spring and fall test periods, and review regulations governing entry of pigs and operational procedure, according to Dean Frischknecht, OSC extension animal husbandry specialist.

England reports considerable interest already in the spring testing period. The date when application from spring testing can be submitted will be set at the Jan. 8 meeting.

The station has a capacity of 30 pens of four pigs each. Each entry must consist of at least two boars and one market hog. The producer must pay an entry fee of \$10 per pig, which is applied to the cost of feed and labor for testing.

Swine testing facilities were provided by the Oregon Wheat Commission. Tom Davidson, superintendent of the Umatilla branch experiment station is local supervisor, and the OSC extension service and department of dairy and animal husbandry are responsible for testing procedures, analysis and use of data.

## 4-H NEWS

**Valley Experimenters**  
The Valley Experimenters 4-H club met Dec. 20 at the home of Mike Burrell. All members were present. Gregg Jones reported on rabbit feed.

Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Burrell and Mr. and Mrs. Jones.

Larry Mitchell, Reporter.

**Little Chefs**  
Members of the Little Chefs 4-H Cooking club visited the farm home for their last meeting. The club sang Christmas carols and served cookies.

Cheryl Beck, Reporter.

**Kaper Kids**

The Christmas party of the Kaper Kids 4-H Dairy Goat club was held Dec. 29 at the home of the leader, Mrs. Don Lindstrom. Fourteen members attended.

Games were played and refreshments were served. Members exchanged gifts and also presented a gift to Mrs. Lindstrom.

The next meeting will be held in January.

Ronald Smith, Reporter.

**SEAMEN DUE PAY HIKE**

New York—UPI—About 10,000 seamen will get a 4.5 per cent wage boost Jan. 1 under contract terms agreed upon Tuesday by the National Maritime Union and 39 tanker companies.

Warsaw—UPI—Heavy snows paralyzed railway and telecommunication systems in parts of Poland Tuesday. Power failures halted work in a number of factories and left homes without light.

## --- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY  
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Old Father Time tonight dressed in his tattered farmer's overalls and with holes in his pockets will pass the dice to the baby New Year. Everyone knows farming is the biggest gamble in the world. The farmers of the Rogue Valley both won and lost. Holes in the pockets because those farmers who made money had a tough time keeping it what with the increasing costs of operation.

So, a big question mark hangs over the New Year. Perhaps several such question marks dangle over the heads of the pear growers. One of the biggest is what exactly will happen to the pear decline study for the valley? Prof. Henry Hartman feels some headway may have been made, according to his report at the hort society meeting this year. Some pear trees are coming back from decline. Before he was sidelined by a heart attack the little professor with a head crammed full of pear knowledge was planning to find out why. Who will take over for him? His guiding hand is needed for the study which he has given so much time to. Will his doctor allow him to direct the urgently needed research?

A sub-problem is money needed for continuing the research. When the state legislature's interim committee on agriculture met here in October, Paul Culbertson, prominent pear grower for the Medford district, requested that \$17,800 be authorized as a grant from the state emergency board to continue the pear decline research budget until the state legislature meets to consider more money. The present fund runs out on June 30, 1960. We have yet to hear if this wish has been granted.

Labor is another problem facing the fruit growers. How can they be sure of getting enough pickers when they need 'em? Right now they can't. This problem is being considered by both state and federal agencies. Pointing up its seriousness is the heavy pear-drop last summer. The growers left their pears on as long as they could to size up and when they needed pickers for a quick harvest they weren't there.

Referring back to the interim agriculture committee—farmers appearing at the meeting were asked what government services they now receive could be eliminated or combined. Bob Duncan, Medford, speaker of the house and appearing with the committee, asked a few pointed questions. Nobody seemed willing to answer although some of those persons appearing had been quick with solutions during street-corner conversations. Maybe the proposed 23rd amendment due for a big public discussion here on Jan. 6 in the Medford high school will throw a bigger, brighter spotlight on this problem—lots of services, but how can we cut taxes and keep 'em?

Air pollution is another problem riding the backs of the pear industry men. How to heat the orchards without blackening the sky? This seems to be both a costly and long range problem requiring conversion of much of present equipment. Now some Jackson county citizens are worrying over the effect of fruit tree spray residue in the air we breathe. This may be aired further during a meeting in February. We hope it never reaches the unreasonable emotional stage. In one fruit district in Oregon dusting of cherry trees caused city police to cruise through town with their sirens going warning people over loud-speakers to close their windows.

