



INTERMEDIATE BEEF SHOWMAN—Chip Buffington, 14, of Medford, was named champion 4-H beef showman at the Oregon state fair at Salem this year.

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

The public currently is paying more attention to agriculture, its status and its problems. Reasons? Farm problems being drawn up by the Democratic and Republican parties and the recently released agricultural census.

As revealed by the ag census of Jackson county the big farms are getting bigger and the small farmer is either being squeezed out or is going into part-time farming. Also, the large commercial grain farms are continuing to pile up more surpluses. In Jackson county few farms raise grain, only 163 in 1959, and this is used for livestock feed. But the problem of surplus grain, particularly of wheat, affects everyone who pays taxes and who eats.

The new book, "Freedom to Farm," by Ezra Taft Benson, secretary of agriculture, is particularly timely. This book sketches briefly the U. S. agricultural history, tells how the farm surplus problem started and grew and how it has been affected by farm politics.

This book probably should be read from back to front. The secretary of agriculture's proposals in the book are: (1) Relax or eliminate controls and gradually change support prices. Supports should be based on what consumers paid in recent years not on 1910 to 1914. (2) The conservation reserve program should be expanded by 8 to 12 million acres. (3) Put more imagination and vigor behind the "Food for Peace" program. (4) Continue an aggressive, imaginative research program. (5) Help the little farmer or the rural dweller to increase his acreage or earn more off his farm.

Going back over his proposals, Benson explains that U. S. farmers now produce more per man-hour than the 1910-14 period on which current farm support prices are based. A more current base would provide a year-to-year insurance of more orderly marketing and the farmer would be producing for the consumer and not for the government. The USDA head indicates that the conservation reserve is helping restore the economic balance of agriculture by taking land out of production. By going about this gradually it will not seriously effect local economies, he asserts.

Benson apparently strongly believes that the way to a man's and a country's heart is through the stomach. By exporting agricultural surplus to foreign countries and using part of the payment for helping the countries produce more food, the United States is helping to promote peace, the secretary of agriculture feels. Particularly interesting is his comment while touring Russian farms that he hopes Russia will outproduce the United States agriculturally. "If your people find they can produce a rising standard of living within their own boundaries through their own skills they will be less likely to look for outside conquest," Benson told a Russian farmer.

However, Russia has a long way to go before it reaches this goal. Over 40 per cent of the USSR total labor force is working in agriculture and forestry. We have less than 10 per cent of our local labor force working in agriculture. The Russians have about one million tractors owned by the state. The United States has nearly 5 million owned by individuals. We also have a million grain combines, nearly 750,000 mechanical compactors and about 600,000 pickup balers. Few Soviet farms have electricity compared to 90 per cent in the U. S.

Considering his fourth point, Benson points out what development of frozen juice concentrates did for the citrus industry, development of plastics, new uses for fats and oils and processed potato products. All these developments point to need for continued research.

The small farmer needs additional vocational training to learn new skills and guidance in making the needed adjustment to part-time living off the farm. New industry is needed to use these part-time farmers. This would be important to Jackson county since the recent ag census reveals that 1,165 farmers worked off the farm. A total of 1,473 farmers reported they worked 100 or more days off the farm and 1,232 reported earning more money from their off-farm jobs than from farm products sold. Benson emphasizes that existing farm price-support legislation does not help the small farmers.

The small-scale, part-time and residential farms have a majority of the farm people but they raise only 10 per cent of the farm products sold. At the other end of the economic teeter-totter are the commercial farmers who represent only 40 per cent of the farm population yet raise 90 per cent of the farm products sold. Benson points out in his book. As our boss pointed out in his editorial, perhaps the farm should be redefined to include rural residents who produce just enough for themselves and to peddle to their neighbors or the nearest farm stand. This, he stated might give the small farmer more political recognition.

That's a reasonable assumption. However, agricultural experts pointed out that one reason the Brannan plan as proposed by former Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brannan failed to get congressional approval was because the small or low-income farmers lack political force. One big aim of the proposed plan was to strengthen the small farmer.

Low income farmers have no effective pressure groups. The nation's big commercial farmers are highly organized and have "skillful and aggressive representation in Washington." Briefly, the Brannan plan proposed to extend income protection to farmers producing certain perishable commodities. It would make direct federal cash payments when their prices fell below a level set by his "income support" formula.

