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Report of

Curry County

Agricultural

Conference

Gold Beach, Oregon

January 29, 1938

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FOREWORD

This report involves the opinion of a large number of Curry county's most successful farmers; was prepared by various committees and subcommittees as indicated; and was adopted at a well attended public hearing January 29, 1938. The statistics and general information were assembled by Curry county officials and the Oregon State college extension service and made available to the various committees for their preliminary study.

The recommendations included in this report were made for the purpose of giving a broader understanding to the farmers who are familiar with Curry county agriculture and to give detailed information to newcomers.

This publication should be preserved and studied frequently by all farmers or prospective Curry county farmers

during the next 5 to 15 years, and ultimately used to measure the progress that has been made. Our extension service is using it as a guide in determining the educational program that will best meet the needs of the farmers. Practical demonstrations are being set up to prove the soundness of these recommendations and put them into practice.

Records will be preserved so that progress can be measured from time to time and made available publicly or individually as the occasion justifies. It is hoped that this report will be instrumental in making Curry county a better and more profitable place to live. Additional copies of this publication may be secured from the County Agent's office in the Court House, Gold Beach, Oregon.

R. M. Knox,
County Agricultural Agent.

Land Use Committee Report

It is felt that the proper use of land is the most important problem confronting Curry county as a whole, and the farmers of Curry county as individuals. While there is somewhat over a million acres of land in Curry county, only thirty-five per cent is private, state, or county owned land. The remainder is federal property which during the four year period, 1933-1936, returned to the county only \$1,240 annually in direct revenue. Of the private, state, and county land only 124,000 acres or about one-third is in farms, and less than one-sixth of this is cropland.

During the last few years farm property has been providing an increasing percentage of the county revenue until now it is paying approximately forty per cent of the cost of operating the county. The committee is of the opinion that during the next ten years most of the more valuable timber in the county will be logged off or will revert to county ownership. This makes it evident that farm taxes will have to be increased to meet the county governmental needs unless the tax base is otherwise increased. In other counties along the coast where considerable logging has already been done they are now paying higher millage rates and have a higher land valuation than Curry county. In this county the millage levy varies from thirty to thirty-five mills in various school and road districts. The committee wishes to impress every property owner in the county with the seriousness of this situation.

The farmers of Curry county met in conference in 1936 and drew up a set of general recommendations designed to cope with the situation outlined. It was pointed out in the 1936 report (1) that bottom lands on existing farms could be made more productive by clearing and drainage, and (2) that large areas of brushy hill pasture should be burned and seeded and converted into good grazing land. Both of these activities (1) will tend to increase the area of productive land, (2) will increase the tax base, and (3) will tend

to lessen the tax burden of individual farmers.

In 1937 another committee consisting of the chairmen of the AAA community committees and a few others met and considered the question of possible land use adjustments in considerable detail. The objective of this 1937 committee was to answer the following question which was asked by the secretary of agriculture:

"What is the estimated probable production of the various farm products in the county after all land not adapted to agriculture has been shifted to other uses, and after sufficient time has elapsed to permit such changes in farm management practices as are necessary to maintain soil fertility and control erosion, and to permit those shifts between agricultural enterprises which seem clearly desirable and susceptible of practical accomplishment?"

This question aims essentially at the development of a long time land-use program for the county. Presumably, it would require ten or fifteen years, at least, to accomplish such a program, but if accomplished either fully or partially, obviously the agriculture of Curry county would be on a sounder basis than at present.

The committee has reviewed the findings of the 1937 committee and concur with their recommendations except for a few minor items. The final recommendations of your committee in regard to desirable land use adjustments are as follows:

(1) 50,000 acres of brush land and cut over land not now owned by farmers should be acquired, added to farms and developed into farm and grazing lands. Of this land probably 1,000 acres should be cleared for crops and probably 200 acres will be needed for building sites, roads, and similar uses. The remainder should be used for grazing.

(2) 37,000 acres of woodland and brushland now in farms should be slashed, burned and seeded and converted into pasture.

(3) 4,000 acres of creek bottom and

fertile bench land should be cleared for crop production.

(4) 3,000 acres of plowable pasture should be put into hay to provide an additional feed base for the increased numbers of stock that can be run on the pastures noted in items 1 and 2.

(5) 1,290 acres of hill crop land located on the steeper slopes should be shifted to permanent pasture to prevent erosion.

(6) 100 new farm units should be created. Of these 50 can be obtained by sub-dividing existing large holdings, and 50 can be developed on new land brought into farms.

(7) 60 farm units now believed to be so small as to be sub-marginal should be consolidated into large farm units.

The net effect of these suggested adjustments is shown by the following table which presents the land use of Curry county as shown by the 1935 census and as it would be if the proposed adjustments were all in effect.

