

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

The political conventions are over and the two presidential candidates are putting the finishing touches on their platforms. A proposed farm program will be an important issue in the campaign.

Although there are fewer farmers now and make up a much smaller portion of the population what affects them affects every man, woman and child who eats their products. So every voter and particularly the farmer should watch and analyze farm programs put out by Sen. John F. Kennedy, Democratic presidential candidate, and Richard M. Nixon, Republican presidential candidate.

Here are a few questions you should ask: (1) Would the program reduce production of wheat without increasing production of other agricultural products? (2) Would the program provide "reasonable" income to wheat producers and stability to United States agriculture? (3) Would the program provide for governmentally set prices, or for "free" market prices? (4) Would the program encourage "free" agriculture and be administratively feasible, both in operation and in cost? (5) Would the program be applicable to all phases of United States agriculture by making modifications for different commodities, areas, and times?

The farm problem which both parties will attempt to sell in free markets at prices which cover costs of production. A successful program must reduce wheat production. Complicating the problem is the fact other agricultural products are experiencing the same cost-price squeeze. A government program should not operate to reduce production of some products by increasing production of others already plentiful and competing for the same markets. The experts predict farm production will continue to increase at least as fast as United States population. And relatively little of our land is farmed intensively as it is in the Netherlands, Belgium and Japan.

Income should be "reasonable" for those concerned. Wheat producers operating large modern units to utilize efficiently the advanced technology, machinery, and equipment already used in United States wheat producing areas. In other words, is farm labor income equal to the wage the operator would receive as a hired manager operating a similar farm business?

Prices are the basic guiding force for all business in a competitive economy. Prices determine what consumers buy. Prices of one farm product affect prices of other farm products because of the great interdependence within United States agriculture. Also, foods are competing severely with each other.

Government action programs in the United States have been established more on basis of welfare objectives than on an economic basis. So, many of them have been difficult to administer and have delayed adjustment which farmers would possibly make voluntarily if left alone. Such a government program should be administratively feasible, also. A lot of red-tape, record keeping and a large staff would not make for an efficient program.

Several conditions indicate government action programs should recognize U. S. agriculture is actually one, big food-producing plant. These are: (1) Powerful forces, physical and economic which affect one part of this giant food plant affect other parts. (2) Farmers all use the same resources—land, labor, and capital—for which they compete among themselves and with nonfarmers. (3) Capacity of the human stomach is definitely limited. So, if a person eats more of one food, he eats less of other foods. (4) If a government program prohibits or discourages production of one crop, farmers for their own individual preservation must grow the best alternative crop. Government restrictions have shifted production, but total output has increased. (5) A government program for selected commodities helps some farmers a great deal, helps others only slightly, and actually hurts some farmers.

Suggestions for positive action are: (1) Determine objectives as a basis for national agricultural policy. (2) Develop action programs to attain these objectives. (3) Reduce government help gradually. This can be done by announcing that by a certain date all price supports, allotments, quotas, purchase, and export programs would be discontinued. (4) Increase and improve vocational training for farmers and farm youth, and expand the employment services to help find suitable employment for those who want to leave agriculture. (5) Strengthen the school lunch program. (6) Strengthen educational facilities so the nation may gain as much as possible from the latent productivity of rural youth. (7) Eliminate legislation which fosters and encourages monopoly practices (Fair Trade Laws) and enforce anti-trust laws much more effectively than in the past. (8) Expand the conservation reserve portion of the soil bank program. (9) Politically and economically acceptable bases to remove land from production (preferably entire farms). (10) Establish a system of forward pricing—not to raise prices or incomes—but to stabilize them and give added security to agriculture. (11) Continue and improve state and federal marketing orders where they function satisfactorily.

Here are some additional aspects of the problem: The farm business and the home are so closely related that farm business decisions are difficult to make because they affect family living. In other words, it involves a way of life.

Large numbers of relatively unorganized, independent individuals, producing food (including some for their families) and able to get along on their own for some time if necessary. Many of these farmers will continue to farm and sell their products below cost of production for awhile if they are to rather than move off their farms for higher city income. Meanwhile, the products they produce, consume and sell weaken markets.

Also, it is questionable how long city-dwellers will allow the government to spend money to raise incomes of those who produce without relating output to their market.

August is the time to build at least one chore-saver for next winter. Get out the paint brush. Keep an eye on the feeder cattle market. Build new grain storage if you need it.

