

40,000 Oregon Farm Families Play Giant, Vital Role in State's Economy

More than 40,000 families in Oregon call a farm their home. And the impact these homes have on the economy and welfare of the state is outlined in a new circular published by Oregon State university cooperative extension service.

The new folder, "Background on Oregon's Agriculture," explains that the main job of these farms is to help produce the food, fiber and forest products needed by people in Oregon, the nation and the world. In doing their job, the state's farmers generate more than a half-billion dollars in buying power each year.

Oregon farmers use about 21 million acres of land in their business operations, about one-third of the state's total area. About five million of these acres are cultivated, the rest being in grazing and timber lands.

Worker Investment High

Products sold out-of-state from these farms bring in more than \$200 million a year. To do this, it takes over 77,000 workers, each requiring an investment of \$32,000 in land, equipment and supplies. This is twice the investment needed for each U.S. factory worker.

Oregon farm families have over \$2½ billion invested in their farm businesses. This is equal to the total assets of all Oregon banks and represents an amount equal to two-thirds of the annual income received by all Oregonians.

In carrying out their farming enterprises, Oregon farmers spend more than \$300 million a year for goods and services to produce crops and livestock. For instance, in 1959, feed producers, millers and distributors received over \$60 million of the farmers' production dollars; mechanics, repairmen and suppliers of machines, parts, tools and tires got over \$67 million; and over \$55 million was paid for hired help.

Provide Employment for Many

All of these dollars spent for goods and services provide employment and income for thousands of city dwellers in the state, the circular points out.

Oregon farmers have been running an increasingly efficient business, the circular also notes. One hour of farm labor now produces four times as much food and other crops as it did in 1919.

This has helped keep food prices to Oregon housewives at a low level compared to incomes, the circular says. For instance, one hour's work in an Oregon factory bought 3.4 pounds of hamburger in 1950. Today, the same amount of work will buy 4.5 pounds of hamburger. Most other food items show similar increases.

In fact, while retail prices of food have gone up, prices paid to farmers for their products have actually gone down. In late 1960 the retail cost of the farm food "market basket" was 13 percent higher than in 1947-49—but the farm value of the food in this market basket was 10 percent lower.

"Spread" Caused by Processing

This "spread" between the farm value and the retail price represents the cost of many processes, services and conveniences between food on the farm and food on the table, the circular points out.

Oregon's farms produce much beside food for hungry people, however. For instance, they grow all of the nation's ryegrass and chewing's fescue seed; nearly all the nation's common vetch and bentgrass seed; over half of the Merion bluegrass; and a large proportion of many other seed, fiber and specialty products.

Much of what they produce moves into foreign trade—such as wheat, feed grains, dairy and

poultry products, fruits and vegetables. Portland leads all Pacific Northwest ports in dollar volume of imports and exports, and for many years has been the leading grain port on the coast. Farm products make up four out of every five tons exported at Portland.

The new circular, prepared by Mrs. Elvera Horrell and M. D. Thomas, OSU extension agricultural economists, lists many other details of farming in Oregon today. Oregon residents can obtain a free copy at their county extension office or from the OSU bulletin clerk, Corvallis.

OSU Prescription Cost Study Made; Average Is \$3.39

It cost an average of \$3.39 to have a prescription filled in an Oregon drug store in 1960, according to a survey conducted by the Oregon State university School of Pharmacy.

This is a 5.3 percent increase over the average selling price of \$3.22 three years ago. The United States cost of living index rose 4.8 percent since 1957.

Dr. Leo A. Sciuchetti, professor of pharmacognosy, and Dr. Ben F. Cooper, Jr., associate professor of pharmacy wrote "Oregon Prescription Survey" for the July 1961 issue of Western Pharmacy.

A recent national survey showed the average prescription price is \$3.25, which is 4.3 percent less than reported in the Oregon survey. Average prescription price in the Pacific Slope area has exceeded the national average in previous surveys.

The Oregon survey was based on copies of 4,682 prescriptions collected from 47 professional, chain stores and general drug stores by OSU seniors in a prescription compounding course. All prescriptions were filled during November 1960.

Most frequently prescribed dosage form continued to be tablets at 51.3 percent; followed by liquids, 18.2; capsules, 17.9; ointments, 5.3; drop dosage, 3.2; suppositories, 1.2; spray, 0.6; ampules, 0.5; and troches, 0.5.

Sixty percent of all prescriptions were dispensed at \$3 or below, same as three years ago. The survey indicated a decrease in the number of prescriptions dispensed for \$1 or less, compared to three years ago. This reflects a trend toward sound pricing policies which would reduce the number of prescriptions dispensed at an actual loss, the authors noted.

Gains were shown in analgesics, narcotics, cough - decongestants and sedatives-hypnotics. Of the 379 sedatives-hypnotics, 334 (or 7.1 percent of the total prescriptions) were tranquilizers.

Most leading pharmaceutical manufacturers showed a relative decrease in their percentage of the market compared to three years ago. Dr. Sciuchetti and Dr. Cooper wrote that this may be explained by increased competition from a variety of manufacturers, a fact that the Kefauver investigating committee has repeatedly disclaimed in attempts to show monopolistic tendencies among the larger companies.

GUESTS AT DANFORD HOME

Dr. and Mrs. Ray Alcox of Huntington, W. Va., were recent weekend guests of Dr. and Mrs. K. A. Danford and family. Dr. Alcox is a dentist with the U.S. Public Health Service.

