



1946

AGRICULTURAL
PLANNING CONFERENCE
for Linn County



Containing Reports of Committees
Submitted and Adopted January 29, 1946
Albany, Oregon

FAJR-XV

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FOREWORD

The Linn County Agricultural Planning Conference of 1946 was a continuation of the planned agricultural development that has characterized the farming activities for many years. Earlier planning conferences that contributed to this development were held in 1924 and 1936.

The 1946 conference had its origin with a request made a year earlier when members of the Linn County Agricultural Planning Committee asked the O.S.C. Extension Service to cooperate in such a re-appraisal of agricultural conditions and outlook as soon as possible after the close of the war.

Members of the Agricultural and Home Economics Extension staff of Linn County who assisted with the conference are O. E. Mikesell, county agricultural agent; Viola Hansen, home demonstration agent; N. John Hansen, 4-H club agent. Cooperation of all agencies servicing agriculture in the county was also sought.

Nine committees were set up months in advance of the conference date which gathered data and considered all facts obtainable before preparing reports and recommendations for submission to the final one-day conference.

The conference adopted the reports and set up a committee to see that they were assembled and published for general distribution. The reports are accordingly presented in full in this pamphlet with the idea that they may serve as a guide, representing the best judgment of active farmers and farm leaders counseling with Extension specialists in the various fields as to the trend in agricultural development of the farming industry and rural home life in Linn County in the immediate postwar years. The members of the committee on publishing whose work made the printing of this report possible are:

Robert Schmidt, Chairman

Mrs. Lilly Edwards

Mrs. W. W. Abraham

Kenneth Arnold

Harry L. Winkley

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Farm men and women serving on committees are as follows:

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O. E. Mikesell, Rec. Sec.	C. H. Davidson	Lloyd Hilliker
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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1946 LINN COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL PLANNING CONFERENCE
Albany, Oregon, January 29, 1946**

C. H. BROWN
General Chairman
O. E. MIKESELL
Conference Secretary

**LAND USE, FARM LABOR
AND VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

LAND USE TRENDS AND STATISTICS

Linn County has a total area of 1,468,160 acres. The county is located in the heart of the Willamette Valley. Forest and farm lands are the primary resources. Lumbering, agriculture and trade each support about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the population. Elevations range from 150 feet above sea level in the valley floor to more than 5000 feet in the Cascade mountains. The annual rainfall is 38 inches.

The farm depression period brought changes in the number and sizes of Linn County's farms. These changes were brought about by low prices, unemployment in towns and cities, improvement in farm machinery, and better farming methods. The stronger farmers bought out their neighbors and operated more land with efficient, labor saving equipment. This resulted in more large farms and fewer family sized farms. People from the cities and towns bought or rented small farms to get security in raising food for their own use and some to sell. The timber industry helped the trend by offering employment to part-time farmers. From 1920 to 1940, small farms under 50 acres increased 69 per cent, middle-sized farms of from 50 to 260 acres decreased 15 per cent; farms over 1000 acres in size increased 71 per cent.

The following table shows the change in the number of farms by sizes from 1920 to 1940:

Range in Size of Farms Acres	Number of Farms in 1940		Number of Farms in 1920		Increase or Decrease in Farms by Size Between 1920-40	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
All sizes.....	3325	100.0	3041	100.0	+284	9.3
Under 50.....	1221	36.7	721	23.7	+500	69.3
50- 90.....	610	18.4	623	20.5	- 13	- 2.1
100-259.....	958	28.8	1219	40.1	-261	-21.4
260-499.....	393	11.8	371	12.2	+ 22	5.9
500-999.....	114 $\frac{2}{3}$	3.4	90	3.0	+ 24	26.7
1000 and over.....	29 $\frac{1}{3}$	0.9	17	0.5	+ 12	70.6

Linn County has more cropland than any other county in the Willamette Valley. The cropland in farms increased from 177,655 acres in 1925 to 206,621 acres in 1935, and to 228,000 acres in 1945. The total land in farms has decreased from a high of 499,144 acres in 1935 to 465,554 acres in 1945. This decrease can be attributed to the sale of timber holdings.

Definite shifts have taken place in Linn County's agriculture during the past 25 years. Small grains and corn and hay crops have been materially reduced. Small grain and corn occupied 50 per cent of the cultivated acres in 1919 while 34.9 per cent of the cultivated acres were devoted to these crops in 1944. Hay crops were reduced from 25.9 per cent in 1919 to 14.5 per cent of the cultivated acres in 1944. A tremendous expansion has taken place in the production of forage crop seed. In 1919, only 3 per cent of the cropland was devoted to the production of forage crop seed, while in 1944, 36.3 per cent of the cropland was devoted to the production of forage crop seed.

The committee believes that the future well-being of the people of Linn County depends upon the fertility of the soil. It is with this thought in mind that the committee is presenting a number of recommendations that it believes will make for a more permanent agriculture and will hold the fertile soils of Linn County for future generations.

SOIL EROSION

Soil erosion is continually becoming a more serious problem. The floods of 1943 and 1946 have demonstrated that some type of river bank erosion control is necessary along the Willamette and North and South Santiam rivers. The committee is recommending that individuals and farm organizations make a thorough study of the Willamette Valley Basin Commission and its activities. Flood control is recognized as a major problem and the committee unanimously endorses measures that are being taken to protect valuable farm land and property. A less spectacular form of soil erosion, but perhaps a much more serious one, is the depletion of soil organic matter. The committee recommends that Linn County farms maintain soil organic matter through the use of green manure crops, through crop rotation and through the returning of crop residues to the soil. The burning of straw is discouraged.

Contour farming has a place in some sections of the county. Parts of the county that could practice contour farming are Scio, Lacombe and Sweet Home. Farming around the hills instead of up and down them will greatly reduce the loss from surface run-off.

ORGANIC MATTER AND FERTILIZERS

The continued use of nitrogenous fertilizer materials is causing concern among some farmers who believe that the use of these materials will deplete the soil and make it impossible to grow a crop without its use. This contention is probably true where no organic matter is being returned to the soil, but where grasses are being grown and residues are returned to the soil, there seems to be no danger of soil depletion through the use of nitrogenous fertilizers. It must be emphasized that maintenance of soil organic matter is the important factor.

A permanent pasture is an excellent means of maintaining and building soil fertility. Many native pastures can profitably be worked and seeded to good grasses and legumes.

DRAINAGE

Proper drainage will increase the productiveness of large areas of farm land in the county. Methods that may be used in drainage are open ditches, tiles and sub-soiling. Tiling is very effective where proper outlets can be obtained. One of the big needs in the drainage program is to have sloughs and some of the smaller creeks cleared of brush.

IRRIGATION

The number of acres under irrigation has increased from 68 acres in 1934 to 3,450 acres in 1945. Of this total, 800 acres is irrigated ladino clover pasture and 824 acres is growing peppermint. The balance consists mainly of vegetable crops. Two irrigation projects are organized in the county, one is at Lacombe and the other at Harrisburg. Full use of the water is not being made in either project. A further expansion in irrigation is expected when labor and materials become more readily available.

WEED CONTROL

Weeds are fast becoming a major problem in the county. Noxious weeds that are particularly bad and that are spreading are Canadian thistle and morning glory. The wild pea is getting bad in some sections of the county. Chemical treatments offer possibilities in weed control work, but much more experimental work must be conducted before it can be generally recommended. Because of the seriousness of the weed problem and the threat that it offers to the agriculture of the county, the committee recommends that a county-wide weed control program be formulated. It is recommended that the general chairman appoint a committee of five to formulate a weed control program and present it to the Linn County Agricultural Planning Committee. This committee then has the right to act upon the proposed weed control program.

LAND CLASSIFICATION

During the past several years much cut-over timber land has reverted to the county because of non-payment of taxes. The county in turn has turned this land to the State Department of Forestry for reforestation purposes. The areas are to be reforested and eventually the county will share in the income from timber sold from

these areas. Some of the land being turned to the state under this plan is suitable for farming. Some is suitable for grazing and some is only suitable for reforestation. In order to save this farm land and grazing land from becoming forestry land, the committee recommends that the county court appoint a land classification committee to properly classify these lands before they are turned to the state. The committee requests that the general chairman of the conference appoint a committee of five men to discuss the matter with the county court.

FIRE PERMITS

Fire is recognized as being a useful tool in clearing land when necessary precautions are taken to keep it under control. The committee recommends that the State Forester's office study moisture conditions in the hill sections of Linn County and issue burning permits according to those conditions rather than moisture conditions on the valley floor.

FARM WOOD LOTS

Many Linn County farms have woodlots that can be turned into profitable timber crops through proper management. Interested farmers can get information on woodlot management by contacting the county agricultural agent.

