

# Berry Breeding Program Outlined

CORVALLIS — Work devoted to breeding new varieties of strawberries, red raspberries and blackberries has been outlined by George Waldo, U. S. Department of Agriculture horticulturist stationed at OSU.

In strawberries, more emphasis in recent years has been placed upon obtaining red stele resistance as well as the possibility of good commercial varieties of red stele resistant, he said.

Definite red stele resistance in greenhouse tests has been found in nine or 10 selections in recent years, but, with one possible exception, none will be commercially acceptable, Waldo noted.

One of the difficulties encountered in obtaining good size, he explained, since parent material giving red stele resistance

usually gives small size in the progeny.

Highest yields have been obtained in selections where the average size has been medium or small, but, under the most favorable growing conditions, the size of some selections is not objectionable, Waldo reported. High flavor quality also has been difficult to obtain.

Extensive testing of new selections is now being carried on at the North Willamette Experiment Station at Aurora and some may be sent out for trial under growing conditions different from those of the Willamette valley.

Presently there is no one red raspberry variety grown that is acceptable in all ways for Pacific Northwest growers since each lacks one or more essential characteristics that makes them unsuitable to grow under certain conditions, Waldo pointed out.

The breeding program's main objective for the past few years has been directed toward overcoming the problem of red raspberry plants dying out after they are three or four years old. This has been a particular problem on heavy soils and also occurs on some lighter soils.

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The OSU Agricultural Experiment Station now has many blackberry selections for consideration as possible varieties that may have economic value and which can be used for further breeding research, Waldo reported.

However, the rapid increase in Thornless Evergreen acreage and its widespread use by consumers lead to the conclusion that selections under consideration may never reach economic value, at least not in the near future, he said.

One principal objection to the Evergreen is its late harvest season. A thornless type, with an earlier harvest season and better qualities has been the ideal toward which much of the breeding work is now oriented.

## More Birds, Eggs Forseen in 1964

CORVALLIS — More poultry and eggs are in prospect for 1964, with the gains probably equaling or exceeding population growth. This should keep Oregon prices near or below 1963 levels.

This is the outlook as seen by Charles M. Fischer, Oregon State University extension poultry marketing specialist. Fischer makes his observations in the new Oregon Farm and Market Outlook circular just published by OSU and available from the county extension offices.

The increase in national egg production is expected to be relatively small and moderate expansion is foreseen for broilers and turkeys, Fischer said.

Egg production level for the first half of 1964 is largely fixed by the number of layers and potential layers currently on hand. On Oct. 1, the number was the same as a year earlier, he said, suggesting that the national flock will be about the same size as the laying flock on Jan. 1, 1963.

As the year progresses, however, new layers will be added and, by the second quarter, layer numbers may exceed the 1963 level by about one per cent. Much of the expected increase in egg production will likely stem from an increase in eggs per layer, particularly in the first quarter, Fischer said.

# Chit Chat

By JCE COWLEY  
Mail Tribune Farm Editor

"People say — you've heard 'em — that it isn't the imported beef that is ruining our prices. The ranchers are keeping too many animals in the feed lots."

"Just where do they expect us to send them? And if the prices were better they would be moving this beef into the butcher shops faster. These feedlot operators have a big investment, too. You can't blame 'em for holding back hoping the market will improve."

This was a local part-time farmer talking. He hopes to build up his small herd into a full time job. It takes money to buy good bulls and even more money to feed 'em. He knows that if the commercial cattlemen is hurt the purebred man is, too. It's the commercial man who buys his bulls.

People in the cattle business throughout the cattle raising states are feeling the pinch of competition from the beef imports of Australia and New Zealand. They want something done about it. They know that to get something done they will have to write many letters to their Congressmen. The governors of the seven cattle-raising states already are planning a joint campaign to help the cattlemen with this problem.

Bill Marshall, first vice president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, told the Jackson County Stockmen's Association at its last general meeting that "we need to re-educate the executive branch, too. Considerable progress is being made."

Although the cattlemen, like the general public, deeply regret Kennedy's assassination, they feel optimistic over getting federal help with their problems now that a cattlemen is president.

The New York Times summed up this optimistic outlook recently by stating that the Texan's background and legislative skills learned as a senator could ease the way for farm bills. Many lawmakers feel there may be more White House interest in farm legislation and increased administration willingness to make careful compromises.

