

Winter Pear Research Opens Doors To New Markets, Aids Storage Life

Corvallis - Dividends measured in multi-million dollar totals come from agricultural research in Oregon every year, according to a report prepared by F. E. Price, dean and director of agriculture at Oregon State University.

Dramatic advances are being made in agriculture and they're not coming by chance, Price said. "They're coming from research."

In terms of "no-inflation dollars," cash receipts from farm marketings have doubled in Oregon since 1925, Price notes in his summary on accomplishments of the

OSU Agricultural Experiment station. Agriculture is now a \$600,000,000 yearly business in Oregon with 47 per cent coming from livestock and 53 per cent from crops.

Price cites these examples of ag research dividends:

Research on winter pears has produced storage and ripening procedures that opened new markets. Winter pears are now a \$15 million developed from research at OSU. Price points out. This, in turn, brought a \$4,000,000 seed cleaning and processing industry in Oregon.

Sprinkler irrigation has brought thousands of acres under water, increased crop yields and quality, and generated a big sprinkler irrigation manufacturing industry for Oregon.

Oregon growers of vegetable crops and small fruits receive \$45,000,000 annually; the processed value is \$110,000,000.

Conservative estimates of annual savings from the diseases that have yielded to research discoveries include: fowl pox vaccination for chickens and turkeys, \$250,000 savings annually; pullorum control for poultry, \$400,000; selenium treatment for white muscle disease and scours in lambs and calves, \$650,000; mastitis control in dairy cattle, \$800,000; brucellosis control in dairy and beef cattle, \$1,000,000.

Weed control in strawberries has been cut from \$100 per acre 10 years ago to \$20 per acre now.

Controls have been developed for damaging dead-end disease in cherries, which in 1954 threatened the cherry industry in Marion and Polk counties.

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At the same time, demand for finished beef in California will increase rapidly with the state's population growth and high-level per capita income, Albaugh told some 150 Oregon cattlemen attending the meeting.

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Cattle Imported

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Beef market opportunities in California were pointed up by Albaugh with a report that California's present population of more than 16 million persons is expected to top 21 million by 1970. And Californians are heavy beef eaters - about 130 pounds per capita a year compared to 87 pounds for the U. S. average. This, in part, a reflection of high income per capita.

State Wool Price Outlook Strong, Economist Says

Corvallis - Economic forces influencing 1963 Oregon wool prices suggest a fairly strong market undertone, with the main uncertainty being the recent increases in U. S. wool stocks and the attitude of fabric makers toward buying wool at the higher prevailing prices.

This is the way Stephen C. Marks, Oregon state university extension agricultural economist, sees the outlook for wool. He makes his observations in the new Oregon Farm and Market Outlook Circular now available from county extension offices.

Oregon wool prices in February averaged 21 per cent, or 9 cents a pound higher, than a year ago after prices advanced on all wool grades in late 1962 and in January, Marks noted.

Overseas wool auctions continued to display a firm undertone in early March, giving support to U. S. produced apparel wools. Prospects are that domestic and world wool prices will remain at recent levels until this spring when the U. S. short wool crop is available in seasonally larger volume, he adds.

Smaller Supplies Seen

Wool supplies in the year ahead may be smaller both nationally and worldwide because of smaller carryover stocks in 1962 and smaller production in the 1962-63 market year, the economist points out.

In February, the U. S. counted about 70 million pounds of clean wool on hand, an increase of 8 per cent over last year. The increase, reported by the Wool Associates, probably reflects recent large imports, Marks said.

United States mill use of wool in 1963 is expected to remain relatively stable at around the 278-million pound mark of 1962, the highest since 1956, he commented.

He noted that an unusual wool market feature this year has been substantial wintertime contracting by woolen mills in Texas and Wyoming, the leading wool producing states, as well as in Colorado and Idaho.

This suggested less buyer interest in the spring as mills satisfy their needs through contracting. Because of this, advances in wool prices after mid-year as in 1961 and 1962 may not be repeated this year, he adds.

