

Interim Group, State Dept. Hold Joint Ag. Meeting

Salem - At a joint meeting Friday afternoon in Salem of the legislative interim committee on agriculture and the state board of agriculture, J. F. Short, recently appointed director of agriculture, spelled out policies he will pursue in the state department of agriculture.

The department, he said, will continue to be administered on a non-partisan basis. Staff and internal policies will be on the same non-partisan level.

He will, he said, expand use of the "very capable" state board of agriculture as much as the members will permit.

It will be his aim, Short declared, to maintain and increase the stature of the department and to take steps to increase its importance and benefits to the agriculture of Oregon.

"But I don't want anyone to think my program will in any way conflict with the work of Oregon State college," he continued, "for Dean Price and I know from past experience that we can work together and that there is plenty of work for all of us."

He told the interim committee the department would offer any legislation it seeks through that committee and that he does not believe it is the department's responsibility to seek new or major changes in laws.

"It is our responsibility, I believe," Short said, "to keep the laws we administer in step with changed conditions." He said any amendments proposed by the department would be offered only after consultation with and advice of trade, commodity and consumer groups.

He further said his first attention as director is to internal and personnel problems, certain areas of enforcement and to public relations, and that next in order will be overall problems, possible needed legislation and budget preparation.

Referring to 1959 legislation which gave the director power to reorganize the department, he said studies along this line will be a matter of mechanics and a study of a structure that will give the most adequate service.

He said he will activate the one sentence in 1959 department legislation "which has the greatest potential for good and possibly the greatest potential for confusion." This is the authority to encourage and work toward long-range planning for the development and promotion of the agricultural resources of the state. In this, he also said, he will work closely with the state college to avoid conflicts in activities.

Livestock brand inspection, the brucellosis program and market development areas of the department's work were main items the joint group considered in a two-hour session.

Meeting alone for two hours more in the afternoon, the board heard further reports from the director, set July as

its next meeting and adopted a five-point recommendation to encourage full continuance of the brucellosis control program.

The brucellosis recommendations embraced a more adequate enforcement of the range testing program; the encouragement of a long-time calfhood vaccination program; the initiation of an informational and educational program jointly by the department and the college; and some arrangement to test one and two-cow dairy herds, including family cows, not tested under the milk ring test.

In the morning session, the board of agriculture adopted a resolution offered by Ward Spatz, Medford, commending Frank McKenney, who retired April 1 as director, for his long and efficient service to the department, Oregon agriculture and cooperation with the board.

Short, who succeeded McKenney, also paid high tribute to McKenney's services.

Otherwise the morning was occupied with Short's report of activities in the department.

He said that Dr. Roy H. Peterson, Tillamook, president of the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association and the veterinarians' liaison committee has requested a meeting with him next week to discuss the position of the state veterinarian in the animal division organization.

Veterinarians Set Resolution At its annual meeting the veterinary association adopted a resolution aimed at divorcing the state veterinarian from the division of animal industry and placing his operations directly under the director of agriculture.

Short said he would approach the discussions with the veterinary committee "with an open mind."

He reported a transfer of shipping point inspection supervisors at Ontario and Milton-Freewater will become effective June 1.

With respect to the division of animal industry, he said his preliminary reaction is favorable to reorganization which was started in March. He said he will continue with his study of internal organization in this division and that if any changes come from the study they will be toward improvement of morale and efficiency.

In another area, Short reported some sentiment to move the Klamath district shipping point office from Klamath Falls to Merrill where the department already has a branch grain inspection office. Since the office was established at Klamath Falls years ago the heavy potato production has shifted to the Merrill area. If such a change were made, it would cut inspection costs.

The director informed the board that the department will attend but will take no position in the meeting Saturday afternoon of the agricultural interim committee with the Portland city milk inspection service. The city

has proposed to the committee a legislative change to permit it to make ice cream inspections the same as it handles milk inspections.

Board chairman Ernest Jernestedt wanted to know about coordination of work between the department and Oregon State college.

Both F. E. Price, OSC dean of agriculture and ex-officio member of the board, and Short stated any problem areas are ironed out in conferences.

"Basically, we stick to research," Dean Price told the board in making particular reference to determinations in the agriculture chemical field which has drawn so much attention in recent months.