Getting back to Benson's book, he claims that prices for wheat are unrealistically set at the so-called parity levels of 1910-14. This, he argues, completely disregards present day farming skills and technological advances. His prediction for mid-summer came true. We do have enough wheat carried over to meet normal requirements for almost 2 1/2 years. He predicted \$3,500 million in federal funds will be tied up in wheat due to this carry-over.

Benson also predicted it will cost the taxpayers over \$1 1/2 billion for transportation, handling, storage, and interest just to hold the surpluses in 1960.

The crops receiving federal support money are wheat, corn, cotton, peanuts, rice, and tobacco. The high support prices have driven cotton out of half the world market it formerly had. The world's largest tobacco market is not Winston-Salem, N.C. but in Southern Rhodesia now, Benson pointed out.

Wheat, cotton and corn make up 85 per cent of the government's surplus crop inventory. However, these crops produce only about 17 per cent of the total cash farm income. This price support program is aimed at the large commercial farmers. For instance, 90 per cent of the wheat support payments go to 40 per cent of the farms.

And the surplus problem is likely to get worse than better. "We are not using our current knowledge of farm technology to the full," Benson pointed out. Also, efficiency in farming has been increasing twice what manufacturing has achieved in recent years.

This is that. September is the time to give cattle the new systems for grub control, to make corn silage, put pullets into the laying house.

Revised FHA Regulations Now Help Smaller Farmer

Washington—(UPI)—The Farmers Home Administration has revised its regulations to permit farmers who have regular off-farm employment to obtain farming and development loans from the agency.

The new regulations go into effect Oct. 1. Previously, except in rural development counties, a farmer had to spend most of his time farming in order to qualify for a loan.

The agriculture department said that experience gained in rural development counties has shown that many farmers regularly employed off the farm can profitably use the agency's credit facilities to increase the farm portions of their total incomes.

The regulation which limits assistance from obtaining the maximum income from their farms, and from taking advantage of opportunities for industrial and other off-farm employment, the department said.

Other Points Unchanged
Other eligibility requirements remain unchanged. Applicants must have sufficient farm experience to carry on sound farm operations, must be able to obtain needed financial assistance from other sources.

Credit will be extended to operators of farms that are family size or smaller. No loan will be made unless a plan for the coming year's farming operations shows that income from the farm and other sources will be large enough to enable the farm family to have a reasonable standard of living, pay debts, and have an adequate reserve for emergencies.

Loan funds may be used to pay farm operating costs, purchase equipment and livestock, pay farm development costs, and refinance certain debts. The interest rate is 5 per cent.

The Farmers Home Administration supplies technical farm and money management assistance to each borrower.

Corvallis—Oregon market prospects are better for hogs than for cattle and sheep in the year ahead, but the long-term outlook remains favorable for all parts of the state's meat animal industry, say Oregon State college economists.

Record large beef supplies now in the making throughout the country point to gradual declines in beef prices for the next three or four years.

Supply of beef per person in the U. S. next year appears certain to pass the 1956 record of 85.4 pounds, reports M. D. Thomas, OSC extension agricultural economist. However, beef prices in 1961 are not likely to drop as low as in 1956, the economist explains. Less pork on the market, plus willingness and ability of food buyers to spend more money for beef in recent years, will probably keep prices above 1956 levels.

Lamb Prices Dropping
Lamb prices are headed down along with beef. Slaughter lambs and steers at Portland have been bringing about \$3 a hundredweight less than last summer.

Oregon hog prices, now in a seasonal decline should be followed by a rise this winter to levels possibly above recent July peaks, the economist believes. By next summer, swine breeding stock should be higher and some of the highest market hog prices could be paid for awhile, Thomas adds.

Taking a longer look at market prospects for Oregon livestock, the economist points out that local cattle and hog raisers are located near the west coast's "fastest growing group of highly paid meat eaters" in the country.

Oregon, Washington and California populations have increased more than one-third in the past decade and the gain is expected to continue nearly as fast in the next 10 years. Per capita income also has increased rapidly and is well above average.

Detailed discussion of Oregon's livestock outlook is included in the current issue of the Oregon Farm and Market Outlook circular published by OSC extension service. Also included are reports on seed crops, grain, and hay and the general economic outlook. Free copies are available at county extension offices.

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Farm Bureau Meets At Valley View

The regular monthly meeting of the Talent Center Farm Bureau will be held at 8 o'clock tonight in the Valley View school house, according to Chairman E. E. Rasmussen.

Reclamation On New Upswing On USSR Lands

Washington—(UPI)—The Soviet Union apparently has revived a land reclamation plan of the early 1950's in its efforts to surpass the United States in agricultural production.

