

Experts Say Fort Rock Homesteaders Face Tough Fight

Homesteaders in the Fort Rock-Christmas Lake area of northern Lake County face a long, hard pull if they expect to make a success of farming, two agricultural economists said recently.

Writing in the winter issue of Oregon's Agricultural Progress, Emery Castle, Oregon State College agricultural economist, and Carroll Dwyer, economist for the Soil Conservation Service, said that unpredictable and usually short growing seasons, inability to obtain allotments on public grazing land and long distances to markets will combine to squeeze new irrigation farmers in the area.

Their prescription to success: plenty of money and good management.

Even then, they say, things will be tough.

They based their conclusion on a study of possible management

schemes for using irrigational water in the area.

In 1952, the U.S. Geological Survey reported the presence of sufficient underground water to irrigate about 32,000 acres, or about nine per cent of the area, much of which is already privately owned.

Knowledge of this water and the recent completion of an electric power line to the area has raised the question of developing either homestead or privately owned land through pump irrigation they reported.

But, they said, which type of farming would return the most money.

Their answer to this question is the irrigation of alfalfa for a cow-calf operation. They added that this solution has already been adopted by several ranchers in the area.

The economists compared four

types of management schemes, and estimated the yearly profit or loss from each. The result of their comparison is shown in the accompanying chart.

The costs, yields and estimated returns were based on past returns and costs of farming operations in other intermountain areas.

They set the acreage minimum at the acreage needed to support 100 cows, which they estimated to be the minimum for the area.

According to the figures in the table, organization type number two, raising alfalfa as a cash crop, will show a slight profit providing three tons of hay per acre is raised. And, they say, Lake County experience has generally been in the neighborhood of a two-ton yield.

They say that with a break on the weather, a three-ton yield is possible but "not a sure thing."

Many crops and livestock possibilities were not considered, either because yield information was not available, or because the growing season indicated that the crops would be impractical.

Risks other than climate were also reported by the economists. Longtime yield records are not available, so prospective homesteaders must gamble over the long pull.

Also, they say, well drilling costs are not known, and if a sandy formation is found, there will be a terrific cost before a reliable well is sunk.

The economists also reported that considerable initial investment would be required before a going homestead could be set up.

Total investment requirements estimated by the writers were:

For cow yearling operation (type one), \$44,600.

For irrigated cash crop (type

two), \$33,700.

Cow-yearling, irrigated alfalfa hay (type three), \$57,350.

Cow-yearling-baby beef, irrigated pasture (type four), \$83,080.

The combination of these investment requirements and costs shown in the chart can mean financial loss in periods of low prices or poor weather, the economists said.

They added that some ranchers in the area are using their irrigated land to produce roughage for livestock that is wintered elsewhere, with their produce serving to supplement another operation.

Other ranchers, they said, are planning to drill wells, figuring that irrigation will increase the income from their existing cattle operations. This would, in effect, mean switching from organization type one to type three.

Both of these two plans, the economists said, should prove profitable.

News Changed To Full Size

The Klamath News clung to its five-column width through the early years of its twice and thrice-a-week publication, but when it entered the daily field it changed over to the standard blanket-sheet.

So much for the physical aspects of this new paper. The mentality of this journalistic youngster was bright but conservative. It spent its good ink and energy boosting the things so vital to the Klamath Empire. Railroads, lumbering, farming, livestock, irrigation—these the News helped bring into reality. The rival Evening Herald was directed by the outspoken pen of E. J. Murray, noted Oregon publisher who now resides at San Francisco. Perhaps as a reaction against the aggressive writings of the Murray-operated Herald, the News selected its goal and moved toward it down a middle road.

The Klamath News had character and Governor Walter M. Pierce reached the core of things when he sent the following message to the publishers on November 13, 1923.

"I am pleased to know that you are going to advocate law enforcement and strong public opinion and that you will maintain a moral tone of respect for schools and churches."

Business was good right from the start, Otterbein said, the venture appeared justified a little more than a month after the first issue when the paper was able to announce that it had gained the leadership in country circulation. It has never relinquished that advantage.

Finding that its readers demanded more than a complete coverage of Klamath Falls and Klamath county events, early in 1924 the News became a client of the United News service. The two issues of the paper each week brought a skeletonized account of everything that had happened in the outside world.

June 3, 1924, marked an important day in the life of the News. Business was so brisk, the publishers announced stepping up the publication days from two to three—Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. In addition to the United News, the paper became a client of the United Press, world-wide press association, and for the first time received night and day protection on what was going on outside the borders of its own territory.

EXPLANATION

LAKE GEORGE, N.Y. (AP)—Sgt. William O'Riley of the Lake George police department reports this explanation of a woman he stopped for driving 60 m.p.h. in the village: "Well, my tires are bad, and I just wanted to get home before they gave out."