Short said, and Price agreed, a gray area exists in which both agencies can do helpful work without overlapping.

Short reported the department has recently received commendations from officials in other states for its weights and measures activity.

College Guernsey Wins U.S. Award

Corvallis - The Oregon State College agricultural experiment station at Astoria has been named a Gold Star Guernsey Breeder for 1960 by the American Guernsey Cattle Club.

The OSC Guernsey herd, managed by H. B. Howell, station superintendent since 1934 met all requirements for the award during the past year. A special certificate will be given OSC in recognition of the award.

A production summary of the herd showed 26 cows with records averaging 11,239 pounds milk and 593 pounds butterfat when milked twice a day during a 10-month test period. Herds competing for the award had to average more than 10,300 pounds milk or 500 pounds butterfat. The herd's bred type classification score, 84.4 per cent, was better than average for Guernseys.

For the past three years, the herd's average production has been 10,815 pounds milk and 572 pounds butterfat.

Officials of the American Guernsey Cattle club have called the herd "one of the outstanding land-grant college herds in the U.S.," reports H. P. Ewalt, OSC extension dairy specialist.

The herd also had to meet rigid health requirements to win the Gold Star Guernsey Breeder award, and the applicant had to be an active member of both a state Guernsey association and the American Guernsey Cattle club.

In addition to the outstanding dairy herd, a beef herd of Herefords is maintained on the 150-acre John Jacob Astor experiment station farm about 4 miles east of Astoria.

Ag Office Adds Egg Inspector, Drops Case Fee

Salem-Dual announcement of the addition of a third egg inspector and the impending one-half cent reduction in egg inspection fees came today from the state department of agriculture.

O. K. Beils, foods and dairies division chief, said George D. (Dan) Earle of Brookings is already on the job as egg inspector. Earle brings to the state work 33 years of experience in egg production, handling and marketing. He was branch manager at Eugene for the Oregon Egg Producers for 22 years, and then for 9 years Eugene branch manager for the former Northwest Poultry and Dairy Products company.

Earle will work out of the department's Portland branch office, where the egg inspection activity is directed.

The reduction in egg inspection fees, from 3 cents to 2½ cents per case, will be retroactive to Jan. 1, 1960. Case tax fees from Jan. 1 to July 1, this year, will be due July 15 at the new 2½-cent rate. All permit holders have a 200-case exemption for the entire year.

Legislative Paves Way The last legislature paved the way for both developments in amendments to the state egg law. The amendments brought more of the larger producers under the state license and case fees and allow the department to adjust case fees as funds available permit. Previously the law established a 3-cent case tax. This tax is the major source of support for egg inspections.

Beils says that the first six-month case tax under the 1959 egg amendments indicates a \$6000 annual increase to the program funds. He anticipates some growth as more producers "get into line" under the 1959 amendments.

These increases, even with the upcoming tax drop, and the slight surplus under the former program, should easily provide the approximately \$7000 needed to maintain a third inspector the year around.

New Lab Device Speeds Up Work For Agriculture

When the last legislature gave the state department of agriculture the green light to buy a recording spectrophotometer, no one foresaw last November's cranberry furor - or the subsequent intense focus on chemicals and residues.

J. D. Patterson, the department's chief chemist, merely wanted the \$10,000 instrument as part of the long-range program to keep the laboratories in line with chemical advances and usages.

Installed recently, the instrument - which the chemist will tell you finger-prints molecules - is already receiving a big play in the laboratory.

Some of the uses? To determine the quantity of vitamins in feeds, trace elements in fertilizers, spray residues on foods and the characteristics of insecticides and other materials offered for sale on the Oregon markets.

"If we'd had this instrument when the cranberry scare broke, we'd turned out laboratory reports much, much faster than we did," Patterson says.

Advantage Given That's one of the advantages of the recording device - it'll do in minutes what took days before. And, because it writes its own story on charts as it works, the information is not only permanent but accurate.

The department has used an earlier model for years - a hand one, because the curve which told the story was plotted from point to point by hand.

The next major investment for the chemical laboratories - also approved by the last legislature - is an infra red spectrophotometer. When this is added it will solve another barrier which has limited the department's laboratory work. Infra red has application for determinations in food, feed and sprays which cannot be done by conventional methods.

