

Dairy Industry Shows Big Comeback In Basin Area

By C. A. HENDERSON
County Agent

Stimulated by more favorable returns, the dairy industry of Klamath county is making an extremely rapid comeback. During the war period, ceiling prices had the price of dairy products to producers pegged at an extremely low level as compared with prices of hay and other feeds, making it almost impossible for the dairyman to pay for his feed and buy the necessary operating supplies, leaving anything for himself.

During this period the dairy industry in the Klamath basin declined from a total of 8000 milking cows to less than 3000. Old-time dairy herds that had been in existence for from 30 to 40 years were unable to compete with price ceilings and went out of business.

Since price ceilings have been removed, prices of dairy products have attained a close-to-parity position with other food products and supplies that the dairyman needs. It is still difficult, however, for dairymen to pay present labor prices and come out in the black. A major part of the work in the Klamath dairies is done by family members and family workers.

Two heartening things are now happening in the local dairy industry. The results of Dr. J. C. Hunt's bacterial counts on local market milk the last month were the lowest counts for several years. This indicates a greatly improved milk supply. Back of this low count is the improvement in dairy equipment and barns. Bert Hall, chairman of the city board of health, reports that 22 new dairy barns and milking stables have been constructed in the last few months and that more have been proposed. These buildings are being built in accordance with state and county ordinances and laws relating to the production of sanitary milk.

A second item of major importance is the organization of a Klamath Dairy Herd Improvement association by the dairymen. While the Klamath association is not yet a full fledged affair, it is under way with a total of 19 herds and over 500 cows. It is expected that this quantity will be increased rapidly. Actual testing started this week. The Dairy Herd Improvement association requires that all dairy herds be tested once a month for butterfat content in milk and the percentage of milk produced. This will give the monthly butterfat production and at the end of the year individual records of each and every dairy cow will be completed for the Dairy Herd Improvement association. This leads to the discarding of non-productive cows to be replaced by higher producing individuals.

In addition, the Dairy Herd Improvement association tester will consult with dairymen as to improvements in feeds and feeding methods, working out rations of a balanced nature that should give maximum production. Advice and assistance will also be given on the health of the animals. The association is financed by dairymen at a monthly rate per cow and the tester is hired by the association board.

At the present time the extremely high price of feed is still affecting the full development of the dairy industry but undoubtedly with the coming of spring with more pasture available, dairymen should increase quite rapidly. It is noticeable at the present time at the county agent's office that additional requests for information on the planting of the best possible irrigated pastures for dairy cattle is in much greater demand.

All in all, the dairy industry is now making up for lost time due to handicaps and regulations imposed upon the industry during the war period, and the future for Klamath dairymen looks very much better.

County Agent Report Out

November was a busy month at the county agent's office with the entire staff concentrating on the annual report, which is now completed and contains dozens of pictures and around 100 pages.

The report covered activities of the office for the past year and six copies were made. One copy went to the department of agriculture, Washington, D. C.; two to Oregon State college, Corvallis; one to the county court; one to the U. S. bureau of reclamation, Klamath project; and one is kept in the office.

These annual reports have been kept since the office was established in Klamath county and the oldest on file is dated 1914. Max McCall, an instructor at KUHS, was appointed as the first county agent. He is now assistant chief for the bureau of plant industry, Washington, D. C. He was it—the whole staff—and the annual report had nine pages in those days. Now the staff totals six and there are three secretaries to help them do the work.

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State Grange Officers Make A Happy Group



Eight state grange officers attended the school and conference held at Shasta View school Saturday for the purpose of acquainting them with the problems of local granges. They are, left to right: (back) Morton Tompkins, state master; Rex High, county deputy; (front) Agnes Flint, home economics chairman; Edyth Bohnert, youth superintendent, Central Point; Garnet Ruckman, lecturer, Imbler; Mildred Norman, state deputy; Selma; Hilda Reiber, juvenile superintendent, North Bend; Bertha J. Beck, secretary, Portland.

Hog Cholera Loss Told

An expensive lesson on the value of regulation in feeding of garbage to hogs was learned recently by an Oregon hog feeder. The lesson cost him loss of hogs worth \$1100 on the market. He fed uncooked garbage and uncooked offal.

Veterinarians of the state department of agriculture, called to investigate the sudden deaths, found hog cholera the cause. The investigators point out that had the man applied for the \$10 state license to feed garbage, the loss likely would not have occurred. The license would have brought him, before it was too late, advice on sanitary requirements for hog feeding and other care and handling of his operation. And certainly he would have been advised that all offal fed to hogs must be cooked, and that it is a wise course to cook garbage, in the interest both of hog health and human health.

The veterinarians say that feeding uncooked garbage is one of the best ways to introduce and spread hog cholera. This is because the virus lives on in hams and other pork that have not been thoroughly cooked. In five hog cholera outbreaks in this state last year, all were traced to the feeding of uncooked garbage.

Lily Bulb Growers Set New Records

Oregon's lily bulb production in 1947 included 22,000,000 commercial bulbs and another 25,000,000 bulb-lets, or an overall total of 47,000,000 bulbs. This is the annual computation of Charles A. Cole, horticulturist with the division of plant industry of the state department of agriculture. He says the state total for 1947 is 16 million more bulbs than were produced in Oregon last year.

Up to November 18, 41 carloads of lily bulbs had been shipped from Oregon and Northern California. These shipments included 600 boxes of 200 bulbs each per carload, or a total of just over five million bulbs. What percentage of these came from Oregon fields is not definitely known.

Cole says lily bulb growers have planted back a great number of unsold commercial bulbs.

Forest Service Stores Tools In Airport Building

With the acquisition of a warehouse at the airport from the bureau of reclamation, the forest service for the first time has a place to store tools and equipment in Klamath Falls.

At the end of the summer season equipment was brought in from points of use including Pelican guard station, Lake of the Woods, Seven-Mile guard station, Scott creek, Lookout butte, Pelican butte and Brown mountain.

Old and surplus material is being weeded out with that which will not be needed next year, for shipment to Medford from which point it will be distributed where it is most needed in forestry work. Material retained is being sorted and stored for ease in re-distribution for the 1948 season, and looked over for necessary repairs. These repairs include sharpening blades and re-handling tools and are part of the regular winter maintenance work which will be undertaken by Ansel Pearce, general district assistant, and Charles Sullaway, district clerk.

Replacements of tools and equipment for fire caches have been ordered and these will also be stored at the warehouse.

All the larger stuff, cats and pickups, will be sent to Medford for repair work, to be brought back on request as needed, with the exception of two vehicles which will be returned as soon as they are fixed up.

Besides the maintenance work, winter activity in the forestry office includes the book work, records for the past season and plans for the 1947 season to be revised and brought up to date for 1948.

John Sarginson, district manager for the Rogue River national forest, in charge of the Klamath Falls office is vacationing with his family, visiting relatives and friends in Seattle. He is expected back in early January.

STARTED CUSTOM
The Conestoga wagon of pioneer days was the first American vehicle to pass on the right, when meeting another vehicle. Other travelers followed in the tracks and the custom became general.

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