

Valley Farm Tour Group See Agricultural Variety

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

About 12 people took a compressed agricultural tour of the county's agricultural lands recently and heard brief descriptions of fruit growing, truck gardening, egg production, beef and dairying.

The chartered school bus took the group past Dunbar and Parsons' orchards as the first points of interest. County Horticultural Agent Clifford B. Cordy explained that the wind machines the group saw in one of the orchards were not very effective against frost.

Last frost season frost hit trees right up to the base of the machine, he pointed out. The oil-burning orchard heaters are the cheapest source of heat. Growers are converting gradually to the return-stack or less smoke producing heaters, but these cost \$7 each and it takes roughly twice as many to heat an orchard as the old open pots.

Pears, he pointed out, are a life-time investment. Pointing to an orchard on the foothills rd., he said it was new in 1885. Peaches are a comparatively short time investment he said pointing to a nearby peach orchard which was planted a few years ago and is now out of production. Pear trees in the old orchard are still producing, he pointed out. Peach trees produce in 3 to 5 years and pears in 10-15 years.

Passing orchards in which some of the trees appeared lifeless, the horticultural agent said they were affected by pear decline. This hits trees at random and may be due to a combination of factors. Specific cause or causes have not yet been determined, he noted. Oriental root stocks seem most susceptible.

Reaching the 401 orchards, Cordy noted that most of present pear orchards formerly supported apple orchards. Collar rot forced these trees out of production, he added.

Pointing to the heavy black soil, Cordy said it is called Phoenix clay-ash which consists of 65 per cent of the soil around the foothills. This is good pear soil when it is deep enough, he noted. Unless it is at least three feet deep it is difficult to irrigate, he said.

for a spray rig, \$6,800 for a D-2 tractor, \$3,750 for a wheel tractor, \$1,800 for a rear-end lift, \$3,000 for a truck, \$1,400 for a disc, \$300 for a springtooth harrow, \$250 for hand tools, \$200 for ladders and \$75 for picking buckets.

This is the equipment which would be used in orchards of 85 acres or more, it was explained.

Costs Outlined

How much does it cost to produce, harvest, pack, store and sell a pear crop from one tree, plus other incidental costs?

The Root brothers estimate costs of producing and harvesting a pear crop from one tree is \$10, costs of packing, storing and selling \$15 per tree.

Production costs per tree in labor would include 70 cents for pruning; spraying, 12 cents; orchard heating, 28 cents; thinning, 24 cents; irrigation, 12 cents; seeding, grubbing, etc., 75 cents; harvesting, \$1.62, which brings the labor total to \$3.82. Other costs include \$1.06 for chemicals, 81 cents for orchard heating oil, 26 cents for tractor fuel, 36 cents for equipment repairs, 24 cents for irrigation, eight cents for utilities, 18 cents for insurance, mostly on labor, 28 cents for taxes (mostly property taxes), 14 cents for soil conservation, 69 cents for depreciation, \$1.50 for interest on owner's investment, and owner's time, 57 cents.

In the overall costs of packing, storage and selling an estimated \$6.59 per tree is for cost of labor.

Root noted that the Indian Springs orchard included such pear varieties as Bartlett, red Bartlett, D'Anjou, Bose, Conice, Nellis, and Packham's Triumph. Always experimenting, like most of the pear industry here, the Root brothers are using plastic pipe for their irrigation system.

The group seemed very interested in the Beebe farm in the Central Point area. This is a small family farm operated by father and son, Kenneth W. and Kenneth R. Beebe. Interest was probably due to this being the type of farm operation many of the tour members had grown up in.

As a county agent explained, the Beebes do the little things which keep their fruit and vegetables at peak quality. They use grass from Otto Bohner's grass seed operation for mulch around their trees. Individual tree records tell just what each is producing, how it was irrigated, fertilized and sprayed.

The Beebes have what fruit experts call one of the finest Comice orchards in the valley. They have one acre in Comice pears, four acres in peaches, four acres in apples and one acre in young Bartlett pears.

They add a Triple 14 fertilizer plus nitrogen for better color in their fruit. The good color to their pears and the rosy blush to their peaches is proof.

Unlike many fruit growers, the Beebes don't have harvest labor problems. Tall Blackfeet Indians come each year to pick. These meticulous pickers fill the boxes just as the Beebes want them and will refill them if the owners are not satisfied. During a season the Beebes say they have few culls. Each tree will produce about 19 boxes.