FARM LABOR

Farm labor is expected to be critical in 1946. It will again be necessary to call upon the women and children to harvest the bulk of Linn County's perishable crops. One of the most serious handicaps in placing year-around farm help in Linn County is the lack of adequate housing. The committee recommends that farmers wanting full-time farm workers make provisions for housing. The farm labor service reports that more full-time farm workers could be placed if the housing was of a fair standard.

Farmers are reminded that social security for farm workers is a possibility. The committee believes that wage ceilings should stay in effect until such time that more farm labor becomes available. Lifting of the ceilings during a time of great scarcity of labor will result in disastrous competitive bidding. Farmers planning to produce high labor requirement crops such as string beans are advised to check on the available labor supply before making extensive plantings. Shifting of crews among growers would greatly assist in times of high labor requirements.

ADVICE FOR VETERANS AND NEWCOMERS

Annual net income. The committee believes that Linn County's full-time farmers should receive an annual minimum net income of \$1400. The net income figure includes the value of products used at home. This recommendation is also made upon the basis that prices for farm produce remain in relatively the same favorable position as that which they now occupy in relationship to prices paid for manufactured goods.

Additional farmers. Retirement of present farmers following the war should permit 150 new operators as replacements. Another 250 farm workers can readily be absorbed by present farm operators. The clearing, drainage and irrigation of land and the subdivision of large farms should provide family farms for 125 new farmers.

Part-time farms. The committee believes that small tracts of land devoted to crops do not justify the ownership of proper power equipment for efficient operation and frequently the equipment costs more to operate than the value of the crops grown. Therefore, the committee believes that the part-time farm should be confined to the country home and garden type.

An economical farm unit. In the committee's opinion, an economical farm unit should meet the following requirements:

- (a) Provide for a balanced labor program which will permit full time employment in productive farm work.
- (b) Provide sufficient income for a reasonable standard of living.
- (c) Provide a balance of crops which will permit full use of machinery.
- (d) Provide enough crop land to permit rotation.

Farm financing for newcomers. It is recommended that newcomers to Linn County rent or work for an established farmer for at least one year before purchasing a farm. Owing to the varying soil conditions it is further suggested that prior to purchasing a farm the buyer consult with the county agricultural agent, the agricultural veterans advisory committee, cooperative farm organizations, and leading established farmers as to the productive capacity and suitability of the soil for the type of farming contemplated. Returning veterans interested in agriculture should contact the agricultural veterans advisory committee. (The county agricultural agent is the secretary of the committee.)

For newcomers wishing to purchase a farm it is recommended by the committee that a prospective land purchaser should have stock, equipment and cash for one year's operating expenses and 50 per cent of the land purchase price. This recommendation is made upon the basis that prices for farm produce remain in relatively the same favorable position as that they now occupy in relationship to prices paid for manufactured goods.

Prospective farm purchasers should analyze the productive capacity of the land to ascertain if the farm is an economic farm unit and is capable of providing sufficient net income to furnish an average standard of living and at the same time retire the farm debt in a reasonable period.

MINIMUM SIZE OF FARM UNITS

Diversified farming unit. This type of farm requires a minimum of 60 acres of good average soil, such as Newberg, Chehalis or Willamette, all under cultivation. The livestock, dairy and poultry enterprises along with the production of grain, hay, pasture, small fruits and small seed crops fit into the diversified farming unit.

Grain, hay and field seed farming unit. The minimum requirements for this type of farm should be 150 acres of cultivated land. Less than this acreage cannot be operated economically because of the necessary outlay for power and machinery for planting and harvesting. Livestock also fits into this type of farming.

Dairy farm. A minimum of 100 acres of crop land is necessary to maintain a dairy herd of from 20 to 25 cows. Part of this acreage will be devoted to hay and grain and the balance to pasture. Irrigated pasture will reduce the number of required acres. The usual carrying capacity for irrigated Ladino clover pasture is $2\frac{1}{2}$ cows per acre.

Orchard and small fruit unit. The selection of a suitable soil is very important in establishing an orchard and small fruit unit. A minimum of 20 acres in units of five acres or less planted to different varieties is advisable. This practice is recommended to spread the labor demand over a longer season.

Truck farm. A truck farm calls for at least 15 acres of the very best river bottom soil that is irrigated. All truck crops should be grown under contract.

Poultry unit for egg production. A minimum of 10 acres and 2000 laying hens is considered advisable. Acreage must be provided for range and the production of green feed. All grains will be purchased.

Turkey production. The turkey enterprise is a good one to combine with other enterprises. This is particularly true for the inexperienced operator. The committee believes that only the most experienced operator should have turkeys as the sole enterprise. One man can care for a flock of 5000 market birds.

Stock ranch. The minimum requirement should be 400 acres of which 100 acres would be used for the production of hay and other crops. Areas where out-range is available are more desirable, but the irrigated portion of the county offers possibilities. The number of livestock should never exceed the amount of available feed. Careful consideration should be given to the productive capacity of the pasture and farm land before engaging in this enterprise.

Albany Chamber of Commerce

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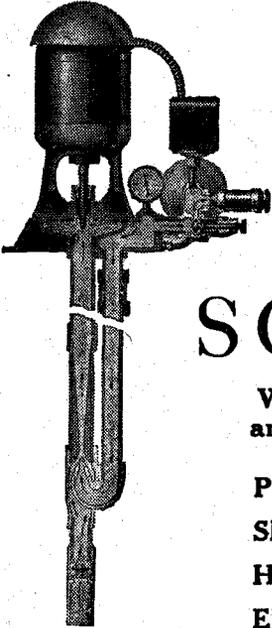
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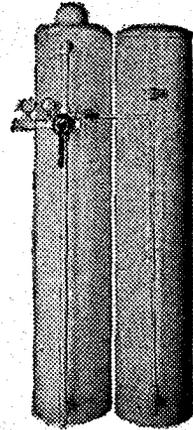


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FARM CROPS COMMITTEE REPORT

GENERAL TRENDS

The past 25 years has seen a definite shift in Linn County's farm crops program. There has been a marked trend away from the production of small grains and corn and hay crops to the production of forage crop seeds. The county's 1945 forage crop seeds had an estimated value in excess of \$4,000,000.00.

The following table shows the changes that have taken place in the cropping program in the last 30 years:

Crops	1919 197,000 Acres	1929 172,000 Acres	1939 212,000 Acres	1944 228,000 Acres
Small grain and corn.....	57.0%	44.8%	41.4%	34.9%
Hay crops.....	25.9%	21.2%	18.0%	14.5%
Forage crop seeds.....	3.0%	12.7%	28.4%	36.8%
Tree fruits and nuts.....	2.3%	3.2%	1.9%	1.6%
Small fruit crops.....	.2%	1.2%	1.0%	.5%
Potatoes and truck crops.....	1.0%	1.0%	.7%	1.1%
Other specialty crops.....	.2%	1.0%	.9%	1.9%
Fallow, idle, etc.....	10.4%	14.9%	7.7%	9.2%

In order for Linn County to maintain its leadership in forage seed production it is necessary to continually stress quality; study marketing; control diseases, insects and weeds; take advantage of new strains and varieties as they are developed; and reduce the cost of production to meet competition.

COVER CROP SEEDS

Willamette Vetch. The acreage of Willamette vetch is rapidly expanding with 5000 acres of certified seed produced in 1945. The committee recommends that Willamette vetch replace common vetch for both seed and hay production.

Hairy Vetch. The hairy vetch acreage has dropped from 19,000 in 1941 to 5,000 in 1945. This reduction has been due to the hairy vetch weevil. This crop is a good one for certain sections of the county and it is quite apparent that a good demand for the seed will continue, as Southern farmers would rather have hairy vetch than any other winter legume. Experimental work conducted by the Federal Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine in cooperation with the Department of Entomology of the Oregon Experiment Station and 12 growers in five Western Oregon counties shows that the hairy vetch weevil can be successfully controlled by using a 3 per cent DDT dust at the rate of 25 pounds per acre.

To be effective this dust must be applied at the time that the first pods are setting. The optimum period for dusting does not exceed seven days. This means that growers must be prepared to apply dust during this time if control is to be satisfactory. Air-plane dusting offers possibilities, but no experimental work is available to show the effectiveness of this method. The Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station will inform growers as to the correct time of dusting. This notice will be issued through county agents. Experimental evidence shows that honey bees are not injured through the application of 3 to 5 per cent DDT dust. The committee believes that the acreage can return to the 1941 level if weevil control measures are practiced.

Austrian Peas. The acreage has dropped from 7,400 in 1939 to 500 in 1945. The reduction is due to two factors, the pea weevil and the drop in the guaranteed price from 5 cents to 3½ cents. This is a good crop for the county when prices are favorable. Dusting for pea weevil control is necessary.

