

Number of Cattle, Sheep, Hogs Hits Record State High

Corvallis—An official nose count shows cattle, sheep, and hog numbers in Oregon at an all-time high, reports Mrs. Elvera Horrell, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State college.

This year started with more than 1 1/2 million cattle and calves on Oregon's farms and ranches, Mrs. Horrell found as she studied reports from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This put cattle numbers six per cent above a year earlier and the highest on record.

Most of this increase in cattle numbers was in beef-type animals, Mrs. Horrell said, although milk-type animals also increased in number. Beef cow numbers in the state now stand at the highest level on record, and milk cow numbers are the highest since 1955.

Nose Count Given
The nose count showed five beef cows to every two milk cows in the state, Mrs. Horrell also found. This was in contrast to the early 1940's when cow numbers in Oregon were about evenly divided between milk and beef.

Hogs and sheep in the state are also more numerous than at any time since the mid-1940's. Mrs. Horrell added, horse and mule numbers held even with last year at 45,000 still the smallest number in Oregon since records were started in 1857.

Slightly fewer chickens were also on hand as the year breeder and fewer turkey breeder hens.

Nationally, livestock trends were reported much the same as in Oregon, except the horse and mule numbers continued downward, Mrs. Horrell said.

The inventory value of livestock, both in Oregon and nationally, was reported down about 10 per cent.

California Eases Import Regulation

Salem—Oregon cattle going direct to slaughter may now enter California under certain restrictions, although the California scab mite quarantine still holds on other movement.

The state department of agriculture has been informed by California officials that slaughter cattle may come in if they are slaughtered within 10 days; if they are from a non-quarantined herd or area; if they have a health certificate from a state, federal or deputy state veterinarian; and if they have prior California permit for entry.

The prior permit must be issued by the California department of agriculture, Bureau of Livestock Disease Control, Sacramento.

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MARKET NEWS

FEDERAL-STATE MARKET NEWS SERVICE
Red Bluff Livestock Auction Report, Tuesday, March 8, 1960
CATTLE: Salable 950, including around 300 calves. Around 90 percent of supply stocker and feeder classes, the remainder of the run mainly slaughter cows. Auction active, slaughter steers and heifers scarce; slaughter cows steady to strong; slaughter bulls and calves scarce; stocker and feeder classes generally steady to strong, instances to 2 1/2 higher on heifer calves. Bulk of supply of northern California origin.
Slaughter cows: Small lots and individual Utility and Standard 850-1100 lbs., \$18.00-19.20, Utility and Commercial \$15.00-18.00, Canners and Cutters \$11.00-15.00.
Slaughter bulls: Individual Utility and Commercial 980-1845 lbs. \$19.00-21.70.
Stocker and feeder steers: Several penlots and individual Good and Choice 350-500 lb. calves \$27.00-30.50, individual Common and Medium calves \$18.00-26.00. Penlots and individual Good and Choice 560-860 lb. yearlings \$25.50-27.80, few lots 770-900 lbs. \$23.00-25.60; individual Common and Medium 590-700 lbs. \$18.00-24.00.
Stocker and feeder heifers: Penlots and individual Good and Choice 250-475 lb. calves \$24.70-26.60, small lots 250 lbs. to \$31.75, Common and Medium calves \$18.00-24.00. Few lots Good and Choice 335-640 lb. yearlings \$23.60-25.70, few Medium 540-660 lbs. \$20.20-21.25.
Stock cows: Few small lots Medium and Good \$17.00-19.20 per head, few shipments Common and Medium \$12.00-16.00 per head. Several shipments Medium and Good with young calves at side \$20.00-28.00 per pair, Common and Medium \$16.50-19.40 per pair.
Replacement bulls: Few purebred Herefords, with pedigree papers and around 2 year olds, \$310.00-390.00 per head.
HOGS: Salable 25. Supply insufficient, fully test the market.
Feeder pigs: Small lot Good and Choice 105 lbs. \$13.10; few small lots under 90 lbs. \$2.50-3.00 per head.
SHEEP: Salable none. Market inactive.
Paul H. Leigh, Federal-State Market News Service

Eleven 4-H Members To Visit Cow Palace

Eleven Jackson county 4-H club members and County 4-H Agent Glenn Klein are planning to attend the Grand National Junior Livestock Exposition at the Cow Palace in San Francisco April 9-13, according to Robert McCarthy, president of the No. 1-A district agricultural association.

