

Equipment Show Set March 4-5

Corvallis - Fruit and vegetable growers in the Willamette Valley can look over latest tilling and harvesting equipment soon that might prove useful on their farms.

A mid-Willamette horticultural equipment display has been set for March 4 and 5 at the Polk County Fair grounds, Rickreall, according to M. G. Huber, extension agricultural engineer at Oregon State college. Exhibits will open March 4 at 10 a.m., stay open that evening, and close March 5 at 4 p.m.

The display, sponsored by the OSC cooperative extension service, was set up to give small fruit, prune, and vegetable growers a chance to see equipment other growers are now using, and new equipment being offered by commercial dealers, Huber said. Wherever possible, equipment will be operated so growers can get a better idea how a particular machine might fit into their own operation.

A wide variety of equipment will be on display, Huber reported. Scheduled to be shown are cultivators, hole diggers, wire stretchers, tree shakers, raspberry harvesters, corn toppers, soil fumigation equipment, and many other types of planting, tilling and harvesting machines.

More information on the display can be obtained from county extension agents in the Willamette Valley.

Strawberry Program Slated For College

Corvallis - Latest research and current information on Oregon's leading small fruit crop, strawberries, will be reported to Northwest processors and field men at Oregon State college, Feb. 23.

Strawberry Day will provide an opportunity for various segments of the industry to get acquainted with the overall situation, Roy Moser, OSC extension fruit and vegetable processing specialist, pointed out. He noted that Oregon produces about one-fourth of the nation's frozen strawberries.

California May Drop Bar To Oregon Cattle Imports

Salem - California's state-wide quarantine restrictions against Oregon cattle may be eased if California Department of Agriculture officials approve recommendations made by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

These recommendations, an Oregon official said, were made during an interstate conference in Medford on Feb. 13. This information was released through an announcement made jointly by the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the Oregon Cattlemen's association with the approval of the USDA veterinarian staff in Oregon.

The quarantine restrictions were established by California after the discovery of psoroptic mites in a herd of cattle assembled by ranch interests in Idaho and transported undetected across the Oregon border to a ranch in Baker county. The mite has been moving westward rapidly and California officials indicated they are keeping a close watch on developments.

Oregon Agricultural Director Frank McKenyon invited California authorities to meet with Oregon officials and USDA veterinarians to review the facts concerning problems on importation of these mite-infested cattle. He related the limited extent of the psoroptic mite exposure in Oregon cattle; the prompt and comprehensive treatment given exposed animals under the supervision of state, federal and private practicing veterinarians; preventive measures initiated to curb additional exposure; and the negative findings that resulted from multi-county surveys.

A primary objective of the Oregon delegation was to seek relief from quarantine restrictions, and to discuss conditions and requirements that could lead to an easing of the quarantine. Oregon Agricultural Director Frank McKenyon said the quarantine has been costly to many Oregon cattlemen because of the mutual interdependence between the cattle producers of many eastern and southern Oregon counties with the livestock interests and markets of California. He said in these counties, Baker county excepted,

no evidence of mite-infested cattle or actual exposure has been found.

It was pointed out previously that the results of the quarantine are most severe on cattle now ready for market and which have never been exposed to the psoroptic mite. These were barred from entering California, their normal market outlet, for immediate slaughter.

In pressing for easing of the quarantine restrictions, especially as they may apply to cattle for immediate slaughter and heavy brood cows, Director Frank McKenyon said. "The scope of preventive measures undertaken in Oregon under the supervision of both state and federal veterinarians has been completely adequate to cover the most remote periphery of suspected exposure. Since the infested animals did not originate in Oregon, cattle buyers can enter the Oregon market with the assurance that every possible step is being taken to protect the industry."

Translation: "We have taken steps throughout the state to prevent any further outbreak. You can buy and sell cattle in Oregon. It's safe."

