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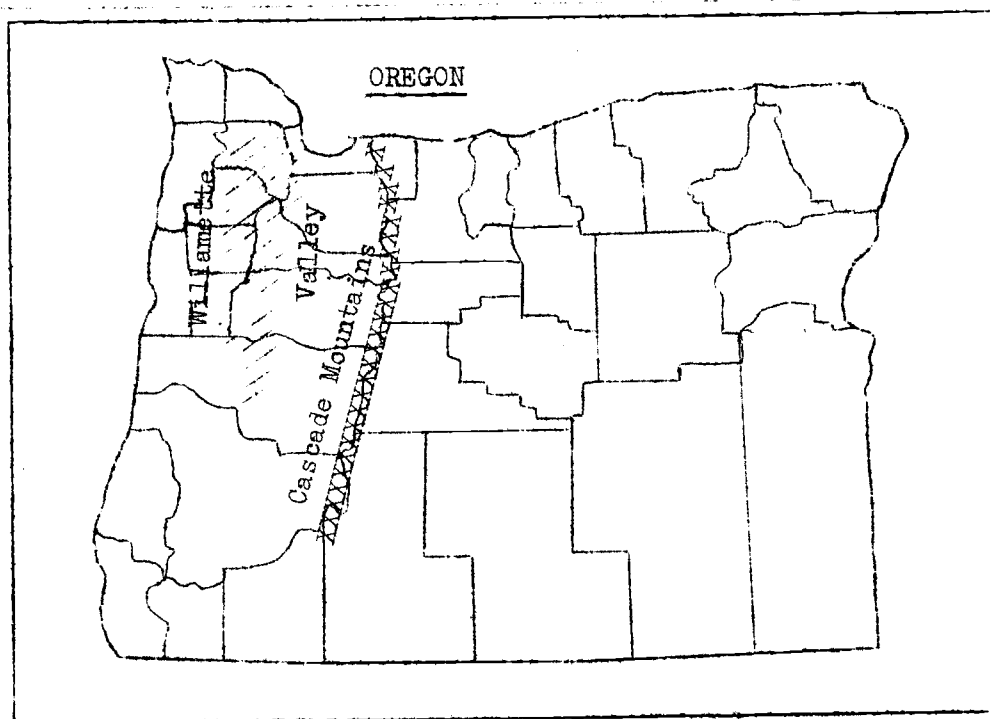
Oregon State Agricultural College
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
Corvallis, Oregon
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Circular of Information No. 120

