

--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

"The Republican party pledges itself to develop new programs to improve and stabilize farm family income," according to the Republican platform.

We don't know if surpluses will be utilized in an orderly manner if the Republicans win this upcoming November election. But large quantities of asperin will be used if government economists are going to have to come up with some more new farm programs. It seems almost every type of farm program has been recommended during recent years. If the Republicans get the chance and can come up with some new programs—they will probably be hybrids—new combinations of ideas already tried.

One thing which does make sense is the proposal to select an official committee of farmers and ranchers on a regional basis to represent all phases of agriculture. This committee would recommend to the president guidelines for improving the operation of government farm programs. This is probably the best way to look out for the small farmer since the problem of small farms are very different from the larger commercial farms. Prince supports and production controls are not the answer for the small farms, agriculture authorities emphasize.

Probably the proposal to strengthen the educational programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Land-Grant institutions would also more directly help the small farmer. Improved education of rural youth is one way to help solve the small farm dilemma, the experts say. Other solutions might be vocational training for farmers and their children, off-farm employment, location of industries in areas of small farms with qualified, surplus labor, improved marketing, consolidation of farms, cooperative ownership and use of farm machinery and equipment.

The GOP proposal for a crash research program to develop industrial and other uses of farm products does not seem practical. Any new uses for agricultural products in the past have usually been other food items. As more of the new foods are eaten less of the other foods can be used. Capacity of the human stomach is limited. Industrial uses of farm products too often mean prices paid the farmer are much lower than his cost of production. Also, a synthetic product often can be used more cheaply.

The agricultural plank in the party platform also proposes use of price supports at levels best fitted to specific commodities, in order to widen markets, ease production controls, and help achieve increased farm family income. This seems practical enough on the surface. But farm prices establish their own level in a free market. As long as government-set prices are above this level, surpluses will accumulate until the prices are reduced, or production is reduced, and/or an adequate surplus removal program is established.

Oddly enough since Vice-President Nixon as presidential candidate has disclaimed any support for Secretary of Agriculture Benson and his ideas the GOP borrows one of Benson's ideas. This is of a land conservation reserve program on a voluntary and equitable rental basis with full consideration of the impact on local communities. Only difference is that the GOP proposes a large scale program and Benson recommends a gradual increase starting on a small scale. He would expand this program to 8 to 12 million acres.

Another proposal is continued progress in wise use and conservation of water and soil resources. This is only natural since chances are Fred Seaton, now secretary of interior, may be the next secretary of agriculture, according to the political grapevine. According to reports he has been working hard for Nixon and hoped for the vice-presidential spot. The ag secretary position may be given him as a consolation prize although it's hard to imagine anyone would really want the job. The ag secretary seems to be damned if he does and damned if he doesn't.

We don't know what the GOP proposal means exactly by improvement of credit facilities for financing capital needs of modern farming. We have heard local orchardists and farmers insist that credit facilities are not liberal enough to meet the farmer's needs. For instance, some people claim that interest rates on building loans are much higher here than in California. Others say it is much easier to get loans, say for dairymen, in California than in the Rogue Valley.

Something which should draw a lot of fire from those private power advocates is the proposal for encouragement of farmer owned and operated cooperatives including rural electric and telephone facilities.

Other points included in the GOP agricultural plank are:

- Intensification of the Food for Peace program, including new cooperative efforts among food-surplus nations to assist the hungry peoples in less favored areas of the world.
- Payment-in-kind, out of existing surpluses, as part of our land retirement program.
- Creation of a strategic food reserve properly dispersed in forms which can be preserved for long periods against contingency of grave national emergency.
- A reorganization of Commodity Credit Corporation's inventory management operations to reduce competition with the marketings of farmers.
- Use of marketing agreements and orders, and other marketing devices, when approved by producers, to assist in the orderly marketing of crops, thus enabling farmers to strengthen their bargaining power.
- Continuation and further improvement of the Great Plains Program.
- Legislative action for programs now scheduled to expire for the school milk program, wool, and sugar, including increased sugar acreage to domestic areas.
- Free movement in interstate commerce of agricultural commodities meeting federal health standards.
- To prevent dumping of agricultural imports upon domestic markets.

Now for the dairy news—so far there has been no further word on the dairy price-support bill passed by Congress. The bill proposes setting dairy price supports for the rest of the present marketing year at \$3.22 per hundred-weight for manufacturing milk and 59.6 cents per pound for butterfat. It passed the Senate on Aug. 19 and the house of representatives on Aug. 31. It was presented to the president on Sept. 6.