Try Dwarf Fruit Trees

The Beebes are also experimenting with dwarf fruit trees. Dave Lowry, veteran fruit grower and operator of Associated Fruit company, pointed out that it's easier to get pickers for the smaller fruit trees since the fruit is within easy reach. He estimates that dwarfs can be picked for a third less.

En route to Sams Valley and the Korner poultry farm, County Agent Earle Jossy noted that the county has 12,471 head of steers, 21,181 head of dairy cattle, 10,606 sheep and lambs and 5,092 swine. Big reason that this county doesn't have more cattle is that feed shipped here costs \$5 a ton more than it does in Portland. Now there are 46 Grade A dairy producers in the Medford-Ashland milk shed. Ten years ago there were about 110, Jossy said. Dairy cows have increased from 23,573 to 21,181 in five years.

The county's population has doubled but the sale of milk has not gone up at all,

Jossy noted. One reason for this is that a lot of dried milk is used. Any increase in milk prices has however, gone mostly to labor and distribution costs.

Passing the Table Top Hereford ranch, Jossy noted that most of the valley's beef is marketed out as weaner calves. Because of the comparatively high price of feed here compared to major beef producing areas it does not pay to raise fat calves.

The tour made a brief stop at the Elmer Korner farm in Sams Valley where 7,200 laying hens produce eggs for the Jackson county market. This farm is also a family operation. Korner and his wife, Ann, do almost all of the work with some hired help as needed.

We visited the Korner farm about a year ago and were told then he planned to expand and that his son, John, hoped to establish his own poultry operation on the same 40 acres. This was when the egg market had hit a new low, but Korner believed with a tight, efficient, quality egg operation he could ride out the storm.

He has done that and his optimism has born fruit. The price of double A large eggs climbed nine or 10 cents this summer. Three new poultry buildings are in operation now. Foggers under the tin roofs keep the birds cool and help keep egg production up. Lights go on at night in the hen houses to stretch out the egg production day. The layers sit up in wire cages with droppings falling to the litter underneath. This provides for both sanitation and ease of operation since a tractor with attachment can scrape up the litter into a pile.

Even the chicken manure is used—it's sold to Lester James, Sams Valley dairy farmer.

The Korner operation is a complete one as the brooding house, egg handling and storage and miscellaneous storage sheds show. Two large grain storage tanks make it possible for Korner to buy his feed in large quantities and at a price advantage. He doesn't believe in fancy feeds thinking that the extra cost doesn't produce a corresponding extra profit. They figure their cost and profit ratios carefully and can tell you such things as the year around average percentage of lay, counting all chickens on the ranch, is close to 70 per cent. They won't keep any hens whose production drops below 55 per cent and seldom keep layers longer than 12 months. It cost them about 33 cents to produce a dozen eggs.

Final stop was at the Lester James ranch in Sams Valley as an example of conservation farming. By carefully squeezing every ounce of production from his soil conservation practices James has stretched the original 30 acres to 93 acres. Twenty-six are irrigated pasture with 21 acres of alfalfa and grass seeded for hay crop this fall.

Irrigation comes from three reservoirs with a surface area of 24 acres holding 181 acre feet of water for irrigation. All water is stored from winter and early spring runoff. Two of the ponds are stocked with warm water fish.

Additional irrigation from the proposed Rogue basin project may irrigate the rest of the 93 acres and make it possible for James to raise fruit or vegetables or both, he said.

Grade A milk for the local market is produced by 30 heads of Guernsey and Holsteins.



PEAR ORCHARD—Bob Root, foreground, with arm outstretched, points out the Root Brothers orchard operation north of Medford. Tour members tramped through the big sticky mud and some, like Medford Chamber of Commerce Manager Don Mc-



STEP DOWN—Ed Taylor, member of the Medford Chamber of Commerce farm tour held recently in Jackson county, steps off the school bus at the Root brothers orchard north of Medford. Only a handful of people took the tour, which covered all phases of

the county's agricultural economy condensed in one morning's visit. Fruit, truck farming, poultry and dairy operations were visited. Future tours will be held if requested and arrangements can be made.

Rogue River Youth Takes Championship in Dairy

David Strickland, Rogue River, took a grand and senior championship in dairy at the recent Jackson county 4-H and FFA fair with his registered Guernsey senior cow.

Other senior and grand champions were Carol Foote, Central Point with her other Guernsey senior cow; Georgia Hubbard, Antelope, with her registered Holstein senior cow; Sue Higginbotham, Central Point, with her other Holstein senior cow; Jerry Moore, Reese Creek, with his registered Jersey senior cow; Georgia Hubbard, Antelope, with her senior other Jersey cow; Marilyn Deckelman, Evans Valley with her registered senior cow and entry in advanced dairy Holstein and other breeds class.

