

AROUND THE FARM BY DON COIN WALROD
County Extension Agent

Fertilizers paid off in higher yields of potatoes for Fred Zimmerman, Apiary, in trials that he conducted this summer for his own information. In an effort to find out just how much benefit he was getting from fertilizers on his soil, Fred used fertilizer on some rows and left others without.

In the trial, a 6-20-20 fertilizer was used at the rate of 600 pounds per acre. From the information supplied by soil tests, this should have been about right, as this soil was somewhat low in both phosphate and potash. In addition potatoes use relatively high amounts of potash. The rows in this potato patch were 207 feet long. For comparison 1 fertilized row, containing 117 hills, was dug and the potatoes sorted by grade. There was a total of 270 pounds of potatoes, with 162 pounds of them being number ones, 67 pounds of number two and 41 pounds of culls.

An unfertilized row containing 129 hills produced a total of 167 pounds of potatoes, of which 111 pounds were number 1, 28 pounds graded number two and 28 pounds cull.

On the basis of these results, the fertilizer boosted yields of number ones by more than a ton and a half per acre and number twos by more than a ton. It also increased the number of culls by slightly more than 700 pounds, and Fred indicates that the fertilized potatoes were larger and were a little more knobby. If irrigation water had been available, it might have been possible to control to some degree.

Because movement of frozen

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fruits out of storage has a great influence on the market, we know that local strawberry growers will welcome the news that 9.2 million pounds of strawberries moved out of storage during October 1955.

The holdings of eleven different fruit crops were recently reported on by the agricultural marketing service. Of the 11, only three were in smaller supply than a year ago, blackberries, down ten per cent, blueberries down 17 per cent, and grapes down 27 per cent. The increase of strawberry holdings amounted to about 19 per cent as of November 1.

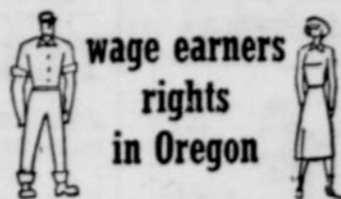
Good farm records are a basic tool that the farmer needs for increasing the efficiency and income of his farming program, according to Lou Oester, county extension agent at large. The first step is to secure a good farm record book and keep an account of all expenses, receipts, and other pertinent information on the farming program. This may be done on each individual enterprise or on the whole farming program. The latter is the easier method and will be satisfactory for most farms.

Records are often kept only for income tax and social security purposes. However, the greatest value in records is to use them in planning the farm program and making the program more efficient, stated Oester. The farmer can compare his records with those of other farmers and with experimental data to determine the cause of any difference in income.

Many measures of efficiency have been set up by farmers themselves. Dairymen realize that an average of 5,500 pounds of milk per cow is not enough to make a profitable enterprise. Yet this is the national average. Dairy Herd Improvement association members have an average of 9,253 pounds of milk per cow. Their records have helped them cull their herds and follow other management practices that increased their production per cow.

Poultry men realize that under good management their hens should average from 225 to 250 eggs per year. If their records show lower production, they can analyze their records further to determine why their production is lower.

Record keeping requires very little time if a suitable system is used. Most folks feel that this time is well spent. The Oregon farm record book and assistance in keeping records may be secured from the county extension agent.



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Subject: Training for Skilled Trades

Young men are trained to become journeymen in skilled trades right on their jobs in apprenticeship. Basic regulations for this training are fixed by law. The training course for each trade is formed by committees equally representing labor and management of the particular industry with approval of the state apprenticeship council. Here are some apprentice queries.

Q. How can a young man start training for a trade?

A. There are four steps:
1. Determine what he would like for a lifetime vocation and take aptitude tests to see if he is adapted for the work. These tests may be taken at any state employment office. (Skilled trades require above-average facility in hand work as well as physical fitness and good mental ability.)

2. Consult an apprenticeship supervisor to be certain the desired trade is apprenticeable.

3. Take ordinary employment channels to seek a job which provides the training.

4. Join the employer in securing approval of the local apprenticeship committee of an apprenticeship agreement which assures training in all phases of the trade while earning on the job.

Q. One of my boys wants to be a painter and the other a bookkeeper. Can they acquire these vocations as apprentices in on-the-job-training?

A. Skills of the painter trade may be acquired through apprenticeship. The boy desiring bookkeeper training would not be a candidate for apprenticeship under the Oregon law since a bookkeeper's abilities are not involved primarily with manual skills.

If you have a question, write Commissioner Norman O. Nilsen, state Bureau of Labor, Salem, Oregon.

GEMS OF THOUGHT

HOPE AND JOY
Artificial optimism alienates more friends than it makes.

—F. C. Aspley
A propensity to hope and joy is real riches; one to fear and sorrow is real poverty.

—David Hume
A happy man or woman is a radiant focus of good will, and their entrance into a room is as though another candle has been lighted.

—Robert Louis Stevenson
When the destination is desirable, expectation speeds our progress.

—Mary Baker Eddy
Get into the habit of looking for the silver lining of the cloud, and, when you have found it, continue to look at it, rather than at the leaden gray in the middle. It will help you over many hard places.

—A. A. Willitts
It is almost always when things are all blocked up and impossible that a happening comes. If you are sure and ready, that is all you need. God is turning the world around all the time.

—Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney
When the outgo exceeds the income, the upkeep is the downfall.

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Grain Feeding Aids In Lambing

Grain feeding ewes for six weeks before lambing is a good practice for preventing pregnancy disease in ewes, according to Lou Oester, county extension agent at large.

This disease is rather common in sheep that are underfed during the gestation period. The cause of the disease is malfunction of the metabolism of sugars and may occur in either thin or fat ewes.

In the first stages, the affected ewes lag behind the flock or stand around by themselves and seem unthrifty. Later, they go down and turn their heads around to the side. A paralysis of the hind-quarters also sets in. In this stage, a drench 3 or 4 times a day of one-half cup sugar in one pint of water usually brings about recovery.

Prevention is better than a cure and this disease can usually be prevented by feeding one-half pound of grain per day per ewe. This would amount to less than 25 pounds of grain per ewe for this

period. Any of the common grains available would be satisfactory. Exercise during the gestation period is important for insuring

good health of the ewe. Some operators feed the grain some distance from the shelter so the sheep will move about more.

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