

# 1955 Oregon Crop Prices Predicted

The price outlook for Oregon's fall-planted crops ranges from fair to poor, extension economists at Oregon State College say in their latest "Situation and Outlook" circular.

Needs for more forage are putting hay, silage and pasture in a favorable spot price-wise. More of these crops will be required if larger amounts of surplus grains are to move to market through cattle and sheep. Even hogs require some forage.

Wheat is hard to beat as a cash crop even at lower supports, so long as growers comply with the acreage control program. Prices are likely to be at least 25 cents lower next year.

With average weather, the nation's wheat crop next year would again come close to 900 million bushels. In the Northwest, where the build-up in wheat stocks has been much faster than in the country as a whole, the price of wheat next fall is likely to be about the same as the price of corn shipped from the Midwest.

Prices of barley and oats are likely to be no higher next year than this year. Unless supports are again provided, prices would likely drop rather sharply.

According to the OSC economists large supplies of most grains are still around, but government stocks — except for tall fescue — are not the problem they were a year ago. Growers and dealers are holding the surpluses instead of the government. Considerable old seed probably will be used around next summer to interfere with marketing of crops raised in 1955. Crimson clover, with seed supplies the smallest in many years, seems to be an important exception.

Current favorable hairy vetch prices tend to keep prices next year at or below this year's level. The same holds true for Austrian winter peas.

Supplies of common and perennial ryegrass seed this year are at record highs and point to even larger carryovers by next harvest. A sharp outback in acreage seems called for if lower prices are to be avoided.

Use of tall — Alta — fescue failed to increase last year and the government still holds large stocks. Until these stocks are used or exported, prices are likely to be discouraging, say the economists.

The circular includes several suggested opportunities for crop adjustments that may help farmers in Oregon maintain income. Copies are available from county extension offices and OSC.



DAN McAULIFFE, left, points to a spot on White Lake where the Van Brimmer brothers tapped the lake in 1884 to divert the water approximately six miles for use in the valley south and southwest of Merrill. This was the first irrigation system in the Klamath Basin. The wide swale, forming the original ditch is shown in the foreground. Dan's son Jerry, center, and Frank Hurd look on. Photo by Martha Hurd.



KEITH RICE AND LES LEAVITT, with Rice on the right, stand in an oat field on Rice's ranch near Lorella. Rice said the oats will run about 3 1/2 tons to the acre.

## Early Basin Water Project Built With Horses, By Hand

By MARTHA HURD

Water — according to Webster, "is a colorless limpid compound of hydrogen and oxygen (H<sub>2</sub>O), two parts of hydrogen, one part oxygen." Without water, vegetation is scarce, and nothing lives for long. Good fertile soil is useless without water, with it, things grow to maturity fast. No more bountiful crops of grain, potatoes, and good pasture grass per acre can be found to be ready for the harvest, than are raised right here in the Klamath Basin, even with the short growing season. An it's

due to the development of irrigation. But not too long ago, the land in the basin was dry and parched for lack of natural rainfall.

It was back in the 1860's that three brothers, Dan, Ben and Clint Van Brimmer came out from Missouri and purchased land on Willow Creek, Siskiyou County. In 1867, the Van Brimmers filed for water rights on Willow Creek. Later, they moved to the vicinity of Merrill, and started farming operations there. The soil was good, but no water for irrigation. Dan's farm was what is now known as the "old Bogie place", two and one half miles southeast of the present town site at the diversion dam on the lava bed road.

Clint and Ben bought land near Dan, and together they set out to find a way to bring water to their holdings. This was in the 1880's. In 1884 a six and one half mile ditch was dug, leading out of White Lake to the north and east. Horses and slip scrapers were used to divert the water from the lake, and hand shovels were used to finish the job.

The cut through the hill, near the Dan McAuliffe ranch, can still be seen and about four and one half miles of the original Van Brimmer ditch is still being used by the company of the same name, according to Eugene Hammond, early day cattle raiser. Mr. Hammond has followed this development carefully throughout its inception, and for the past nine years has served as manager and president of the Van Brimmer Ditch Company.

When the Van Brimmer Ditch Company was first formed, it was necessary to charge its subscribers 40 to 50 cents per acre of water brought to their land by this ditch. Later it became necessary to raise to a peak of \$1.25 per acre, in order to meet a general maintenance cost. For the past two years, said Mr. Hammond, the cost has been only 50 cents per acre, with all the water necessary for good irrigation. The Van Brimmer Ditch Company irrigates approximately 5,000 acres south and southwest of Lost River.

## OSC Offer Water Test Information

Salt water "trouble spots" uncovered by Oregon's growing search for irrigation water has prompted a water testing service from the Oregon State College starting October 1, reports Marvin Shearer, OSC irrigation specialist.

How much salt, sodium and other minerals will crops tolerate and what crops are most tolerant? These and similar questions are stemming from a boom business of tapping wells, streams, and tidal waters, Shearer says.

