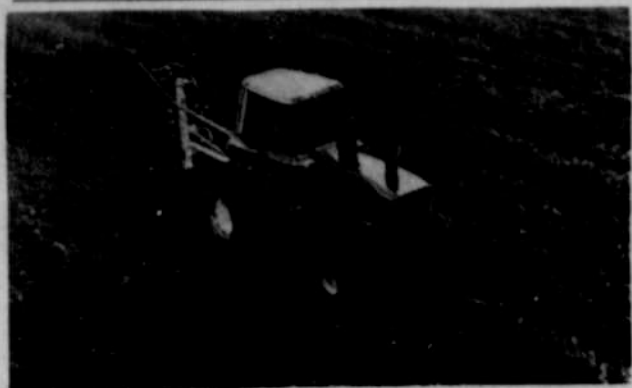




Oregon Agriculture Helped by Budget Additions

A Senate appropriations subcommittee has approved amendments of Senator Mark Hatfield earmarking \$376,000 for two Oregon agriculture research projects. Hatfield also said Oregon farmers will benefit from his amendment adding \$1 million for foreign market development activities of the Department of Agriculture.

A Soil and Wind Erosion Project centered in Pendleton and Pullman, Washington will receive an additional \$221,000 from the Oregon Senator's Amendment, bringing the total for the project to \$571,000.

"Currently, an estimated 110 million tons of soil erode annually from crop lands in the Pacific Northwest," Hatfield explained in urging approval of his amendment. "That much top soil would fill a pit a mile square and 86 feet deep. Oregon, Washington, and Idaho now produce about \$800 million worth of small grains annually, and erosion threatens future growth of this important industry. Drought conditions now facing the Eastern part of our state put extra emphasis on the need for such research."

Another Oregon research project will benefit from \$155,000 Hatfield added for Mint Research at Corvallis, bringing the total to \$95,000. Oregon is the largest mint producer in the country. The research will focus on developing a better strain of mint, with greater yield per

acre and greater resistance to disease. Hatfield's amendment will expand genetic research efforts.

In addition to these two specific budget items, Hatfield also noted Oregon has a great stake in developing new Asian markets for Oregon Agricultural goods. Hatfield said his \$1 million will bring the total for foreign market development to \$3 million.

"Oregon has the potential to develop new Agriculture exports in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore," Hatfield explained. "Money well spent in this area repays itself by helping Oregon farmers."

China Buys Canadian Wheat

The People's Republic of China this week purchased 110 million bushels of wheat from the Canadian Wheat Board for shipment between August 1977 and July 1978. The sale follows a \$5 million bushel transaction which was completed earlier this year and, like previous credit sales, terms call for 25% down at the time the vessel is loaded, with the balance plus interest to be paid in 18 months.

China began to import wheat 16 years ago following a series of bad domestic crops. Australia and China have been the most significant suppliers to the PRC, and credit arrangements have been an important aspect of their continued business. The last time the U.S. sold wheat to China was 1974—for cash.

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AGRI-BUSINESS NEWS



NEIGHBORS DID AND DO CARE. This farmer lived just across the road from the place where my parents had lived for many years. He had been ill for some time. The neighbors came to put his crops in for him. This is the real "horse

power" then used. The place was in Guthrie County Iowa. Ralph's widow Ada Rosenberger, still lives with her daughter Eleanor, who is a third grade teacher, in Guthrie Center, Iowa. We still keep in contact at times.

Photo submitted by Grover Lytle

Wheat Harvest Underway

A rain-slowed harvest is underway in New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma. Weather has now improved and a substantial quantity of new crop wheat will be available for storage or marketing shortly. It is too soon to get a firm reading on yields, but early reports indicate that yields are running below last year in Texas and above 1976 in Oklahoma. Test weights are running in the 60-62 pound range with very little high protein. Some grain is bleached from excessive moisture. The Sante Fe Railroad crop report estimates 685-735 million bushels from 25.4-25.9 million acres in the five state area of Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado and New Mexico. Last year 646 million bushels were harvested in this region from 24.7 million acres.

Prices in Texas have been running \$1.88-\$1.95 per bushel for ordinary protein with discounts for soft wheat up to 20¢ per bushel. Prices during harvest will be under extreme pressure with some question on the loan serving as a price floor as storage space becomes full and grain goes on the ground. Elevator operators are reported to be extremely tough on weight, grading and discounts. Producers can affect prices if they refuse to release wheat below loan levels during harvest.

Church Critical of Canadians

Senator Frank Church, the ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and chairman of its Subcommittee on Foreign Economic Policy, today criticized Canadian actions which could lead to restrictions on U.S. shipments of potatoes to Canada.

"Canada has proposed a change in the minimum size of potatoes that can be marketed in Canada which could seriously affect U.S. potato producers, including those in Idaho," said Church. Canadian regulations are

stricter than comparable U.S. regulations and such a change would "upset parity and reciprocity of trade between the two countries," said the Idaho Senator.

