

# AROUND THE FARM

BY DON COIN WALROD  
County Extension Agent

Agricultural income for Columbia county on both a gross and a net basis, declined slightly during 1954. In all probability net incomes decreased more than gross incomes due to many fixed costs and to increased operating costs. However, determining net incomes is next to impossible so considerations of farm returns must be limited to gross income.

Using the best sources of information available at present, the estimated gross agricultural income for Columbia county amounts to \$5,187,000, a decrease from the previous year of 4.2 per cent, which is almost identical with the decrease in the gross agricultural income to the state.

Livestock, including dairy, poultry, and miscellaneous animals products, accounted for nearly 60 per cent of the total gross agricultural income. Dairying is the largest single income-producing commodity with a gross return to farmers of about one and a half million dollars. In spite of the dairymen's attempt to hold income by increasing efficiency through production testing, artificial breeding and a slight increase in cow numbers, lower prices for milk caused a very tight drop.

Meat animals and wool brought the second highest amount of gross return with slightly less than a million dollars. Animal numbers increased during the past year as farmers utilized the grass resulting from a shift out of mint and some other crops, but were lower.

Poultry producers had a 20 per cent reduction in returns. Egg prices have been the lowest for many years and a similar situation existed in the turkey industry. The gross income to the county from this commodity amounted to \$400,000 down from the half million return of the previous year.

In field crops, grain and hay

lead in production with a return of about three-quarters of a million dollars gross. Returns from these commodities have increased the past few years, mainly due to greater production, but in spite of the production, gross income slipped nearly \$50,000 this year. Part of this is price, but some of it might be attributed to losses resulting from poor harvesting weather.

Small fruits, principally strawberries, have been the second high producer of gross receipts with a return of \$400,000. Lower prices to the grower coupled with poor picking weather contributed to a lower gross than the previous year. Plantings in the county are increasing slightly, and with better prices and good growing weather, the income from this commodity could increase considerably. Growers need to guard against disease by controlling aphids, the vector spreading virus disease. The production of some of the cane berries such as blackcaps and blackberries is increasing slightly, but is still a small industry for the county.

Seed crops are limited almost exclusively to the production of Astoria bentgrass in the Clatskanie area. Price reductions and the poor weather at harvest time worked together to reduce the gross return, to the farmers of that area in spite of the fact that there was a fifty per cent increase in the acreage of this crop. This year's return is approximately \$65,000.

Specialty field and drug crops, of which peppermint is the main commodity, brought the county a gross income of about \$190,000. The income from this source has been going steadily downward in this county as mint acreage has been reduced due to inability to effectively control mint rust. Increased prices received by the growers this year helped greatly to hold this income up but even so the gross return dropped about \$15,000 below last year.

Potatoes and truck crops have been bringing an increasingly greater gross return to the county as the acreage of these crops increases with a gross return this past year of \$700,000.

Horticultural specialty crops, including such things as nursery stock, bring slightly more than a third of a million dollars to the county. There is probably room for expansion in some of the many fields under this heading. One possibility would be the production of holly. However, these crops are highly intensified and specialized and need to be considered very carefully before investing capital.

Outlook for the agricultural income for the coming season probably will not be greatly different from the one just completed according to information that economists have been able to gather.

**Schedule of Service Intended for Area**

A schedule of service that will be worked out for this area was announced Tuesday by the Singer Sewing Machine company of Astoria. Indicated at that time was the plan whereby a service man from the company will be in this vicinity each week, probably Thursday and Friday, to offer repair work for those who have machines.

A representative of the company will be here this Thursday and those wishing service may leave word at The Eagle office.

**County Growers Attend Meeting**

Oregon's essential oil growers re-elected Judge W. Whipple, Rainier, as president of the state league at their two day annual conference held on the Oregon State College campus last week. Also elected from Columbia county was George Cowles, Rainier, who will serve as a director of the Association. Roy Engbretson, Clatskanie, is a hold-over director.

