

Check Tests Show Consumer Gain, Ag. Dept. Reports

Salem - Continuous check testing of packaged meat weights in Oregon retail stores is paying dividends to consumers and, where meats are overweight, to store owners, the State Department of Agriculture reports.

The 1950 legislature made appropriation for continuous consumer work in this field, previously handled through intermittent checking.

O. K. Beals, Chief of the Foods and Dairies, Weights and Measures division, revealed that in the April-June quarter this year 76 per cent of the packaged meats were correct or overweight and 24 per cent underweight.

In October, November and December of 1950, a total of 5,091 meat packages were weighed in retail markets. Of that number 56 per cent were correct weight, 35 per cent underweight and nine per cent overweight.

Store owners have been cooperative in correcting errors in labeled weights. In the October-December period, 76 warning letters were written. In the April-June testing period, only 60 warning letters were issued to storekeepers.

A comparative check of 25 of the "warned" markets showed correct weight packages climbed from 40 per cent earlier to 74 per cent after the warning and overweight packages from four to 10 per cent.

Cash Farm Income Shows 1950 Gain

Corvallis-Oregon cash farm income last year took a healthy jump over 1950, but increased production expenses dropped the net income lower than six other years in the past decade.

Sales of Oregon farm products in 1950 returned farmers \$424 million, reports Mrs. Elvera Horrell, Oregon State college extension agricultural economist. This was about \$28 million more than in 1950, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture reports.

Adding the value of farm products used on the farm, rental value of farm houses, and government payments, the gross for 1950 reached \$480 million, only 5 per cent less than the all-time of 1951, Mrs. Horrell said.

While production expenses nibbled away about \$335 million on Oregon farms in 1950, farmers ended the year with a boost of about \$13 million in total net farm income over 1950. The local increase was in contrast to a drop in net farm income for the nation as a whole.



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--- CHIT CHAT ---

By JOE COWLEY
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

During last night's meeting of the Jackson county agriculture committee the farmers discussed land and taxes—two everlastingly vital subjects to all farmers.

They said it is unfair to appraise farm land on the same high level as subdivision property just because subdivisions were constructed near it. They blamed real estate people for setting much higher values on suburban property than it is really worth.

Farmers generally agreed that a "green belt" should be established in the Rogue valley which would restrict a certain area or areas to agriculture. They did not seem to think that this was restricting the liberties of the property owner to use his land as he saw fit. Subdivisions are best suited to such land as that in the Camp White area which is not choice farm land, the farmers said last night.

Farmers are forced to sell their land for subdivisions when it is appraised at the same value as property for residential development, it was pointed out. The increased taxes make it unprofitable to farm it.

One of the more prominent farmers explained that the fault was in the law. The county assessor is forced to appraise the property as to its highest and best possible use not on what it is actually being used for.

One farmer complained that the current reappraisal program has increased taxes on his farm land \$200 an acre. Another farmer explained that this is part of an overall reappraisal program as required by state law. Each year a section of the county is reappraised.

Tax experts point out that a property tax tends to limit land development only to the extent that value and productivity of land depends on the owner's own efforts. If a farmer can increase the value of a piece of dry land by irrigating it, a tax on land values will reduce the profit in such an investment.

Also, the supply of farmland is not rigid. New land is brought into production by draining marshes, clearing woodland or by applying water to once desert land. The local farmers complain that a large packing house which already has extensive holdings can get out and pay a top price for some bottom land. But when the assessor's office makes its appraisal it considers this price paid and sets an equal value on nearby land. Such neighboring land may consist of a crude, unpainted house and small truck garden.

Actually, the experts explain, the land itself has its own value based on its fertility. Effects of taxation on such land depend partly on how heavy the tax is.

Inaccurate assessment is something else. Assessors usually apply a more or less standard valuation per acre to broad categories of land. The result is that land with below-average yields often is overtaxed, the experts explain. This means that the farmer cannot afford to farm it. No prospective buyer wants it. So, the land is merely abandoned.

