



CAPTURES SHEEP HONORS — Hampshire sheep brought championship honors to Karen Dean, right, Klamath Falls, in 4-H competition at the Oregon State Fair. She exhibited a Hampshire ewe lamb to win grand champion honors and her producing ewe was named reserve champion. In addition, she also showed the champion Hampshire ram lamb and 4-H member's flock.



PRIZE LAMB — The reserve champion 4-H market lamb at the Oregon State Fair was this Southdown Cross exhibited by Diane Vanderhoff, Klamath Falls. She won the honor on her first trip to the fair.

Sheep Care Book Issued

Newest recommended treatment for internal parasites of sheep—thibenzole—is explained in a newly-revised Oregon State University bulletin on sheep management.

John H. Landers Jr., extension animal science specialist who wrote the bulletin, points out that small flocks of sheep often are profitable for owners of rural homes and small farms. Sheep don't need an elaborate building setup and they don't require a lot of labor.

Besides outlining recommended treatments for diseases and parasites, the bulletin includes information on shearing and marketing. It tells how to care for newborn lambs, and gives pointers for selecting rams and ewes.

In discussing feed requirements, Landers points out that abundant pasture is the backbone of a sheep enterprise. He says, in general, sheep are best adapted to well-drained soils and require plenty of hay and pasture.

Improvement Talked For Slaughter Steers

Some improvement in prices from the August level is in prospect for Oregon slaughter steers later this year, but odds are against sustained price strength into 1964, reports Stephen C. Marks, Oregon State University extension agricultural economist.

Marks gives his views in the new Oregon Farm and Market Outlook circular. Copies of the circular are available from county extension offices or from the OSU Bulletin Clerk.

In the next five years, there is no indication of a price bust, assuming no widespread severe drought, but prices are more likely to work gradually lower than higher as cattle numbers continue to increase, Marks notes.

Although consumers are expected to have greater ability and willingness to spend for meat in the year ahead, prospects are that meat supplies will remain large enough to offset these price bolstering factors, the economist added.

In both the short and long-term outlook, national market supply of slaughter cattle and beef will be the most influential direct force on any change in fed cattle prices. Changes in supplies of competing meats will exert a less direct influence, Marks writes.

While total U.S. beef output the rest of this year is expected to stay above the last half of 1962, some decline from the current large national supplies of graded beef is indicated for the latter part of the fourth quarter.

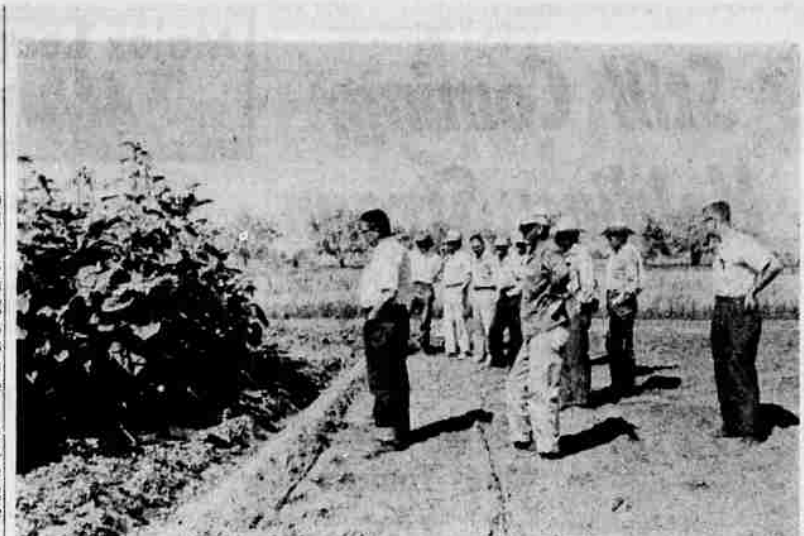
Thus, a moderate up-turn in prices for Oregon choice slaughter steers appears likely, Marks believes. Partly offsetting the decline in beef supplies are prospects for larger quantities of pork and poultry meat.

Market prospects for the first half of 1964 don't look so bright, Marks said, because an earlier lag in western feedlot placements was more than offset by sharp increases in placements in California, Arizona and Colorado during July.

Favorable range conditions in Oregon and other Pacific Coast states and the Northern Plains should permit orderly marketings of feeder cattle in these areas this fall, he points out. However, producers in the Central and Southern Plains will be less fortunate unless late summer rains improve grass prospects and prevent early movement of feeder cattle.

In the long run, while further expansion in beef cattle numbers is encouraged by the optimistic outlook for beef, national increases much greater than in recent years could lead to price problems, Marks cautions.

Lamb prices probably have reached their seasonal low for 1963, somewhat below the level of August, 1962. Except for week-to-week variations, not much change in Oregon slaughter lamb prices seems likely until next spring, Marks said. Feeder lamb prices will likely make the usual summer to fall advance.



