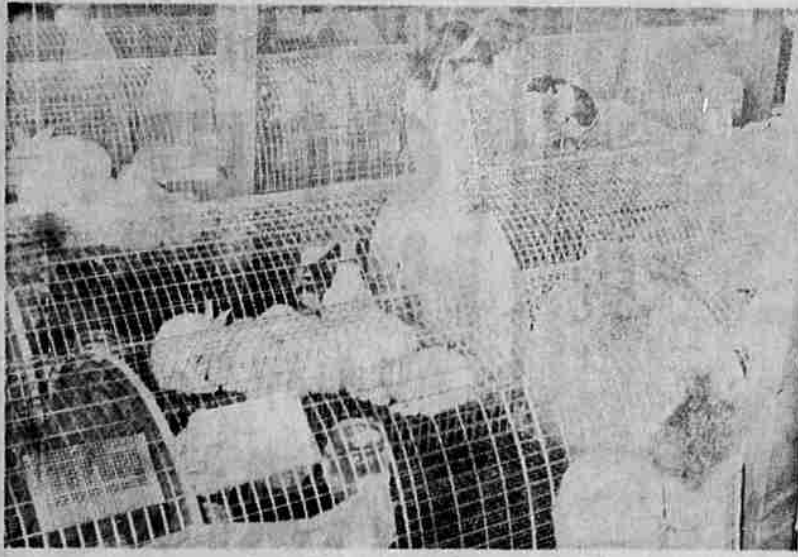
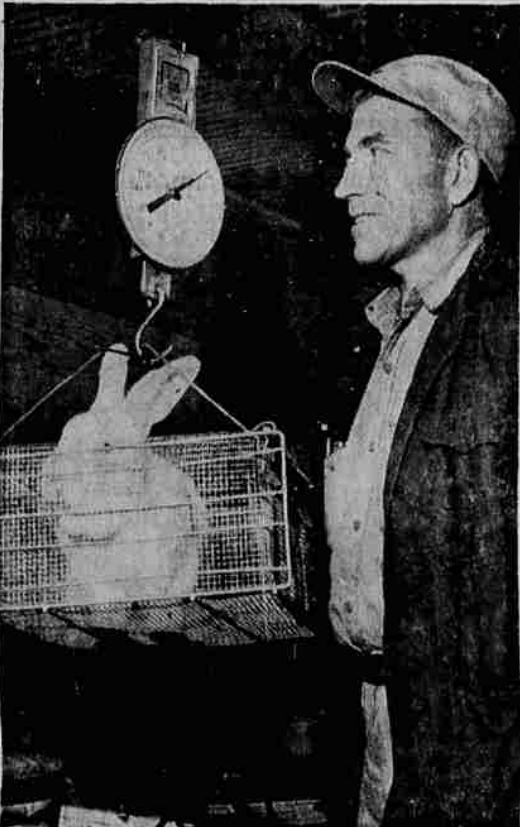


# Commercial Rabbit Raising Here Increasing



**AT THE FAIR** — Susan and Mary Louise Truly, 2979 Beal lane, hold a California breed of rabbit during the Jackson county 4-H and FFA fair at the Jackson county fair grounds south of Medford. The 4-H rabbit exhibit grows steadily each year. It's popular with the youngsters since it is one of the less expensive 4-H projects.



**WEIGHING IN** — John Truly, 2979 Beal lane, is one of the comparative new comers into the rabbit raising business in Jackson county. He is weighing a large New Zealand white rabbit. The scale tips at nine pounds which is the average weight for this breed of commercial rabbit.

