

Farm Bureau Compiles Figures Which Reveal Tremendous Cost of Sugar Beet Production in First of Article Series

Editor's Note: This is the first of a series of articles on various agricultural enterprises in Malheur county. The articles have been prepared by the Farm Bureau of Malheur county.

Gross farm returns have been published yearly on farm products produced in the county and it indicates a huge sum of money taken in by farmers and ranchers of the area.

The Farm Bureau feels these figures need more interpretation. The Farm Bureau also feels that the situation is a bit one-sided, due to the fact that publication of gross returns of other business have been conspicuous by their absence. So it is intended that these figures be broken down to show how the farmers spend their money in producing the various crops of the valley.

We wish to thank the sugar beet commodity chairman, Wilbur Atherton, of the Ontario center Farm Bureau and members of its committee, Alva Amidon, Bill Winegar and Jack Downs, who helped secure this information.

Beets Big Business
The raising of sugar beets in Malheur county is indeed a large business, bringing many dollars into circulation for many other businesses of this area. As in any business the total gross return is not the total profits. In the raising of beets many expenses and investments are encountered.

First, to raise any crop, seed must be purchased. Beet seed for the 1953 crop amounted to approximately \$42,000 for the 14,000 acres raised in the county. Also we have fertilizer expenses and farmers are using increased amounts of fertilizer each year to help add to their returns. Fertilizer purchased for sugar beets amounted to about \$420,000.

Money For Labor

A lot of labor is involved in raising beets and that item for thinning and hoeing amounted to about \$490,000, for the season.

Another very necessary expense for this crop is water; this cost about \$10,000. In all probability the use of water and a very simple tool, the irrigation shovel, is all that distinguishes this valley from a barren desert.

Then we have an item which we are all familiar with and that is taxes, about \$98,000 worth.

All modern farming is done with gas and oil consuming equipment and a sizable amount of our gross figure went for this item—\$175,000.

As mentioned before, water is an important item which also requires labor in its application; this job called for about \$210,000. This brings us up pretty well to

Has Tonsils Removed

Mrs. Harold Robbins reports that her daughter, Christine, had her tonsils removed last Friday morning.

The operation was performed by Dr. Maulding and under his advice, Christine will remain out of school to rest during this week

harvest season, a period which requires additional labor. As near as we were able to determine, this harvest operation took an additional \$315,000.

As can be seen from these figures, labor plays a large part in the production of sugar beets, a total of about \$1,015,000.

Investment High

We have covered the crop expense pretty well in this respect, but to do this a lot of expensive equipment is required: trucks, tractors, cultivators, side dressers, drills, beaters and other equipment, which goes to mechanize the production of beets.

In all fairness to beets and also to other crops, it should be remembered that trucks and tractors in this figure are also used in the production of other crops.

We arrived at this figure by using 60 acres of beets as a logical basis for the use of a full line of machinery. This figure amounted to \$4,890,000, which is a sizeable investment.

Finally, we must have fertile soil to produce sugar beets which calls for additional investments and this, we found, amounted to \$5,500,000 in order to raise beets one year.

We must have additional land in order to set up a logical crop rotation plan which would require at least double this investment or \$11,200,000.

We must also figure depreciation on our equipment in order to replace it when it is worn out. This amounts to about \$978,000 a year.

Dollars Turn Over

We are in no way casting any reflections on sugar beets as a crop because they are very stable, dependable cash crop as many farmers realize, especially last year. But we do wish to show that when all of this is taken into consideration, sugar beets are indeed big business and a lot of money is required in their production. Very little study will show that the gross payment for beets from the sugar company doesn't all go into the farmers' pockets.

An economist has said that each dollar spent in a community will change hands ten times before it leaves.

Boat Club Meets Discusses Resort

A meeting of the Nyssa Boat club was held on Thursday, Mar. 18, at the Nyssa City Hall.

The members discussed the planned park area at the Owyhee reservoir and the new road which will make it accessible to boaters and fishermen.

Present at the meeting were H. H. Woods and Orris Crisp who are developing the recreational area at the Cherrie Creek site at the reservoir. They discussed with the members various phases of the development including power, concessions and parking space.