Reports of salt wells come from scattered areas of Eastern Oregon. An increasing number of salt wells are turning up in the Willamette Valley — usually for the first time. Salt and coastal farmers are finding trouble as they edge farther out into tidewater.

Shearer says water supplies — at least half a pint — may be sent to the college soil testing laboratory at Corvallis for analysis of total salts, sodium ratio, and boron. Analyses for other minerals can be made by special arrangement with the laboratory.

Laboratory technicians will determine whether water is too salty for irrigation purposes. On border-line cases, they will report what crops will do best. State and regional researchers have compiled a long list of "salt-tolerant" and "sensitive" crops.

The half — pint water sample should not be sent in a tin, but in a clean glass jar. The jar should consist of a combination of several small samples taken over a short period of time. Tidal water samples should be taken at the period of tide at which it is being used for irrigation purposes. Complete instructions for taking samples are sent them to the college are available from county extension agents, Shearer states.

The cost of a water analysis for total salts, sodium percentage and boron content will be \$1.50 a sample. Costs for special analyses will be determined by the laboratory. Where a set of water samples is submitted for a complete tide cycle, the cost will be \$4 for the entire set, normally four to six samples.

## Big Shorthorn Sale Planned

Largest sale of registered Shorthorn beef cattle ever held in Oregon has been scheduled for Saturday, October 1 at the Lane Brothers ranch, 11 miles northwest of Salem on Highway 221.

Cowboy Short, formerly of Mile-Away Ranch, Redmond, has scheduled the sale to disperse his herd of modern beef-type Shorthorns. Short's recent appointment as Oregon state director of Agriculture and subsequent move to Salem, prompted the sale.

Short said the entire herd will be sold regardless of price because pasture lease terminates on the day of the sale.

Among the top animals to go will be three heavy sires, including: Fencor Prince Royal 29th, son of world famous Prince Royal of Cruggleton Perfect breeding; Fencor Prince Bob, also of Cruggleton Perfect breeding and Mile-Away Metaphor 4th, top son of Fencor Metaphor with Millhill Buttery 4th dam.

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## Alsike Clover Forecast Made

TULELAKE — Production of alsike clover seed this year is forecast by the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics at 9,903,000 pounds of clean seed, according to Roy Edwards, Tulelake farm adviser. This is only four per cent larger than last year's record small crop of 9,541,000 pounds and is 32 per cent below the 1944-53 average of 14,544,000 pounds. It is indicated that California, Ohio, Wisconsin and Idaho will have larger crops in Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota and Oregon.

According to the farm adviser, this year's prospective acreage harvested is 58,700 acres compared to the 1944-53 average of 108,600 acres. This would be the second smallest acreage on record (51,900 acres for 1954 was the smallest) and is the cause for the indicated near record small production. This small acreage is due chiefly to the relatively low opening prices for the 1954 crop at the time of fall seeding for this year's crop and plus the fact that low prices for alsike clover prevailed in 1953.

## Ladino Clover Forecast Made

Production of Ladino-clover seed in 1955 is forecast at 4,090,000 pounds of clean seed. This year's crop is 10 per cent larger than last year's, but 16 per cent smaller than the 1944-53 average. Production is only slightly larger in California, leading Ladino-clover seed producing state, but more than two and a half times as large as a year ago in Oregon. Production in Idaho and Washington has declined so much during recent years that estimates for these two states are

being discontinued this year. An estimated 18,200 acres are expected to be harvested this year in California and Oregon, compared with 15,500 acres last year in four states. Of this year's total, California has 15,000 acres, up 1,000 from the 1954 acreage, and Oregon has 3,200 acres, an increase of 1,900 over last year.

The average yield per acre in California is expected to be 230 pounds, compared with 245 pounds last year. Although conditions were favorable for setting of seed, enough new fields with smaller yields replaced older ones to bring the average yield for 1955 below last year's. In Oregon, the estimated yield of 200 pounds per acre this year is 10 pounds higher than in 1954.

On June 30, dealers carried over 2,197,000 pounds of old seed and the government owned or controlled 9,889,000 pounds, or a total of 12,086,000 pounds, compared with a total dealer and government carry-over of 10,195,000 pounds last year. Since June 30, the government has disposed of its stocks of Ladino-clover seed. Carry-over of Ladino-clover seed on farms is estimated at 36,000 pounds, compared with 45,000 pounds a year ago.

There have been no imports of this seed since March of 1952.

## New Weed Police Chief Appointed

WEED — Harold L. Barnum, who has served as a Weed police officer since January, 1953, will assume the duties of police chief on October 1.

Appointment was made known last week by Weed police commissioners John Mantle, D. S. Art Scribner and James Wilmarth.

Barnum has been a life long resident of Weed and is a Navy veteran.

## Pest Reporter

**MRS. FARMER -**  
Good news for the ladies -

## GARDENING NEWS:

It was a thrilling experience to visit Jan De Graaff's Oregon Bull Farm a couple of weeks ago. Made choosing bulbs difficult what with so many lovely varieties to choose from. They do a wonderful job of handling and caring for them. Well worth your time to visit when up that way.

