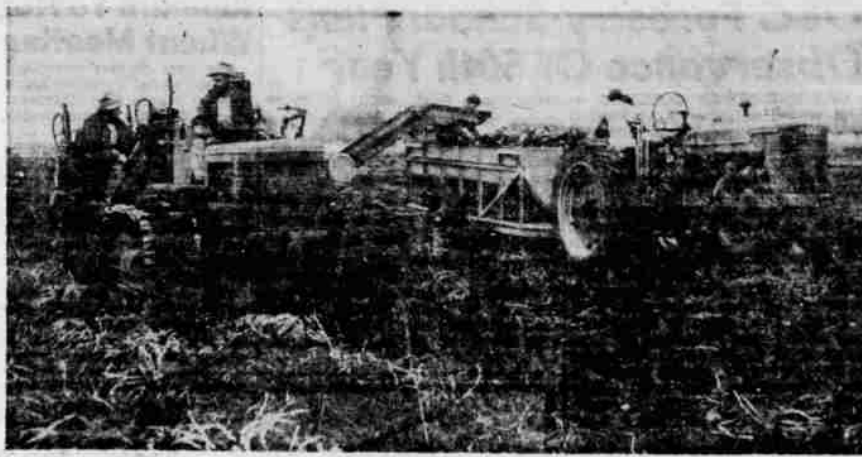




THIS POTATO BULKER, operating in the Malin district, saved its owner about half of his harvesting costs over hand harvesting methods, according to figures released recently by Cliff Jenkins, manager of the Tulelake Growers Association. Jenkins said that last year approximately 45 per cent of the crop in the Tulelake Basin was harvested by mechanical methods.

Harvesting By Machines On Increase

TULELAKE—Mechanized potato harvesting, which has been on a steady increase in the past several years, has cut harvest costs in half for the growers using it, Cliff Jenkins, manager of the Tulelake Growers Association, reported recently.

Jenkins said that the reasons were two-fold. First, the labor force needed to harvest potatoes is sharply reduced, and second, the mechanical pickers and bulkers are easier on the potatoes than hand pickers.

In the 1955 harvest, he said, about 65 per cent of the potatoes in the Tulelake Basin were picked using bulkers. He predicted that a higher percentage would mechanize in future years.

He said that the labor shortage, with its resultant increase in wages and difficulties in obtaining help for hard-to-work fields, has steadily raised the costs of hand-har-

vesting the potatoes in the past years to the point where growers are willing to stand the high initial costs of the bulking equipment.

Jenkins said, however, that despite the increased use of mechanized harvesting hand labor would still be needed. There are many fields, he explained, which are unsuited for one reason or another for use of bulkers. Some of the reasons include bad soil texture, irregular size and insufficient acreage to make the bulker pay.

He said, too, that there is much

room for improvement in the bulkers themselves. One of the major needs, he said, was an improvement in the elimination of dirt clods from the picked potatoes.

The bulkers, which are run for an average of 20 days per season, will harvest about five to seven acres per day, depending on conditions. The crew requirements run about seven men per bulker.

The labor problem is further simplified, Jenkins said, because, with the smaller manning requirements, a greater percentage of labor needs can be filled by local people.

California Conservationist Gives Storm Damage Report

John S. Barnes, state conservationist for the United States Soil Conservation Service in Berkeley, last week released a land damage report on the recent storms which ravaged California.

A summary of investigations made by trained soil conservationists throughout the state shows that 6,629 acres of topsoil were totally lost, or so severely damaged as to be out of production indefinitely.

This was on orchard, vineyard and pasture land worth at least \$1000 per acre, resulting in a loss of \$6,629,000. At a gross income of \$400 per acre, this would amount to a total yearly loss of \$2,721,600 to the state's agricultural income.

Besides this total loss, Barnes points out, approximately 15 million tons of soil were lost from more than one-half million acres. This loss ranged from less than one inch up to eight or 10 inches of topsoil. It represents an average decrease of at least \$10 an acre in productive capacity, or five million dollars per year for an indefinite number of years to come.

One and three-fourths million acres of land were inundated by six inches to 10 feet of water. This occurred on some of the most productive land in California. The amount of this damage will not be known until the end of the coming crop season.

In summing up, Barnes stated that 12 million dollars is a very conservative estimate of the known land damage. In addition, a potential yearly income of several million dollars is permanently lost.

On the brighter side, the report showed that soil and water conservation practices, such as protec-

tive vegetation, adequate drainage, flood prevention dams and channel and stream bank protection measures applied by various soil conservation districts in the State were extremely effective in preventing greater losses.

