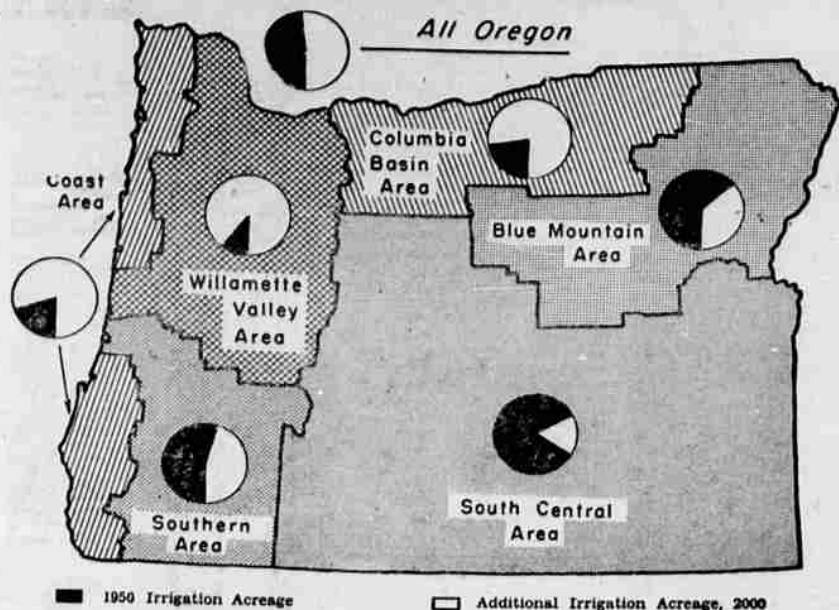


Oregon's Irrigation Potential, 1950-2000



Oregon Irrigation Acreage To Double

OREGON STATE COLLEGE — Oregon's irrigated acreage will more than double in the next half century, a group of Oregon State College agricultural water resource experts has predicted.

The group figures the number of irrigated acres will jump from the 1,357,707 total of 1950 to 2,833,877 by the year 2000.

Increases will be largest in the Coast, Willamette Valley and Columbia Basin areas. Compared to 1950, the group estimates irrigation acreage by 2000 will increase almost 10 times in the Willamette Valley, almost five times along the Coast, 4½ times in the Columbia Basin, nearly double in Southern Oregon, a half in the Blue Mountain area, and a fifth in Central and Southeastern Oregon.

About half the total increased irrigation acreage will be in the Willamette Valley and almost a fourth in the Columbia Basin countries. The remaining acreage will be distributed as follows: Central and Southeastern Oregon, 11 per cent; Blue Mountain area, about 10 per cent; Southern Oregon, 5 per cent; Coast area, 3 per cent.

Total acreage figures for the various areas follow with the 1950 total listed first and the 2000 forecast second: Willamette Valley, 80,195, 782,095; Columbia Basin, 93,842, 431,592; Central and Southeastern Oregon, 854,959, 1,023,879; Blue Mountain area, 260,003, 403,753; Southern Oregon, 75,658, 142,188; and Coast area, 10,050, 49,470.

Estimates were based on 1950 census reports of land under irrigation, and a 1942 report on resource development published by the national resources planning board. Adjustments were made

from recent survey figures of the U.S. army engineers and the bureau of reclamation. Data were projected to estimate water requirements and acreage under irrigation by 2000.

For their estimates, the group assumed that present water source and amounts will not change, that federal and state water development policy will remain about the same, and that demand for farm products will push agricultural prices high enough to overcome most irrigation costs. No increase was predicted where the group figured irrigation costs would be prohibitive.

Group members who conducted the study were Grant Blanch, agricultural economist; H. B. Cheney, head of soils; J. G. Moore, extension conservation specialist; J. B. Rodgers, head of agricultural engineering; and M. N. Shearer, extension irrigation specialist.

Detailed findings are reported in a new OSC publication entitled "An Estimate of Oregon's Irrigable Land." Copies are available from the OSC bulletin clerk or county extension agents.

Background On Government Commodity Surplus Given

By UNITED PRESS

Background on Government Surplus—The big buildup of U.S. farm surplus products began in 1952 when Commodity Credit Corp. owned outright farm products worth one billion dollars . . . rose to \$2,700,000,000 in 1955, not including farm products used as collateral for price support loans . . .

Total investment in surplus as of Oct. 31 was \$7,746,000,000 of which \$1,800,000,000 held under loans . . . Big items in inventory: Wheat, 920 million bushels; corn, 697 million bushels; cotton, 6,340,000 bales; rice, 15,500,000 hundredweight; dairy products, 796 million pounds . . .

Government not only pays out billions to buy up surpluses, but storage costs for all products amount to about one million dol-

lars every day . . . wheat storage alone ranges upward from 150 million dollars annually . . .

All-out farm production needed for World War II and Korean War led to much of surplus accumulation . . . After Korean War farmer didn't halt production . . . U.S. export trade dropped and U.S. couldn't eat all it produced . . . Additional donation of wheat and corn to foreign relief will take only about eight million bushels from U.S. wheat hoard . . .

Officials held off previously from foreign relief donations because feared might supplant regular markets, thus hurting export situation more . . . Also some hesitancy about sending free wheat and corn abroad on ground legislative intent of Congress did not permit it . . . Idea changed because everyone wants to reduce surplus . . .

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