## Scout News

### Cub Scout Pack 41

Approximately 200 persons attended the Blue and Gold dinner given by Griffin Creek Cub Scout Pack 41 recently. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Frink, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Bierma, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Stowell and Mrs. Iva Harper, chairman of the Griffin Creek grange, which sponsors the pack, who gave the invocation for the evening. Cubmaster Harry Haertle and committee man Lyle Perkins gave out the following awards:

- Den 1: Michael Wickham, Richard Wickham, bobcat pins.
- Den 2: Greg Gleaves, Michael Blessing, wolf badge; Gary Osborn, silver arrow on bear badge; Tom Schmidt, silver arrow on wolf badge.
- Den 3: Jerry Haertle, wolf badge; Billy Oventurf, bear badge.
- Den 4: Larry Briggs, denner badge; Ronald Haertle, wolf badge and assistant denner badge.
- Den 5: Mark Savage, denner badge; Dwayne Graham, assistant denner badge.

Webelos den: Pat Redding, denner badge; Gary Rennie, assistant denner badge. Mr. Rennie received the badge for Gary who is confined at home with the mumps. The Webelos den displayed a "horse" they made from a large oil can, innumerable anti-freeze and small oil cans, rope for a tail and painted brown. It was introduced by Mr. Haertle as the "company mule." Gerald Gleaves is the Webelos leader.

Membership cards were also presented to all cubs present. Twelve girls from Griffin Creek Girl Scout Troop 79 served, with Mrs. Donald Bryan in charge.

The next pack meeting will be held in the school gym, March 14.

Den 3 will present a skit in keeping with the March theme "Cub Scout Railroaders". The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m.

Troop 70 Illinois Valley-Boy Scouts of Troop 70 and their parents shared a potluck dinner celebration of National Boy Scout Week at the Epis-

opal church in Illinois Valley recently. The application for a troop charter was signed. Dave Chamberlain will continue to serve as scoutmaster with 303 Breckenridge as assistant. Committee members are Les Basham, institutional representative; Bill Woodbury, chairman; Louie Ahler, Fred Breckenridge, George Yarborough, Garvin Spielstoser, L. D. Allen, Mel Starks and Mrs. Louis Ahler, other Scout committee members.

A court of honor was held. Lee Woodbury and David Breckenridge received tenderfoot badges. Daniel Starks, Mike Ward and John Deaton received 50th anniversary awards. Greg Yarborough received the special troop neckerchief. Starks received his home repair merit badge and star rank badge.

Magellan, first European to sail the Pacific in 1520, called it "El Mar Pacifico," or "The Gentle Sea."

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## Growing Industry Ships Fryers Into Populated Areas

By JOE COWLEY  
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

Have you ever had vagabond stew? How about Rabbit Au Sec, Dutch rabbit pie, Chop Suey and Chow Mein? If you have enjoyed any of these dishes, chances are you will enjoy eating rabbit meat, southern Oregon commercial rabbit growers claim.

So far, there is no rabbit processing plant in the valley which will turn out clean, carefully inspected meat, the rabbit growers reported.

However, there is some talk of locating one here for a growing farm industry. The proof is in the production. Josephine, Jackson and the Napa, Calif., area ship 3,000 to 5,000 rabbit fryers a week into the more populated centers of California, according to one of the growers.

The commercial rabbit industry in southern Oregon centers in Jackson county, which last year shipped 49,732 fryers.

**One Phase of Raising**  
The commercial rabbit production is only one phase of raising rabbits. The other phase is breeding for shows. As the commercial phase grows, so does the other.

The commercial raisers, many of whom belong to the Tri-County Rabbit Growers association, favor the New Zealand white rabbit. This large, pure white rabbit will average 9 to 9½ pounds. Its pure white fur makes its pelt ideal for felt for hats and fur trim, etc.

Rabbit growers say it is almost impossible to tell rabbit meat from chicken when fried. Only difference is that it's better, they claim. It has more meat, less bone, and much more white meat than poultry and more protein.

Many gourmets have probably discovered already such chef's delights as Rabbit Au Sec—chunks of rabbit rolled in flour and soaked in white wine.

Many people probably have eaten the Chinese dishes of chop suey and chow mein without realizing they were eating rabbit. Rabbit fanciers also recommend creamed rabbit with herb sauce. And, don't overlook roast rabbit stuffed with fruit. For the hasty snack there is Rabbit Liverburger.