THIS BASEMENT OFFICE located under the present location of Dick Reeder's store at Fifth and Main, was the location of the Evening Herald and The News from 1927 until 1936, when the combined papers were moved to their present location at Main and Esplanade. All editorial, advertising and business offices were in the basement in addition to the pressroom and composing room.

Grain Growers Using Price Support Told Of Deadline

Klamath County farmers who have or will have 1955-crop grain under price support and stored in public warehouses are reminded that they have a limited time to pay off their loans.

If such loans are not paid off by the time indicated, the commodity becomes the property of the Commodity Credit Corporation, according to William Burnett, chairman of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee.

He said borrowers may repay their loans before the dates indicated and are urged to do so where market prices are above the loan and the carrying charges. Farmers desiring to redeem their warehouse receipts must have their funds in the mail on or before the final date for repayment.

Burnett also advises that if loans are not repaid and if the market price is in excess of the loan value plus interest and charges, producers of the commodity under loan will be paid the difference by CCC. In these cases settlement will be based on the market value as of the close of the market on the final date of repayment and the loan value, plus interest and charge.

The maturity dates for loans on warehouse-stored commodities are as follows:

Barley, dry edible beans, flaxseed, oats, rye—April 30, 1956.

Wheat—March 31, 1956.

The maturity dates are also the final dates for repayment of loans

with the exception of wheat, which is April 2, 1956.

Burnett said that the settlement as indicated applies only to warehouse-stored loans and does not modify in any way the operations of the price-support program for farm stored commodities or those under purchase agreement.

In the case of farm-stored loan commodities, he explained, producers usually have a period after the loan maturity date to elect either to deliver the commodity or repay the loan. This period is needed to make storage arrangements and to issue instructions for farm-stored commodities delivered to CCC. Under purchase agreements, producers must offer to sell the commodity to CCC prior to the maturity date for farm and warehouse-stored loans.

However, the producer still may elect to deliver or not when the final delivery instructions are issued.

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	Farm Organization*			
	1	2	3	4
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Farm Receipts				
Crop sales	—	10,001	866	360
Livestock sales	7,032	—	9,208	12,351
Total receipts	7,032	10,001	10,074	12,711
Farm Expenses				
Crop expenses	712	3,600	1,520	4,280
Livestock expenses	127	—	129	122
Feed	3,380	—	221	821
Hired labor	276	863	678	1,479
Taxes and misc.	437	337	573	831
Power costs	—	1,154	509	1,839
Depreciation				
Machinery and equipment	947	1,076	1,127	1,366
Irrigation system	—	596	371	996
Total expenses	5,879	7,626	5,128	11,734
Net Farm Income	1,153	2,375	4,946	977
5% interest on real estate	560	255	560	660
7% interest on other investment	2,342	2,003	3,230	4,892
Operator's Return for Management and Labor	-1,749	117	1,156	-4,575

* Organization 1: cow-yearling, 320 acres owned, some irrigated. Tillable land used for rye hay. Public range land available, and cow-yearling main source of income. 100 cows. Organization 2: irrigated cash crop, 160 acres. Alfalfa for cash main source of income. No livestock. Barley grown in rotation. Organization 3: cow-yearling, irrigated alfalfa hay. Similar to organization 1 except an acreage is irrigated for livestock feed. Organization 4: cow-yearling, baby beef, irrigated pasture. Irrigated pasture replaces public rangeland. Calves fed concentrates and sold as baby beef. Besides pasture, alfalfa and barley irrigated to provide feed. 100 cows, 320 acres.

Fires Blamed On Carelessness

Many home handymen create fire hazards in their workshops through carelessness in disposing of waste materials. An ideal container for the scraps of wood, shavings and sawdust is a fire-proof, galvanized steel garbage can, equipped with a cover.

In the event of a fire among the waste materials in the can, the close-fitting cover confines the blaze to the contents of the can and quickly quenches the fire by starving it for oxygen.

If the workshop is of the larger, basement variety, the full-size galvanized can is recommended for its capacity. When the do-it-yourself expert is limited to a workbench, the smaller garbage pail will be adequate.

The handles on the side of the larger can and the wire bail on

UNDERGROUND BURGLAR

MARSHALL, Tex. (AP)—For the second time in recent weeks, a burglar who prefers to crawl under the building and enter by ripping a hole in the floor took \$30 in cash and an undetermined amount of merchandise from the S. P. Woods grocery store. On his first trip the underground burglar got \$41.70 worth of nylon hose and eight cartons of cigarettes.

the top of the garbage pail make both easy to carry when moving them outside for collection.

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