

Agriculture Unit Handles Weight Task

Oregon's Department of Agriculture is now handling all weights and measures inspection work done in the state.

Until July 1, the city of Portland had maintained a one-man bureau of weights and measures to handle testing of retail scales and service station pumps in that city. City council action dissolved the bureau and now state inspectors are in the process of testing pumps in the estimated 1,500 service stations in that city.

Portland's transition to state testing began in 1954 when the city withdrew from heavy duty scale testing because of the prohibitive cost of duplicating the expensive equipment necessary to do the job. In 1955, the state took over testing scales and meters of wholesale businesses for the same economy reasons.

Leo Weber, who was formerly the district inspector in the Hillsboro area, is now supervising weights and measures inspections in Portland. His headquarters are in the department's Portland branch office in the Portland state office building.

The state weights and measures testing work is directed by O. K. Beals, chief of the department's division of foods and dairies, weights and measures, and by W. B. Steele, deputy state sealer.

Three inspectors and three one-half ton pickup trucks with testing equipment are assigned to Portland to cover inspection of the more than 11,000 retail gasoline pumps and small scales. Robert J. Steward, director of the department, said more inspectors will be assigned if necessary.

Inspection fees are the same in Portland as in the rest of the state. The license fee for retail gasoline pumps is \$2 and for scales under 300 pounds, \$1 annually.

Less Fat In Beef Sought

By United Press International

The California Cattlemen's Association has given a go-ahead to the University of California at Davis to begin a research program developing a beef animal with less fat.

The university will share in the expense of the research, while packers and other livestock groups are being urged to plan ways and means of helping the Cattlemen's Association and the university finance the program.

Chairman of the university's animal husbandry department Dr. H. H. Cole suggests four ways the research program will help the livestock industry.

First, he says such a program should lead to better methods of measuring beef quality in live animals.

Second, it should enhance quality by better processing procedures.

Third, the feeding and care of beef animals should be advanced a great deal, and fourth, beef quality should be improved through scientific selection to discover more strains of superior cattle yielding a larger percentage of high quality meat.

Dr. D. J. Warwick, head of beef cattle research in Beltsville, Maryland, says this is the first time that such a unified program has ever been considered in the history of the beef cattle industry.

LOWER CATASTROPHE TOLL

NEW YORK (UPI)—Catastrophes—accidents in which five or more persons are killed—took slightly more than 800 lives in the U.S. during the first six months of 1958, according to the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. For the corresponding period of 1957, the toll was about 1,200, including at least 350 deaths from Hurricane Audrey in June.

Seed Technology Course Offered At State College

OREGON STATE COLLEGE—A new program of study for students interested in seed technology, including seed production, testing, and processing, has been developed in the school of agriculture at Oregon State College.

Rapid growth and development of the seed industry in recent years, a demand for trained seed workers, and the fact that Oregon has become one of the big seed centers of the world prompted organization of the program, according to Dr. D. D. Hill, head of the farm crops department.

OSC is believed to have been the first college in the U.S. to offer courses in seed production 40 years ago. It has also received international recognition for its work in helping develop the seed industry, Hill noted. The heads of the seed programs in Chile and Costa Rica, for example, will

be enrolled this year at OSC for advanced training.

The new program will draw together existing courses now being offered in various phases of seed technology on the OSC campus. These include: farm crops—production methods and weed control; agricultural engineering—harvesting and processing; plant pathology—disease control; and entomology—work with both deleterious and beneficial insects in seed production.

Other opportunities for training and experience are provided for students in the college's seed testing laboratory, one of the nation's largest; in research programs di-

rected by OSC and U.S. Department of agriculture scientists on campus; and by the state's seed industry. Oregon now ranks as one of the world's largest and most diversified seed producing areas. Representatives of the seed industry have urged development of the seed technology study program, Hill said.

"Fifty years ago, seed buying and selling was a neighborhood affair. Since then, the seed industry has made tremendous advancements with its quality certification programs, testing laboratories, research, and regulations for seed shipments. The new program of study will prepare stu-

dents for leadership in the industry," Hill concluded.

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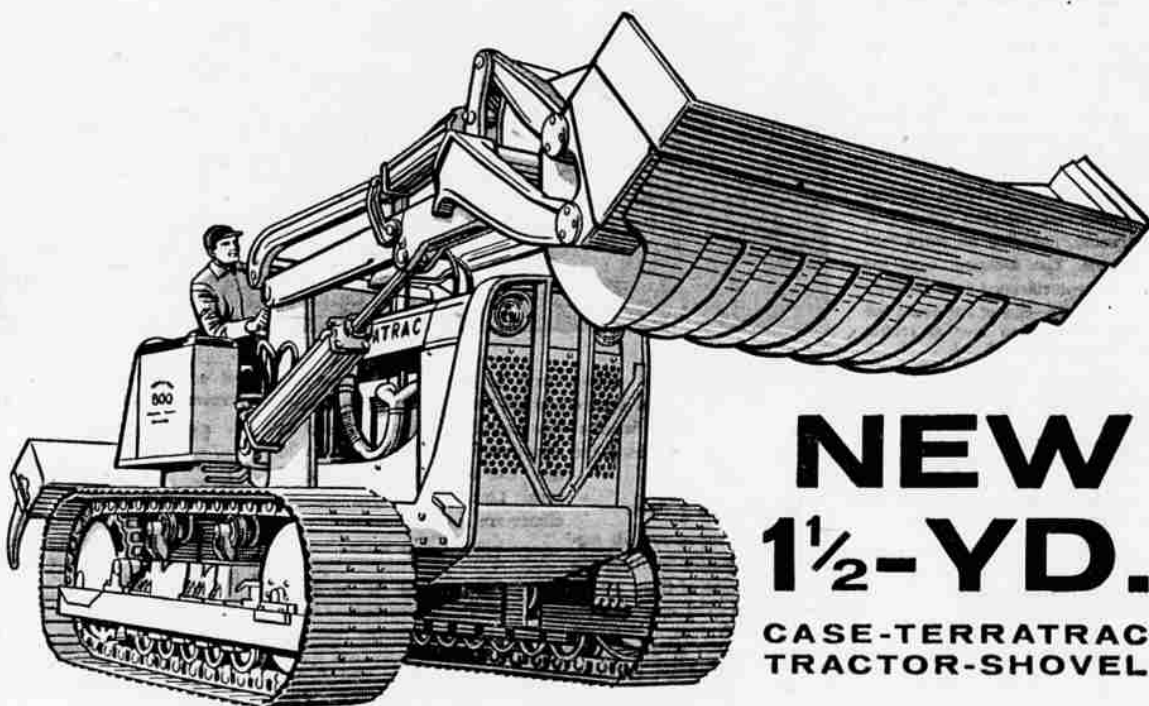
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