

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

It looked as if the whole county were haying as we drove around the valley yesterday.

With very little carryover from the previous year farmers expect about \$25 a ton for their hay in the field baled. Due to the cool, damp spring the first crop may be somewhat weedy. However, valley farmers expect a good second crop and are hoping for a third cutting. Big problem is shortage of water.

Local strawberries are still being picked. The employment office here reports berry growers probably have more than enough labor. The labor picture doesn't look so good for the pear harvest later this summer. The employment office reports even fewer migratory laborers making the circuit this year. Mexican Nationals will be ordered when they are needed. A crop estimate closer to picker time is needed plus a better idea as to how much labor will actually be needed, it was explained. We were kind of hoping the U.S. Employment Service could be allowed to loosen up a little this year and make arrangements some time ahead for at least the same number of Mexican Nationals brought in last year. Since this area is always in short supply around picking time this seems like a safe bet.

A local employment service official hooted at the idea that potato harvest work is as hard if not harder than picking pears. They don't have the heavy ladders to move nor the heavy buckets of pears to lug around, he said. The good, husky high school youngsters are used in the harvest every year anyway, he added. Those that can stand the heavy work will be used again this year.

We noted a slight rise in state egg prices in last week's column, but local poultrymen are not overly optimistic. The improved price noted, "There's lots of room for improvement yet," he added. "Everybody seems to think the market will improve during the last half of the year. According to replacement estimates during May there was 20 to 25 per cent less replacement hatch. May is the last month of heavy replacement so this should give a pretty fair indication.

"We're still paying the bills," a local poultryman said. "We have regular accounts. It would be pretty rough if we had to wholesale our eggs."

So far there doesn't seem much local interest in the new egg marketing association for Oregon poultrymen. However, the officers are still going ahead with it. Actually, it has not been pushed here since this area has comparatively few egg producers. The plan is to concentrate in the central part of the state where most egg producers are and branch out later.

As the egg price picture starts to improve those poultrymen who have their pullets all raised and are starting to pay will be able to take advantage of the improved market. We noticed some pullet eggs on the market recently selling for three dozen for a dollar. It's the large eggs which bring the higher prices. One poultryman said he never figured on making anything the first half of the year. He hopes for the benefit of the steady producers the overall picture won't send the price too high.

If the egg prices do shoot up again it may mean too many people will get into the act which will force the prices down again. However, the various loan agencies seem to be tightening up on financing poultry operations. Too much loose financing allowed too many inefficient producers into the business. Some of the food companies and banks were pretty badly burned over the whole country as a result.

A poultryman must figure on costs ranging from \$8 to \$10 a bird. With a 5,000 bird flock considered the minimum size for a profitable producing unit, it would take at least \$50,000 to start. This includes birds, buildings and equipment. However, poultrymen in this area seem to be on a