May, 1935

SUGGESTIONS TO PROSPECTIVE SETTLERS IN OREGON

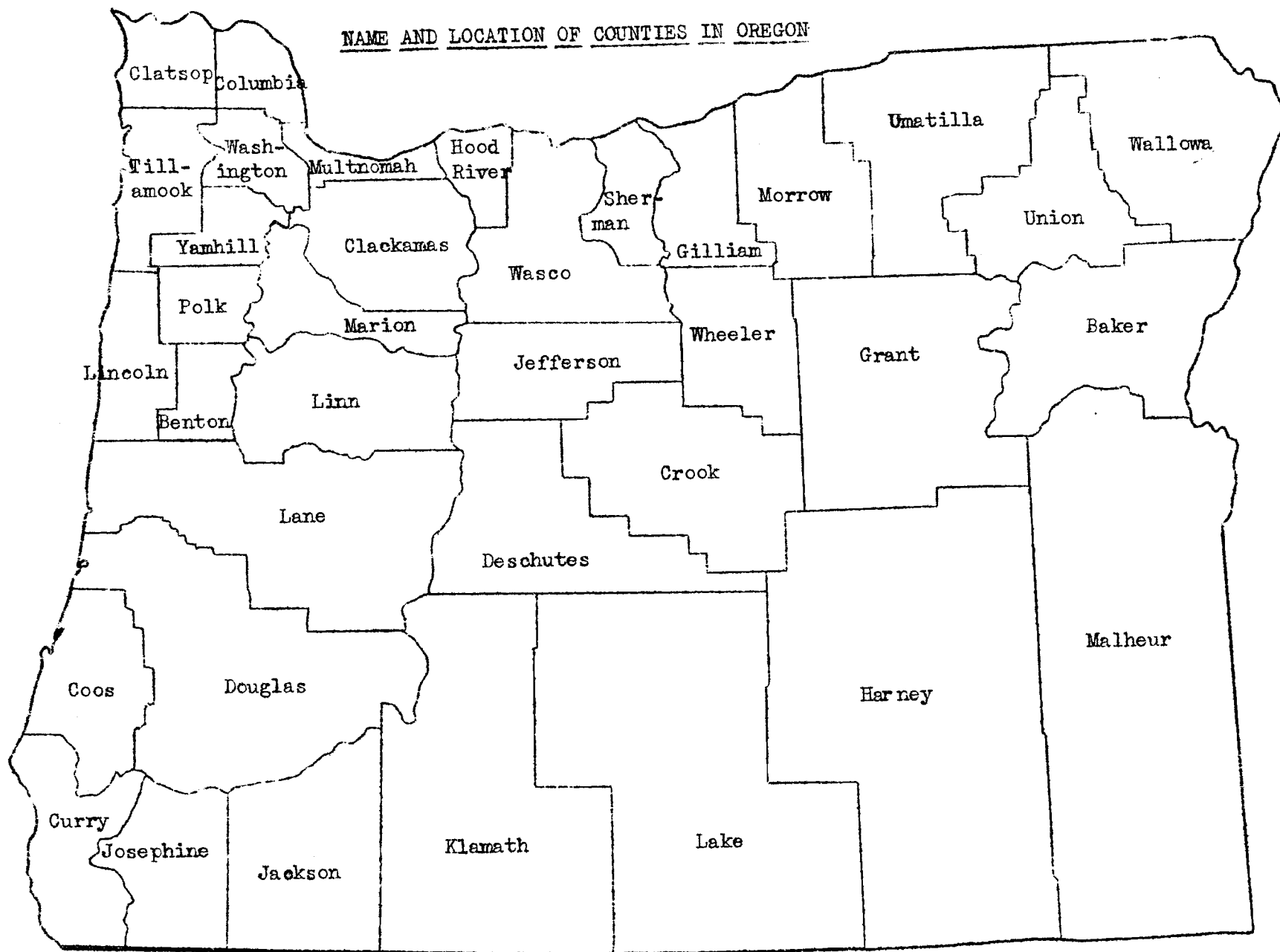
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NAME AND LOCATION OF COUNTIES IN OREGON



SUGGESTIONS TO PROSPECTIVE SETTLERS IN OREGON

Oregon offers a wide variety of desirable living conditions and farming opportunities. On account of this variety it is necessary that the prospective farmer choose his location with much care. This brief pamphlet has been prepared to give information to prospective settlers that may help them to find locations in which they have an opportunity to succeed in their chosen fields.

Climate. There is an extremely wide variation in climatic conditions in Oregon. Some idea of this variation may be obtained from the precipitation and growing season maps on pages 5 and 6.

Parts of eastern Oregon have occasional winter temperatures as low as 20 or 30 degrees below zero and in most summers have several days with a temperature of 100 degrees. In the districts along the coast, on the other hand, winter temperatures seldom go below freezing or summer temperatures above 90 degrees. The Willamette Valley is between the eastern Oregon and coast conditions, with only an occasional winter when the temperature goes as low as zero, and few days in summer with temperatures as high as 100 degrees. Nights are usually cool in summer throughout all of Oregon.