Junior champions were Danny Reter, Siskiyou, in junior heifer class; Kathy Larson, Jacksonville, in senior heifer class; Georgia Hubbard, Antelope, in senior heifer class and in the registered Holstein senior cow class; Cathy Legler, Central Point, in the senior heifer calf class; Diane Brewer, Applegate, in the senior heifer calf class; Mindy Jacket, Talent, in senior heifer calf class; and Paulette Anderson, Antelope, in the junior heifer calf class.

Higginbotham, Central Point, first; Steven Geren, Antelope, second; Garry Cook, Talent, third; John Anhorn, Central Point, fourth; Junior Cow—Billy Ulion, Central Point, first; Bob Hubbard, Antelope, second; Georgia Hubbard, Applegate, third; Jennie Kullert, Applegate, fourth; Jennie Kullert, Applegate, fifth; Garry Cook, Talent, sixth; Douglas Cook, Talent, seventh.

Senior Heifer—Sue Higginbotham, Central Point, first; Vaughn, Antelope, second; Laqueta Stephenson, Reese Creek, second; Carol Foote, Central Point, fourth; Tim Higginbotham, Central Point, fifth.

Junior Heifer—Jennie Kullert, Applegate, first; Alice Kullert, Applegate, second; Adrienne Brian, Applegate, third; Tracy Legler, Central Point, fourth; Steven Geren, Antelope, fifth.

Senior Heifer Calf—Cathy Legler, Central Point, first; Stanton Hall, Sams Valley, second; Marilyn Wingham, Applegate, third; Cindy Bartley, Central Point, fourth; John Bush, Sams Valley, fifth.

Junior Heifer Calf—Georgia Hubbard, Antelope, first; Joshua A. Lecken, Antelope, second; John Anhorn, Central Point, third; Cindy Bartley, Central Point, fourth; John Bush, Sams Valley, fifth.

Production (Cow and own calf)—Steven Geren, Antelope, first; Gerry Hubbard, Antelope, second; John Anhorn, Central Point, third; Billy Ulion, Central Point, fourth.

Registered Jersey Senior Cow—Jerry Moore, Reese Creek, first; Marilyn Deckelman, Evans Valley, second; Kathleen Frederick, Central Point, third; Dennis Cornutt, Central Point, fourth; Greg Lathrop, Central Point, fifth; Lanny Parsons, Rogue River, sixth; Billy Reter, Siskiyou, seventh.

Senior Heifer—Cathy Legler, Central Point, first; Lanny Parsons, Rogue River, second; Michael Mattheisen, Reese Creek, second; Wayne Fletcher, Siskiyou, third.

Junior Heifer—Kathy Zappell, Talent, first; Billy Reter, Siskiyou, second; Lanny Parsons, Jacksonville, third; Lanny Parsons, Rogue River, fourth; Jerry Moore, Reese Creek, fifth; Lynn Merriman, Jacksonville, sixth; Dennis Cornutt, Central Point, seventh.

Production (Cow and own calf)—Dennis Cornutt, Central Point, first; Billy Reter, Siskiyou, second; Georgia Hubbard, Antelope, third; Lanny Parsons, Rogue River, second; Karen Jossy, Antelope, third; Linda Sommer, Talent, fourth; Sandy Brewster, Applegate, fifth; Richard Butler, Jacksonville, sixth; Penny Fletcher, Siskiyou, seventh.

Junior Cow—Kathleen Frederick, Central Point, first; Stan Billings, Siskiyou, second; Wayne Fletcher, Bellevue, third.

Applegate, first; Susan Head, Applegate, second; Michael Mattheisen, Reese Creek, third; Sandy Brewster, Applegate, fourth.

Junior Heifer—Candy Gail, Rogue River, first; Martin Jackson, Applegate, second; Duke Janssen, Applegate, third; Dennis Phillips, Eagle Point, fourth; Les Geren, Antelope, fifth.

Senior Heifer Calf—Linda Sommer, Talent, first; Diane Brewer, Antelope, second; Diane Brewer, third; Don Renter, Siskiyou, fourth; Danny Barton, Antelope, fifth.

Junior Heifer Calf—Sandy Brewster, Applegate, first; Karen Jossy, Antelope, second; Mary Herriot, Applegate, third.

Production (Cow and own calf)—Linda Sommer, Talent, first; Stan Billings, Siskiyou, second.

