



National Potato Letter

Congress Compromises On Farm Legislature Between House, Senate

By A. L. FITZSIMMONDS

Farm legislation is settled for at least a year. Emerging as a compromise that really is a compromise, it bridges the gap between the high, rigid ideas of the house and the lower, flexible proposals of the senate.

The squabble over the parity base for price support affects the basic commodities and not potatoes. For potatoes, the old parity was calculated by multiplying the base period average price received (\$1.12 per bushel) by the current index of prices paid, including interest but not including hired labor. For September the index was 134 and parity was \$1.50.

Under the new act, parity will be computed by multiplying the average price received for the last ten years by the ratio of the base period index of prices paid to the current index of prices paid, including hired labor. The new parity for potatoes, based on September conditions, would be close to \$1.60 per bushel but probably would decline slightly if farm living and operating costs drop between now and January.

The act does not provide for any different type of price support methods. There will be no production payments, as was proposed by secretary Brannan, and price will be supported chiefly by purchases.

The future of potato loans is in doubt. Language of the law is specific as to the degree of recourse under loans and appears to preclude the present type of financing loans. This is a technical legal question, however, and the legal minds in the department of agriculture will have to settle it.

Potatoes will have 60 to 90 per cent of parity support. The law has a not fully interpreted "gimmick" that limits the drop from the old to the new parity level to five per cent a year.

1950 Support
It appears assured, however, that the 1950 price support level for potatoes will be at the minimum of 60 per cent of parity. The industry expects this—even testified for it at recent congressional hearings—as even this year's program has resulted in too large an acreage. Any boost over 60 per cent support appears impossible.

The new act clarifies one point that has been in doubt under the 1948 act. This concerns the relation of marketing agreements to price support.

The 1948 act had about the same language as the new one, to the effect that "Compliance by the producer with acreage allotments, production goals and marketing practices (including marketing quotas when authorized by law), prescribed by the secretary, may be required as a condition of eligibility for price support." The term "marketing practices" is not exactly the same as "marketing agreements and orders," but the statement of the house managers in reporting the bill from conference includes the following very illuminating language:

Same as 1948

"This provision is substantially the same as the provision contained in the agricultural act of 1948 and, among other things, will authorize the secretary of agriculture to condition price support for potatoes and other non-basic agricultural commodities upon producers agreeing to use marketing agreements and orders issued. . . . With respect to such commodities in such production or marketing areas as the secretary may designate."

Other important points in the law relate to disposal of commodities acquired and funds to be used. The act assures, however, that there will be support for potatoes, almost assuredly at 60 per cent of parity, that the support methods will not change materially. The biggest change affecting potatoes is the new parity formula which under exist-

ing conditions lowers the parity price by approximately 15 cents per bushel.

Miscellaneous
Maine finally finished digging its crop without a freeze. With very little market activity, many growers and shippers have gone deer hunting. Surprising how many who have potatoes to sell are not home and will not be back for several days.

Colder weather over most of the country should boost demand and improve arrival quality.

Effective October 31, a North Central potato marketing order limits commercial shipments to U.S. Commercial, 1 1/4 inches minimum, except that serious hollow-heart damage is permitted in Cobblers.

The department of agriculture finally turned loose its decision denying price support to California potatoes from next year's crop. The department says "early crop potatoes in California will not be eligible for price support for their 1950 and subsequent crops." There still is time for California growers to develop a marketing agreement program, if they want it, in order to qualify for 1950 crop support.

Plenty of potato operators appear to be planning to handle Canadian import business at least while the low duty quota for seed remains unfilled. They may not be quite so eager to handle them later in the season. Canadian potatoes are quoted under Maine offerings at New York, and the spread gets greater the farther south they go.

Big worry in Idaho now is whether much of the fall end of the crop was nipped by frosts. Snow helped reduce the danger but also slowed digging.



FOR FIVE DAYS A WEEK, Shirley Everitt works on an account executive for an advertising agency in New York. The other two days she's a farmer, a grown-up 4-H club girl. Raising prize cattle has been her hobby since she was 10, and she is still at it every week-end, at her father's farm near Flemington, N. J.

Malin Beef Club Reorganizes

Jimmy Parker was elected president of the Malin Beef club at the reorganizational meeting held October 30 at the home of Earl Wilson.

Other officers elected were Roxanne Wilson, vice president; Jane Hensel, secretary; and Farrell Wilson, sergeant at arms.

The club decided to have the following fines: 10 cents for absence without a good excuse and 5 cents for not being quiet at meetings.

All club members are to have their calves by the next meeting which will be at Dianne and Donnie Micka's, November 27.

Refreshments were served to the following club members, leaders, and guests: Mrs. Clara Scott, Mr. Earl Wilson, Vernagene and David Hensel, Dianne and Donnie Micka, Beverly Scott, Jimmy Parker, Jane Hensel, and Roxanne, Farrell and Kathleen Wilson.

To Buy, Sell or Trade—it pays to read the Want Ads!

