



THIS 18-INCH irrigation pipe being placed in tunnel under Highway 97 about 3 miles south of Macdoel, will carry surplus water to 500 acres on west side of highway on the Delos Mills ranch in Butte Valley. (l to r) Art Reed, owner of Interstate Pump Company, well testers; Charles Rushing, cat skinner, and Delos Mills (in welding helmet). Mills has 150 acres of clover and expects to seed another 100 acres this year.

Survey Shows US Farmers Lost Money On Supports

By JOHN I. KROSS
Assoc. Professor,
Dept. of Ag. Economics,
University of Wisconsin

A recent study conducted by 12 Agricultural Experiment Stations in the midwest revealed that farmers lost money with the price support program.

For the period 1942 to 1950, value of potatoes bought by consumers with price support amounted to \$3,270,000,000. During the same period 1942-1950, the estimated value of potatoes bought under a free market would have been \$3,637,000,000. In other words, growers would have been better off by \$367 million if they had sold their potatoes on a free market.

The weighted average price received by farmers during support period was \$1.32 a bushel as compared with a weighted average price of \$1.44 a bushel if sold on a free market.

The estimated price is based on the assumption that the same conditions that prevailed before 1942 would have followed the same trend from 1942 to 1950.

The period 1942 to 1950 was recognized as the price support period because the first full scale price support program was undertaken in 1942. In 1942 the government attempted to buy potatoes at 75 per cent of parity but there were no surplus potatoes and the government made only a few isolated purchases.

INCENTIVE PROGRAM
With World War II requirements and fearing shortages, the government in 1943 embarked upon an incentive program to increase acreage, and potatoes were supported at 92 per cent of parity. Therefore, the real purpose for a price support program was to obtain sufficient quantities of food for military and civilian requirements.

The large scale price support program emanated from the incentive plan to obtain sufficient food during war times. From 1944 to 1948 prices were supported at 90 per cent of parity, and 60 per cent in 1949 and 1950. The price support program for potatoes was discontinued in 1950 and rightfully so because no legislation existed to curtail the surplus production program.

In retrospect the potato price support programs should have been discontinued in 1946 because they had served their purpose of providing sufficient food in the war effort. The experience gained from potato price support programs indicates that it is impossible to legislate prosperity for potato farmers.

In addition to losing \$367 million directly from the price support program, farmers, by reducing potato acreage, would be able to grow other crops which would have brought additional income.

PUBLIC RELATIONS
The dumping and spoilage resulting from government purchases of surplus potatoes cost growers millions of dollars in terms of public relations. Furthermore, since the emphasis in the price support program was on volume and not quality, potato growers have lost the art of merchandising quality potatoes they had proudly cherished before the war.

An encouraging sign from the consumers standpoint is that per capita consumption of potatoes in 1953 rose about seven pounds over that of 1952. With emphasis on selling quality potatoes the per capita consumption trend could be started upwards instead of continuing the

50 year downward trend.

How did the consumer fare in the price support program? The consumers paid less for potatoes than they would have under a free market. The government costs on price support operations exclusive of administrative cost was \$582 million. Since farmers lost \$367 million if they had a free market, the difference between government costs and farmer losses was \$215 million, therefore, the cost of the price support program to consumers and taxpayers was \$185 million.

POTATO INDUSTRY

The challenge that lies before the potato industry is to produce a crop of 350 million bushels a year and sell it on a free market. With this volume growers can expect satisfactory returns and prices to consumers will be reasonable.

Price support programs are not easily understood by many people because of the many issues involved. The recent announcement that Section 32 funds would be available to purchase potatoes was understood by several people as a restoration of the old program.

Use of the Section 32 funds for purchase of surplus potatoes is at the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture and should only be considered at best to have a very limited effect. Furthermore, market outlets have to be available for quantities purchased by the government and it seems logical that most outlets are already plugged.

ARGUMENTS
There are proponents for and against price supports. The arguments advanced by each group usually center around several issues, such as:

Economic issue—The cost-price squeeze and the fact that agriculture is made up of many individual units, making it difficult to do business with industry that is large and few in number.