Domestic Use Drops

At the same time, domestic mill use dropped below year earlier levels in late 1962 as did orders at weaving mills which have increased inventories. This does not indicate an extended downward price trend, Marks emphasized, because these relationships could be reversed in relatively short time.

However, he cautions, the less encouraging ratio of inventories to unfilled orders may reflect a broader shift by fabric makers to synthetics. Trade reports show wool industry concern that customers may step-up the use of lower priced man-made fabrics in clothing because of higher wool prices.

An alternative available to the U. S. textile industry to paying higher prices for foreign apparel wools is to import more wool textile products from Japan, Italy and England. Imports last year reached record levels, he said.

However, Marks points out that this alternative is uncertain because the U. S. wool textile industry is striving for quantity restrictions on fabric imports similar to those negotiated for cotton last year.

SHIPS COLLIDE

Yokohama, Japan. - (AP) - The 38-ton Japanese coastal vessel Koho Maru 18 sank early today following a collision with the American freighter Evergreen State.

Plan To Curb Mobile Slaughter Unit Operators In Meat Transportation Topic of Public Hearing

Where do legislative powers end and administrative powers begin? That seemed to be the main question during public hearing yesterday noon in the Jackson county courthouse. Thirty people, almost all of them farmers and operators of mobile slaughter units and packing plants, heard the proposal to forbid mobile slaughter unit operators to transport the slaughtered carcass.

Testimony of various public operators showed they thought this a main part of their service and would virtually eliminate them.

State Rep. John Dellenback (R-Medford) and State Sen. Lyndel Newbury (R-Talent) said removal of the transportation clause in the present law would seem to eliminate the mobile plant operators and would conflict with legislative intent. The senate agricultural committee tabled Senate Bill 103 which would forbid storage of non-inspected meat with inspected meat. Newbury said his committee felt this would virtually eliminate mobile slaughter which testimony revealed performs a valuable service to the farmer.

"This regulation has been in effect three years. It is most unwise to decide precipitously to repeal it. Since this would conflict with legislative intent it is a policy decision which should be brought to the 1965 legislature," Dellenback emphasized.

Newbury said he had heard testimony that uninspected or "bootleg" meat could make people ill, but had never heard of anybody becoming sick from such meat.

"This is the meat which is butchered on the mountain side, drug through the canyons and hung on a tree to cure, but I don't know of any case in Oregon where somebody has become ill from eating such meat."

Newbury said he had heard virtually the same testimony from the same people on the senate bill.

Dellenback said the state department of agriculture must have been aware of this conflicting regulation before the state legislature adjourned but it did not bring it to the attention of the committee considering Senate Bill 103.

Fat Emmons, Albany attorney representing the mobile operators, said the present law regulating mobile slaughter units "came into being" in 1959. He interpreted it as giving the mobile operators license to transport. Now the state department of agriculture wants to amend the regulations specifically forbidding mobile operators to transport their slaughtered meat.

All Egg Licenses Must Be Renewed

Salem - This is the time of the year when Oregon egg producers and dealers renew their producer-dealer egg permits with the Oregon department of agriculture.

Deadline for the renewals is July 1. Those now holding permits will be sent renewal applications by the department and any not receiving them should contact the department.

John Bohnert, Central Point, representing the Jackson County Stockmen's association legislative committee, said his association is opposed to any restriction on farm butchering. The farmer has too many restrictions on him now, he said.

He and other farmers who testified said they prefer to have the meat butchered on their farms and hauled directly into the cooler. This is more sanitary, particularly during hot weather, than leaving it on the ranch for the farmer to take care of.

These permits are required of all producers selling directly to eating establishments, bakeries and food manufacturers and all dealers selling to retailers. Those retailers, who grade their own eggs, are also required to secure the permits, which cost \$2.

Exempt

Exempt from securing the permits are those producers who sell directly to the individual consumer and do not grade their eggs.

July is also the deadline for completion of egg case fee reports for the fiscal year July, 1962, through June, 1963. These are required of all producers selling more than 200 cases of eggs a year, even if they are not required to have a permit. The first 200 cases are exempt from the fee. The rate for all above that is 2 1/2 cents per case. Forms for this report are provided by the Oregon department of agriculture, Salem 10, Oregon.

been butchered on his place for 20 years and hauled off. "They (the mobile operators) are quite expert. There's not a speck of dirt that gets on the carcass," he said. "Not too many farmers are properly equipped to butcher their own beef and haul it into a meat packing plant."