Columbia county's delegation of growers attending the meeting included Mr. and Mrs. Earl Chartrey, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Engbretson, Adam George and Tom Ellis and son, all of Clatskanie, and Whipple, Cowles, H. A. Fisher and Myron Whitebeck of Rainier. County Agent Don Walrod also attended.

Besides the regular business meetings of the association, featured speakers from the college staff on irrigation, diseases, weed control and market outlook. One of the highlights was colored motion pictures by Dr. Ernest Guenther of Fritzsche Brothers, New York, showing the production and distillation of essential oils in Europe and North Africa. These films showed the production of oils of lavender, citronella, lemon-grass, orange, lemon, clove, nutmeg, lavender, absolute of rose, geranium, rosemary, thyme, spike lavender, pine needles oil, and bergamot.

Proceedings of the league meeting will be mailed to all members as soon as they are completed.

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January Clearance Continued

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It costs more than twice as much to add each new telephone today compared with costs at the end of World War II. Operating expenses have soared, too. Average wage rates of our employees have doubled since 1945, and our overall operating expenses per telephone have risen 50% in this same period.

Reluctantly, we have found it necessary to request modest increases in your telephone rates. Without these increases, it will be impossible to continue our improvement and expansion programs, designed to bring you the finest possible telephone service at the lowest possible cost.

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OAK TREES FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW — THE LITTLE ACORNS IN THIS ARE THE BETTER-THAN-EVER U.S. SAVINGS BONDS YOU REGULARLY AND THE OAK TREE — THAT'S THE SECURITY THAT THESE BONDS OFFER! START YOUR PROGRAM RIGHT NOW!

## THE VERNONIA EAGLE

Official Newspaper of Vernonia, Oregon

Marvin Kamholz  
Editor and Publisher

Entered as second class mail matter, August 4, 1922 at the post office in Vernonia, Oregon, under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscription price \$3.00 yearly in the Nehalem Valley. Elsewhere \$3.50.

## Livestock Group To Study Meats

Livestock and meat from the live animal to the dinner table will be discussed in the county-wide meeting February 3, at St. Helens. It is sponsored by the Columbia County Livestock Association with the cooperation of the county extension staff.

Discussing Columbia county's livestock and meat marketing situation will be a panel of local persons, representing each step in marketing. They will include producer, seller, packer, retailer, labor and consumer representatives.

Demonstrations of how to cut and wrap for freezing are part of the day's program. It will be open to the public.

This meeting will be similar to the Oregon Livestock and Meat Marketing Conference held at Oregon State College last January, according to Don Coin Walrod, County Extension Agent. Then over 300 persons shared views on current problems and how to cope with them.

Among their recommendations were forming a permanent committee to work on livestock industry problems; providing more consumer information and education; and working toward a more adequate meat inspection law.

**Office supplies at The Eagle.**

**JUNE'S STYLE CENTER**  
January Clearance Continued

## SAFEWAY'S 1955 MANAGERS' SALE!

NOW IN ITS 2ND TREMENDOUS WEEK

Because there was such an enthusiastic response by you, and because so many of you were unable to take advantage of all the values being offered, it was decided to continue this event of the year through this weekend. So, join the thousands who are lengthening their shopping lists during this gigantic sale, and enjoy the extra savings on this wonderful array of items that were 'hand-picked' by your store manager.

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| <b>Taste Tells Catsup</b><br>8 14-OZ. BOT. \$1.00   | <b>Sundown Peaches</b><br>4 NO. 2 1/2 CANS \$1.00 |
| <b>Highway Pineapple</b><br>4 NO. 2 1/2 CANS \$1.00 |                                                   |