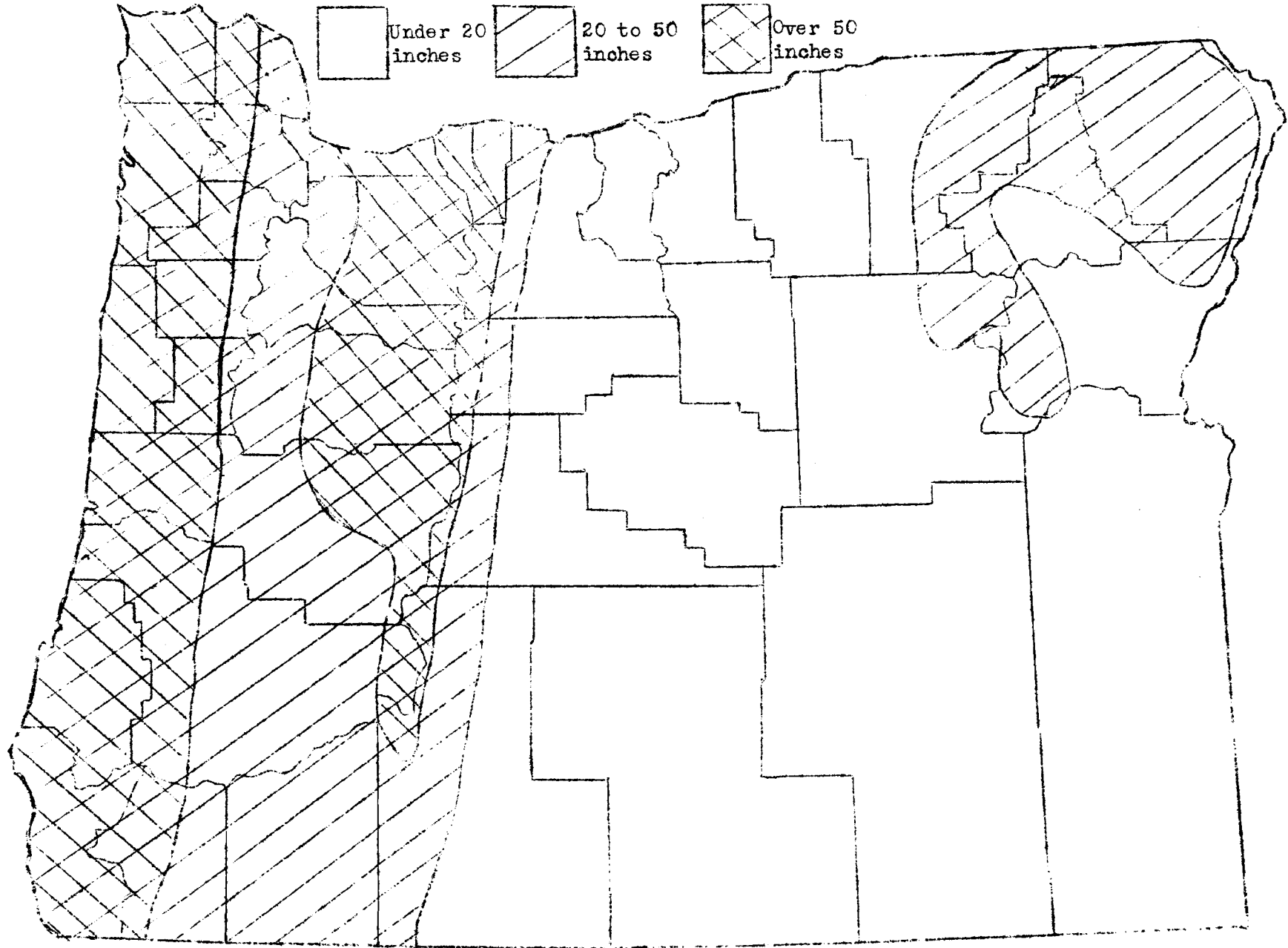
Total annual precipitation varies from less than 10 inches in some parts of eastern Oregon to over 100 inches in places in western Oregon. Western Oregon winters are rainy, with only occasional frost or snow. There is very little rain, however, during the summer.