We never have felt the late president had a very clear insight into farm problems. He depended heavily on Secretary of Agriculture Freeman.

Although we feel generally that Freeman is a sharp politician and capable administrator of his department, he seems to lack sufficient understanding of specific agriculture problems. The western range problem is one of these. We interviewed him when he was in Portland to kick off the national rural area development program. When we asked him how he proposed to solve the problem of cutbacks on government range land grazing he replied that under his program surplus wheat lands would be planted to grass. This would provide more grazing, he explained.

The conversion of eastern Oregon wheatlands would not help western Oregon cattlemen. Transportation of cattle herds from here to there, for instance, would be entirely impractical.

Observers are predicting that President Johnson will forego the more daring farm policy departures that led the Kennedy Administration up so many blind legislative alleys. Being a rancher he will probably rely more on his own instincts. Furthermore, he understands the traditional policies of farm legislation. He knows the key people well and can talk their language.

President Lyndon B. Johnson's help was expected to help push through the long-delayed cotton subsidy bill initiated by his predecessor's administration. So far it has met some serious rejections from Republican and big city congressmen. Our own Congressman Robert Duncan has vigorously opposed it. And we think he is right in wanting a simpler, more direct subsidy bill as an alternative. As long as the people's money is being used for such supports let them see exactly what the picture is and how the money is being spent.

The cotton bill and some major wheat legislation is expected to receive new impetus with the start of the new year. Johnson's home state also relies heavily on Mexican National labor to harvest its crops, particularly the citrus. His interest should help further extension of the Mexican farm labor program. We also hope he will take an active interest in negotiating with the Common Market countries in easing non-tariff restrictions on such West Coast specialty crops as pears.

Since Oregon's Duncan has involved himself in the cotton bill as a member of the House agriculture committee, an explanation of what this is all about might be helpful.

The government pays cotton growers a price-support subsidy that allows them a fatter return than they'd get on a free market. But domestic cotton can't compete with foreign-grown fiber selling in the world market at about 24 cents a pound when it receives a support price of 32½ a pound for a key grade. The government, to meet this problem, also subsidizes cotton exports.

It currently pays exporters the 8½ cent difference between the domestic and world price. But, now U. S. textile mills and clothing manufacturers are hurt because foreign firms are buying U. S. grown cotton at 24 cents and turning it into yarn, shirts and sheets and can resell it here cheaper than U. S. goods. This has resulted in the new demand, covered by the proposed cotton law, for a third subsidy which would cut the mills' cost for domestic cotton to the same price the foreigners pay.

So, in effect the bill proposes a third subsidy to offset the effects of the first two subsidies. Those boosting the bill say it would cost the U. S. taxpayers \$200 million during the next three years, those opposing it say it would be closer to \$635 million.

On the face of it, the proposed cotton bill seems somewhat ridiculous, but then we are not living in a textile producing state or in an area where cotton is being grown.

We do think in comparison with the demands of the cotton industry the help being asked by the beef and fruit industries is much less expensive and certainly not as selfish. The beef industry wants tariffs to more tightly control beef imports. The fruit industry wants non-tariff barriers lifted on its overseas markets, particularly since U. S. fruit seldom competes with European fruit in its own markets due to different seasons of production and European fruit shortages in recent years.

If LBJ plans to keep his vow to cut down on government spending then it is obvious where his major agriculture efforts should be directed. The fruit export problem we will discuss separately. The beef import problem is a serious one, as noted by the OCA vice president here. In 1962, 11 per cent of the beef in the U. S. consisted of imported beef. During the first six months of 1963 this was increased 14 per cent over the same six months period of 1962. Those cattlemen who have travelled Australia and New Zealand during recent cattle tours emphasize that Australia alone has the potential to put U. S. beef producers out of business. This should be Johnson's big beef now.

The true dimensions of the imported beef threat are revealed when you take a close look at Australia's geography. The world's largest beef station, "Alexandria Downs," has 70,000 shorthorn beef cattle ranging over 11,000 square miles, an area almost as large as Belgium.

