

## February Spud Stock Good But Shipments Off --- Lack Of Cars Hits Most Sections

Merchandise potato stocks as of February 1 are now reported by the department of agriculture as 90.3 million bushels. This is 30.5 million below the record for the same month of 1946, but still is a fair-sized tonnage. In 1946, following the moderately surplus crop of 1945, February 1 stocks were almost exactly two million smaller than this year. However, several things in this situation were unusual. In the fall of 1945 we faced a surplus of moderate proportions, and added to this were cancellations of army dehydrator contracts. But Canada was short, and with volume exports to supply this deficit, the market was nearly bare before the early crop started to move. This accounts for the very heavy disappearance in January, 1946, amounting to over 32 million bushels. In January, 1947, disappearance was about a million less, but the rush of dumping had just begun.

This year, January disappearance was only 28.1 million bushels, accounted for by unusually slack demand and very bad weather. But still we have only about two million bushels more on hand now than in 1946, with what seem equally good prospects for disposal. We can assume that a fair part of the shortfall is unshipped seed, and that DOA outlets, principally exports, can absorb enough of the rest to make the task relatively simple even in the face of light demand. However, demand may be better than we think.

Maine is getting an unusual movement into the Midwest, and both Maine and the Red River valley have made test shipments to California and other Coast areas. If these sections can work up some business over the country, commercial disappearance will rise and DOA activity will move and more be confined to low grades. Simultaneously the Eastern markets should strengthen even if at the expense of the very high prices for Western stock.

### Movement

Shipments for the past week declined again to a total of 4828 cars (\$31 government) from 5168 cars (\$39 government) the previous week, averaging 716 commercial cars daily against 771 the preceding week. Maine volume held up fairly well, but Colorado, Idaho, Red River valley and Nebraska all were down. California, Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin and Michigan went up slightly. The early crop moved up to 140 cars for the week, all from Florida.

### Demand and Markets

Cold weather in the South has slowed seed demand, while in the North the effect has been to curtail shipments and shorten the car supply. Market conditions are more mixed than usual. Maine demand is reported mostly fair, the market about steady after declining from the mid-week bulge, and prices about unchanged at a nickel over the floor. Update New York ruled moderate and slightly stronger, with prices up 5 to 10 cents at floor to nickel under. North Dakota reported slow and weaker for Bliss, fair and about steady for whites; prices for Bliss at floor to a nickel over, with Cobblers 5 to 10 cents under floor. Colorado demand has held moderate to fair with a weaker market, and prices off 5 to 10 cents at \$1.08 over the floor for washed stock. Idaho reports practically no trading; a weaker tone prevailing with offerings quite liberal and some growers asking prices slightly lower but too few sales to establish a price. Washington ruled slow and unsettled, with last reported price \$2.20 to \$2.25 over floor but mostly too few sales to quote. Michigan ruled mostly light and steady after strengthening, with prices up a

nickel at floor for Chippewas and 30 cents under floor for Buras. Nebraska ruled moderate and slightly weaker with prices off 15 to 20 cents at \$2.00 to 85 cents over the floor for washed offerings.

Terminals report mainly routine trading with dullness and weakness prevailing, especially for new stock. Only recent strength has been at New York for Western old stock. Arrivals and trackholdings held about unchanged from the previous week.

### Miscellaneous

Car shortage seems to prevail in most areas, with shipping heavily due chiefly to bad weather, although there would be barely enough if the weather was optimum. This may be good thing price-wise, as heavier shipments probably would tilt the market. Weather market prevailing recently probably will not be followed by the customary bulge in shipments simply for lack of cars. This may affect some early areas not yet supplied with seed.

DOA purchases now total 23.3 million bushels. Current purchases mostly are moving directly to ports, plus fairly heavy movement out of DOA storage stocks. Off-grades are going to starch, flour and alcohol. The big French flour order has been a major factor in utilizing the bulk of the late crop surplus for human consumption. Potato starch picture is very clouded on account of the muddled market. Prices were high, and declining corn prices plus Dutch offers at a cent or more per pound under the market has manufacturers with any inventories at all rather jittery. Grinding is not quite at a standstill, but activity for the remainder of season cannot be forecast.

Have not heard much trade comment about new consumer grades. They may be slow to catch on. Trend in this direction will be accelerated by increasing use of consumer packs.

New marketing research under Hope-Flanagan act isn't assured of being what many in trade would like. From the gossip we hear, some of the projects are more production than marketing, and many of them seem to be in the hands of people not distinguished for their past contributions to marketing knowledge. If we were so inclined, we'd snop some and wind up being very, very critical.