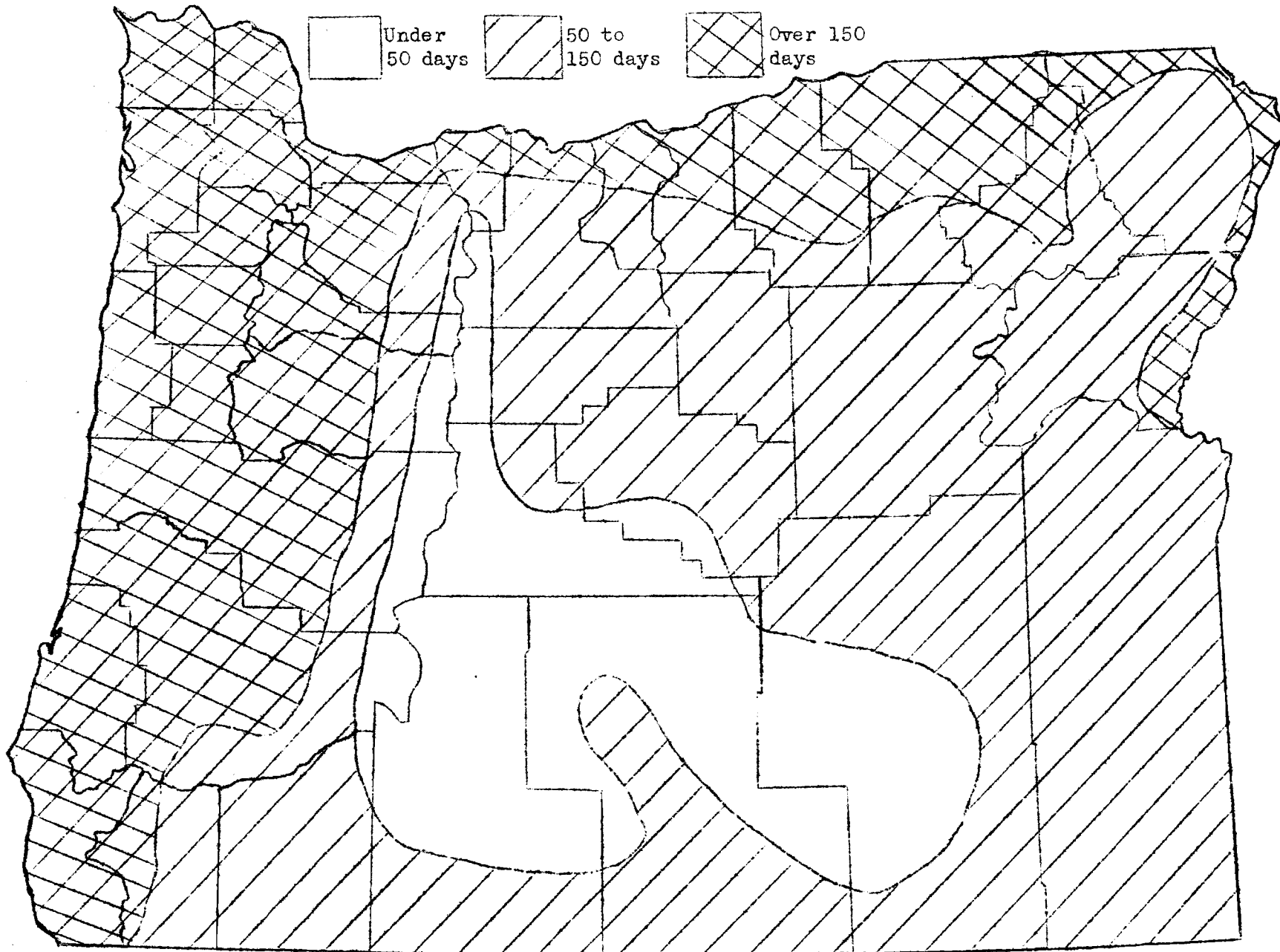
The shortest growing season is found in some of the sections in eastern Oregon at altitudes of 4000 feet or more where frosts are apt to occur any month in the year. At the other extreme are the coast sections where in many years there are no killing frosts.

Soils. There is also a wide variation in soils in Oregon, from very fertile, highly productive soils to those that are worthless for farming purposes. Frequently very good and very poor soils are found on the same farm. Soils that are particularly undesirable for farming in the Willamette Valley are the shallow hill soils, which dry out quickly in summer, and the flat, heavy, poorly drained soils in the floor of the valley locally known as "white land." Due to the rather dry summers, hill soils in western Oregon must be deeper than in the eastern United States in order to be equally productive.