Jay Germaine and son of Sacramento, Calif., visited from Thursday until Saturday at the Danford home.

RETURN FROM WASHINGTON

Mr. and Mrs. Don Wilson and family returned home Saturday from Connell, Wash., where they had spent the past 3½ weeks visiting her mother, Mrs. Lena Loeber, and brother, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Loeber and family. Wilson also assisted with harvest work while at Connell.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Capper accompanied their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Miller of Parma, on a week's fishing trip to Lost Lake and the McCall areas. They returned home Saturday.

Kathy Ann Hooper was a Saturday overnight guest of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Hooper.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Heldt and family of Portland are visiting his mother, Mrs. Louise Heldt, and brothers, Everett, Albert and the Robert Heldt family of Nyssa and Mr. and Mrs. James Heldt and family of Ontario.

The Paul Heldt family returned Saturday to their home in San Bernardino, Calif., after visiting the past two weeks with relatives in the Nyssa area.

Mr. and Mrs. Marlin Hansen of Smithfield, Utah, arrived Thursday to visit her brothers-in-law and sisters, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Cottle and Mr. and Mrs. Frel Blair. The three couples spent Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Payette lakes and the Hansens returned Monday morning to Utah.

NEWLYWEDS VISIT FRIENDS FOLLOWING MOSCOW RITES

Mrs. Norma Jameson of Deary, Idaho, formerly of Nyssa, and Frank W. Peterson of Troy, Idaho, were married July 26 in Moscow. They visited Thursday afternoon and evening with the J. Elwood Flinders family, Mrs. Madge Wilson and family and other friends.

The newlyweds left Friday morning on a short trip to southern Utah, after which they will make their home in Troy.

Peterson is a contractor and Mrs. Peterson is employed in Moscow.

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Holcomb visited Saturday evening with Mrs. Stan Olson at St. Alphonsus hospital in Boise.

Mrs. Jake Fischer returned home recently from Royal City, Wash., where she visited her sister, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lefler and family.

ATTEND FAMILY DINNER

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Eldredge attended a family dinner Sunday at the Frank Eldredge home in Fruitland. The event honored Mr. and Mrs. John Metzler of Athens, Greece.

VISIT FROM CALIFORNIA

Jerry Smiley of Hermosa Beach, Calif., is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Smiley, Sammy Smiley, a grandson from Lennox, Calif., is also a guest in the Smiley home.

The Rev. and Mrs. Omar Barnhouse and family, Bob Martin and Terry were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Fitzsimmons and family.

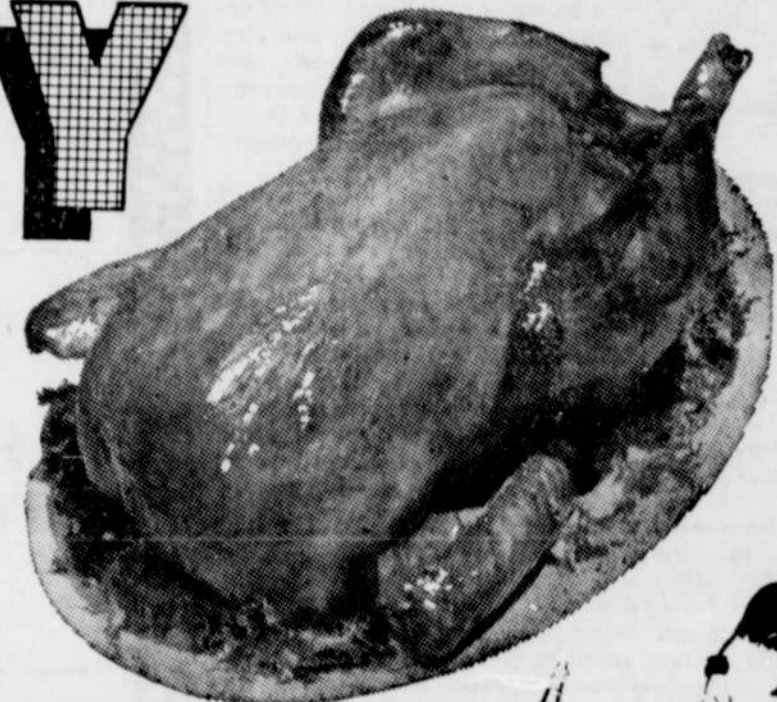
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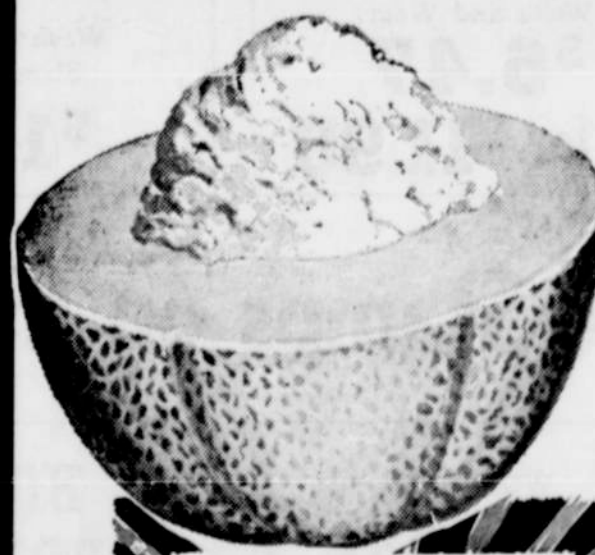
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