

Klamath Spud Prospects Point To Smallest Crop In Years; Acreage Being Cut

By C. A. HENDERSON
Crop Summary—Klamath Basin
Potatoes

Present prospects are that the potato crop of the Klamath basin will be the smallest for 12 years. Potato acreage is greatly reduced, being in the neighborhood of 16,000 acres as compared with 24,000 in 1946. A major portion of the crop was planted during the early dry weather and dry conditions of the soil caused heavy seed rot, greatly reducing stands.

This situation was further aggravated by wet, cold weather following the dry spell causing considerable

rhizoctonia to develop with consequent further reduction in stands. Weak vines that were still trying to get established were frozen down early in June making the stand the poorest for many years. Heavy frosts occurred during the last three days in June but particularly on the morning of June 28, retarding the growth of almost the entire crop. In a few favored sections potatoes were not materially harmed but approximately 90 per cent of the crop was affected.

The reduced acreage, followed by exceedingly poor stands with retarded growth due to the late June frosts, makes the size of the shippable crop extremely problematical. Should the weather continue frost-free to September 1 the crop will be fair and could result in shipments of approximately 50 per cent of the crop shipped annually for the past three years. Nearly all growers and dealers are of the opinion that car lot shipments will not exceed 6000 cars for the season. This could be the lowest total shipments since 1935 when shipments totalled 4172 cars. The only condition that might change this would be particularly frost-free and favorable growing weather during the early part of September.

At the present moment the potato crop is still recovering from the June frosts and is doing its best to make up for lost time. Poor stands and reduced acreage, however, can not be made up by seasonal conditions.

The planted grain crop in 1947 in the Klamath basin was the largest in history. The total grain acreage for the basin is approximately 122,000 acres as compared with 111,746 in 1946. The best sources of information at this time indicate that over 80,000 acres have been planted to barley, a major part of which is Hannchen. This compares with approximately 72,000 in 1946.

Hannchen barley is again the leader due to demand for malting purposes. Barley stands are excellent and early growth has been above average. June frosts, however, caused some loss and heavy lodging following the rains of last week contributing a further decrease in prospective yields. Original yield prospects are so good, however, that undoubtedly a heavy crop of barley will be harvested.

Some threshing of dry land wheat and rye is now underway. Some Utah Winter barley is about ready for threshing and a little early Hannchen is nearly at that point. Considerable preliminary threshing will undoubtedly get started in early August but heavy grain harvest is not anticipated until after the middle of the month. A few widely separated areas report some geese feeding in grain fields that are badly lodged. Migratory birds usually avoid grain fields where the grain is standing in good shape but readily start feeding in fields where the grain is badly lodged and once they start, feeding usually continues to increase as birds gather in to the main feeding grounds from the more or less isolated hatching areas.

Clover and Seed Crops
Alsike clover has fared quite well during the unseasonable frosts and rain storms. Examination of fields immediately following the late June frost has not indicated any material loss over a wide area. Temperatures were such that undoubtedly some fields might be affected but it is not

Herald and News FARM PAGE Experts Predict More Effective Insect Bombs

There is a good prospect that the aerosol bomb will soon be even more effective than it is now against flies and mosquitoes in homes and other buildings, says the U. S. department of agriculture. The improvement would come from the substitution in the bombs of the new insecticide known as the gamma isomer of benzene hexachloride for the DDT that is now in general use.

Highly satisfactory as DDT has proved, preliminary tests reported in the Journal of Economic Entomology "indicate that the use of benzene hexachloride would further increase the effectiveness in kill and knock-down against both houseflies and mosquitoes." Benzene hexachloride has a disagreeable and persistent odor. This fault may possibly be overcome by changes in the manufacturing process. The effect on humans of this material in small quantities has not yet been determined. It is known that large doses may prove poisonous. Aerosols containing benzene hexachloride, therefore, will not be

serious enough to generally affect the yield of this seed. The heavy rain, however, did affect the harvest of early grass seeds now underway—causing considerable delay, additional work and some actual loss due to threshing out of the seed by rain and wind. The acreage of alsike clover is the highest on record showing growers actual acreage of 14,578 for the basin. Undoubtedly there are a few additional fields not listed but on the other hand a small portion of the crop perhaps was later plowed up, so the figure of 14,000 acres for 1947, as compared with 9000 in 1946, shows a tremendous increase. Small seed production is rapidly becoming a major industry in the Klamath basin.

