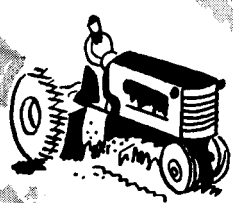


6/61

BACKGROUND ON OREGON'S AGRICULTURE



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY, CORVALLIS

ADM: *Exten - Records*

Background on Oregon's Agriculture

OREGON FARMS

More than 40,000 families call Oregon farms "home." Their farms vary greatly in size. Some 5,000 contain less than 10 acres, while 3,200 include more than 1,000 acres. The average is 507 acres.

Altogether these farms contain 21 million acres, a third of the state's area. Around 5 million are tillable. Most of the remainder is grazing and timber land.

Oregon farmers' main job is to help produce food, fiber, and forest products wanted by people in Oregon, U. S., and the world. At the same time, they try to earn a living for their families. To do this, they must operate their farms as businesses, making efficient use of land, labor, and capital.

In 1959, some 10,000 Oregon farms each produced and sold more than \$10,000 worth of farm products. On the average, about 3 out of every 4 dollars received from products sold are required to operate and maintain the farm business.

Also in 1959, some 27,000 Oregon farmers each sold less than \$5,000 worth of farm products. Many of these farmers and their families supplemented their farm incomes with off-farm work.

WHAT IS MODERN FARMING?

Oregon's second largest primary industry

Generating more than a half billion dollars in buying power each year.

Bringing in more than 200 million dollars a year from products sold outside the state.

Employing more than 77,000 workers, more than employed in:

- The lumber and wood products industry, or
- The contract construction industry, or
- Transportation, communications, and public utilities.

Involving farm investments totaling \$2½ billion, equal to:

- Total assets of all Oregon banks.
- ¾ of annual income received by all Oregonians.

Representing investments:

- Averaging \$32,000 for each Oregon farm worker.
- Equalling twice the investment for each U. S. factory worker.

A good customer of other industries



Oregon farmers spend more than \$300 million a year for goods and services to produce crops and livestock. In addition, they buy the same things for their families that city people buy—food, clothing, drugs, furniture, appliances, and other products and services.

This is where their production dollars went in 1959:

Feed producers, millers, and distributors.....	\$60,546,000
Producers and handlers of livestock.....	13,312,000
Producers and distributors of seed.....	7,478,000
Firms manufacturing and distributing fertilizer and lime	13,499,000
Hired help	55,971,000
Bankers and other sources of credit.....	20,737,000
Pesticide suppliers	5,757,000
Veterinarians and suppliers of veterinary medicine....	1,159,000
Insurance agents and companies.....	2,621,000
Power companies	3,237,000
Telephone companies	2,477,000
Container suppliers	2,606,000
Milk haulers	1,439,000
Landlords not farming	8,009,000
Firms and individuals supplying goods and services used by public agencies	24,668,000
Gasoline and oil manufacturers and distributors.....	20,536,000
Mechanics, repairmen, and suppliers of machines, parts, tools, and tires	67,105,000
Carpenters, plumbers, roofers, and suppliers of building materials	22,304,000
Suppliers of miscellaneous items and services.....	7,595,000

Oregon farmers, together with other U. S. farmers, use:

More steel in a year than is needed for a year's output of passenger cars.

More petroleum products than any other industry.

More rubber than required to make six million automobiles.

More electricity than the cities of Chicago, Houston, Detroit, Baltimore, and Boston combined.

Total inventory of farm machinery alone is:

Greater than the assets of the steel industry.

Five times that of the automobile industry.

A creator of employment

Several thousand Oregonians depend on agriculture for employment and income. Here are a few examples in processing alone:

Meat and poultry, including meat packing, prepared meats, and poultry dressing plants—2,000 employees and a payroll of more than \$10 million.

Dairy, including creamery butter, ice cream, and fluid milk—2,800 employees and a payroll of \$13 million.

Baking, including bread and related products—2,200 employees and a payroll of more than \$10 million.