GRASS SEED

Common Ryegrass. Linn County is the chief producing area in the United States. The acreage has developed from practically nothing in 1920 to 47,500 in 1945. New uses for common ryegrass seed have developed during recent years and the crop is expected to be a major one in the county for many years. It is recommended that the crop be confined to typical ryegrass land and that noxious weeds be given special attention. Nitrogen fertilizers have given excellent results in increasing seed production. Indications are that the county can safely produce 35,000 acres annually.

Perennial Ryegrass. A total of 9,200 acres were harvested in 1945. The peak year was 1944 when 11,900 acres were harvested. The reduction was caused by the

blind seed disease. Perennial ryegrass is a good crop for Linn County and can be maintained at about the same level providing farmers follow the blind seed disease control recommendations.

The blind seed disease of perennial ryegrass is a continuous threat to the industry that returns over one-half million dollars to Linn County farmers. The disease started with the 1940 crop, but it was not until the germination reports on the 1943 crop thoroughly demonstrated the seriousness of the disease that steps were taken to find out the cause. All that was known was that the germinations were low.

Through the efforts of the Oregon Seed Growers League and others, a plant pathologist was assigned to the project at the O.S.C. Experiment Station. The spores that actually produce the blind seed disease were first found under field conditions in Linn County on May 19, 1944. Definite progress on its control have been made since a full-time plant pathologist has been assigned to the disease problems of forage crops.

Recommendations for the control of blind seed disease are as follows:

1. Plow all diseased fields when notified that plowing is advisable.
2. Use only disease free seed or seed that is 24 months or more old.
3. Sow with a drill that covers the seed.
4. Do not sow new fields near diseased fields.
5. Prevent shattering of seed. Swathing is superior to windrowing.
6. Provide drainage.
7. Remove excess straw from fields. Burning is recommended in some cases.

Strict cooperation between the plant pathologist, farmers and seed dealers is necessary if the disease is to be controlled.

Alta Fescue. The acreage is expanding rapidly. Only two acres were grown in 1939 as compared to 2500 in 1945. A further increase is expected in 1946 and 1947 when new plantings come into production. Increasing competition from areas planting the crop in rows and thereby producing clean seed will make it harder to sell mixed seed in the future. Future plantings should only be made on soils where clean seed can be produced. Row plantings should be confined to fertile, well-drained soils.

Chewing Fescue. Acreage has increased from 100 in 1940 to 800 in 1945. A further expansion is apparent for 1946 and 1947. Other Oregon counties are also increasing their acreages. New Zealand offers the chief competition and increased imports can be expected. The sod webworm is reducing yields in a good many fields. Seed nematodes are also a problem. Future plantings should be confined to soils where pure seed can be produced.

Creeping Red Fescue. A total of 35 acres of red creeping fescue is being grown in the county. The demand for red creeping is expected to increase, but row plantings are necessary as yields do not hold up from solid plantings.

Highland Bentgrass. Very little Highland Bentgrass has been seeded in the county, but large areas in the Scio community have been taken over by this grass. The demand for the seed is increasing. The committee recommends that farmers having Highland bent make an effort to harvest it for seed.

CLOVERS FOR SEED AND FORAGE

Alsike Clover. The acreage has declined from a peak of 5500 in 1942 to 2500 in 1945. Very poor seed yields have been secured during the past two years. Alsike clover should remain in Linn County's agriculture because of its soil building qualities. Experimental work is needed to determine the reason for decreased seed yields.

Red Clover. Approximately 1800 acres of red clover were harvested for seed in 1945. This is an excellent crop for the county. Growers interested in producing certified seed are encouraged to grow the Cumberland strain.

White Clover. The acreage has expanded rapidly during the war years and has varied from 450 in 1941 to 1,400 in 1945. The peak year was 1944 with 1,500 acres. This has been a very good crop for Linn County farmers, but the future market depends entirely upon imports. A serious threat to the production of seed is the seed weevil.

Subclover. This crop offers great promise for the county, both for seed production and for forage. The demand for the seed is rapidly expanding. Two varieties, Mt.

Barker and Tallarook, are recommended. Inoculation of the seed is important. Prospective seed growers must take into consideration soil types, method of seeding, time of seeding, and harvesting equipment. The committee recommends that subclover be included in all pasture mixtures on fairly well-drained soils.

Lotus. This is a new crop that needs more trials under field conditions before definite recommendations can be made. Preliminary results indicate that Lotus may be a new crop for the county. It is recommended that both Lotus Major and Lotus Corniculatus be used on lands that are too wet for clover and alfalfa.

HAY CROPS

The present hay acreage is around 35,000 acres which is considered ample to meet the needs of the county. The chief hays are vetch and oats, clover, grains, alfalfa, and grass.

The quality of hay could be greatly improved through proper handling at harvest time. The pickup hay baler offers opportunity for rapid handling. The buckrake is another method of handling hay rapidly and economically.

Alfalfa is one of the best soil builders and an expansion in the acreage is encouraged on river bottom soils and the Willamette soil series. The acreage has declined from 5,500 in 1939 to 2,400 in 1945. The decline is due to competing crops such as fiber flax, vegetables and peppermint. Seven thousand acres of alfalfa would be ideal for the county. Where weeds are bad, the seeding of Alta fescue with alfalfa is suggested. Spring and fall cultivations will also aid in producing clean alfalfa and will prolong the life of the stand. Grimm is the recommended variety.

Both red and alsike clovers make excellent hay and are preferred by many feeders to Western Oregon alfalfa. These clovers are ideal as soil builders and fit into almost any crop rotation plan. Increased acreages are recommended.

Vetch and oats is the leading hay. Willamette vetch is recommended in place of common vetch so that fields may be cleaned of volunteer common vetch seed. Proper time of cutting and rapid handling are necessary to produce good quality hay.

PASTURES

Pastures offer an opportunity for further improvement, although the past five years have seen rapid strides being made. New grasses and legumes have made this improvement possible. Among new grasses are alta fescue, meadow foxtail and creeping red fescue. Subclover is the main legume. A combination of subclover and alta fescue is perhaps the best all-around pasture that can be produced in the county without irrigation. Ladino clover remains the best for irrigation.

CEREALS

The acreage of cereals has been on a gradual decline since 1919, with 73,000 acres harvested in 1945. The county produced 118,000 acres of cereals in 1919. The only cereal to increase has been barley which reached a peak in 1945 with 23,000 acres. Oats is the most important cereal with 36,000 acres harvested in 1945. The wheat acreage during the past five years has remained at approximately 12,000 acres. Wheat production is recommended only on farms where wheat is needed as a feed and on farms where yields are good. The field corn acreage totaled 2,000 acres in 1945 as compared to 6,357 in 1929. The county needs more field corn, particularly on the better soils. Corn production is ideal for weed control and offers promise for hogging down when ryegrass and rape are seeded at the last cultivation. New equipment for handling corn silage greatly reduces labor requirements. Ample supplies of good hybrid seed corn are grown locally.

FIBER FLAX

Fiber Flax is a good crop for well-drained fertile soils. Flax is ideal to follow alfalfa. The growing of fiber flax depends upon contracts available from processing plants. Approximately 1,200 acres were grown in Linn County in 1945.

HOPS

The U. S. production of hops rose from 180,000 bales in 1942 to 233,000 bales in 1945, which far exceeded the total production plus imports in prewar years. A normal crop for 1946 could easily be 300,000 bales. This could result in a surplus of 140,000 bales. Hop growers are advised to organize their industry in order to meet this situation. Competition from irrigated acreages with high yields will probably force all low yielding yards out of the picture.

NOXIOUS WEEDS

Buyers of seed are encouraged to insist upon having the purity test available in order to be sure that noxious weeds are not present. Dealers can assist by getting their customers to plant good seed.

SEED HANDLING

The handling of forage crop seeds and the small grains in sacks is a costly operation. The committee believes that bulk handling of seed will develop rapidly within the next 10 years. The committee requests that the Oregon Experiment Station begin work on developing plans for bulk handling.

EROSION CONTROL

Cover crops and sod crops for river bottom soils subject to erosion are advised. Chewing fescue, creeping red fescue and alta fescue are good sod crops.

FAMILY SIZED FARM

The committee recommends the family sized, owned and operated farm and discourages large holdings.

FERTILIZERS AND ORGANIC MATTER

The use of commercial fertilizers has expanded rapidly during the war years because of the good prices and increased yields obtained.

The use of commercial fertilizers will not build a permanent soil fertility. This can only be accomplished through proper crop rotations and the addition of organic matter through crop residues. Most commercial fertilizers serve to supplement the soil supply of plant nutrients.

Phosphorus is applied to increase root development, hasten maturity, increase seed yield, and improve winter hardiness. To date, phosphorus has given best results when applied to leguminous crops, or on soils in which legumes are being grown in the rotation. Seeding time is the ideal time to apply phosphate. Top dressings on established stands can best be made in the fall or during February.

