

**National Potato Letter—**

**January Spud Stock Above Average, But Lowest Since 1945; Demand Falling Off**

Supply  
Merchantable potato stocks estimates released this week did not go as we had expected. January stocks of 118,420,000 bushels, are 12 per cent over the 106.2 million average but still are the lowest since 1945. Stocks at these levels, despite below-average production in the 37 late and intermediate states probably are due to the fact that Maine shipments the year-end have been light; shrinkage and waste are low due to generally good quality of the crops; reduced holdings of seed for 1948 planting due to the downward trend in the use of home-grown seed; a sharp decline in number of potato farms, thus reducing quantity used in farm households on the farm where grown; and further concentration of production in commercial-producing areas.

We add to these the following: Reduction of waste in preparation and use by consumers because of high prices; perhaps some decline in gross quantities purchased, for the same reason (bread at current prices is a considerably better calorific buy than 8-cent potatoes); the unfavorable effect of off-flavor potatoes marketed in some sections this summer and fall (some housewives have asked the Department of Agriculture if it is "safe" to buy potatoes again). At any rate, we seem to be about 12 million bushels above average on supplies, even after the removal of 10 to 11 million bushels by the Department of Agriculture.

With the high consumer income now prevailing, we probably could consume somewhat more potatoes than average, say 108 million, if it were not for the fact that even in average years we frequently had surpluses. Therefore, while 106.2 million bushels may be average, it is not necessarily our average consumption after January 1. As a rough estimate, somewhere around 100 million bushels is about what we actually can market at the support price. This would peg the surplus at 18.4 million bushels, less quantities the government has taken since January 1, or in the neighborhood of 17.3 million bushels.

The government's stocks report questionnaires also for information on intentions to plant in 1948. Responses—very preliminary—indicate a 2 per cent acreage increase over 1947 in the 37 late and intermediate states. It is significant that a 3 per cent increase is indicated in the 18 late surplus states and declines of 1 and 2 per cent in the other late states and the intermediate areas. With yields averaging considerably higher in the 18 surplus states than in the others, the resulting production could be greater than the acreage increase indicates.

Movement  
Shipments skidded off again last week to total of 4725 cars (345 government) from 5684 cars (563 government), the previous week. This nets a decline of 741 commercial cars. Biggest drops were recorded in North Dakota, Idaho and Minnesota. Changes in other states were minor. There seems little doubt but that shipments will have to spur, especially in Maine, to move the crop and get the markets in shape to meet spring competition from the early crops from southern areas.

Too few sales are reported in Wisconsin and North Dakota to

establish the market. Maine ruled slow and about steady, with prices unchanged at support to nickel under support. Upstate New York is reported slow and dull, with prices recovered from the mid-week dip at 10 cents under the floor. Colorado demand has ruled moderate with a strengthening market, and prices up 25 to 30 cents at 85 to 90 cents over the floor for washed offerings. In Idaho demand has ruled light with the market mostly dull, and prices unchanged at \$1.05 to \$1.10 over the floor, washed basis, but with some rolling unsoled. Washington slipped from a good and strong demand to fair and dull, but with prices about unchanged at \$1.30 over the floor at Ellensburg, and 70 to 75 cents over the floor at Moses Lake, both washed. Michigan demand is reported light and dull, prices unchanged at floor for Chippewas and 30 cents under the floor for Rurals. Nebraska demand ruled moderate and mostly steady, with prices mostly recovered from the mid-week dip and closing at 35 cents over the floor for washed stock.

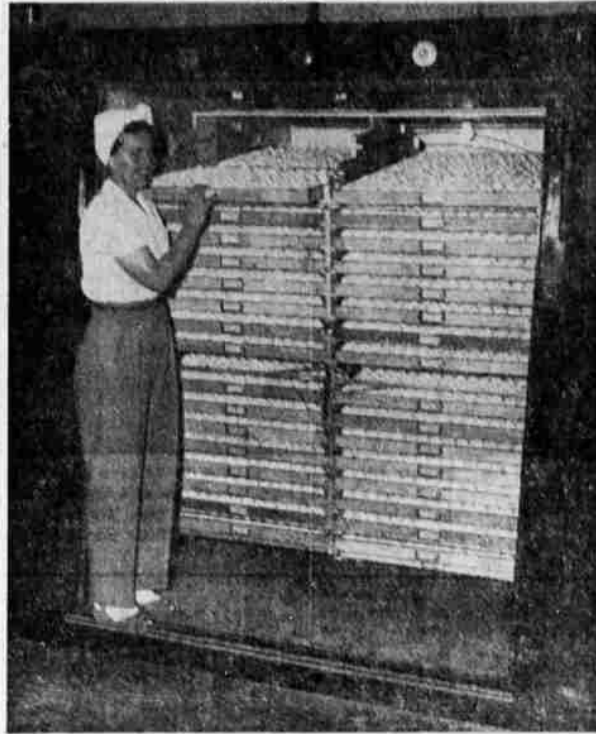
Miscellaneous  
Terminal markets show generally routine trading ranging dull to firm in the east, mostly steady to firm elsewhere. Arrivals and trackholdings both are reported heavier.