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| <b>FROZEN STRAWBERRIES</b><br>4 10-OZ. PKGS. \$1.00 | <b>FLEET MIX BISCUIT MIX</b><br>3 40-OZ. PKGS. \$1.00 | <b>DROMEDARY COCONUT</b><br>3 4-OZ. PKGS. 25¢ |
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| <b>Sleepy Hollow Syrup</b><br>Real Maple Flavor<br>12-OUNCE BOTTLE 25¢               | <b>Lac-Mix Dry Milk</b><br>Makes 15 Quarts of Milk<br>3-POUND CARTON 89¢                                     |
| <b>Fancy Crabmeat</b><br>Pacific Pearl<br>A Regular 55¢ Value<br>6 1/2-OUNCE CAN 49¢ | <b>Zippy Dill Pickles</b><br>Sliced or Whole Kosher Dills<br>Sliced or Whole Regular Dills<br>22-OZ. JAR 32¢ |
| <b>Jiffy Pie Crust Mix</b><br>For fluffy, light Pie Crusts<br>9-OUNCE PACKAGE 10¢    | <b>Suzanna Pancake Flour</b><br>3 1/2-POUND PACKAGE 39¢                                                      |
| <b>Del Monte Peas</b><br>5 303 SIZE \$1.00                                           | <b>Highway Apricot Nectar</b><br>3 46-OZ. CANS \$1.00                                                        |

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| <b>Boneless Beef Stew</b> U.S. Choice L.B. 69¢                                                               | <b>Pork Loin Roast</b> Loin End Cut L.B. 49¢                                                       |
| <b>Boiling Beef</b> U.S. Choice Plate Cut L.B. 19¢                                                           | <b>Pork Chops</b> Center Cuts L.B. 79¢                                                             |
| <b>Fresh Ground Beef</b> All Beef L.B. 39¢                                                                   | <b>Luncheon Meat</b> 8 Varieties L.B. 55¢                                                          |
| <b>Beef Round Steak</b> U.S. Choice—L.B. 89¢                                                                 | <b>Cut-up Fowl</b> Fresh, Pan Ready L.B. 39¢                                                       |
| <b>Boneless Sirloin Tip</b> Choice L.B. 89¢                                                                  | <b>Halibut Slices</b> Captain's Choice L.B. 59¢                                                    |
| <b>Pork Loin Roast</b> Rib End Cut L.B. 45¢                                                                  | <b>Sliced Pork Liver</b> Gristle Free L.B. 29¢                                                     |

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| <b>Tomatoes</b> Ruby Red 13-OUNCE TUBE 29¢<br>FIRM RIPE TOMATOES IN HANDY TUBE CONTAINER | <b>RIPE BANANAS</b><br>Golden blemish-free fruit—A perfect treat on your morning breakfast cereal.<br>BY THE POUND 20¢ |
| <b>EMPEROR GRAPES</b> , crisp lb. 25¢                                                    | <b>NAVEL ORANGES</b><br>Seedless Sunkist from California<br>BY THE POUND 10¢ 1/2 CRATE \$2.79                          |
| <b>JUICY LEMONS</b> , Sunkist lb. 19¢                                                    |                                                                                                                        |
| <b>CRISP CARROTS</b> , Cello 2 Bags 29¢                                                  |                                                                                                                        |
| <b>FIRM RUTABAGAS</b> , delicious mashed lb. 9¢                                          |                                                                                                                        |
| <b>BOILER ONIONS</b> , small size 10-lbs. 39¢                                            |                                                                                                                        |
| <b>DANISH SQUASH</b> , flavorful lb. 12¢                                                 |                                                                                                                        |
| <b>U. S. NO. 1 POTATOES</b> , Econ. 10-lb. 49¢                                           |                                                                                                                        |
| <b>U. S. NO. 1 POTATOES</b> 25-lbs. \$1.19                                               |                                                                                                                        |
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| Highway New Potatoes     | No. 303 can 10¢   |
| Moon Beam Pumpkin        | No. 2 1/2 can 10¢ |
| Taste Tells Pork & Beans | No. 300 can 10¢   |
| Smith Spaghetti          | No. 1 can 10¢     |

Royal Satin Shortening 3-lb. can 85¢  
Tomato Juice, Sunny Dawn 46-oz. can 27¢  
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Skylark Potato Bread 1-lb. 6 1/2-oz. 28¢  
Cottage Cheese, Blossom Time Pint 29¢  
Sunnybank Margarine 1-lb. carton 33¢  
Torpedo Tuna Fish Light meat—Grated 2 No. 1/2 Cans 45¢  
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