Nitrogen is applied for the express purpose of promoting leaf growth which indirectly increases seed production. The time and rates of application vary with the season and the crop fertilized. Prospective users are advised to counsel with experienced users or others having knowledge of the soil and crop conditions.

The principal reason for applying lime is to neutralize soil acidity and permit the growing of a wider range of crops. Linn County has hundreds of acres of land that would benefit from the application of lime. The greatest value can be obtained from lime when legumes are grown in the rotation. Farmers are advised to take advantage of the lime practice under the AAA program.

The use of leguminous green manure crops is recommended for vegetable growers wishing to maintain soil organic matter. The placement of commercial fertilizer to one side or below the seed at seeding time is more effective than later side dressings.

The greatest single contribution to soil fertility in recent years has been the cover crop program. Where two tons or more of vetch or peas are plowed down, the effect on soils is usually better than if commercial fertilizers are used and the effect on the pocketbook is also far better. Legume straw or spoiled hay should never be burned.

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HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE REPORT

GENERAL TRENDS

Linn County's tree fruit and small fruit acreages have decreased since 1940 because of market conditions in 1940 and 1941 and the scarcity of labor during the war years. The acreage of filberts has steadily increased and walnuts have remained stationary. The acreage of vegetable crops has increased from 945 acres in 1940 to 2,190 acres in 1945. Practically all of this increase has been on river bottom soils.

The county is well adapted to the production of horticultural products, but the committee recommends that growers study the market demands, soil requirements, labor requirements, and the hazards involved before making commercial plantings. Past experiences reveal that poorly chosen horticultural enterprises are a detriment to the grower and the county. Newcomers are advised to counsel with experienced growers or others having thorough knowledge of the county before making extensive plantings.

CROP POSSIBILITIES

Apples. The county now has 350 acres as compared to 425 acres in 1940. Most of this acreage is confined to home plantings as there are very few commercial orchards. It is recommended that future plantings be confined to the family orchard.

Sour Cherries. The present planting is 25 acres which was practically the same in 1940. Sour cherries must be marketed locally or shipped in competition with Eastern sour cherries. Future plantings can best be confined to the family orchard.

Sweet Cherries. There are now 300 acres of sweet cherries, a decline of 25 acres since 1940. A further expansion of the acreage is not justified at this time. Cherry growers must now spray their trees for the control of the cherry fruit fly as Linn County has been designated as a cherry fruit fly control area. The committee recommends that all persons with sweet and sour cherries comply with the order.

Peaches. Present acreage is 335 acres, an increase of 35 acres since 1940. The production of peaches is a specialized business, as an exacting spray program must be followed. The market is entirely for local consumption.

Pears. The present acreage of 120 acres has been maintained for the past five years. The demand for pears is entirely local. It is recommended that new plantings be confined to the family orchard.

Prunes. The acreage of prunes is steadily declining with no new plantings coming into production. The present acreage is 625 acres as compared to 1000 acres in 1940. The committee recommends that new plantings of prunes be established on deep, well-drained, fertile soil. Growers are advised to observe their orchards for thrip and brown rot injury. Spraying for thrip and dusting for brown rot is recommended where damage is apparent.

Filberts. The present plantings total 850 acres. There were 700 acres in 1940. New plantings of filberts should only be established on deep, fertile, well-drained soils. Planting distances, pollinators and soil types are of particular importance and should be considered. Filbert worms are serious and growers must be prepared to spray or dust if nuts are to be marketable. Foreign competition and competition with other nuts is expected to become keen. The filbert acreage in Oregon is now 15,290 acres. The only other state producing filberts is Washington which has 2,945 acres.

Walnuts. The acreage has remained at 1,050 acres since 1940 as new plantings have just replaced the natural loss of trees. Oregon's total acreage is 23,545. The acreage could be slightly increased in Linn County on deep, well-drained, fertile soils. Some orchards need boron to control drop, leaf scorch and snake head. Broadcasting borax under the limb span of the tree is perhaps the best method. February is the best time to make application at the rate of two to three pounds for trees 13 years old, four to six pounds for trees 18 to 20 years old and as much as 10 pounds for trees 35 years old and over. If this treatment achieves partial control of leaf scorch and snake heads, and results in some crop increase, then the following year only apply half the original amounts. It is suggested that untreated trees be left as a check. Blight is a serious problem in some walnut orchards. Where blight is present, it is recommended that growers follow the spray program as recommended by the Oregon Experiment Station. Franquette is the leading variety.

Blackberries. The present acreage of 25 acres of cultivated blackberries has been maintained for several years. A slight increase is justified in Evergreens. In order to produce marketable berries it is necessary to spray for the mite which causes the redberry condition.

- Blackcaps.** The acreage has decreased from 450 acres in 1942 to 320 acres in 1945. The principal blackcap area is Lacombe. The decreased acreage has been due to diseases. Growers are advised to secure disease free plants. The committee recommends that the acreage of blackcaps be increased. An irrigation at the time the fruit is ripening will greatly increase yields.
- Boysenberries.** The acreage has decreased from 105 acres in 1940 to 80 acres in 1945. The boysenberry acreage can be expanded.
- Youngberries.** The present acreage is 65 acres as compared to 85 acres in 1940. This acreage can be increased.
- Loganberries.** The acreage has decreased from 55 acres in 1940 to 30 acres in 1945. It is suggested that the present acreage be increased as there always seems to be a demand for loganberries.
- Red Raspberries.** Present acreage is 225 acres as compared to 300 acres in 1940. The red raspberry acreage should be increased on well-drained, deep, fertile soils.
- Strawberries.** The strawberry acreage reached a low point in 1944 with only 275 acres. The acreage increased to 325 in 1945 and is expected to reach 600 acres in 1946. The county had as high as 1,776 acres in 1929. The committee recommends that a further increase of the strawberry acreage be made. Care in selecting plants should be exercised at all times. There is an opportunity for growers in rather isolated sections of the county to produce certified plants.
- Currants.** The present acreage of seven acres seems to be sufficient. No increase is recommended.
- Gooseberries.** The county now has 80 acres as compared to 65 acres in 1940. This is one of the few berry crops to increase. The committee recommends that the acreage of gooseberries not be increased as many new plantings are coming into production and the demand for gooseberries is expected to decline as other berries become more plentiful.
- Grapes.** The present acreage of 10 acres has been maintained for several years. The outlet for grapes is all local.

DEMAND AND MANAGEMENT

- Demand for Berries.** The development of the frozen fruit industry has created a great demand for all types of berries. It is expected that this demand will continue just as long as the purchasing power of the American working man is maintained. The quality of berries produced in Oregon is such that Oregon producers will be able to compete on the Eastern markets.
- Size of Units.** The committee recommends that new producers wanting to establish a fruit and berry farm start with 40 acres of land and have 10 acres devoted to a combination of berries and fruit. The type of soil will determine the kinds of berries and fruits to be grown.
- Vegetables.** Linn county is ideal for the production of vegetables, but the committee recommends that all vegetables be grown under contract. The development of freezing plants will provide an additional outlet for vegetables, but the cannery acreage is expected to correspondingly decline. The acreage of vegetables has varied widely during the war years, and even though contracts were in effect, surpluses did exist.

SPECIALTY CROPS

- Quality.** The quality standards of tree fruits, berries, nuts and vegetables should be maintained at all times. Growers are urged to attractively package and grade their products according to standards.
- Peppermint.** The present acreage is 850 acres. Continuance of this acreage depends upon competition from other areas. The average oil yield per acre was 37 pounds in 1945. At present prices it costs from \$70.00 to \$80.00 per acre to establish and from \$30.00 to \$60.00 per acre to weed. Peppermint must be irrigated.
- Dill.** There is a carry-over of dill oil from 1945. The growing of dill is only recommended on a contract basis.

SOIL HANDLING

- Organic Matter.** Cover crops are an important factor in maintaining soil fertility. The committee recommends that leguminous cover crops be sown early in the fall and plowed under before moisture is removed from the soil in the spring.

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TURKEY COMMITTEE REPORT

GENERAL TRENDS IN TURKEY PRODUCTION

The turkey industry of Linn County must be considered in relation to the status of the entire industry. Linn County produces market birds, hatching eggs, and poults for local and out of state buyers. The recommendations of the committee provide some excellent basis for economical turkey production in the future.

For the United States the 1937 to 1941 pre-war average production was 30,000,000 turkeys; the 1945 crop of turkeys was over 40,000,000 which was a 43 per cent increase over the pre-war average. The 1946 national goals call for 10 per cent fewer turkeys.

Oregon ranks fourth in the number of market turkeys produced with considerable increase during the war years. The 1945 crop was 2,605,000, a 65 per cent increase over the pre-war years. In Linn County the 1945 production was about 235,000 birds, which was approximately 45,000 more than the high pre-war year of 1940 when 190,000 were produced.

The producers now in the business in Linn County are for the most part, well established turkey men, operating economical units with good equipment. The beginner without experience is urged to proceed cautiously.