REMEMBER—Farm production will have to double over the next 50 years, according to government economists. By the year 2010 population is expected to hit 370 million and cities and roads will take over 25 million acres of the 478 million now devoted to crop land.

Prize Announced For Best Name

Yreka, Calif.—Polaroid photography equipment will be awarded as a prize for the person furnishing what judges consider the best name for the new Siskiyou county fair building, according to Edward B. Mathews, secretary-manager.

The fair board will award a Polaroid Land Camera Model 800 plus Polaroid B-C flash gun and bounce flash bracket for the new community building on the fair grounds.

Those entering the contest should write the name they think best on a piece of paper, or a post-card, sign their name plainly and mail to name contest, fairgrounds, Yreka, Calif. As many names as you wish may be entered but each must be on a separate piece of paper. In case of duplication the

winner will be chosen by a drawing. Contest deadline is Aug. 14. The winner will be announced Aug. 15.

The contest is open to all except employees of the Tenth District Agricultural association and their families.

The new community building is equipped for meetings, receptions, dinners, dances or any large gathering, Mathews explained.

Vote on Seafoods Commission Set

Salem—A producer referendum on the proposed Seafoods Commission of Oregon will be conducted from July 11 to July 23, inclusive, announces J. F. Short, director of agriculture.

This will be a mail vote with ballots to be mailed by the state department of agri-

Cartons Beat Bag Shipments Of State Onions

Corvallis—Two Northwest farm and forest products—high quality onions and corrugated fiber cartons—may soon get together on the marketing scene as a result of research by Oregon State College agricultural experiment station.

Trial shipments of onions in corrugated cartons, rather than the traditional mesh bags, reached market in better shape and at lower cost to the shipper, reported George B. Davis and Frank H. Diekmann, OSC agricultural economists.

Not cost to the Oregon packer was less because cartons could be packed heavily enough to take advantage of lower freight rates. Onions protected by the cartons suffered practically no damage from heavy car-loading.

Tests were made with two cartons of U.S. No. 1 "Jumbo" onions packed in 100-lb. cartons and shipped from Ontario to New York and Atlanta markets.

In Good Shape. The New York load arrived in "practically perfect" shape, reported U.S. Department of Agriculture specialists who examined the load. The floor of the Atlanta carload showed slight bruising but not enough to affect grade or appearance.

Mesh bag shipments have usually been made in 30,000-pound loads and may suffer some bruising when loaded more heavily. The undamaged carton shipments weighed more than 43,000 pounds each car.

Davis pointed out that original packing costs were 11 cents per hundredweight higher for boxes than for bags, but this higher cost was more than offset by lower freight rates and low damage in transit.

New freight rates effective last November range from \$1.85 per hundredweight for 40,000-pound loads from Ontario to New York to \$2.05 per hundredweight for 30,000-pound loads.

Oregon ships out more than 100 million pounds of onions a year with the sweet Spanish onions of Malheur county the major variety.

Cherry-Picking Machines Eyed As Cash Savers

Corvallis—Tree-shaking machines similar to those used in Oregon for a number of years for harvesting filberts and walnuts are coming on the cherry-picking scene.

Four years of research with mechanical harvesting equipment shows cherries now picked by hand can be harvested mechanically at half the cost and without any sacrifice in quality. The studies were made by U. S. Department of Agriculture and Michigan State university scientists.

Although results reported refer only to red tart cherries, the mechanical equipment also can be used to harvest plums, peaches, and sweet cherries, suggested B. Rodgers, head of agricultural engineering at Oregon State college.

Michigan research workers estimate mechanical cherry-harvesting equipment and special handling methods may permit men to do the work of 33 handpickers, used in the studies included. Mechanical equipment tree shakers (long booms with crab-like claws) mounted on tractors. The claws grasp the main limbs of a tree and shake it lightly but rapidly from three to five seconds, allowing the cherries to fall into collecting canvases.

The larger the orchard and the more cherries per tree, the larger the savings realized by mechanical harvesting. Mechanical shakers work best on trees more than 10 years old, in which the lower part of the tree are relatively open.

The ground should be fairly even a factor which may hinder some of the mechanical pickers in some parts of Oregon, Rodgers noted.

culture, Salem, not later than midnight, July 23.

Two hundred commercial fishermen registered recently to vote in the referendum. The proposed commission and voting do not include Columbia river fishermen.

Any registered fisherman who does not receive a ballot by July 11 should apply to the department at Salem or the Astoria, Tillamook, Newport, Florence, Coquille or Gold Beach county extension agents offices.