Those planning to attend from here and their entries are Patsy Charley, Eagle Point, one polled Hereford; Marilyn Decker, m a n, Rogue River, one brown Swiss; Georgia Hubbard, Antelope, one Angus; Phil Krouse, Applegate, one Hereford; Joanna Mallory, Antelope, one Angus; Penny Sampert, West Side, one Hereford; Carolyn Sidener, Central Point, one Hereford; Craig Wright and Susan Wright, both of Oak Grove; Larry Wright, Rogue River; and Alice Woolfolk, Antelope, one Hereford.

Cow Palace officials said that 3,058 animals will be exhibited by 1,369 exhibitors. The boys will outnumber the girls, 309 girls and 1,060 boys, ranging from 10 to 21 years. From 82 high schools throughout the state will come 745 Future Farmers of America members. 4-H Club members will come from 35 counties and number 309 girls and 315 boys.

The FFA exhibitors will show 326 beef cattle, 197 dairy cows, 593 lambs, and 653 hogs. The 4-H exhibitors will show 214 beef cattle, 213 dairy cows, 520 lambs, and 335 hogs.

All beef cattle and lambs grading prime and all first group hogs must be sold at auction the final day of the exposition, Wednesday, April 13. Beef cattle and lambs grading choice and second group hogs may be sold at the option of the exhibitor. All other grades of cattle and lamb and hog groups will not be sold through the auction sales ring.

Besides ribbons and trophies, the total amount of premiums to be offered will be \$24,000. Exhibitors who apply through their club affiliations may also compete for scholarship and merit awards. Completed scholarship applications must be received by the exposition management by April 8, 1960, and are offered by Bank of America N.T. & S.A., Safeway Stores, Inc., Stockton Union S t o c k yards and California Cowbelles Auxiliary to California Cattlemen's association. Livestock merit awards will be offered by 25 firms to be divided between 4-H and FFA. Each sponsor gives up to \$125 toward the purchase of a calf to be acquired later in the year, fed out and exhibited at the 1961 Junior Grand National. For the fourteenth year the San Francisco Junior Chamber of Commerce has obtained the firms and individuals to sponsor the merit award.

Local members of the 4-H and FFA participating in the 1960 Junior Grand National are listed above.

Christmas Tree Growers Plan Portland Meeting

Corvallis—Best ways to grow and market Christmas trees will be studied by Oregon and Washington growers March 18 and 19 at the Northwest Christmas Tree association annual conference in Portland.

The first day's program will start at 9 a.m. in the Washington hotel, according to Gary Sander, Oregon State college extension forest products marketing specialist. Management and marketing of Christmas trees will be discussed by Bernard Douglas, Portland, representing the U.S. forest service; L. A. Seljestad, Christmas tree wholesaler from Shelton, Wash.; Jim E. Gibbons, Portland, trustee of the association; and Sander.

A proposed marketing research study to help growers find markets for trees and to discover what type of tree the public wants will be explained by Melvin J. Conklin, OSC agricultural economist. Christmas tree cultural practices in Washington will be reported by Knut Lunnum, Washington state extension forester, and in Oregon by Ken Palen, Forest Grove, state farm forester.

An informal Friday evening session will give persons attending a chance to discuss their own problems involving Christmas tree production and marketing. The group will visit the Marcus Heckman Christmas tree farm near Scappoose Saturday to view thousands of Douglas fir, true firs and Scotch pine. Heckman planted between 1930 and 1954. The Douglas firs have now grown into mature Christmas trees.

New officers will be elected during the two-day conference. Paul Godmonson, Corvallis, is acting president of the association.

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Oregon 4-H Clubs Expand Work for City Boys, Girls

Corvallis—Oregon 4-H clubs are expanding educational offerings to youths at a faster pace as population shifts from farm to suburbs, says Burton Hutton, state 4-H extension leader, Oregon State college.

Once looked on as an organization strictly for farm youngsters, the 4-H work carried on today offers many of the same opportunities to boys and girls living in cities as it does to youths in rural areas, he noted.

Regardless of where they live, girls continue to prepare themselves for homemaking as enrollment in clothing, food preparation and knitting projects increases. Child care projects, which include more than babysitting, are also becoming more popular, according to Lois Redman, state 4-H agent. Mrs. Roberta Frasier, OSC family life specialist, is rewriting child care bulletins and new offerings aimed at understanding boys and girls will be available in 1961.

