

# Tax Relief Law for Farm Land Not Used in Jackson County

A tax relief law for farm land, which was passed by the Oregon state legislature in 1961, has not been used by Jackson county farmers, according to County Assessor Thad Hatten.

In fact, farmers in the north Willamette valley counties, are the only persons so far in Oregon who have taken advantage of the law, he said.

The reason is that only land which has been permanently zoned exclusively for farm use by cities or counties is eligible.

Under the law, zoned farm land is assessed at its true cash value for farm uses and not at the value it would have if applied to other uses.

**Example Cited**

An example would be if a neighboring farmer subdivided his property. If surrounding farm land is within a permanently zoned area for farm purposes, the increase in valuation of the neighboring property will not affect the zoned farm land for tax purposes.

Farm land eligible for tax relief must be at least five acres and shown on the tax roll for the current year which during the previous year was used to raise, harvest or store crops, feed, breed or manage livestock, or to produce plants, trees, fowl or animals useful to man. This includes the preparation of the property for man's use and disposal by marketing.

Property eligible for the tax relief includes, but is not limited to, such land used for agriculture, grazing, horticulture, forestry and dairying.

**Interest Expressed**

Interest in the law was expressed Wednesday night by north Central Point farmers at a public hearing on a development pattern for an industrial zoned area.

Farmers were concerned with the encroachment of commercial properties and subdivisions on neighboring farms which increases taxes of their land.

The North Central Point and Southwest Phoenix interim zoned areas would be the first in the county which could take advantage of the tax relief law if present steps

being taken in the two areas toward permanent zoning are continued.

The Central Point area has approved its development pattern and has made recommendations for changes in its present interim zoning ordinance. The Southwest Phoenix area did not approve a proposed development pattern at a public hearing June 20 by the county planning commission. The hearing was continued until July 18.

The remaining steps for the North Central Point area before it becomes permanently zoned are:

- Submission by the county planning commission to the county court a zoning ordinance for the area which puts into effect the approved development pattern;

- The county court's acceptance of the zoning ordinance;

- A public hearing held by the county court on the zoning ordinance; and

- The county court adopting the zoning ordinance or calling for an election within the district.

Oregon law provides that after the public hearing has been held by the county court on the zoning ordinance, 15

per cent of the legal voters in the area may petition the court for an election.

**In Three-Year Period**

The last two steps must be accomplished by the county court within a three-year period after the court's acceptance of the ordinance.

As soon as all of the steps have been taken by the interim zoned area and it is permanent, then farmers within that area will be eligible to apply for tax relief.

Hatten said it is not known how this law will affect local taxes. The majority of the work involved would be administrative, he added.

The new law promotes "green belt" zoning which has been a desired part of development patterns during the past several years. Such zoning protects people involved when farm lands are subdivided or changed to commercial and industrial areas. Under such circumstances taxes on farm lands become prohibitive in many cases, forcing the farmer to sell or subdivide. The tax relief law would allow the agriculture user to remain in the area, thereby avoiding a further price area between areas which have varied uses.

# \$23.6 Million Is Spent on Food by County Residents

With incomes at a higher level in Jackson county, the big question is "How much of this money is being spent in local retail stores and for what?"

According to a market study recently released, the larger incomes led to freer spending on the part of local residents in the past year. The self-imposed restraints that had resulted in their staying away from big-ticket purchases during the depression of the previous year were less evident.

The study, made by the Standard Rate and Data Service, puts communities throughout the country under the spotlight with respect to local spending for food, clothing, autos, furniture and the like.

**More For Food**

In Jackson county, the figures show, more money was expended for food than for anything else.

The grocery stores, meat markets, delicatessens, bakeries and other stores selling food for home consumption checked out a sales volume in the year of \$23,600,000.

It was equivalent to 26 cents out of every dollar that was spent at retail. Elsewhere in the United States, 25 cents goes to food and, in the Pacific States, it also was 25 cents.

**What's Not Included**

This was exclusive of the eaterys in restaurants, at lunch counters and in other places where food and drink was consumed on the premises.

The take-home purchases, divided equally among the retail population, would come to \$875 per household.

The large-scale spending for food was a reflection not only of better financial conditions in most families but also of rising confidence and a stronger feeling of security.

The report shows that most other retail lines also fared well in the year.

**At Least, \$1.50**

Outlets for automobiles, boats, motorcycles and other recreational equipment and supplies accounted for \$21,801,000, equal to 24 cents of the dollar.

General merchandise stores did \$7,870,000, representing 8 cents.

Those selling apparel-clothing, shoes, hats and related items accounted for \$2,615,000, or 3 cents.

Stores of furniture and other home furnishings amounted to \$720,000, equivalent to .8 cents.

An effort to visit here-and-there-unheard of.

The Mayor of Alba sends his best regards to you and to all the people of Medford. He begs you to come and visit him. Our girlie was Sandra Taylor, and she also sends her love to you and people of Medford she has met.

I hope this finds you well. We are having a wonderful time. Tell Bob Lee that the offer in Alba is OK but for some of the other places I can't say the same.

Lee Merrill



The following letter from Alba, written by Medford Dentist Dr. Lee Merrill, was recently received by John W. Smith:

Dear John:

We have just returned from a visit in Alba and tomorrow morning, June 26, early we're leaving for Nice, to attend the International Lions Convention. I am a delegate from the Pacific Northwest Lions as a chairman of this group. From there we are driving to Rome, Venice, Innsbruck, Austria, then to Köln, Germany, where I am attending the International Dental Congress. Then to Amsterdam and home about July 16.

Upon arrival in Alba you should find us waiting for you. We are looking for you to be the first to see us. We are looking for you to be the first to see us. We are looking for you to be the first to see us.

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100% Orlon Acrylic, foot reinforced with 18% Nylon white and colors. Misses sizes 8-11. Special Newberrys' purchase of irregulars... the savings is passed on to you.

**LUNCH at Rogue Sidewalk CAFE**

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Tough white cotton duck with molded suction-cup soles, arch ventilation, sponge insoles... in choice of lace-to-heel oxford or ankle-supporting high style. Boys' 2 1/2 to 6; Men's 6 1/2 to 12.

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Reg. 5.88

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**IRREGULAR CANNON BATH TOWELS—CHECKS, SOLIDS, STRIPES**

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