

Herald and News FARM NEWS

MALCOLM EPLEY, Jr.
Farm Editor



Animal Diagnostic Lab at OSC Starts

The animal diagnostic service recently created at Oregon State college will begin full-scale operations sometime in August in the new animal diagnostic laboratory, according to Dr. L. R. Vawter, veterinarian in charge of the laboratory.

Completion of the modern laboratory facilities is expected shortly, although equipment shortages may delay the opening. Meanwhile the diagnostic service will continue to operate on the third floor of the OSC poultry-veterinary building.

The diagnostic laboratory and veterinary research unit at OSC will team up to fight disease outbreaks and solve disease problems in Oregon livestock. No treatment of animals will be given at the diagnostic laboratory. The service consists only of autopsy and diagnosis of infectious diseases in horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, and miscellaneous smaller animals such as rabbits or fur bearers. Poultry disease investigations are conducted by the OSC poultry disease laboratory.

Dr. Vawter has requested that farmers consult local veterinarians or state or federal veterinarians before bringing sick or dead animals to the laboratory when contagious diseases are suspected. Transportation of animals with infectious diseases may constitute a real danger to the livestock industry, he declared.

Oregon State college, the Oregon livestock associations and the Oregon Veterinary Medicine Association have agreed to a fee of \$4 for each laboratory examination. The money will be used to pay operating expenses of the laboratory.

Located in the southwest part of the OSC campus near the present poultry-veterinary building, the laboratory houses a large autopsy room, cold storage rooms for holding animals overnight, laboratories for examination of tissue and organs, and other miscellaneous facilities. A feature is the large gas-fired blast furnace in which all infectious material is burned to prevent spreading of disease.

Sawdust Mulches Need Nitrogen, Expert Says

When using Douglas fir sawdust as a mulch, enough nitrogen should be added to the soil to hasten decomposition of the sawdust and to keep growing plants healthy, Dr. W. B. Bollen, Oregon State college soil bacteriologist, has suggested.

Experiments conducted by Dr. Bollen and other research specialists of the Oregon forest products laboratory and the OSC agricultural experiment station have established the value of sawdust as a mulch.

Sawdust, like other mulches such as straw and peat moss, is not a fertilizer, Dr. Bollen emphasized.

As a mulch, however, sawdust helps to hold soil moisture, to keep down weeds and to retard erosion. Upon complete decomposition, all mulches add to the humus supply.

Rate of decomposition of any mulch depends upon the nitrogen supply in the material itself and the soil on which it is placed. Nitrogen is added to get rapid decomposition and to prevent nitrogen starvation of plants.

Between 5 to 10 pounds of ammonium sulfate, a nitrogen-containing fertilizer, should be applied to the soil for each ton of sawdust at the time of mulching, Dr. Bollen recommended. At the beginning of the second year of decay, about one-half this amount of nitrogen fertilizer needs to be added.

A sawdust mulch is easier to handle than other kinds, is usually easier to obtain and should last for about 10 years, Dr. Bollen said. A sawdust mulch from two to four inches deep is often recommended for orchards and berry fields.

Dr. Bollen found that Douglas fir sawdust, which contains a higher-than-average percentage of bark, decomposes slower than most types of sawdust. Tannin and waxes in the bark are believed responsible for the low decomposition rate.

Another series of greenhouse tests in connection with the soil bacteriological studies on other types of sawdust has been launched by Dr. Bollen. This new project should be completed in about four months.

Refrig Plan Now Available

Plans for a newly developed two-temperature walk-in refrigerator for the farm are available from Oregon State college, M. G. Huber, OSC extension agricultural engineering specialist, has announced.

Developed by U.S. department of agriculture research engineers, the unit may be built within another building or outdoors with addition of siding and roof. It features a simplified, tight seal between roof and wall sections.

Huber says the plan, in addition to emphasizing simple construction, calls for pellet rock wool and a non-sweating wall duct and includes a bill of materials.

The refrigerator provides a room for chilling and storing meats and other farm products and a low-temperature room for freezing and storing fruits, vegetables, and meats. The chilling room is 250 cubic feet in size; the freezing room, 100 cubic feet. Cost of the unit is estimated at \$1200 but this figure may vary from area to area.

INJURED FAWN RECOVERING
CENTRALIA, Ill. (AP) — A baby deer surprised by a wheat combine was badly cut up in a Southern Illinois field. The fawn — children soon named it Bambi — was taken to a Carlyle veterinarian who saved its life. With an amputated rear leg and patched cuts, Bambi was started on the way to recovery with a diet of baby formula.



