

Herald and News FARM NEWS

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Farm Editor

National Potato Letter

Potato Crop Harvest For This Year Below Ten Year Average

Supply
Potato production from the 1949 harvest is now officially estimated at 286,932,000 bushels.

This indicated production is sharply below last year's 445.9 million bushels and slightly smaller than the 10-year average of 396.4 million. The crop is very close to the 1947 production with the geographic distribution approximately the same as two years ago.

This year's heavy surplus of late crop production is in the East. The crop is about right to fill need in the Mid-West, and barely enough for requirement in the West.

Difference
Major difference will result from the tonnage that may come in from Canada. We did not have this threat of Canadian tonnage in 1947.

This year, the national yield was estimated in July at 194.5 bushels, the highest July yield estimate on record. The average now has jumped to 203.8 bushels, however, surprisingly close to the all-time record of 212 bushels made last year, despite a severe drought in the East and both late and early frosts in parts of the West.

Production estimates have climbed from 368.7 million bushels in July to 368.8 million in November. This increase of 18 million bushels is attributed almost entirely to yield improvement.

Many observers expect that the December final report likely will show considerable development. Some sections insist that yields are still higher than reported, others that acreage has been misjudged.

Maine
Maine, for instance, holds stubbornly to the idea that its yield will be close to 400 bushels but that acreage is considerably overestimated. This would not add up to much change in the crop, even if true, but adjustments in several areas could make considerable difference in the state figures and in the distribution of the total crop even though they do not change the total production.

By states, the most important changes occurred in Maine, up 1.5 million bushels; Michigan, up 1.8; Idaho, up 1.4, restoring more than the earlier declines; and Colorado, up a million bushels. Even the 11 other late states are up 1.2 million bushels and Upstate New York and Pennsylvania gained by three-quarters and a half-million bushels, respectively. Declines were noted in 4 states, the largest being a half million bushels in Nebraska.

Movement and Markets
Shipments have been almost unchanged for the past three weeks at a little over 4000 cars weekly, including from 164 to 243 price support cars. This is only a moderate increase over previous weeks and considerably under the total to the same date last year.

Maine was rather slow in getting into volume movement but it is doubtful if shipments would have been materially heavier even if Maine had been on time. Aroostook county in Maine still has not had a 1000 car week, but is getting close to that mark.

Shipping point markets have had rather routine trading. The East has been slow and drab, without much change in demand or price.

Michigan has had too few sales to quote recently.

Farther West, Colorado has held fairly steady but showed a tendency to weaken early this week. Idaho is reported dull but at prices as much as \$1.70 over the floor. Washington is too dull to quote, with last prices at \$1.55 over the floor.

An eastern broker recently has outspokenly opposed price support. Some of his figures and their application are not too accurate but, we admire his willingness to risk industry disfavor by saying what he thinks. His comments cannot harm the industry and may cause some people to do some hard thinking.

Texas' winter potato crop progress is fair to good. Florida is reported about the same, but Dade county planting has been retarded by wet weather.

New York wholesale prices on Idaho potatoes are about 80 cents higher than a year ago, but Long Island Chippewas and Green Mountains are 40 to 60 cents less. Trade says that consumers are paying for the quality they want.

Purchases
Department of Agriculture price support purchases from the 1949 crop through October amounted to 9.0 million bushels. Cost is nearly 12 million dollars. This is sharply less than costs to date last season.

Kern county, California price support prospects still are uncertain so far as grower sentiment is concerned. One leader now comes out strongly for agreements, saying they offer a way for the industry to help itself with minimum of government control.

The Maine support program violation case cost violators a total of \$19,000 in fines, plus suspended year-and-a-day sentences on eight counts. Some receivers in terminal markets say they prefer paper bags for potatoes because potatoes in burlap are unmercifully kicked around. They say it is easier to drop burlap bags from the trucks than to lift them down. In paper however, a dropped bag is a burst bag and handlers have to exercise more care in handling; result—fewer bruises and better arrival condition on shipments in paper.

