

Spud Buying Slow Over Nation; Supply Holding Up Well; Movement Gains

Supply Current potato situation has evened out the industry in a quandary and the market influences now at work practically defy analysis. Income is high. Many other foods are downright scarce. Potatoes are available in at least adequate quantities. But potatoes are not moving. It is pointed out by both distributors and consumers, plus the end of a tax year, has something to do with the present situation. We find, everywhere in the West, a bullish sentiment. Also, we have just had the final boost in support prices. On the other hand, we find generally more buying of foods by housewives, and more economical preparation. This makes for equal consumption from smaller potato purchases. We also feel sure that increased activity will have to start soon. Seed must move, and table stock will flow to the department of agriculture at a faster rate if the markets do not revive. The longer shipments lag, however, the larger the crop will become in relation to the shrinking shipping period for stored stock.

Movement On the encouraging side, shipments last week were higher than for any week since December 22. Total was 4355 cars (144 government) as against 2916 cars (417 government) the preceding week. Net commercial gain was 1302 cars, but that is not necessarily a cause for rejoicing because a seasonal rise after the holidays is usual and an increasing part of total post-holiday shipments are of seed stock. Maine hit a new high for the season with 1865 cars for a 31-car daily average, but will go to 100 cars daily to get the Maine crop moved. Increases in several other states were substantial but less spectacular. Increased shipments have not, however, brought much change in arrivals and trackholdings, and will not until total increase is larger than the increase in daily shipments. Regrettably, our seed shipment reports do not separate seed and table stock movement.

Demand and Markets Markets generally are more agreeable to report. Maine has enjoyed a moderate demand with the market about steady, and prices about unchanged at a dime to 15 cents over the floor. Upstate New York, demand noted moderate, the market firm after stiffening, and prices up 10 to 20 cents at 10 to 15 cents over the floor. Wisconsin demand has continued light to moderate, the market about steady after strengthening, with prices quoted for the first time since December 10 at 5 cents under the floor. North Dakota demand has ruled fair to moderate, the market steady after firming, and prices up moderately at a nickel over the floor for Bliss; 10 to 15 cents under the floor for Cobblers. Colorado demand is reported fair to good to fair, the market steady after stiffening, prices about unchanged at 40 to 45 cents over the floor for washed offerings. Idaho demand has ruled fair to good to moderate, the market noted moderate, and prices up 15 cents at \$1.30 over the floor for washed f. o. b. offerings, but with more sales made at slightly higher prices delivered and on the wire. Washington demand is improving from very slow, the market holding about steady, and prices quoted for the first time since December 3 at a dollar over the floor at Ellensburg; 85 cents over the floor at Moses Lake, both washed. Michigan demand continues very slow, the market not quoted since December 12 account few sales. Nebraska demand is moderate, the market slightly stronger, and prices up a dime at 80 cents over the floor for washed offerings. In the terminals, Chicago reports the demand light to good to fair, the market steady after strengthening. New York held firm to slightly stronger; Atlanta, slightly stronger for westerns, steady for others; Boston, stronger to firm to about steady; Detroit, slightly stronger to firm; Minneapolis, steady to slightly stronger, especially on Burbanks; Philadelphia, about steady after stiffening. San Fran-

cisco held firm to slightly stronger with Klamath Russets at \$4.60 to \$4.75 in LCL wholesale lots.

Miscellaneous Grapevine reports to Washington say the Maine power situation has been eased somewhat by auxiliary supplies, but still is tight. Recent increase in rail rates of 10 per cent now is raised to 20 per cent. Hand-to-mouth buyers won't like it. Cars have been short in Maine. All-oneships have been on the usual one-shipper-one-car basis, without regard to relative size or need. Looks queer, but it has been that way for a long time. Government purchases from the 1947 crop now are past the 30-million bushel mark. What became of that bullish feeling so prevalent in October? We'd like to have been in on that 20-cent rise in the New York futures market. Department of agriculture still is mum on its 1948 price support program but we are assured that work is progressing rapidly and an announcement can be expected soon. When is soon? Current guess is that the department of agriculture will start starch diversion in Maine before long. This still is a grapevine report and there is no better way to get rid of the low grades in Maine. Big export deals, if any, are marking time. Something may happen along this line, since department of agriculture storage stocks are approaching 4 million bushels. We still are concerned over the complaisant notion that the Marshall plan will take care of everything support-wise. This could be, but we shall believe it when we see it. Too bad if sound long-range programs are headed for the bottom drawer. If so, we are likely to wind up the Marshall plan the same way we are sending up Stargate—without an effective plan for the future.