Membership in livestock clubs, the most popular agricultural project, has tripled in the last 15 years. Cal Monroe, state 4-H agent, notes that more non-farm youths are taking part in livestock programs through horse, sheep, rabbit, dairy goat, and dog projects. However, Monroe also notes that more farm boys and girls are raising dairy, beef, sheep and swine than ever before in the history of Oregon 4-H work.

Horse Project Grows
The 4-H horse project has grown from 30 members 15 years ago to today's total of 2,300 youngsters in all Oregon counties. Twice as many girls belong to horse clubs as boys, Monroe says.

A new livestock advancement program recently made available to Oregon 4-H youths provides greater incentive to stay with their projects and make a more comprehensive study of animal husbandry.

A total of 32,000 boys and girls are now enrolled in Oregon 4-H clubs, Hutton reported.

How is the 4-H program changing to meet youths' needs? More career exploration programs for older youths, development of new projects, and more opportunities for government studies, says the 4-H state leader.

Hutton notes a decided trend toward study and participation by 4-H in government. A study program in state government was started three years ago in Salem, called "Know Your State Government." Several counties have followed this example with "Know Your County Government" conferences.

Parents and Oregon's 5,300 4-H volunteer adult leaders will also be given more attention this year. Ruth Brasher, 4-H agent in charge of training, says that subject matter training has already been given in foods, clothing and child care.

Hutton emphasized that the 4-H program encourages "long-term" learning. Youths may work several months to complete a project before they are ready to advance to more difficult stages of it, he explained.

Bad Check Charge Brings Reduced Gain

Los Angeles—It was taken and given for Edward Perry, owner of a shoe store, when he brought another man to court to answer a bad \$60 check.

Perry got his money, but as he was leaving court, the judge handed him a packet of unanswered traffic summonses amounting to \$46, which he paid.

Walt Whitman issued his "Leaves of Grass" in 1855, the same year Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote "The Song of Hiawatha."



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--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

A meeting was called Friday for Rogue valley vegetable growers to discuss possibilities of developing a vegetable industry here.

Development of such an industry is possible if the growers could get together and form some sort of organization, agricultural authorities feel. As one of the OSC men remarked after the meeting, organization is important since growers must sell their produce to large retail chain outlets if they are going to create any steady market.

Population is one of the prerequisites to a successful vegetable industry and Jackson county is fast getting a large population growth. Total county population has risen from 36,213 in 1940 to 70,840 in 1956. Of the total 1,802,380 acres of land in the county 26.2 per cent or 472,739 acres are under farm ownership, according to a report made by the 1957 farm planning conference of the Jackson County Agricultural Council. Some agricultural authorities feel additional acreage can be used for vegetable growing as more irrigation water is made available through the Talent project.

More vegetable growing activity would improve the valley economy by broadening the agricultural base. Along with the extension service the Southern Oregon branch experiment station has been doing its part by experimenting with possible earlier varieties of corn and tomatoes. This research will be broadened to include other vegetables, too. The valley produces top quality vegetables but they come on the market too late to command the premium prices they should.

This is the way the valley's vegetable crop shapes up now and these are the crop recommendations made by a committee of vegetable growers previously. To ensure keepability corn should be hydro-cooled before shipping. Corn acreage should not be increased until a better fresh market or processing plant can be developed. Growers should know where at least one-half of the corn will be marketed when he plants, since his production must compete with Yakima.

Cantaloupe and melons are limited to a local fresh market with little room for expansion. Cucumber acreage can be increased slightly for limited processing markets. A few acres of parsnips can be planted for local production. Broccoli or cauliflower are considered generally unprofitable for this area. Cabbage acreage could be expanded but growers should control the planting.

Rogue Valley onions have long been top quality on the market. Earlier this year the valley's onion growers got together and decided to ship under one label symbolizing Rogue valley quality. In 1957 a committee recommended that onion acreage expansion be limited. An earlier committee also recommended a tightening of Oregon onion grades. The committee also suggested that varieties be kept separate, in a bag, and true to the label. Raising of such varieties should be left to the individual grower depending on his soil and location, it was agreed.

Other recommendations were that wilt resistant varieties of cantaloupe should be considered in planting. Varieties should be left up to the growers. Also, to get around the labor shortage, it was recommended that mechanical harvesting be increased.

