

33,456 Youths Enrolled In Oregon's 4-H Programs

Corvallis - Oregon's enrollment in 4-H clubs climbed to new heights this year with 33,456 boys and girls pledged to "make their best better."

F. L. Ballard, associate director of Oregon State college extension service, noted that membership in 4-H clubs is increasing at a faster rate than Oregon's present population growth rate.

Nearly twice as many girls as boys are enrolled in 4-H projects—22,212 girls and 11,263 boys, notes Burton Hutton, state 4-H leader. Youth's main interests appear to be in clothing, livestock and food, with 29,000 youth enrolled in at least one of these projects.

Four-H seamstresses, 10,680 girls enrolled in clothing projects, made a total of 38,052 articles last year. Ruth Brasher, state 4-H extension agent, reports that knitting was the fastest growing project with an increase of 984 members. Current fashion trends in easy-to-knit bulky sweaters and youth's normal bent toward "creativity" may account for some of this growth. Livestock Popular

Cal Monroe, state 4-H agent, reports that nearly a third of all Oregon's club members are enrolled in livestock projects—beef, dairy, dairy goats, horse, rabbit, sheep, swine or dog clubs. A nationwide movement of families from cities and farms into suburbs and parent's desires to provide youth experience in raising and caring for an animal is credited with some of the continued interest in livestock suggests Monroe.

Food preparation, preservation and meal planning was practiced by 9,230 4-H youth in foods, food preservation and outdoor cookery projects. Beginning food manuals are being rewritten to include more on food buying, nutrition, and experimental cookery, according to Lois Redman, state 4-H agent.

Other popular projects are health with 3,715 members, horticultural projects (flowers and vegetable growing) 1,761, forestry 1,450, junior leadership 1,209, photography 822.

Oregon Cuts Out Bee Disease With Quarantine

Salem - Prompted by intelligence of a threat to Oregon honeybees industry, the state department of agriculture has prohibited entry from anywhere in the world of the mite which causes the serious acarine disease of bees.

The quarantine also rules out entry into Oregon from any foreign country of the mite, spores and their sub-species. This mite, *Acarapis woodi* Rennie, causes one of the most serious bee diseases and has virtually wiped out the bee industry in heavily infested areas in other lands, says J. F. Short, who as director of agriculture signed the quarantine.

He says the federal government presently has no quarantine to protect states against possible invasion of acarine disease, which is not known to exist in the United States. Short's action came following word of a move on the part of a Portland resident to bring bees from overseas into Oregon for research purposes. He said the researcher had rejected the U. S. government's offer to secure bees of the alien species and provide him supply after assurance of freedom from the mite or acarine disease.

The quarantine was effective Aug. 17, the day after it was written.

Vaccine Threatens Livestock Market

A new vaccine against hoof-and-mouth disease, the scourge of the livestock industry in much of the world, is reported to have been developed by an Inter-American research center in Brazil.

"If this vaccine proves as successful as the research laboratories of Brazil say, here is a further threat to our livestock industry due to imports," comments the Idaho Wool Growers Bulletin.

The only thing that has saved the cattle business and to a great degree the sheep industry, it explains, is the "sanitary pact" which prevents imports from disease infected countries.

The publication urges import quotas and congressional action to limit possible heavy imports of cattle, sheep, hogs and the products thereof.

The production of ice cream in the United States has grown from 318,088,000 gallons in 1940 to 697,922,000 gallons in 1959.

BARNES MFG. CO.
announces the appointment of
PACIFIC FARM SUPPLY
Distributor of Barnes Pumps for
Jackson and Josephine Counties



Floyd Robertson
Well Known Local
Pump Salesman
will manage
OUR NEW
PUMP
Department

FOR A
COMPLETE LINE OF
Domestic and Irrigation Pumps
Call or See
PACIFIC FARM SUPPLY
2810 Crater Lake Hiway • SP 2-2633

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

The big problem in Rogue valley agriculture seems to be that of creating local demand for local products.

This applies to milk and other dairy products, vegetables, and poultry particularly.

One of the old-timers told us how in the early days, farmers would bring their butter and eggs to local stores and use their butter and egg money for store-bought goods. Churning the butter was the farm woman's job and some farm families became well-known in the valley for the quality of butter produced.

