

Oregon Farms Show 120 Acre Increase Now

Corvallis — Oregon farms grew an average of 120 acres in size and went up 50 per cent in value during the five years between the last two farm census periods, reports Mrs. Elvera Horrell, extension agricultural economist at Oregon State College.

The agricultural census of 1954 showed farms in the state averaging about 386 acres in size. By the 1959 census, this average had grown to 507 acres, Mrs. Horrell found as she studied reports from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

This change in size resulted largely from combining existing farms, not by bringing new land into agriculture production, Mrs. Horrell said. Total amount of cropland in the state held steady at about 5.3 million acres. After correcting for the change in the census definition of a farm, Mrs. Horrell found the number of farms decreased by 5,315 during the five-year period, with around 43,000 farms now in the state.

Farm Value Jumps
During this same period, value of land and buildings per farm in Oregon jumped from an average of \$27,789 in 1954 to \$41,889 in 1959.

The 1959 census classified a little over half of the state's farms as commercial. Of these, nearly 70 per cent sold over \$5,000 worth of products a year, but only 45 per cent sold over \$10,000 worth.

About 100 different products come from the state's farms, Mrs. Horrell noted. USDA listed the 10 leading Oregon commodities, based on estimated cash receipts, as cattle and calves, wheat, milk, eggs, barley, greenhouse and nursery crops, strawberries, hay, potatoes, and ryegrass seed in that order.

Farms are second only to forests as a source of primary income to the state, generating more than half-a-billion dollars in buying power each year, Mrs. Horrell reported. And this takes into account only the cash receipts from farm sales, plus the first step in marketing beyond the farm gate.

Taking into account businesses related to farming, such as suppliers of goods and services as well as processing and distribution industries, gives an idea of the full impact of agriculture on the economy of the state, Mrs. Horrell said.

Oregon Onions Asked On Plentiful List

Salem — Division Chief Paul T. Rowell of the State Department of Agriculture has asked the plentiful foods program of the USDA to put on their list of foods in plentiful supply at this time. That listing goes to commercial outlets as well as to school lunch programs and federal agencies purchasing food items.

Rowell says there are nearly 500 carloads of these onions in cold storage in the Willamette valley. Shippers have advised that while these onions are in good condition they should be moved before the first of May, when new crop onions from southern states will move to all markets.

Recent imports from Australia have competed heavily for markets in British Columbia, normally one of the best markets for western Oregon onions at this time of the year.

National Weights Week Announced

Salem — Max Burns of the State Department of Agriculture helped promote observance of national weights and measures week in Oregon, March 1-7. Burns, a weights and measures man from the department, is state chairman of the event.

Purpose of the week is to call attention to the men all over the state who help "balance the scales" for the public. These men check scales, meters, gas pumps and other devices to make certain they are correct.

There are about 14,000 small scales, over 13,000 gas pumps, 3,000 truck and plant meters, 7,000 heavy duty scales among numerous other weights and measures over the state which are checked yearly by a group of 11 weights and measures inspectors from the state department of agriculture.

Some 3,500 officials over the nation, representing cities, counties or states, daily test the accuracy of equipment. Check weighing prepackaged products for the accurate net weight content as printed on the packages is a major project of the weights and measures program. Ninety per cent of our food is bought in prepackaged form and many items are imported from all corners of the world.

Checking accuracy of gasoline pump deliveries is another routine test. Tested with a five gallon standard, a gasoline pump on a five gallon delivery must be correct within a very narrow margin, plus or minus.

African Animal Diseases Rated World Threat

Washington — (Science Service) — Countries badly in need of meat dare not import it from Africa because of the risk of disease.

Dr. Fred D. Maurer of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology said here that control and eradication of African animal diseases is vital.

Dr. Maurer, who has done research in Africa on rinderpest and African swine fever, charged that the reluctance of all countries to import African animals is preventing the exchange of food badly needed.

"This is not only critical to the world's food supply," he said, "but it is an important key to improvement of the economies of both agriculture and industrial countries."

"The ever-increasing volume of speed of trade and travel has provided new opportunities for these diseases to spread," he said. "Countries that benefit from modern industrial transportation must face the problem it has created. They should help to eliminate the diseases while they are localized."

Flies Transmit Disease
Blue tongue in sheep and cattle is transmitted by Culex flies, which have a world-wide distribution. This highly fatal, viral disease has been in South Africa since sheep were imported before 1800, and has since spread through much of southeast and northeast Africa to the Mediterranean. In 1952 it was diagnosed in the United States, where it was found in 13 western states. It was found in Japan in 1960 and killed a reported 40,000 sheep.