## Basin Milk Price Talked

Fifty persons attended the hearing held in the city hall last week by the Oregon milk control section, state department of agriculture. The hearing was held to take evidence and testimony to determine whether minimum wholesale and retail milk prices as well as producer prices should be raised. Melvin J. Conklin, field representative of the milk control section, was in charge of the hearing. He was assisted by Fred L. Hutton, local representative, and W. H. Durbin, field representative for the Medford area. Milk producers who presented testimony at yesterday's hearing were: P. C. Adams, Adamsdale farm; Wilbur Reiling, Poe valley, president of the Klamath Dairymen's association; and L. L. Lombard, Retedale, Guernsey farm. R. C. Woodruff, Lost

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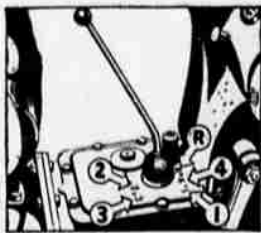
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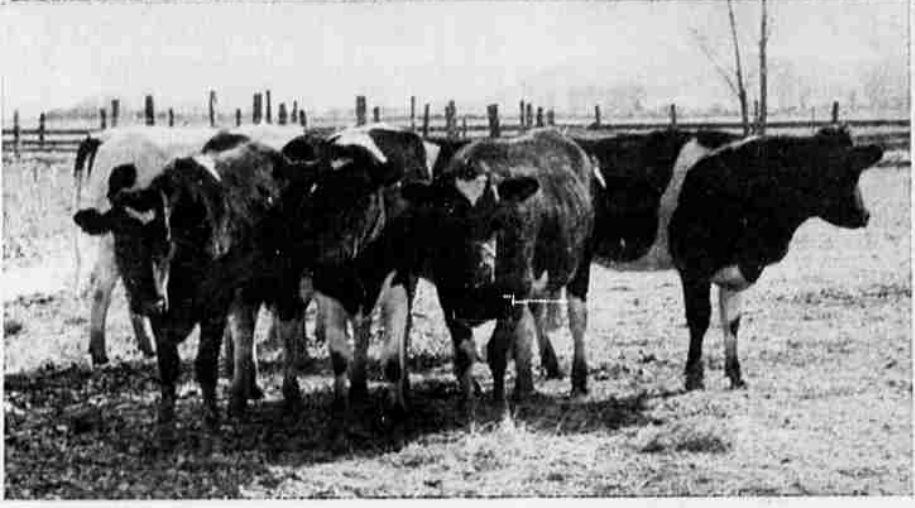
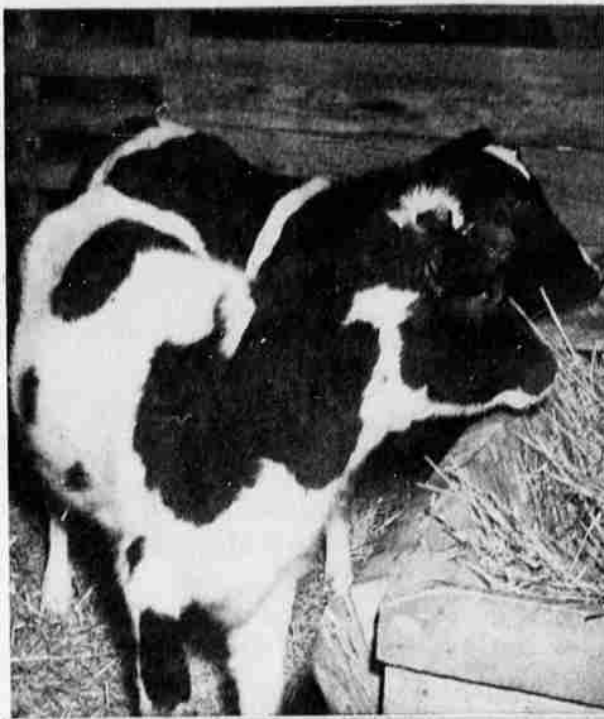
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## Merrill Dairymen Purchase Registered Stock



Two young registered Holstein heifers (left) look over new home at Jinnette ranch south of Merrill. They are two of nine head of registered stock purchased by Teers and Ramsey. (Right) Assistant County Agent Jim Elings displays one of the registered heifers just arrived at the Merrill dairy ranch of A. C. Carleton who bought eight head of Holsteins to improve his herd. (Below) Black and white Holsteins bunch together and peer over each other's shoulders as the cameraman snaps their picture.

## Merrill Holstein Herds Built Up With Purebreds

By JIM ELINGS  
Assistant County Agent

A carload of over \$5000 worth of purebred Holstein cattle was shipped into Klamath county last week by A. C. Carleton and Teers and Ramsey of Merrill. The stock, purchased from Felix Hessing of Aurora, is from one of the outstanding Holstein herds in the state.

Carleton took delivery of eight head of heifers and Teers and Ramsey purchased nine head of younger stock. While this stock shows good

quality and type, they have production records to stand behind them. The dams of the stock purchased by the local dairymen were sold on their production records, for \$1 for each pound of butterfat produced in a year's time. The dams averaged \$513 per head.

The 17 head of cattle purchased by the two Merrill dairymen are of Hazelwood bloodlines, one of the higher producing Holstein families. Carleton expects to take delivery in the near future of a young bull of Carnation breeding from the Holstein herd of S. B. Hall, Troutdale. Their present herd sire, Hall-tone Governor, produced, originally from the same herd, is one of the best in Southern Oregon. His dam's record as a two-year-old still stands in this state, 710.5 pounds of butterfat in 365 days.