The farmer is still the backbone of Australia and the government knows it. Australia's state and federal governments help with capital, equipment, irrigation works and mass-development methods which in many cases put a young man on a fenced, partly-developed farm, complete with farmhouse and sheds. But this doesn't take all the hardship out of Australian farming. Since the best land was taken over 100 years ago, a young would-be farmer often must hack his land out of bush, coax it into productivity with water, fertilizers and perhaps some minerals.

This combination of government assistance and farmers willing to bend their backs is going to be a tough thing to compete against. Furthermore, Australia's farmers must export to live.

Australian funds allocated for cattle and beef research map top \$1 million in the coming year. This research is administered



FFA AND FHA PROJECT — Girls of the Phoenix high school chapters of Future Homemakers of America and Future Farmers of America made holiday decorations for the Phoenix high school in the new vocational agriculture and shop building recently. The girls are from left: Margaret Grochocik, Mary Sue Emerson, Claudia Adams and Sally Dyer.

## Washington Fruit Growers Watching Tree Plantings

The Central Washington fruit growing area completed a fruit tree census and resulting report in 1961. This is something which Oregon is doing now.

Porter Lombard, Southern Oregon Branch Experiment Station superintendent, learned this when he attended the recent Washington State Horticultural Society meeting in Wenatchee, Wash. recently. The Washington fruit growers are concerned with the large number of trees which will come into bearing the next few years as is Oregon and California. This could dump a surplus of fruit on the market and depress the prices, growers feel.

The Central Washington growers are concerned particularly with apples since this is their main product. This past season they shipped 35,000 carloads of 29 million boxes. A normal year ships 30,000 carloads. When picking they had estimated a crop of 20 million boxes.

The growers are watching this production trend and are studying their markets and development of various by-products and marketing aids.

Some growers feel controlled atmosphere storage such as was experimented with here on pears can save them, Lombard commented. This would spread out the market so apples could hit the higher prices brought in April, for instance.

The Central Washington apple industry has developed an apple juice concentrate similar to the citrus concentrates purchased in our local markets. A Chelan, Wash. plant uses 300 tons of apples a day for this process. Another plant is located at Selah, Wash. This product will go to Denver and Texas when markets develop there and is now being shipped to Southern California and Washington state markets. This may indicate that pear nectar or juice can be processed in similar fashion.

The tree census study shows that Central Washington, in 1961 had 5,132,100 apple trees representing 57.4 per cent of all

fruit trees. Bartlett pear trees ranked second in numbers, 1,710,900, or 19.1 per cent. Other fruit tree percentages are 7.2 for peaches, 5.1 for cherries, 5.3 for winter pears, 3.9 for plums, 1.7 for apricots and 3.3 for plums. Winter pear trees numbered 476,300.

Notes Big Increase — Lombard noted "a terrific increase in Bartletts" in Central Washington the last few years. Seventy per cent of the Bartletts raised in Washington are from Yakima county, he noted. A lot of Bartlett trees have been planted in the lower Yakima Valley, he added. Washington growers are deemphasizing pear decline because the susceptible trees have either died or have been removed. The earliest signs of pear decline were noted in Washington.

The Washington tree survey breaks down to varieties and counties, Lombard explained. He hopes the Oregon survey now being compiled at Oregon State University will follow the same lines.

## Seed Catalogues Brighten Winter With New Flower, Vegetable Varieties

Brightly colored seed catalogues are providing the bridge from winter to spring as gardeners start planting flowers and vegetables.

W. Allee Burpee Company of Philadelphia, Pa., Clinton, Iowa and Riverside, Calif., has just mailed out its catalogues with brightly colored zinnias on the cover and luscious red strawberries spilling out of a box printed on the mailing envelope.

In flowers this year Burpee is featuring their new Zenith Zinnias for 1964. The company claims these are mildew resistant plants which will bear flowers for a longer time. These flowers grow two feet tall and measure 5½ to six inches across.

The new varieties include Bonanza, the 1964 All-American Silver Medal winner, large flowers of light golden orange; the Princess, a light salmon pink and the Firecracker, the 1963 All-American Silver Medal winner of bright red.

Other new flowers for 1964 are the Bijou Sweet Peas in five separate colors which can be planted in borders, beds and window boxes for the flowers are only 12 inches tall. Colors range from white to scarlet-cerise. The Fireglo sweet pea is in the New Galaxy group, long-stemmed sprays with five to seven clear scarlet fragrant flowers from midsummer on.