TURKEY NUMBERS FOR THE POST-WAR PERIOD

For 1946 the committee favors keeping within the 1945 national goal of 10 per cent reduction in numbers. For future years, in order to avoid idle equipment, production should probably be maintained 10 to 15 per cent below 1945 levels providing prices will permit. If some unforeseen demand calls for more production, increases to meet the demand is favored.

OUTLOOK FOR HATCHING EGGS

The same favorable conditions prevailing in Western Oregon for market birds, egg and poult production apply for Linn County. These conditions are:

- a. Climate
- b. Disease-free hatching egg flocks, particularly pullorum
- c. Improved egg quality
- d. Eggs from Broad-breasted Bronze turkeys

TRENDS REGARDING SIZE AND TYPE OF BIRDS

The average size of turkeys in Oregon has increased from 14 to 18 pounds during the past 15 years. There has been a slight decline in the hatchability and fertility. The use of somewhat lighter toms may be necessary to improve these factors. Since the more profitable gains are made with the larger birds, a premium of over 5c per pound will have to be paid to encourage smaller types. Large quantities of eviscerated, quick frozen and cut up birds are apparently to be the answer to the larger turkey problem.

Other factors that need attention in the breeding flock are: improved fertility, hatchability and liveability; maintain disease-free flocks and continue the Oregon turkey improvement program; greater care in selecting and breeding high egg producing birds of better types.

MARKETING AND FINANCING

Growers should have all equipment and capital to purchase poults and carry them to eight weeks of age. Most financial agencies follow the policy of not extending credit on turkey enterprises until after the poults are about eight weeks old. Feed and supplies may be purchased from commercial feed houses and cooperatives.

Birds are marketed in Linn County through independent dealers or cooperatives.

CAPITAL AND LAND NECESSARY

A good estimate is \$2.00 per bird for first year investment for brooder house, brooding equipment, range house, roosts, and feeding and watering equipment in starting a commercial turkey farm.

About two acres of land per 100 birds is necessary where a grower expects to remain in the business.

It will cost \$5.50 to \$6.00 per bird above equipment cost to mature a market bird at present feed prices. Feed represents about 60 per cent, labor 20 per cent, poult 12 per cent and overhead 8 per cent of the cost of producing a market bird. Feed for

breeder hens represents 33 per cent, depreciation of breeders 31 per cent, labor 27 per cent, and overhead 9 per cent.

Many people often think in terms of profit rather than costs.

FACTORS IN PURCHASING POULTS

Poults of good quality is the first essential in successful brooding. This means poults should be from vigorous, broad-breasted, well balanced, early maturing stock, and free from transmissible diseases, especially pullorum and paratyphoid.

Most experienced growers keep their breeding stock or depend upon reliable breeders or hatcherymen for their poults.

Beginners will profit by discussing the purchasing of poults with experienced growers.

BROODING AND REARING POULTS

Sanitary equipment and good brooder houses are necessary for successful turkey production. Brooding and rearing operations should be entirely isolated from older birds to prevent the spreading of disease.

Adequate light, heat, ventilation, feeding and watering devices are necessary. Portable range equipment helps control disease, prevents contamination, avoids killing out green feeds and obtains better distribution of fertilizer.

Turkey equipment should not be used for chickens. Turkeys and chickens do not mix well from the disease standpoint.

TURKEY BREEDING STOCK

Selection of breeding stock should be done before marketing by selecting only breeders that are well balanced, active, not awkward, and are disease free.

For early eggs, place hens under lights for four weeks and toms under light for six weeks before hatching eggs are wanted.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Increase the assessments of the Oregon Turkey Improvement Association 100 per cent for advertising eggs and poults.
- b. Reduce quantity and improve quality.
- c. Provide more rigid inspection of flocks through the Oregon Turkey Improvement Association.
- d. The committee believes that feeds will remain scarce and prices high during the first part of 1946.

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CHICKEN COMMITTEE REPORT

GENERAL SITUATION

The demand for all kinds of poultry products during the war resulted in a 50 per cent increase in production in the United States. The industry on the Pacific Coast did not expand as much during the war period as in some other areas. During the past 15 years, the Pacific Coast has changed from an exporting area to an importing area. Part of this change can be attributed to an increase in population.

The laying hen population in Oregon hasn't varied a great deal in Oregon during the past 15 years with the exception of a 15 to 20 per cent increase during the war.

Oregon normally exports from 10 to 15 per cent of the total eggs produced. The export eggs include about 250 to 300 carloads of market eggs and about 100 carloads of hatching eggs. Some of the market eggs still go east but the number being sold on the Pacific Coast is gradually increasing. Most of the chicken hatching eggs are exported to California.

As the Pacific Coast has changed from an exporting to an importing area, the poultry industry in Linn County should be able to compete and about maintain the present poultry population. To do this producers will have to continue to improve the quality of poultry products.

Oregon has a good reputation for the production of hatching eggs. An opportunity exists for the experienced poultryman to continue the production on high quality hatching eggs.

POPULAR BREEDS

The popular breeds in Linn County are Leghorns and New Hampshires. Leghorns continue to lead where egg production is the objective. New Hampshires are popular for the production of hatching eggs.

Linn County is not a major egg producing area, although many farmers do sell some market eggs and others hatching eggs.

QUALITY AND SIZE OF FLOCK

Quality of poultry products is necessary if Linn County producers are going to be able to stay in business and make a profit. The size of flock is important in the production of quality eggs. The committee recommends 25 hens or less for the average family, 500 hens for the family wanting a side-line cash income enterprise and 2,000 hens where egg production is to be the major enterprise.

NECESSARY CAPITAL

A great deal of capital is required to develop a poultry enterprise. The first year's investment will be from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per bird depending upon the cost of land and improvements and the ability of the operator to do his own work in developing the place. This does not include the cost of the dwelling house. It is recommended that 20 acres be the minimum amount of land for a 2,000-hen enterprise.

SELECTION

The type of chick selected is very important. It is recommended that chicks come from stock that has been bred to live and lay. Freedom from disease is always important. Grade A large eggs are best for hatching.

MANAGEMENT

If the number of chicks brooded in one group is limited to 300 to 350 it will eliminate much brooding trouble. It is well to have the brooder house located from 200 to 300 feet from the laying house in order to prevent the spread of disease.

It is a good practice to replace from 50 to 100 per cent of the laying flock each year. A laying hen will decrease in egg production from 20 to 25 per cent in each successive year of production. Conditions are best when pullets are separated from the older birds. Gathering the eggs from three to four times per day and holding them at a temperature from 40 to 65 degrees and a relative humidity above 85 per cent is recommended.

The committee recommends that egg quality be stressed at all times and that more attention be given the meat type conformation of such breeds as New Hampshires, Rhode Island Reds and Plymouth Rocks.

FEED SITUATION

The committee anticipates that the feed situation will continue to be tight for at least the first six to eight months of 1946. The situation after that will depend upon the reduction in livestock numbers and the 1946 crop situation.

OUTLOOK

The committee believes that this is not a good time for a new operator to engage in the chicken business because of the high cost of buildings, materials and feed. An inexperienced man should start with a small flock, or better yet, work for an experienced poultryman. A partnership between man and wife is desirable with chickens on the farm. The experienced poultryman having his equipment is in a good position to continue the enterprise.

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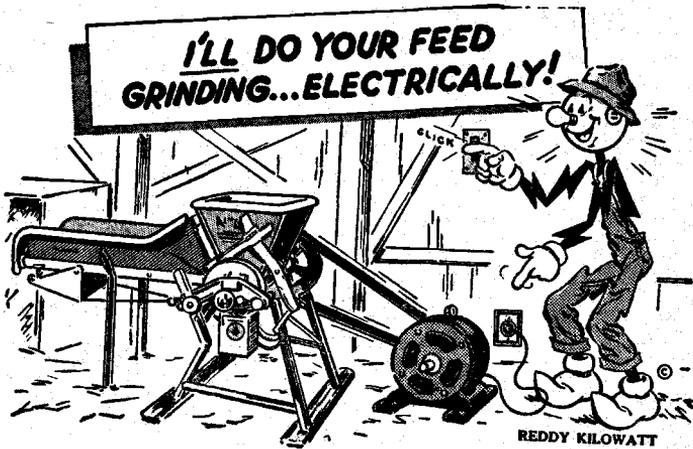
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DAIRY COMMITTEE REPORT

GENERAL SITUATION

Despite the fact that dairymen of the United States turned out a record large volume of milk in 1945 and are still holding to a high level of production, supplies of manufactured dairy products are far below market needs. This is due to the unprecedented demand arising from increased purchasing power of domestic consumers, and shipments abroad for military, lend lease, and relief. The total milk production for 1945 reached an all time U. S. high of 123 billion pounds. The number of dairy cows of milking age in the U. S. in 1945 was 25,500,000.