MARKET NEWS

Red Bluff Livestock Auction Report, Tuesday, June 7, 1960
CATTLE: Saleable 1200, including around 450 calves. Around 85 percent of supply stocker and feeder classes, remainder mainly slaughter cows. Slaughter cows grading Utility and above, fairly active and steady. Canner and Cutter cows steady to weak. Slaughter bulls about steady; stocker and feeder cattle and calves moderately active and about steady. Stock cows with calves at side steady to firm. Supply mainly of northern California origin. Slaughter cows: Individual Standard 850-975 lbs. \$18.25-20.50; sparsely, individual Utility and Commercial 800-1200 lbs. \$15.00-18.00; individual and few penlots Canner and Cutter \$11.00-15.00. Cutter numerous at \$13.00 and above. Slaughter bulls: Several Commercial 1300-1450 lbs. \$18.10-19.10; individual 1210 lbs. \$19.50. Stocker and feeder steers: Few penlots and individual Good and Choice 300-500 lb. calves \$20.50-23.50; few lots mixed Medium and Good \$24.00-26.00; individual Common and Medium calves 18.00-24.00. Small lots and individual Good and Choice 315-350 lb. yearlings \$24.00-26.50; penlots and individual 420-777 lb. weights \$24.00-25.70, including 30 head 777 lb. weights at \$24.70; 17 head Medium and Good 672 lbs. \$22.30; individual Common and Medium 550-750 lbs. \$18.00-22.00. Stocker and feeder heifers: Small lots and individual Good and Choice 300-475 lb. calves \$24.00-26.50, small lots mixed Medium and Good \$22.50-25.75; individuals and small lots Common and Medium calves \$18.00-23.00. Stock cows: Local lots Medium and Good \$28-1080 lbs. \$13.60-15.90 per cwt.; small lot \$14.00 per head. Slaughter cows: Medium and Good with young calves at side \$184.00-233.00 per pair, small lots \$157.50-194.00 per pair, few feeder and pig; market about steady. Feeder pigs: Small lots Good and Choice 60-93 lbs. \$17.80-18.10; few Medium and Good \$13.00-14.00. SHEEP: Saleable 181. Supply mainly feeder spring lambs, about steady. Slaughter ewes: 60 head shipment Cull 118 lbs. with No. 2 pelts \$3.10. Feeder spring lambs: Small lots Good and Choice 78-93 lbs. with full wool pelts \$17.00-17.50, 20 head lot Medium and Good 76 lbs. \$15.00, small lots Common and Medium 60-70 lbs. \$12.00-13.10. Foul H. Lehigh Federal-State Market News Service

fairly solid footing, we haven't heard of any egg producers who have gone broke in the Rogue valley.

We heard a continuation of the same old debate yesterday afternoon. One farmer argued with another that he paid for everything he had from his earnings. He cautiously operated on a pay as you go basis, only borrowing when he could save money by grabbing a bargain. The other farmer borrowed heavily, invested heavily and made big money compared to the other man. While he made a killing at times he also went broke at times. The other farmer consolidated his gains. He admitted, compared to his former friend, he never had a lot. Which is right. Each man seems perfectly content doing just what each is doing. Perhaps a good compromise answer would be a farmer should operate the way he feels is most profitable for him.

How much does Grange mean to you? Would you drive down a mountain road for eight miles by tractor to get to a Grange meeting, then back up that mountain about midnight? One woman we heard about did it at times when she couldn't make it by car. Got stuck in an icy creek, too. Why did she do it? "Well for years I stayed up on that mountain and wasn't able to go any place," she explained. "Now that the children are grown up I just decided I wanted to get out and go places." And she has ever since.

You hear about "make do," about the depression, about farm houses with kerosene lamps, and raising all that is needed right on the farm. Few of us will tell you about a bathtub hollowed out of a cedar log, a farm home still lit by kerosene lamps and a farm which today exemplifies the best of Oregon's pioneer spirit. The bathtub, incidentally, carries as good as the one of latest design. It was made with a ranch type drill, a double-bitted ax and a small wood-plane.

Speaking of another argument, a veteran farmer and long-time resident of the Rogue valley said all the really rugged, independent pioneering spirit continued only in the West Side area, Eagle Point area and perhaps in the north end of the valley. We said he was wrong and that we have many of the same type of people in our little town. However, judging by recent events, we sometimes wonder if we are wrong instead. Few people in our town want to assume any leadership or responsibility. We have a community club with few people supporting it, a church with few people going to it, and a small town council with few people wanting to participate in it.

A group of Medford Chamber of Commerce members met this week to lay plans for a chamber agriculture committee. To decide on the exact scope of the committee the group needs the information which should come soon for the Oregon agricultural census. Tentatively planned for are a farm pond tour and a farm-city breakfast. The group hopes to get chamber members with agricultural backgrounds on this committee to establish a closer hookup between farm and city people. Good idea! Now let's go!

Thursday, a tour will be held on the Southern Oregon Branch Experiment station. This tour will start at 9:30 a.m. and continue through noon. The station is on Hanley, a half mile north of the Medford-Jacksonville highway. The Medford merchants participated in large numbers for Business Education day which established a tighter link between the schools and local businesses. We think just as much of an interest should be shown in this tour. After all agriculture is one of the two big industries in the Rogue valley.