Fruits and vegetables, canned and frozen, 6,000 employees and a payroll of more than \$21 million.

Grain mill products, including flour and meal and prepared animal feeds, 1,300 employees and a payroll of more than \$6 million.

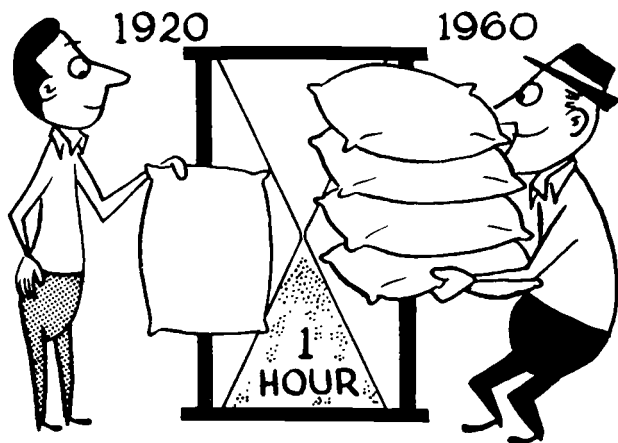
Nationally—

4 out of every 10 jobs in private employment are related to agriculture.

10 million people have jobs storing, transporting, processing, and merchandising agricultural products.

6 million people have jobs providing the supplies farmers use.

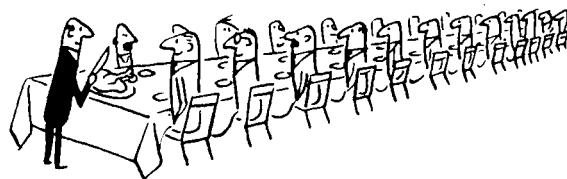
An efficient, progressive industry



One hour of farm labor produces 4 times as much food and other crops as it did in 1919-21. Crop production per acre is 58% higher. Output per breeding animal unit is 81% greater. Oregon farms have had a big hand in this increased efficiency. Potato and snap bean yields per acre have tripled in the past 40 years. Oregon now leads the nation in snap bean production. Strawberry yields in this state have doubled in this period, and Oregon is now second only to

California in strawberry output. Rate of lay per hen and milk production per cow have been upped half again. Many other crop and livestock gains have been made. Productivity of the American farm worker in the 1950's increased by 9% a year. Output per man-hour in nonagricultural industry increased by 2½% a year. Farm output will continue to rise to meet the expanded requirements of the coming decade.

A force in national security



One farm worker produces food for himself and 24 others.

Oregon's farm products are shared with friendly nations and developing countries. This strengthens the Free World.

Farm crops, especially wheat, are exchanged for a large group of strategic materials.

Oregon farmers helped feed us and our allies during two world wars. In addition, Oregon farm families supply manpower and money needed to protect our way of life.

A big exporter

Oregon produces many agricultural products that enter into export trade. Chief among these are 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 of the coast.

Farm products account for four out of every five tons exported at Portland. Nationally, farm products make up 20% to 25% of total exports. Value in the fiscal year 1960 was \$4.5 billion. The volume of farm products exported was record large.

A tax payer

Farm real estate taxes in Oregon totaled \$21 million in 1959. Tax on personal property on farms added another \$4 million.

In addition, uncounted thousands of dollars are paid by Oregon farmers as state and federal income tax, motor fuels tax, motor vehicle licenses, and various fees. This money helps to educate both farm and city boys and girls and provides other public services.

FARMING IS SHELTER

In 20 years, an acre of healthy forest can grow the lumber for a 5-room frame house.

Trees are an important crop on many Oregon farms. They help to maintain Oregon's first place rank in U. S. production of logs, lumber, and plywood. Tree farming helps keep the state high and expanding in the output of poles and piling, pulp and paper, fiberboard, and many other forest products.

More than half of Oregon's private commercial forest land belongs to farmers and other small woodland owners. Nearly 9 out of 10 of Oregon's small forest owners are farmers.

