



1956
Marion County
FARM and HOME
OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

1956 Marion County FARM AND HOME Outlook Conference

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FOREWORD

This report represents the work of 12 committees of the Marion County Agricultural Council. Each of the committees was asked to consider:

1. The present situations in the county of the various committees, such as crops, livestock, and family and community living.
2. The problems arising from each situation which would seem of concern to Marion county residents during the next 10 years.
3. The adjustments and improvements which would help in the ultimate solution of these problems.

About 200 men and women participated in the work of the 12 committees. Each group met several times during the winter of 1955-56.

The work of each committee was reported at the Marion County Farm and Home Outlook Conference held February 27, 1956, in Salem, Oregon.

Marion county extension staff members served as advisors and committee secretaries. Other Oregon State College staff members furnished statistical information and assistance as requested by the various committees.

Similar conferences were held in 1936 and 1946. These conferences had proved valuable in preceding years. In the fall of 1955, the Agricultural Council voted that a similar conference be held in 1956.

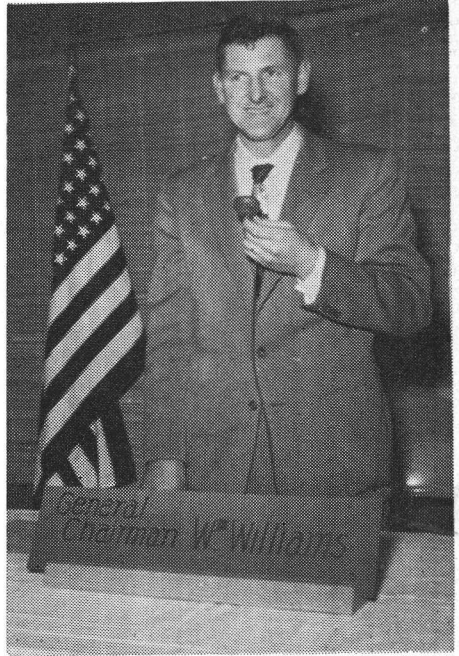
Although it is not possible to thank each person individually, I want this foreword to serve as a "Thank You" for every one who cooperated in the teamwork that resulted in the Outlook Conference and these published reports.

The reports are presented herewith with the hope that all interested people may know the trends in Marion county agriculture and family living. A special section, "Facts about Marion County," has been added for your information.

Sincerely yours,



W. L. Williams, Chairman
Marion County Agricultural Council



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LIVING COMMITTEE

CIVIC AND COMMUNITY

Taxes

Situation — A steadily increasing population has brought about heavy loads on school facilities and equipment. It is extending the urban area of our towns and cities into farming areas. It is bringing about sub-division of farms into smaller acreages to the point that the tax load carried by the farmer is becoming a great problem.

School taxes at present seem to be one of the biggest areas of concern to people in the farming areas of Marion County. School "cost per pupil" (not including building depreciation and bonded indebtedness) ranges from \$189 to a high of \$303 among 8 districts which were picked at random. Acreages paying from \$75 to \$150 in total taxes are sending several children to school, which is bringing many complaints from the larger land owners.

Goal — To have citizens better informed so that the best use can be made of the tax dollar.

Recommendation — That a Special Tax Committee be appointed by the Agricultural Council to make a detailed study of our county tax situation with the idea that some possible solutions might be reached.

Civil Defense

Situation — In time of peace it is difficult to get our people deeply concerned with the needs and functions of Civil Defense. Our "cold war" situation has brought about a great deal of defense preparation and probably more needs to be done, yet the general public remains somewhat unconcerned.

Goal — To have an informed

county citizenry in regard to their specific role in the civil defense program.

Recommendation — That effort be continued in trying to inform the public on what has been done and what needs to be accomplished in keeping our "home front" alert. Potential media for this effort includes radio, newspapers, cooperation with the Civil Defense, and integration through the home extension units.

Interest in Civic and Political Issues

Situation — There has been a growing lack of interest among the general public on many of the issues which come before the voters each year. Many people become confused and lose interest in important issues when statements on ballots and in papers are not clearly worded. At each election there is evidence of the lack of participation by voters, some not even registering to make themselves eligible to vote.

Goal — To create an awareness of individual civic responsibility.