"A truly general property tax, one applying equally to all categories of real and personal property, would have few if any unfair effects," a tax expert explained. "However, U.S. property tax tends to discriminate against real property, and farm buildings and land tend to be overtaxed compared to nonfarm real estate."

This was a point made by a local farmer. He commented that within a city the assessor makes a difference between commercial and residential property. Yet when appraising rural property the same sort of fine distinction is not made. Farm buildings should not be appraised according to a rigid formula when a house or building in town is not so appraised, he complained.

A survey by the Kansas State Tax commission in 1950 discovered that rural real estate was assessed for an average of 25 per cent of full value, compared with 19 per cent for city property. And this has held true for many years.

A number of people here in the valley think tax exemptions should be granted to new industry. This, the experts point out, puts an overtaxation on farm land—farm land because the farmer has more property than the city dweller, so naturally the tax hits him harder.

An expert also points out, "The tax must be paid regardless of output or income. It continues even though the land is idle. This aspect of the real estate tax causes it to be particularly burdensome in high-risk farming areas, where a farm owner may realize little or no income for several consecutive years while taxes continue." This would apply to orchard land, particularly that in pears. It takes 15 years before a young pear orchard will hit full production. Pear decline has hit some orchardists particularly hard, yet, in spite of the number of trees out of production, taxes continue on.

Turning to another problem, pear decline, a local orchardist said last night he has been wondering lately what would happen if decline hits the valley hard enough to take most of the pear orchards out of production permanently. He figures peaches might be the answer. Peach trees are producing good crops in three to four years compared to about 15 years for pear trees. The Rogue valley produces a high quality peach which is becoming recognized in other areas. Trouble is it doesn't come on the market early enough to get the higher prices but must compete with peaches from other areas such as California.

The Willamette valley apple crop was hit hard with a spring freeze this year. Local apple growers found they could get top prices for their fruit. During a conversation with an independent fruit and produce trucker, one local fruitgrower learned that some stores are beginning to make a good profit margin on their fruit and produce where this has not always been true before.

Valley farmers reported last night that most of the good hay has been sold. If this dry weather holds we may see some \$40 hay next spring. One farmer reported hay in the field sold recently at \$27 a ton for the fourth cutting.

Seed growers reported that all alfalfa seed is in the bag or box now. One unharvested field was reported in the county. Total estimated production this year is 200,000 pounds of Talent alfalfa.

The Southern Oregon Branch Experiment Station is now harvesting tomatoes and has some early tomatoes of good quality which would do well in backyard gardens, Agronomist John Yungen noted last night. More on that later.

Short Course Set For Chemical Men

Salem - Representatives of state chemical applicator groups met recently at the state department of agriculture in Salem and agreed to continue this year a short course at Oregon State college in chemical application.

The course will be the ninth one held and will offer instruction in business, salesmanship and the application and handling of chemicals. Public relations will also be considered. The two or three day sessions will be held on the Oregon State college campus in January. A sub-committee will meet in November to complete arrangements for the course.

Soil Conservationists Get Tour of Goodyear Farms

Litchfield Park, Ariz.—German U-boats, pneumatic truck tires and the boll weevil may seem completely unrelated. But for 104 farmers, ranchers and soil conservation officials from all corners of the United States, these factors will come into focus late this year as the starting point for a nationwide soil conservation program.

At a desert agricultural laboratory at Litchfield Park, some 20 miles west of Phoenix in December, these leading practitioners of soil conservation will gather on a "busman's holiday" in recognition of their contributions to the preservation of the nation's agricultural resources.

The story behind their trip actually began during World War I, and had its origin in the research center and production lines of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company in Akron, O. In 1915 and 1916, the firm had perfected a revolutionary new tire cord that utilized long staple cotton.

At the time, the cotton was grown only on the Sea Islands off the Georgia coast and in Egypt's Valley of the Nile.