A typical example was the Pine Creek Dam which was completed by the Contra Costa Soil Conservation District, in cooperation with the County Flood Control District, just before the storm. If this dam had not been finished in time, Ygnacio Valley near Walnut Creek would have been severely flooded.

Carlisle Rich, Contra Costa County Flood Control Engineer, estimates that the dam prevented about \$100,000 of damage.

The Pine Creek Dam is part of a complete flood control and watershed protection program under development in the Walnut Creek watershed.

"This," said Barnes "is the type

of work needed in all the smaller watersheds in the State to supplement the major dams in order to get as complete protection as possible against similar future disasters."

How To Clean Hardwood Floors
Hardwood floors normally should never be cleaned with water, says the Maple Flooring Manufacturers Assn. Dust clean them with a soft brush, dry mop or cloth.

If the floor is soiled or spot stained, rub it with a mop or cloth moistened slightly with penetrating sealer, turpentine or furniture polish. This treatment is especially effective on tight-grained hardwoods such as maple and birch.

Farming Land Value Studied

Farm land values, high during the past two years, have been supported by several factors other than farm income, reports Manning Becker, farm management specialist at Oregon State College.

In the past, the value of farm land and buildings went up when farm income increased and went down when farm income declined. But since 1953, farm land values have slowly and steadily risen to a new record high in the face of declining farm income.

And regular reports to the U.S. Department of Agriculture from 16,000 farmers and 10,000 real estate men show this to be a nationwide trend.

Becker says several factors are probably responsible for this unexpected strength in farm land values:

First, farmers are strong bidders for additional land to enlarge their own farming operations. Many farmers see the use of machinery on more land as a way to increase their production efficiency in the face of the present cost-price squeeze.

Second, it's been easier to obtain credit for farm purchases. Several large lenders reduced interest rates and raised appraised values for loan purposes in 1954.

Third, a booming non-farm economy has encouraged investment in farm land by urban people.

Despite the influence of these three factors on land values during the past few years, Becker believes that over the years farm land values will depend—as they have in the past—upon the general level of farm earnings.

Some current investments in farm land may be based on the belief that land will develop "scarcity" value as our population continues to increase. But Becker thinks technical advances in agriculture during the next 20 years will make it possible for farmers to produce all our population will need from present farm acreage.



FRANK MANLEY has been appointed tester by the Klamath Dairy Herd Improvement Association. The appointment was announced at the joint annual meeting of the association and the Klamath Dairymen's Association, held last Monday. Manley, who replaces Richard Beck as tester, has worked in the dairy industry in Tillamook County, and has attended Oregon Technical Institute. Beck has accepted a position in Idaho.

BEE RULES

Arizona has changed its rules to permit queen bees shipped from other states to be released to the consignee immediately upon arrival. However, shippers must not use comb or honey in their shipment of bees. Queens arriving with comb or honey will continue to be subject to inspection and release by the Arizona state entomologist. Under this ruling, queens should be shipped with food other than honey. This new ruling is now in effect, according to word received by the Oregon Department of Agriculture at Salem.

'Open' Rooms Add To Space

Despite the trend toward open-plan living, where areas are limited in smaller homes, there need be no sacrifice of functional efficiency for the sake of harmonious styling in the kitchen. By using space-saving built-in appliances, housed in and surrounded by the latest steel cabinets, work centers can be established in the "open" steel kitchen of any size that blend decoratively with the rest of the home.

An example of such contemporary planning being used more frequently today, is the compact kitchen which opens into a laundry or dining area. With one wall eliminated, cooking and baking chores are centered on an adjacent wall. All of the storage and counter surface needed in each area is furnished in step-saving sequence.

Surface cooking burners and a separate waist-high oven are installed in warp-free, non-splintering steel cabinets that provide storage space above, below, and alongside the built-in appliances. Ample work counters are provided in between. Every inch of space is put to work, yet the area neither looks nor feels cramped. Handy steel cabinets even are installed beneath wall units to hold condiments and other small, hard to store supplies.

Harmony of design, plus a feeling of spaciousness is achieved by teaming durable built-ins with varied steel storage units that fit walls in a smooth, inline assembly. Regardless of the color scheme chosen throughout the open-planned home, today's steel cabinets are available in colors, including white, that blend or contrast with the general tones of the rooms.

Even the sometimes acute problem of providing good ventilation in open-plan homes is overcome in the latest steel kitchens. A ventilator cabinet over the surface cooking units not only keeps the kitchen clean and cool but prevents cooking odors, fumes and heat from escaping to other rooms.

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