

Crater FFA Plans Given for Winter

Central Point—Crater Future Farmers of America chapter currently is busy in carrying out a two phase work program, farming and leadership.

Jim Frink and Dave Foote have submitted state farmer applications for State Farmer degree. Only 2 per cent of the state membership may receive this honor. Applicants must be outstanding in supervised farming, active in leadership, and have a good knowledge of technical and practical agriculture. Applications are due at the state vocational agriculture office in Salem in January and applicant interviews are scheduled for February.

OSC Mink Study Field Day Set

Corvallis - New feeds for mink to lower production costs without harming pelt quality will be spotlighted at the seventh annual fur farm field day at Oregon State College Jan. 30.

About 200 Oregon and Washington fur farmers are expected at the meeting scheduled to start at 9 a.m. in OSC's Withycombe Hall auditorium, reports John Adair, superintendent of the OSC experimental fur farm. The fur growers will have a chance to look over results of experimental work aimed at replacing the more expensive portions of present mink rations without lowering growth rate or pelt quality.

More than 500 experimental pelts from this year's OSC mink crop will be on display during the day. These pelts have been graded by the Seattle Fur Exchange, and will give fur growers a chance to see exactly how various rations and other experimental handling methods affect pelt quality.

Guest speaker at the field day will be Dr. G. R. Hartsough of the Great Lakes Marketing Association, Milwaukee, Wis. Hartsough will review and discuss the projects and research progress of the Mink Farmers Research Foundation.

Progress on research aimed at preventing the "cotton fur" condition that appears occasionally in the state also will be reported at the meeting.

At the end of the day, Adair and other OSC staff members will conduct a tour of the OSC fur farm and other mink research facilities.

Egg Producers Get Dividends

Western Oregon farmers are currently sharing in a \$467,000 cash distribution being made by the Oregon Egg Producers, it was reported.

Interest checks totaling over \$150,000 were mailed out before Christmas to the farmer members of the marketing and purchasing cooperative. The additional \$316,280 represents the value of the association's 1954 capital stock certificate issue that had been recalled at full face value, a spokesman said.

The checks represent an interest payment of 5 per cent on all outstanding association certificates. Medford Manager Grant Young reported the 1959 checks raised to 25 years the co-op's continuous record for making an annual interest distribution. He also stated that the association's board of directors have raised the interest rate on all capital certificates to 6 per cent effective Jan. 1, 1960.

Retirement of the 1954 certificate issue continues a policy of regularly rotating certificate ownership so that the current membership provides the investment capital required by the co-op. An earlier cash distribution of over \$359,000 means that co-op members received a total 1954 patronage refund of \$676,000, Young explained.

Mosses Inhibit Bacteria Growth

Washington—(Science Service) - Antibiotics from common mosses may result from some studies reported by a team of Arizona State university researchers.

Three mosses collected locally were found to inhibit the growth of *Micrococcus flavus*, *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Candida albicans* and *Micrococcus rubens*, the scientists said here in the journal *Science*. Somewhat less than one-half pound - 200 grams - of each kind of moss was mashed in a blender along with various solvents and the extracts salvaged.

Antibiotic activity varied, James A. McCleary, Paul S. Sypberd and David L. Walkington pointed out. The extracts were not always effective against the same organisms. There is evidence that several antibiotic compounds may be involved since extracts of the same moss species by different solvents gave different results.

READING RATE
St. Louis - Reading studies indicate that a seventh grade child should read about 230 words a minute; a high school student from 260-300 words; and a college senior 300-350.

Bee Colonies Checked by State

Salem—Of more than 12,000 bee colonies inspected during 1959 by the state department of agriculture, 2.88 per cent were infected by American foulbrood, reports Ken Goeden, apiary supervisor. This compares with 2.07 per cent in 1958. American foulbrood was found in 350 colonies and European foulbrood in 84.

The inspection program, formulated primarily to protect the Oregon bee industry against American foulbrood, lists 27,000 colonies in the state, 12,186 of which were inspected during the past year. The bacteria causing the highly contagious disease which destroys bees are extremely hard to destroy and for that reason any colonies infected are burned and buried below the plow line.

An increase of 500 visits was made in 1959 over 1958 and in the course of these 1,205 inspections, 970 apiaries were checked with 15,05 per cent found infected with American foulbrood.

Funds available permitted inspection in 20 of Oregon's 36 counties. Largest percentage - 18.95 - found in any one county infected with the disease was located in Union county where 40 of 211 colonies contained American foulbrood. Next high percentage - 14.28 - of the disease was reported in Grant county where one of seven colonies had it. Of 1,105 colonies checked in Benton county, only one contained foulbrood. In other counties: 20 were spotted out of 1805 colonies in Jackson county; 44 out of 2,074 in Klamath; 94 of 1,666 in Marion; 56 of 905 in Polk; 40 of 211 in Union, and 16 of 178 in Willowa.