Christmas Tree Bulletin Out

Corvallis - Want to raise Christmas trees for profit? A new bulletin distributed by the Oregon State college agricultural extension service tells how.

Gary H. Sander, OSC extension forest products marketing specialist, helped edit the bulletin which details managing a Christmas tree plantation, and harvesting the crop.

Oregon residents can get a copy of "Raising Christmas Trees for Profit" from their county extension office, or from the OSC bulletin clerk, Corvallis. The bulletin was published jointly by the extension services of OSC, University of Idaho, and Washington State university.

Studies by the United States Department of Agriculture indicates that the average per capita consumption of beef in the United States this year will be 83 pounds, two more than in 1959.

Experiment Farm Schedules Tour

By GENE WINTERS
County Agent

Farmers, ranchers, fruit and vegetable growers and other persons interested in agriculture will have an opportunity to be brought up to date on agriculture and horticulture research being done in Jackson county Thursday, June 16, at the Hanley farm of the Southern Oregon Branch Experiment Station.

The tour will start in the morning at 9:30 and continue through noon. The farm is on Hanley rd. one-half mile north of the Medford-Jacksonville highway.

Persons attending the tour will see plots of different varieties of sweet corn, onions, tomatoes, feed grains and forage plants to determine the ones best adapted to local conditions. Steps are scheduled in the tree fruit area. A seed crop trial will also be included in the tour. Fertilization and weed control plots will be observed.

Home owners planning to put in new lawns will see the differences of color and vigor of several different grasses in the lawn turf plot. Harold White, station superintendent and John Yungen, agronomist, will conduct the tour.

A firm seedbed is important when seeding grasses and legumes, says North Dakota Agricultural college. In fact, the college adds, it is almost impossible to get the seedbed too firm.

A new construction technique which prevents chassis collapse is used on a new model elevator.

Cows Aid Orchardist To Stay in Farming

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Have you ever stopped to think how the strength of the United States depends on the plain people?

Eighty per cent of the buying power of the United States is made up of people whose annual income is \$4,000 a year or less. The big man, the big buyer has his place and his usefulness, but he does not compare in value to his country to the plain and simple American who outnumbers him, outworks him and outmeasures him as a contributor and a source of strength.

That is why we think the small farmer needs a boost like the small businessman.

We were visiting another farmer last week. He prefers to remain nameless in this article. He is somewhat similar to Les Igo on Pioneer rd. near Phoenix in that he raises some fruit. But this Phoenix area man depends on his 10 head of Jersey cows to pull him through. Perhaps this is because his 25 acres of peach and pear trees are young trees yet. They haven't hit their production peak.

Cows Return More
"Every \$1 I have invested in cows is worth a \$1.10 invested in fruit," remarked this middle-aged farmer. "With a good high producing cow like a Jersey you can make some money."

Like so many fruit growers, our friendly farmer lost much of his pear crop. However, unlike some growers, he feels poor pollination caused his loss and that of his friends on Fern Valley rd.

Our friend used to be a Grade A dairyman with his dairy operation covering all of his trim 42-acre farm. Like many farmers, he thought real money was in fruit. So he sold his Grade A dairy in 1949 and planted an orchard on much of his meadow land.

Now two-thirds of his trees are pear trees. The remaining third is peaches. "I wish it were the other way around," he said. "My peaches came out all right during the freeze this year."

Our farmer friend believes the efficiently operated family farm will always survive. Bearing out the theme of other farmers we have talked to, he believes there is a larger profit margin in a small, close-knit unit than in the large, mechanized and perhaps expensive and loose run farm unit.

No Future in Pears
"There is no future in this valley in pears any more," he commented. His blue eyes stared through the window of his substantial, tastefully furnished farmhouse. "Fifteen years ago pears would return me \$3 a box. Now if you get \$1.75 a box you are doing good." His white forehead a sharp contrast to his brown, weather-

beaten face, the farmer wrinkled it as he talked about the high cost of equipment, sprays and fertilizer. "But, you can't beat the well-run family farm," he repeated. "My cows are what keep me in full-time farming. Their manure is the best fertilizer there is for fruit trees. Doesn't cost me anything, either. Yup, a good small farm shouldn't be less than 40 acres. I got out of the Grade A dairy business because the investment involved in 15 cows was just more than I cope with."