In the irrigated districts very sandy soils are to be avoided, as they require an excessive amount of irrigation water. In some of the dry land wheat farming areas there is serious danger from soil erosion.

TOTAL ANNUAL PRECIPITATION



LENGTH OF GROWING SEASON

In Oregon the color of the soil is not, as in some parts of the country, a reliable indication of its value. Soil survey reports are available for all Willamette Valley counties and a few others, but the supply is not sufficient to permit general distribution. They may be consulted in the office of the county agricultural agent in each county for which they are available.

Types of farming. Some idea of the type of farm production in the different counties in the state may be obtained from the table on page 7, which gives information from the census as to kinds of farm products produced in each county.

Much of Oregon consists of timber, mountains, and grazing land. Farming is carried on in valleys or other areas that are suitable for cultivation.

In the Willamette Valley are located about half the farms in the state (see maps on cover page and page 9). In this area the farming is principally non-irrigated and very diversified, the principal types of production being general farming, dairying, and fruit raising. On soils that are adapted there is considerable production of special crops such as walnuts, filberts, hops, fibre flax, mint, and various seed crops. Commercial egg production is an important enterprise. Within this area are approximately 300,000 acres of soil types that are adapted to intensive cultivation such as fruit and vegetable production, 400,000 acres of excellent general farm land, 700,000 acres of land adapted to grain and hay production, but not to intensive crops, 300,000 acres of land suitable chiefly for pasture, and 1,600,000 acres of hill soils, which vary from shallow soils, worthless for farming, to deep, fertile soils adapted to general farming and fruit production.

Irrigated areas are scattered throughout eastern and southern Oregon and there is some irrigation in the Willamette Valley and coast regions. The smaller irrigated valleys are used mostly to raise hay for the wintering of range cattle and sheep. The larger areas are devoted chiefly to general farming and dairying, with alfalfa hay usually the principal crop. In the valleys of lower elevation there is considerable commercial production of fruits and vegetables.

The principal wheat producing region is in the north central part of the state including Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Morrow and Umatilla counties. This is a "dry-farming" area, by which is meant a special type of farming adapted to conditions of low rainfall. The land is usually planted to wheat every other year, and is summer-fallowed in the alternate years in order to conserve moisture. There are smaller areas of dry-farming in other counties in eastern Oregon, and wheat is raised in connection with general farming in the Willamette Valley and in the irrigated areas.

