

Kay Teramura One Of Top Op Farmers

Pride in what you are doing, be interested in what you are doing, enjoy what you are doing, are all trademarks of Kay Teramura and his efforts as one of Malheur's "TOP OP" farmers.

Teramura, according to his friends, is dedicated to excellence in everything he does. He arrived in Malheur County in 1943 when our country faced troubled years, but Kay feels he also was given an opportunity to achieve and utilize his continuing love of working with the soil.

Wife, Dorothy, gave birth to three children, Kenneth, a graduate of O.S.U. Agriculture Engineering, now a farming partner; Daughters Dinah, a graduate of O.S.U. and presently at the Oregon Regional Primate Center, and Gayle, an O.S.U. graduate, now at the University of Oregon Medical Center.

The Teramura farming enterprise is made up of three separate legal groups and consists of 400 acres of highly intensified farming practices. The 1975 cropping pattern includes 100 acres onions, 100 acres sugar beets, 90 acres of potatoes, with the remaining acreage in alfalfa and grain.

Teramura is quick to say, "One must keep on top of what is happening - you must use all the technology available and change accordingly to stay in this highly competitive game of agriculture production."

The years of change in technology and experience have brought on new vistas of agricultural endeavor according to this farmer. He sites the change in potato production from a fresh market to the processing enterprises as a good move for local producers, not only in strengthening the local market but also adding to industrial development and job opportunities.

To stay in the potato business, according to Kay, one must increase production possibly, he says, "a new variety may be the answer, as the present Russet Burbank, while a good potato, just doesn't produce enough when caught in these inflationary time." He emphasizes, the Teramura farming operation leans heavily on the Malheur Experiment Station and the professional expertise of the County Extension Office for new ideas and technology.

Onions, according to Teramura, are a high risk crop—while he averages 1,000 sacks per acres, he stressed, production costs continue to spiral upward, interest rates are high and machinery costs all add up to the dilemma of making any farming enterprise work eco-

nomically. Machinery, according to him, is a necessity, but careful planning as to when and how you buy—is a must. Don't buy too much at one time is a Teramura rule—but above all, a farmer today must have a good machine shop - adequately equipped - and this farm operation keeps a man full time in the shop.

According to this "TOP OP" farmer—farmers of today need to be in a bargaining position - if not he faces economic problems - processors and producers know what it costs to stay in business and bargaining by commodity groups is becoming more and more essential, he stressed. Farmers of today must work together through their various commodity groups and organizations. Kay serves as president of the Malheur Union Growers Association, active in the Malheur Potato Growers Association, and trustee of the National Union Association, director of the North Board of Control Irrigation, active in the Buddhist Church of Ontario, and a member of the Boise Valley Japanese Association, to name a few.

Land values, according to this operator's analysis, are becoming so high, one must raise crops that are expected to make the greatest returns—alfalfa and grain are in this arginal category, and are used only in the rotational part of the farming operation.

When talking about sugar beets, he feels beets offer a stable crop in the future - two local factories, plus expected increased production achievements add to the security of this crop. Beets are almost totally automated and fit into the intense farming program and rotation necessary for this farm when considering land and capital investments.

Yes, Kay Teramura is a "TOP OP" farmer, not just because he thinks that way, but because he knows, understands, and has pride in doing and achieving his goals and objectives set long ago. Wife Dorothy, who likes to fish and travel, is quick to explain - "Womens lib - equal rights?—always was that way here. When Kay needed a truck driver or any of the many jobs needed to be done, I—volunteered, and did it."

To the Teramuras, the farming enterprise has "Risk and "uncertainty" but to them it will always be a challenge—to achieve excellence - for in their hearts they believe and feel in what they are doing—and after all, isn't this what makes American agriculture the best in the world?

AHS CALENDAR

May 9, Musical, "Calamity Jane" sponsored by the Drama Class, gymnasium, 8:30 p.m.
District Track Meet at La Grande.

May 10, Musical, "Calamity Jane" gymnasium, 8:30 p.m.
at Vale, 4 p.m.

May 15, FHA Skating Party.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Friendship Club met at the IOOF Hall Friday, May 2. This was a Mother's Day luncheon. Twenty members and nine guests enjoyed a bountiful potluck luncheon.

The business meeting was opened by President Leona Reeves. Twenty members answered roll call. President Reeves thanked hostesses

Kathleen Wheeler and Nellie Jenkins.

The next meeting will be the first Friday in June. The meeting was adjourned with five tables of Bunco in Play afterward. Nina Lowe took high honors, with Emily Clapp taking low and Ola Chard traveling. Mac Bellon won the door prize.

TENNIS

Wed., April 30
ONTARIO 9, NYSSA 3

Boys Singles
Grasty (O) def. T Baker 6-3 6-1
Johnson (O) def. Marquez 3-6 6-1 6-3
Wood (N) def. Ansel 6-1 6-0

Girls Singles
Schutts (O) def. Anderson 6-4 6-2
Oldmeyer (N) def. Flint 7-5 7-6
Finkbeiner (O) def. Cleaver 6-1 6-0

Boys Doubles
Uylki-Collins (O) def. Rodriguez-Meadows 6-0 6-1
McKone-Burrows (O) def. Savage-Kouns 7-5 6-4

Girls Doubles
Poole-Jones (O) def. Kurtz-Dority 6-3 6-4
Elquezabal-Marcum (N) def. Watts-Wakasugi 6-0 6-2

Mixed Doubles
Burns-Manser (O) def. Myrick-Nelson 6-2 6-4
Taylor-Irons (O) def. Perrenberg-V. Baker 6-1 6-0

A misinformed gas gossiper.



"They've got plenty of natural gas in the summer, but I hear we're going to be left out in the cold this winter."

Balderdash! That's unfounded rumor you shouldn't believe. The facts are these:

Government priorities have been set to assure a continuing flow of natural gas to residential and commercial customers (but new industrial accounts are being served on a limited basis, and many present industrial customers are subject to curtailment, if needed, to make certain that homes and small businesses are served without interruption).

Happily, there is gas for all of Cascade's customers most of the time, but it's comforting to know that homes and essential businesses will not be "left out in the cold" when weather conditions could tighten the situation.

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Washington, ready in the near future. We have a firm supply from an underground gas storage operation in western Washington wherein surplus natural gas, always more plentiful in the summer, is pumped into dry wells and held for distribution during peak-use months. This increases our winter delivery capability by almost 20%. In addition, Cascade has its own propane-air/natural gas plant of large capacity in Yakima which serves to "stretch out" and increase the volume of gas we normally receive in one intensive-use area.

On a broader scale, drilling for new sources of natural gas has been stepped-up in the West in several sectors. The industry is working diligently to bring the Alaska gas to market, a far-reaching plan of great magnitude still several years away.

It all adds up to this: If you are a residential or

commercial gas customer, you can be certain of a steady, year-round supply of the clean, efficient energy you have chosen.

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