In dairy language he is what is called a "jugger." In other words, he puts his milk in jugs and sells it to friends and neighbors. His customers are steady. He doesn't worry about quotas, over-supply in the market, somebody breaking an agreement. His dairy barn is spotless. A speck of dirt would stand out like a sore thumb. All his milking equipment is carefully scalded and rinsed. He may not be selling Grade A milk but his barn and equipment could easily pass a Grade A inspection.

That's another important point, our farmer friend owns his own equipment including two speed sprayers. It might not be the most up-to-date but it is efficient and in the best working condition.

Although a veteran farmer, this farmer's ideas are not set in a straight narrow furrow. He has tried Presto Logs in large oil drums plus the standard orchard oil-burning heaters. He punched a hole in bottom of each of the discarded drums to make the logs burn well. They worked quite satisfactorily, he said.

This farmer likes a good cover crop of vetch in his orchard and firmly believes in clean cultivation around the trees. Over-irrigation has been the big trouble with pear trees found to be in a decline condition, he insists. He blamed flood irrigation for destroying many trees.

When this farmer farms, he farms. There is no nonsense about it. Some poultrymen won't permit visitors in their henhouses. This fruit-grower-dairyman doesn't like visitors in the milkhouse. The dairyman today milks his cows around 5 p.m. so he can come in the house about 6:30 p.m. and watch TV. Daylight saving time couldn't change the farmer's habits, but TV has.



STRAWBERRY HARVEST - Strawberry picking was continuing this week in several locations in the Rogue valley. This strawberry plot was estimated at 5 tons picture was taken near Phoenix as high school boys were busy earning some summer vacation. The berries, generally, are small. Yield on 'his particular mer acre. Cool, wet weather this spring caused the smaller berries here.

Changes Set for Slaughter Units

Salem - The state department of agriculture is preparing to modify some of its requirements for mobile slaughter units.

The department proposes to let mobile units that never carry carcasses or meats - in other words, those that just do slaughtering and no hauling - operate without covered vans.

In a second proposed modification, the state will permit offal to be carried in the mobile unit, provided it is carried in a special compartment built into the truck under department specifications. The earlier rule said a mobile slaughter unit carrying carcasses had to carry inedible offal in a separate trailer.

No other changes are proposed in other original requirements. Any interested person who objects to these more lenient proposals should do so in writing or orally to the department not later than June 12. Objections or comments should be directed to the department's division of animal industry, Salem.

INDONESIA DOMAIN
Indonesia's domain consists of about 3,000 islands.

Oregon Exports Poultry and Eggs

Salem - More than 1200 Canadian cattle arrived in Oregon in April for slaughter, reports the federal veterinarian's office at Salem.

In the same month, the federal inspectors cleared for export 130,830 Oregon hatching eggs, 19,860 baby chicks and turkey poults, 9 cattle and 7 horses.

The exports went to Canada, Guam, Spain, The Philippines, Iran, Korea, Taiwan and British West Indies.

The report shows that in the cooperative brucellosis program several dairy counties and three beef counties now have no quarantined herds. In other counties, 143 herds (103 in range areas and 40 in dairy counties) were still under quarantine April 30 because of reactors having been removed.

Under tuberculosis quarantine on April 30 were 4 herds in eastern Oregon and 30 herds in western Oregon.

A new patented offset drive wheel arrangement gives closer raking with less damage to the teeth and basket.

Applications Pour in On Pumps, Scales

Salem - More than 12,000 owners of gasoline pumps, scales and bulk fuel truck meters are pouring license renewal applications into the state department of agriculture at Salem at rates as high as 500 a day.

The deadline for license renewals is July 1 and immediately after that the department will start mailing out 1960-61 license plates and tags. The whole operation should be completed by early August. The 12,056 individuals or concerns licensed the past year used more than 36,000 scales and measuring devices in their sales to the public.

PROBLEMS?

- Agricultural
- Industrial

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