Farmers Day Plans Made

Klamath Production Credit's Stockmen and Farmers Day slated for January 24 at the Oregon Vocational college, will be enlivened by music from Malin high school. A. E. Street, principal of Malin high school has arranged with Charles Dabrey, band director to have his 20-piece band at the banquet and with Mrs. Lucile Gray, vocal instructor to have the girls' sextet on hand for special musical selections. Directors of KPCA have declared the sixth four per cent dividend, which will be distributed at the meeting. Main speaker for the day will be J. W. Bradley, secretary for the Production Credit corporation of Spokane who will talk about outlooks and trends of prices for 1948.

Soil Saving Staff Busy The local soil conservation staff is very busy this week completing work records and reports for the calendar year, 1947. About with this task the staff is determining actual range classification and field data that has been collected is being interpreted to accurately ascertain range conditions. Assisting Frank Pavelek, local work unit conservationist, and his staff in this work are State Conservationist Walter Gosline, Range Specialist George Frostline, Zone Conservationist Paul Scheffer and District Conservationist Joseph Rogers. Future goals for the 1948 program are being considered also and are to be determined and will be announced immediately.

Soil Saving Staff Busy

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Three Heads Are Better Than One



Bull X, who will be auctioned off during the bull sale on February 5, 6 and 7, at Red Bluff, Calif., for the March of Dimes, looks mighty good to purveyors of choice beef cattle, but even the greatest animal lover will admit that his appearance is enhanced by this pair of Red Bluff lovelies. Left to right: Dorothy Schumacher, Bull X and Irene MBs.

With Farmers And Stockmen Around The Klamath Basin

By JOY BIGGS Klamath basin, although the caption of the picture didn't say so. A cattalo offspring is one of nature's rarities that occurs once in a blue moon—which just goes to show that anything can happen in Klamath basin.

Ernest Paddock, cattleman from Williams, Calif., with his wife, is visiting in Klamath Falls for a few days. They are staying at the Williams Hotel.

J. E. Williams shipped in 35 head of Holstein cattle from Idaho the week-end of January 4 and 5 to increase his dairy herd at his ranch on Airways road.

The recent rain in Klamath basin filled reservoirs and water holes on the springs and brought a glimpse of water to this country. Jonquils were reported blooming on a Hager farmstead on January 9, and wild larkspur was seen blooming along the Great Northern tracks this week.

Extension Units To Study Curtains And Drapes Next

"Refreshing Curtains and Draperies" is one of the chief topics of interest being discussed at each of the 15 Klamath county home extension units during January and February. Project leaders in each unit will present the following information regarding the care of curtains and draperies.

Cotton Curtains. Shake to remove dust, then soak curtains in weak acids to loosen the dirt. Wash sheer curtains in a bag, using extra heavy acids. Prepare hot suds for white curtains, lukewarm suds for ecru and for colored curtains. To give body without stiffness add boiled starch (1/2 cup starch to 2 quarts boiling water) to 1/2 tub of rinse water. This amount of starch is sufficient for 2 or 3 pairs of curtains. Wrap the curtains in towels until desired dampness for ironing or put on a stretcher. Avoid making points on edges of curtains by not stretching too tightly or by basting muslin strips to edges of the curtains before washing and stretching.

Rayon Curtains. If washable, shake, then plunge them into warm suds. Support the curtains with the hands when lifting them to prevent stretching the material. Rinse in warm water. Squeeze between towels until desired dampness for pressing. Water spots are likely to appear if these curtains are dried, then sprinkled before pressing. Washable Draperies. Shake and brush to remove surface dust before washing in mild, warm suds. For ease in handling, for quick drying, and to prevent color and shrinkage problems, it might be necessary to rip off the linings. This will be easy if the linings are always whipped by hand to the draperies. Wash one or two at a time, working quickly to avoid color troubles. Squeeze the draperies between large towels or hang on the line until desired dampness for pressing. Frequent brushing, shaking and airing will postpone the day for washing. Switching the draperies at the windows will prolong their service. For additional information on the use and care of curtains and draperies write the office of the home demonstration agent, box 645 or call 8151 for mimeographs.