PART OF THE CROWD of Klamath farmers who participated in the annual Klamath Experimental Station Field Day Monday. The trailer, a truck and a pickup were used to carry visitors to plots in far corners of the station.

Farmers Crowd "X" Station For Field Day

More than 100 Klamath farmers and interested persons gathered Monday at the Klamath Experimental Station for the annual station field day under the direction of Hugh Gross.

Dr. Al Halvorson and Research Assistant P. E. Stevens — with comment from U.S.D.A. Agronomist H. H. Hampton and Farm Crops Specialist Don Hill — went through a series of field crops

and grasses which may have a future in the Klamath country. Among those was lotus, which has been under observation here for 12 years. But yield trials of different varieties are showing possibilities for pasture forage, but experts advised against growing of lotus seed here, especially in alkali clover growing areas.

A drainage project, including a long drain pipe set 12 feet below the surface of the area, has lowered the water table on the experimental station considerably, and as far back as 500 feet, Gross reported.

Dr. Halvorson showed trials and experiments with kribium, and compared it with gypsum in alkali reclamation plans.

The group also looked over phosphate trials on muck soils near Worden.

New varieties of alfalfa—including a local variety of creeping alfalfa—are being tested. The latter is being tried under actual pasture conditions.

Even though many signs of recession are showing in 1952, it isn't likely that the slump will be either very severe or very widespread the rest of this year, agricultural economists of the Oregon State college extension service conclude.

Many Oregon farmers already are being hurt by the downward trend, economist M. D. Thomas points out in the latest issue of "Oregon Agricultural Situation and Outlook." Strawberry and cherry raisers, chicken growers and wool producers are feeling the pinch this year. Markets for other inflation leaders of 1951, like beef, are sagging too.

But the odds for the last half of 1952 seem to favor some recovery rather than further recession, Thomas believes. There is even a possibility that considerable inflation could come if a combination of events sparked another spending spree and brought the potential purchasing power into the market.

Farmers are advised to keep close watch of supply, demand and price conditions during the next few months as they may market their products to best advantage. In most instances, holding for the past season's high prices seems likely to bring disappointment.

As of July, however, there seems to be little reason to accept drastically lower prices on products in storage form, except where carry-over is large or production is much greater than last year.

Five things are largely responsible for the slow down, Thomas writes. They are: inventories have accumulated to worry processors, manufacturers, businessmen, business men; buying splurges after the war have left consumers well stocked; consumers, conscious of spending less and saving more; and incomes and employment are not rising as rapidly as a year ago.

There is no reason to get panicky over the situation, however, the economists feel, because "for nearly every weak spot in the economy, there still is a firm one."

Grasshopper Demand Up In Midwest

There must be a shortage of bait in the Midwest.

The Day Bait Company, Fort Huron, Mich., is still making a standing offer of \$1 per pound for preserved grasshoppers and they need between 5,000 and 6,000 this season, according to word received here.

They also want 2,000 pounds of small crickets, for which they are paying 70 cents per pound.

The company offers as references Dun and Bradstreet, Port Huron Chamber of Commerce, and the Michigan National Bank there. Complete information will be forwarded anyone wishing to take up the offer, they have announced. The company suggests anyone taking up the offer act quickly while the hoppers are abundant.

The company's offer has been on the market all summer, appearing in the Herald and News several months ago. However, a new call went out recently.

Maybe the fish are biting back there.

Ornamental Ag Man Added Staff

An ornamental horticulture specialist has been added to the staff of the University of California Agricultural Extension Service, according to an announcement by Director J. Earl Coker in Berkeley today.

Marston H. Kimball, former farm advisor in Los Angeles County, has been appointed to the position, and will devote his time to the problems connected with horticulture and turf in California.

Kimball joined the extension staff in Los Angeles County in 1926. Since that time he has developed an active program in the field of ornamental horticulture and floriculture in that county. As a specialist in those subjects, he will assist farm advisors throughout the state of California.

Kimball will have his headquarters with the Department of Ornamental Horticulture and Floriculture on the campus of the University of California at Los Angeles.

Grass Seeders Work on SCD's

Two Brillion grass seeders in use on local soil conservation districts are proving satisfactory, according to reports from the two areas where they have been used this season.

Myron Taylor, in charge of seeding of several hundred acres on the Klamath SCD, says they appear most efficient when used on slightly moist soil.