And as the pear growers tear their hair and wonder what's going to hit 'em next the valley's contented cows munch placidly on their hay. But the dairy-farmer, the man who owns the contented cows isn't so contented. The dry summer, fall and winter (so far) has cut down on hay development and pasturing. This tightened the cost-price hammerlock on the dairyman as hay prices went up. Feed, labor, material and equipment costs are already high.

To ease this, at least a little, dairymen through their cooperative organizations bargained for and got a 23 cent per hundred pounds of milk raise last summer. Effective Aug. 1 all distributors or dairy processors started paying the dairy farmers in the Southern Oregon area ... 8.32 per 100 pounds of milk which contains 4 per cent butterfat.

These bargaining efforts are continuing as the dairymen move toward a statewide authority to market milk for the various marketing agencies to which the dairymen belong. Creation of an Oregon beef commission has helped also. Promotion of beef through such an agency helps the dairymen since they supply one-third of the state's beef, according to a prominent dairyman here. The big problem with the dairymen is promotion of milk sales.

A few steps have been taken toward eventual Rogue basin water resources development. Like the wheels of justice the steps are exceedingly slow though thorough. What will be done with the additional acreage brought under the irrigation waters from the Talent project and eventually the Rogue river? Some say beef, others pear orchards, and some say perhaps even vegetables or truck-crops. Work on development of a possible truck-crop future for the valley appears elsewhere on this page.

Helping work out a few of the valley's and the state's agricultural problems is the Southern Oregon Branch Experiment station. The new station headquarters and acreage on Hanley rd. were presented the state last summer. The varieties of grains, grasses, fruits and vegetables which the new experiment station develops or tests will be used by the future farmers of the county, state and nation.

This week the marathon injunction hearing of a group of water users vs. the Eagle Point Irrigation district wound up with a decision in favor of the irrigation district. Whether or not this could be considered an agricultural development we don't know for sure. We're running short on time and space so more of this guesstimating must be continued to next week.

## Oregon Farmers' Outlook Reported 'Long on Pain'

Corvallis—Farmers in Oregon and over the nation are likely to continue long on pain and short on rewards in 1960, said Marion D. Thomas, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State College.

Prospects for a abundant food supplies have led U.S. Department of Agriculture analysts to forecast 1960 national net farm income at least 5 per cent below the low 1959 level, Thomas reports. The analysts cited prospects for pains in the form of lower prices on beef and feed grains, smaller government payments to farmers, and some increase in the cost of farming as reasons for their thinking.

This generally discouraging outlook doesn't mean all farm-

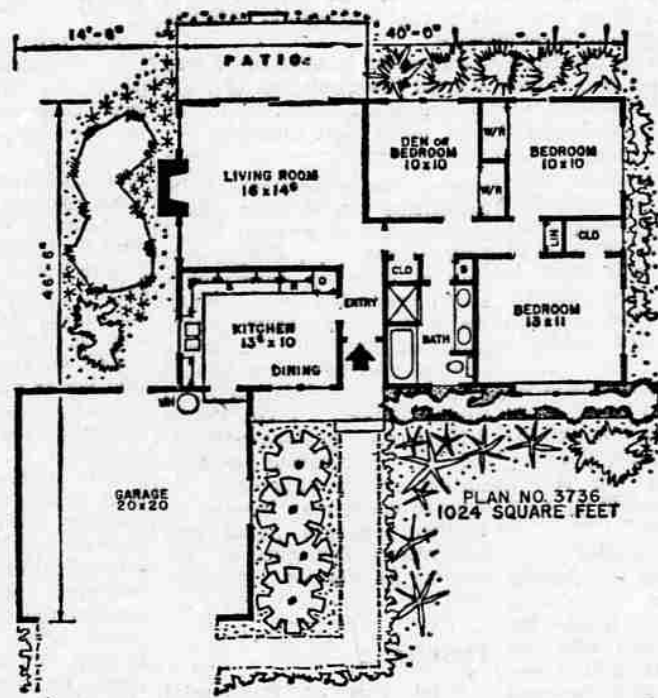
ers will have lower incomes, however, Thomas said. As in the past, farmers who make the right changes at the right time will be rewarded, he pointed out.