	Pres. Acre.	Prop. Acre.
Rural farm population	2,004	2,188
Number of farms	507	547
Cropland, total	8,165	14,725
Harvested	5,654	14,250
Failure	433	345
Idle or fallow	2,078	121
Pasture land in farms, total	75,730	137,560
Flowable, rotation	5,765	2,765
Plowable, other	5,360	6,650
Woodland pasture	25,968	3,468
Other pasture	38,637	124,677
Woodland in farms, not pasture	32,596	14,096
All other land in farms	7,509	7,619
Total land in farms	124,000	174,000
Land not in farms	907,680	857,680

TOTAL LAND1,031,680:1,031,680

Reference to the table shows that when compared to 1935, which approximates present conditions

(1) all land in farms has been increased by 50,000 acres,

(2) the number of farms have been increased by 40,

(3) cropland has been increased by 1,710 acres.

(4) non-plowable pasture has been increased by 63,540.

While these adjustments involve large acreages it should be noted that no drastic changes are recommended in farming practices for any part of Curry county. The committee feels that sufficient crop and range land should be provided on each farm to carry at least 15 dairy cows, or 500 ewes, or 200 beef cattle, or 2,000 Angora goats, or 40 dairy goats, or equivalent combinations of these as a minimum full time unit. Since outside work in mills, etc. is not dependable the number of small farms should not be increased and in some areas they should be reduced by changing to a more intensive type of production such as cabbage seed or bulbs.

The adjustments just discussed have also been indicated on a map of Curry county included with this report.

The best agricultural areas in which no major adjustment is needed has been ruled vertically. These areas comprise about 80,000 acres or about sixty per cent of the land now in farms. This does not mean that farming practices cannot be improved in such areas but it does indicate that such changes can be made without drastic changes in land use.

Areas ruled diagonally indicate farming and grazing lands where major changes in land use should occur. These areas consist of those sections where clearing and extensive improvement of grazing lands are absolutely necessary if Curry county is to continue in the livestock business. The changes recommended in this area involve three major problems, treated briefly as follows:

(1) No timber of commercial value is located in this area and the soil is more suited for grazing than timber production. The predominating cover in this area is brush; therefore, an intelligent burning and seeding program is recommended.

(2) Most of the farms in this area are too small to produce an adequate living. We recommend consolidation of some of the smaller farms, or expansion by including county owned or other un-

developed land, so that each farm will be capable of carrying at least 500 ewes or their equivalent.

(3) Dairying is practiced on some of these farms because they are so small that the owner cannot make a comparable income from sheep. If the size of the farm is increased and the brush exchanged for grass, then dairying will not be able to compete with sheep production. The dairying of this section will then be shifted to the more fertile bottom lands.

The approximate location of the 50,-000 acres of brush and cut-over land that should be added to farms is indicated by the horizontal ruling. It should be noted that such areas are adjacent to existing roads and schools and will not therefore result in added county expense for setting up such facilities. Some of these areas, away from present roads, are located near existing farms to which they might be added as grazing areas, thus increasing the income of the farm without materially increasing the overhead or operating costs.

At this time the committee wishes to point out some of the accomplishments during the last year as a result of the 1936 and 1937 reports. Both committees were unanimous in their opinion that the legal restrictions on the use of fire were of major importance in preventing the development of the farm and grazing areas of the county. This matter was brought before livestock groups of the state, and after careful deliberation a bill was drafted and subsequently passed by the 1937 legislature which is believed will remedy this situation without in any way endangering forest lands. This new law recognizes the use of fire as an indispensable tool in developing grazing land and provides for the cooperation of the state forester, in carrying out its provisions. It also provides for classification of lands into agricultural and grazing areas, timber and grazing areas, and timber areas. The state forester and his agents have offered their fullest cooperation in the issuance of permits and giving assistance in getting good burns in those areas classified by the county land

classification committee as grazing or agricultural areas. Every farm operator who expects to develop grazing land should indicate to the county committee that he desires to have his land classified.

As a means of carrying out the land use adjustments suggested in this report we recommend that the farmers in each community get together for the purpose of studying these recommendations as they apply to the area which involves their farm and surrounding unimproved lands. The following outline of procedure is suggested:

1. Petition for classification as grazing units those areas where there is a concentration of land owners, or a single owner with relatively large holdings, who desire to develop lands for grazing, and where such areas are reasonably well isolated from valuable timber by natural or artificial fire breaks.

2. Submit statements early in the season for those within such units who desire to burn, giving name, address, legal description of land and approximate number of acres to be burned, together with any other information which might be requested by the fire control agency, so that all details of burning can be agreed upon before the burning season.

3. Do not apply for a burning permit unless you can give definite assurance that this burn will be seeded within a reasonable length of time.

4. Discuss with the control agency the possibility of providing a small, well trained crew and some equipment to assist with the burning in dangerous places at the time of burning so that a minimum number of fires will escape. This plan will attain economy and cooperation between all interests.

5. Where several land owners are included in a grazing area or well defined burning district it is recommended that an organization should be formed with an elected foreman to take charge of all burning operations in which the entire group is involved.