Church also noted that the Canadian Tariff Board has also recommended an increase in duty on potatoes and other agricultural products.

These actions, said Church may well represent a violation of the General Agreement of Tariff and Trade—the international agreement covering trade between nations.

Church said that while the United States has become a dumping ground for foreign shipments of such things as sugar—seriously affecting U.S. sugar farmers—other nations are placing new barriers on their imports of U.S. products.

"While the United States has bent over backwards to avoid protectionist trade policies, the Canadian proposals on potatoes would serve only to hinder our own exports. I hope the Canadian government will resist the impulse to add these new restrictions, and rule out these new restrictive duties and standards."

Announce Largest Single Revolving Capital Payment

Alvin Benson, President of Dairymen's Creamery Association, Inc., Caldwell, announced Friday that the largest single revolving capital payment, in DCA's 62 year history, was mailed to 8,000 present and former members of the Cooperative.

Equity payments in the amount of 1-1/3 million dollars were authorized by the Board of Directors for distribution to participating patrons in Eastern Oregon and Southwest Idaho. An additional cash disbursement in the amount of approximately \$395,000 will occur in August when a portion of the 1976 patronage allocations will also be returned to DCA dairy farmers.

The record capital payment serves as a proper climax to June Dairy Month for members of Idaho's largest dairy cooperative.

Idaho-Eastern Oregon has Wild Onion Season

The final figures are in on the 1976-77 Idaho-Eastern Oregon onion crop and in the words of the Idaho-Oregon Fruit and Vegetable Association bulletin to members, it was "one of the wildest marketing seasons ever."

From a shipper's standpoint, the most notable characteristic of the season was the price fluctuation. The year saw shippers experience the widest range ever in price for three-inch and large onions, with the low being \$1.60 in October and the high being over the \$17.00 mark in March.

From the outset, indications were that it would be an unusual onion year. A record onion acreage of 11,600 acres in the two state areas was reported at the beginning of the season.

With that record acreage came record harvested production. The figure was estimated at 6,050,000 cwt.

The shipping season started slow in comparison to the previous year and to the "normal," however September movement was strong. In October, the largest single monthly movement on record was experienced with 2,046 carlot equivalents being shipped.

Other highlights of the season, according to the association, included: largest onion export shipments from the area - 660 carlots; longest shipping season - Aug. 5 through April 29; largest overall shrink factor - 32 percent; and second-largest onion season movement - 10,392 carlots.

The estimated onion plantings for the coming season indicate 1977 acreage totals will be down about four percent to just over 11,000 acres.

Gleaning Program Is Proposed

A proposal to offer farmers a tax credit for donating food crops to low-income families through non-profit gleaning cooperatives is working its way through the Oregon legislative process.

Ms. Monika Belcher, director of the Gleaning Cooperative project, sponsored by Washington County Community Action Agency, noted that the bill, with amendments, was given a "do pass" recommendation by the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Ms. Belcher believes the bill, HB3322, sponsored by the committee at the request of the Washington County Community Action Agency, will be voted on by the House and Senate within the next two weeks. Commenting that passage on the House side looks promising, she asked that "people supportive of the bill should write and tell their senators to vote for it."

Gleaning cooperatives are self-help programs aimed at providing a healthy diet for low-income, elderly, and disabled individuals. Crops which are left after commercial or mechanical harvesting, or which go to waste due to economic factors, are donated to gleaning projects.

Low-income individuals, supervised by a field boss, harvest these crops for their own use. In addition, each gleaner adopts an elderly or disabled household and provides them with the fresh produce. Some food is eaten fresh and the rest is canned and preserved for winter use.

Farmers participate in gleaning projects by donating time and crops to the cooperative. Current income tax regulations do not recognize such contributions, and, therefore, offer little economic incentive to farmers to participate. HB3322 addresses this problem by allowing a tax credit for their donation. Ms. Belcher believes that this tax credit will provide an incentive to expand existing gleaning projects and to initiate more gleaning cooperatives throughout the state of Oregon.

Presently, community action agencies in Washington, Columbia, Clackamas, and Multnomah counties, and in metropolitan Portland, sponsor gleaning projects. In 1976, the combined efforts of these gleaning cooperatives harvested 239,000 pounds of crops, benefiting 1129 households.

Board of Agriculture to Meet June 29-30

Members of the State Board of Agriculture will be given an overview of the Drought Program being conducted for the Executive Department by the Oregon Department of Agriculture and be brought up to date on legislation affecting department programs at a June 29-30 meeting in Salem.

The legislation update will include a detailed report on the department's budget; two bills concerning the Milk Stabilization Division; and other bills, such as the Unit Pricing Bill, which will have a bearing on department programs.

Also on the two-day agenda are:

A proposal to establish a state noxious weed advisory committee to serve in an advisory capacity to the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

A report on the current milk marketing conditions. Program and personnel changes in the Livestock Division.

U.S. Supreme Court decisions affecting state quantity labeling requirements.

A report by the Agricultural Development Division on its trade leads program. Oregon's plans for participating in a trade fair September 10-15, 1977, in Cologne, Germany.

