

Spud Market Pact Session Due August 1

Operation of the USDA order governing the potato marketing agreement, voted in by Klamath basin growers in 1942, is to be discussed at a meeting scheduled for 8 p. m. in the Merrill high school gymnasium, Friday, August 1.

The marketing agreement order, published in 1942, was never used but is still effective and can be put into operation whenever growers desire it.

The order covers Crook, Deschutes and Klamath counties in Oregon and Modoc and Siskiyou counties in California. A meeting of growers in Crook and Deschutes counties is set for Redmond.

The Merrill meeting, August 1, is intended for growers of Klamath, Modoc and Siskiyou counties.

Agricultural wage standardization, particularly in respect to potato harvest will be discussed. Support price operations in 1947 and requirements for eligibility will be explained.

East Oregon Berry Plant Stock Good

Strawberry growers in Western Oregon may soon be getting more of their planting stock from certain counties in Eastern and Central Oregon, says R. Ralph Clark, extension horticulturist at Oregon State College.

Clark has been looking over strawberry fields in different parts of the state as part of the process of certifying that planting stock fields are relatively free from all diseases, especially virus diseases. He's almost through with the first inspection of fields, but has to make two more before he can give final certification about December 1.

While over in Deschutes and Crook counties, he found some fine-looking plants being grown for planting stock. Growers there are not much interested in commercial production of berries, because they have late spring frosts to contend with, but these frosts do not interfere with planting stock.

Berries transplanted from these Eastern Oregon areas and set out in Western Oregon make a vigorous growth, strawberry growers have noted. Plants from the irrigated fields of Eastern Oregon, just recently reclaimed from the sagebrush, seem to enjoy greater freedom from disease, Clark says.

Even now, one-fourth of the acreage set out for certification is in such counties as Deschutes, Crook, Umatilla, and Malheur, he says.

Make your fall cleaning pay off. Sell those still useful but no longer needed articles through The Herald and News Want Ads.

Cooperative NEWS and SERVICE

Insecticides, Herbicides, Plant Life

While the writer does not consider himself an authority on the above captions, still having a great many years experience in insect control, weed destroyers and plant life, somehow he gets all riled up at some of the recommendations made by a few dealers who do so with the intentions of sales regardless of results. It is the cooperative's policy never to sell a patent insecticide unless actually needed for the protection of his crops. It is our pleasure to have the service of Chuck Starkler, Pacific Supply Entomologist to check the fields for insect infestation and advise if dusts, etc., are needed. More often Chuck reports that control is not needed than saved. This policy and service has saved the Klamath Basin producers many thousands of dollars this season.

2-4-D has done a generally fine job of weed control in grain this season. No doubt but the Cooperative has been one of the largest distributors and reports continue to come in of a job well done. With the fast development of chemicals it appears 2-4-D may be replaced with even a better product in the near future. If so our patrons may depend on their source of supply and honest advice.

We have available a limited number of books on Hunger Signs of Crops. This book shows in illustration how crops suffer from soil deficiencies, how tissue tests are made by use of chemicals on the growing plant to determine just what is needed to produce a healthy plant. We will gladly loan these books to those interested.

— CO-OP —

Objective

The Cooperative's objective being to increase the producer's income, feel free to use its facilities and service, located at Tulake, Merrill, Hatfield and Klamath Falls.

Homer M. Smith, Gen. Manager

Klamath Basin Cooperative

He Ate The "Big Ones" For Breakfast



These immense strawberries were grown from new plants on Windy Hill, home of Elmer H. Balsager. He is shown here about to pop a mammoth berry, measuring well over four inches in circumference, into his mouth. He said these berries are only "little fellas."

National Potato Letter

Spud Supply Confused, But Actual Shortage Doubtful

Supply

Presto! Now you see it, and now you don't. So goes the potato crop. Remember 1945? Potato shortage of major proportions all winter and spring. Then, overnight, potatoes coming out of our ears. Well, 1947 is like that, but in reverse. Surplus off and on, mostly on, since May. Now comes the July 1 crop report, and everybody hollers, "Shortage." We don't agree. Let's look at the facts.

Average: Down 15 per cent from 1946, 23 per cent from average.

Yield: 160 bushels per acre, way down from last year's record of 184.5, but still higher than any other year on record.

Production: 351.7 million bushels, smallest crop since 1939, 26 per cent under 1946, but only 7 per cent below 1936-45 average.

For the 18 late surplus states, most important area for fall and winter potatoes, production is set at 26 per cent below last year, but only 7 per cent below average, precisely the same line-up as the national figures. Intermediate states, which fill the gap from now until fall show drop of 25 per cent from 1946 and 8 per cent from average.

Now, what does it mean? First, if frosts come at the usual dates, we think yields may rise somewhat, perhaps to 165 bushels or slightly higher. That would push production to around 360 to 367 million bushels. Still short of the 375 million generally accepted as needed each year. Let's look at that 375 million idea. The average for the period 1936-1945 was 374.1 million. In that period there was only one really short crop, in 1936, and real surpluses in 1937, 1940, 1941 and 1943. In other words, that average was bigger than it would have been if all crops during the period had been exactly what the country would have used at a "fair" price, say 75 per cent of parity.