Labor is one big problem in developing a valley vegetable industry. Growers must continue to develop high school age group labor. A local organizational group of vegetable growers should be set up for handling importation of Mexican Nationals for vegetable labor, if necessary, it was recommended. At the same time more use of local labor was urged. At the same time, it was suggested that growers develop better housing facilities on their farms for transient labor.

The market is the key factor, of course, to development of any industry. If farmers are going to grow more vegetables they must have a place to sell them. Growers need a central marketing organization. Marketing of valley vegetables needs coordination, wiser planning of planting, improved packaging methods and containers, maintenance of high grades ad standards plus advertising of local products.

Farmers could increase their share of what they receive for their produce by doing some of the processing themselves through modern methods and equipment. Also, the retailer should be educated on better handling of produce and produce displays. All agencies must be used to advertise the local fresh produce. Tomatoes can be boosted by emphasizing uniformity in pack and grade and expanding the acreage to make it more worthwhile for the processor to handle them.

Local processing plants are needed. Some authorities think existing fruit packing facilities could be used to handle produce from the family size vegetable farms. These are merely some of the main recommendations.

Considered all-American vegetable selections for 1959 by agricultural authorities were Golden Cross bantam corn, Nantes U. S. type carrots, garden green bush snapbeans, the ice-box sugar baby watermelon and the big early Burpee hybrid tomato. The hybrid turnip was the only new vegetable given 1960 all-American award. Down in Tennessee one grower got yields of two bushels per plant from the Burpee big boy variety. A new cylindrical beet is shaped like a carrot.

Vegetable growing in Oregon has gradually increased in importance from pioneer times when vegetables were raised only for home use. Exportation started with the California gold rush. However, it wasn't until 1880 that the first commercial canning occurred, according to a booklet published by the extension service. First cannery was established in Portland between 1875 and 1880. Then the Ray Maling company of Hillsboro produced the first frozen foods on the Pacific Coast in 1929.

As more vegetable processing plants were established in the state, vegetable production increased. This industry grew from 7,000 tons in 1928 to 292,300 tons in 1956, but had a slight drop off in 1957 and 1958. Overall vegetable production in the state accounted for 11 per cent of the production value of all Oregon crops in 1958. Oregon now ranks tenth in vegetable production and third in value of processing.

Onions, which the Rogue valley produces in outstanding quality, have placed Oregon in the top ten nationally. During recent years it has varied between third and fifth. Onion production centers are Malheur county and the Willamette valley.

Oregon is one of the top five states in producing sweet corn for processing. This is considered Oregon's fourth most important vegetable crop. Oregon is the most important producer of snap beans for processing and accounts for one-fourth of national production. Since 1939 Oregon has not ranked lower than fifth in producing green peas. This background shows why Rogue valley vegetables should take their part in one of Oregon's leading agricultural industries.

Oregon vegetables received an unexpected boost due to the severe freeze in winter vegetable producing areas particularly in Florida this year, according to Stephen C. Marks, extension agricultural economist at OSC. That state's winter snap bean crop now looks about half as large as usual and a fifth smaller than last winter. Florida's sweet corn crop was so badly damaged that crop estimates have been revised downward by a half from January's forecast. Other vegetable crops suffered varying degrees of damage, Marks said. This helped most frozen vegetables to move out of the storage warehouse at a rapid pace the first of the year. So, any sales of frozen vegetables in the markets may wait until later when the fresh produce starts to appear.

Farm and Garden

Grange News

Phoenix
The Phoenix Grange completed their plans at the last meeting for the smorgasbord that was held at the hall March 12. It was a public event for the purpose of raising funds for the Grange.

The degree team announced that they had initiated 17 new members from several Granges with the first and second degree work at the Upper Applegate Grange March 7. They are now invited to perform the work at Williams Creek Grange in April.

Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Roberts were visitors at the meeting. Roberts, county deputy, gave a report on Grange insurance.

Tickets are now available for the Jackson County Festival that will be held in July. The next Home Economics club meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Charles Johnson, March 16.

Several members were reported ill. The serving committee members were Mr. and Mrs. Ray Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Lattie and Charles Setchell.

Dairy cows enrolled in the national DHIA program returned an average profit to herd owners in 1958 of \$78 per head over total estimated costs of feed and care.

Prices dropped 4 per cent, according to Elvera Horrell, OSC extension agricultural economist. Grocery store prices on food last year dropped more than 1 1/2 per cent. Optimistically, the 1959 income dollar was worth 3 cents more in the goods and services it bought.