Generally speaking unimproved logged over or brush hill land is a liability

rather than an asset, therefore it has little, if any, value. The cost of improving, including slashing, burning seeding and fencing, varies from \$10.00 to \$30.00 per acre. The producing capacity of the land involved in this discussion justifies this development, for when developed it will carry all

operating costs, pay a good labor return, and pay interest on the investment if properly managed and operated in economic units.

We believe that this program can be carried into effect if the people of this county study this report carefully, and cooperate in putting it into operation.

Livestock Committee Report

The livestock industry, including dairying, in Curry county provides ninety per cent of the agricultural income. Assessment rolls and the census figures indicate approximately 4,000 head of dairy cattle, 2,000 head of beef cattle, 17,000 sheep, 3,000 goats, and 1,000 hogs as the present livestock population of the county. According to the land use committee report there is room for expansion of the sheep industry by at least 40,000 head, and 50,000 more goats. A range and forage balance can be maintained for this increased number providing there is only a slight increase in beef and that the dairy cow numbers are not materially increased.

The committee wishes to approve all the recommendations made by the dairy and livestock committee of 1937, point out some of the achievements since that report was made, and state more definitely or make additional recommendations that can be considered as a guide for developments during the next five to fifteen years.

Dairying

Since Curry county has about 1.4 per cent of the dairy cows in Oregon, and since Oregon carries about 1.0 per cent of the cows in the United States any changes made in the number of cows milked would have very little effect upon the supply of dairy products. Therefore it is recommended that since the number of dairy cows in the United States apparently is on the increase at the present time, that our dairymen should place particular emphasis on efficiency and low cost of production, and maintain the maximum number of high producing cows on the limited productive area of bottom land in the county. The committee believes

that each farmer in the county depending upon dairy cows for his income and living should milk at least fifteen good cows to maintain a minimum standard of living, or should supply supplemental income through the production of some highly specialized cash crop, through outside employment, or by expanding his range holdings to the extent that he could supplement this income with sheep or other livestock.

Recommendations:

1. Dairy Herd Improvement association testing should be carried on continuously for the purpose of eliminating low producers, working out a better feed and pasture program, and, by the use of better breeding practices, build up herds that will exceed three hundred pounds butter fat per year.

2. Bull associations should be organized by the dairymen in each community, to reduce the cost of sire service, to improve the quality and producing capacity by providing better sires, to provide a means of keeping the better bulls in service as long as they are of serviceable age, and to prove the producing capacity of daughters as compared to the production of their dams.

3. Considerable progress has been made in the elimination of Bang's disease and Curry county has been made eligible for accreditation, therefore it is recommended that every dairyman should assume some individual responsibility in the matter of preventing the introduction of diseased animals into the county.

4. The committee feels that some grain can be used during the dry period and early lactation when the prices of butter fat and grain have a favorable

ratio, but in main the feeding program should be improved through the production and management of better pastures which might also include irrigation under favorable conditions. Climatic and soil conditions will make it increasingly important to provide supplemental mineral mixtures, especially to cows of higher producing capacity. This can be provided at minimum cost through the use of bone meal, lime and salt. (Discussed further in Oregon State College Bulletin No. 309.)

5. Cheese factories have reported considerable improvement in the quality of milk delivered during the last year, and have also reported an increasing demand for their cheese as a result of this improved quality, therefore the committee wishes to recommend that a price differential be paid in favor of the dairymen cooperating on quality, and, further that the dairymen, themselves, consider manufacturing and marketing their own products if the factories fail to carry out this program of passing on part of the increased value of the higher quality product.

6. In view of the fact that many dairy barns are old and inconvenient, it is believed that the dairymen of the county should get together to study barn plans and make recommendations or develop a type of inexpensive construction that might be included as their recommendations in a set of blue prints that would meet Curry county needs so far as convenience, structural type, and low cost construction is concerned, and that these blue prints be made available through the agricultural engineering department of the college.

Sheep

Lambs and wool provide the quickest and easiest income of the livestock developments in the county, therefore it is considered that their expansion should be encouraged. The committee feels that any farmer depending entirely on sheep for his living should plan on running at least five hundred ewes with sufficient range and cropland so that some two to three hundred pounds

of hay could be provided per ewe for winter feeding to avoid the occasional heavy losses and improve the quality of wool and lambs each year.

Recommendations:

1. The committee feels that Cotteswold, Romney, and Lincoln ewes are best suited to our conditions and that every sheepman should, by selection, increase the weight of the fleeces and the lamb producing capacity of the ewes in any one of these three breeds

2. Cross breeding these ewes with Southdown or Shropshire rams materially increases the quality of lambs for marketing purposes, but none of these cross bred lambs should be kept for breeding stock. By selection, sheepmen in other sections have been able to market as high as one hundred forty-nine pounds of lamb per ewe, and maintain their breeding flock. This has been accomplished by selecting ewe lambs over a period of ten to fifteen years and by keeping individual records on each ewe in the flock.

