

# Leafroll Causes Most Potato Rejections

As might be expected, leafroll caused the most rejections again this year in the Oregon State college potato seed certification program. Year in and year out, leafroll gives the most trouble. This year was no exception.

The man in charge of potato certification work, Elmer Johnson, says there were 3472 acres of potatoes entered for certification this year. Just over 3000 acres passed.

That is, those 3000 acres are over the hump as far as field inspections are concerned. There's still the greenhouse or test plot hurdle to get over.

# Milk Cow Decline Levels Off

After drifting down hill for about five years, this year the number of milk cows in this country seems to have leveled off.

Early this year, farmers in all parts of the country had a record number of young stock in proportion to the number of mature milk cows. No any lighter culling could bring a fairly large increase in cow numbers in all regions.

However, economists of the U. S. department of agriculture say any increase are likely to be moderate. And they even look for further decline in cow numbers in the western corn belt, where cash grains and meat animals still offer better returns to farmers than does dairy farming.

**More Milk**  
In the past few years, by keeping better cows, culling out the lowest producers, and feeding more concentrates and better roughages, dairy farmers generally have managed to get more milk per cow. Up to this year the more milk per cow has just about offset the effect of the decline in milk cow numbers.

This year, with cow numbers steady and a record output of milk per cow, dairy farmers have turned out more milk every month than during the corresponding month of last year.

On the other hand, the use of whole milk and cream has continued about the same as a year ago. So the increase in total output of milk has gone into manufactured dairy products—less into production of evaporated and dry whole milk, but more into making butter and cheese.

**Failed**  
Although more than 3000 acres of potatoes failed to meet field certification standards this year, Johnson points out that 1949 records show decided improvement over those of last year.

In 1948, the seed certification specialist says more than 1300 acres were rejected.

Reasons for improvement this year, says Johnson, include better quality seed, better roguing, fewer insects, more effective insecticides—and not to be overlooked—lots of good luck.

**Growers**  
The state's leading certified seed potato grower in 1949, is Clyde Ward of Baker. He had 216 acres of Nette Gem.

On the other hand, Ernest Hambeck of Tigard has the most certified varieties—fourteen.

Looking at the entire potato seed certification picture, Nette Gem potatoes stand number one in total acreage. White Rose are second, then comes Burbanks. Altogether, Johnson certified 18 different potato varieties this year.

# Hereford Top Steer In Chicago

Chicago, Nov. 29 (AP)—A junior yearling Hereford, "Judge Roy Bean," shown by the Pecos county 4-H club, Fort Stockton, Tex., was named grand champion steer of the 1949 international livestock show today.

The reserve champion is Chino 906, also a Hereford, weighing 750 pounds, compared with 1250 pounds for the grand champion. The reserve is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sears, owners of the Chino farms at Churchill, Md. The steer is a junior calf.

"Judge Roy Bean" was paraded through the judging ring by W. T. Posey, county agent at Fort Stockton, Tex. Posey said the steer was fattened to top grade by 43 boys and seven girls, members of the Pecos county club.



**SUPERIOR RECORDS IN THEIR FIELDS**—Four Oregon youths were winners of the 1949 state contests and each received on all-expense trip to the 28th national 4-H club congress, Chicago, November 27 to December 1. They were winners in field crops, clothing, poultry and girls' record programs.

# Homesteads To Be Drawn In Idaho

World War II veterans of this area, who have the required farming experience, are eligible to file applications for farming one of the 30 homestead units in the Black Canyon area of the Boise project, near Caldwell, Idaho, the Regional office of the Bureau of Reclamation today advised this newspaper.

Qualified war veterans and a small number of homestead relinquishers will have highest preference for the units. All applications received by 2 p. m. on January 3, 1950, will be considered as simultaneously filed. Already 6000 persons have requested application blanks, but only a small number have returned them to the bureau.

**Drawing**  
The land units will be awarded to qualified entrymen in the order in which their names are publicly drawn by lot from a bowl at a date and place to be decided on later.

The farms will cost the winners the small government homestead fee and irrigation construction charges. The latter may be repaid over a period of years, interest free. Land units vary in size from 81 to 138 irrigable acres each. Adjacent cultivated lands are largely adapted to dairying, and other types of livestock farming, including the production of alfalfa, pasture, clover, wheat, oats, barley, and peas.

Those wishing application blanks and instructions for filing should write the Irrigation Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, Notus, Idaho.

# Steam Iron Useful Aid In Homes

More and more homemakers are finding the steam iron a useful addition to their household equipment. It is especially useful when pressing wool and certain rayons.

Other fabrics require more moisture, so sprinkling and using the dry iron does a better job.

The steam iron may cause some difficulties too. Some irons seem to spit water and cause water spots. This may happen when an attempt is made to use the iron before it is hot. Other irons drop water when held in the wrong position. Some steam irons spit water when new, but cease as the sole plate is broken in.

Most manufacturers recommend the use of distilled water with the steam iron. This may be purchased, or rain water used. A good way to get distilled water is to use the frost that has collected on the freezing unit when defrosting the refrigerator.

**JUST AN IDEA!**  
One enterprising young girl we know has given Christmas gifts of "baby sitting." Special friends received cards advising them that the gift carried "two sittings" at any time during the year.

When you are making a standard cake with butter or margarine have the fat at room temperature before you cream it.

**J. L. DEAN**  
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# Brucellosis Disease Costly to Livestock

No cattle disease in the United States is more important than brucellosis, writes an OBC veterinarian, Dr. O. H. Muth, in a new extension bulletin, No. 682, entitled "Brucellosis of Cattle" which is now ready for distribution.

The disease is frequently called Bang's disease or contagious abortion.

In cattle, the veterinarian writes, the disease is caused by a bacterium, *Brucella abortus*. Related bacteria cause a similar disease in goats and hogs. However, the latter are not commonly affected in Oregon.

**Infect Humans**  
Either of the three organisms will infect humans, causing undulant fever.

The act of aborting is the only easily recognized disease symptom. Dr. Muth states the time of incubation between infection and the period when animals react to tests may vary from 14 to 100 days. The

blood agglutination test, now commonly used, is the only reliable method for diagnosing the disease.

The bulletin covers such topics related to brucellosis disease as calfhood and adult animal vaccination, public health, and control.

**Vaccination**  
"Vaccination of calves between the ages of five and eight months results in considerable protection to a high percentage of calves," the author points out. "Such vaccination, however, does not give complete and lasting immunity to the animals as does the vaccination of calves for blackleg, or the vaccination of pigs for hog cholera."

"Evidence has accumulated during the past several years which reveals the limitation of calfhood vaccination. It has been found that vaccination does not always protect against severe exposure and that the immunity acquired diminishes after the first year," he adds.

Copies of the bulletin are available through the local county extension office or by writing direct to the college.

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