So far, reports say, there has been no failure due to the seeders themselves.

Joe Colahan is in charge of seeding on the Poe Valley district. The districts rent the seeders for a dollar per acre.

OSC Economists See Signs Of Recession; Slump Small

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Farm Survey Shows Homes Come First

The old assumption that farmers neglect their homes in favor of farm buildings and improvements just isn't borne out by the facts.

Latest U.S. department of agriculture surveys, as reviewed for Oregon by Mrs. Elvera Horrell, OSC extension agricultural economist, show that slightly more than half of the total value of farm construction goes for houses. Out of the remaining less than half, three fourths is spent on service buildings such as barns and poultry houses and the rest for fences, windmills, pumps, etc.

On the farm, about one-third of the money spent for houses is used for new construction and one-half for major improvements. The rest goes for miscellaneous repairs. This is in direct contrast to city figures where most of the outlay is for new structures.

About half of the farm construction work, Mrs. Horrell reports, is done by farmers and their families.

Ag Plan Meet Report Ready

The first of 12 detailed reports prepared by committees at the recent state agricultural planning conference at Oregon State college is off the press with the other 11 reports scheduled for publication between now and early September.

The dairy committee report is the first to be issued in bulletin form. The coming 11 publications will deal with agricultural relations farming, horticulture, land economics, livestock, poultry, rural life, soil and water resources, and specially crops. Present problems and recommendations for future development in each field are outlined.

Copies of the dairy report are now available from county extension offices or from the college.

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Farm Program Changes Time

The County Agent's Report, a weekly radio program over Station KFLW, has changed its time from Monday noon to Thursday at 6:50 a.m.

Klamath's extension service presents farm news and information of interest to the local agricultural industry on the program.

Klamath Farms Featured in Magazine

Farm Management magazine, a bimonthly farm magazine for business farmers, includes a story in its latest issue titled "Tailor Your Crops to the Changing Market."

The article is about diversified farming projects in the Klamath country, and how it fits the country, the market and the climate. Farm Management is published by Crow Publications, of Los Angeles, which also publishes Western Dairy Journal and Western Livestock Journal.

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Hobson-Lombard Guernseys Rate High In Check by National Association

This past week one of Klamath County's dairy herds was officially classified and was revealed one of the top herds in the west.

The L. Rayson Ranch, owned by Ray Hobson and L. Lombard and operated by Hobson at Merrill, was classified last week according to the rules of the American Guernsey Association.

Master Wilson, the official classifier for the American Guernsey Association did the work. Wilson travels the whole United States as the official classifier for the Association, coming from Minnesota.

Normally herds are classified every two years but since the inclusion of many new Guernsey animals in the Hobson-Lombard ranch classification will be done on an annual basis for the next two years.

For official classification in the American Guernsey Association, certain classes are established. The highest possible class is the "excellent," the next highest is the "very good," the next highest "desirable," ranging down below this are the "acceptable" and other classes further down the line. To be classified and retained in the purebred registered status, animals must be judged as "desirable" class or higher.

Hobson explains the "excellent" classification reportedly to be the perfect type cow. The class of "very good" are the type of cows that are found in the purebred sales as representing approximately the highest type in any given breeding. The next is the "desirable" classification which are usually extremely good cows probably not perfect in type but are real work horses and producers in a dairy strain.

Most of the real high-producing milking strains are found to have a large percentage of the desirable class as their real producers.

Hobson is doing his breeding work along the line of cow families. He aims to build strong cow families transmitting desirable characteristics in type and milking abilities to their daughters and his breeding program is coupled with three of the top bulls in the Northwest.

The purpose of classification by the Association or any other dairy group is to compare the individual cow in the milking purebred strain to the perfect cow. The comparison is not between cow to cow in any given herd, but a comparison to each cow the perfect ideal cow for the breed. Of course breed organizations are breeding for perfection, Hobson notes.

Classification results of 87 adult producing cows in the Hobson herd showed that there were two classified as "excellent" 30 classified as "very good" and the bulk of the herd was classified as "desirable." There were only 4 in the entire herd that were below average of the breed, and will probably be replaced.

Interpreting these results show that the Hobson herd is quite above average for the Guernsey herds in the west, according to County Agent J. D. Vertrees. Any herd that has at least one third of the animals above average is an exceptional herd, Hobson says.

Between the efforts of Hobson and Lombard the eight set for this large Guernsey herd are high and will continue to improve and lead the west in Guernsey milk cow type production, Vertrees asserted.

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