

Overemphasis on Disunity Concerns U.S. Grange Head

Washington - (UP) - Herschel D. Newsum, master of the National Grange, is concerned over what he terms "an over-emphasis on disunity among farm organizations."

Newsum insists there is more agreement than disagreement among the four major national farm organizations - the Grange, American Farm Bureau Federation, National Farmers Union, and National Council of Farmer Cooperatives.

A recent issue of the Grange Farm Reporter, an official publication of the organization, told of a series of joint meetings of top officials of the major farm groups. These officials "met for a full day at a joint session . . . there was no publicity . . . no fanfare . . . just another of three or four times a year meetings that have been going on for years."

"There was complete agreement on objectives," the Farm Reporter said, "on bolstering farm income, on expanding markets, on strengthening agricultural research, on building a better public understanding of facts about farmers and farming, and on cooperation in working for attainment of those objectives."

"There are differences, of course, but these are chiefly over methods and programs for achieving goals on which all are agreed. But even on that there is far more agreement than is generally supposed - and more agreement than there is disagreement."

In a letter to this column, Newsum said there are some "very vigorous" differences among the farm groups in matter of price support policies and legislative structure. He has definite differences.

Inspection History Given in Booklet

Salem - "Let's Look at the Record . . . Again", a 38-year record of the federal-state shipping point inspection service in Oregon, has just been issued by the state department of agriculture.

Much of the historical material was written by W. L. Close, federal supervisor attached to the Oregon service since July 1, 1926.

In the booklet, J. F. Short, present director of agriculture, recounts raising potatoes in the pre-SPI days and his contacts as a buyer-shipper when the service was inaugurated here. He credits "The great boost official inspection gave to the industry" with expanded markets which "benefited the economy of the entire state."

Notify ASC Office Of Farm Sales

The County A.S.C. office should be notified whenever farm land which involves an acreage allotment or a conservation reserve contract is bought or sold, Harry Martin of that office said today.

There are certain regulations concerning the combination and division of farms which must be carried out whenever land with acreage allotments changes hands. Notification of the county office will enable the necessary changes to be made on office records.

In many cases, Martin said, it is even better if the A.S.C. office can be consulted before the farm real estate deal is closed. This may prevent later misunderstandings as to how allotments or conservation reserve contracts may be affected.

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

As the cities push their tentacles out into the county in the form of suburbs, the city people grab some of the help the country people have been getting.

Such a helper is the county agent. Recently we spent two hours traveling around with one of the local county agents as he checked some tree troubles in Medford. Such work takes a lot of time-time that could be spent with vegetable growers or fruit growers. However, the city residents also pay the taxes which pay the county agent's salaries and naturally feel they have a claim on some of his time. The question is how much?

One stop we made showed some stately elms, some with the limbs bare of foliage. A careful examination showed the one in the worst condition was on the edge of a driveway. This, the county agent explained, would cut nourishment off from one side of the tree. Further examination showed the ground dry with a large crop of weeds. A white patch showed under one limb. The county agent recommended fertilizing and watering and digging holes 18 inches deep some distance from one trunk. By digging the holes deep the fertilizer could be applied without burning the lawn, he suggested.

We made another stop at a home dwarfed by two large oak trees at its entrance. The woman of the house complained that the tree seemed dead. Careful carving on the trunk next to the ground showed a felty white layer of fungus. The agent explained nothing could be done for the tree since this was an advance stage of oak root fungus. He advised cutting it down.

It would seem that a large oak tree might leave a big empty space in front of this home, but the county agent advised the woman she wouldn't miss it in a few weeks. In an aside, we were told that too many people want to plant big trees around their homes. Trouble is so many of these larger trees like elms are susceptible to various diseases and bug infestations. The new landscaping trend is to the smaller tree.

We were interested to learn that the big, old apple, or pear trees are not considered suitable for backyard gardens now. These trees like the commercial ones require numerous sprays to keep them healthy. The dwarf varieties have been found much easier for homeowner to spray or prune and also produce all the fruit one family can use when planted in sufficient numbers.

Another stop was to examine some evergreen bushes and fruit trees. A line of fruit trees ran along the edge of a gravelled driveway. Right away the county agent asked if soil sterilant had been used to kill weeds on the driveway. This could have affected the trees he said. After recommending fertilizer for the trees, the agent turned to the evergreens. Careful examination showed the shrubs were brown in the center. Further examination showed small crystals of fertilizer on the leaves. The housewife was cautioned against throwing the chemical directly on the shrub.