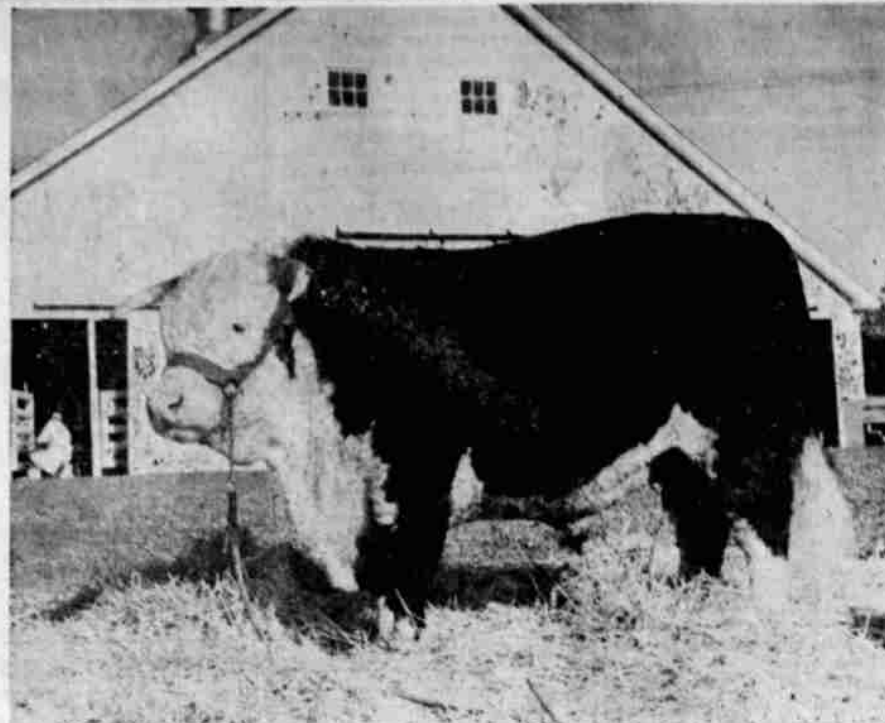
State Ranges In Good Shape

Ranges and pastures in areas east of the Cascades received rains but have benefited only a small amount. Although grass greened up it did not make much growth.

Oregon range conditions on November 1 averaged 70 per cent of normal, the lowest condition for that date since 1934 and the fourth lowest November condition on record. The condition of cattle and calves averaged 77 per cent, the lowest condition since 1934 and the third lowest condition on record during November.

Sheep and lamb conditions also were a near record low and the lowest condition for November since 1934. The November average is 80 per cent.

Livestock in the middle and southern great plains are doing well on unusually good range and pasture feed. Many grainfields are furnishing good pasture.



Royal Mixer Added To Liskey Ranch

S. F. Royal Mixer, the 38th, is the newest addition to the Hereford stock on the ranch of Dan and Mable Liskey in Poe valley.

The registered Hereford bull was bought recently by the Liskeys at the Grand National Exposition Cow Palace in San Francisco.

The bull has just recently arrived at the ranch. Liskeys paid a record price of \$6700 for the Hereford bull to improve the blood lines among their Hereford stock. Future breeding plans on the ranch will be built around Royal Mixer.

Liskey have also recently completed a new show barn on their ranch which will be used for showing livestock.

Chemistry Award To OSC Professor

Dr. George A. Richardson, professor of dairy husbandry and dairy chemistry at Oregon State college, has just been announced as winner of the 1950 Borden award in the chemistry of milk.

The award, one of the highest national honors in this field, consists of \$1000 in cash and a gold medal. It is administered by the American chemical society and is given to recognize and encourage outstanding research achievements in the chemistry of milk.

Barley Market Remains Firm

The Oregon food barley market remained firm during the last week and prices were unchanged. The cash price was \$57 a ton for No. 2 western barley.

California barley market was slightly stronger last week and the midwest markets were irregular. Malting barley prices at Portland were nominal but a dollar lower than the week before. Top grade last week was \$62 a ton f.o.b.

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HEREFORD CHAMPION BULL—S. F. Royal Mixer the 38th, was recently bought by the Liskey ranch of Poe valley. Below, Dan and Mable Liskey show their prize in front of the new show barn recently built at the Liskey ranch.