3. As a result of the recommendations made last year, a state appropriation was secured to study lamb losses and due to unusual conditions very little typical material was available for study. The committee feels that every sheepman in the county should cooperate by reporting losses and by cooperating with the Veterinary department in Corvallis, as it is a field as well as a laboratory problem. Stomach worms and other internal parasites should be controlled by range sanitation, including occasional burning or pasture rotation and by providing plenty of good feed so that the sheep will not be subject to the parasites rather than using worm medicine which should only be reverted to in case the owner fails in these other respects.

Beef Cattle

Recommendations:

1. Ordinarily beef cattle cannot compete with sheep on suitable range for providing maximum income with the acreage involved, but the committee feels that from two to three thousand head of improved beef type cattle should be carried on the rougher, more

inaccessible brushy areas in sections where predatory animals have not been controlled. In all cases good Hereford or Shorthorn beef type bulls should be used to improve the type and quality, especially in some sections of the county where rough, mongrel type of cattle are now being run.

Goats

Recommendations:

1. Range conditions in the undeveloped areas are particularly adapted to goat production on an extensive scale. For small land holders the undeveloped dairy goat industry presents undetermined possibilities. All sheep owners agree that a small band of goats running with their sheep make more grass than they eat. Several goat men in the county have proved that as long as mohair remains at thirty cents a pound, or better, it will pay for fencing and seeding during a period of four years, after which time with proper management, the range involved is capable of carrying sheep.

2. Controlled breeding of Angora goats is recommended, dipping to control lice should be practiced annually, shelter sheds should be provided, and some attention given the flock at kidding time to save the increase. The goat owner should give attention to improving the flock so that their average clip will exceed four pounds of mohair per head. Vast areas of brushy waste lands are ideal ranges for Angora goats and it is recommended that those interested in the goat industry of the county should get together and devise some plan for the extensive increase and ranging of goats on outside ranges.

Dairy Goats:

Recommendations:

1. Since the market for dairy goat products has not been established in Curry county we recommend as follows:

(a) That every effort must be made for a high quality product.

(b) If possible all dairy goats brought into this county should be located here in the spring of the year so that they will have time to become accustomed to climatic conditions be-

fore the fall and winter rains start.

(c) That every owner importing goats should provide shelter for them, with at least ten square feet of floor space for each goat, before winter storms commence.

(d) That research work be done to designs of barns suitable for dairy goats, which can be built cheaply, can be kept clean and sanitary, and in which the goats can keep clean while sleeping.

(e) The most serious loss in dairy goats will be from parasites. This problem should be studied.

2. Providing the dairy goat owners in the south end of the county develop an economic market for dairy goat cheese, it is recommended that the small land holders with units too small to make a living in sheep or beef cattle should cooperate on increasing the numbers and improving the producing capacity of the milk goats, as climatic and forage conditions are judged extremely favorable for this industry. The committee feels that a milking string of forty goats should be considered a minimum one man unit, providing he is dependent for his entire income from this source. Every effort should be made to develop this industry along sound lines as the welfare of the county depends to a large extent upon the prosperity of the small land holder.

Hogs

Recommendations:

1. The number of hogs on dairy farms has been decreased due to the competitive use of whey, therefore some attention should be given to the range hogs to use the acorn crop so that at least the needs of the county will be provided for. The problem of the range hog operator involves major consideration from the standpoint of summer feed and the development of a specialized market. We recommend that the hog producers get together for the purpose of working out these two problems, especially that of marketing a uniform supply of ham, bacon, and perhaps canned sausage.

2. The matter of theft of hogs has become a very decided menace, even

more discouraging than the theft of other livestock. The committee wishes to emphasize the importance of legal branding, registration of ear marks, and the development of tattooing for all forms of livestock, including poultry, so that theft prevention can be carried out.

Fur Farming

Although fur farming is not a significant economic factor in the production of Curry county at the present time, the committee felt that this industry should be investigated, and recommendations made available to those who are becoming interested. The information contained in this report has been obtained from local fur farmers and it is hoped that this information will be used to prevent economic loss by investors who have not thoroughly investigated all the problems connected with this highly specialized industry.

Recommendations:

1. The committee wishes to emphasize that this section is well adapted for the carrying of this industry in a profitable way and cannot be surpassed if intelligent management is carried out. Under present conditions it costs four to five dollars per year to feed each mink. In the past the income from each pelt has varied from eight to twelve dollars, the best pelts having sold for fifteen to sixteen dollars. One mink raiser marketed 342 mink during 1937 from 42 females. 50 females should

be considered as a minimum full time family unit although one man can handle from 100 to 125 females.

2. It has been proved that superior quality can be produced in this section as the fur is more silky as compared to a harsh fur in colder sections. Proper feeding, breeding, and management are the primary factors for success in putting out a high quality fur. In one feeding trial which demonstrated the use of wheat germ meal, which furnished vitamin E, the size of litters was increased sixty per cent. The major cash cost involves the purchase of meat for food, and very careful consideration of this point is recommended before anyone attempts to go into the fur animal industry.

