

U.S. Congressmen Talk About Decline

California, Washington and Oregon congressional delegations hope for federal supervision over the pear decline research program for the three states, Dr. Edwin R. Durno, representative of the fourth congressional district, wrote the Mail Tribune today.

Speech federal supervision would correlate the activity of the state and the pear industry, the congressman from Medford explained. The congressional delegation of the three states plans to meet about the end of this month to further consider plans for this proposed program.

"I hope to have an historical summation of the pear decline as it affects our state and particularly the Rogue River valley," Dr. Durno wrote.

"I have contacted State Sen. Lyndel Newby, Talent, and he will provide me with information from the Pear Growers Association (Medford Pear Shippers) as to the amount of money they have appropriated privately for investigations and the amount of money appropriated by the emergency board of the Oregon state legislature. I am urging him to include an appropriation in the present (legislative) session which might be used as matching money for any money that we are able to get from the federal government to continue this study."

Pear decline first became apparent in California in May, 1959, according to Thomas A. Shalla, department of plant

True Cash Value Of Livestock Listed For State

True cash value for livestock in Oregon for the 1961 tax assessment roll will be about the same as last year's values, County Assessor Ray Schumacher said today.

Lambs and turkeys will be valued less than for the 1960 tax rolls, the county assessor said. Lambs under one-year-old now have a true cash value of \$1; Bronz turkeys at \$3.50 and Beltville turkeys at \$2. The assessed valuation, figured according to a standard formula, is a portion of the true cash value. Taxes are based on the assessed valuation, Schumacher said.

Schumacher learned of the new schedule while attending the annual meeting of the Western Appraisers' association meeting in Eugene Monday and Tuesday.

Values Listed

Some other livestock values which will remain the same are calves, under six months, \$35; calves, six months to one year, \$80; steers, one to two years, \$130; beef cows, two years and over, \$120; bulls, one year and over, \$240.

Dairy cattle values of 1960 will remain about the same next year. They are calves, under six months, \$20; calves, six months to one year, \$50; steers, one to two years, \$90; heifers, one to two years, \$100. Good producing cows are valued at \$180 and marginal animals at \$110. Dairy bulls, one to two years old, are valued at \$110, and those two years or older, \$200.

Fertilization Plots Double Hay Yields

By GENE WINTERS
County Extension Agent

Fertilizer demonstration plots in 1960 showed that Jackson county alfalfa hay growers' yields can be increased up to double that of the unfertilized plots through the application of fertilizer materials at rates suggested by a soil test report.

These "testing tells" plots were established on the Clarence Buck ranch on the upper Applegate, the John Horner ranch near Applegate, and the farm of H. O. Parmelee on West Evans creek near Rogue River with the help of the Southern Oregon Experiment station, the Jackson county extension office, the Northwest plant food association and local fertilizer dealers.

The first step in the program was to take soil samples and have them sent to the Oregon State college soil testing laboratory. The soil test reports showed the levels of phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, calcium and boron. The pH test revealed the reaction of the soil and was helpful in determining the need for lime.

Fertilizer materials were then applied at recommended rates based upon soil tests. Sulfur was included in the program to bring the total application of this element to 40 pounds per acre.

Plots Harvested

The plots were harvested by John Yungren, station agronomist, and Gene Winters, county agent.

On the Buck ranch, the fertilizer application of 80 pounds of phosphorus, 80 pounds of potassium, 40 pounds sulfur and 4 pounds

Little Change In 1961 Prices For Meat, Stock

Corvallis-Oregon livestock and retail meat prices for 1961 are likely to average close to 1960 levels, reports an Oregon State college agricultural economist.

Local cattle prices are expected to slip a little from last year's average, hog prices should average slightly higher, and lamb is likely to hold near the 1960 average, believes Stephen C. Marks, OSC extension economist.

Food buyers can look to a good supply of all red meats—beef, pork, lamb, veal—only two pounds below the 1956 record—with little price change.

Increasing national beef production is putting pressure on cattle prices but any decline will probably be too slight to be felt at retail meat counters, at least during the first half of 1961, Marks said.

Oregon hog prices which follow midwest trends should average slightly higher in the year ahead due to a reduction in hog marketings compared to 1960. Present strong prices are expected to hit a peak by early summer and decline for the second half of the year.

Decline Next Fall

Most noticeable declines in both beef and pork prices will likely come next fall with increased seasonal marketing of grass-fed cattle and hogs.