The number of dairy cows of milking age on Linn County farms increased from 8,408 in 1890 to a peak of 16,600 in 1943. It is estimated that there were 16,200 dairy cows of milking age in the county in 1945.

With a nation of 140 million people there are approximately 10 per cent more potential milk consumers than a decade ago. Some agricultural specialists estimate that U. S. population by 1950 will reach 144 million people, and that milk production may run from 58 to 59 billion quarts per year.

It has long been recognized that demand for dairy products is influenced by consumer incomes. A study by the Bureau of Labor in 1942 indicated that families with an income of \$2,000 or more consumed on a per capita basis about one and a half times as much dairy products as families in the one thousand dollar income class. Fluid cream purchases per person in families with incomes over \$4,000 was almost three times that in the lowest income bracket. Rationing, however, tended to level out the differences due to income and according to the bureau's survey made in 1944 the lowest income groups were using about as much dairy products as those in the higher brackets.

Even though there is an increased population and higher level of purchasing power, economy and efficiency of milk production will continue to be an important factor for dairymen to consider, and this will call for more efficient cows — cows with greater capacity for using home-grown roughage, longer-lived cows to reduce cost of replacements, and cows capable of heavier production.

The annual average production per cow in Linn County is 248 pounds of butterfat. Although this production is well above the average for the entire United States, it is felt that Linn County dairymen can materially increase this production. Ways of increasing production are through the use of better sires and through better feeding and management practices.

BETTER SIRES

The committee commends the board of directors of the Linn-Benton Dairy Breeders Association for the forward step in the organization of an artificial insemination association. This organization will make proved sires and sires having a high transmitting index available to the small dairyman who cannot afford to purchase a sire of this quality.

PRODUCTION TESTING

The committee believes that the Linn-Benton dairy herd improvement association should expand their facilities so that more dairymen can test their cows for production. This will continually become more important as the Linn-Benton Dairy Breeders Association expands.

BUTTER PRODUCTION

During the war years, emphasis has been placed on the production of fluid milk. This has resulted in a sharp decrease in butter production. The committee feels that butter production is going to continue at a low level unless prices are adjusted so that the cream producer receives approximately the same price for butterfat as does the producer of milk used for processing. The scarcity of butter has resulted in a very marked increase in the use of butter substitutes. This is expected to be a determining factor in the future trend of the dairy industry. In order for butter to again regain its place of prominence it will be necessary to stress quality. Production of margarine in 1945 totaled nearly 614,000,000 pounds, 5 per cent more than in 1944 and nearly double the output in 1941.

HAY QUALITY

The quality of hay is being rapidly improved each year through the use of new and improved machinery. The pick-up hay baler is a means of handling hay rapidly and if used before hay is too dry makes hay of excellent quality. The buckrake is a means of handling hay rapidly. Hay drying is a problem in Linn County. The development of hay dryers will greatly improve quality. Field cutters are becoming popular and will increase in use as hay drying develops.

GRASS SILAGE

The possibilities of using grass silage should be considered by every dairyman. This may be in the form of alfalfa, clovers, oats and vetch, and pasture clippings. The addition of 75 pounds of molasses per ton of green material will keep the material from spoiling. Ground grain will have the same effect when used at the rate of 100 to 300 pounds per ton of green material. The cost and work involved has been greatly reduced through the use of such labor saving machinery as field cutters and blowers, and hay loaders. The yield of corn for silage is usually such that it is much more expensive than grass silage.

PASTURES

Pasture is a very important crop to the dairyman. Irrigated Ladino clover pastures are perhaps best, but where the dairyman does not want to go to the expense of purchasing irrigation equipment, the committee is suggesting the use of alta fescue and subclover. The usual seeding rate is 15 pounds of alta fescue and two pounds of subclover. Either Mt. Barker or Tallarook strains of subclover are recommended. The usual carrying capacity of irrigated Ladino clover pasture is 2½ cows per acre. All types of pasture must be managed properly to get the best results. This includes fertilization, rotation, possible clipping, and avoiding late pasturing.

DISEASE CONTROL

The Bangs disease and T.B. testing programs in the county have resulted in a substantial reduction in these two diseases. The committee recognizes the importance of a testing program and recommends the reactivation of the Linn County disease control committee of five members. The conference committee requests that the general conference chairman appoint such a committee. The purpose of the committee is to formulate a Linn County disease control program. The dairy committee calls attention to the annual loss from mastitis. This particular disease is becoming very serious and needs further investigation. The committee recommends that the disease control committee study this problem and include mastitis control in its program.

CONCENTRATES

The feed situation is expected to be tight during the forepart of 1946. This is particularly true of protein concentrates. It is recommended that dairymen in Linn County plan to grow their own hay and the larger portion of their grain. This procedure is almost necessary unless the operator is a producer-distributor.

DAIRYING SOUND

The committee believes that dairying is a sound enterprise for Linn County and that present dairy cow numbers should be maintained. The future of the dairy industry depends entirely upon production costs and the maintenance of quality.

MARKETS

Linn County dairymen have adequate facilities for marketing milk as three creameries and a condensery are located in the county and numerous whole milk buyers have trucks making regular routes.

FAIR BUILDINGS

The dairy committee recommends that the general conference go on record as favoring the using of county fair funds to provide adequate facilities for junior fairs with a regular county fair being kept in mind.

RESOLUTION

The Linn County Agricultural Planning Conference in session at Albany, Oregon, on January 29, 1946, goes on record as requesting that the Linn County Court appropriate sufficient funds to employ a full time county veterinarian to do T.B. and Bangs disease testing as provided by law. It is further requested that the funds be provided in the 1946 budget.

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LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE REPORT

TRENDS AND PRESENT CONDITIONS

Linn County's income from sheep, hogs, beef cattle, goats and horses has been practically the same as that for dairy cows during the past 20 years. Of the total agricultural income of \$11,102,000 in 1942, livestock accounted for 17.9 per cent of the total. The 1936-1940 average showed 19.1 per cent of the total income credited to livestock. The reduction in the percentage can be attributed to a slight decrease in sheep and hog numbers, but more particularly to the increased marketing of forage crop seed. The exceptionally high prices during the war years for all types of forage crop seed have discouraged the production of sheep.

The number of sheep in Linn County has decreased from a high of 90,233 in 1930 to 60,000 in 1945. Sheep numbers are now satisfactory and should be maintained because of the amount of feed available through forage seed production. The numbers of sheep could be increased in the hill sections through extensive pasture improvement. The use of good purebred sires is recommended in order to improve the quality of breeding flocks and market lambs. The committee commends the Willamette Valley Purebred Ram and Ewe Sale for efforts in making purebred sires available to Western Oregon sheepmen. Cross-breeding is not recommended unless the lambs are to be marketed. Closer culling of ewe flocks would eliminate a good many inferior lambs.

SHEEP FEEDING

Approximately 60 per cent of Linn County's lambs get fat while still with the ewe and can be marketed at that time. This percentage can be increased by better feeding of the ewes during the winter, by more care at lambing time, by culling poor quality ewes and by providing better pasture. The development of both winter and summer pastures along with grain feeding is suggested as the means of producing better quality sheep. Abruzzi rye has proved to be very satisfactory as a winter pasture. Alta fescue and Subterranean clover sown together is an excellent pasture for spring and early fall with a limited amount of summer feed. Sudan grass is one of the best pastures for summer feed. Better feeding of sheep would result in less losses from parasites and diseases.

ANGORA GOATS

Linn County needs more Angora goats to help keep the brush from taking over hill pastures. The committee recommends that the goat population be doubled. It is believed that better management practices would greatly increase the number of goats. The Angora goat population is estimated as being 4,500 as compared with 10,300 in 1941.

HOGS

The number of brood sows on Linn County farms shrank to a low of 1,600 in 1945 as compared to 2,800 in 1942 and a peak of 3,151 in 1920. It is agreed that the number of hogs should be increased in the county, but such a recommendation can only be made with the provision that the increase come at a time when the price of hogs and the price of grain are such that a profit can be made. At the present time every farm in the county should keep enough hogs to consume farm waste. The committee is suggesting that good breeding stock be kept by those farmers who can carry a sow or two so they will be in a position to get back into the hog business when the time comes. Good breeding stock is becoming extremely scarce and about the only purebreds in the county are those owned by 4-H and F.F.A. members. These young people are to be congratulated upon their efforts to improve the quality of hogs in the county.

BEEF CATTLE

The number of beef cows on Linn County farms has increased during the war years. It is estimated that there are now 2,250 beef cows as compared to 1,250 in 1940. The good price for beef has resulted in some beef cattle being located on farms that are not adapted to beef. It is recommended that beef cattle be produced on farms having cheap range or pasture and ample hay for winter feeding. It is best for Linn County beef feeders to breed their own feeders rather than depend upon buying. Beef is mainly a secondary enterprise in the county but there are a few cases where beef will be the main enterprise. The size of the beef enterprise will depend entirely upon the amount of range available and the carrying capacity. The use of good purebred sires is recommended.

