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More, Better Pork Seen For Oregon With Start

More and better Oregon-grown pork will result from the new industry-sponsored swine testing station near Hermiston, predicts Dr. J. C. Miller, head of the dairy and animal husbandry department at Oregon State College.

Boars and market hogs will be accepted for testing Oct. 24 at the Umatilla branch of the OSC agricultural experiment station. Swine testing facilities have been provided

there by the Oregon Wheat Commission. Dr. David England, OSC animal husbandman, will be in charge.

Dedication ceremonies for the swine testing facilities will be held early next spring at the close of the first testing period, England reports. Pigs will be on test from the time they weigh about 50 pounds until they reach 200 pounds, approximately 100 days.

Miller says the increasing supply of feed grains and high hog market in the Pacific Northwest are combining to make hog production a "natural" for many Oregon farmers. Pacific Coast states now ship in about 70 percent of their pork needs, mainly from the Midwest. He said the new testing station should stimulate hog production by giving better animals.

Miller called the station a tool for identifying and perpetuating superior breeding stock. At completion of the test period most desirable boars will be made available for breeding stock. Boars will be evaluated on rate and economy of gain, thickness of backfat and body conformation.

Carcass evaluation will be made of market hogs when they're slaughtered to determine best ones from consumer standpoint. Length of carcass, thickness of backfat, area of loin eye and percentage of lean cuts are measures by which carcasses are evaluated, Miller noted. Carcass data along with feed efficiency help determine most desirable hogs.

About 250 pigs will be tested annually at the station. Producers interested in placing hogs on test can get further information and application blanks from their county agent.



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California's Pheasant Plan To Undergo Drastic Changes If Present Thinking Works

SACRAMENTO (UPI) — California's put-and-take pheasant program is undergoing a major operation to give it a little less hold on the state's purse strings.

Officials of the Fish and Game Department reported on future plans at a recent Los Angeles meeting of the F&G Commission, the policy agency.

Director William E. Warne later announced plans to abolish the Fresno Game farm at the end of this year at the request of the Fresno County Sportsmen's Club which owns the property. Fresno's pheasant production will be handled at Yountville.

But that isn't all. The agency plans additional consolidations of state game farms soon. Warne announced that the Los Serranos Game Farm is being moved to a new location at the Chico prison, where prison labor will be used to operate the

facility.

The Valley Center and Brawley Game Farm production will be shifted to Chico within the next two years "if public acceptance can be gained," Warne said.

Additionally, plans are under consideration to drop the Sacramento, Marysville and Chico farms in the "foreseeable future."

This would leave two state game farms, Yountville and the Chico prison, for all production.

"Those two farms will be used for experimental purposes where a controlled condition is required," Warne's report said. The farms would be used for holding and rearing limited numbers of game birds of the partridge and pheasant species to release on an "experimental basis" and for "limited productions" of Chinese ring-necked pheasant chicks for distribution to youth groups, rehabilitation centers and so forth.

But the state would still supply free of charge day-old and month-old chicks to cooperating sportsmen's groups which then raise the birds, release them and shoot them.

"In 1955 the Legislature made basic changes in the Licensed Pheasant Club Law which encouraged a private put-take system in the non-pheasant habits of the state," Warne's report said.

"Since that time," he added, "private enterprise has rapidly assumed the position of being able to supply put-take shooting to those who favor and can afford this type of recreation."

For instance, in 1958, a total of 35 clubs were licensed involving 28,000 acres of land. More than 60,000 privately-reared and privately purchased pheasants were released on these areas last year, supplying more than 14,000 hunter days for the clubs.

"Thus it can be seen that in a short period of three years private enterprise has developed a program of put-take shooting that transcends that of the department," the report continued.

"Furthermore, it is on a pay-as-you-go basis at no cost to the department other than nominal inspections."

The state has fallen into second place in total production of birds on the basis of the 1958 figures. While more than 60,000 were being released by sportsmen, the state let go 50,292.

But at the same time the state had 26,172 chicks in pens for a total of 76,464.

Probably the state could have done more of this work, but the commission in May 1952 asked the department to cut production of game farm birds to 50,000.

Historically, the state has been moving up and down on bird production. In 1946 there were 14 state game farms on either a full time or part time basis. Three more—at Chico, Marysville and Los Banos—were built in 1947 to bring the total to 17.

Then, in 1952, the decline began. Right now there are eight state game farms employing 34 permanent employees and production has been kept around 50,000 birds.

How much does this cost? The department says this is a difficult figure to arrive at but back in 1955 a survey on the cost was taken at the request of the legislative auditor. Then it cost \$3.61 to rear an adult bird that could be released for hunters.

Department experts believe that figure could stand substantially now, because although costs have been increasing in some respects the consolidation program has been bringing per-bird cost down proportionately.

Sawdust Is Used More

NEW YORK (UPI) — Sawdust, the lowly leavings of lumbering, is getting up off the floor. Once recognized only as the stuff you walked on in the butchershop, saloon and restaurant, it is becoming an important by-product of tree farming.

In its new uses, sawdust has taken on many disguises. One example is the briquette, produced by compressing sawdust under heavy pressure into large log-like pieces for both home and industry fuel use. Sawdust also is the main ingredient of plastic wood utilized for patching purposes. Graded sawdust in recent years has found new use as fiber for board products, and increasing use is being made of sawdust as filler for saturating felt, asphalt shingles and the like.

Researchers have found that sawdust is a good mixer. This has enabled it to become a partner in such products as concrete and sawdust (instead of sand); cast products and sawdust, including tile, fire brick, shingles, plumbing ware and floor marble; gypsum compositions such as interior partitions, floor and wall insulation, wall board and roofing materials. Other little-known uses for sawdust are as packing material for grapes and other goods in transit, in the manufacture of such articles as dolls' heads, and as an absorbent.

Cat Freed: Bites Hand

FORT WALTON BEACH, Fla. (UPI)—A housewife here put a load of sheets in the clothes dryer and turned on the machine.

Suddenly there was a strange bumping noise. The housewife called her husband, an Air Force major, who opened the dryer. Out staggered the family tomat.

The cat's eyes were glassy, his tongue was hanging out and his fur was standing on end. He could hardly catch his breath.

The major tried to apply artificial respiration.

The cat retaliated by biting the major.

Dr. James B. Kinsaul, local veterinarian, withheld the major's name and refused to identify the cat.

But he said the cat would recover. And so would the major.

No Brakes For Lady Car Dealer

LOS ANGELES (UPI)—Barbara Holt, fit and fortyish, is doing more than well in a man's field.

She is president and owner of two large new car dealerships. One is a domestic brand (Dodge-Plymouth) and the other a Japanese car (Toyopet).

The executive's firm (Holt Motor Co.) is rated among the top 10 domestic dealerships in this country. She also was the first dealer in the nation to handle the six-passenger Japanese sedan.

"Many persons are surprised to find a woman who heads an auto agency," she said. "I don't see anything so odd about it."

"My husband, Elwyn, was a car dealer and a client of a law firm for which I worked in the San Fernando Valley, where my agencies are. After we were married, I became secretary and treasurer of his agency and later vice president.

"After he died in 1956, I became president."

The versatile grandmother—she has two daughters—is an accomplished horsewoman and was reared on a cattle ranch. She also relaxes by going deer and pheasant hunting in Oregon and playing the violin and organ.

"I have 160 persons working for me," she said. "I make it a point to get away from my desk as often as I can. I talk cars with salesmen and mechanics, and I even sell a few when it doesn't upset the organization or our company."

"Men didn't want me to be a dealer," she said. "They said it wasn't the kind of work a woman should do. Tsk tsk."