The noxious acreage shows considerable reduction, perhaps not exceeding 300 acres, for the area. Beet plantings reached 2200 acres and the general quality of the crop is excellent. It is estimated that 2000 acres will be harvested for shipment to the sugar factories. Another new-comer to the Klamath crop picture is seed flax. It is estimated that the total acreage is around 800 in the basin. This crop carries a government support price of \$6.00 per bushel, f.o.b. Portland.

Favorable growing weather until early September will do much toward producing a crop as large as the all time record crop of 1946 in the area.

Scare Over Anthrax In State Ends

By PAUL W. HARVEY Jr.

SALEM, July 31 (AP)—Oregon's recent anthrax scare, which had many cattle and sheep men worried, has ended without an epidemic, says Dr. Charles Haynes, state veterinarian.

Dr. Haynes said there is no chance of other animals becoming infected from the animal which was killed by anthrax in a Tigar herd two weeks ago, but department of agriculture officials warn all livestock earth-borne diseases, which is highly contagious and causes death within a few days after infection.

Dr. Haynes said the spores which cause anthrax can live in the ground for 100 years. On the Tigar farm where the cow was infected, there had been anthrax many years ago. Then for a long period there were no livestock on the land. The cow was infected from spores which had lived in the ground since the first infection.

Anthrax was brought to the United States when Spanish settlers came to Louisiana in colonial times. It has occurred in Oregon at least

50 times in widely separated areas. It can be transferred to humans and can cause death. Animals infected with the disease have high temperature, dejected appearance and bloody discharges from the body openings.

Both the state department of agriculture and the OSC extension service urge farmers to report any suspected cases immediately to a veterinarian to prevent spread of the disease.

Anthrax is not likely to occur in areas where it hasn't occurred before.

Farm Facts: The OSC extension service is trying to encourage farmers to cut trees off their farms, saying a farmer can clear \$1000 a year on a 50-acre woodlot.

Farmers are advised to order their fertilizer early because they will use more next fall than ever before. The national safety council says one out of every 10 farmers will suffer a disabling injury during the next year. The surplus of farm labor soon will change into a shortage with heavy bean, peach and hop harvests. Farm wage rates on the Pacific coast are the highest in the country. Oregon's peach crop is 10 per cent greater than last year and 60 per cent above average, but prices have not dropped as low as was feared. Seed potatoes will be short next fall because frosts have cut the yield in Klamath county and Central Oregon.

Record speech is one made by W. H. V. Chancery of England during a law case. The speech lasted 50 days.

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cent of houseflies as compared with a DDT kill of 59 per cent. For mosquitoes the figures were 89 per cent as compared with 74 per cent for DDT. The studies are being continued.

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Sheepmen Eye August Meet

Bryant's Park, Albany, will be the headquarters of sheepmen on Saturday, August 9. The attendance is the seventh annual Willamette Valley Purebred Ram and Ewe sale which is scheduled to start at 9:30 a. m.

Col. Earl O. Walter, Piler, Ida., will sell 113 rams and 40 ewes. Breeds to be sold include Suffolk, Hampshire, Romney, Corriedale, Lincoln, Southdown, Shropshire, Columbia, Dorset and Cheviot. Arrangements have been made to accept mail or wire bids for those not able to attend the sale. Mail or wire bids should be sent to O. E. Mikesell, secretary, Willamette Valley Purebred Ram and Ewe sale, courthouse, Albany, Ore. The bids will be referred to a committee of purebred breeders for selection. Breeders on this committee are

ENTOMOLOGISTS PROBE DDT USE

Entomologists are finding out many new things about DDT in postwar investigations in the U. S. department of agriculture. DDT stimulates some plants—potatoes, for example—in addition to keeping destructive pests in check; others, such as cantaloupes and the cucurbits generally, it injures.

DDT appears to aid some insects directly, and some indirectly by checking their parasites, or even the parasites of their parasites, thus upsetting nature's balance of check and control.