In South Africa the commercial raising of sheep is dependent on the annual use of 25,000,000 doses of blue tongue vaccine.

Also transmitted by Culex flies or midges is African horse sickness (AHS), which goes back to 1719. It has continued to be the most destructive of diseases to the equine species in Africa. In 1959 the disease spread to Iran, Afghanistan, West Pakistan and in 1960 to India, Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Cyprus, Lebanon and Jordan, and losses in these countries were estimated at 170,000 head.

Two million tons of salt are used annually in the United States for ice and snow removal.

Idaho Quarantines Strawberry Plants

Salem — A quarantine has been established on strawberry plants being imported into Idaho according to an announcement from the Oregon State Department of Agriculture.

Authorities of Idaho advise that a quarantine is necessary to prevent introduction of two plant diseases and two plant pests into the state. The diseases, red stele of strawberry plants and phytophthora fragariae and the pests, summer dwarf and aphelenchoides fragariae, have so far not been known to exist in Idaho.

All Dairies Now Must Be Licensed

Salem — Dairymen, selling raw milk in jugs or bottles are asked to contact the state department of agriculture for inspection and licenses.

All dairies with more than one dairy cow, which are dealing with the gallon jug or bottle trade in raw milk, must be licensed to operate legally. Only licensed dairies come under the state sanitation inspection and laboratory check of milk and cream for wholesomeness and butterfat content.

Every spring, when the cows are turned out to graze on new grass, there is a surplus of fluid milk. Dairymen who bottle and sell this raw milk are operating "jug dairies." From 50 dairies six years ago, the jug business has climbed until at the present time there are 117 under state license. Sales of these gallon jugs are made on the dairy premises. Such dairies can qualify for grade A or B license. Unlicensed dairies can be shut down by state authorities and are subject to possible prosecution.

Not Subject
Dairies with only one cow or three dairy goats, are not subject to licensing. As a result they do not have sanitary inspection nor are they required to have the brucellosis and tuberculosis tests as often as licensed raw milk dairies.

Kenneth Carl, assistant chief of the foods and dairies division of the SDA, says, "because no controls are required of the one-cow dairy, persons obtaining their milk supply from this source should realize they do so at their own risk with relation to sanitation and cow health."

If a lot of cattle crowd around salt blocks, the timid animals and young calves may not get enough to meet their minimum needs.

Barley Growers Urged to Plant Early, Fertilize

Corvallis — Willamette Valley barley growers can benefit by planting as early as possible and fertilizing to get crops off to an early start, reports Oregon State college agricultural experiment station researchers.

Barley test plots planted early last spring on well-drained soils gave better yields, higher test weights, and a lower percentage of thin kernels.

T. L. Jackson, soil scientist, and Wilson Foote, agronomist, pointed out, however, that temperature and rainfall will of course influence the effectiveness of early planting.

Growers are also reminded that early planting will be successful only on well-drained soils. Details of the research findings may be obtained from Willamette Valley county extension agents.

Nitrogen Better
Response to nitrogen fertilizer was also better on early-planted plots than on plots planted later. Amount of nitrogen needed will depend upon whether the land produced a legume, grass seed, or cereal crop the previous year. County agents can also provide a free copy of the OSU fertilizer recommendation sheet that relates nitrogen requirements to previous cropping practices.

Getting barley off to an early start may help growers cut down damage from yellow dwarf virus that has plagued the area in recent years. OSC research shows that grain which can reach the four to five-leaf stage before being attacked by the virus can probably produce a near-normal crop.

More weed control than normal may be necessary with early planting. Foote said spraying for weed control with 2,4-D should be done as soon as possible after barley plants are six inches tall. Research shows that spraying at that time will do no damage to barley yield or malting quality if applied at recommended rates.

Good Dairy Farmer? Check List Indicates

How good a dairy farmer are you? The following is a check list issued during the two-day dairy short course held in the county court house last week.

Breeding Points:
Do you have a registered dairy bull with no proof in pedigree? Have an occasional animal hand bred? Do you keep breeding dates? Does your herd spend 75 days in milking based on a 12 months herd average? Do you partially offset unbalanced production by purchase of fresh cows?

Feeding Points:
Is your rate of roughage feeding 2.0 per cent? Is your feeding index 105, based on the relation of net energy fed to net energy required, or is it 100 or below? Is your percentage of net energy from concentrates 40 per cent or higher? Is your hay light mixed or no legume? Do you cut your hay at the heavy bloom or mature stage? Do

you have an unimproved permanent pasture plus partial use of supplemental pasture? Is the majority of your herd overweight during most of the lactation?