The wife will have to speed up her shopping time. The U.S. Department of Agriculture made a recent survey of retail food store customers and learned they averaged less than 23 minutes shopping time. They bought 13 items per store visit. Average value per item was 56 cents which means they spent an average of \$6.78 while in the store.

The survey revealed that the customers in the study shopped about 64 per cent of the store's displays in 13 retail food supermarkets in Boston, Mass. Shopping patterns of 3,200 customers were studied. It might pay for the grocers to issue pads of shopping lists for free use of their customers. The survey revealed only 30 per cent used lists. Those who did averaged four more purchases, shopped longer in the store and spent about 4 to 6 cents more per minute than customers without lists.

Since we have been in this business we have heard so many people remark that it is the business of the newspaper to stir up trouble that we find it a little tiresome. A man we respect highly and like just as much told us he had instructed his irrigation district manager to say "no comment" when asked about a matter affecting both a section of the community and the irrigation district. Why? Because a full and frank account in the newspaper might stir up more trouble, this man thought.

Fortunately this irrigation district manager works closely with news media, consistently giving information of interest and benefit to the public on the district's activities, and knew such an order unwise. We know of another irrigation district from whom it has always been difficult to obtain news so little or no news appeared—UNTIL it was involved in a lengthy series of court battles. Then it was too



WEIGHS MELLON—Burton Shults, 1465 Spring st., Medford, weighs an 18½ pound melon grown at his home garden. This is a cross between Persimmon and Spear melon types and Shults calls it a honeyball. In spite of their size, a taste proved that these melons have excellent flavor. Shults doesn't add anything to his soil, but garden area has already been well fertilized by the animals that once grazed in the former pasture. Shults also raises and sells tomatoes and carrots.

Bavarian Hay Harvesting Described by IFYE Girl

By NANCY SHAVER
IFYE to Germany

Greetings from the state of Bavaria (Bayern) in West Germany. My third host farm is located on a high rolling plateau with the Bavarian-Austrian Alps in view. There are large patches of forest and many hay and pasture fields because this is a dairy country. This type of agriculture is best in this cool, rainy climate.

Here on the Rohrmoser farm potatoes, wheat, barley, oats, and fodder beets are grown in small quantities. The potatoes are sold, the beets fed to the cows, and the rest is feed for chickens and calves.

On this farm, 70 per cent of the income comes from milk and meat products. As is common in Germany, they have an all-purpose type of cattle. Twenty per cent of the income is from wood and brush cut in the winter and 10 per cent comes from chickens and eggs.

Good hay is very important to the farmers here. The dairy cows are fed only hay and cut grass during the day and they graze at night. With excellent hay and no flies to bother while they graze, the cows have top milk production.

In my 30-day stay in Bavaria we have had 27 days

with rain. This is an unusual rainy year, but drying the day is always a problem. This farm has drainage tile in the fields. Even so, the soil retains the moisture so well that they must wait at least two days after a rain before working in the fields. During this second haying season there hasn't been two days in a row without rain so the hay is being brought in damp.

Good Hay in Rain

I've found the method of producing excellent hay in almost constant rain very interesting. First, the grass is cut when possible. If rain seems likely, a fence is built between every four rows. As the first single wire is put up about 18 inches above the ground, the hay is dropped across. Then there is another wire 18 inches above the first and hay is laid over this also. The third wire finishes the hay drying fence. When it rains on the hay covered fence, the water runs off the outer hay and the hay within dries. When the hay is dry or when the weather permits the fences are taken down and the hay formed into long rows.

Next, a tractor drawn machine picks up the hay and blows it into a trailer pulled behind. The trailer is open only when the hay blows in at the top front.

When the wagon is ready to be unloaded, it is pulled into the shed below the hay loft and the back is removed. On the floor of the trailer under the hay is a sheet of wire mesh. To unload the wagon, the wire mesh is wound around a long spool by an electric motor. In this way the hay is slowly pulled out of the wagon. Two people standing behind the wagon then feed the hay into a machine which blows the hay into the loft. This machine is also used to chop corn or straw when knives are inserted.

The troughs in the hay-drying are three sided with the open side down. The lower one is about four inches above the floor. The other dimensions vary with the space available. The chutes are placed over openings in the top of the upper trough. As the hay is blown into the frame but it is packed around the chutes. When the hay level reaches the tops of the chutes, they are grasped by the handles and raised. This leaves an open air channel in the hay plugged by the top of the chute. The chutes are raised several times until the frame is filled. They are left in the hay at the top of the air channel.