Crater High Member To Attend AIC Meet

Salem—Dwight James, Crater high school FFA chapter member, is a member of the Oregon Youth Delegation to the summer session of the American Institute of Cooperation at the University of California, Aug. 7 through 10th.

The delegation is sponsored by the Agricultural Cooperative Council of Oregon, of which the Grange Co-Op here is a member, and the Oregon Vocational Agriculture Teachers' association. James is an alternate to Dave Foote, of Crater FFA chapter, and state reporter.

Other FFA youth delegates named to attend the Berkeley AIC session are Dennis Wood, Moila Lalla, state president; Keith Simmons, Enterprise, vice president; Loren Calkins, Seio, secretary; Stewart Holmes, Redmond, treasurer; Steve Coleman, Gervais, Coleman, an alternate for Dave Leuthol, Tillamook, state sentinel.

About 2,000 adults and 1,000 youth delegates from all parts of the United States and Canada are expected to attend the AIC California session chartered as a university to carry on educational work on cooperatives. This is the 32nd annual conference.

Endorsement of a cooperative youth education and activities program was last fall when Leonard J. Kirsch, Mount Angel, newly elected Oregon Council president announced that Dick Wilcox, Gresham, had been appointed the council's youth committee chairman. Council Secretary Lee Garotian, Oregon State college, was authorized to prepare advance plans for joint action on the part of both youth and adult groups.

Pacific Supply Cooperative, regional Co-op wholesale, then hosted a dinner meeting of interested delegates in Portland on April 23 to meet with Howard McClarren, youth education director for the American Institute of Cooperation, Washington, D.C. A further meeting of delegates and committee workers followed, sponsored by Pacific in Salem on June 14.

Allan Lee, new state head of vocational education in Oregon, handled arrangements for the final meeting held in the state library conference room.

Crater FFA Hits Activity Peak

Central Point—Crater FFA chapter is hitting the peak in summer activities, according to Ed Griggs, chapter advisor.

Three livestock judging practices are being held. Following these three sessions the boys will compete in both Josephine and Jackson county fairs. The three boys with the highest scores at the two fairs will represent the chapter at the state fair in Salem.

A dairy judging contest is being held for the first time this summer, Griggs said. Following these practices participating chapter members will judge at the Josephine and Jackson county fairs. The three top boys will represent the chapter at the state fair.

Evening showmanship practice consists of beef, dairy, swine and sheep. The chapter has held two executive meetings this summer presided over by the new officers.

Also, this summer the chapter constructed a concession stand which it is running at the Sears and Roebuck store at the new Medford shopping center.

The chapter also has a radio program over station KMED at 4:30 p.m. every Saturday.

Record Corn Crop Due in Oregon; Other Grains Drop

Corvallis—A larger corn crop, but smaller crops of other grains are forecast for Oregon this year, reports Mrs. Elvera Horrell, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State College.

The largest corn crop ever produced in the state is due for harvest this fall, Mrs. Horrell found as she studied reports from the U.S. department of agriculture. A crop of more than 4 million bushels is forecast, which would be 8 per cent above last year's record high and nearly 2 1/2 times the average of the past 10 years.

However, wheat, Oregon's largest cash crop, may show a drop of about 3 per cent compared to last year, Mrs. Horrell also found. This year's crops is forecast at about 27 million bushels. This would still be about 2 per cent above average.

The state's oats crop, expected to total about 7.1 million bushels after harvest is over, will be 8 per cent below last year and 29 per cent less than average. Barley production is predicted to total 16 million bushels, 18 per cent less than last year but 5 per cent above average.

Estimates of possible horticultural crop output in the state are also varied, Mrs. Horrell said. Oregon's late summer potato crop is expected to turn out a shade below last year, but 32 per cent above average.

A ship bean production record of 5,548 tons is in the making. The 87,600 tons expected this year would be up 5 per cent over last year and 29 per cent above average. Oregon leads all other states in snap bean production.

Unfavorable weather during and following pollination left its mark on the state's tree fruit and nut crops. Only the apple crop looks heavier this year, Mrs. Horrell said, with cherries, peaches, pears, prunes, filberts, and walnuts all expected to drop below average.

Nationally, crop production is expected to match the all-time high of the past two years. Acreages are down a trifle, but yields are up.

Beirut—Lebanese Prime Minister-designate Saeb Salam Monday night announced the formation of an 18-member cabinet, the first in the republic's history.