The new American Marigold, Geraldine named after Mrs. Willard S. Curtin, wife of the Pennsylvania congressman, is a large fluffy mum-type flower in deep orange which grows from mid-summer on.

Texas, a clear yellow mum-type flower, also a new American Marigold, measures 4½ inches across.

The mahogany and gold Pinwheel Gloriosa daisies are vigorous plants that last for years since they stand heat and sub-zero winters. Ideal for this climate.

Other new flowers for 1964 include the 1964 All-American

Bronze Medal winners, Fireglo celestia, Evening Glow salvia and Pink Buttons Zinnia, the Tom Thumb Zinnias which grow 10 inches high.

New Vegetables — The 1964 vegetable introductions include the Prizetaker pole lima which produces beans two or three times larger than other varieties, according to the catalogue, the Big Max pumpkin measuring 60 inches around and averaging 100 pounds and the Delicious tomato which weighs a pound.

Leafing through the catalogue the huge round yellow blossoms of marigolds make our green thumbs itch. These are the kind of plants the most amateur of gardeners can plant successfully. Burpee has been seeking a pure white marigold for a long time and is still offering \$10,000 for seeds of a white marigold of

## Rangs Program Stopped in State

SALEM — The federal-state payments for brucellosis calf vaccinations halted throughout Oregon on Dec. 31. Cattlemen have to foot the bill for vaccination.

Dr. Glenn B. Rea, state veterinarian, said he had been advised by Dr. A. G. Beagle, federal veterinarian in charge in Oregon, of word from Washington of a \$30,000 cut in federal funds for fee services in Oregon.

This put the axe in plans to continue vaccination on a fee basis. On Dec. 9, Dr. Beagle had advised a joint meeting of the State Brucellosis Advisory Committee and State Board of Livestock Auction Markets that the federal government could continue vaccination statewide.

After the Oct. 15 cuts in state department of agriculture budget, the state had to cut off payments for vaccination on Nov. 15 and at that time a December 15 cutoff of federal payments was announced.

The state-federal program will continue to supply Brucella vaccine, as previously, under agreement between practicing veterinarians and the federal-state program officials.

by the Australian Cattle and Beef Research Committee. Grants for research cover pastures and fodders, beef cattle husbandry, diseases and pests, economic and marketing and survey and extension. The committee also supports studies on the costs of more intensive land development for beef cattle production and makes a critical appraisal of the returns obtained from several current management procedures.

# Farm & Garden

## New Dried Pear Products Developed

Jackson County pear shippers have been shipping 3,500 tons of cull pears in normal years to California processors for pear nectar or concentrate.

The University of California has developed new dried pear products which are translucent and chewy in the form of dried halves or pears with a taffy consistency in sheets of dried puree.

Artificial dehydration is the key to the new process and replaces traditional and tedious sun drying. A hot air tunnel causes fresh pear halves and puree to give up their excess moisture in a few hours, retaining color and flavor that might be lost otherwise.

of California food scientist, developed the new methods. He said it is easier to maintain controlled conditions. The new process has reached the stage of small scale commercial production.

The dried puree seems to have the most promise, Miller said. It can be produced by machine making it possible to concentrate the fruit in a small package. It also uses very little of the pear except stem, skin and seeds. The taste is closer to the fresh pear.

This season, a newly organized processing company, Cal-Dri Fruits, Inc., of Colfax, Placer county, started small scale commercial production of dehydrated pear halves and puree.

## Records Needed For New Census Of Agriculture

Every farmer and rancher will have need for records on his business in 1964 in order to provide accurate answers for the do-it-yourself questionnaire he will receive near the end of the year as part of the 1964 Census of Agriculture, according to the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce.

Each farmer or rancher will receive a census form by mail in October or earlier, and will be asked to fill it out. A census taker will visit the farm during November or early December to review the filled-out form, make sure that all questions are answered, and send the form to Census headquarters.

The "do-it-yourself" plan is expected to save several million dollars compared with the method used in earlier farm censuses in which a census taker asked all the questions and wrote the answers on the census form.

For the first time, the 1964 Census of Agriculture will include questions about income received from recreation services, such as hunting or fishing privileges, board and room provided to sportsmen; and questions about chemical sprays or dusts used during the year to control pests and diseases of any kind. The bulk of questions will deal with crops and livestock produced and sold, use of farm land and amounts of farm expenditures.