Recommendation —

1. That ballot measures be uniformly and clearly stated.
2. That greater emphasis be placed on getting people out to vote.
3. That the county council inform by letter the county representatives in the state legislature the concern of this group regarding the clarity of election ballots and the necessity of greater emphasis on getting people out to vote at all elections.

Public Relations Between Rural and Urban People

Situation — This growing county of ours is constantly bringing the problems of the farmer closer to the city person and vice versa. It is bringing the city worker into the country for his residence. There are many production and consumption problems that need to be better understood by both producer and consumer.

Goal — To establish better understanding of production and consumption problems among rural and urban people.

Recommendation — That the media of radio, newspaper, exchange guests, television, farmers' nights, business-man tours be used to achieve a better understanding of the problems of both groups.

ZONING LEGISLATION

Situation — The population of Marion County is expected to increase 50% by 1975. Even with present population, there are many problems connected with surface drainage, sewage disposal, and water supply.

In some instances, sewer drainage is running down the street. Many areas adjacent to Salem and other towns lack adequate surface drainage. The health of the people could be seriously affected by sewer contamination and surface drainage. Twenty to twenty-five thousand people live in the fringe areas near Salem at the present time. The estimated population increase will undoubtedly be living in the areas not now incorporated in cities.

Valuable farm land is now and has been used for housing subdivisions. This means, that land has been taken out of agricultural production for generations, if not forever.

The question "Shall the County Court be authorized to enact zoning

and land use regulations?" was presented to the voters at the following times with these results:

May 1954: against 11,225; for 9,828; margin 2,297.

Nov. 1954: against 13,446; for 13,173; margin 273.

Goal —

1. To provide for coordinated stable growth of the community with particular emphasis toward those things which make for stable property values, safe residential areas, adequate recreational and educational facilities, sound and stable economic and industrial development and better community living.
2. To make best use of land resources which will contribute to above goal and at the same time consider the potential agricultural production of the land before using it for subdivision purposes.

Recommendation — That voters of Marion County become acquainted with the purpose of the proposed zoning legislation.

FAMILY LIVING

Interesting Homemakers in Extension

Situation — Marion County had in 1950, 25,408 married women over 14 years of age. We are now reaching about 1300 directly through the units. It is impossible to estimate how many more are helped by various other means—radio, news stories, bulletins, office and phone calls, home visits, etc. In 1954, 40% of the brides in Marion County were under 21 years of age. The committee felt that these young homemakers could receive much help from extension.

Goals —

1. To interest more of the young homemakers in Marion County in extension activities.

2. To inform all homemakers in the county of the services available through extension.

Recommendations —

1. That an effort be made to determine the kind of help which would be most desired by these young women. The program might or might not pattern the extension units now organized.
2. That continued effort be made to do a more thorough job of program planning, in order to more fully know the needs and interests of the women.
3. That the units now organized make more of an effort to interest others in the community in the extension program.
4. That more publicity be given to general nature as well as total program of the extension service.

Mothers Working

Situation — 29% of Marion County women are working full or part time. This leaves many children unattended or in the care of the older ones after school hours. The mothers feel they must contribute to the family income because of the reduction of the annual net gain or the increased desires of the family. We are concerned with the possible detrimental effect this trend will have on the total family life and rearing of children.

Goal — To provide for the proper supervision of children after school hours. We believe that they need this guidance for a well balanced adjusted life.

Recommendations —

1. That parents evaluate the actual contribution the wife can make to family life through working.
2. That working parents realize the importance of the adult supervision

for children, and be helped to understand and assume their responsibility.

3. That well-organized play schools and nursery schools be encouraged at nominal fees for the young children of working mothers.
4. That businesses arrange their working schedules so that mothers work only during school hours, thus freeing them during the time the children are home. Mothers with young children might work 9 to 1 and older homemakers 1 to 5.

Inoculation of Children

Situation — Diphtheria, small pox, whooping cough, and tetanus shots are offered by the County Health Department. Except for whooping cough and diphtheria, there have been few cases for many years. However, any age group is susceptible to all of these diseases. Seventy-two per cent of the children have these shots before they enter the first grade. However, only 9% of the freshmen high school boys and girls have had booster shots every three to five years. Whooping cough among babies and pre-school age children, poliomyelitis in all age groups, and dental disease are paramount health problems. Much more information is being released on flouridation of water and its relationship to dental caries.