### Basic Changes Noted

These changes are basically of two kinds, Thomas added. One is to adjust farm production to changes in market prospects and marketing practices. The other is to adopt cost-cutting, income-boosting tools and practices growing out of agricultural research.

Farmers unable to make these adjustments are often finding off-farm occupations more satisfying and rewarding, Thomas said. Finding new jobs and learning new types of work isn't always easy, he admitted. But once established, the new way of life is often found to be much more satisfying than anticipated.

Reasons for Thomas' conclusions, and the outlook for market conditions of some of Oregon's main farm commodities, are given in the current issue of the Oregon Farm and Market Outlook circular published by the OSC extension service. Free copies are available at county extension offices, or from the OSC bulletin clerk, Corvallis.



## This Week's Home For Living—

This is a home that can be built by a family of moderate income but which retains most of the features that recent surveys have proven to

be the most popular. The center-hall plan offers easy circulation to all areas without undesirable room-crossing. Both rear bedrooms have wardrobes with drawer space at the bottom to increase the available storage space. The master bedroom has a large walk-in closet with a window to provide light and ventilation. The two side bedrooms have shoulder - high sliding windows which allow better and easier arrangement of furniture.

## Tag and Check For Foot Rot In Sheep Flock

Corvallis - While sheep are set up for tagging during the next few weeks, check for foot rot and trim their feet, suggests Dr. Dean H. Smith, Oregon State college veterinarian.

He urges isolating any sheep suspected of having foot rot before the new lamb crop arrives.

To recognize foot rot, look for the shell of the hoof separating from the softer living tissue beneath, a foul odor, and lameness. Any, or all, of these symptoms may indicate foot rot.

Individual treatment of infected sheep is necessary for a thorough job. First, trim all infected tissue. Cut away enough to expose every spot of infection, even if it is necessary to remove nearly all the hoof.

Don't be tenderhearted about trimming, Dr. Smith emphasizes.

**Bathe Feet**  
Second, hold each foot for three minutes in a bath of copper sulfate, formalin, or one of several other commercial preparations. County extension agents will supply details on the foot bath.

Even non - infected sheep should be run through a foot bath as a precaution. But treat them separately from infected sheep to keep from spreading the infection. For non-infected sheep, use a foot bath of 3 pounds copper sulfate per gallon of water; or up to a 10 per cent solution of formalin; or one part formaldehyde to nine parts water.

No shots or oral treatment have yet been found to control foot rot.

The germ won't live for more than three or four weeks in the soil, so farmers needn't fear putting sheep in pasture where foot-rot sheep have been only a month before, the veterinarian says.

Wood shutters, bay windows, band sawn gables, diamond-pane windows, horizontal and vertical siding, and a stone planter all tend to enliven the exterior design of this ever popular Ranch-style home.

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-T, Northridge, Calif.

The bath has both a tub and shower plus a long pull-man lavatory with dual wash basins to take care of that early morning rush. The water closet is semi - partitioned

## Boston Milkman Gets All Bottled Up

Boston - Paul Sloat was awakened by a tapping outside his window. Investigating, he found it came from inside a milk truck parked under his window.

Sloat opened the walk-in door and out hopped the milkman, Elmer Klech. He had locked himself inside accidentally.

It is estimated that over 60 million replacement auto tires will be sold this year.

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## Truck Crop Research Work Continues Through 1959

By JOHN YUNGEN

Agronomist, Southern Oregon Branch Experiment Station

Research in truck crops production problems has been one of the projects of the Southern Oregon Branch Experiment Station since 1957. The work began after an advisory committee of interested persons outlined some of the problems experienced by producers in the southern Oregon area. Variety and fertilizer trials, weed control and disease control problems are being investigated. Major crops involved in the studies have been sweet corn, tomatoes and onions, while some exploratory work has been done on pole beans, garden peas, and melons. Several findings should have application locally in the near future.

Sweet corn yields were increased 11 per cent by using a heavier planting rate with out changing the amounts of fertilizer and irrigation water applied. Since sweet corn is usually sold by the dozen ears, an increase in the number of marketable ears is important. Thirty-one varieties and experimental crosses of hybrid sweet corn were grown in 1959. Several varieties showed promise of having commercial possibilities when compared to Iochief, one of the most widely grown varieties here.