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## FROM THE NURSERY:

EVERGREENS can be moved any time now. TREES and SHRUBS in another week or so. Come in and choose them now if your husband is too busy with harvest to help with the planting. Pick them up when he finishes his work.

Lovely stocks to choose from—Drop by and see the Clematis Texensis Seed Pods. They did a nice job of production this year.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK — Inflation or no inflation, the cost of living seems to remain about the same — all a fellow can do.

## FROM THE GIFT CORNER:

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THRESHING GRAIN FRIDAY on the Bill Mathis ranch near Klamath Falls on the Lakewview Highway were Wally Key, left, operator of the machine and Bill Mathis, the ranch owner.

## Klamath Guernsey Cow Wins Record Cow Sets Record

PETERBOROUGH, N. Y. — A registered Guernsey cow, Wandanere Douglas' Beulah, owned by Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Hobson, Klamath Falls, Oregon, has completed a production record of 9,691 pounds of milk and 521 pounds of fat, according to the American Guernsey Cattle Club.

This production, made in the AGCC's Herd Improvement Registry, is equal to 4651 quarts of high-quality milk. "Beulah" was a junior 4-year-old, and was milked three times daily for 305 days while on test.

The official production record was supervised by Oregon State College.

## Oregon Farm Report Given

If preliminary reports for the first three Oregon counties heard from in the 1954 federal census of agriculture are a forecast of what is to come for the rest of the state, Oregon farms have decreased in number but grown in size since 1950. These three counties are Lincoln, Benton and Morrow.

The Lincoln County census gives 677 farms against 856 in 1950 with average acreage 155.5 against 137.4 in 1950.

For Benton, farms number 1153 against 1293 in 1950 and average 185.9 acres against 178.2 in 1950.

For Morrow farms total 463 against 497 in 1950, with average size 212.6 acres against 219.7 five years ago.

Comparative figures on farm incomes are not included in these preliminary reports received by the state department of agriculture. They do show, however, that total farm expenditures for labor, livestock feed, poultry feed, motor fuels, fertilizer and lime varied little in the two last census years, 1949 and 1954. These combined outlays for the three counties were \$77,000 less last year than in 1949.

These first figures, which are subject to revision by the bureau of census, show farms in the three counties had more telephones, more home freezers, more grain combines, more motor trucks and more tractors. Each county reported more milking machines, but only one had more corn pickers.

Two of the three counties reported fewer automobiles on farms than in 1950. No comparison exists for television sets because they arrived in Oregon after the census of 1950. One out of about five farms had TV at the end of 1954, the reports show.

By types of farms, the three counties all reported fewer poultry farms, and two checked in more fruit and nut farms, more vegetable farms and fewer dairy farms.

## Stock Judging Contest Slated

Collegiate judging contests for livestock and dairy cattle will be among the highlights of the 1955 Grand National Livestock Exposition Horse Show and Rodeo, it was announced today by Porter Seaman, president of the Cow Palace board of directors.

Weldon Longbotham of Modesto, California, Junior College, has been named superintendent of the collegiate livestock judging contest, and C. L. Pellissier of Davis, California, will serve in a similar capacity for the collegiate dairy judging contest, under the supervision of Walter T. Rodman, livestock superintendent.

Purpose of the contests was described by the Cow Palace president "to stimulate and encourage livestock students in the proper selection of animals for breeding and feeding purposes, or immediate values for meat, work purposes, and milk production."

Both contests will be held at eight o'clock Saturday morning, October 29. They are open to teams composed of five members and an alternate, regularly enrolled in four-year courses leading to a degree equivalent to the bachelor of science at a recognized college or university, which provides a four year course in agricultural sciences. Members of the team must have attended the institution for at least one scholastic year.

Ten rings of stock will be judged in each contest. In the livestock contest there will be three classes of beef cattle, three of swine, three of sheep and one of light horses. In the dairy contest there will be five classes of cows and five of bulls and heifers in principal breeds. Four animals will constitute a ring.

TRANSPORTS DUE SEATTLE (AP) — Two Navy transports are due here next week from the Far East. The Gen. R. L. Howze is scheduled to arrive Tuesday and the James O'Hara Friday.

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## Potato Advice Given By Adviser

TULELAKE—Potatoes, given a chance, heal their own wounds, according to Roy Edwards, University of California farm adviser at Tulelake. A combination of a moderate temperature of about 60-75 degrees and relatively high humidity is all that is required for new cells to form and the wounded areas cork over in a week or so. For this reason it is not advisable to cool freshly dug potatoes quickly to their best storage temperature of about 40 degrees.

The farm adviser recommends letting them cool gradually to the storage temperature, but get them down to 65-70 degrees as soon as possible. High temperatures can increase decay and other troubles. Cooling the tubers to lower than 55-60 degrees does not improve market quality. It interferes with the healing process.



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