Goals —

1. To immunize the babies against whooping cough at six months and one year.
2. To educate the parents to assume responsibility for the shots, not only before entering school, but for the booster shots as well.
3. To reduce the amount of dental disease by preventative measures and dental work.

4. To employ recent research to lessen the amount of dental disease.

Recommendations —

1. That the County Health Department continue their educational program with the parents and their responsibility for the shots.
2. That a card be issued at birth to parents so they could remember when shots should be given.
3. That more information be given to people regarding flouridation.

Television and Children

Situation — Many television shows during afternoons and early evenings are not suitable for children. Young children, especially, cannot clearly distinguish between what is real and make believe, between what is right and wrong. Television, as often understood by children, is all real and the "dashing" villians are to be admired. In 1954, a survey in Marion County, involving 4553 farm families, 42% had television.

Goal — To encourage television shows in the afternoons and early evenings that are suitable for children.

Recommendations —

1. That this situation be impressed upon the parents who in turn will be more discriminating in selecting television programs for their children.
2. That an effort be made to determine what parents can do to encourage television stations to provide suitable programs for children.

Financial Planning

Situation — Twenty-nine per cent of the women in Marion County are employed outside the home. Many

of them could contribute substantially to family income by using the family income more wisely. When both parents have full time positions, frequently their incomes are not always spent to the best advantage. The increased income taxes often leaves the family with much less than was anticipated.

Record keeping on the farm is becoming a large job and one which many farmers have not done as well as it should be. It has been found that most of the farm records are kept by the homemaker. For maximum interest in record keeping, homemakers need to have a voice in making plans for the expenditures. (i. e. buying fertilizer, lime, etc.) Homemakers are often not included in classes or meetings pertaining to these subjects.

Goals —

1. To help the families with working homemakers realize the importance of analyzing her actual contribution to the income.
2. To assist farmers, and especially the homemaker, with record keeping.
3. To encourage families to talk over the best way to spend the family budget.

Recommendations —

1. That assistance, wherever possible, be given to families, where both parents work that would help in evaluating the additional income earned by the homemaker.
2. That assistance in simple record and bookkeeping be offered to families.

Credit

Situation — The use of credit is at an all time high. In some instances credit may be under-used and in others over-used. The question is "Do fami-

lies want and need assistance in planning for wise use of credit?"

Goal — To develop individual understanding of the use of credit.

Recommendation — That more information be disseminated on installment buying and other uses of credit.

Social Security

Situation — Social Security is new to farmers, having been included for the first time in 1955. Many farmers do not fully understand the responsibility to the employees.

Goal — To inform farmers about their responsibility in the Social Security program.

Recommendation — That the Extension Service enlighten the farmers about Social Security—his responsibility to his employees and to himself.

4-H CLUB WORK

Situation — School census data shows that in 1955 there were 11,228 boys and girls in Marion County of 4-H age. This is the potential number of Marion County youth eligible for 4-H club work. The total enrollment during 1955 was 1,439 or 12.8% of the county potential.

There is a constant need for additional 4-H leaders. In some communities there is and has been definite membership interest but no adult leadership available. Some communities do not have leadership due to lack of interest and knowledge about 4-H work.

The 4-H members in Marion County are participating in the following: home economics and agricultural projects either as individual member or as club members; Clothing, Cooking, Food Preservation, Homemaking, Knitting, Outdoor Cooking, Child Care, Health, Art, Beef, Dairy, Sheep, Saddle Horse, Swine, Rabbit and Poultry,

Field Crops, Vegetable Gardening, Flowers, Home Improvement, Woodworking, Forestry, Tractor Maintenance, Electricity, Junior Leadership, Photography and Bird Study.

There is need for increased project interest and enrollment in such areas as Entomology, Field Crops, Poultry, Food Preservation, Vegetable Gardening, Homemaking and Child Care.

An important part of 4-H clubwork is the special activities, including recreation. At present each club determines its own recreation, therefore, it is carried out in varying degrees.

Goals —

1. To increase the percentage of eligible boys and girls enrolled in the Marion County 4-H program.
2. To provide competent youth leaders and a training program for lay people in teaching methods. Our goal should be to create an interest in adults for leadership experience.
3. To make club age youth and their parents aware of the extent and variety of projects available through 4-H.
4. To provide recreation leadership within clubs and more opportunities in 4-H sponsored recreation on an area or district basis.