Registered All Other Senior Cow—Marilyn Deckelman, Evans Valley, first.

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Junior Heifer—Julie Ann Smith, Rogue River, first; Marilyn Deckelman, Rogue River, second; Jossy, Antelope, third; Paulette Anderson, Antelope, fourth; Heifer Calf—Mindy Jacket, Talent, first.

Senior Heifer Calf—Marilyn Deckelman, Evans Valley, first.

Production (Cow and own calf)—Marilyn Deckelman, Evans Valley, first; Sharon Downing, Applegate, second.

Advanced Dairy (Jersey)—Georgia Hubbard, Antelope, first; Karen Jossy, Antelope, second; Linda Sommer, Talent, third; Diane Barton, Antelope, fourth; Sandy Brewster, Applegate, fifth.

Advanced Dairy (Guernsey)—Marthanne Goodwin, Griffin Creek, first; Zane Strickland, Rogue River, second; Elizabeth Clark, Griffin Creek, third; Danny Reter, Siskiyou, fourth; Ronald Thomas, Jacksonville, fifth; Lynn Merriman, Siskiyou, sixth.

Advanced Dairy (Holstein)—Cher Bredt, Marlin Deckelman, Rogue River, first; Sue Higginbotham, Central Point, second; Steven Geren, Antelope, third; Kay Stephenson, Reese Creek, fourth.

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Intermediate Dairy Jersey—Jerry Moore, Reese Creek, first; Diane Brewer, Applegate, second; Michael Mattheisen, Reese Creek, third; Richard J. Buttger, Jacksonville, fourth; Cathy Legler, Central Point, fifth; Kathy Zappell, Talent, sixth; Greg Lathrop, Central Point, seventh; Stan Billings, Siskiyou, eighth; Kathleen Frederick, Central Point, ninth; Craig Lathrop, Central Point, tenth; Candy Gail, Gold Bluff, eleventh; Martin Jackson, Applegate, twelfth; Duke Janssen, Applegate, thirteenth; Dennis Phillips, Reese Creek, fourteenth.

Guernsey—David Strickland, Central Point, second; Richard Anderson, Antelope, third; Margaret S. Goodwin, Griffin Creek, fourth; Stephen L. Clark, Griffin Creek, fifth; Russell Field, Griffin Creek, sixth; Donna Geren, Antelope, seventh; Susan Cornutt, Central Point, eighth.

Holstein and Other Breeds—Bob Hubbard, Antelope, first; Cathy Legler, Eagle Point, second; Billy Ulion, Central Point, third; Paulette Anderson, Antelope, fourth; Jennie Kullert, Applegate, fifth; Alice Kullert, Applegate, sixth; Douglas Cook, seventh; Tim Higginbotham, Central Point, eighth; Adrienne Brian, Applegate, ninth; Tracy Legler, Central Point, tenth; John McDermott, Sams Valley, eleventh; Dairy All Breeds—(Bestows)—First Class—Mindy Jacket, Talent, first; Janet Glidden, Medford, second; Susan Head, Applegate, third; Les Geren, Antelope, fourth; Danny Barton, Antelope, fifth; Wayne Fletcher, Siskiyou, sixth; Karen Gruber, Siskiyou, seventh; Stanton Hall, Sams Valley, eighth; Second Class—Julie Ann Smith, Rogue River, first; Billy Reter, Siskiyou, second; Don Renter, Siskiyou, third; Marilyn Wingham, Applegate, fourth; Janet Renter, Siskiyou, fifth; Clare Martin, Rogue River, sixth; Laneta Stephenson, Reese Creek, seventh; Kathy J. Larson, Jacksonville, eighth; Joshua Lecken, Antelope, ninth; Steve Strickland, Rogue River, tenth.

DAIRY GOATS

Alpine Mature Doe—Betsy Jahn, Medford, first.

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Joe Kid—Judy Jahn, Medford, first.

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July Low Month For Rail Traffic

Salem—As is normal, July was a low month for Oregon's shipping point operations. Only 200 cars of fruits and vegetables moved under grade inspection. Grade movement in July was at a complete standstill at packing houses in four of the eight districts.

Malheur county's early potatoes accounted for 56 per cent of the July movement. Hood River moved 17.7 cars of sweet cherries under inspection and the Portland district handled 66.5 cars, mostly potatoes. Salem district's three cars completed the picture.

for a spray rig, \$6,800 for a D-2 tractor, \$3,750 for a wheel tractor, \$1,800 for a rear-end lift, \$3,000 for a truck, \$1,400 for a disc, \$300 for a springtooth harrow, \$250 for hand tools, \$200 for ladders and \$75 for picking buckets.