The generally well-balanced livestock picture for 1961 was further smoothed out when hog farmers recently reported intentions to increase the size of their spring pig crop by no more than 5 per cent over last spring. Total beef marketings in 1961 are expected to be up about 7 per cent from 1960.

Lamb prices will probably hold near the 1960 average with domestic production little changed from last year. Large imports of lamb and mutton will likely continue but are expected to be less than in 1960, the economist said.

Oregon lamb prices have been bolstered recently by demands from California meat packers for Oregon slaughter lambs. Good grazing conditions in California have encouraged their sheepmen to hold animals on the range longer than usual, reducing local supplies of slaughter lambs for California packers, Marks explained.

Market Steady on Feeders, Stockers

The market was steady on calves, feeders and stock cows and about \$1 to \$2 lower on slaughter cows, according to a Midway Auction yard market report for Friday.

Good steer calves brought \$24 to \$25.50 per hundredweight. Good heifer calves brought \$22 to \$23.80. Good yearling steers brought \$23 to \$25.10. Yearling heifers brought \$21.50 to \$22.60.

Fat Hereford cows brought \$15 to \$15.80. A few young cows sold at \$16.50, cutter cows \$12 to \$14, canners \$10 to \$12.

Bulls sold at \$19 to \$20.10 per hundredweight. Veal sold at \$24 to \$26.50. Common calves sold at \$20 to \$23.

Fat steers and heifers mostly standard grade sold at \$19 to \$22. No choice feed cattle were offered.

Slowness in slaughter cattle may be trouble to the heavy run and high prices of the first week of the year. As this supply is used up the market will improve, Bill Bray, yard owner, said.

Medford Youth Held In Jail for Speeding

An 18-year-old Medford driver was sentenced to the county jail for two days Friday when he failed to appear in district court on a speeding charge when directed.

Raymond Lee Murphy, 18, of 235 South Oakdale ave., was directed to appear in district court Jan. 9 on charges of violation of the basic rule. He was charged with driving 70 miles an hour in a 50-mile-an-hour zone. When he failed to appear, District Court Judge L. L. Sawyer had him brought in on a warrant Friday.

Huntsville, Ala. — (AP) — John Frame, 50, drove his gasoline tank truck off a steep hill Monday to avoid hitting a school bus which had stopped on the crest of the hill to pick up a group of children. The truck burst into flames, and Frame was burned to death.

DEJECTED INMATE
Angola, La. — (AP) — Inmate Ernie Richards at the state penitentiary here got word that his sentence was commuted to 15 years—and was dejected. His original sentence was three years. The governor's office says the notice probably meant to say 15 months instead of 15 years, and is checking into the case.

"With a lawyer I could have gotten life," Richards said.

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Don Smith Tells Of Retirement After Bull Sale

Red Bluff — Following 20 years of active participation in the nationally known Red Bluff Bull Sale, Donald M. Smith today announced his retirement.

According to C. F. Stover, chairman of the sale committee, Smith's retirement will follow the end of the forthcoming Bull Sale, Feb. 2-4. This also will mark the twentieth anniversary of the bull sale.

The Red Bluff Bull Sale, initiated in 1942 by a small progressive group of Tehama county, California beef producers as a means of improving the quality of local beef cattle through the use of better bulls, has skyrocketed into the West's largest and most successful sale of high quality beef bulls, under Smith's management, Stover said.

The coming February attraction will feature the auction of 505 "Red Bluff Type" service age bulls. Included are 415 Herefords, 34 Shorthorns and 56 Angus. Two hundred range bulls will sell in loose pen lots.

Stover said that Smith, a former University of California county agent in Tehama county, had agreed to aid the sale committee and future management in an advisory capacity.

The event, which has featured the use of University of California Record of Performance grades as a means of establishing high quality standards and careful sitting to insure soundness, has distributed more than 5,000 bulls to breeders and commercial cattlemen in all western states.

Because of the success of the Red Bluff Sale, auctions in England, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and many sections of the United States have been patterned after it, the sale chairman said.

Plan for Planting Indoors During Cold Weather Days

By J. VERNON MARSHALL
Rogue Valley Nurseryman and Grower

January—Too cold for outside gardening, so let's enjoy some indoor gardening, such as raising pot plants indoors.

They bring beauty into your home, require less care than you think, in actual time and effort, they require very little, perhaps, only minutes a week. What they do require, is regular care, plus a fairly congenial environment, particularly as regards light.

Before I get into the proper environment for the various plants I would like to touch slightly on "watering plants indoors." This is the general cause for failing to successfully grow pot plants in the home.