Now cream from hundreds of Grade A dairy farmers is run through one plant and the farmer's product loses its identity. Now when you buy a pound of butter you don't know that it was produced by one of your farmer neighbors or that the cream is nice and thick because Farmer Brown's Jerseys produced it. Of course, there are some exceptions. Some still make the trip out to the farm to buy their dairy products directly from the farmer. But generally the emphasis is on price, convenience and uniformity, which store sold products feature.

During the recent Medford Chamber of Commerce agricultural tour it was pointed out that Jackson county's population has just about doubled in the last 10 years, but the amount of milk consumed by the population remains the same. Perhaps this lack of increased consumption is why there were only 885 dairy farms reporting in the 1959 census compared to 1,521 farms five years ago.

Local egg producers face the same problem. Independently they are trying to convince local people they can produce a top quality egg as good, if not better than egg producers from any other area. Independently, because as one large egg producer said, it doesn't do any good to form even a state-wide market group unless it has some teeth in it. Quality must be enforced, he said. You can't have some producers dumping their trash on the market through such a market association and other consistently putting out top quality eggs.

Poultry prices hit a disastrously low about a year ago and the market now is just gradually recovering. The low prices forced many producers out, with the less efficient ones going first. This is shown by the farm census figures showing 824 poultry farms with chickens four months old and older reporting in 1959 compared to 1,699 in 1954—just about half. A veteran poultryman reports that banks were burned pretty badly from granting loans to people who wanted to jump into the business when prices were good. Loans to newcomers in the business are going to be tougher to get from now on in, he predicts.

This naturally will limit the number going into egg production and should indirectly help the market, the local poultryman predicts. Of course, the census figures show the growing trend of agriculture fewer poultry farms in production but those few producing with almost as many birds—111,375 chickens over four months old in 1959 compared to 117,006 in 1954.

So, local people must also buy eggs to maintain any kind of a poultry industry here. The other day we read that a family of four must earn \$8,000 a year to maintain a current high standard of living. There are many farmers in this valley who earn much less than that. It's kind of a vicious circle, to be able to make \$8,000 a year, a poultryman, for instance must have at least 5,000 layers. Yet a poultryman can't expand unless the market is good enough to bring him enough money to pay for an expansion.

This summer the Double A large eggs went up 10 cents a dozen or to a wholesale price of 54 cents a dozen. Poultry people estimate feed costs amount to 35 cents a dozen without charging themselves for the labor, giving them a profit of about 15 cents a dozen. However, predictions indicate that egg prices may go as low as 35 cents a dozen next spring, causing the poultryman just to break even.

Perhaps because egg producers form one of the smaller agricultural industries in the valley, they are too often overlooked. A man and wife poultry operation we know of near here we live seems as confining as a dairy farm. It's one of the smaller poultry operations in the valley so there is little automatic equipment used. Labor is the only place where they can cut corners. Their own labor is donated.

If the wife plays the organ in church Sundays, she has to work all Sunday afternoon into the evening. Otherwise she works from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays.

Meanwhile, according to OSC poultry and egg market reviews, Portland egg prices to producers changed little since early August. Double A Large advanced one cent a dozen while other grades and sizes held unchanged except for a three-cent decline at the top of the price range on smalls.

Grade A large and smalls are up four to eight cents compared to early summer prices and mediums are selling seven to nine cents a dozen higher. However, present prices on Double A large are only two to three cents above a year ago levels. Grade A large are two to five cents higher and smalls are up a nickel from a year ago.

Poultry experts continue to advise experienced, soundly financed poultrymen to go into raising turkey breeder hens. Demand for Oregon produced turkey eggs exceeds the supply. Those planning this business venture should check with turkey hatcheries here, however. The newly released ag census for Jackson county points up the room for such an enterprise with 360 farms reporting in 1959 on turkey hens kept for breeding. Estimates for 1959 place total number of turkey hens kept for breeding at 165,932 compared to 150,400 in 1954.

The current price on eggs may continue until January, according to the OSC chicken raised report for 1960. The number of chickens raised on Oregon farms during 1960 is estimated at 3,929,000 birds compared with 4,271,000 for 1959. This drop amounts to about 8 per cent from last year, but is almost one-fourth below the 1949-58 average of 5,137,000 chickens raised. This does not include commercial broiler production.

Number of chickens raised on U. S. farms in 1960 is expected to total 339,057,000, 15 per cent below last year and the smallest number since records began in 1909. Last year there was a cut of 7 per cent. All regions of the country show decreases in chickens raised this year.

A local pear man was illustrating the difference between professional, amateur and Mexican National pickers the other day. Perhaps this may help the local people understand the pear industry's point of view in hiring Mexican Nationals.