The first of this month prices received by farmers showed a 2 per cent rise. Farm costs moved up in January, leveled off in February for a net gain of 1 per cent. Nationally retail prices slipped downward, but Oregonians, based on Portland prices, continue to buy with a shrinking dollar.

Bills Do Not Mean Gains for Dairy

Las Vegas, Nev. — Legislation in Washington does not always mean the passage of new bills, reminded E. M. Norton, secretary of the National Milk Producers Federation, at a regional meeting of the organization here Monday.

"Equally as important as the enactment of additional sound legislation is the blocking of ill-advised proposals," he stated. "Faulty bills appear in greatest number during election years. Because of the attention required from congressional leaders and farm organizations as well, at-

tempts to pass needed legislation often go by the board. "Of principal concern to dairy farmers is the present Congress are bills which would permit farmers and buyers of milk to bargain in groups; proposals to clarify procedures under which farmer cooperatives can acquire existing business operations; and a review of the tax position of farmers marketing through cooperative associations."

Mr. Norton said he hoped that the special milk program would be assured of sufficient funds to carry it through the present fiscal year without cutback, and that it would be extended. He also discussed progress being made in providing funds for the successful continuation of the school lunch program; the accelerated brucellosis eradication program; and other measures of vital concern to dairy farmers.

Copies of the amended order may be obtained from the state department of agriculture at Salem.

Dairymen with medium to large herds probably can save money by installing a silo unloader or other automatic feed handling equipment.

Auction Market Law Recently Changed

Salem — State regulations governing livestock auction markets have been amended to bring disease control sections in line with recent changes in the brucellosis, tuberculosis and paratuberculosis requirements.

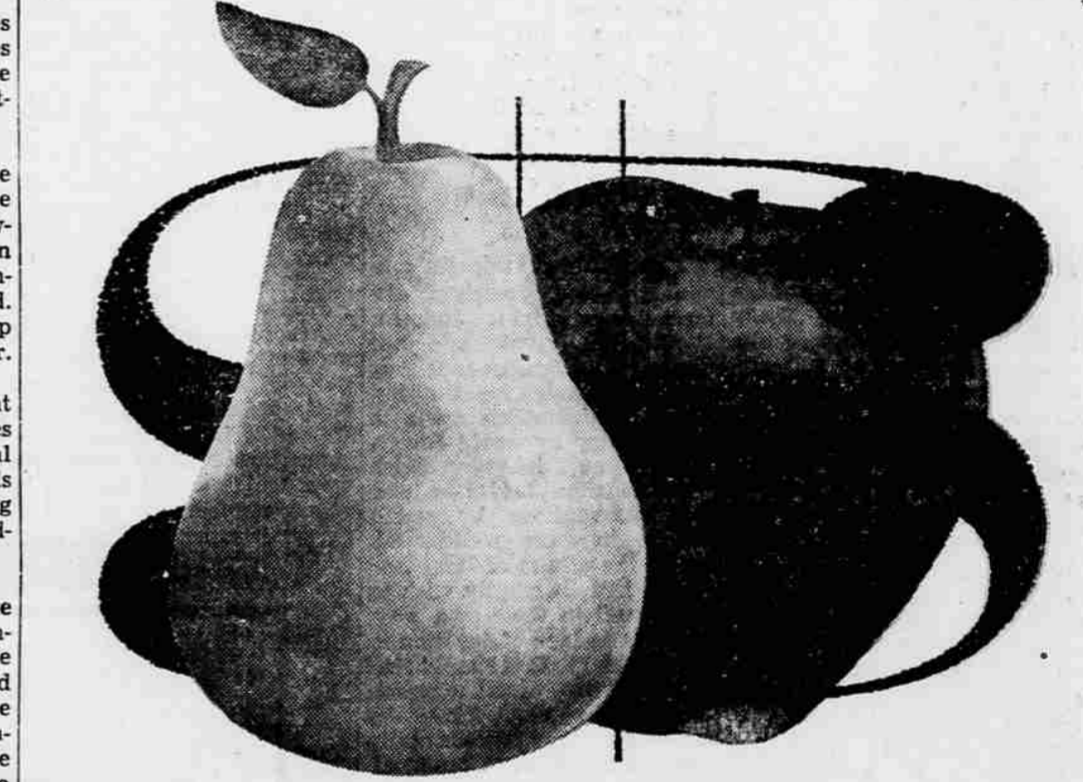
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