Watering plants in pots requires careful attention. The plants are entirely dependent upon you for the right amount of water necessary to encourage healthy growth. The soil should be kept fairly moist at all times, with most house plants, and when applying water, do not disturb the plants any more than necessary.

You can tell when plants grown in pots are in want of water by examining them. Get your fingers down into the soil and find out its exact conditions, you cannot tell by surface appearance. Don't water soil that is wet nor ever let a plant suffer in soil that is dry. To let soil in pots dry out is wrong. The plants suffer every time you do it. You stunt their growth.

On the other hand, if you have poor drainage and the

Plan for Planting Indoors During Cold Weather Days

water you apply remains in the soil too long, you will get the same bad effects, as allowing a plant to suffer for water. Plants will not grow in a soil so.

A word about feeding and insect control. Plants have a few enemies like aphids, white fly and red spider but they can be controlled by spraying with a good insecticide that contains malathion, lindane or both. Liquinox 10-10-5 should be added to your spray as the yucca in the Liquinox acts as a sticker for the insecticide besides giving the plants a perfect leaf feeding. Misting your plants regularly with water on hot days will also aid in the control of insects. Avoid spraying or misting in the sun as you may burn the foliage. Do not spray insecticide or fertilizer on a dry plant as it will burn the hair roots and foliage, so dampen the soil first.

Floyd Smith Tankers' Head; Hayes Secretary

Floyd Smith, Provolt, was reelected president of the Southern Oregon Farm Tank association during its recent meeting in Grants Pass.

Other officers reelected were Ed Hayes, Eagle Point, secretary-treasurer; Paul Sakraida, vice president; Donald Geren, Eagle Point, Bob Martin, Illinois Valley, Louis Straub, Lower Applegate, and Glenn Smith, Ruch, all elected as directors.

Gordon Coleman, plant manager for Beatrice Foods, distributor for the association, said his company sold about \$450 million worth of foods and the biggest percentage was dairy products. Of the dairy products sold, 15 per cent was ice cream, 17 per cent such dairy products as cheeses and the remaining to fluid milk.

A motion picture was shown illustrating the different ice creams and flavors which will be featured in a promotion program from month to month. An outdoor motor and speed boat were given as among the consumer prizes to be featured during the promotion.

A lecture followed by a field representative for the association on proper use of pesticides and prevention of residues in milk. This problem has occurred in other states leaving Oregon relatively safe so far.

Dairies Produce More Raw Milk

Salem—Oregon producer-distributor dairies produced 1,717 gallons more raw milk a day in 1960 than in 1959, according to the State Department of Agriculture.

Two years ago, said Kenneth E. Carl of the Foods and Dairies division, 172 raw milk dairies operated under state license and in 1960, there were 189. Of this last number, 92 are grade A and 97 are grade B operations.

The number of producer-distributors increased from 112 in 1956 to 189 in 1960.

The total amount of daily gallonage of grade A milk produced by these dairies in the state in 1960 came to 8,390 gallons. Of this total, 5,867 gallons were raw milk and 2,523 gallons were pasteurized milk. There were 2,811 gallons of grade B raw milk. The total A and B raw milk comes to 8,678 gallons. The total raw and pasteurized milk comes to 11,201 gallons.

4-H Club Leaders To Visit College

Leaders of 4-H clubs from Jackson county will attend the annual State 4-H Leaders' conference Jan. 25-27 at Oregon State college. Also attending will be Jerry Brog and Miss Phyllis Kirkland, Jackson County 4-H Agents.

Leaders attending from this area are: Mr. and Mrs. Francis Krouse, Applegate; Mr. and Mrs. Allen Harris, Phoenix; Mrs. Edyth Bohner and Bill Bigham, Antelope; Mrs. Jessie Stevens, Mrs. Dorothy Hedgepeth, Mrs. Alice Drennen and Mrs. Jerome Machren, Central Point and Sam James, Talent.

Purpose of the two-day program is to offer 4-H leaders from all parts of the state a chance to exchange ideas, get latest subject matter information in some of the 27 4-H project areas, and inspiration to better understand boys and girls.

Recognition of 4-H leaders who have voluntarily led 4-H clubs twenty years will be special guests at the conference. Bigham, a Jackson County leader for 23 years, will be honored.

A special feature for this year's program will be a visit to the school of science where leaders will learn about career possibilities in the many fields of science.

Speakers at the conference are Mrs. Roberta Frasier, Oregon State college family life specialist, and Anthony Brandenthal, former manager of the centennial commission and trustee on the Oregon 4-H Club foundation.