Management
Is the milk produced per man 150,000 pounds? Is the milk produced per cow 7,000 pounds? Is the average age of your cows 54 months? Do your heifers calf at an average of 30 to 32 months? Are you keeping some private records on your herd? Are you following Plan C in the brucellosis program? Do you have enough mastitis cases to be a major herd problem? Are high bacterial counts a major problem in your milk? Do you have frequent cases of foreign matter and objectionable flavors and odors?

If your dairy operation fits the level of these questions you may hang on in the dairy business for a year or so, but competition will be stiff. And you should have attended the short course, you might have learned something!

Subcommittee Okays Megler Bridge Bill

Salem — UP — A Ways and Means subcommittee Wednesday approved a bill authorizing construction of the proposed Astoria-Megler bridge over the Columbia river.

Reciprocal legislation already has been approved by the Washington Legislature and signed by Gov. Albert Rosellini.

The measure went to the full Ways and Means Committee.

Lack of Standard Labeling Affects Dairy Industry

Salem — Speaking before representatives from Washington and Idaho recently at the 30th annual Institute of Dairying held in Pullman, Wash., Kenneth Carl, of the State Department of Agriculture said that lack of nationwide uniform labeling standards affects the welfare of the entire dairy industry.

Distribution is restricted and marketing costs are increased for lack of such standards, Carl said. "Industry, economic and political forces, plus the apathy of regulatory officials has, in my opinion, formed the principal areas of resistance in a move toward uniform labeling standards," he asserted.

Carl went on to say that in Oregon there have been frequent revisions of the dairy laws and regulations in order to keep them current with changing industry conditions. The speaker went on to define Oregon laws relating to dairy products.

Look For Laws

"As competition increases, segments of the dairy industry look for more and more regulatory laws for mandatory labeling requirements," said Carl. In the past, he added, when milk was bottled in glass containers the cap was labeled with the grade of product, marked raw or pasteurized, the identity of the distributor shown and the label was considered to be satisfactory. But, he said, "Now with a traveling bill-

Condemnation Hits New High

Salem — More than 20 stock cars of meat animals and more than 427 tons of edible parts (liver, head, tongue, etc.) were condemned under state meat inspection during 1960, the state department of agriculture reports.

About 80 per cent of the edible parts of the meat condemned was liver, with fluke and abscesses the main causes of unwholesomeness.

Altogether there were 1,000 animals condemned under the inspection program. Rejections included 855,752 pounds of liver, heads and other edible parts. Also condemned were 9,491 pounds of processed meats.

New High

A new high was reached in 1960 in the number of inspections made by the department. According to meat inspection supervisor Dr. M. L. Houston, 443,348 head were checked in 1960, up 20.6 per cent over 1959.

However, while 23.7 per cent more livers were condemned in 1960 than in the previous year, condemnation of whole animals dropped to 963 from 1052 in 1959.

Dr. Houston states, "The decline in the number of whole animals condemned reflects increased recognition that only healthy animals will pass meat inspection."

board, that is, paper milk carton, there is suddenly a lot of space to be filled up with extraneous wording. This keeps authorities busy separating fact from fiction in dairy labeling," he said.

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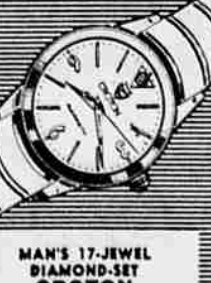
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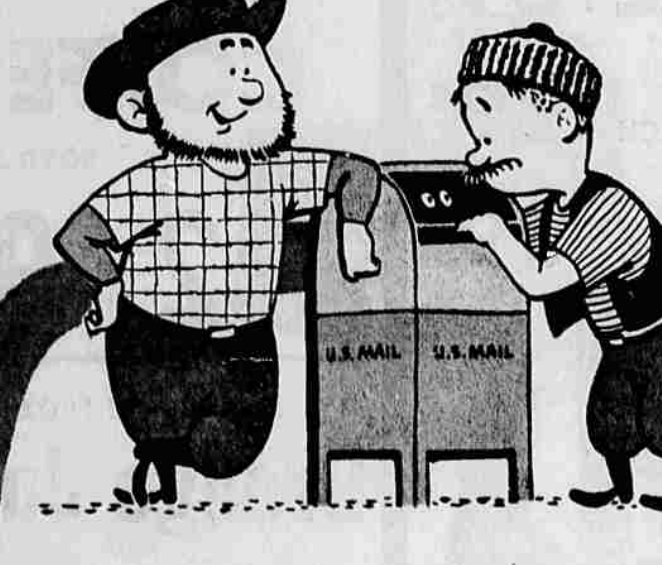
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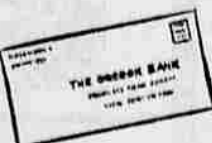


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