Summary:

The report of this committee has been correlated with the other committee reports and represents the opinion of the majority of the successful livestock owners of the county. In general we believe that adequate fences prove our greatest limiting factor, second only to our burning and seeding program, therefore we recommend that land owners should make special effort to construct adequate line and division fences capable of turning sheep and goats.

Finally, we wish to emphasize that the success of this entire program depends on the whole hearted support and cooperation of everyone in the county.

Crops Committee Report

This committee wishes to concur with the recommendations made by the 1937 crops committee, restate some sections of this report, and comment on the progress that has been made.

A. The Situation:

1. Forage crops occupy most of the cultivated lands.

According to the 1934 census, Curry county had only 5,654 acres of cropped land. Of this, 4,453 acres, or roughly, 80%, were in hay; in addition, 11,125 acres of plow land were in permanent pasture. Therefore, of the million acres of land in the county, less than 2% is

plowable, and less than 10% of the plowable land is used for purposes other than forage crops.

The Land Use Committees, both 1937 and 1938, have made very extensive recommendations, the working principles of which have been accomplished through a change in state laws and it is the purpose of this report to see that information is available to carry out the best use of the range land so provided. This is primarily a pasture or forage producing section of the state. Over 90% of the land is devoted to producing forage crops, therefore the pro-

ducing of these crops is of primary importance in connection with the livestock industry.

In the past barely enough hay has been produced to keep livestock in condition during the normal year. In an abnormal year the financial welfare of the county has been jeopardized by shipping in large amounts of hay and other feed. More and better hay should be produced in the county and a hold-over from year to year to take care of these unusual conditions should be planned.

New developments in the curing of hay or the handling of grass silage should be investigated and trials made, as this is a section not well suited to the curing of good hay.

Alfalfa provides the best hay but on most land requires the use of lime, and in the past good stands have not always been established. While the acreage of alfalfa has been increased by three hundred per cent in the county during the last two years, our greatest problem involves the use of red alsike clover and these should be given more consideration.

A minimum amount of plowing is recommended, but when it is necessary vetch should be included in the grain mixture to increase the protein content of the hay, as well as the yield. Where these legumes have not been grown on the land during the last five years inoculation is recommended. This grain stubble land should be reseeded as soon as possible with a good hay or pasture grass and clover mixture. Therefore, we suggest that early fall seeding in the stubble should be made on all land not subject to flood.

In order to meet the increased livestock population of the county recommended by the Land Use Committee it will be necessary to do some planning in connection with the approved seeding practices.

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that all brush land that is burned over should be seeded with a mixture suited to that ground, but in all event three types of seed should be sown—a sod forming

grass such as highland bent, a quick growing grass such as a ryegrass or mesquite, and a legume such as white or burr clover, not to exceed one-third western rye grass in any mixture.

The following formula to be used as a guide, but not without adaptations to varying types of soil, has been set up with modifications recommended below. This formula also shows the approximately number of seeds per square foot if evenly distributed.

Seed pasture land with an approved mixture.

Kind of Grass	Seeds	
	lbs. per A.	Sq. Ft.
Common rye gr.	3	13
English rye gr.	2	14
Orchard	3	21
White Clover	1	17
Alsike Clover	$\frac{3}{4}$	11
Highland Bent	$\frac{1}{4}$	30

TOTALS10 lbs. 106

If more seed is desired per acre add 1 to 3 lbs. Chewing Fescue or 1 or 2 lbs. Timothy. On exceptionally poor ground Mesquite may be substituted for the rye grasses and the Highland Bent increased in place of Alsike clover.

On bench cropland add 3 lbs. tall meadow oat grass per acre.

Seed cropland with an approved mixture.

Kind of Grass	Seeds	
	lbs. per A.	Sq. Ft.
English rye gr.	3	21
Common rye gr.	4	18
Orchard	3	21
Red Clover	3	15
Alsike Clover	1	14
White Clover	1	17

TOTAL15 lbs. 106

If more seed per acre is desired add 2lbs. Timothy or ryegrass. If you wish to reduce the cost per acre, increase the Alsike Clover in place of Red Clover and increase Common rye grass (not to exceed one-third of total mixture) in place of Orchard or English rye grass.

2. Another problem involves the over-

grazed improved range land which has become mossy and run out. The committee recommends that some of these ranges should be reseeded; harrowed, where feasible, to prepare a seed bed; and grazing should be deferred to give the new grass a chance to crowd out the moss.

3. It is also recommended that pasture and improvement practices should be developed for bottom land pastures, including seeding with improved grass and legumes so that a sod will be built up without plowing. Long time pasture seeding and management trials should be established to prove the best system for building up the carrying capacity of these pastures without plowing.