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Improving Of Potatoes Falls Short

A sad commentary on efforts of the Oregon potato industry to improve quality of potatoes from over 25,000 acres of commercial russet production is indicated by Oregon certification records.

A total of only 52 acres are listed as eligible for designation as Oregon Foundation russet seed, if samples pass test planting inspections. Practically all this acreage is in the Central Oregon area. In an industry where quality of seed is so important, such a small planting for production of foundation seed is certainly deplorable.

It is true that over 1400 acres in Oregon are currently eligible for designation as certified seed. It can be expected that test planting will show 40% of this to be carrying too much disease for commercial planting. The remaining production may be half enough for commercial planting needs. The point is that very few growers attempt tuber unit planting methods and indexing of seed that is required of plantings for foundation seed in Oregon. Both practices have been conclusively demonstrated to result in cleaner seed lots.

Not all states require unit planting for production of foundation quality seed. Oregon's requirements are rightly more rigid than those of some states.

In tuber unit planting all pieces of the same tuber are planted consecutively; a space is left; then the pieces of the next tuber are planted. Assisted feed planters are used. Tubers may be cut on the planter or cut previously and bagged in paper bags; or the planter may be equipped with cutting boxes which cut and plant four-piece tubers more or less automatically. Seed is sorted to four-piece size previous to planting.

Tuber unit planting concentrates diseased potatoes in one unit instead of scattering individual diseased cut seed pieces all over the field or in mass planting. When the diseased seed pieces are concentrated together, spread of disease is reduced. Concentration of diseased pieces into a single unit makes plant disease symptoms more obvious and permits more thorough roguing.

Tuber unit planting will be most effective in plantings isolated from other potato plantings from which diseases can spread. Seed growers here with well isolated fields could well adopt the practice of unit planting at least for planting fresh-cut seed. A disadvantage of planting freshly cut seed is occurrence of seed piece rot when soil moisture is too high or soil temperature is too cool or hot for good healing of cut surfaces.

Dr. Smith To Head Academy Of Science KUGENE, Jan. 15 (AP)—Dr. Warren D. Smith, recently retired head of the University of Oregon department of geology and geography, will be installed as president of the Oregon Academy of Science in Salem Saturday.

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Herald and News FARM NEWS

Truman Asks Reduction In '48 Farm Support Prices

By OVID A. MARTIN WASHINGTON, Jan. 14 (AP)— President Truman called Monday for a reduction in the levels at which the government supports farm prices, but recommended larger subsidies to rebuild soil worn thin by intensive wartime farming.

In his budget message to congress, the chief executive said the government policy of supporting farm prices, started on a broad scale to encourage large wartime output, should be continued beyond December 31, when such authority expires for many products. He said support levels should be reduced lest they encourage overproduction of particular commodities which "sometimes can occur under conditions of full employment."

The president said this should be increased to \$300,000,000 for the 1949 crop year to prevent a serious reduction in the fertility of our soil as a result of the high production induced by heavy foreign and domestic demands for agricultural products.

Agriculture is in the "best financial condition in history," Mr. Truman said, predicting that the government will have to spend very little this year in carrying out price guarantees. He said prices of most commodities are expected to remain above support levels.

Commodities which may have to be supported, he said, are potatoes, eggs, wool and tobacco. The government carries out price guarantees by buying price-depressing surpluses or by making loans to farmers who hold extra supplies off the market until prices improve.

Mr. Truman recommended \$65,000,000 for the federal government's share of the national school lunch program, the same amount congress gave the program this year. The states are required to match the federal contribution. He recommended that funds for rural electrification be increased from this year's \$225,000,000 to \$300,000,000.

Students in Oregon schools will compete with students in schools all over the nation in a nationwide traffic safety poster contest in 1948, sponsored by the American Automobile association, the Oregon State Motor association announced today.

Automobile - pedestrian collisions continue to take the heaviest death toll in Oregon traffic, reports the Oregon State Motor association in urging pedestrians to watch for approaching cars before starting across streets or highways.

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