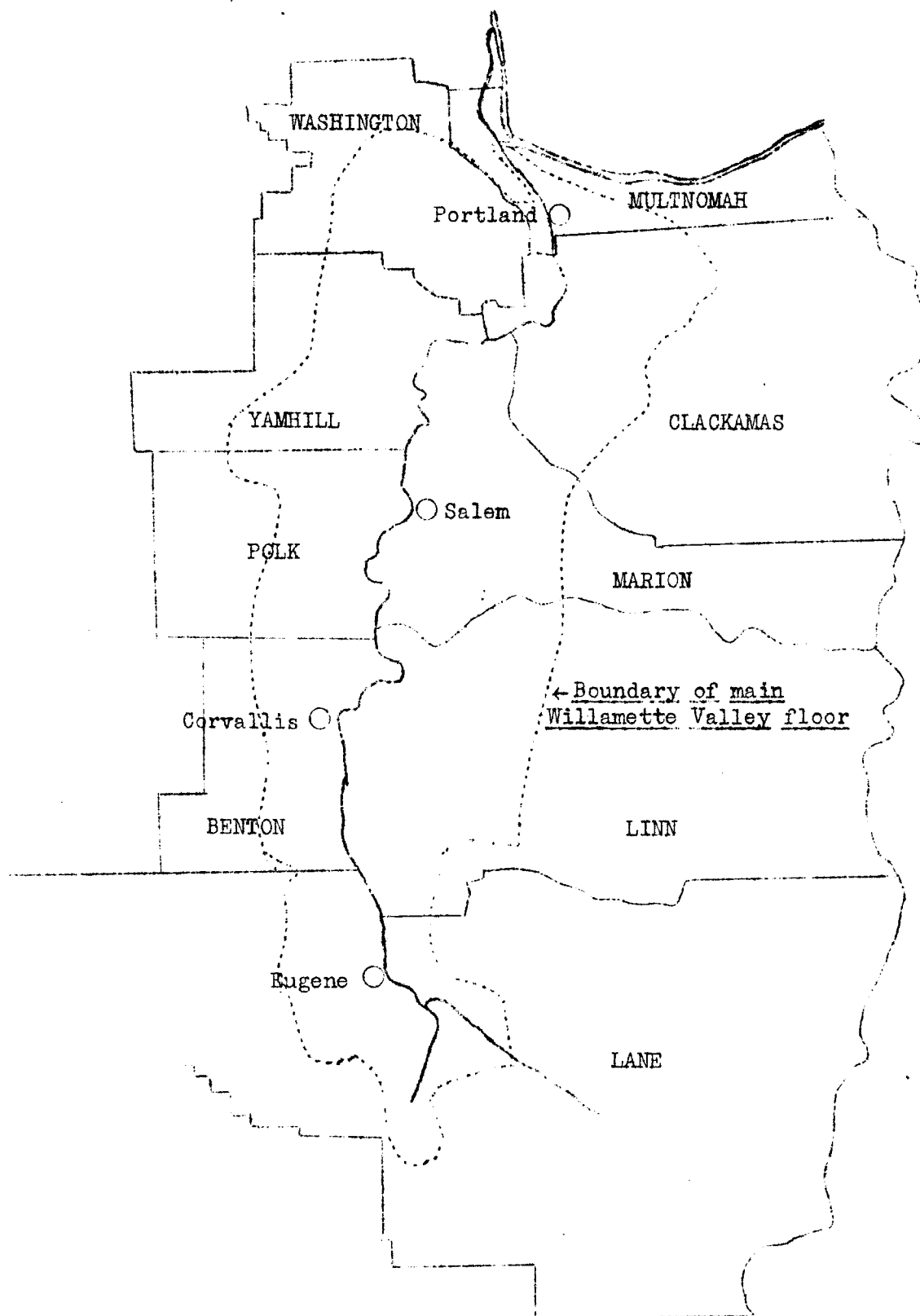
Range cattle and sheep production is carried on in practically all parts of eastern Oregon except the wheat belt, and to a limited extent in western Oregon. Farm sheep are kept throughout the general farming areas.

SELECTED INFORMATION AS TO TYPE OF FARMING IN OREGON

Compiled from U. S. Census
for Oregon, 1930. (000 omitted)

