

Farmer Of The Week



THIS METHOD of handling silage has been copied by several dairymen in the Klamath Basin, according to the farm advisers office. Set up by Farmer of the Week Lawrence Geraghty, the manger is at one end of a 102 by 52 foot bunker which has a capacity of 2,500 tons of silage. As the cattle eat, the manger is moved back. Storage of silage this way eliminates any handling of the material to feed the cattle. In the lower picture, Geraghty is checking the seal on his bulk milk truck, the only one he knows of which is owned by farmers in this area. He hauls his own milk and milk of a neighbor to the creamery, and says that the milk arrives in better shape than when hauled in cans.

Merrill Dairyman Develops New Silage Handling Method

(Editor's Note — This is the first in a weekly series of articles about farmers, ranchers and agricultural leaders in the Klamath and Tulelake basins.)

A Klamath Basin dairyman who has developed several innovations which are being copied by other operators in the area is Lawrence Geraghty of Merrill, president of the Klamath Grade A Dairy Producers Association.

Perhaps one of the chief innovations on the Geraghty operation, located almost astride the Merrill city limits, is the method he uses to handle his silage. He stores his silage in a 102 by 52 foot bunker, one end of which is set up as a moveable manger.

As the cows eat, the manger is moved back, a process which takes about two hours a week. This, Geraghty says, is a lot quicker

and easier than the old method of hand forking all silage fed to about 300 cows. Although he refused to be pinned down—he said it would be "bragging"—he estimated that he saved several hundred man hours per month with his system.

The bunker is filled from the back end by specially built wagons, and the material is tamped by tractors to eliminate air spaces. Capacity of the bunker is about 2,500 tons.

Ray Petersen of the farm advisers office, has said that this method of handling silage has been copied by several dairymen in the basin.

Another innovation by Geraghty is the 1500 gallon insulated tank truck he uses to haul his milk to the dairy creamery. He says that this saves both time and money over the old method of hauling the milk in cans, and gets the milk to the creamery in better shape than the old method.

Geraghty says that his is the only such truck he knows of in this area, although the creamery firms use these trucks for hauling bulk milk in other areas.

Geraghty is running about 300 cattle and milking approximately 135. He has two full time men working for him, and is operating four tractors of various types. When he is making silage when something else makes the work load heavy, extra men are hired. Total acreage of his property, which extends north from Merrill, is 420, including 300 which he has purchased recently. He plans to convert the new land into hay, in order to grow some of his own, and was fertilizing it when interviewed last week by Herald and News reporter.

He said that the capital cost of improvements and the low price of milk has caught him and other dairymen in the area in a squeeze, but the dairymen are confident of a price increase in the near future.

A dairyman for 14 years, Geraghty has been producing grade A milk for 10 years.

Irrigation Well Warning Given

All irrigation wells in use in western Oregon prior to August 3, 1955 must be registered with the state engineer before August 3, 1958. Failure to register such a well will result in loss of water rights priority. The well will be considered abandoned. See your county agent or write to the state engineer for details.

Whenever the owner of a perfected water right fails to use the water appropriated for a period of five successive years, the right to use ceases to exist and failure to use shall be presumed to be an abandonment of water right.

Development of ground waters by construction of open pits or sumps is regulated by the Ground Water Act of 1955; permits for such developments are required before construction is started. They can be obtained from the State Engineer, Salem, Oregon.

Farm Assets Rise Over '54

Farm assets in the United States were valued at 163.1 billion dollars on January 1, 1955, compared with 160.9 billion dollars a year earlier and the high of 170.9 billion dollars on January 1, 1952.

The largest dollar increase in farm assets from January 1, 1954—about 2.2 billion dollars—occurred in farm real estate.

The value of crop inventories increased about 0.4 billion dollars in 1954 because of increased quantities in storage.

Decreases in 1954 were recorded in the value of livestock and of machinery and motor vehicles on farms.

Farm debt, including price-support loans, totaled 18.9 billion dollars at the beginning of 1955, nearly 6 per cent more than a year earlier.

Farm-mortgage debt increased in 1954 for the ninth successive year.

PATCH TESTS GIVEN
ALTURAS — Tuberculin patch tests were given Thursday at the Lake City School starting at 9:30 a.m. and at the Mt. Bidwell School starting at 11 a.m. The inoculation of pre-school children is part of the Modoc County public health program.

New Columbia Type Winter Wheat Variety Announced

Release of a new hard red winter wheat variety—Columbia—for seed increase in Oregon and Washington promises to help low rainfall areas swing back into production of high protein bread-type wheat.

F. E. Price, director of the Oregon State College experiment station, announced this week that Columbia has passed final milling and baking trials and that registered seed will be released jointly by experiment stations of the two states. Actual distribution in Oregon will be handled by the Oregon Wheat Growers league at Pendleton.