The seven-year plan to out-produce the United States by 1965 was based primarily on an increase in yields. When Premier Nikita Khrushchev announced the plan in 1959, it was believed Russian farmers had about completed an earlier plan of getting more land into cultivation by plowing up virgin soils which had been used for centuries for grazing purposes. Apparently they had not—or perhaps their political leaders decreed they had not.

The Foreign Agricultural Service, culling reports from the Soviet press, has learned that reclamation is operating in a big way in the "new lands" area of Kazakhstan and Siberia, and also in the European section of the Soviet Union.

In Kazakhstan 3,088,750 acres of virgin land have been plowed this year and more acres were being plowed early in August, FAS said. Elsewhere, in the Rostov area in the heart of the Soviet winter wheat belt, the area sown to corn and small grains is to be expanded by plowing 494,200 acres of virgin land plus 123,550 acres of meadow. In one region of the Ukraine 494,200 acres of land were to be drained and reclaimed by 1965. In this area soils are infertile, have poor moisture retentive ability, and require heavy annual fertilization.

Under the "new lands" program, the Soviets added some 93 million acres to cultivation in 1954-56. Some smaller increases since have brought the total tillable land to an estimated 501.4 million acres. The so-called "new lands" are located in the sub-humid and semi-arid zones of Asiatic USSR, east of the Volga River and the Ural Mountains. Now the plow-uppers are diminishing pasture and natural meadowland in parts of the Ukraine and the North Caucasus.

Despite its tremendous total of 5.5 billion acres, the Soviet Union has only about 530 million acres of tillable land compared with 475 million in the United States. Much of the Soviet Union is not suited for farming. About 75 per cent of the total land mass consists of deserts, mountains, swamps, tundra, and forests.

White winter and Bonneville barleys were next in yields in this year's trials but have been over several years testing the varieties recommended for fall seeding.

Fall seedings of grain should be made in preference to spring seedings whenever possible for higher yields. The increasing occurrence of cereal yellow dwarf in Jackson county with the possibilities of epidemic proportions like that found in the Willamette valley point to the need for fall seeding as a control measure. The aphids which transmit this disease from the wild perennial grasses along roadsides and fence rows are usually dormant when the young winter grain is in the susceptible stage.

Nitrogen is the main plant nutrient limiting yields of grain crops in the county. The amount of nitrogen to apply is dependent upon the field's cropping history. No nitrogen may be necessary the first year following alfalfa or clover pasture where there has been a good growth of legumes. Early spring growth will determine the need for a spring application of nitrogen.

It is suggested that for fall grains following a cereal crop that fifteen to twenty pounds of actual nitrogen per acre be worked in the seedbed just prior to seeding. An early spring follow-up application of the latter part of February or the first part of March of twenty to thirty pounds actual nitrogen per acre is suggested. Under conditions of adequate irrigation water where a heavy crop of straw has been plowed down prior to seeding the early spring application could be increased to thirty to forty pounds of actual nitrogen.

Phosphorus and potassium applications should be based upon a soil test report. Cereal crops will respond to applications of sulfur. If sulfur has not been included in the previous year's fertilizer program it is recommended that ten to twenty pounds of sulfur per acre be applied. Sulfur can generally be included in one of the fertilizer materials.

Portland—(UPI)—Samuel Sprague, 39, Brookings, Monday was bound over to a federal grand jury on a complaint by the federal communications commission of sending false distress signals.

The FCC charged the signals were sent from a boat tied up at Coos Bay and that they confused the Coast Guard which was looking for a ship in trouble off the Oregon coast last February. Sprague was released on his own recognizance.

COURT RECORDS
ASHLAND MUNICIPAL COURT
Robert D. Nichols, excessive vehicle noise, \$15 suspended.
Dale E. Truax, failure to heed stop sign, \$5.
Andrew D. Wardinski, leaving motor running while vehicle unattended, \$20.
Neil L. Green, violation basic rule, \$20.
Lawrence E. Tolliver, failure to heed stop sign, \$5.
Doyle M. Benson, failure to heed traffic light, \$5.
Rita L. Mackay, no operator's license, \$10.
William J. Carlon, transient, under influence of intoxicating beverages while on a public street, 5 days in jail.

Fewer, But Bigger Farms Revealed By State Census

Corvallis—Oregon has nearly 12,000 fewer farms—but bigger farms—than five years ago. Economic pressures and technological changes are given as reasons for the sharp decline in numbers and increase in size.