Movement

Shipments jumped sharply last week, from 4362 to 5736. However, government cars moved up from 214 to 623, so the gain in commercial movement was from 4148 to 5105, or 957 cars. Much of the heavy take by DOA is going to Argentina to make up for a near crop failure. This is a refrigerated deal, and it will be interesting to learn how it turns out. Virginia is cracking the whip now, with 2400 cars last week, not far from half of the total. California held second place with 976, while Washington has hit stride with 616. That's too many too fast for Washington. Their stuff has been green and almost skinless on arrival, which isn't good but seems to be standard practice when prices are good. Idaho and Oregon are doing the same thing but in smaller volume.

Only Kansas and Virginia are reporting markets now. Virginia, de-

DDT Found Effective On Marsh

The use of DDT for mosquito control is showing favorable results at Don Hunt's ranch on the Caledonia marsh as checked by the county agent's office. The DDT was flown on recently by Murel Long over an area of about 1800 acres and at the rate of approximately three-tenths of a pound of DDT per acre.

The DDT apparently gives 100 per cent kill within 48 hours after application on both adult mosquitoes and larvae. A marked decrease in mosquito population was noted up to 10 days after the DDT application.

Mosquito control enables the cattle to feed quietly and gainfully without the bother of insect pests. A heavy mosquito population will tend to keep the cattle in the brush and away from the better forage on the marsh.

2, 4-D Aid To Ranges

Discovery of 2, 4-D as a weed killer that does not at the same time kill grasses promises to be of continuing importance in favoring the kind of "grassland agriculture" the country needs to prevent soil erosion and to prevent the loss of soil fertility.

The first and most conspicuous use of this selective herbicide has been in the weeding of lawns, public parks, golf courses and along roadways. Use of 2, 4-D in crop production is still too new to have allowed time for the experiments necessary to show what it will do and how it will pay to put it to work. Several uses are under investigation this season and show promise, but it may take several seasons of practical experimenting to find out the best times for applying 2, 4-D and the concentrations that will give the best results.

One attractive use is in the weeding of grass plots that are to be harvested for seed. Recent experiments show that fall application on blue grass kills nearly all the weeds and does not injure the grass or impair germination of seed harvested the following summer. In another experiment 2, 4-D applied in spring caused a yellowing of timothy grass, but the grass recovered and the practically weedless seed germinated well.

The department is interested in pure stand seed production of several of the western range grasses. It is not easy to start pure stands of these perennials because of weed competition. Seed nurseries are interested in checking weeds to give the young grass a better chance, and also in keeping the harvested seed weedless for reseeding overgrazed ranges. Buffalo grass, and possibly other western grasses, are more sensitive to 2, 4-D than is blue grass, but this is not regarded as an insurmountable difficulty.

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Preparing For The Slaughter



This new slaughter house going up just past Mac's store on the Merrill highway is being built of pumice tile by Tom Barry and Dale Moore, who expect to start operation in a few weeks. Hogs will be driven up the outdoor ramp and shot when they reach the top. Just like shooting fish in a barrel.

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State Ag Department Finds Many Big Scales Dishonest

By PAUL W. HARVEY JR.

SALEM, July 24 (AP)—One-third of the 450 heavy-duty scales tested in Oregon in the past two months have been condemned because they are inaccurate, Don E. Duffield, deputy state sealer of weights and measures of the state agriculture department, said today.

In most cases of inaccuracy, the public is taking a big loss, although in some cases the scale owner has been cheating himself without knowing it.

These heavy-duty scales are of the type which weigh livestock and hay. In an extreme case, Duffield found a livestock scale which had an error of 30 pounds per 1000.

Duffield has tested scales in Wasco, Hood River, Umatilla, Wallowa, Union, Baker, Deschutes, Crook and Wheeler counties. His department operates a 12-ton test truck which carries 10,000 pounds of 500 and 1,000-pound weights.

He said that during the war the scales became inaccurate because of lack of parts, but that now there is no excuse for them being wrong.

He said there are three major causes of inaccuracy—improper original installation, improper operation, and lack of maintenance.

Half of the scales tested in the past two months had not been maintained properly and were so

dirty they would not function properly. Many older scales had settled far out of line because of decayed or insufficient foundation.

The department believes it can save consumers considerable money by its campaign for honest weights. The inaccurate scales are condemned until they are repaired.

Pullorum Test School Slated

Dates for the annual pullorum testing and flock selection school at Oregon state college are August 11 and 12. It has been announced by Price Schroeder, poultry supervisor. As in the past, the school will train individuals to do testing or flock selecting under the national poultry improvement plan. People who attend the school and successfully complete the course of instruction will become authorized agents of the state department of agriculture, which is the official state agency supervising operation of the national poultry improvement plan in Oregon. Persons who have attended similar schools in past years must attend this year's school to continue as authorized agents for the coming year.

This year's school is for chickens only. There will not be a turkey flock selection school.

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