Dr. Kent Magruder, a veterinarian and president of the Oregon Cattlemen's association, joined with Dr. L. E. Bodenweiser, state veterinarian with the department, and Dr. A. G. Beagle, in charge of federal veterinarians in Oregon, in this statement con-

cerning the nature of the psoroptic mite infestation in Oregon.

"The common scab mite, of the type discovered on a cattle herd in Baker county, is a skin parasite about 1/40th of an inch long which under some conditions is visible to the naked eye. It cannot survive on man, and does not affect public health. The cattle mite will flourish only on cattle. It lives on cattle like a 'common louse' only it digs a little deeper.

"It completes its life cycle in less than 15 days. It multiplies very rapidly, but in some instances, because of weather conditions, the symptoms do not develop so they may be detected in less than six months to one year. All of this allows the infestation to spread in a short time. In many instances, a terrific time lag occurs before evidence is noticeable. For some reason, it is more noticeable on an animal during the winter and becomes much less active when the coat is shed in spring. It has long been considered quarantineable because of its high nuisance rating, persistence and transmissibility; however, treatment is simple and positive.

"A number of acceptable chemical compounds, if properly applied with either dipping or spraying facilities, will rid the animals of this mite. The psoroptic type discovered in Oregon is considered the easiest to eradicate because it is a more shallow borer than other types such as sarcoptic, which has appeared from time to time in all states having large cattle populations.

"The symptoms of an infestation with the common scab mite are itching, loss of hair, and crusts on the skin. The variety which we now have normally affects the upper parts of the animal. The skin becomes thickened from the irritation by the mites saliva injected as they feed.

"Cattle owners are urged to have a veterinarian examine any group of cattle that show suspicious signs of infestation. By such cooperation any other center of infection, should it exist, could be quickly located."

More Weight Checks Made In Retail Stores

Salem - Oregon consumers are getting almost twice as much protection against false weights on retail foods as they did five years ago.

This stands out in a comparative report on inspection and sampling activities of the division of foods and dairies, weights and measures of the state department of agriculture.

O. K. Beals, division chief, points out that 39,289 retail food packages were test weighed in 1959. This compares with 20,901 packages in 1955.

Farm and Garden



SKILLS CONTEST WINNERS-Representatives of Eagle Point chapter pose with their secretary's book which won first place in the District FFA vocational skills contest Feb. 6. The chapter will enter the state contest in this division. From left: Dan Day, Don Carner, Dale Vaughan and Don Pestka. Dale Vaughan is secretary. Eagle Point was host to the other district chapters in the contest.

Ag Chemicals Said A Must For Good Food Supply

Corvallis - Food controversies in recent months have shown that agricultural chemicals have to be used with care, but they must be used if America is to keep eating, an Oregon State college expert emphasized.

Consumers realize far greater benefits from agricultural chemicals than they ever imagine, said Virgil Freed, chemist for the OSC agricultural experiment station. The whole standard of eating has been boosted in the last decade.

"Chemicals aren't just a convenience or a money-maker for the farmer," Freed insists. "They bring conveniences in food and save money for the family."

In the last 10 years, chemicals have boosted production of some crops 2-to-3-fold, Freed notes. It's estimated that one worker in a plant manufacturing 2,4-D can accomplish the same work as 4,000 men in the fields with hoes.

Crop Would Suffer

The apple crop in this country would be cut one-third to one-half in the space of two or three years if growers stopped their spray programs, Freed stated. Worms and blemishes would ruin many an apple appetite also, he adds, and the cost of apples would shoot upward with reduced supplies.

In 1917, it took 24 billion man hours to produce the crops needed to feed the country, he continued. In 1958, it took 11 billion hours for a vastly bigger population. Machines and chemicals produced the saving.

The development of DDT and 2,4-D are scientific achievements that stand alongside discovery of penicillin, Freed believes. In a different way, they have saved lives once lost through starvation and checked the suffering once brought by insect plagues.

Every care is taken by the government, experiment stations, and the chemical industry to safeguard public health in connection with the use of the chemicals, Freed emphasizes. Years of research and testing go into the recommendations and every type of evaluation is required before the chemical can be registered and sold.