| County | Number of head on farms, Apr.1,1930 | | | | Value of total production, 1929 | | | | Value of sales, 1929 | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------|------|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------|----------------------|------------------|
| | Dairy Cows | Beef Cows | Sheep | Hogs | Cereals | Hay and forage | Fruit and nuts | Vegetables | Dairy products | Chicken and eggs |
| Washington | 14 | * | 11 | 9 | 1586 | 1302 | 972 | 501 | 1807 | 904 |
| Multnomah | 7 | * | 2 | 4 | 112 | 354 | 570 | 956 | 1012 | 323 |
| Yamhill | 8 | 1 | 37 | 9 | 1279 | 861 | 1184 | 148 | 903 | 422 |
| Clackamas | 12 | * | 34 | 25 | 1120 | 953 | 728 | 684 | 1140 | 1065 |
| Polk | 7 | * | 37 | 7 | 924 | 615 | 1189 | 59 | 726 | 273 |
| Marion | 13 | 1 | 76 | 20 | 1771 | 1231 | 1842 | 942 | 1166 | 748 |
| Benton | 5 | 1 | 54 | 3 | 464 | 486 | 298 | 83 | 453 | 247 |
| Linn | 12 | 1 | 131 | 15 | 1592 | 1008 | 693 | 178 | 1039 | 683 |
| Lane | 12 | 2 | 85 | 7 | 784 | 1044 | 585 | 460 | 939 | 878 |
| Columbia | 6 | * | 4 | 2 | 190 | 371 | 158 | 216 | 654 | 199 |
| Clatsop | 5 | * | 3 | 1 | 15 | 205 | 90 | 66 | 542 | 297 |
| Tillamook | 11 | * | 1 | 5 | * | 321 | 22 | 38 | 1786 | 58 |
| Lincoln | 4 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 204 | 51 | 71 | 333 | 52 |
| Coos | 11 | 2 | 22 | 4 | 22 | 528 | 105 | 136 | 1347 | 154 |
| Curry | 3 | 1 | 22 | 2 | 2 | 114 | 22 | 26 | 320 | 17 |
| Douglas | 7 | 2 | 198 | 6 | 431 | 666 | 1256 | 176 | 489 | 424 |
| Josephine | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 79 | 291 | 221 | 35 | 207 | 114 |
| Jackson | 6 | 8 | 29 | 5 | 392 | 1188 | 3943 | 129 | 571 | 235 |
| Hood River | 1 | * | 2 | 1 | 16 | 132 | 1728 | 112 | 111 | 114 |
| Wasco | 3 | 3 | 145 | 11 | 1331 | 448 | 403 | 218 | 203 | 91 |
| Sherman | 1 | 1 | 17 | 3 | 1993 | 69 | 9 | 12 | 57 | 27 |
| Gilliam | 1 | 2 | 118 | 2 | 1609 | 138 | 2 | 10 | 60 | 27 |
| Morrow | 2 | 2 | 279 | 2 | 1839 | 543 | 8 | 37 | 113 | 54 |
| Umatilla | 8 | 4 | 238 | 7 | 7905 | 1474 | 963 | 336 | 671 | 264 |
| Jefferson | 1 | 3 | 57 | 1 | 495 | 264 | 10 | 4 | 25 | 21 |
| Union | 6 | 3 | 68 | 12 | 1737 | 827 | 500 | 100 | 589 | 124 |
| Wallowa | 5 | 5 | 124 | 23 | 978 | 742 | 26 | 34 | 468 | 40 |
| Baker | 11 | 10 | 177 | 11 | 781 | 1738 | 100 | 110 | 1074 | 89 |
| Wheeler | 1 | 3 | 145 | 1 | 67 | 372 | 12 | 5 | 50 | 22 |
| Grant | 2 | 12 | 170 | 3 | 78 | 875 | 30 | 32 | 163 | 17 |
| Deschutes | 4 | 1 | 30 | 2 | 96 | 569 | 14 | 192 | 461 | 100 |
| Crook | 2 | 7 | 84 | 3 | 154 | 652 | 3 | 88 | 213 | 37 |
| Klamath | 5 | 10 | 171 | 6 | 510 | 1231 | 6 | 1456 | 506 | 180 |
| Lake | 2 | 20 | 191 | 3 | 95 | 1032 | 13 | 20 | 206 | 41 |
| Harney | 1 | 27 | 204 | 3 | 178 | 1120 | 6 | 17 | 115 | 24 |
| Malheur | 5 | 12 | 342 | 6 | 591 | 1575 | 392 | 173 | 414 | 118 |

* Less than 500

THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY, OREGON

In the coast sections dairying is the principal type of farming. The farms are located in small but very fertile valleys, mostly adjacent to or within a few miles of the ocean. The land is used chiefly for pasture, which can be grazed for 9 or 10 months, and for hay production.

Fruits and vegetables are raised commercially in the Willamette Valley, the irrigated valleys of Douglas, Josephine and Jackson counties, the Hood River Valley, and the eastern Oregon irrigated valleys with lower altitudes. Potato raising is important in some areas, particularly in Deschutes, Crook, and Klamath counties. Fruits and vegetables require highly specialized conditions as to soil and location, and within the general areas mentioned only certain soils and localities are adapted. Exact locations can be selected only by careful personal inspection.

The varieties and types of crops grown in Oregon and the farming methods in many instances are quite different from the methods used in other states. Meat-animal and dairy production is much more from grass and less from hay and grain than in the mid-west. Settlers will find it to their advantage to consult the County Agricultural Agent for information as to adapted farming practices and crop varieties.

Size of farm. In western Oregon, and in the irrigated districts, there are comparatively few farms of less than 40 acres even of the better types of tillable land that will provide sufficient income for a minimum family living. In most of the dry-land wheat areas a section or more of land is necessary.