A local family crew earned \$1.02 an hour and picked about 60 boxes per person per day. Some professional pickers came in and picked 107 boxes per person per day and netted \$1.63 an hour. A group of Mexican Nationals, who had never picked pears before, spent a part of their first day in an orchard, netted \$1.19 per hour for their first day, and filled 67½ lugs per person.

One thing we will predict, though, and hope it doesn't come true—a nasty pile up of cars on the highway at the south entrance to Bear Creek Orchards packing plant. Seeing the traffic signal and concrete island up ahead, drivers expect Bear Creek workers to turn in at the island and not at the south entrance. They don't always stop in time for the workers' cars which make the quick turn into the parking lot. A barrier across this entrance might save some nasty rear-end collisions and perhaps some lives. This situation is particularly hazardous during tourist season, when motorists are not apt to be aware of such local traffic problems, and in the foggy fall season.

Farm Notes

By GAYLORD P. GODWIN
United Press International

Washington - (UPI) - Farm prices plunged 2 per cent in the month ended Aug. 15 under the impact of lower returns for meat animals, chickens, vegetables, potatoes, feed grains and tobacco, the Agriculture Department reported last week.

Partially offsetting the general average decline were higher prices for milk, eggs, cotton and wheat. The decline left farm prices 2 per cent below those of a year ago.

The overall change in production and living costs was not enough to cause a shift in the index prices paid. Farm costs remained about one-third of one per cent higher than in August, 1959.

The decline in farm prices received was large enough to kick the parity ratio down one point to 79 per cent. This compared with 80 per cent in mid-July and 80 per cent in mid-August last year.

Parity is the price needed to put the value of commodities sold by farmers on a par with the cost of things they must buy—theoretically a fair return for their products.

Turkey Crop Good
The 1960 turkey crop is rated by the Agriculture Department as equal to the big 1959 output. Actually, this year's crop promises to be a little larger — by 200,000 birds.

The preliminary estimate by the crop reporting board shows this year's turkey crop at 82.3 million birds. This compares with 1959 output of 82.1 million.

Growers expressed their intentions in January to raise about 6 per cent more turkeys. The reduced number of breeding hens, however, limited the production of poults and did not permit growers to meet their intentions.

There also were warnings by the department that a hike in production might result in lower prices for producers.

The number of heavy breed turkeys being raised this year is up 9 per cent from 1959 with heavy white breeds up 19 per cent and bronze and other heavy breeds up 5 per cent. Light breed turkeys, which account for only 12 per cent of the total raised this year, are down 37 per cent from 1959.

Peach Method Told
Agricultural Marketing Service researchers have found that costs of transporting peaches by truck can be reduced materially if the baskets are loaded by the "alternately inverted" method—every second basket upside down.

The advantage is that the alternately inverted load permits shipment of more baskets per truck than in the conventional all-upright arrangement. The more compact load reduces both transportation and refrigeration costs per basket.

Cow Numbers Drop
Although the number of milk cows in the United States continued to drop in the first half of this year, the decline was the smallest since 1954.

As of June 30, the Agriculture Department reported today the number of cows was

State Proposes Rule Changes In Garbage Feed

Salem—Anyone who wants a voice in proposed changes in state rules for feeding of garbage to swine and inspection of poultry and rabbits should make himself known before Sept. 15.

The state department of agriculture is proposing amendments to both regulations.

The major change proposed in voluntary poultry inspection regulations would require two rooms for poultry slaughter. One room would be designed for bleeding, scalding and defeathering; the second for evisceration and packaging. No change is contemplated in the present one room approved for rabbit slaughter.

Another proposal would stipulate hot water for the daily cleansing of all processing floors. A third change would add "leak proof" to the fly-tight container required for offal held on the premises. The proposals would also stipulate ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection procedures.

The move on garbage feeding rules entails a general tightening up on sanitation, drainage, cooking and construction requirements. Purpose: to reinforce protection of humans and animals against possible spread of disease through garbage feeding to swine.

Any opinions on the proposals should be addressed orally or in writing to J. F. Short, director, state department of agriculture, Salem.

Public Relations Is Farm Need According To AIC President

By SID HOLLINGSWORTH
Mail Tribune Correspondent

Berkeley, Calif. - I attended sessions of the American Institute of Cooperation held here by the University of California recently.

It is doubtful if many, even in Oregon where the cooperative movement in agriculture is highly developed, know that this organization exists.