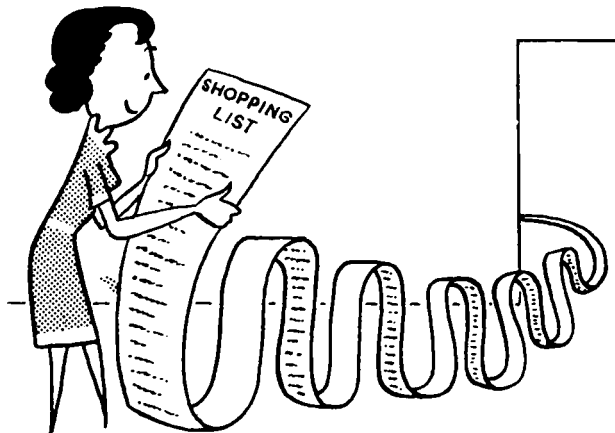
FARMING IS FIBER

Farms are the source of much of the clothing we wear. Wool, cotton, linen, and leather all come from agriculture. Oregon ranks twelfth in the production of wool, producing more than 7 million pounds annually.

FARMING IS FOOD

If shared equally with fellow Americans, each Oregonian would consume these and other farm products in a year:








- 160 pounds of beef, veal, pork, lamb, and mutton.
- 35 pounds of chicken and turkey.
- 678 pounds of dairy products (whole milk equivalent).
- 198 pounds of vegetables (fresh basis).
- 198 pounds of fruits (fresh basis).
- 106 pounds of potatoes.



We can choose from as many as 5,000 different foods when we go to market—fresh, canned, frozen, concentrated, dehydrated, ready-mixed, ready-to-serve, or heat-and-serve.

HOW MUCH DOES FOOD COST?

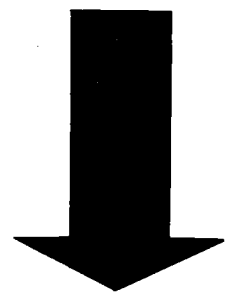
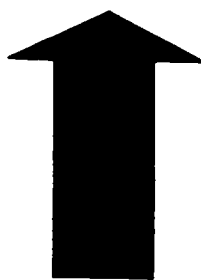
One hour's work in an Oregon factory buys more food today than it did 10 years ago. Pay for 1 hour's time would buy any of these:

		1959	1950
	Hamburger, pounds	4.5	3.4
	Round steak, pounds.....	2.3	2.0
	Bacon, pounds	3.6	2.8
	Frying chicken, pounds	5.0	3.3
	Milk, quarts	10.8	9.1
	Eggs, dozen	4.6	3.0
	Potatoes, pounds	42.0	38.0

As compared with other products

Retail food prices have risen less in the past decade than most other prices. In the cost-of-living index at Portland, the increase for all items on the list from early 1951 to early 1961 was 17%. The food increase during that period was only 8%.

RETAIL FOOD PRICES UP



FARM PRICES DOWN

In late 1960, the retail cost of the farm food "market basket" was 13% higher than in 1947-49, but the farm value of the food in this market basket was 10% lower. The "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.

OREGON FARMS ARE PRODUCTIVE

They produce---

All of the nation's ryegrass and Chewing's fescue seed.

More than 90% of the nation's bentgrass seed, common vetch seed, and filberts.

75% to 90% of the nation's red fescue seed and gooseberries.

50% to 75% of the Merion bluegrass seed and loganberries.

25% to 50% of the alsike clover seed, crimson clover seed, hairy vetch seed, peppermint, sweet cherries, boysenberries and youngberries, and blackberries.

10% to 25% of the tall fescue seed, hops, pears, prunes, and raspberries, and snap beans, beets, and peas for processing.

Many other crop and livestock products including seeds, grains, specialty field and horticultural crops, fruits, nuts, potatoes and vegetables, cattle, calves, hogs, sheep, lambs, wool, turkeys, broilers, eggs, and milk.



This circular was prepared by Elvera Horrell and M. D. Thomas, agricultural economists for the Cooperative Extension Service, Oregon State University, Corvallis.

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