Specialty Crops

1. Because of the limited amount of plow land available in the county and the livestock need for maximum forage it appears as though only limited small areas will be able to compete under the present state of development. On very small farms where extensive agriculture does not give opportunity for adequate income, bulbs, cut flowers, small fruits, and vegetable seeds are recommended.

Bulbs and Flowers

1. The committee recommends only limited expansion along this line until the market is improved by restrictions on imports or otherwise. Cut flowers may be marketed in California and bulbs shipped east, otherwise the market of one or the other will be spoiled. Regal lillies, daffodils, dutch iris, tulips, and tigridia do well in this section, producing an income from five hundred to one thousand dollars per acre.

Fruits

1. Very little consideration has been given generally on most farms in the county to provide adequate supply of fruit for home use. The increasing demand for practically all kinds of berries in the local markets is not being cared for. Therefore, this committee recommends that a perennial fruit garden should be established on every farm and that a few small land owners could profitably grow raspberries, strawberries, youngberries, and others.

2. Great care should be taken in locating the orchard and small fruit gardens, selecting good fertile, well drained soil, well sheltered from the wind. In nearly all cases barnyard manure and superphosphates should be used.

3. The county agent has mimeographed recommendations particularly adapted to Curry county conditions with selected varieties that do well in this section. A list of which follows:

Apples: Gravenstein, Northern Spy, and King.

Sour Cherries: Early Richmond, May Duke, and Montmorency.

Red Raspberries: St. Regis Everbearer, Latham (or Newberg) and Lloyd George.

Strawberries: Early—Narcissa; Mid-season—Marshall; Late—Red Hearts.

Gooseberries: Oregon Champion and Poorman.

Small Seeds

1. During the last four years small trials have been made in the production of cabbage and beet seed. We are convinced that climatic and soil conditions are favorable for producing these seed crops cheaper than they can be grown in most other sections. Several seed houses have been interested to the extent of providing stock seed but the farmers of the county have taken very little interest in carrying on these trials. In fact all the trials that were established were given such minor attention that a profitable crop has never been harvested but all of these failures can be traced to accident or neglect. This experimental work and the production of small seeds should be developed by some of the smaller land owners who need high priced production from a small acreage.

In general the progress made during the last year or two relative to improved practices in seeding has been very pronounced. Highland Bent, a comparatively new grass, has been included in nearly every hill land pasture mixture. Curry county was importing almost worthless burn mixtures by the car load a few years ago. To the best of our knowledge not a single pound

was seeded in Curry county during 1937. Since we know very little about the relative feed value of the various grass and legumes in pasture mixtures we recommend that the agricultural experiment station conduct some work along this line.

The farmers of the county should be complimented for their improved seeding practices and should be encouraged to make still further progress during the next few years as most of the cash cost is taken care of by the Agricultural Conservation Program.

Soils

This committee feels that the recommendations made last year were very complete and comprehensive. They recommended that a cheaper source of lime should be found. This has been done and is now available at North Bend at \$2.50 a ton.

The committee further wishes to emphasize the more intelligent use of

manure and the development of liquid manure tanks to become part of the pasture and forage improvement program. Lime and phosphates should be used more extensively. Best results have been obtained from the use of lime by applying it to alfalfa or clover fields while phosphates have proved to be very valuable on pastures, root and vegetable crops. We recommend that more farmers with cropland should plan on using their entire agricultural conservation allowance, investing it in lime and phosphates.

While irrigation has been decreasing we feel that it is a sound practice on numerous farms in the county and should be developed further.

The success of pasture and crop production depends largely on soil fertility and it is believed that the entire animal nutrition problem should be handled by feeding the soil rather than buying grain or high priced mineral mixtures.

Home and Rural Life Committee Report

We raise the question relative to the objectives in agriculture and the farmer whether it is carried on for the purpose of living or for the purpose of making a living. How often we feel the farmer and his family lose sight of the farm and home, substituting for it the financial success of the farm venture. In other words, we might answer the question, do we live to earn money or do we earn money to live?

In cities, from ninety to one hundred per cent of the family's living must be paid for from earnings. On the farm we find that from fifty to ninety per cent of the family's living can be produced or provided by home labor. We should not imitate the city dwellers in their methods of making a living but should attempt to raise the farm standard of living to a comparable status with that of the city dweller, at a very reduced cash cost.

The one main purpose of working toward better crops, enriched soil, increased production of good livestock and poultry is to have a richer, happier rural home and a finer community

life. A program which develops improved practices only in agriculture will not achieve prosperous homes and better living. Some attention must be given to the home problems as well.

Although economic conditions largely determine the standard of living, every effort should be made to obtain good standards of home life on the farm. Therefore, we seriously urge a study of the problems involved and an effort to eliminate the objectionable features placing emphasis on the advantages of life in the country.

Housing and Home Conveniences

Since one of the results desired from the farm work and the farm business is a comfortable home your committee just completed a survey of 166 farm homes selected at random from all parts of the county and presents the summarized information.