Capital requirements. A capital investment of at least five or six thousand dollars is usually necessary for a farm business that will provide an income sufficient for even a minimum family living. In many instances farmers with limited capital will find it more satisfactory to rent than to buy a farm with a small down payment. Cheap, partly cleared hill farms should be avoided for these farms are usually difficult to develop, and in many cases, are of low quality even when fully developed.

Homesteading. All government land has been closed to homesteading by executive order of the President. In general the government lands that are left are not suited to farming. If they are worth farming they would have been taken up years ago.

Logged-off land. Most of the logged-off land in Oregon is very difficult and expensive to clear. Much of it is not worth the cost of clearing. Bottom land is more likely to be worth clearing than hill land, as the hill land is apt to be shallow and subject to drying out in summer.

New irrigated land. Considerable new irrigated land is being made available under two new government irrigation projects in Malheur county-- the Owyhee and the Vale projects. Information about these lands may be obtained from Frank Morgan, Secretary of the Owyhee Irrigation District, Nyssa, Oregon. Additional irrigated land also is available in several other irrigated districts in eastern and southern Oregon. There are 47 organized irrigation projects in the state.

Modern facilities. Careful consideration should be given to accessibility to modern facilities, such as good roads, towns, school, churches, power lines, etc. Many settlers have been dissatisfied and unsuccessful because they have settled in locations that are too isolated and inaccessible. Most of the good land in Oregon, however, is accessible to good roads and schools.

Land settlement service. The Land Development Department of the Portland Chamber of Commerce is endeavoring to be of assistance to prospective settlers in Oregon. The service consists of making an individual analysis of the experience, situation, and interests of each prospective settler, and supplying him with descriptive literature and information about the state as a whole and the localities in which he will probably be most successful. Address the Land Development Department, Portland Chamber of Commerce, Portland, Oregon.

Consult the county agent. One of the first things that new settlers and prospective settlers should do is to consult the County Agricultural Agent in the county in which they are interested. He is the most reliable source of information as to farming conditions and methods in the locality. A list of the Oregon county agents is given on the last page of this pamphlet.

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENTS IN OREGON

April, 1935

| <u>County</u> | <u>Agent</u> | <u>Address</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Baker | P. T. Fortner | Baker |
| Benton | W. S. Averill | Corvallis |
| Clackamas | J. J. Inskeep | Oregon City |
| Clatsop | Afton Zundel | Astoria |
| Columbia | G. A. Nelson | St. Helens |
| Coos | G. H. Jenkins | Coquille |
| Crook-Jefferson | W. B. Tucker | Prineville-Madras |
| Curry | R. M. Knox | Gold Beach |
| Deschutes | G. Y. Hagglund | Redmond |
| Douglas | J. R. Parker | Roseburg |
| Gilliam-Wheeler | R. M. McKennon | Condon-Fossil |
| Grant | R. G. Johnson | Canyon City |
| Hood River | A. L. Marble | Hood River |
| Jackson-General | R. G. Fowler | Medford |
| Jackson-Horticultural | L. P. Wilcox | Medford |
| Klamath | C. A. Henderson | Klamath Falls |
| Lake | V. W. Johnson | Lakeview |
| Lane | O. S. Fletcher | Eugene |
| Lincoln | M. J. Conklin | Toledo |
| Linn | F. C. Mullen | Albany |
| Malheur | R. G. Larson | Ontario |
| Marion | H. L. Riches | Salem |
| Morrow | J. Belanger | Heppner |
| Multnomah | S. B. Hall | Gresham |
| Polk | J. R. Beck | Dallas |
| Sherman | P. N. Johnston | Moro |
| Tillamook | C. H. Bergstrom | Tillamook |
| Umatilla | W. A. Holt | Pendleton |
| Union | H. G. Avery | LaGrande |
| Wallowa | G. D. Best | Enterprise |
| Wasco | W. W. Lawrence | The Dalles |
| Washington | W. F. Cyrus | Hillsboro |
| Yamhill | S. T. White | McMinnville |