Chip manufacturers are moving to start a research project aimed at improvement in quality, varieties, storage, and other factors affecting chip quality and production. . . . Government potato purchases now are past the 21-million bushel mark, and more coming. . . . Look for a speed-up of export deals, based on stocks report. The Department of Agriculture really anticipated the need for this move when it issued its statement Friday announcing two cargoes for Europe at once, with the possibility of more later. Seed for Austria should be loading now. . . . U. S. seed potato production in 1947 set another new record. Certified production is estimated at 44.3 million bushels, a 4 per cent over the record of 1946 and more than double the ten-year average. At 20 bushels per acre that quantity would plant nearly the entire 1948 goal acreage, but many growers refuse to use certified seed and some of it will go for table stock. . . . California crop is reported going into the ground unusually early with excellent weather so far. Barring frosts, maturity will come early enough to trouble the late crop clean-up unless western markets can absorb April-early May shipments. We think an early clean-up of western late stock will make a big enough void to keep California fairly busy until mid-May.

**Livestock Confab Slated Feb. 13**

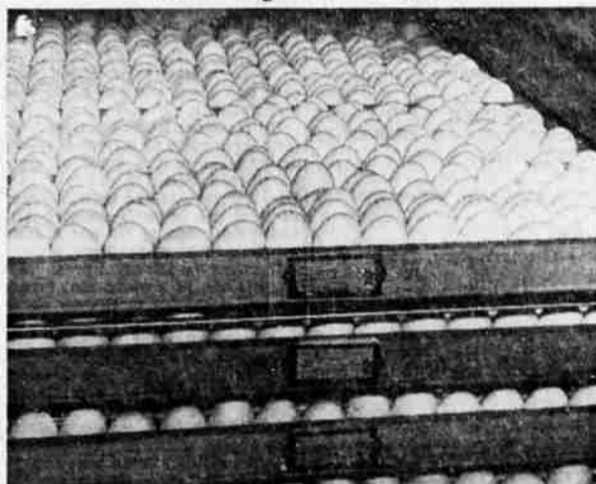
CORVALLIS, Jan. 29 (AP)—The Western Oregon Livestock association will hold its eleventh annual meeting at Roseburg February 13 and 14. H. A. Lindgren, Oregon State college livestock specialist and association secretary, reported today. The outlook for meat, the international wool situation, regulatory aspects of Oregon livestock laws and numerous committee reports will be on the discussion program. The principal banquet speaker will be Wallace Kaddery, Portland, who will report on observation of agricultural conditions in New Zealand and Australia.

**12,000 Eggs At A Glance**



Humidity and temperature are scientifically controlled in incubating machine at the Oregon State Hatchery, 2720 S. 6th. Four thousand day-old pullets of these high-producing Brownish strain White Leghorns will be sexed for John Fernandez after they hatch on February 9. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hubler own and operate this business assisted by Hubler's brother, John, and Mrs. Agnes Thorp.

**From Registered Flocks**



These eggs come from the hatchery's breeding farms in the Umpqua and Willamette valleys. Flocks are U. S. poultry controlled and U. S. approved. The Oregon State Hatchery came to Klamath Falls in 1945. The building burned to the ground in May 1946, and was built up again in November, 1946.

**Farm Labor Cost Problem**

The services of the middleman in the distribution process between farm and retail shopper has added greatly to the retail cost of farm produce. The increased cost of labor has made itself felt in this field particularly. Speaking of the national average, farmers as a group are not exactly over-privileged, according to Ballard. Farm income during the best recent year, 1945, was \$743 per capita for farm people. During the same year the per capita income for non-farmers topped this figure more than \$500, to reach a total of \$1259. As to how the country dweller compares with his city neighbor in some of life's advantages, Ballard points to these figures: In the United States, 96 per cent of the non-farm homes are served with electricity; just over one-half, 52 per cent, of farm homes are wired, though this percentage is much higher in Oregon. Sixty-two per cent of urban homes have electric refrigerators while 27 per cent of rural homes have an electric ice-box. In 1945, more than one-fifth of the rural homes in the nation were in need of major repairs due, principally, to neglect suffered during years of low farm prices. During the same year, but one-twelfth of city homes needed a major overhauling.