Fishway at Cedar Creek Now Open

Officials of the Oregon state game commission and the Oregon state fish commission were present Wednesday to take part in a formal dedication of the new fishway at Cedar Creek, a tributary of the Siletz river. This project was made possible through joint efforts of the two agencies in order to provide a permanent facility for migratory fishes. A natural barrier had existed in

the stream bed, thus restricting the upstream migrants from using the excellent spawning areas in the stream. The work involved drilling and blasting of a stream bed and construction of a concrete box fish ladder.

Ninth annual meeting, Western Knights association, army, Friday, 25th.

Shipments Of Potatoes About Normal

Figures at the end of October show that 1254 carloads of potatoes have been shipped from the Klamath basin this year, 7. A. Henderson, county agent said this week.

"That figure is almost the same as last year's shipments which was 1278, in spite of the belief throughout the county that we are falling way short this year on shipments," Henderson continued.

In the Klamath basin, according to records of the production and marketing office there were 19,237 acres of potatoes in production this year. This figure is about 2000 acres more than was in production in 1948.

In Compliance
Of this total acreage, 14,842 acres are in compliance with the production and marketing program and only 4395 acres out of compliance.

In Modoc county about one half of the acres out of compliance are in the Tulelake area where the new homesteads are located.

Potato acres according to counties are Klamath county, 10,580; Siskiyou county, 2966 acres; and Modoc county, 5680 acres.

Peach Leaf Curl Spray Recommended

Recommendation for control of peach leaf curl has been Bordeaux 12-12-100 in the past, during the dormant period west of the Cascades and either Bordeaux or lime sulphur east of the Cascades.

These materials are again recommended and in addition it is suggested that growers desiring to try other materials use Fomate at three pounds per 100 gallons of water applied as a dormant spray.

As with other sprays it is imperative that the tree be thoroughly covered and that the application be made before the buds begin to swell. December or January is the best time for application in Klamath county, according to J. D. Vertrees, assistant county agent. Vertrees also advised growers to spray on days when the material will not be washed off for at least 12 hours.

Fish Hatchery Enlarges Ponds

A \$20,785 construction job at the Wallawa trout hatchery has recently been completed. It was announced today by C. A. Lockwood, Oregon state game director.

This work, which is a part of the over-all plan to greatly increase the capacities of the game commission's hatcheries, included the construction of two large ponds 20 by 100 feet in size, seven smaller ponds, and one new dwelling.

Still more pond space is being planned for this hatchery which provides trout for a large area in the eastern part of the state. This future construction will quite probably be done next year, and at that time, the station will have a maximum capacity for the available water supply.

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State Turkey Group To Invite National Federation to Oregon

The Oregon turkey improvement association plans to invite the National turkey federation to Portland to hold its 1951 convention.

The invitation will be extended next January at the 1950 National turkey federation convention in Minneapolis by R. H. Schwedler of Portland. Schwedler is president of the Oregon turkey improvement association.

The convention bid if successful will bring some 3000 visitors to the Rose City, and will include turkey growers, breeders and hatcherymen from all parts of the U.S.

The decision to put in a bid for the 1951 National turkey federation convention was reached in Salem recently during the Oregon turkey meeting.

In addition to laying convention plans, the meeting was called also for the purpose of discussing the poultry and egg outlook for the coming season. Association Secretary Noel Bennion—the Oregon State college extension poultry specialist—revealed figures from his annual turkey industry intention survey.

Bennion said breeding flock owners indicate there will be about two and one-half per cent fewer turkey hens in 1950. That's in comparison with this year when the total number in Oregon was 241,000.

Apparently, poultry and egg producers pretty well have their minds made up on asking prices for next year. Bennion says the survey revealed both egg and poultry prices would be do or nowhere.

From an average price of 85 cents apiece this year, hatcherymen expect to ask about 75 cents a turkey poult during the coming season. That's a drop of 10 cents.

For eggs, the survey shows an expected drop of about five cents. This will mean an asking price of about 31 cents apiece.

Hatcheries expect to produce 12 per cent fewer poult next year as compared with 1949.

Bennion went on to say that reports from other areas indicate there will be an increase in the number of breeder hens carried over in the U.S. for 1950. He also brought out that prospects now point to fewer market turkeys being raised during the coming season. This means, Bennion says, that the turkey feed-price ratio will become more favorable next year.

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