State Makes List Of Fryer Growers

Salem - Pursuant to a petition filed with the State Department of Agriculture requesting a producer referendum on elimination of the present Oregon Fryer commission assessment, the department is developing a list of state fryer producers and the number produced by each during the past year, according to Director Frank McKennon.

"The petition must include 20 per cent of all Oregon fryer and broiler producers," McKennon said, adding, "registration of producers and the referendum will follow promptly as soon as information has been received and compiled."

Under the commodity commission act, producer registrations are essential but no public hearing will be held prior to such a referendum.

The petition would, in effect, do away with the commission, inasmuch as the assessment - averaging about one-half cent per bird - is the commission's only source of revenue.

SEE MY OPERATION
London - (UPI) - It looked as though customs men were searching for contraband as they watched Prince Aly Khan lift his trouser leg and lower his sock to expose his shin at London Airport. But the prince said he was "telling them about a skiing accident and I wanted to show them the scar."

Negative Ions Produced Cheaply

Cleveland, Ohio - (Science Service) - An easier, cheaper way to produce negative ions was discovered here when aluminum foil was exposed to ultraviolet light from germicidal lamps. Drs. David G. Fleming and S. K. Gutt of General Electric's Nela Park said the new system is "many times more efficient than the old in producing negative ions." In nature, negative ions are produced by rain, thunderstorms, cosmic rays, radioactivity, ocean spray and ultraviolet radiation from the sun. The laboratory method knocks electrons loose from the aluminum foil under ultraviolet light radiation. The electrons combine with air molecules to become negative ions.

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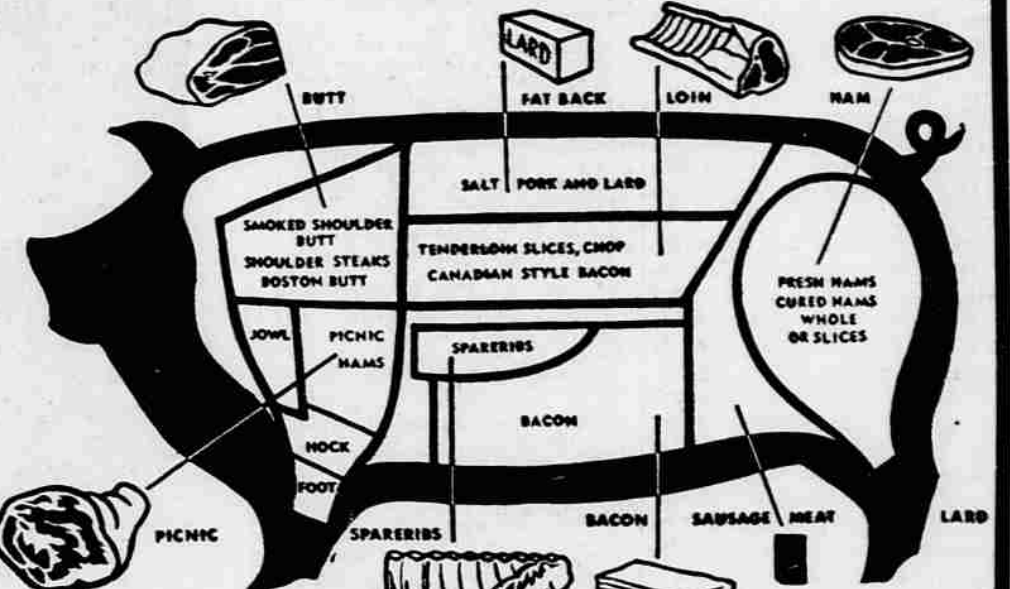
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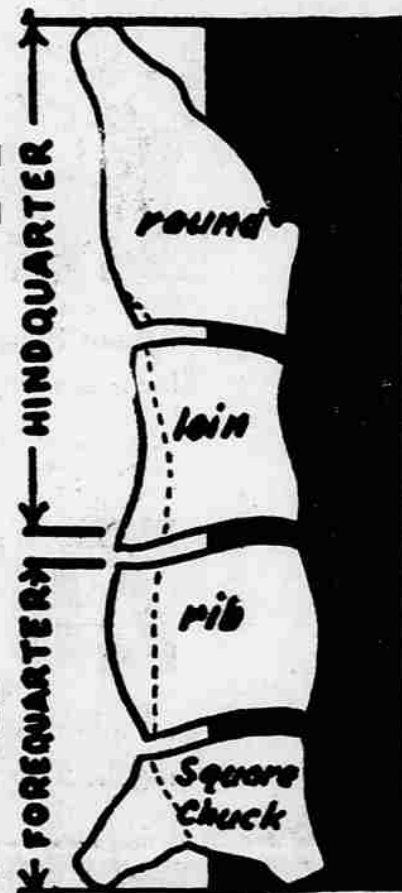
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