Nevada Requires Free-Bees

Salem—Oregon beekeepers who may move bees into Nevada will face different restrictions this season. This affects only bees to which drugs have been fed for prevention and control of disease.

A new Nevada law requires all bees coming in from other states to be inspected and certified that no drugs have been fed at least six months prior to shipment to Nevada.

Full details are available through the state department of agriculture at Salem.

Crater Chapter Installs Officers At Melon Feed

Central Point—New Crater FFA chapter officers were installed at the annual chapter meeting and watermelon feed at TouVelle State Park last Thursday.

New officers are Don Denning, president; Larry Ryerson, vice president; Tom White, secretary; Jim Frink, treasurer; Delmer Smith, reporter; and Ted Carter, sentinel. Retiring officers are John Caster, president; Don Denning, vice president; Don Ryan, secretary; Pete Melstad, treasurer; and Larry Ryerson, sentinel.

Alan Bray, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Gray, Central Point, was named outstanding fresh chapter member and presented a bronze plaque. This was the first time such an award was presented. Don Denning and Jim Frink, named the two outstanding chapter members, received plaques and will be given an expense-paid trip to the national FFA convention in Kansas City this fall. Denning was also named outstanding chapter member for his leadership and varied FFA activities.

Ted Porter, new chapter advisor, was introduced. Porter will work with the other chapter advisor, Ed Griggs. He was graduated from Oregon State college in dairy husbandry and recently received his master's degree in agricultural education. Before coming to Crater high school he was a herdsman at a Philomath, Ore., cattle ranch and ran an independent logging operation.

After the picnic Ryan and Caster were honored at a small banquet at Kim's restaurant with the new officers and their dates and Mr. and Mrs. Porter participating.

Questions on livestock ani-

Gall Sickness on Increase; Red Blood Cell Parasite

(Prepared as a public service by the Oregon Veterinary Medical Assn.)

The warmer months of the year in Oregon—from June to September—bring with them the threat of a cattle and sheep disease which once affected only a limited number of farming areas, but now seems to be growing into a national problem.

The disease is anaplasmosis, sometimes called gall sickness. It's marked by anemia and fever and microscopic parasites in the red blood cells. It's infectious and transmissible and is most severe in mature cattle. As many as 50 per cent of the affected animals have died in some outbreaks.

Symptoms vary greatly in severity and duration. A type of anaplasmosis most common in milk cows causes depression, high fever, dry muzzle, excessive drooling and a halt in the flow of milk. The acute form causes general weakness, labored breathing, muscular tremors and anemia. A chronic form is characterized by low-grade fever, lack of appetite, thirst, and emaciation.

Because these symptoms are remarkably similar to those of several other diseases, the first step is to have animals checked by a veterinarian to obtain a correct diagnosis.

A complement fixation test has been developed by veterinary medical science which can detect carrier animals which are suspected of being the reservoir and source of infective material responsible for new outbreaks of the disease.

In some counties, the test survey recently revealed an incidence of about 65 per cent reactors and suspects. Some individual herds exceeded 90 per cent.

While an effective vaccine for anaplasmosis remains to be developed, the outlook for control remains encouraging. The judicious use of blood transfusions sometimes accomplishes dramatic improvement. Use of antibiotics can suppress the multiplication of the parasites, save animals and can rid carrier animals of infection. Tranquilizers are also found effective in reducing stress.

Sick animals should be isolated from uninfected animals, protected from biting insects by the use of sprays and kept in the shade. All handling should be with care, as not to exert sick animals.

(Questions on livestock ani-

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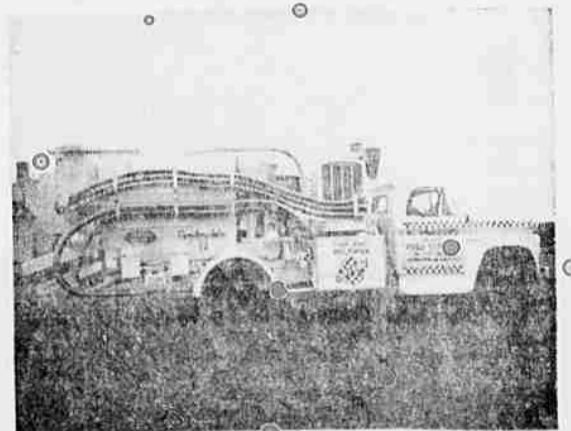
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