"We spend a lot of time on this sort of thing," the county agent said. "We don't always have time to run out and examine the trees. Most of the time we can give directions by phone to take care of the problem."

This is a big problem to the county agents. Primarily they are supposed to be the farmers' advisors, but they are getting more and more calls from the backyard gardeners. And what do you do? Can you say sorry, but we only help the farmers?

On another subject - what with all the shifting around the last few months in the state department of agriculture, somebody there is bound to come out with a new dance called the Salem Shuffle.

Not long ago districts covered by different state brand inspectors were rearranged. Now J. F. Short, director for the state department of agriculture, has arranged for the state veterinarian to report directly to him. And there is more to come, apparently. According to the official release, "This will place the state meat inspection and livestock disease control programs close to the director pending completion of Short's general study on the organization of the entire department."

This removes the veterinary services section from supervision of the division of animal industry. And at the same time it eliminates the position of assistant chief of the animal division. Apparently it is merely an elimination of a position and not aimed at eliminating a person, according to the communique. Seeing as how this is in the animal industry section we can say aptly this is cutting some of the fat off the hog.

A regular meeting of the state board of agriculture is called for Friday, June 24, 1960 in the director's office. We imagine a few other changes of policy will be announced.

Another possible change may be reassignment of the two livestock officers on full time meat inspection and disease control, respectively, to districts under supervision of the division chief. This would bring another change. It would mean restricting the state into six livestock officer districts instead of the four, as we see it. Apparently the state vet and the division chief would set up the law enforcement program and assign portions of that program to the livestock officers in the various districts affected. This would eliminate statewide travel of the two livestock officers mentioned.

Regardless of whether this temporary status of the veterinarian section is permanent or temporary or is changed back to the way it used to be, the state's veterinarians will have taken yet another step toward recognition of their professional status. The vets apparently feel they should have a state organization like the medical profession along with similar status and recognition. We have outstanding vets in the Rogue valley who deserve every bit of recognition they can get. We don't know the other vets in the state but we imagine the same thing applies to them.

There has been considerable talk at meetings of the county agricultural committee about imported Australian sheep here. So an article in the June 14 San Francisco Chronicle dumped on this country and possible effects on prices should be interesting to many valley farmers.

San Mateo county officials planned on June 13 to bill the Australian ship SS Delfino for the cost of clearing the beaches of 50 dead sheep that have washed ashore the previous two days. The supervising sanitarian for the county health department said 50 carcasses had floated ashore and more could be seen in the ocean.

The Delfino brought a load of 25,000 sheep to San Francisco last Tuesday from Australia. Her officers said 5,800 sheep died on the voyage and were thrown overboard. Well that's one problem the country court and sanitarian don't have. However, County Commissioner Chet Wendt being a veteran sheepman should be able to cope with such a problem.

Prunes Show Gain As State Industry; Varieties Tested

Corvallis - Prunes (or plums, if you prefer the term), already a 52,000-ton industry in Oregon, are becoming more popular and new varieties being tested at Oregon State college will bring more profits for growers and better tasting fruit for consumers, reports Dr. Quentin Zielinski, Oregon State college horticulturist.

The Italian variety has long been a mainstay of the Oregon prune industry. But it has certain disadvantages, Zielinski says. To overcome these, OSC scientists have been looking for sweet prunes that ripen early, are fungus resistant, with firm flesh easily freed from the stone, and containing lots of sugar and little water.

In the current issue of the OSC agricultural experiment station's research magazine, "Oregon's Agricultural Progress," Zielinski reports that many of the 75 varieties tested produce delicious prunes. Some of the more outstanding ones probably will grow in popularity.

Names to watch for include: Merton, Parson, Stanley, Miller Sweet, Milton Early Italian, Richard Early Italian, Brooks, Noble, Moyer Perfecto, Imperial, and Edwards. Different characteristics of these prunes mean some of them are better for canning than drying or eating fresh, and vice versa. Dr. William Sistrunk, OSC food technologist, is in charge of evaluating the new varieties for processing characteristics.

OSC test orchards are in Benton, Hood River, Wasco, Umatilla and Malheur counties. Prune varieties also are being tested by cooperating growers in all prune growing areas of the state.