Sewette Club Begins First Project

The Poe Valley Sewettes met at the home of Martha Tubach on Sunday, October 16.

Kathleen Marshall, president, called the meeting to order. Six members were present and work was started on our first project, a felt coin purse.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. Wm. Tubach after the meeting. The next meeting will be at the home of Kathleen Marshall November 20. Members are to bring their completed coin purses and material to start a dresser scarf.

Dr. Hunter Joins OSC Soils Staff

Dr. Albert S. Hunter has been appointed to the soils department staff of the O.S.C. agricultural experiment station, William A. Schoenfeld, dean and director of agriculture, has announced.

The appointment is on a joint basis with the U.S. department of agriculture. Dr. Hunter will do research work on soil fertility problems in the irrigated sections of the state.

4-H Club To Celebrate Saturday

Some 1000 Klamath county 4-H club members will join with other club members over the nation in celebrating National 4-H Club Achievement week. The week will officially get under way with a program Saturday afternoon at the county fairgrounds, according to the local club officer.

Club members, parents, leaders, and friends are invited to join in the celebration at the fairgrounds Saturday beginning at 1:30. Club members who were enrolled in club work during the 1948-49 year and who have completed their work will receive awards. Pins are presented to club members finishing first, third, fifth, and tenth years of membership. Club members finishing other years of work are awarded special cards.

Congratulations

Burton Hutton, state club agent, will be on hand to congratulate club members and leaders on the work done in the past year. The Bonanza Homemaker club will present a folk dance and there will be special songs. Members who attended summer camp are especially requested to bring pictures they took at camp.

4-H club membership in Klamath county has more than doubled in the last two years. Club members have been winning many state honors in the last year. Nearly two million boys and girls over the nation will be celebrating the achievement week as they sign up for another year of club work. Some 50 clubs are already organized over the county and more will be organized.

Malin Man Attends Tractor Clinic

T. E. Weatherby of Malin is in Corvallis attending a tractor clinic for Oregon 4-H club leaders, according to the local club officer.

The clinic is being held in preparation for adding a new 4-H club project—tractor maintenance—to the 1950 club program. In charge of the three day clinic are Cal G. Monroe, state extension agent, and M. O. Huber, OSC extension agricultural engineering specialist.

Klamath county plans to have at least one club in the Malin area and possibly one in the Henley district.

concentrating on the Owyhee project. Dr. Hunter was formerly senior agronomist at the U.S. natural rubber research station at Salinas, Cal.



HE'S STUDYING FOR A "PED-DEGREE"—Quite the dogmatic student is Butch, a wire-haired terrier who insists on attending classes at a vocational school in Binghamton, N. Y. English Teacher Mrs. Gladys Cox helps Butch through his three Rs. He lives two miles from school, but turns up for classes regularly.

Farm Groups Meet at Merrill

Merrill Farm Bureau members met Thursday evening for a pot-luck supper in the recreation hall. President E. E. Kilpatrick presided and L. L. Lombard of the Reddale Guernsey Farm led in the discussion of dairy problems.

Also discussed were resolutions which will appear before the state farm bureau convention to be held in La Grande November 14 to 17.

The county bureau will meet November 7 in the Merrill recreation hall for a pot-luck dinner at noon which will be followed by a business session.

Knitting Club Meets at Merrill

The Clicking Needle Knitting club of Merrill met on October 24, at the grade school. Every girl in the club is making a sweater, except Kathryn Barnes who is knitting a purse. The group is in the second year of knitting.

Mrs. V. C. Rexford, leader, passed out 4-H club books and the club members filled out membership cards.

Leaders Elect 4-H Officers For New Year

Klamath county 4-H club leaders met last week to elect officers for the coming year. Rex High of Oleno was elected president of the association of 150 leaders from all sections of the county.

Other officers are Stan Masten, Oleno, first vice president; T. E. Weatherby, Malin, second vice president; Mrs. Wendell Beyer, Henley, third vice president; and Mrs. Harold Schieferstein, Fairhaven, secretary.

Business included discussion of the coming National Achievement Week, November 5 to 13.

Mrs. Winnifred Gillen and Cal Monroe of the state 4-H club department were here for the all-day training meeting. Leaders were given help in program planning, song leading and in subject matter. Mrs. Gillen met with home economics leaders during the afternoon to discuss project requirements and methods. A sewing kit of examples of good methods was shown.

Monroe spent the afternoon with agricultural leaders discussing projects and work methods. Greater emphasis was put on the pasture project for club members who raise stock.

Alfalfa Seed Yields High in State

The production of alfalfa seed in Oregon is expected to amount to 1,050,000 pounds this year compared with only 630,000 pounds last year, reports the U.S. department of agriculture.

Elsewhere over the U.S. the alfalfa seed crop is also large with a forecast of 41 per cent more than the ten-year production period 1938-48.

Following recent trends, the increase is greater in southern states where it is expected to be 200,000 bushels more than the average. In the central states about 150,000 bushels more is expected and in the northern states the yield is about 85,000 bushels above the average.

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