Stephen M. Marks, Oregon State college extension agricultural economist, says farmers' attempts to maintain income in the price-cost squeeze has boosted the average size of Oregon farms to 507 acres compared with 387 acres five years ago.

This trend to bigger farms stems from addition of acreage by purchases of adjoining

farms and from a 2 1/2 per cent increase from new acreage, Marks explained.

Preliminary figures from Oregon's 1959 Census of Agriculture show 42,573 farms—33 per cent fewer than in the peak year of 1935 when the state had 64,826 farms.

Biggest decline in the past five years came in the small-farm class of 10 to 50 acres which showed a drop in numbers of 31 per cent. However, part-time farms in the 10 to 50-acre class still represent nearly half the state's total number of farms.

Farms of 50 to 100 acres comprise about 16 per cent of the total, and farms from 100 to 500 acres account for 27 per cent. Large farms, containing 500 acres or more, make up 12 per cent of all Oregon farms.

About three-fourths of Oregon farms are operated by full owners, 19 per cent by part owners, 7 per cent by tenants, and less than 1 per cent operated by managers. The proportion of tenants had dropped from 8.2 per cent in 1954 to 7.2 per cent in 1959.

Other Changes Noted
Other changes saw a slight increase in the average age of the farm operators—now 51 years old compared with 50 years in 1954. However, there are 15 per cent fewer operators 65 years of age or over.

Final census data will be published by the Bureau of the Census later this fall, Marks said.

U. S. imports of livestock and meat products continued to decline in June.

Pork and lamb imports were the only red meat items which were above the June, 1959, level. Total red meat imports during the month were 35 per cent below last year, while variety meat imports declined 23 per cent. Imports of most other livestock products also declined during June.

The January-June total of beef and veal imports was 32 per cent lower than during the same period last year.

FARM NOTES

Washington—(UPI)—There will be considerably more beef available in 1961 than this year, according to an agriculture department survey of the livestock and meat situation.

The "more beef" situation stems from the fact that there will be about three million more cattle on farms and ranches on Jan. 1 than there were a year ago.

The department said the potential for slaughter in 1961 is considerably greater than in 1960. In fact, the department said, cattle numbers now have progressed to a point where increased marketings of all classes are almost inevitable.

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More Gain Seen In Plant Breeding Work At OSC

Corvallis—"More gain per bite" is the aim of a research study now under way at the Oregon State college agricultural station, where researchers are working to develop grasses that have more food value for animals.

Looking over a number of high-yielding tall fescue plants, OSC agricultural scientists started wondering if each individual fescue plant had as much digestible food value as other individual plants. A lot of forage isn't worth much if animals can't digest and use it, the scientists reasoned.

To find an answer to their question, the scientists took several individual tall fescue plants and increased them, keeping each planting separate. When enough forage from plants produced by each "mother" plant was available, the researchers set up a carefully-controlled feeding experiment, using sheep to measure the digestibility of each fescue-plant group.

The sheep were fed the forage from each plant's production over a two-week period, with the digestive progress of each sheep chemically analyzed and recorded. The sheep were then fed forage from another plant's production for a two-week period. Result—the researchers now know for sure that grass from one tall fescue plant may be considerably more digestible than grass from another tall fescue plant.

With this new information, the OSC plant breeding team, headed by Dr. J. Ritchie Cowan, head of the OSC farm crops, department, has set up another research project to find out how digestibility of forage in plants is inherited. They will then try to breed digestibility, as well as nutritive content and palatability, into new high-yielding fescue plants in the future.

The researchers are already well along the road to new tall fescue varieties. Cowan noted. They started several years ago with over 18,000 individual tall fescue plants in their experiments, and have now culled these down to 27 plants.

Plant breeding takes time, Cowan emphasized, and added that it will be at least several years more before new tall fescue varieties are developed. But when they are he hopes they will be highly digestible, as well as high-yielding and nutritious.

Turkey Growers To Meet Sept. 16 In Corvallis

Corvallis—Oregon turkey growers will take a long, hard look at the future of their industry at their annual meeting in Corvallis Friday, Sept. 16.

The 21st annual meeting of the Oregon Turkey Improvement association will begin at 9:30 a.m. in Withycombe hall on the Oregon State college campus, reports Noel Benson, OSC extension poultryman and secretary of the association.

Reporting on the present turkey market situation and taking a look at future prospects for the industry will be Clement N. Thurnbeck, Forest Lake, Minn., president of the National Turkey Federation; and John W. Hough, editor of Turkey World, Mount Morris, Ill. Both have been long-time leaders in the turkey industry and have traveled widely the last year, Benson said. They are in a position to tell Oregon turkey growers about the future of their industry, he pointed out.