The committee notes that the majority of the homes in the county are fairly old and that a large number are unpainted, which indicates that to some extent they might be considered temporary structures. If economic condi-

tions improve it is very probable that a good many new homes will be constructed during the next few years. In view of this fact we recommend that various organizations in each community and the county make a study of house plans, not only involving the construction of new houses but the remodeling of old houses, so that an adaptable type may be developed that will eliminate a good many mistakes and serve the needs of the family for efficiency, labor saving, health, and even financial success of the farm itself.

Water Systems

A survey showed water was carried into 32 homes, which is roughly 19%, and carried an average distance of 39 yards. Only 92 or 55% have hot and cold running water. It was further found that 39% of the homes had surface disposal of the sewage, which makes it more than ever important that very careful consideration must be given to the purity of water coming from our shallow wells and springs. We recommend periodic testing of the water supply which may be done, at no cost, through the Department of Bacteriology at Oregon State college.

To safeguard the water supply from pollution it is necessary that the surface of the water in a well or spring is at a higher level at all times than any nearby source of filth.

The committee wants to suggest that all property owners wishing to improve water systems and who might need some help in surveying, etc., should place their request with the county agent who in turn will secure the service of the Agricultural Engineering Department. The objectives being to put hot and cold running water in every home, with adequate waste water and sewage disposal by developing better tanks and springs for gravity water or by placing barrels or tanks in the attic or on a tower so that water pressure will provide for the operation of a hot water tank. In some cases it was found that water was piped to the barn or the back porch but had to be carried from there.

The committee recommends the use of gravity systems where possible. The cost of such a system would depend entirely on how much and what kind of pipe would be used and whether or not a storage tank would be used. The cost would be very small compared to the saving made in comfort and conserving time and energy used in carrying the water.

A semi-automatic pump with a gasoline engine and a 300 gallon tank would cost about \$195.00. Installation of this kind with an open tank instead of a pressure tank would be less expensive, and can be done in some cases with very little cash outlay.

Sanitation

1. Improved Toilets:

From the housing survey out of the 166 families studied 56 have unimproved outside toilets, only 2 having an improved type, 65 have flush indoor toilets, and 1 a chemical indoor toilet. Since any disposal of sewage is an important matter because of its potential danger, we recommend building improved outdoor toilets with an ultimate goal of bathrooms in every farm house. These can be of several recommended types as described in the Farmers Bulletin No. 1227 on Sewage Farm Homes.

2. Sewage Disposal:

It was found that out of 166 farm homes studied, 63 had surface disposal of sewage, 31 streams, 57 cesspools, and 10 septic tanks. Since none of these methods of sewage disposal, except septic tanks, is safe from a health standpoint, the ultimate goal should be a septic tank on every farm. If enough farmers are interested in the construction of septic tanks, one demonstration should be given near the center or perhaps in each end of the county.

3. Kitchen Sinks with Drains:

The survey found that 28 of the families studied do not have a kitchen sink with a drain. Since this means much extra work in not only carrying water in but also carrying it out again, it is recommended that a kitchen sink be installed with a drain even though

it may be a very simple installation, using 30 feet of inverted V-trough constructed of 2x12 inch planks placed in a ditch on a six inch bed of gravel.

Home Remodeling

In the housing survey of the 166 families, 89 need and want a laundry room, 98 need additional closets, 80 bath rooms, 45 a basement, 29 wash room for hired help, 72 storage space for fruits and vegetables, 56 bedrooms, 46 porches, 36 wash rooms, 24 living rooms, and 31 dining rooms. The committee recommends that where possible this additional space be planned.

Re-arrangement of kitchens to save time, and addition of labor saving devices also recommended. (Refer Farm Kitchen Planning Bulletin No. 504 .

Also some definite space should be planned for a place for small children to play and store toys.

Help on home remodeling can be obtained from the Home Furnishing Specialist at Oregon State college.

We recommend demonstrations on improving home furnishings with little or no cost and that the women in each community arrange a definite enrollment for these demonstrations.

Improved Lighting

Of the 166 farm home studied, 24 are on a power line, 18 have home electric plants, 2 have acetylene, and 2 piped gas, leaving 130 with kerosene or gas-line lamps. The committee recommends as a long time goal rural electrification. In places where the power line will not be accessible for many years, home electric plants or hydro-electric plants should be considered where water fall is adequate, or in any event Aladdin lamps. Some consideration should be given to the use of water and wind power to recharge batteries in the operation of home electric plants.