Columbia is a Rex-Rio by Nebred cross developed at the OSC Sherman branch experiment station at Moro. It has a bearded, common type head with brown chaff and is resistant to both com-

mon and dwarf smut. The new variety has typically fine Turkey straw but is resistant to lodging, and has shown greater resistance to "blasting" than has Rio.

The Oregon Seed Allocation Committee channeled the limited seed supply to selected growers for rapid seed increase to meet demands for commercial seed supplies next year. Committee chairman D. D. Hill, OSC farm crops department head, said most of the

1956 crop will be produced under irrigation in western Umatilla and northern Morrow counties.

Next year's production—the goal is 3,000 to 4,000 bushels in Oregon—will be allocated primarily to low rainfall areas "where it is desirable to swing from soft wheat production back to bread-type wheats," Hill stated.

Large plantings in recent years of high-yielding soft white wheats have piled up a surplus of soft

wheats and brought local shortages of hard wheats for both domestic needs and export markets. Regional millers now import most of their bread-type wheat or flour from the Midwest.

Columbia yields 10 to 15 per cent higher than Rio and other hard winter varieties that have been edged aside through inability to meet yields of the soft wheats. The new variety is more winter-hardy than the leading soft wheats

and is easier to harvest due to a slight height advantage in extremely dry areas.

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Farm Youths Offered Trips

Oregon farm youths still have time to apply for six-month, expense-paid trips under the International Farm Youth Exchange program. Winnifred Gillen, state 4-H extension agent at Oregon State College, announced that applications would be accepted until October 20 from young people wanting to visit other countries.

Three or four Oregonians will be selected to go abroad in 1956. Exchanges need only furnish personal items and camera supplies. The IFYE project is a two-way exchange. Farm delegates from the United States go to one of 45 participating countries for four to six months and exchanges from abroad come to this country on a similar setup.

In order to be eligible for a trip, applicants must be between the ages of 20 and 30, have a farm background, be a high school graduate, and a resident of Oregon. Application forms and details on countries to be visited may be secured by writing to the state 4-H office, OSC.

Roger Detering, Harrisburg, and Donna Mae Linsle, Boring, are two Oregon delegates now overseas. Detering is in Turkey and Miss Linsle in Greece. Gayle Gilmour, Jefferson, leaves October 4 for Brazil. Three IFYE exchanges from Turkey, England and Switzerland are now living on Oregon farms.

Funds for IFYE delegates come from private donors. For several years, the Oregon Bankers Association has sponsored two delegates. Four-H Clubs throughout the state have boosted the program in their county groups and church and civic organizations also have contributed.

Before an IFYE leaves the United States, he is given orientation on geography and agriculture in the country to be visited. "A speaking ability of the native language is not necessary, although it helps," said Miss Gillen.

SPRINKLER IRRIGATION

Of all Oregon farms reporting irrigation 23.4 per cent are using some sprinkler irrigation but only 7.8 per cent of the irrigated land is sprinkler irrigated.

Oregon is second in the nation in land sprinkler irrigated. California is first with 181,000 acres. Oregon is second with 98,000 acres. Washington is third with 67,000 acres. These three states in 1950 had more than half the sprinkler irrigated land in the United States.

Farm Population Shows Decrease

The population living on farms in the United States numbered about 22,158,000 in April 1955, a slight drop from a year earlier and about 3 million down from 1950.

The drop in farm population between 1950 and 1955 represents a continuation of the long-time downward trend, which has reduced the number of farm residents to 12.5 per cent of the total population in 1955, compared with 16.6 per cent in 1950.

1955 Feed Crop Estimate Given

Overall prospects for 1955 feed crops were generally good on September 1, though the corn and sorghum grain crops were reduced sharply by drought in late July and August in the Midwest.

The total supply of feed grains and other concentrates is estimated in September at 195 million tons, 9 per cent larger than the record supply last year and 13 per cent above the 1949-53 average.

The prospective supply per animal unit is also a record and 8 per cent above the 5-year average, after allowing for some further increase in grain-consuming livestock.

The hay supply for 1955-56 is 3 per cent larger than in 1954-55, and is generally ample for the livestock on farms.

Milk, Butterfat Norm Recorded

Prices to farmers for milk and butterfat have been a little above a year earlier since April 1955 and for a year as a whole are likely to average slightly above 1954 though somewhat below 1953.

Consumption of fluid milk and most other dairy products has been above a year earlier.

For 1955 as a whole, the per capita rate for all dairy products may be a little above the 1954 rate of 699 pounds and well above the record low of 688 pounds in 1953.

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