Most farmers testified that they kept most of the meat for their own use or would sell it to close neighbors and friends.

Shooting Butterflies

"This is like shooting butterflies with a cannon," Mrs. Carl von der Hellen, Eagle Point, remarked. "If spoiled meat is being sold through retail channels find out who the few are who are selling it. Why penalize the many for the few?"

Nobody testified for the amendment yesterday afternoon, although William Southworth, assistant director of the state department of agriculture said he expected testimony in favor of the amendment during this Wednesday's hearing in Salem. Mrs. von der Hellen retorted, "This is a local problem and should be handled on a local basis."

Representatives of some local meat packing houses attended the meeting, but did not testify. Others who testified were John Johnson, Eagle Point, Clyde Brown, Gold Hill, a Eugene man, Richard McKee, Dundee, all mobile plant operators; Max Williams, Grants Pass, and A. C. Allen Jr., Eagle Point, both farmers.

Southworth said the recorded testimony would be studied and evaluated by James Short, Oregon Agriculture department director; himself and an assistant attorney general.

In answer to the state legislators' comments, Southworth said the department would have to repeal the regulation if it were found to be in conflict with other regulations regardless of judicial opinion.

Picker Efficiency Study Results Given for Area

Corvallis - Studies aimed at improving picker efficiency and thus cutting costs for Oregon's apple and pear growers were reported by R. D. Langmo, Oregon State University agricultural economist, at the recent Oregon State Horticultural Society's meeting on the OSU campus.

Information gathered the last two years will be a firm foundation for future studies which, in time, may compare costs of conventional hand picking methods with more mechanized means.

The time and motion studies conducted in Medford pear orchards in 1961 and 1962 are the most intensive studies made of tree fruit picking in this area, Langmo explained. Although the primary interest has been in pears, the findings will generally apply to apple orchards.

The studies are aimed at determining the actual effective productive time or activity of the picker, the economist explained. This is becoming increasingly important to the orchardist who is finding it difficult to obtain the kind of labor he wants when he needs it. Not as many workers would be needed if picker effectiveness is improved.

Shows Time Allocation

The study showed that pickers spent 31 per cent of the time moving themselves, fruit, boxes and ladders and only 28 per cent of their working time actually picking fruit.

Low picker productivity results in scheduling problems and increases the indirect costs associated with picking. He feels picker efficiency can be improved through better planning and supervision by the grower.

During the 1962 season, a similar study was made with the pickers using self-propelled, three-wheeled machines to move themselves about the trees. When this study is completed, researchers will be in a better position to make cost comparisons, Langmo said.

Additional study is planned for the 1963 season, again with machines. However, next year, facilities permitting, pickers will unload the fruit into bulk bins that require shorter stops and fewer delays than is possible with the conventional field lugs.

A complete report of the 1961 study is included in a special report entitled "Labor Utilization in Picking Pears" published by the OSU Agricultural Experiment Station. Copies of the report may be obtained by contacting the OSU department of agricultural economics.

CORDON OFF MINE

Mbane, Swaziland. - (AP) - Six-hundred battle-ready British troops cordoned off the Havelock Mine north of here today in an effort to break the 28-day-old strike at the world's largest asbestos mine.

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Sour Cream Law Gets Amendment

Salem - Production of sour cream by direct addition of lactic acid will be permitted in Oregon under a state department of agriculture administrative order amending the standard of identity of sour cream.

The regulation, which becomes effective June 25, also permits use of a starter culture distillate and approved edible stabilizer and establishes a standard of identity for cultured sour cream that does not contain added citric acid or starter culture distillate.

Under the order the use of salt, lactose, citric acid or starter culture distillate is optional, but when these are used they must be named on the label.

Previously the standard of identity had permitted production of sour cream by only natural bacterial action with a lactic acid producing culture. Sour cream produced by this method will now bear the label of "Cultured Sour Cream."

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