"The most significant farm census since 1940" is the description by Ray Hurley, who has directed the Censuses of Agriculture at five-year intervals over the past quarter century. "American agriculture has been undergoing wide-spread and massive changes and the Census provides the only accurate measures of those changes," Mr. Hurley said.

The 1964 Census of Agriculture will provide the first count of the nation's farms since the Census of Agriculture in 1959 and the first count of people living on farms since the Census of Population in 1960. The number of farms in the nation decreased from its high point of 6.8 million in 1935 to 3.7 million in 1959. The number of people living on farms dropped from more than 30 million in 1940 to less than 14 million persons in 1960.

A new beef cattle booklet, "They're Worth More if They're Black" has just been released for distribution by the American Angus Association of St. Joseph, Miss. The two-color, 48-page booklet tells the story of more than 150 leading cattlemen who raise Angus feeder calves and who feed Angus for market.

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## New Officers Set For Dairy Council

On Dec. 5, Don Geren, Eagle Point dairy producer, was selected as president of the Oregon Dairy Council's Board of Directors.

Other new Board members elected were Fred Patterson, Vale; Rod Murray, Manager of Klamath Falls Creamery; Dr. Roy Stein, superintendent of Dairy Manufacturing, Oregon State University; and Ralph Kirscher, Carnation Company.

Speaker at the luncheon for medical and health leaders was Dr. Robert W. McCammon, director of the Child Research Council of the University of Colorado, School of Medicine. He spoke on, "One View of Eating and Infection in Early Life."

At the business meeting was M. F. Brink, National Dairy Council's associate Director of the Department of Nutrition Research. Dr. Brink discussed, "Selling the Nutrients in Milk."

The Oregon Dairy Council is a non-profit nutrition and health education organization sponsored by all of Oregon's dairy farmers and a member of the dairy processors. It is staffed by three home economists and one dietitian who provide help to all leaders involved with health education.

## Controls Given For Meadow Mice

CORVALLIS — Now is the time to look for and control meadow mice, small rodents that annually cost Oregon farmers thousands of dollars, reported Andrew S. Landfester, Oregon State University extension wildlife management specialist.

Mice do their damage to orchards, lawns, pastures, and high-value agricultural crops during fall and winter. Their presence may be detected along ditch banks, fence rows and in weed patches.

The rodents can be controlled with one per cent zinc phosphide treated grain, Landfester explained. This is considered safe to wildlife and other animals when applied correctly at proper rates. It is available at most feed and seed stores.

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## FROM THE GROUND UP

By BART BARTLETT

The pruning foreman of each pear, peach or apple pruning crew should be instructed to search for and report instances of crusted scale on the limbs or twigs of fruit trees.

In many cases spraying can be limited to the area that shows scale and result in some savings in labor, equipment and materials.

The final statistics for the agriculture business of this country for the current year indicates that farmers as a group will receive about the same amount of cash as total income this year as received in 1962. However, the prices farmers have had to pay in terms of taxes for labor, materials and equipment are much higher than during 1962. The net result is that farm income is down from one year ago.

Locally, the fruit growers and cattlemen are getting less money per unit for a product that has cost more to produce in 1963 than in 1962. The farmer is forced to mechanize as much as possible. This only transfers the problems of unemployed persons from farm to city.

The urban industries are also caught in a price-cost squeeze and are going to automation to solve their problem. The net result is that the cities have a problem with unemployed persons before the displaced farm laborer arrives.

Much can be said and will be said about who is responsible for the welfare of unemployed persons. At present, loud noises are being made about more education and retraining of these economically displaced people. Somehow more education and retraining of people for jobs that do not now exist does not make much sense. Why retrain a person to be a computer operator when there is at present more computer operators than our civilization can absorb?

This is not a solution to the problem under discussion above, but a statement of facts. There are too many people.

Many inquiries came in regarding mistletoe in oak trees. Mistletoe is a parasite of the native oaks. When it grows on one of the larger limbs of an oak tree, it will either kill the tree or dismember it by killing the limbs. There are no sprays that can be applied for control of this pest. It can be removed by pruning in some cases. In other cases it must be removed by breaking off as close to where it grows on a limb as is possible.

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