The Agricultural Development Division's participation this past spring in trade shows in Japan and Hong Kong and contacts made regarding trade with Indonesia.

\$2.5 Million for Drought Relief in Idaho Expected

Senator Frank Church announced June 8, that about \$2.5 million in additional funds for drought-related agricultural conservation measures is expected to be made available in Idaho soon by the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Church had requested the extra funds after meetings in Idaho during the past two weeks on the effectiveness of Federal drought aid programs.

"Farmers and ranchers in Idaho told me that Federal funding for conservation programs to mitigate the harmful effects of the drought is proving inadequate," Church said, adding that in response to his request for additional funds, Agriculture Department officials indicated the extra \$2.5 million will soon be made available for the State.

The funds will be used for a program to help farmers and ranchers undertake needed conservation programs. Eligibility is deter-

mined by local ASCS committees, elected by farmers, on an individual, farm-by-farm basis.

These committees consider the type and extent of potential damage and the ability of the farmer or rancher to deal with the drought. Those eligible receive 80 percent of the cost of conservation activities designed to reduce wind erosion and to conserve soil and water.

Farmers in every county in the State are eligible to apply for the program.

Church said the extra \$2.5 million will bring to nearly \$7 million the amount of Federal aid made available in Idaho for this type of conservation assistance.

"These extra funds are both welcome and needed in our efforts to cope with the drought," said Church. "I hope they will be targeted in those areas of the State most severely afflicted by drought conditions."

TVCC Program Unique

Preparing a 204-page research paper, supplementing it with a 30-minute oral presentation, and fielding an hour's worth of questions from an examining committee sounds more like the requirements for a master's degree than an associate degree at a community college. But that is precisely what Jim Hoover, a sophomore at TVCC did recently.

Hoover became part of a seven year tradition when he defended his range management proposal before a committee of four experts in that field. The paper and the oral examination are requirements for a degree in range, crop, or forestry management at Treasure Valley Community College.

It is obviously no easy task, but Hoover has nothing but praise for the requirement. "I wouldn't have missed it for the world," he says. "It gave me a chance to take everything I've learned these past two years and put it together into a practical, comprehensive plan."

And that, according to Bill Murphy, department chairman, is the whole purpose behind the requirement. "A few years ago, two students, Tim Lowery and Gary Vance, came to me and said they thought there was something missing from the program. They wanted an opportunity to put together a practical, working plan. A chance to fuse together their two years of academic experience."

Murphy showed them the master's thesis he had done at Oregon State and they decided that they wanted to do something comparable. Since then, such a project has been a requirement for a management degree.

Is the research paper worthwhile? Lowery, who currently manages a Jordan Valley ranch, has used several of the proposals from his paper in his day-to-day operation. He has also remained instrumental in the program by serving on evaluation committees, including the one which heard Hoover's presentation.

"What we especially look for," says Lowery, "is the practicability and the future-orientation of the research project. Overall, the papers the students are doing today seem to have improved, particularly in the area of economics."

Jim Hoover's paper was not that of the average student. Committee members listened closely as he outlined his proposal. Not only was he attempting to develop a working plan based on what he had learned at TVCC, he tried to implement what he had learned firsthand, from over 25 years of experience.

Like all of the research papers, Hoover's was not a purely hypothetical manage-

ment plan. He did his research on the Findley ranch, west of Ontario. What he presented to the committee was an actual, working plan for that ranch. A plan which covered the next nine years.

After his presentation, committee members Ray Novotny, Steve Jaeger, Fred Trenkle, and Lowery spent the next hour tossing questions at him. One of the rules imposed by Murphy is that he will interfere only when a question is asked in an area to which the student was not exposed. No such questions came up.

"In the time we've been doing this," says Murphy, "I've had to interfere just once. The rest of the time, the students have been able to field any question the committee asked."

Although Murphy determined the student's actual grade, the committee and he meet and they give him their evaluation. In Hoover's case, the evaluation was extremely positive.

"To my knowledge," says Murphy, "we are the only two-year school in the nation which has such a requirement." He adds that, in the beginning, people in the universities told him that such a program would never work. Today, however, TVCC's agriculture department received nothing but praise from the four-year schools.

Murphy admits that students are generally reluctant to tackle the task, but after they get into it, they appreciate the value of it. Hoover was no exception.

"I actually started the paper last fall," he says. "But all of the work I did the first year of school was included in the final draft. I think the paper is the most advantageous part of the learning experience here."

Although the paper is required only for a degree in management, and not for the standard associate degree in agriculture, Hoover recommends that all students attempt such a project. "I've learned a lot from my classroom studies and think the department here is extremely beneficial. But doing that paper was definitely the most practical and beneficial experience of my two years here."

Jim Hoover is not the only student who believes in the project. His son, Mitch, will be presenting his paper to an examining committee this summer.

That's a pretty strong recommendation for a program that wasn't supposed to work at a two-year community college. It's also a credit to Bill Murphy and his department.

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