Medicinal Plant Research Helps

Corvallis — Use of plant growth stimulators, such as gibberellin acid, will increase the yield of medicinal plants, an Oregon State college pharmacist has found, but more important may help provide an insight into exactly how medically-valuable compounds are formed within plants.

By knowing exactly how these compounds are formed in the living plant, it might be possible to increase yields tremendously by giving the plants a special "fertilized fertilizer diet," says Dr. Leo A. Sciuchetti.

Sciuchetti is one of the pioneer workers in the U.S. on the influence of plant growth stimulators on medicinal plants. He is concentrating on plants that contain alkaloids, especially those producing atropine and hyoscyne. Atropine is used in eye drops, for treating ulcers, diarrhea and other stomach conditions. Hyoscyne is closely related but also has a "tranquilizing effect."

Three student assistants working under Sciuchetti on the project have won top national awards for their research during the past two years. Two special National Science Foundation grants have been received to provide student research help during summer Grant-on-aid from the O.C. graduate school help support the studies.

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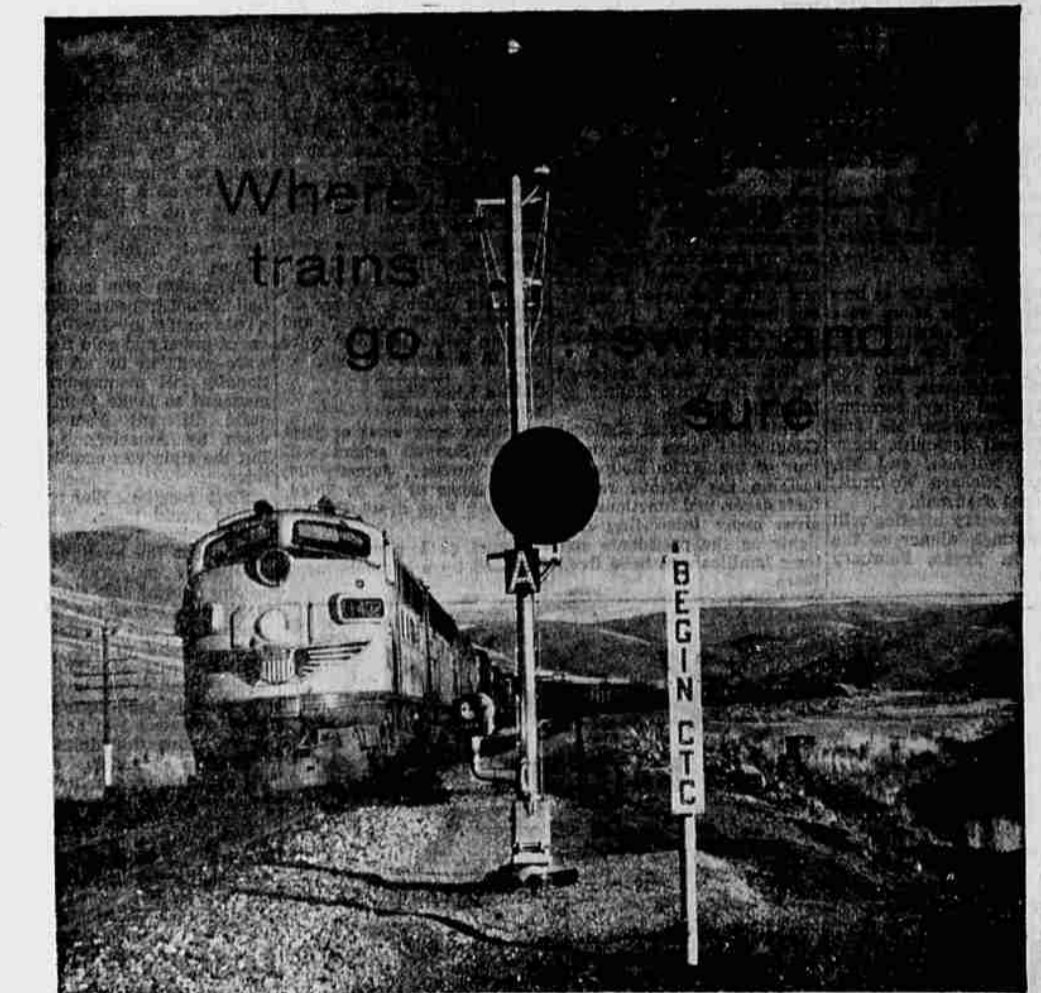
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