Liquid fertilizers are becoming more popular and are a good source of plant nutrients, say soil experts. However, since both liquid and dry fertilizers generally do an equally good job, cost and ease of handling are key factors in determining which type to use.

Farm and Garden

Information Given Eggmen On Independent Organization

A number of egg producer-distributors attended the informal meeting in the Jackson county extension agent's office last week to discuss the new Independent Egg Distributors, Inc. recently formed in Oregon.

L. N. Surles, Medford area egg producer, and director for the new state organization

explained Thursday night that this is a non-profit, voluntary, workable association designed for all of Oregon's independent egg producers, distributors. He said he is primarily concentrating on the larger producer - distributors now, but that the organization would include all independent egg producers in the state. All those desiring further in-

formation or wishing to join may send a card or letter to the Mail Tribune farm editor and it will be redirected to the proper channels.

Independent Egg Distributors is completely controlled by a board of directors elected from the general membership and is administered by a general manager having a centralized office to serve its members. Present manager is Ivan C. Hoyer, with offices at 232 Sixth st., Cottage Grove, Oregon.

Will Assist Producers The new statewide organization will assist the producer, or producer-distributor with marketing problems, carry on an intensive, year-around, consumer information, education and promotion campaign with service rendered to the participating member. This will be scaled in direct proportion to the investment made by each in the association's operating program, Surles explained.

One big, vital service this new organization will perform will be to distribute up-to-date information on egg markets to all producers or producer-distributors, Surles emphasized.

The general manager will use the results of PENB research and existing promotional materials for regional and local situations and will also help individual producers with their promotion programs. A weekly exchange on markets will coordinate surplus and egg shortages on a regional basis. Organization of pool cars and unloading in transit arrangements will secure freight savings for members on carton purchases. Use of printed cartons will be encouraged.

The seal of quality will be the focal point for association promotions, Surles said. The seal will be used by members agreeing to rigid production standards.

Other objects of the program will be inception of a voluntary, sound, egg price controls and safeguards and protection of member interests through a sound legislative program. Also, better relationships between eggmen through a mutual exchange of information, ideas and developments in markets, in meetings and by official publications will be fostered.

Farm Notes

By GAYLORD P. GODWIN Washington - (UPI) - The 1960 winter wheat crop has taken giant strides in the direction followed by most of its predecessors in recent years - toward a bigger wheat surplus.

The agriculture department's April crop survey estimated the fall-planted crop will total 870,957,000 bushels. This is 51,000,000 bushels above the 1959 forecast, nearly 6 per cent more than the 1959 crop, and 17 per cent above average. If the estimated crop materializes, it will be the fifth largest of record.

The monthly report on farm labor shows 5,994,000 persons were at work on farms during the survey week of March 20-26. This was 8 per cent less than in the 1959 survey week and marks a new low for March.

The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) reports the Guatemalan government has established new meat inspection regulations in order to export beef to the United States. Formal approval by the Agriculture Department is necessary before shipments can begin.

FAS said the wholesale price of carcass beef in Guatemala City has been averaging 21 or 22 cents per pound.

Apple pomace containing DDT or the residue of certain other pesticides is not suitable as feed for dairy animals and may not be suitable as feed for meat animals, according to the agriculture department.

Investigations have shown that pesticides of long residual effect, when properly used to control apple pests, may leave residues which are within safe tolerances on fresh apples but are concentrated many times in the pomace.

The use of such pomace in animal rations may result in the production of milk containing small amounts of DDT or other pesticides. There is no tolerance for DDT or any other pesticide in milk. Meat animals fed pomace for extended periods may accumulate residues in their fat in excess of acceptable levels.

Apple pomace is the by-product of apple processing for cider or vinegar.

U.S. farm exports in 1959 totaled \$3,950,000,000, up 2 per cent from the \$3,854,000,000 in 1958. Export volume was larger by 8 per cent. There were gains in exports of vegetable oils and oilseed, feed grains, wheat and wheat flour, rice, animals and animal products, and vegetables. Declines were mostly in cotton, but also occurred in tobacco and fruits.