Copies of "Oregon's Agricultural Progress" are free on request to Oregonians. Requests for the current issue or to be placed on the regular mailing list should be sent to the bulletin clerk at OSC, Corvallis.

WATERED-DOWN VERSION

London - (UP) - Actress Adrienne Corri, asked to describe the difference between British and continental version of a movie bubble bath scene, gave this explanation: "For the continental version they just took some water out of the bath."

BLAMES READING

Columbia, S. C. - (UP) - Dr. Robert L. Sumwalt, president of the University of South Carolina, told an education conference Monday that many college students fail in their studies because of "underdeveloped" reading ability.

Lots of Strawberries For the Table Now

Housewives will have plenty of strawberries for the table this season, but they may be smaller than usual, according to the few local strawberry growers in the valley.

Usual local price is 30 cents a box, however, some of the local fruit stands are selling them at four boxes for \$1. The berries are sweet, perhaps sweeter than the usually larger berries produced here, and have a good color. A cool, moist weather early in the growing season held the berries down on size. However, local growers estimate they will average 5 tons an acre compared to last year's bumper crop of 7 tons an acre.

One grower remarked with a grin that local berries come on the market before those in the Lebanon area. A Lebanon delegation was in the

Rogue valley not long ago buying berries for their annual strawberry festival.

Growers in the Willamette valley area were hoping for good harvest weather to get off a possible bumper crop quickly. Now, according to OSC reports, they have had nearly ideal weather conditions. Whether they have had sufficient pickers is something else.

Opening growers prices have been posted by several large processors at the same figure as last year's season average. A few Oregon processors have posted a 13 cent grower price. This is for stemmed berries delivered to processor or receiving station.

One large processor is offering a completely new deal to growers this year. A 13 cent cash price on a delivered day to day basis was given, but growers have a choice between taking the daily cash price or the California 1960 season average price for processing strawberries, to be announced by USDA next December, less 1 cent a pound.

Expiration Noted On Some Contracts

Chairman Albert Straus of the Jackson County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committee announced that conservation reserve contracts which expire in 1960 or later years are no longer eligible to be extended for an additional period of years.

Previously, contracts entered into for five years or less have been eligible for extension up to the maximum of 10 years upon application filed with the county A.S.C. committee at any time before the original expiration date.

Straus said the extension of contracts is being stopped at this time because of the fact that extension of a contract has the same effect as a new contract and would require the expenditure of additional conservation reserve funds. Under present legislation, no new conservation reserve contracts may be entered into.

The only exception to the cut-off on extensions is in the case of contracts calling for tree-planting for which seedlings are not available. Such contracts must be extended one year for each year seedlings are unavailable.

Straus said the present ruling has no effect on the period of existing contracts. These will continue in accordance with contract terms.

Only 10 per cent of U.S. milk production was sold as cream in 1959, the USDA reports. The other 90 per cent was sold as whole milk.

Milk output per cow is up again. April 1 reports from the USDA show a nationwide increase of 2 per cent per cow over April 1 of last year.

reportedly do not look too vigorous. Foliage has failed to develop very well due to red-stele and virus damage. Other varieties, Northwest, which mature later than the Marshalls, Siletz and Shastas appear more vigorous in most areas. The Northwest variety has a heavy bloom and a good fruit set is expected with favorable weather. Yields depend on how well berries size up.

Receipts of around 1,500 crates of strawberries on the Portland wholesale produce market the morning of June 8 sold from \$2.75 to \$3.50 per 12 pint crates. Fair quality Marshalls, Shastas and Lassens sold at \$2.75 to \$3, while Puget Beautys cashed at \$3 to \$3.50. These prices are about 25 cents higher than a year ago. California best quality berries sold from \$3.75 to \$3.85 a 12 pint basket, or 85 cents to \$1 higher than a year ago.

Guernsey Cattle Rate Top Sellers In Six Auctions

Peterborough, N.H. - The results of six spring auction sales indicate an excellent demand for registered Guernsey dairy cattle, according to the American Guernsey Cattle club here.

Fresh on the heels of three May sales - the Langwater, Flying Horse and Ontario Classic - where 246 head sold for \$381,300, an average of \$1,211 per head, have come three established early-June sales where another 122 head of registered Guerneys sold for \$147,155, an average of \$1,206.