Teers and Ramsey are located on the Jinnette ranch south of Merrill. They originally milked Guernseys but are now going over to Holsteins. The Teers and Ramsey dairy is the largest in Klamath county.

Both dairies are affiliated with the Klamath Dairymen's association and are tested each month by the Klamath Dairy-Herd Improvement association.

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### Coyote Damage Said Mounting

McMINNVILLE, Feb. 26.—Coyotes and foxes are causing heavy loss of livestock in Yamhill county this winter.

The County Livestock association has asked G. W. Hanson, Portland chief of federal predatory animal control, to intensify trapping. Sheep and turkey raisers reported heaviest losses.

Hanson told the association one government trapper caught 171 foxes, 64 coyotes, 17 bobcats and three bears last year in the county.

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## Basin Dairy Herds Show Good Increase Since War; Pastures To Be Improved

By JIM ELINGS  
Assistant County Agent

Klamath county dairymen outlined a definite program for rebuilding their industry at a joint meeting of the Klamath Dairymen's association and the dairy sub-committee of the Agricultural Planning conference held last month.

Before the last war Klamath county boasted a milk cow population estimated at 8000. During the war, due to adverse conditions and a general labor shortage, the number of dairy cows dropped below 3000. Dairymen are definitely on the increase in our county at the present time, with a milk cow population now estimated at over 4500.

Along the lines of dairy cattle feeding, the dairymen recommend that pastures be improved by re-seeding if necessary, where the work can be done. A list of improved pasture mixtures carrying AAA payments and worked out especially for Klamath county is available at the county agent's office. Three or four grasses and one or two legumes usually make up a pasture mixture, depending upon conditions.

The dairymen also encourage good pasture management and good irrigation practices. Rotation grazing, dividing pastures up into three or four parts, is another factor that will increase yields of forage. Adequate fertilization, including barnyard manure and some form of phosphate will go a long way in improving the quality and quantity of feed taken from pastures. Applications of moderate amounts of sulfur are beneficial.

Maintaining the milk flow during winter months is one of the problems confronting local dairymen. Although the lessened milk flow to some extent is due to the fact that some of the dairymen make it a practice to dry many of their cows during the winter, it is felt that some of the decrease in milk flow might be due to the lack of green or succulent feeds for dairy cows during the winter. It is generally agreed that such succulent feeds whether it be silage, potatoes or some other root crop, will materially increase milk flow during winter.

The group recommended that dairymen give every consideration to the use of silos in forage preservation. Also cut potatoes are sometimes available and are worth approximately one-fourth as much as grain for feed. Potatoes will do much in maintaining milk flow during winter months if included in a balanced ration.

Dry forage or hay recommendations are that dairymen make every effort to improve the quality and feed value of roughages, by cutting hay at the right stage of maturity, handling in such a manner to preserve as many leaves as possible.

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and proper hay storage. Hay dryers and hay keepers may have a place along with field curing.

General recommendations for dairy cattle feeding are that dairymen make every effort to feed their stock according to production at the same time feed economically by using to the fullest extent home grown feeds, crop residues, etc. The possibility of mixing his own dairy rations might be well worth consideration by the dairyman.

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## Kerns Kernels

Bean and Essick sprayers for weed and insect control are now in stock ready for delivery. The Bean is useful for cattle spraying because of its high pressure, and the Essick can be used as an air compressor as well as a sprayer.

Important things to remember in spraying weeds with 2-4-D are: (1) Treat the weed in its susceptible stage of growth. (2) Use the proper amount of 2-4-D per acre. (Recent tests show that many weeds can be controlled with ten gallons or less of solution per acre.) (3) Apply the spray uniformly.

Along the same line, evening meetings on weed control will be held at 7:30 p. m. at Lorella on March 1st, at Macdoel on March 2nd and in the new homestead area in Tulilake on March 5th. These meetings will be attended by agronomists from the local County Agent's office and agronomists and entomologists from Corvallis and Portland. These meetings are the outgrowth of farmer interest in public discussion of problems pertaining to weed control and should bring out some valuable information.

Our machinery department has a ten foot Atlas Land Plane regularly priced at \$1144.00 on special sale at \$915.00. There is also an Atlas seven foot Boto Carry Scrapper two-way capacity regularly priced at \$885.00 on special sale at \$642.00. A substantial saving can be made now on either of these pieces of equipment. We also have a 4-Row 2-nozzle to the row Iron Age Duster to fit an F-12 Farmall Tractor that we would like very much to sell to somebody for \$231.

Pipe and fittings for Stout Sprinkler Systems are now being received for spring delivery. Orders should be placed now for sprinkler equipment in order to assure delivery by irrigating time.

An item in our hardware department of special interest to the ladies is the new Coolerator Electric Refrigerator. This is a beautiful all-steel 7-1/2 cu. ft. refrigerator with special shelf room for tall bottles, 3 ice cube trays, glass drip tray, rooney fruit and vegetable crisp-later, and a 25-lb. frozen food storage compartment, on special sale at \$224.00.

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