Special Feature
A special feature of the day will be a report on "What Goes on Inside Russia," by Dr. L. L. Kolin of Washington State university, Kossin, a poultry scientist at WSU, was born in Russia and has just returned from a six-week study of the agricultural situation in that country.

In the afternoon, the group will be welcomed to the OSC campus by Dr. A. L. Strand, OSC president. An analysis of the problems facing today's farmers will be presented by Mrs. Maurine B. Neuberger, Portland.

An afternoon panel will report what's new in turkey-breeder management. Panel leader will be J. A. Harper, OSC turkey scientist. Panel members include Kossin, Thurnbeck, Hough, and Wally Sawtell of Molalla.

A special tea for the turkey growers auxiliary and other ladies attending the conference will be held during the afternoon session. The annual association banquet will be held at 5:30 p.m. in the Benton hotel. All turkey growers and allied industry representatives are welcome to attend all sessions.

Shorthorn Trophy Presented Anhorn

John Anhorn, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Anhorn, Central Point won the Oregon Shorthorn association's trophy at last week's Oregon State fair in Salem.

The trophy was presented young Anhorn for having the best Shorthorn female at the state fair. This is the first time in several years that Jackson county 4-H clubs have taken a championship in the Shorthorn class at the state fair. John has been in Jackson county 4-H for eight years.

Police Keeping Vigil at Bedside

Ottawa—(UPI)—Police kept a vigil at the bedside of a seriously wounded Italian immigrant early today in hopes he would recover to throw light on a wild domestic gun-battle that left four members of his household dead.

Bruno Madalena, 34, was reported by civic hospital authorities as "slightly improved" but still in serious condition. He lay near death Monday with his arms and right side shattered by shotgun blasts.

Police tried to reconstruct the scene in Madalena's modest two-story house early Monday when his wife Elena, 23, her parents Giuseppe and Santa Sacilotto, both 50 and a boarder Johannes Abom, about 35, were killed in a fusillade of shots from a rifle, a shotgun and a pistol.

Four children, two of the Madalenas' and two of the Sacilotto's were in the house at the time but were not harmed. Police, however, were unable to get a coherent account of what happened from them.

PRESIDENT DIES
Urbana, Ill.—(UPI)—Dr. Arthur Cutts Willard, 82, president emeritus of the University of Illinois, died Monday.



SENIOR BEEF SHOWMAN—Ron Anderson, 17, of Eagle Point, was named champion 4-H senior beef showman at the Oregon state fair at Salem this year.

Wocus Type Tops Barley Yields Here

By EUGENE WINTERS
County Extension Agent

Wocus barley was the highest yielding fall-seeded barley at the Southern Oregon experiment station this year, according to John Yungen, station agronomist.

Other high yielding barleys were Belford, Cascade and Velvon.

Thirteen named and numbered varieties were seeded Nov. 5, 1959, at rates of 100 pounds per acre. The fertilizer program consisted of applying 40 pounds of actual nitrogen and 30 pounds of available phosphorus per acre at seeding time.

Wocus, a Bonneville type, six-rowed, smooth bearded, stiff-strawed barley, was developed in the Klamath basin for the peat soils there. Wocus was the most popular variety grown in Jackson county this year. Wocus is one of the earlier maturing varieties and has produced excellent yields of quality barley in most of the county's barley producing sections.

Belford, a hooded type, six-rowed barley, was the second highest yielding fall-seeded barley in the Station trials. It is mid-season in maturity and medium tall in height with a relatively weak straw. Belford is a good hay barley.

The earliest maturing barley and third in yield was Cascade, a popular variety in the Willamette Valley area. Cascade is a six-rowed, rough bearded, weak-strawed variety and a true winter barley.

Velvon, one of the more popular varieties in the county was fourth in yield at the Station with slightly over one ton yield per acre. This six-rowed, smooth bearded barley is a fairly early maturing variety having a weak straw.

White winter and Bonneville barleys were next in yields in this year's trials but have been over several years testing the varieties recommended for fall seeding.

Fall seedings of grain should be made in preference to spring seedings whenever possible for higher yields. The increasing occurrence of cereal yellow dwarf in Jackson county with the possibilities of epidemic proportions like that found in the Willamette valley point to the need for fall seeding as a control measure. The aphids which transmit this disease from the wild perennial grasses along roadsides and fence rows are usually dormant when the young winter grain is in the susceptible stage.

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