The latest three sales were the 29th Eastern Guernsey sale, June 3, at Woodacres Farm, Princeton, N.J.; the 35th Guernsey sale, June 4, also at Woodacres; and the 12th McDonald Farms sale, at the farm, Cortland, N.Y., June 6.

At the Eastern, 42 Guerneys sold for \$30,920, an average of \$736.19 per head. Top of the sale and high female was the cow Glenegar Fortune's Cecilia, consigned by Ideal Guernsey Farms, Augusta, N.J., and purchased by J. E. and J. G. Bowden, Horn Lake, Miss., for \$2,100. Top bull was Chedco Sweetbriar's King, consigned by C. E. Cotting, Berlin, Mass., and purchased by Art Winters, Wapato, Wash., for \$725.

The Guernsey sale saw another 42 registered Guerneys sell for \$66,860, an average of \$1,591.90. High bull and animal was Gayoso View Top Command, consigned by J. E. and J. G. Bowden, Horn Lake, Miss., and purchased by Curtis Breeding Service, Gary, Ill., for \$10,000.

The next three tops of the Guernsey Sale were all bulls - Dumar Farm's Bonanza Lucky, consigned by George W. Snyder, St. Johns, Pa., and purchased by James Canyon Ranch, Genoa, Nev., for \$8,000; Chedco Actor's Premier, consigned by C. E. Cotting, Berlin, Mass., and purchased by Carl Jenkins, Peru, Ind., for \$5,100, and Lake Louise Patsy's Prince, consigned by Raymond Goeringer, Dallas, Pa., and purchased by Evergreen Northwest Breeders association, Burlington, Wash., for \$3,900.

High female of the Guernsey Sale was Ideal's Superior's Betsy, consigned by Jacob Tanis, Augusta, N.J., and purchased by Charles Bolton, West Salem, Ohio, for \$3,600. At the McDonald Farm's Sale, 38 head of registered Guerneys sold for \$49,375, an average of \$1,299.34 per head.

Top bull and animal was McDonald Farm's Jolly Dieter, consigned by Cornell University and purchased by James Canyon Ranch, Genoa, Nev., for \$2,800. High female was Hanover Hill Marlene, consigned by Henry I. Christal, Yorktown Heights, N.Y., and purchased by Western Glow Farms, Bow, Wash., for \$2,550.

In the six spring registered Guernsey sales mentioned above, 368 head sold for just under half a million dollars, an average of \$1,354 per head.

Sheep Losses 455 In First Quarter, Reports Ag. Dept.

Salem - Farmers reported predators took almost 500 head of livestock in the first three months of this year.

These losses included 455 sheep, 2 goats and 21 calves - worth more than \$8,000 on basis of grade animals. They should not be construed as the total farm losses as they are only those reported to official predator hunters.

In addition, predators invaded farms to destroy 103 chickens, turkeys, geese and ducks.

Douglas county sheep growers were victims of the heaviest depredations, with 93 sheep and lambs lost in that county. Dogs killed 71 of the total, and coyotes destroyed 17. Bobcats and raccoons were other raiders in the Douglas picture.

Second high farm animal losses were posted in Coos county, with 69 sheep lost, chiefly to coyotes.

Hunters Report
These farm livestock losses are compiled from reports of the field cooperative hunters working under Melvin D. Smith, Portland, district agent of the federal predator and rodent control program.

On the other side of the picture, destruction of wild animals in the predator control operations during April alone were greater than farm losses in the first quarter, says the state department of agriculture. In April, hunters accounted for a kill of 838 predators, including 609 coyotes, 126 bobcats, 9 bears, and 95 foxes. Nuisance animals taken added 198 more, including 94 porcupines, 19 badgers, 38 skunks and 47 raccoons.

Harney topped the list in the April catches with 47 coyotes and 23 bobcats turned in by John W. Wharton and Russell L. Zink, the hunters serving that county.

Grain Export Said Near Record For May

Salem - With May export of grain from Oregon reaching 25 cargoes, overseas shipments for the first five months of 1960 totaled 108 shiploads or 43 full cargoes ahead of the same 1959 period. Each cargo represents about one-third million bushels.

T. Ralph Harry, state department of agriculture grain division chief, says the May export movement is not far from the record for a single month. It bests the January, 1960, near-record monthly movement by two cargoes.

While the May outflow of wheat from Oregon was about a million pounds more than in April, the wheat movement into the Portland terminals was down to 8.8 million bushels from April's 9.3 million bushels.

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