

Poll of Nation's Farmers Shows Many Favor Some Big Changes

If the nation's farmers were given the choice of writing a farm program for the future, they would make some big changes.

Most would scrap the present wheat, feed grain and dairy programs. On these they'd lower support prices; move away from present government controls, and would use the open market to guide farm production more than present programs do.

There are some of the suggested changes that come to light in a poll taken by Farm Journal, national farm circulation distributed a month ago in all states. Replies to questions asked readers in the magazine's February issue are reported in the March issue (out Feb. 29). Results are from a regionally-balanced sample of 5,000 returns from the first 25,000 replies.

Farm Journal conducted the poll as a backdrop to the current Congressional consideration of a number of commodity farm programs which expire with next year's crop.

Those answering split 50-50 on keeping the present cotton program, while the present wheat program was approved by 64 per cent. Each of these has price supports and allotments.

Farmers voted overwhelmingly against "more government" in farm programs. Four of the questions gave them an opportunity to vote for considerably stronger government programs. Yet only three per cent voted for compulsory compliance with present program terms; only 14 per cent voted to give all dairymen a production base with direct government payments for reducing production below that base; only 18 per cent voted for more direct government payments in general; and only 22 per cent voted for quotas on poultry production.

Four of the questions gave an opportunity to select between various farm program alternatives or "no program at all." Here, 35 per cent voted for no program at all on feed grains; 50 per cent voted to eliminate all wheat programs; 43 per cent voted to do away with any direct government payments in general; and 78 per cent voted for no program at all for poultry.

Where questions gave a choice of moving away from present programs to other choices, only 23 per cent preferred the present wheat program; 26 per cent the present direct payment provisions; 29 per cent the present feed grain program; 30 per cent the present dairy program; 35 per cent

FARM REVIEW

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STILL GOING STRONG — Nick Klerk, 80, of Fort Rock, has been recognized as the oldest active soil conservation district supervisor in Oregon. Klerk observed his birthday on Feb. 15. He is a native of Holland and came to Fort Rock in 1911. Klerk, left, is pictured with Marlon Mark, president of the National Conservation Districts, discussing the book "The Oregon Desert," during a meeting of the association in Portland. The book was written by R. A. "Rube" Long and E. R. Jackman.

Mapping Of Hazards From Floods Carried Out By Extension Service

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY — Mapping of hazards to agricultural land posed by flood-damaged stream channels and river banks is being carried out on an emergency basis by the Oregon State University Cooperative Extension Service, in cooperation with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and the Soil Conservation Service, according to Gene M. Lear, associate director for the Extension Service.

The speed with which the damage mapping operation is being carried out is made possible only by the fact that all three agencies concerned have extension office immediately field staffs throughout the state, who can physically pinpoint the stream and river hazards, points out Lear. The Extension Service, for example, maintains an office and staff member in each county of the state in cooperation with the county court. Each staff member is familiar with conditions in his own county.

Agriculture has already suffered an estimated \$75 million in damages from the December and January floods, said Lear. With rivers choked from debris deposited by the floods, and soil already soaked to capacity, spring run-off could send damage soaring higher, with an even greater loss to Oregon's second ranking industry.

Landowners who know of emergency stream or river conditions in their own area are urged to contact their county extension office immediately. Damage maps will be completed early next week, to aid the Governor's emergency flood task force in plans for immediate action to prevent further losses to agriculture.

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Long Reports Lake County Damage Heaviest In State

FORT ROCK—Lake County suffered more flood damage west in a covered wagon in 1883, this veteran of the war with Spain is a familiar sight feeding his cattle on winter mornings.

"We had about a year's rain in less than a week," he said, speaking of the Christmas-time storm, "and as far as our place is concerned I can't see where we lost a drop of that water. It all went into the ground."

"This year we're going after the rye ground full till, 100 acres worth," said Frank Anderson of Viewpoint Ranches, speaking of land farming possibilities this year. Operating around 1,250 acres of irrigated land and running 3,600 head of cattle, he anticipates the good grass year that all cattle growers glory in. He is one of many who believe that the moisture picture for farmers is best portrayed by noting moisture from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30. His total precipitation for December was 6.14 inches and 1.07 for January.

At present, according to Everett Green of Silver Lake, Soil Conservation Service work unit conservationist, irrigated lands in the area total 7,965 acres. Slightly more than two-thirds is converted to lifetime memberships by sprinklers. Of this total 1,200 acres were seeded last year to alfalfa by the Sinton and Brown, C&W spread at Silver Lake.

Shorty and Echo Gustafson could sell their hay many times over. No amount of rain could get at the many tons they had stored in their hay shed. Just now they're getting ready to add fertilizer to their 150 acres of alfalfa near Fort Rock, plus Lake.

DSSC Buys \$1 Million Basin Spuds

The Oakland region of the Defense Subsistence Supply Center, food purchaser for the Armed Forces in Northern California, Nevada, and the Far East, has purchased an estimated \$1 million worth of potatoes from the Klamath Basin since November, 1964. These are for military personnel on the West Coast and in the Far East reaching such distant points as Thailand.

Last season's purchase volume amounted to 42.3 million pounds of potatoes.

DSSC's seasonal purchasing office at Klamath Falls will close in April.

Willis Gains Angus Society

Robin Ross Willis, 9, Dairy, has been granted a junior membership in the American Angus Association at St. Joseph, Mo., announces Glen Bratcher, secretary.

This new junior membership entitles the member to register purebred Angus at regular membership rates and to the privileges of the association until the age of 21. At that time junior members are eligible to receive lifetime memberships in the association.

Robin was one of 251 young people in the United States to receive junior memberships last month.

Ag Board To Convene

The State Board of Agriculture will meet in Salem in the Agriculture Building, Wednesday, Feb. 24, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The main business will be consideration of the proposal to form an Oregon Agri-Council. This suggestion was presented to the board in early December by J. F. Short, director of agriculture. The board requested Short to continue preliminary studies and submit details to the board members in writing before another meeting.

Short pictures the Agri-Council as a needed move for farmers and allied businesses to act together in areas of general agricultural interest. The move is sometimes referred to as "one voice for agriculture."

Presumably the board will determine at the February meeting whether it wishes to endorse the proposal.

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