HORSES

There is a good demand for saddle horses. This demand presents an opportunity for Linn County farmers to raise some good saddle horses. Many farmers keep a horse and it is suggested that this animal be a brood mare. It is emphasized that the demand is for good saddle horses.

FEED

The numbers of livestock are fairly well in balance with available feed supplies, but livestock men are encouraged to plan for better winter feeding, particularly of ewes. Winter feeding of ewes will result in stronger lambs that will fatten at an earlier date.

A ton of hay will carry one beef animal through the winter. A sheep will require 300 pounds of hay. Alfalfa and clover hay are best for sheep. A brood sow will take approximately 950 pounds of grain from the time she is bred until time that the litter is weaned. About 710 pounds of grain will carry a hog from weaning time to 200 pounds.

FAIR BUILDINGS

The committee goes on record as favoring the establishment of adequate facilities to handle the annual 4-H club fairs, the F.F.A. Fair, the Willamette Valley Purebred Ram and Ewe Sale, the Linn-Benton Jersey Cattle Show and the Linn-Benton Guernsey Cattle Show. The Fall 4-H Fair has grown so rapidly that present facilities are entirely inadequate and it is believed that the 4-H club members will become greatly discouraged if they are not provided with suitable quarters to house their livestock. The committee believes that these young people are a real factor in improving quality of livestock in the county and wishes to see their good work continue.

LAMB SHOW

The marketing of early lambs is encouraged. The committee recommends that the merchants of Scio again consider the holding of the annual Linn County Fat Lamb Show in June. This show has for its purpose to demonstrate the good practice of marketing lambs early in the season.

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FARM HOME AND RURAL LIFE COMMITTEE REPORT

WIDER HORIZONS

The keynote of the report of the Rural Life Committee of the 1941 Agricultural Planning Conference was "Successful and happy living on a farm depends largely upon two factors — a good home and nutritious food."

The Rural Life Committee of 1946 believes this is still true, but the development of the past five years makes one feel that in this new world success and happiness now depend on much larger things — that we recognize ourselves as citizens of the world, and that these immediate needs, as important as they are, are the foundation on which we must build and not ends in themselves.

Every individual citizen must feel his responsibility as a world citizen in this atomic age. Specifically as rural people of Linn County, we should make an effort to find our place in this larger community with an understanding and an appreciation of the problems and needs of business, industry and other groups which with us compose our county life. If we have this knowledge in Linn County, it will give us the necessary understanding for assuming responsibilities as citizens of Oregon, of the United States, and of the world.

RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

For better living in the first place, we must realize that we are the government and that it is up to us to be leaders and supporters of the things that are for the greatest good of all.

The committee feels that one place to begin is in our schools. The committee recommends that a study be made to determine whether our schools are adequately equipping our youth for this larger peace-time living. The consensus of this committee is that many of our schools are inadequate. Better school buildings and equipment, and better trained teachers are needed in Linn County.

Second, the consensus is that there are too many small elementary as well as small high schools in the county. Furthermore, the needs of our rural students in city high schools are not met in that:

- a. No county plan for transportation of rural high school students to the city school.
- b. The city high schools are overcrowded.
- c. Despite the fact that the enrollment in our city high schools is made up of one-third to one-half of rural tuition-paid students, the rural citizens have no representation on city school boards.

The committee recommends that a study be made of the schools of Linn County to outline their needs, cost of operation and equipment, and the possibilities of consolidation where feasible.

In order to bring about improvements in our schools, every citizen in a school district must take a greater interest in the growth and development of the educational program in this district. This can be accomplished only through regular and frequent meetings of school boards, district residents, parents and teachers.

BETTER HOUSING

The second requirement for better living is better housing.

Again referring to the 1941 report of the rural life committee, we find the housing survey revealed some interesting information. At that time 42 per cent of the houses were more than 25 years old, another 42 per cent were 10 to 24 years old and 16 per cent were less than 10 years old. In house construction, insulation against cold and rain was the most serious problem. The survey indicated that 42 per cent of the houses were improperly insulated. Less than one-half of the houses had plumbing facilities for warm and cold water. In 16 per cent of the houses, water was carried from an outside well for an average distance of 22 feet.

Due to the war and consequent shortage of materials, the situation today is not much, if any, better than in 1941.

It is evident that sanitary conditions in the farm homes of the county could be greatly improved. Houses still exist where the water is carried from springs, or from pumps and wells outside the house.

The committee recommends that all new water supply sources should be tested for purity before being developed. Likewise, frequent testing of water is a good practice. A sterile bottle is provided by the Linn County Health Department for use by farmers to bring in samples of water which are sent to the State Health Department for analysis. This service is free.

Many labor saving conveniences around the home and farm could be installed at small expense. Very often persons are inclined to overlook the possibilities of improvements when they once become accustomed to routine work.

Since many houses will be remodeled as well as new ones built as soon as materials are available, the committee recommends that steps be taken to promote an interest in practical home planning construction for the particular needs of the rural families with special emphasis on arrangement, storage space, plumbing and lighting. The committee also urges that steps be taken to conduct in the county, projects on home beautification, landscaping and the preservation of natural resources to enrich the home surroundings. Better understanding of the possibilities will better express the pride which Linn County residents will display in their homes to non-residents and to outsiders.

CONSUMER EDUCATION

The third requirement for better living is consumer education in every phase of farm life.

In order that the farm income may be expended wisely so as to afford better living the rural homemaker and her family should be well informed. The fields which are particularly timely now are:

Foods and Nutrition: With wartime pressure removed there will be some decline in the volume of food grown and preserved for family use. This will be particularly true of farm families in higher income groups. For low income families, home food production and preservation provide the only way of obtaining even a minimum adequate diet.

The committee recommends that the rural families of Linn County be encouraged to produce and preserve their food supply which will for most home grown products continue to pay dividends in better nutrition and cash savings. Also that nutritional facts be studied by homemakers to aid them in better meal planning.

Refrigeration: Statistics show that only 16.8 per cent of rural farms in Linn County have any type of refrigeration in their homes. Many families are planning to build freezing plants in their homes and many others plan to buy refrigeration units. The committee wishes to recommend that homemakers be encouraged to seek authoritative information on advantages and disadvantages as well as cost of installation and operation of such a unit for their families before making their investment.

Rural Electrification: The housing survey in Linn County showed that 72 per cent of the homes have electric service, which is an increase of 30 per cent since 1941. Electricity is a convenient labor-saver in executing farm work as well as household duties, and is a stimulant for better living. The committee recommends that county-wide projects be conducted in better home lighting, so that the family may obtain the most out of the electricity employed for specific duties in the home and on the farm; that demonstrations be given to better familiarize people with the cost of operating electrical equipment, both on the farm and in the home, and to encourage proper home lighting as well as safety and adequacy in wiring.

Clothing: Due to the many new materials that have been perfected during the war, the committee recommends that homemakers be kept well informed as to the care and usage of these materials as they appear on the market.

Budgeting: It is desirable that members of the farm family plan their spending together and keep joint farm and home accounts. Careful budgeting must be taken into consideration in order to continue improvement in the standard of living and happiness of the farm family. The committee recommends that demonstrations be given on filing of papers and securities and on budgeting of family accounts.

HEALTH

The fourth requirement for better living is the improvement of health conditions in Linn County.

Only 2,800 of the 30,485 people in Linn County were X-rayed for tuberculosis by mobile unit. Of the 2,800 persons X-rayed, 76 were taken to the sanitarium for further examination.

Since only one-fifteenth of the population has been X-rayed the recommendation of the committee is that all citizens of Linn County be X-rayed in order to prevent the spreading of this communicable disease.

The committee also recommends that there be an enlargement of the county health education program which will give emphasis on and coordination of efforts for a program which will encourage medical care for middle-aged women as well as clinics for widespread immunization against contagious diseases.

WHOLESOME FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LIFE

In conclusion, the committee feels that if we are to build for better family living in this changing world, we must focus more attention on wholesome family and community life.

The committee recommends that an educational program be planned to promote better family and community life with special emphasis on marriage and parenthood, recreation, social and spiritual development and citizenship responsibilities.

In Linn County there were 103 divorces in 1944 and 189 in 1945. Furthermore, one of our judges has said that the cause of most of the divorces could be traced to liquor. So the committee feels the urgency of education for marriage, for teaching of responsibilities of parents, for standards of temperance and traits of better character for an appreciation of rural life and its advantages.

All communities should be encouraged to provide wholesome recreation for all members of the family. Rural youth should be guided into places of leadership and responsibility that challenge their interest, ingenuity and enthusiasm. Efforts should be coordinated to bring to the community movies that are interesting as well as educational and character building. To encourage wider reading among rural people the possibilities of a county library should be investigated, and in relation to this the feasibility of a book bank depository for rural school textbooks, be looked into.