**Industry Developing**  
The rabbit growing industry here has been developing more rapidly over the last 3½ years.

"For years, at different times, rabbit growers, both fanciers and commercial have tried to raise rabbits at a profit in most southern Oregon counties. But, always the market failed to build as the production increased," Charles Call, one of the larger raisers here, explained.

"Then, about three years ago, a man from California came to Oregon and visited a few of the remaining growers. He guaranteed to buy all the rabbit fryers they could produce," Call related.

"For almost a year he operated at a loss, securing but a 100 to 250 fryers every two weeks. Now there are more than a hundred growers in the Rogue valley. They are marketing about 2,000 fryers each month. And this is only through one outlet. They are increasing their herds as rapidly as possible," the veteran rabbitman said.

**Pick-Up Locations**  
The fryers are picked up at various pick-up spots by truck from California and are paid



**LARGE-SIZED RABBIT** — Bud Truly, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Truly, 2979 Beal lane, holds a large silver martin breed of commercial rabbit at his father's ranch. There are a large number of varieties and types. The pure white New Zealand breed is favored since its fur can be used more easily for hat felt and fur trimming.

for in cash at that time. The truck route covers all of southern Oregon district from Cave Junction to Ashland and the districts in between. Some of the growers have a small herd ranging from two or three does to 30 or 40. Some have from 100 to 250 working does.

A number of California growers are moving to this district with their rabbitries. They have found this area an ideal rabbit raising country due to mild climate and lower cost of operation. They are buying small acreage, establishing their homes as well as rabbitries and are building their herds into a profitable business, Call reported.

The rabbit business is like any other business—you have to thoroughly like and understand it to do well.

**Part-Time Occupation**  
The average number of breeding rabbits which may form a foundation is 10, costing from \$3 to \$7 each. This is a good part-time occupation on a small piece of land—even a back yard, a prominent rabbit grower pointed out.

Automatic feeders and waterers make it possible to get away from home. A fair-sized commercial operation consists of 50 to 60 does. Each doe requires about 2½ hours of working time per year, the rabbit experts figure.

Raising rabbits like other types of agriculture requires a good knowledge of the nec-

## Livestock Facilities To Be Discussed at Meeting

The newly acquired livestock yard facilities in Phoenix will be discussed at a meeting of stockmen at the Central Point Grange at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22, according to a spokesman for the newly formed Rogue Valley Livestock Auction, Inc.

All people interested in the southern Oregon livestock industry are invited to attend. The Southern Oregon Livestock yard was purchased by a group of local cattlemen early this month. The gross receipts of the first sale conducted by the new management totaled about \$40,000, the second sale held Feb. 11 totaled about \$30,000, and the third sale scheduled yesterday was predicted at \$35,000.

The corporation of local livestockmen plans to expand the loading pens and chutes in preparation for a spring feeder sale in March. This will be a similar to feeder sales held in the fall.

The new operators report a large part of the livestock sold at the regular Saturday sales is coming from Grants Pass. No stock has come from Klamath county yet, it was reported. The remainder of the sale stock comes from Jackson county.

red, Flemish and checker giants, English spot, and silver martin.

Raisers are aiming to produce a compact, meaty fryer. Rabbits are raised commercially in every state in the United States and in other countries.

Feeding of rabbits for human consumption is a never ending research into the nutritional values of the different feeds and proper feeding procedures.

**Scientific Business**  
Commercial rabbitry is now a scientific business and the knowledge of the vitamin and protein content of the feed as well as the digestible nutrients and amount of food necessary for a healthy rabbit is an important part of the industry.

The greater part of the fryers raised in southern Oregon are taken to the San Francisco Bay area and processed there. They are sold to retailers there and in other parts of California and the demand is constantly increasing.

The rabbit growers here are sure their production is bound to increase rapidly.

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| Lincoln Cents (before 1934) | Dollars before 1878                    |
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