The boll weevil was ravaging crops on the Sea Islands' cotton plantations, threatening the entire yield with extinction, and German submarines prowling the Atlantic ocean brought to a virtual halt the shipment of cotton from Egypt to the U.S.

To meet vital need for the long staple cotton in the development of pneumatic truck tires, Goodyear opened a desert farm here where the cotton could be grown under conditions similar to those in Egypt.

It became Goodyear Farms, today a modern, 14,000-acre operation used as a proving ground for technological advances in farming and the development of mechanized farming.

Through its efforts in Arizona, Goodyear became interested in the overall farm program and the all-important ingredient of successful farming—soil conservation.

In 1947, the company originated a program to recognize soil conservation leaders. It began in the Midwest and in 1953 was expanded to include the entire United States.

In competition at the state level, soil conservation districts that have done an outstanding job during the past year are selected, and an outstanding farmer or rancher from the winning district is invited to visit Goodyear Farms for a "busman's holiday."

This December, 51 farmers and ranchers, each accompanied by a member of the governing body of his district, will be flown to Arizona for the vacation visit.

The conservationists will be guests at The Wigwam, a resort operated as part of Goodyear Farms. Arriving Dec. 6, they will spend three days on the farm inspecting cattle-feeding facilities, irrigation work, conservation practices, crop operations, cotton picking and ginning, and operation of the 220-acre citrus orchard.

Apple Production Shows State Gain

Corvallis—Apple production in Oregon this fall promises to hit 2.3 million bushels or 100,000 bushels more than last year, reports Stephen C. Marks, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State college.

Size of apples is reported normal and recent weather is favoring a good coloring. The picture is further brightened for local growers with a lighter crop than last year elsewhere in the west and nationally, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture reports. Oregon apples also face less competition this year from a smaller-than-average pear crop.

Production of fall and winter pears in the Pacific coast states, the major production area, is expected to fall 14 per cent below average.

State Top Auction

Salem - 376 - The state will auction off 42 used vehicles in Eugene Wednesday at the University of Oregon campus. The lot includes 25 passenger cars.

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pose of the visit is to inspect the farm operation, guests will have ample opportunity for recreation on the resort's 18-hole golf course, the special 18-hole putting green, in the heated swimming pool, on horseback and in gift shopping.

Special attractions for the visitors will be a steak barbecue at scenic Sunset Point and a visit to nearby Phoenix, the shopping and amusement center of the Southwest.

The competition this year is the 13th Goodyear has sponsored, with more than 1,000 conservationists enjoying past visits to the Arizona retreat.

Will See Results
During their visit here, the farmers and ranchers will see the result of more than 40 years of effort that began on barren desert and resulted in scientific farming in its most efficient form.

Originating as a cotton "plantation," the Goodyear Farms produced a first crop of 1,500 bales of long staple cotton in 1917.

By 1921, the original cotton land had been expanded to 38,000 acres with 20,000 under cultivation. Goodyear built more than 150 miles of new roads, erected 118 miles of power lines to service irrigation pumps and new communities, and installed 42 miles of telephone lines through the area.

As the need for the prime cotton became less imperative, the emphasis on the Goodyear property moved to an overall farm program and acreage was gradually reduced.

Crop rotation was introduced in the farms' history, with alfalfa playing an important part in building up organic content of the desert soil. Barley and sorghum grains were also introduced into the rotation program and they, in turn, were used as concentrates in the feeding of cattle in new type pens.

During this period of agricultural evolution, farm equipment manufacturers sent their tractors and design engineers to Arizona to experiment with equipment. Many of the farm machines developed on today were developed on the Goodyear Farms under conditions of heavy use in highly abrasive soil.

Chief Crops Listed
Chief crops of the farms today include cotton, alfalfa, barley, wheat and sorghum grains, with some emphasis on citrus fruits. A cotton gin processes the cotton yield and a modern feed storage and mixing plant handles feeding and finishing needs.