When the blower fan is turned on it forces air into the three sided troughs and the openings left by the chutes. The air then moves out through the hay. The blower automatically turns on when the humidity is the desired amount or less. During a long hard rain the blower may be turned on for a few minutes to cool the hay.

Sometimes grain is dried in the same way. It is cut and stacked in the drying frame. It can then be thrashed during the winter. I know that in Oregon after a hot and dry summer this may sound like a great deal of work when not always necessary. However, here where this work guarantees better hay and greater milk production, this method is practical indeed.

Sororities at OSC Pledge 294 Coeds

Corvallis — 379 — Seventeen sororities at Oregon State College pledged 294 coeds during rushing week which ended Sunday, 15 more than last year.

late. A better working understanding with the news media would have avoided at least some of the trouble the district suddenly found itself in and given the people of the county a better understanding of the district's operating problems. It's always more difficult for a public or semi-public body to win public opinion in court than in a newspaper. So the point is newspapers do prevent trouble, too.

Pine Shoot Moth Found in Oregon, Says Ag Dep't

Salem — The European pine shoot moth, target of many searchers in Oregon during the past two months, has been found in the larva stage in a Portland nursery. The moth is a serious threat to Oregon's commercial and ornamental pines.

J. F. Short, director of agriculture, said the ornamental pine stock in the nursery has been placed under quarantine and close watch by the department pending a conference with forestry and agricultural officials of Oregon and Washington later this month. Federal agencies working on the control program will also attend the conference.

Whether the infested ornamentals will be destroyed, the entire nursery put under quarantine or the stocks held for experimental controls will be determined following the joint conference. Short said that the nursery where the larval damage was found is giving full cooperation in control procedures. The damage was on two ornamental varieties, Scotch and Japanese table pines.

Moth Now Larva
Because the moth is now in the larval stage, no spread will result from holding final decision on disposition of the infested plants until after the joint conference.

All Oregon nurseries handling pine stocks were surveyed this summer, with no moth damage found. Nursery inspectors and other Oregon agencies cooperating in the survey will check all nurseries for possible developments on larva presence and damage.

The pine shoot moth has been the object of an Oregon search since heavy infestations came to light in the Seattle-Tacoma area of Washington. Lesser infestations were found in Spokane home plantings of the ornamental pines.

Area Angus Top State Fair Event

Nearly 50 head of purebred Angus cattle were on display at the recent Oregon State Fair in Salem in a showing of high quality. The entries were judged by Harry Parker of San Luis Obispo, California. Island Acres Farm, Klamath Falls, Oregon, won the senior and grand champion's banner of the bull show with Rainmere 14 of 1A. The reserve senior champion and reserve grand champion was Appleland Springmere 36, an entry of Catlin and Anderson, Yakima, Washington. The junior and grand champion female, Hoots Bummer Maid 2, was exhibited by Hoots Angus Farm, Grants Pass, Oregon. Island Acres won the senior and reserve grand championship on Miss Erica of 1A. Island Acres swept both blue ribbons in the get of sire classes. Their senior get was sired by Rainmere 5 and their junior entry was sired by TT Eileenmere 16.

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Pallet Bins Successful For Valley Pear Grower

The Medford Pear company has completed its fruit harvest for a cannery using a new wrinkle — pallet bins.

How did they work? Fine! reported this orchard operator who has been using them for two years now. He used 831 of these large plywood bins holding the equivalent of 22 lug boxes of pears. One grower predicts that all of the Medford pear district will be converting to bins "before long."

Observers say a field lug costs about 80 cents and the average bin which has a 20 to 30 lug box capacity costs between \$10 and \$15. Bins used by the Medford Pear company with 22 lug capacity cost about \$12 each. So conversion from lug boxes to bins will be a gradual process due to bin costs. However, these bins should reduce the container investment about 50 per cent, some orchardists figure.

One of the other problems is the need for special machinery to handle the pallet bins, particularly in the orchard. A tractor with forks must be used to move these bins which sit on pallets or stringers which raise them above the ground. Other equipment is needed to lift the bins up to the truck.

D'Anjou pears are subject to easy skin puncturing and cannot be handled in bins for the fresh fruit market since they are more liable to stem punctures and bruising which reduce the pear grades, hence the prices received. However, the Medford Pear company has found resulting skin blemishes on Bartlett are about the same comparing bin handling to lug box handling. This company, however, is not sure bin handling will work on Bosc which are long pears and won't roll like the other varieties which are rounder.