DDT appears to take a long time to disintegrate in soil, and its end effects on fish, birds, livestock and man, must all be considered. One basic rule is emphasized by the federal entomologists: Never use more DDT than will accomplish the purpose.

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Use That Alkali Land

The following article appeared in the Pacific Northwest Cooperative, by the Chemical Division of Pacific Supply Cooperative, and we re-publish for the benefit of the readers of our column.

"So-called 'pot holes' or hard alkali spots and submarginal black and white alkali lands can be treated at little expense and made productive. A 'pot hole' is generally caused by a layer of hard pan that can be an inch or two thick to several feet. Because the moisture cannot drain through the hard pan, it remains there holding the alkali salts. The first step in reclaiming these pot holes is to apply soil sulfur at the rate of 800-1000 pounds per acre in the fall. In the spring plant sweet clover which has been treated with Nod-O-Gen. It is extra important to treat the seed for no bacteria can live in the previous alkaline condition. Disk the clover in the fall for two seasons. By this time your land should be in good friable condition provided the hard pan is not too thick. The sweet clover roots will penetrate the hard pan for several inches forming drainage and the elimination of alkaline salts.

Application of 800 pounds per acre of soil sulfur is the first step in reclaiming black or white alkali land. Generally this will sweeten the soil to the extent that sugar beets or sweet clover will grow successfully. After one or two plantings of sugar beets, the soil should be conditioned to the point of being able to produce any alkaline loving plant such as barley, pastures, beets, tomatoes, etc."

—CO-OP—

Merrill
Recently we announced that the Klamath Basin Cooperative had taken over the retail department of the Merrill Mills. A nice line of farm supplies has been added. We invite the people of that trade area to come in for a visit and look over the fine stock of merchandise available.

Watch for this news item each Thursday.

Homer M. Smith, Gen. Manager

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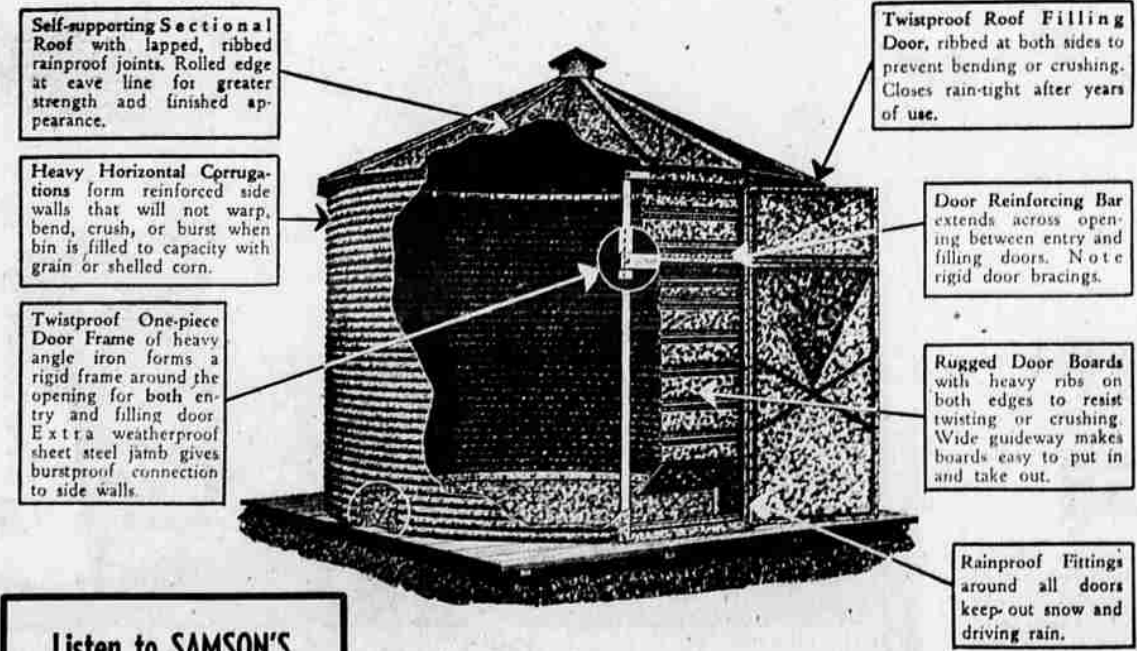
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