INSPECTION TOUR — Sunflower hybrid (oil seed crop possibilities) are inspected by this group during a recent potato field day. Left to right are Dr. Foote, OSU; Leland Cheyne, LaVerne Haskins, Walt Jendrzewski, Earl Mack, Bert Wilcox, Tom Jackson, OSU soil specialist; Gene Gross, Louis Randall and Dr. Horace Cheney, head of the OSU Soils Department. The field day drew over 50 people. — County Agent Photo

Fall Is Time To Begin Planning Necessary Fertilizer Application

Fall is the best time to apply fertilizer to Western Oregon fields and farmers should be planning the necessary applications now, reminds Arthur S. King, Oregon State University extension soils specialist.

Fall fertilization practices are easy and mean better yields next year—particularly on forage and other perennial crops — when made any time from early September until rain saturates the soil, he points out.

When planning fertilizer programs, farmers should also remember the value of soil testing, King stresses. When existing levels of potash, phosphorus, lime and boron are adequate, even fall applications will not pay.

Last year's soil test can guide this year's applications, but don't depend on older tests, King warns. Good yields can change plant nutrient levels in a short time. Soil sample boxes, directions and information sheets can be obtained from county extension offices or from many fertilizer dealers.

Reasons for fall application of fertilizer are many, the specialist says. In Western Oregon, most perennial forage crops and winter annuals start growing in the fall and adequate fertilization at this stage helps next year's yields. Winter rains will move fertilizer down to the root zone, where it is needed.

Fertilizing in the fall is easier. All parts of the field can be covered with power equipment easily and quickly. Fall applications avoid the damaging soil compaction which often accompanies spring applications.

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OSU Researchers Developing Machines For Seed Analysis

Machines designed to speed up seed analysis are being developed by Oregon State University researchers in a move which may bring partial mechanization to the world's seed testing laboratories.

Seed testing operations have changed little in the past 50 years, with all purity analysis work being done by hand. Experimental models of four machines developed at OSU may bring about some of the first changes.

The work is being done under a three-year contract between the OSU Agricultural Experiment Station and the Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Edward Hardin, seed technologist, and Byron Mikkelson, assistant in agricultural engineering, are heading up the cooperative project between the farm crops and agricultural engineering departments.

The Pacific Coast Seed Association and the Seed Research Foundation of the American Seed Trade Association encouraged the initiation of the research project as a means of striving to put a better quality product on the market, points out J. Ritchie Cowan, head of the farm crops department.

Two of the machines deal with the examination of seed by the analyst. Tests of the first machine, designed primarily to protect the analyst from dust and chemical fumes, indicate the work can be done faster.

To be used for larger seeds such as cereal grains, the machine features an enclosed unit which allows the analyst to inspect the seed without touching it or breathing dust or fumes of the mercuric compounds with which some seeds are treated. Fumes and dust are removed by vacuum.

The second examination machine was designed to speed up the examination of smaller seeds and to give better optical vision to the analyst. Seeds move through the machine on a belt. It also features a moveable microscope by which the analyst can examine all seeds on a given area of the belt faster and easier.

The other two machines are designed to partially separate seed samples before they reach the analyst. This is now done mostly by hand.

Vibration is used by one machine to achieve partial separation. The seeds pass over a vibrating tray and are deposited in three containers. The seeds are separated on the basis of such physical properties as size, shape and density.

The vibrator will be used next year in the OSU Seed Laboratory to test it under actual working conditions. Researchers feel it will be particularly helpful in examining larger quantities of seed.

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Hay Crop Study Made

More and better rye hay can be raised in Eastern Oregon's high desert land if ranchers follow recommendations developed by Oregon State University agronomists after five years of research.

Results of studies at the Squaw Butte Branch of the Agricultural Experiment Station, along with recommendations based on the findings, are reported in a new OSU bulletin.

Oregon residents may obtain free copies of "Raising Dryland Rye Hay" from county extension offices or from the OSU Bulletin Clerk, Corvallis.

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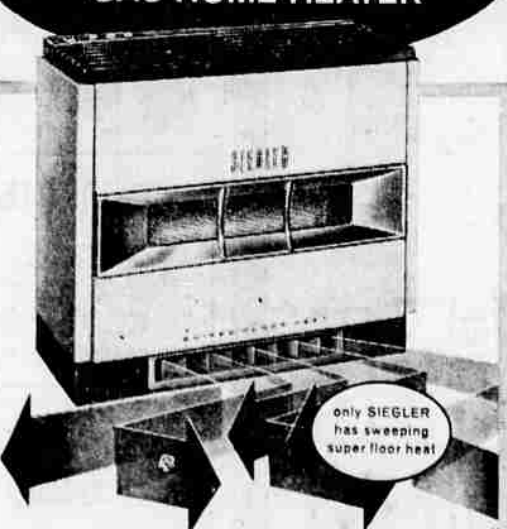
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