Rural community clubs and other organizations as well as individuals should be encouraged to seek out the newcomers in their communities so that friendliness may become the basis of our Linn County rural life.

The committee also recommends that opportunities be presented in a community to encourage the spiritual development of its youth and adults and that churches be encouraged to plan their activities to include the rural members.

In order to promote friendliness and understanding between rural people and those in business and industry, the committee suggests that rural and city organizations exchange ideas and programs, and encourage visiting back and forth. The committee feels that this understanding is basically necessary if we are to have a knowledge of what is best for the good of all in education, business, agriculture and government. Specifically, we should promote interest in local and other elections so that more people will try to understand the issues, learn to know the candidates and exercise their privilege to vote.

These recommendations are made by the committee on Farm Home and Rural Life after careful consideration and analysis of existing conditions in Linn County. The recommendations are made with the idea that several years will be necessary to carry them out, and that it is advisable to begin making improvements as soon as possible so that changes may be noted in four or five years time.

The ultimate purpose and design in making these recommendations is to make the farm home a happier, better informed, healthier and more spiritual and social place in which to live. By so improving living conditions on each farm the standard of living will be raised and the farm families of Linn County will be better equipped for better living in this changing world.



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FOUR-H CLUB REPORT

PAST GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

The 4-H program in Linn County has grown from 308 club members with 211 completing in 1933 to 1,210 different members with 1,103 completing in 1945. These members enrolled in 1,847 projects completing 1,721 for a 93.18 per cent completion on the project basis.

4-H club work is under the direction of the county club agent with local 4-H club leaders serving the 165 clubs organized in 1945. Standard clubs of five or more members are organized in health, cookery, clothing, homemaking, food preservation, dairy, dairy record keeping, sheep, swine, beef, garden, corn, field crops, art, hobby, forestry, woodworking, chickens, turkeys, rabbits, child care, farm accounting, safety and vegetable seeds.

4-H club work is available to all boys and girls 9 to 21. Here in Linn County there are 7,518 boys and girls in this age group. Three thousand eight hundred forty-eight of these are rural boys and girls and only 1,210 were enrolled in 1945.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Local Leaders. The limiting factor in the 4-H program is lack of local leaders to serve all clubs that may be organized. The various organizations in each community are urged to provide one or more local leaders for 4-H clubs. Older 4-H club members and ex-4-H club members are encouraged to serve as local leaders. The committee further recommends that an assistant 4-H club agent be engaged to serve the increased enrollment during the post war period.

Older Ages. Eighty-five per cent of the 4-H membership is in the 9 to 14 age group. Boys and girls of high school age are encouraged to continue their 4-H projects. Community or possibly county wide clubs for the older age group are suggested. All boys and girls in Linn County are encouraged to enroll in one or more 4-H projects. Boys and girls in the various towns in Linn County are invited to participate in the 4-H club program.

Parent Participation. It is recommended that parents take part in the 4-H program by attending 4-H meetings, county wide training schools and 4-H tours. Parent interest is essential for a 4-H club member to be successful.

Four-H Fairs. 4-H club fairs promote interest and are educational to those participating. Every 4-H club member is encouraged to participate in the county 4-H fairs.

The 4-H club program in Linn County has been handicapped the past four years due to the lack of suitable facilities for the 4-H fairs. The committee recommends that suitable buildings be constructed to house the exhibits of the 4-H club and F.F.A. members. The 1945 Linn County fall 4-H fair was the largest display of 4-H livestock of all county shows in Oregon.

Premiums should be increased as the number of exhibits are increased.

Basic Club Projects. It is recommended that the basic 4-H projects in home economics and agriculture be stressed as the projects are a sound method of teaching.

A definite business arrangement between the parents and club member should be arranged for each project.

Club members in the livestock and poultry projects should have good quality breeding stock and then build on this foundation. Club members who have followed this practice have made 4-H club work a financial success.

Ten Guide Posts. The committee further recommends that the 4-H program follow insofar as possible the 10 guide posts set up by the National Committee on post war planning for 4-H work in the following statement:

To help prepare tomorrow's citizens, physically, mentally and spiritually, 4-H club work provides opportunities for voluntary participation in programs, built on needs and interests, through which youth are:

1. Developing talents for greater usefulness.
2. Joining with friends for work, fun and fellowship.
3. Learning to live in a changing world.
4. Choosing a way to earn a living.
5. Producing food, and fiber for home market.
6. Creating better homes for better living.
7. Conserving nature's resources for security and happiness.
8. Building health for a strong America.
9. Sharing responsibilities for community improvement.
10. Serving as citizens in maintaining world peace.

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GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS and COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Fair Facilities: The Linn County Agricultural Conference recommends that adequate facilities be provided for fairs and other activities of a community or county nature. Present facilities are entirely inadequate for the increasing interest shown in these activities. It is requested that the County Fair Board use legally designated funds in the County Fair Fund to provide these facilities.

National Income: The Linn County Agricultural Conference calls attention to the fact that in order to maintain a high national income and approach full employment it is necessary that we have a high net agricultural income.

Conference Reports: The Linn County Agricultural Conference requests that all committee reports presented at the conference be made available for general distribution. The general chairman is requested to appoint a committee of five to investigate printing methods and then arrange for printing and distribution.

Committees: The following committees were appointed by the general chairman as the result of action voted by the conference:

Reports Committee:

Robert Schmidt, Chairman.....	Albany, Rt. 2
Mrs. Lilly Edwards.....	Albany, Rt. 4
Mrs. W. W. Abraham.....	Shedd
Kenneth Arnold.....	Albany, Rt. 2
Harry L. Winkley.....	Albany, Rt. 2

Weed Control Committee:

John Shepherd, Chairman.....	Scio, Rt. 3
Walter Shelby.....	Albany, Rt. 2
Gerald W. Detering.....	Harrisburg
Ivan Ayers.....	Lebanon, Rt. 2
F. D. Jenks.....	Tangent

Dairy Disease Control Committee:

Warren Cooley, Chairman.....	Albany, Rt. 1
John Pugh.....	Shedd
Randall Grimes.....	Harrisburg
James Dickson.....	Shedd
A. D. Swink.....	Lebanon, Rt. 1

Land Classification Committee:

John Silbernagel.....	Scio
Wm. McPherson.....	Lebanon, Rt. 3
W. W. Power.....	Lyons
Jack Swanson.....	Lebanon
Frank Cochran.....	Brownsville

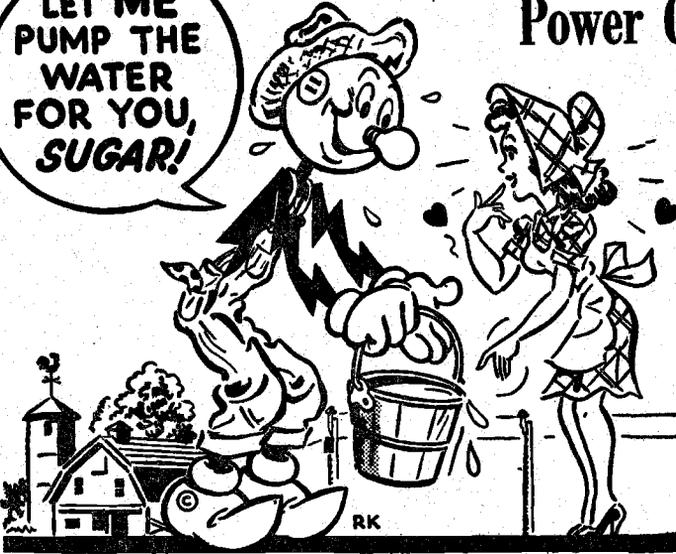
Linn County Agricultural Statistics and Facts

Area of County	1,475,435 Acres
Privately owned lands	964,874 "
Public lands	510,561 "
Land in farms	465,772 "
Land devoted to crops	228,000 "
Number of farms (1945 Census of Agri.)	3,248
Average size of farms	142.4 acres
Average rainfall	38 Inches
County population (1940 Census)	30,485
Number of seed cleaning plants	24
Number of meat packing plants	2
Number of hatcheries	8
Number of food processing plants	2
Number of milk and cream processing plants	4
Number of poultry processing plants	4
Linn County Farm Marketings (1945 estimated)	\$15,000,000
Dairy products	17.3%
Livestock	17.9%
Eggs and Poultry	17.7%
Miscellaneous Animal Products5%
Forage Crop Seeds	20.0%
Grain and Hay	6.6%
Tree Fruits and Nuts	2.8%
Miscellaneous Specialty Crops	5.8%
Farm Timber Products	3.0%
Potatoes and Truck Crops	4.6%
Small Fruits	3.5%
Horticultural Specialty Products3%

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