Recommendations — We recommend that the County Agricultural Council appoint a youth committee to function for a period as necessary to study the youth organizations in Marion County. The membership of the committee should be representative of different areas and organizations of the whole county.

This committee should serve as a study committee rather than an action committee and consider the following areas of the youth programs.

a. Enrollment of Marion County youth in youth organizations and possibly on a community basis.

b. Content of the programs for youth in the county.

c. Adult leadership participating in Marion County in youth work.

It is hoped that the considerations of a county youth committee would contribute toward the goals and concerns of this sub-committee.

Family and Community Living Committee Members

Mrs. Norman Reiling, Chairman, Donald; Barbara Fessler, Secretary, Salem; Mr. and Mrs. Jack Chapin, Salem; Donna Ebert, Salem; Ermina Fisher, Salem; Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Fox, Silverton; Mr. and Mrs. Don Gildow, Aumsville; Harold Hiskey, Silverton; Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Hynes, Silverton; Mr. and Mrs. Jim Jackson, Brooks; Margaret Krug, Salem; Mr. and Mrs. Dave Ramseyer, Salem; Anthol Riney, Salem; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Rutschmann, Silverton.

SUBURBAN LIVING COMMITTEE

Situation — The past 10 years have seen Marion County population steadily rise to the present figure of 108,450 people. Along with this general increase has come a shifting in location of population. Rural-farm people are fewer by 9 percent than they were 10 years ago and rural non-farm numbers have risen 10 percent in the same time.

This shifting of population began immediately following World War II and has continued since that time.

The demand for more housing and the scarcity of land within cities led to the subdivision of farm land near towns for housing development. The increase of farm young people being forced to look to the city for employment, and the carry-over in popularity of the war time victory garden influenced the development of small acreage subdivisions in the suburban area.

There are approximately 20-25,000 people living in the fringe—or suburban—area adjacent to Salem. Between 15 and 20 percent of these people have either an extra large lot or a small acreage from which they hope to take a part of their living, either as a family food supply or cash income.

County-wide, 35 percent of the farms are classified as part-time (less than \$2,000.00 income with off farm work exceeding 100 days or other income exceeding value of agricultural products sold) or residential (less than \$250.00 value of products sold).

Census figures indicate that the number of part-time and residential farms is now decreasing. At the same time, suburban population is going up. This would indicate that either the part-time farming ventures have proven unprofitable or that the land is worth more now as building sites. Probably both reasons are true, depending upon location.

The suburban development which has occurred without the benefit of a definite zoning and planning program has resulted in numerous undesirable situations. The lack of attention to continuity of streets and traffic flow, inadequate drainage and sewage disposal facilities, unsafe water supply, substandard housing, and inadequate roads are some of the major problems facing many suburban dwellers at the present time.

The changing agricultural picture has shown the small part-time farm to be less and less a profitable venture.

Folks who moved to the country on a small place with hopes of augmenting their income are finding that transportation costs to and from work, and to school and church have become a substantial expense item. Even the production of a part of the family food supply becomes a problem to those not familiar with insect and disease control.

Local and national trends support the conclusion that despite these disadvantages, the movement to the suburbs will continue.

Whether it's profitable or not, the office worker, the industrial worker, the business and professional man, is willing to pay the extra price for the advantages of raising a family in the country and of having something to divert his interest and provide relaxation from his regular job.

Recommendations — The committee, being a new one organized to guide a pilot study into the suburban development situation, lacks the historical data necessary for projection of recommendations on a long time basis. As immediate steps toward suburban development we recommend the following:

1. That there be developed and given publicity, information which would outline rather definite advantages, disadvantages and things to look for when considering the purchase of suburban property. Included would be definite statements concerning:

- A. What to expect by way of costs and returns.
- B. Transportation.
- C. Taxes.

- D. Fire and police protection.
- E. Water supply and sewage disposal.
- F. Roads.
- G. Drainage.
- H. County zoning and its effect.
- I. School facilities.
- J. Size of farm and adapted enterprises for small units.
- K. Advantages for family.
- L. Aesthetic values.
- M. Value as place for retirement.
- N. Equipment needed.

2. Concerted effort be made to acquaint those people already located in suburban situations with information and assistance available to them which would help in solution of some of their problems.
3. Future suburban development should be guided by a sound zoning and planning program.