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Members of the Medford Chamber of Commerce farm tour were photographed recently as they inspected the Beebe family's produce stand. In the foreground is Gerald Latham, Chamber president. Row on row of the tempting for the small profit received.

Economic Changes Predicted

By SID HOLLINGSWORTH
Mail Tribune Correspondent

Berkeley, Calif.—The parade of scientific agricultural advancement may be halted by curtailment of education as well as research in various colleges dealing extensively with this subject.

This is the view of Dr. Burton Wood, head of the department of agricultural economics at Oregon State college, Corvallis, as expressed in the closing address of the recent 32nd annual conference of the American Institute of Cooperation at the University of California.

Dr. Wood spoke of the work being done for agriculture at Oregon State college, which may be affected by drastic reduction in attention to problems dealing with the growing and marketing of crops.

A somewhat gloomy forecast was painted by Dr. Wood. He quoted the Biblical account of David, who went forth to battle with the Philistines with five smooth stones.

Briefly his five points were:

1. In 10 years the Pacific coast region will have to feed another 15 million or more people, forming the largest, hungriest and highest paid group of consumers anywhere near us.
2. The pressure of abundant harvest will tend to keep government at the controls. Farmers are beginning to realize if they can not sell their output to advantage, they should not produce it.
3. Consumers do not care whether farmers make any money or not. Farmers must realize their real competition comes from themselves.
4. Cooperatives can no longer effectively or economically serve all farmers. They must "grade" their producers just as they grade their products. Changes in cooperative structure and procedure are in order.
5. Public relations for agriculture will get worse before it gets better. Many citizens feel farming is a subsidized industry and that if it were not for government, the farmer today could not survive.

ager of Sunkist Growers, Los Angeles, who shared the platform with Dr. Wood, presented a more hopeful view of the Sixties.

He called attention to the fact that the least of the "culpits" contributing to high food prices is the producer, whose take home pay has dropped from 50 to 40 cents or lower.



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DAIRY

Registered Guernsey Senior Cow—David Strickland, Rogue River, first.

Registered Guernsey Junior Cow—Elizabeth Clark, Griffin Creek, first; Zane Strickland, Rogue River, second.

Senior Heifer—Donna Geren, Antelope, first; Danny Reter, Siskiyou, second; Steven Geren, Antelope, third.

Junior Heifer—Zane Strickland, Rogue River, first.

Junior Heifer Calf—Danny Reter, Siskiyou, first.

Production—Cow and own calf—Peppi Clark, Griffin Creek, first.

Other Guernsey Senior Cow—Marthanne Goodwin, Griffin Creek, second; Danny Reter, Siskiyou, third; Mary Ann Cantrell, Jacksonville, fourth; Richard Anderson, Griffin Creek, fifth; Elizabeth Clark, Griffin Creek, sixth; Margaret S. Goodwin, Griffin Creek, seventh; John Anhorn, Central Point, eighth.

Senior Heifer—Kathy J. Larson, Jacksonville, first; Stephen L. Clark, Griffin Creek, second; Russel Fields, Jacksonville, third; Les Geren, Antelope, fourth.

Junior Heifer—Mary Cantrell, Jacksonville, first; Richard Anderson, Antelope, second; Janet Renter, Siskiyou, third; Lynn Merriman, Siskiyou, fourth.

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Production—(Cow and own calf)—Carol Foote, Central Point, first; Marthanne Goodwin, Griffin Creek, second; Richard Anderson, Antelope, third; Elizabeth Clark, Griffin Creek, fourth; Mary Ann Cantrell, Jacksonville, fifth; Margaret S. Goodwin, Griffin Creek, sixth; John Anhorn, Central Point, seventh; Kay Stephenson, Reese Creek, second.

Registered Holstein Senior Cow—Georgia Hubbard, Antelope, first.

Senior Heifer—Cecelia Fichtner, Central Point, first.

Senior Heifer Calf—Clare Martin, Rogue River, first; Kay Stephenson, Reese Creek, second.

Junior Heifer Calf—Georgia Hubbard, Antelope, first; Kay Stephenson, Reese Creek, second.

Other Holstein Senior Cow—Sue

Alpine Mature Doe—Betsy Jahn, Medford, first.

Alpine Mature Doe—Ron Smith, Medford, first.

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Nubian Mature Doe—Ron Smith, Medford, first; Janet Glidden, Medford, second; Martha Humphrey, West Side, third.

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