Surplus Plans In Bulletin Form

Corvallis-Possible solutions to the national wheat surplus problem are described and appraised in a new bulletin published by the Oregon State college agricultural experiment station.

It was written by Dr. Harold F. Hollands, OSC professor of agricultural economics. Hollands points out that U.S. agriculture will continue to produce too much wheat for available markets for some time unless adjustments are made.

He lists six promising types of action programs that might solve the wheat surplus problem: commodity control, product disposal both at home and abroad, price control, direct payments, resource control to influence production, and a combination of programs.

MARKET NEWS

Federal-State Market News Service
CATTLE: Sizable 700, including around 200 calves. Around 90 percent of supply stocker and feeder classes, the remainder of the run mainly slaughter cows. Auction active, slaughter steers and calves and yearlings steady to firm, stock cows steady to strong. Bulk of supply of northern California origin.
Slaughter cows: Individual Utility and Commercial 850-1050 lbs. \$14.50-16.50. Canniers and Cutters \$11.00-14.50.
Slaughter calves: Few individual Good and Choice 300-335 lbs. \$25.00-32.00. Utility 250-400 lbs. \$21.00-23.00.
Stocker and feeder steers: Several penlots and individual Good and Choice 300-500 lbs. calves \$25.50-30.40, mainly \$28.00-30.00, individual Common and Medium calves \$20.00-25.00. Small lots Good and Choice 325-640 lb. yearlings \$27.00-28.50, 700-765 lbs. \$24.70-25.80; individual Common and Medium 300-700 lbs. \$19.00-24.00.
Stocker and feeder heifers: Several penlots Good and Choice 350-450 lb. calves \$25.10-26.50, a 69 head shipment 443 lb. weights at the latter price, small lots and individual Common and Medium 300-500 lb. calves \$19.00-24.50. Penlots and individual Good and Choice 325-620 lb. yearlings \$23.90-26.00, a 20 head shipment 579 lb. weights at the latter price, small lots 680-845 lbs. \$21.00-22.00.
Stock cows: Couple lots Good youthful \$220.00 & 236.00 per head, several lots Medium and Good \$142.50-190.00 per head, Common down to around \$102.50 per head; small lots and individual Medium and Good 890-1000 lbs. \$16.20-20.10 per cwt. Few Medium with young calves at side \$193.00-199.00 per pair.
HOGS: Sizable 14. Supply insufficient to fully test market.
Feeder pigs: Small lots Good and Choice 112-145 lbs. \$12.10-13.50.
SHEEP: Sizable none. Market untested.

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Successful Farmers Use WFA Services

A WFA farm production supplies, including petroleum, were purchased by over 40,000 Northwest farm members. They received a patronage return which represented 9% of their 1959 purchases.

B Throughout the Northwest grocers and consumers alike have grown to know Lynden Brand means quality; and to producers, these brands mean better returns for their produce. The brands marketed by WFA (Lynden Poultry and Eggs, Certi-Best Eggs and Senior Frijole Beans) truly belong to producer members—their cornerstone to marketing security and agricultural stability.

C Each year WFA feeds have grown in popularity because they are known to produce more meat, milk and eggs per ton of feed and make a better profit for the farmer. During 1959 more members than ever used WFA feed and found that, in addition to outstanding results and good service, they also received a patronage return representing 8% of their formula feed costs.

D WFA fertilizer and seed services were used by numerous members during 1959. These members received fertilizer and seeds suited to their soil and productive needs at most reasonable prices and, in addition, received a patronage return representing 5 1/2% of their 1959 purchases of fertilizers and 6% on seeds.

Agriculture's prime problem today is marketing that yields farmers the greatest returns and establishes stability to their economy. WFA is doing this AND MORE TOO, by providing efficient procurement services for farm production supplies—also production credit and counseling assistance year after year to an ever increasing number of Northwest farmers.

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