Refrigeration

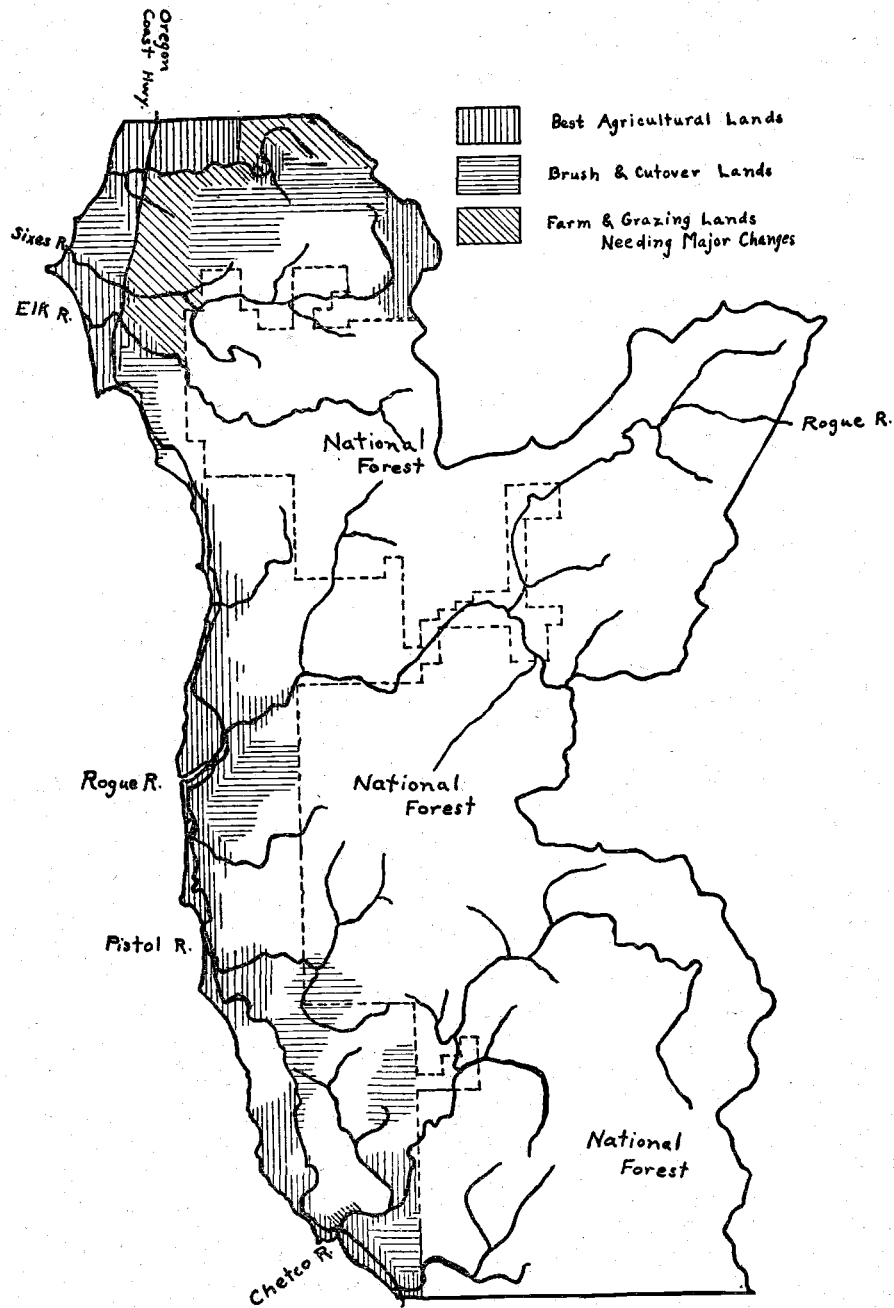
It is recommended that since only 110 out of 166 have coolers and only 8 mechanical refrigeration, that an effort be made to build coolers of some sort. The cost is very small and the amount of food saved would soon pay for it.

Outside Improvement

A home and its surroundings must be attractive in order to be most uplifting to the family, visitors, and passersby. With clean, attractive homes the youth becomes better citizens. Farm homes especially need attention in order to secure satisfactory conditions. The farm home and business are so closely related that the success of the latter is reflected in the appearance of the former.

The committee recommends: making plantings about the farm home of native shrubs, trees, and flowers; improving yard lay-outs; planting and caring for small lawns; building fences around the farm home and garden, both for beauty and utility; and cleaning up yards and keeping them in order. We wish to especially emphasize cleaning up old tumbled down or deserted buildings which, in a good many cases, spoil the landscape of an otherwise attractive home, and remain a constant fire hazard to the good home and other buildings.

We especially recommend the parents' and teachers' cooperation on a program of improving school grounds and buildings by landscaping and otherwise protect marring public buildings so that a respect for property and a pride for good homes and good public buildings will be developed in the growing generation. Planting trees, flowers, and shrubs on school grounds, keeping them neat and attractive is something that makes for good citizenship.



Sponsors

The Pomona Grange and the Committee of the Agricultural Outlook Conference are deeply indebted to the following individuals and organizations who have made the publishing of this booklet possible through their generous financial support:

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FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about any of the cities or communities in Curry county can be obtained by writing to the secretary of any of the following Chambers of Commerce: Brookings, Gold Beach and Port Orford.