Improved farming techniques have vastly increased crop yield and lowered per-acre cost in recent years. Crop rotation, adequate pest control from the ground and the air, judicious use of water from 70 wells on the property, and cultivation to keep down weeds have all contributed to these gains.

Over a 12-year period, these practices increased cotton yield per acre by more than 100 per cent, alfalfa by almost 200 per cent, wheat by 100 per cent, and barley and sorghum grains by 50 per cent.

Crop rotation practices on the Goodyear Farms normally include alfalfa for four years, negari for a year, Acala cotton for two years, then winter wheat or barley before the cycle is repeated.

Because of its wide expanse, the 14,000-acre operation has specialized in improved seed. Seed crops are grown with proper isolation, assuring pure seed of all types. In this field, Goodyear is a member of the Arizona Crop Improvement association, a cooperative arrangement among pure seed producers and the University of Arizona Agricultural college and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Many of the guests will be interested in Goodyear Farms' new "green feeding" of cattle, which brings the pasture to the beef animal instead of grazing on irrigated pastures. Primary advantage of the new method is more rapid development of beef animals in pens. In addition, more animals can be fed from a given acreage, fencing requirements are reduced, and more control can be exercised over bloat, weeds and insect pests.

In the green feeding method, pasture fresh feed is moved directly to the cattle pens from cutting, with proper quantities of dry hay, grains and nutrients mixed with the chopped green feed.

Contrasted with the normal pasturing method, in which feeding may be limited to a single animal per acre, an acre of alfalfa will provide adequate feed for three to six animals, depending on the time of year the feed is cut.

In the case of Goodyear Farms, where pastures require irrigation, piping of fresh water to the pens also has eliminated repair of ditches trampled by livestock as they watered, and has made possible a complete feeding program in one environment without sudden moves from green to dry feeds for the finishing of the animals.

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Wheat Varieties Recommended Here

By GENE WINTERS
County Extension Agent
Omar, Redmond and Lemhi 53 are three varieties of wheat recommended for fall planting in Jackson County.

Omar is a red-chaffed, high yielding, white club soft winter wheat. Under local conditions it grows medium tall, white and fairly stiff straw. Omar wheat is a cross of Elgin and Elmar varieties and was found to have a high resistance to common bunt and dwarf bunt, problems in the major soft wheat producing areas of the Pacific Northwest.

Redmond, a stiff strawed, beardless, high yielding, soft white winter wheat, has large blocky heads. This variety was introduced from Holland.

Lemhi 53 wheat was the highest yielding of the fall-seeded wheats this year at the Southern Oregon Branch Experiment Station according to John Yungen, station agronomist. The test weights of this variety was also high. Lemhi 53 is a medium tall, white wheat that is normally planted in the spring, but with its frost resistance can be planted in the fall in Jackson County. It is a white-chaffed, soft white wheat with a blocky head and no beard.

One variety showing promise here is Druchamp. This wheat is in commercial production in the Willamette Valley. It is a beardless, soft white winter wheat.

Nitrogen has been the major limiting factor in yields of fall-seeded cereal crops in Jackson County. It is suggested that 15 to 20 pounds of actual nitrogen be applied at seeding time. Follow-up application of 20 to 30 pounds of actual nitrogen about the last week of February or first week of March have been beneficial when wheat follows cereal crop. Under adequate irrigation water conditions the early spring application may be increased 10 to 20 pounds per acre.

Cereal crops will respond to applications of sulfur. Ten to 20 pounds of sulfur per acre should be included in the fertilizer program at least every other year. Sulfur can generally be applied in other fertilizer materials.

Application rates of phosphorus and potassium can best be determined with a soil test.

All fertilizers should be worked into the seedbed before seeding.