Maps of the area were brought by Ken Renstrom, secretary of the club, and were distributed to the members. A motion was made and carried that the club will find means of operating the boat lift at the dam again this year.

Brothers In Service Visit Parents Here

Two brothers are visiting at the home of their parents in Nyssa this week. Mr. and Mrs. Earl Hollingsworth are entertaining their two sons, both airmen first class, Robert Dean Pearce, his wife and their baby, Greg, and Keith E. Pearce.

This is the first time the Hollingsworths have seen their grandson, Greg, Robert is stationed at Guatay, Calif. and Keith at Del Rio, Texas.

LOCAL NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Steffens spent Thursday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vance Edward Peckham in Wilder.

Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Morse and Johnny of Nampa visited Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. O. O. Anderson.

Mrs. Harold Wilson spent Saturday in Boise. Her sister, Mrs. Robert Wilson of Boise returned with her to spend a week.

Mrs. Edward Werner of Berton, Wash. and Mrs. H. C. Thompson of Seattle arrived Saturday morning to visit a week with Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Wilson.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Scheline of Donnelly, Idaho visited recently with Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hughes.

Mrs. Richard Mason, and Dennis and LaVonna and Mrs. Dorothy Bibbey spent Thursday in Boise.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ostrom and Kathryn and Curtis of Boise spent the week end at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Ostrom.

Mr. and Mrs. James Shaw, Larry and Donald and Janalee Wilson were guests in Homedale, Ida., Wednesday of the Rev. and Mrs. E. J. Wilson.

Mr. and Mrs. Driggs Lewis of



Mrs. Harold Long and Mrs. Kenneth Reece spent Friday in Boise.

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS Clayton R. Brecken of Ontario, (left) and Cpl. Miguel Arrendondo of Los Angeles work on a chart in Japan during a recent week-long training exercise with XVI Corps headquarters. The entire headquarters moved into the field for the exercise and operated under simulated combat conditions. Brecken, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Brecken, is operations sergeant in the corps' engineer section. An Army man since 1947, he has been overseas 12 months. The corporal, who formerly lived at 918th Spence St. Los Angeles, is a draftsman in the section. (U. S. Army Photo).

Soda Springs visited Friday morning with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Church. Mrs. Lewis is Mrs. Church's aunt.

Trudy Shaffeld of Vale visited last week with her sister, Mrs. Harold Wilson in Nyssa.

Mrs. Frank Morgan and Mrs. Glea Billings spent Friday in Boise.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. McPartland of Richland, Oregon visited last week at the home of their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Walter McPartland.

Ray Roberts of Nampa visited his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Roberts of Sunset Valley over the weekend.

News of Malheur Men In Service

Sgt. Sadao Itamura, son of Mr. and Mrs. Teiso Itamura of 111 Arcadia Blvd., Nyssa was among 154 Marines due to arrive in San Francisco last week aboard the transport USS Gen. W. A. Mann after completing tours of duty in the Far East with the First Marine aircraft wing. He has been given leave to visit friends and relatives before reporting to duty stations in the United States.

William E. Leseberg, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Leseberg of 211 Ennis Ave., is completing his Air Force military training course at Lackland Air Force base, San Antonio, Tex.

Pvt. Vernon A. Toombs, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Toombs, 120 East Second, Nyssa, completed his basic training at the Headquarters school brigade at Fort Benning, Ga., after serving seven months in the Army. He was a student at Nyssa high school before entering the service.

Cpl. James D. Holbrook, whose wife, Althea, and parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry F. Holbrook live on route 1, Ontario, is aiding in the reconstruction on South Korea. His unit, the 1343rd Pioneer Combat battalion, is helping to build a warehouse, cranes, bridge and several schools as part of the armed forces assistance to Korea. Cpl. Holbrook entered the Army in October, 1952 and completed basic training at Fort San Luis Obispo, Calif.

M/Sgt. Robert H. Morris, son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn G. Morris of Ontario, is at Camp Hale, Colo., taking part in Exercise Ski Jump, the Army's 1954 mountain and cold-weather training maneuver.

Pfc. Robert N. Ireland, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Ireland, route 1, Ontario, was recently transferred to the 7th Infantry division in Korea. Ireland arrived on the peninsula last November and had been serving as a rifleman in the 45th Infantry division which is being returned to the U. S.

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