Instant sweet potatoes are on the way to the dinner table. Agricultural Research Service scientists already have made instant sweet potatoes in the laboratory, but two major problems must be solved before packages of the vegetables reach food store shelves in bulk. These problems are process engineering and flavor stabilization.

Washington - (UPI) - A House Democrat has charged the Farmers Home Administration with "dragging its feet" at a time when hard-pressed farmers have the greatest need for federal loans.

The Farmers Home Administration helps farmers finance homes, farm land purchases and farm operations.

Its overall loan program budget for next fiscal year, starting July 1, calls for \$203,349,000, compared with a current estimated spending this year of \$251,385,000. Congress gave the agency \$279,044,815 last fiscal year.

Washington - (UPI) - The agriculture department will ask hog producers - probably this week - to vaccinate their animals against cholera.

The department will recommend a high rate of vaccination, control over movement of diseased hogs, cooking of garbage fed to swine, and disinfecting of vehicles and premises used by infected animals.

Goods to be plentiful in May include milk and dairy products, canned freestone peaches, cranberry products, vegetables fats and oils, and scallops.

Etzel to Attend Vo-Ag Meeting

Eagle Point - Nat Etzel, Eagle Point high school vocational agriculture instructor and FFA adviser will attend the regional meeting of the National Vocational Agricultural Teachers' association in Salt Lake City Saturday.

Etzel is vice president of the Oregon Vocational Agricultural Teachers association.

Etzel will leave Eagle Point Thursday and fly from Medford to Boise, Idaho where he will meet Norm Koopman, La Grande vo-ag teacher, and president of the OVATA. Together the two men will drive to Salt Lake city for the regional executive meeting of the 11 western states.

The meeting in Salt Lake is being held primarily to plan for the national convention scheduled in Los Angeles in December. In effect, this will be an all-vocational association meeting. It will be composed of ag teachers, trade and industrial educators and home-economics teachers and

distributive education instructors. Each will have their own separate group meetings, Etzel said.

Items for discussion at the Salt Lake meeting in planning for the Los Angeles convention will be publicity and regional displays, membership (Oregon has 100 per cent membership), dues, with some talk of raising dues, calendar events such as conferences and dates, exchange of ideas from state news editors, programs of work and the state constitution of each state, state officer's handbook and feasibility of re-editing it and bringing it up to date.

To Introduce Paper Etzel said he would also take with him a copy of "Yellow Dog" OVATA publication edited by Ed Griggs, Crater high school vocational agriculture teacher. This publication has received considerable favorable comment from vo-ag teachers of this and other states.

Meanwhile, the Eagle Point FFA chapter is planning an annual parent-son banquet for 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 10, in the Eagle Point grade school gymnasium. The program will include awards and foundation awards plus the Safeway initial Greenhand award. Honorary chapter former degrees will be conferred on several adults in the community. Dennis Wood, state FFA president, will be guest speaker.

Wood was state FFA public speech contest winner and will give a speech in Salt Lake City Monday when the western regional FFA speaker will be selected to compete in the national FFA convention in Kansas City, Oregon has always placed first or second in the regional. Last year it placed second and the previous year was first in the western regional contest and won the national public speech contest, Etzel said.

Griggs Attends Symbiot Meeting

Central Point - Ed Griggs, vocational agriculture instructor at Crater high school, attended the seventh annual Symbiot banquet at Oregon Technical Institute, Klamath Falls, Saturday, April 9.

Symbiots are those who have taken agriculture at OTI. Griggs was initiated as an honorary Symbiot during the afternoon meeting and received a cane bearing the Symbiot insignia at the banquet that evening.

Principal speaker at the banquet was Dr. M. E. Ensminger, head of animal husbandry, Washington State University. Dr. Ensminger is a noted livestock authority and has written many agriculture books. The various vo-ag departments in the county have some of Dr. Ensminger's books in their libraries.

Dr. Ensminger with Griggs and 19 other men were named honorary members of Symbiots. Almond Geiss is head of the agriculture department at OTI.

Minnesota researchers have been successful in eliminating silage mold by burning sulfur candles inside an air-tight plastic film covering baled hay. The candles use up mold-producing oxygen and the leftover gas acts as a preservative.

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