Where annual weeds and grasses such as annual ryegrass, annual blue grass, chickweed, sweet vernal grass, groundsel, dog fennel, rattail fescue and shepherds purse are a problem, properly timed applications of diuron have proved effective. Apply diuron at the rate of 1 1/2 to two pounds per acre in at least 40 gallons of water as soon as possible after planting and before the winter wheat emerges. Diuron has been registered for pre-emergent use in Western Oregon.

For best control spray with DDT, dieldrin or chlordane around the foundation and entrances to the home. Spraying from and paths of travel will also be effective.

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Apply diuron at the rate of 1 1/2 to two pounds per acre in at least 40 gallons of water as soon as possible after planting and before the winter wheat emerges. Diuron has been registered for pre-emergent use in Western Oregon.

For best control spray with DDT, dieldrin or chlordane around the foundation and entrances to the home. Spraying from and paths of travel will also be effective.

Crickets are on the move once again looking for a place to hibernate. Unfortunately they seem to enjoy our homes as much as we do. Although generally harmless they may contaminate food and injure clothing.

For best control spray with DDT, dieldrin or chlordane around the foundation and entrances to the home. Spraying from and paths of travel will also be effective.

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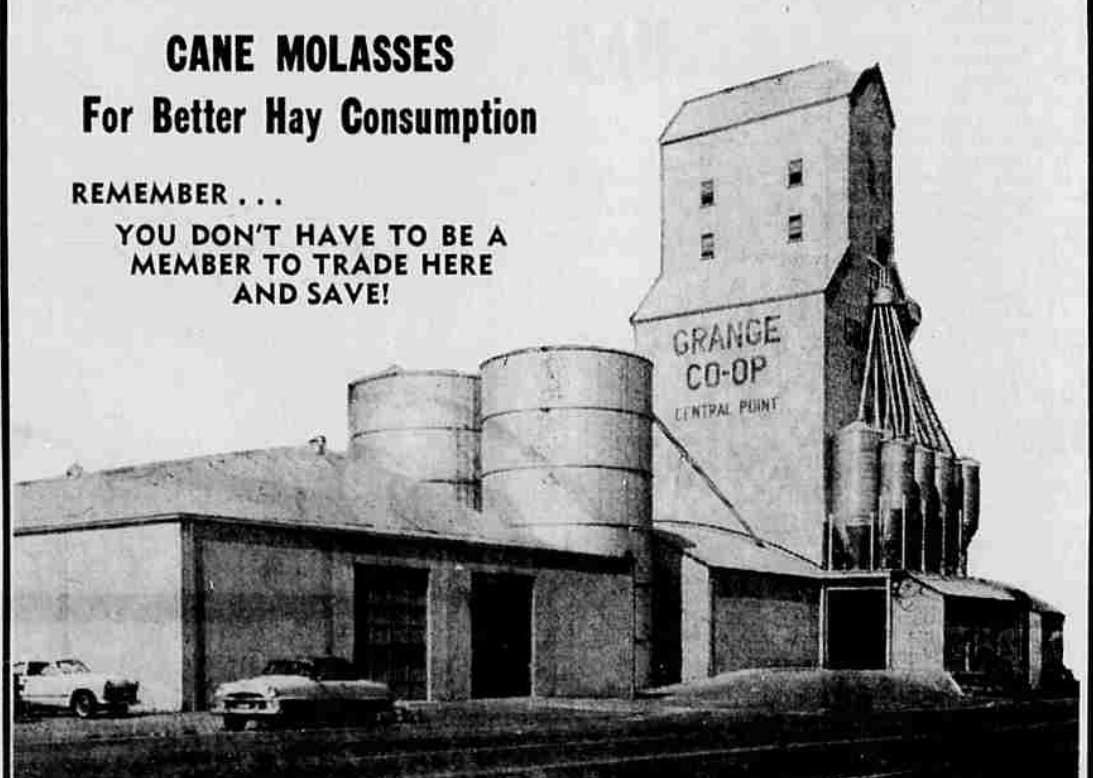
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