Two years of fertilizer trials with sweet corn have shown benefits of nitrogen properly balanced with phosphate and potash as indicated by soil testing procedures. Irrigation scheduling studies should have future application in the production of sweet corn, also.

**Three Tomato Selections**  
Three tomato selections of the 28 grown in 1959 appeared to be outstanding in several important factors such as general quality, size, yield, earliness, and freedom from disease. They were from crosses made by Dr. W. A. Frazier, horticulturist at Oregon State college. The Ace variety, a tomato of excellent quality and high yielding ability but of rather late maturity, is used as the standard of comparison. Fertility trials with tomatoes have shown the advantage of adequate soil fertility. In 1958 plants that received severe hail damage and had received 100 pounds per acre of nitrogen, recovered more rapidly and produced about 90 per cent more fruit than plants receiving no nitrogen fertilizer. Results obtained with phosphate and potash fertilizers are being used in the correlation of soil test results with crop response to applied fertilizer.

Onion research is being done with varieties and experimental hybrids to select the ones best suited for production in southern Oregon. Since weed control is a costly item in the production of onions, studies in the methods and materials to accomplish the job more satisfactorily are being made. On the Roger von der Hellen farm near Central Point in 1958 CIPC was effective in controlling purslane and lamb-quarter as pre and post emergence applications. Wild mustard was controlled by pre-emergence application of CIPC on the Joe Meyer and son farm near Talent in 1958.

Among the other crops studied in the truck crops project are peas, beans and melons. Many home gardeners have experienced difficulty with blight and wilt of peas. Three lines of peas that show resistance to these troubles are being grown in comparative trials with commercial varieties. Several pole bean selections are receiving attention, particularly for their potential in home gardens.

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## Soils Course Set For Eagle Point

An adult education course on soils, irrigation and drainage will be conducted on Tuesdays in the Eagle Point High school vocational agriculture building, Nat Etzel, vocational agriculture instructor, announced today.

Classes start at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 5. Each class runs to 10 p.m. The course will be conducted by a Soil Conservation service official.

The first session will include a history of soil study and work by other civilizations, soils of Jackson county, soil composition and inheritance fertility.

The Jan. 12, or second session will consist of soil classification and use of the soil survey. This will include the series, types and phase, soils' capability and use, tax base, your soil, irrigation and drainage plan.

Soils relations to irrigation and drainage will be taught on Jan. 19. This covers water holding capacity, infiltration and runoff of water, vegetative practices, mechanical measures.

Irrigation practices, on Jan. 26, refers to practices suited to soil, crop and operation, surface methods, overhead methods, and land preparation.

The session on duty of irrigation water Feb. 2, will cover crop production, when to irrigate and how much, domestic and municipal uses.

Instruction on irrigation reservoirs, Feb. 9 considers site selection, water code and engineering, construction of the dam, stored water uses.

The instruction on irrigation's relation to drainage, Feb. 16, will be related to irrigation layout on the farm, practice of neon by operators, existing drainage problems relating to irrigation, maintenance of irrigation systems.

Drainage principles Feb. 23, ground water sources, soil capability, drawdown and other principles, drainage system outlets.

Explanation of services available for farmers and ranchers, March 1, will cover soil conservation districts with soil conservation service, soil testing and research, conservation cost, sharing and loans and follow-up and maintenance.

Final session, March 8, will cover conclusion of the course and your soil plan. This includes a review of soils, irrigation and drainage, open discussion of group application and preservation of soil plan and discussion.

Etzel said two field trips are planned with the dates and subjects to be decided. Those wishing additional information may call Nat Etzel in Eagle Point at Hillcrest 6-3071 days and Hillcrest 6-3964 evenings.

## ANNOUNCING NEW NAME.. NEW YEAR..

Effective January 1, 1960, all National Farm Loan Associations will be known as FEDERAL LAND BANK ASSOCIATIONS. The new name better identifies the associations with the purpose for which they were chartered and for which they have operated through the years, namely, the making and servicing of long-term, low-cost FEDERAL LAND BANK LOANS.

As in the past, the associations will continue to operate with just one aim in mind — to provide the very finest in long-term farm financing.

## FEDERAL LAND BANK ASSOCIATION OF MEDFORD

F. E. Bowman  
Association Manager

J. W. Bigham, A. L. Straus, O. H. Roundtree, W. C. Higinbotham, A. E. Stevens  
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