Medford Pear company stacks the bins of pears six or seven bins high in cold storage. A carload of pears can be loaded in 20 to 30 minutes by using an industrial fork truck to carry out two of the 1,000 pound bins at a time.

Pickers Like 'em
"How do pickers like 'em?" They love 'em," this orchardist reported. "The pickers never

have to touch wood at all. With lug boxes they have 22 of 'em to line up and stack. With pallet bins we do all the moving; they just have to empty their pears into 'em."

Forks can be attached to a tractor with three-point hydraulic mechanism for carrying. Expensive equipment is the lift used to load the truck. A good one costs about \$2,000, one pear orchardist explained.

One nationwide foods processor which does specialized canning has been working with bulk containers or bins for over six years. Its New York and Michigan plants use bins for handling almost all of their raw produce. Only crop not tested and successfully handled in bins was apricots. Pears and apples seem best suited for bins, this company found. This company plans to replace lug boxes with bins as rapidly as possible "in all areas where equipment is available."

Advantages of bin handling listed by this company are reduced produce handling cost, reduced container investment, reduced picking and container handling expense in orchard, reduced fruit storage area needed for bins, fruit handling damage less, speed up produce deliveries, reduce container repair cost, makes mechanical harvesting possible.

Equipment Cost Heavy

Equipment cost is a main disadvantage, this company reports. Local orchardists have mentioned lack of practical means of dumping the bins without injuring the fruit as a big drawback. Depending on purpose and quantity of produce to be handled, dumpers, conveyors, filling machines and other equipment is needed at the packing house besides the orchard equipment already mentioned.

Adapting a new produce handling system is always difficult and requires changes in every handling phase. Counting systems for pickers on piece work may require changes, sampling and grading regulations may need adjustment. Load weight limits and methods of securing the load will have to be checked. Also, cold storage operators will have to check cooking

rates and refrigeration capacity since 20 to 35 per cent more fruit can be stacked in an area, a spokesman for the food processor pointed out.

Other main problems have already been considered. After considerable research the food processing firm decided the best type so far is a wire-bound plywood type with a Douglas fir pallet bottom. It features moderate cost, light weight, low breakage rate, ease of repair and smooth interior for the fruit and produce injury.

Most processors using bins have found the 47 inch square base, outside dimension, is best since it can be used with just handling equipment and fits easily into storage spaces. Pear growers seem to prefer a bin 24 to 26 inches deep. California apple growers want a bin 30 inches deep. The dried fruit industry uses bins 40 inches deep.

Cool Rapidly

This same food processor discovered in a two-year study that pears in bins with slotted or vented sides cool more rapidly than those in lugs. Pears in bins with solid sides cooled just as fast as lugs.

In other parts of the country these bins are called tote boxes and are used to handle potatoes, beans, grass seed, rice, peas and tomatoes.

Washington state apple growers experimented with 25,000 bins in 1957. By 1958 160,000 bins were used by those apple growers. The latter figure doubled in 1959. Washington fruit growers have invested over \$2 million in bins.

In northern California the Tri-Valley Packing association used 17,000 fir plywood bins. Agricultural researchers in Washington estimate savings from six to eight cents per bushel of apples harvest. Labor savings in moving this fruit to the packing plant is estimated at three to four cents per bushel.

One apple grower in Washington estimated that his straddle truck carries the equivalent of 160,000 loose boxes to the plant in bins within 24 hours from the time the fruit is picked. He figures this brings the fruit to the packing house at a peak of quality and gives a com-

Local Cow Gets Efficiency Score

A registered Jersey cow, La Pine Standard Star, owned by W. D. Mongold, La Pine Jersey Farm, Route 1, Eagle Point, Ore., has recently completed an official production record giving her a Cow Power Index of 13.0. This indicates that Star produced 13.0 times her body weight in milk during this lactation and has a very high efficiency rating. Her total production was 12,149 lbs. milk and 721 lbs. butterfat in 305 days at the age of four years and three months. Star is further proof that a dairy cow doesn't have to be big to be most efficient and profitable.

Realizing that we must obtain all the efficiency possible under today's dairying conditions, the American Jersey Cattle club launched this Cow Power program as another service for owners of registered Jerseys.

petitive advantage.

In Maine pallet box handling of potatoes has been worked out by the Marine Agricultural Experiment Station. This means that potato growers in Klamath county may be using them in the future to harvest their potatoes.

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