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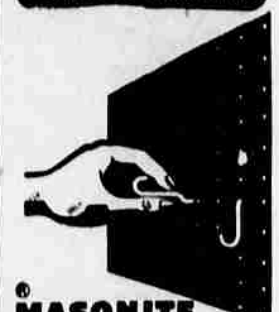
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Former Red Pilot In US

SAN FRANCISCO (P) — There were more Russian than North Korean pilots flying for the Communists in the Korean war, Lt. Noh Kum Sok, 22, told reporters when he landed in the United States last night.

He is the ex-North Korean fighter pilot who got \$100,000 for turning a MIG15 jet plane over to American authorities.

The sober-faced young man was met at the airport by Korean Consul General Young Han Choo and his wife waving South Korean flags. He shrank visibly as he came down the steps of the big plane from Manila to face a battery of popping flashbulbs and television flood lights.

Noh will leave for Washington, D.C., late today.

Oregon Changes Standards For Seed Certification

Several important changes have been made in seed certification standards for Oregon in 1954, according to Harold Fennell, extension certification specialist at Oregon State College.

Land requirements for the certified class of red clover specify that the field must have been free of red clover for three years. Under the 1954 standards, this three-year period may be shortened one year if there was one cultivated row crop or clean fallow in between. Length of stand requirements of red clover certification state only two seed crops are possible of any given generation. In addition, minimum pure seed requirements have been raised to 99 per cent in all three classes of red clover, and green foxtail has been added to the objectionable weed list.

A change in seed certification

standards for Merion bluegrass regards crop content requirements. A maximum of one per cent total of other crops will be permitted and one-quarter of one per cent of other grass species.

Fennell says no red tag grade of fescues will be permitted in 1954. Special requirements have been placed this year on sorrel and docks. They now have the same tolerance as buckhorn plantain or 27 seeds per pound—in the seed standards. Sorrel and dock content in certified blue tag perennial ryegrass is limited to 45 seeds per pound—the same as buckhorn plantain.

Less varietal mixture is to be allowed in small grains, the specialist continues. No rye, morning glory or quackgrass patches will be allowed. Less smut will be permitted in the field and wild oats will be included in the total field count along with other small grains.

Fennell says the new varieties approved for certification in 1954 are Narragansett alfalfa, Vernal alfalfa, Pennscoot red clover, Goss tall fescue and Cody oats. All are under the generation system. In Vernal alfalfa, there is no registered class.

Further information concerning these changes and all crop standards is available from county extension offices and the Oregon State College certification office.

ALTAMONT NEWS

By Fred Heard
The National Junior Honor Society of Altamont Junior High School held its election last week. Gary Esqate was elected president, with Marsha Griggs vice president, Charlotte Brown secretary, and Sandra Barron treasurer. They had a potluck dinner Wednesday, April 28.

The student council will hold its annual picnic at Moore Park Thursday, April 29.

The Insect Club elected officers April 19. The following were elected: President, Fred Heard; vice president, Russel Schuh; secretary and treasurer, Geraldine Munjar; publicity, Richard Ewing.

The following were elected in the Rock Club: Gary Esqate, president; Sue Clark, vice president; Pat Campbell, treasurer; Sharon Rutten, secretary.

The boys are doing very well and are looking forward to the first baseball game of the season.

Thursday, Friday, Monday and Tuesday were four eventful days in the eighth grade. They took the placement tests for Klamath Union High School.

QUAKE

TOKYO (P) — A mild earthquake was felt in the Tokyo area at 3:25 p. m. Tuesday. No casualties or damage were reported.

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PLEASE—When you mail in your order cards for the 1954 season, be sure and sign your name. We've two cards left still unidentified—one covers 50 acres grain spraying by ground rig (mailed April 26), the other covers wheat and plane spraying of grain (mailed April 24). If one of these could be YOUR card, please let us know and the field man will be out.

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