Its purpose, as one representative explained, is to educate where the National Grange conducts the legislative and field work of farm and cooperative groups.

Three to four thousand members and their families attended from all over the country.

What makes it doubly important is that the speakers said, that agriculture is in the "dog house" and wants to climb up to the level of other segments of the national economy.

Dislike Role
"We are tired of being the underdog when we lead the world in production as well as scientific development," said D. W. Brooks, general manager of the Cotton Producers association of Atlanta, Ga., in a keynote address.

He told of a remark made by the chairman of a war board on which he served when he questioned the wisdom of not keeping within the budget as a matter of principle.

"There are times," the chairman was quoted as saying, "when it is necessary to rise above principle."

This may show the mood of these agricultural representatives of today. They are a little worried by the large task ahead, but they want to retain their cooperative spirit along with a sense of humor.

There is nothing to fear from Russia in the Soviet attempt to pass American production and achievement, Brooks said.

"If all we have to do is lick Russia in agriculture, we could all go fishing," he said. "Their production is only one-fifth of ours, and it will take 10 years or more to get where we are today." He had made

Weights, Measure Standard Checked

Salem—Oregon's weights and measures program added to its reputation as one of the best in the nation recently in a National Bureau of Standards regional testing stand held in California.

The Oregon department of agriculture sent two 500-pound state standards to be checked by the nation's supreme authority in this field. This is the first time the National Bureau has brought the federal standard west to check state standards.

The Oregon weights each came within 14 grains of hitting 500 pounds square on the nose. They each weighed 14 grains too much, according to word reaching Salem a few days ago. No other state reached this peak.

And if anyone doesn't know how close 14 grains is, here's the dope sheet: an ounce contains 437.5 grains, a pound 7000 grains and 500 pounds 3.5 million grains!

W. B. Steele, in charge of the weights and measures work, says the National Bureau didn't alter the weight as it was well within the accepted tolerance for state standards.

Egg Prices Rise; Hens Decline

Corvallis - Egg prices are again on the upswing as farmers throughout the nation cut back on the number of chickens raised this year—the fewest since records were started in 1909.

This trend also holds in Oregon, reports Mrs. Elvera Horrell, Oregon State college extension agricultural economist. Oregon farmers are raising the smallest number of replacement chicks since state records started in 1924.

Present cutbacks are a reaction to record-high egg production last year that brought sharp price declines, the economist explained.

Cambridge, Mass.—UPI—Clarance H. Haring, 75, professor emeritus of Latin American history and economics at Harvard University, died Sunday.

a first-hand study of conditions there.

Leon Garion, of Oregon State college, in one session discussion, stressed that "efforts to increase farmers' incomes more in line with their contribution to the national economy during the past several decades have included a mixture of individual actions, governmental programs and cooperative efforts."

The individual farmer has little or no bargaining strength and must turn to cooperatives to affect changes in the market structure, he said.

Oregon's experience with the milk situation was reviewed by Will W. Henry, general manager of the Dairy Cooperative association, Portland.

"For five years after the repeal of the milk marketing law, the industry conducted itself in a way that was beneficial to the entire industry, including consumers," he said. "In the past year, however, certain action on the part of a large group of producers has caused a disturbance on the market which will ultimately work to the detriment of the producers themselves."

Lack of understanding of the simple economic laws handicaps this industry, Henry declared.

J. K. Stein of Washington, D.C., president of the AIC, stressed the need for better public relations. This can be gained, he said, by the members collectively working to cultivate favorable opinions from consumers and the public generally.

"Everything you do influences public opinion one way or the other," he pointed out.

IRRIGATION PROBLEMS?
Rent a
MARVIN LANDPLANE!
Call
L. G. McLaren & Co., Inc.
1002 S. Central, SP 2-6181

IT'S THE GRANGE CO-OP
for all your
FALL PLANTING NEEDS!
A full line of Seed Grains • Wheat • Oats • Barley
also — • Rye • Vetch • Peas • Clover • Alfalfa
• Grasses and Pasture Mixes

EVERYTHING IN FERTILIZERS, TOO . . . Gypsum, Superphosphate, Nitrogen Fertilizers and Mixes.

In the long run, you won't do better than trading at Grange Co-Op!

REMEMBER . . .
You don't have to be a member to trade here and save!



Grange Co-Op Supply Association
Hiway 99 421 A Street
CENTRAL POINT • ASHLAND
Phone NO 4-1261 Phone MU 9-6281