Farmers, as far as modern living is concerned, out-distance their city cousins in only one statistical department, diet. Farmers set a better table than city dwellers, Ballard declares.

**Planning Board Slates Confab**

The farm home and rural life committee of the agricultural planning board for Klamath county will have its second annual conference at the county agent's office, room 213, federal building, February 3, at 1:30 p. m. All committee members appointed for the year 1947-1948 are asked to attend this meeting. Frances Clinton, assistant state home demonstration leader, from Oregon State college, will report on the activities of the farm and rural life committees in other Oregon counties. Other phases of farm home and rural life to be discussed at this meeting are home ground improvement, building better homes, consumer buying, safety, health, recreation and schools.

A snake which is coiled up like a rope cannot strike.

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**Soil Saving Test Made On Ranches**

Conservation treatment was completed on more than 20 million acres of farm and grazing land throughout the country in the 1947 fiscal year, Frank Pavelek, work unit conservationist in Klamath Falls, said today. Eighty farmers in Langell and Poe valleys now have complete conservation farm plans covering approximately 24,130 acres. During the past fiscal year protective measures were put into effect on 4084 acres in these two districts, Pavelek said. Practices and acreages were: 82 acres, crop residue management; 845 acres, range properly stocked; 70 acres, land drained; 628 acres, land prepared for irrigation; 421 acres, irrigation systems improved; 614 acres, approved crop rotations; 682 acres, properly fertilized and 752 acres, good rotation grazing system established. These are figures of actual 1947 conservation accomplishments for the two districts.

**Weevils May Be Gorse Destroyer**

CORVALLIS, Jan. 9 (AP)—Southwestern Oregon's gorse may be attacked by weevils imported from New Zealand, Dr. D. D. Hill of Oregon State coll. 's farm crops department, said today. Importations of the weevil will be kept in quarantine in a California

federal laboratory until it is determined that they do not attack seeds of crop plants. So far as known, they feed only on gorse and Scotch broom seed.

Gorse control has been made difficult because the seed has been known to remain dormant in the soil for as long as 25 years, Dr. Hill said.

**Meat Use Figure Gains**

Consumption of meat per person in the United States in 1947 is expected to have totaled 156 pounds, according to this week's meat animals and wool review prepared by the OSC extension service from USDA market reports and other data. This compares with about 153 pounds per person in 1946, and 153.6 pounds as the 1937-41 prewar average.

Meat production in 1947 is expected to total about 23 billion pounds, dressed meat basis. That is about the same as in 1946, but almost one-third above the 1937-41 average. Production of meat during the last quarter of 1947 may not be quite as large as during the same period of 1946, with more beef but less pork and lamb.

With total meat production at about the same level as a year ago, the retail value will be much greater. This is owing partly to the decontrol of prices and partly to increased consumer purchasing power.

Some sleepwalkers can act, speak and have the senses of touch, sight and hearing, even though still asleep.

It pays to use the Want-Aids!

**Hannchen Seed Very Scarce**

Seed of Hannchen barley is so scarce because of heavy purchases for malting and by the government for export that growers may need to take early action to obtain enough for spring planting, warns Dr. D. D. Hill, head of the farm crops department at Oregon State college. Adverse weather conditions preventing fall seeding of other grains, and prevailing high prices for this barley for malting purposes, have combined to increase the demand for spring supplies for seed and other uses.

High yielding Hannchen has been the standard spring variety for Western Oregon for the past 25

years; hence seed of it has attained a high degree of purity, essential in the malting process. Dr. Hill fears that if Hannchen seed is not obtained, growers will be tempted to introduce other sorts which would not only give lower yields but also cause mixture of the two-row and six-row types.

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114A - Combination Hay Chopper and Hammer Mill Regular Price 568.52	<b>517<sup>60</sup></b>	426 A Rod Weeders Regular Price 176.80	<b>162<sup>50</sup></b>
K1 Papec Chopper Large capacity. Regular Price 748.60	<b>685<sup>00</sup></b>	RUBBER TIRES. 953A Heavy Duty Wagon Regular Price 271.80	<b>258<sup>15</sup></b>
25 Tooth Spring Tooth Harrow Three sections. Regular Price 67.60	<b>62<sup>60</sup></b>	963A Heavy Duty Wagon RUBBER TIRES. Regular Price 307.50	<b>286<sup>55</sup></b>
17 Tooth Spring Tooth Harrow Two sections. Regular Price 47.75	<b>44<sup>00</sup></b>	LU 16 h. p. Power Unit Regular Price 430.10	<b>387<sup>00</sup></b>
LA-2 Plow for L or LA Tractor Regular Price 60.00	<b>48<sup>00</sup></b>	14 Inch Hammer Mill Regular Price 227.75	<b>208<sup>15</sup></b>
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