Committee Members

Mr. J. F. Svinth, Chairman; Oris Rudd, Secretary; Mr. and Mrs. Roger Miller, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Bingenheimer, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Mount, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Miller, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Greenwood, Mr. Henry Hartwig, Mr. George Van Leeuwen, Mr. W. E. Savage, Mr. Otis Van Blaricom, Mr. Hugh Harris, Mr. Lewis Mayers, Mr. Ray Stafek, Mr. Ray Darland, Mr. Don Coons, Mr. W. J. Mitchell.

LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE

Marion County has a greatly diversified agriculture and the livestock business will continue to fit into this program as an important unit. Growers of lambs, cattle, or hogs will also produce hay, grain, silage, and possibly, many other products for market. There are easier ways to farm than by producing livestock, and families seeking large, quick incomes with low labor requirements should shop in other fields. To successfully handle livestock the farmer and his family need a bit of animal psychology, a love for animals, and a knack for feeding and management.

Our area is divided into the hill regions such as the grass seed field, and cutover land, and the valley floor farms. Likely, valley floor farms hold the possibility of the greatest concentration of meat production, primarily in the feed lot type of program tied with irrigated pastures.

Several factors affect the numbers of animals on our farms. Satisfactory prices for grass seeds, grain, and other crops have helped bring about the removal of farm fences. This lack of fences limits livestock expansion on many farms now.

The committee feels that if the cost price squeeze continues, that fences will be put in again so that sheep and cattle can be used to salvage crop residues and to supplement farm income.

LIVESTOCK NUMBERS

Cattle numbers seem to have stabilized pretty well with only gradual growth in breeding herds. Any sizeable expansion in the near future would be in the feed lot type of arrangement combining pasture, silage and fattening. Concrete lots are a

necessary part of successful feed lot operation.

Sheep numbers, at about 45,000, are far from the capacity of our farms. Just salvage type feed from grass, grain and truck crop production would support many more sheep flocks. Feeding lambs is a good opportunity for winter employment. Good silage, salvage of corn and bean fields, and sheltered feed lots hold promise for the lamb feeder.

Seventy-five percent of the pork we consume in Oregon is imported. If corn acreage continues to expand and a surplus of other feed grains continues, then hog numbers could be expected to increase.

Marketwise, hogs offer the best local potential of any of the meat animals. The use of pasture, silage, and meat type animals are fields for expansion in the swine industry.

Any livestock unit or increase in numbers should be based on the capacity of the farm to handle it efficiently and economically and utilize the feed available.

MARKETS

Livestock producers, generally, are giving the Oregon consumer a very greatly improved meat animal over ten and twenty years ago. The improved meat animals have not been accidental. The sincere effort of breeders to carefully select breeding females and sires of quality and reproductive ability have helped accomplish this goal. Great strides can still be made in the efficient use of feeds.

A fast growing population and our proximity to markets put valley growers in a good position.

Accurate consumer information that will point out the food values of meat, the prices farmers receive for livestock, and the reason for differences between live animal prices and the retail cut prices will be valuable. Further efforts should be made to keep consumers well informed on the meat situation. Producers need to pay close attention to consumer preferences in meats and attempt to produce to suit the housewife.

Imports of meat products are beginning to be of concern to our producers. We believe that producers need some protection from this problem, at least to a point where imported meats would be in a competitive price basis with our own products.

LIVESTOCK HEALTH

Brucellosis and tuberculosis are well under control. During 1955 Marion County was designated as a modified, certified brucellosis-free area and is also an accredited tuberculosis-free area.

Many new health conditions develop each year that need a specialist's attention. This committee proposes that a Regional Federal Livestock laboratory be established in the Northwest to deal with these new disease problems and seasonal disorders of livestock. Such a laboratory could pool the knowledge and experience of many capable, diagnostic veterinarians. It would eliminate duplication of efforts and we believe would be a valuable service to stockmen.

Parasite control in livestock is part of the job of management, and the individual operator must make it part of his responsibility. Great strides have been made in the field of medical treatment for parasites, but we recommend that Experiment Stations and others continue to develop treatment

and management practices that will be still more effective.

PRODUCTION TESTING

Production testing, with its many variations, holds the key to great forward strides in the livestock field. The benefits of improved breeding efficiency, use of feed, better management, and close culling according to production, will help better the stockman's standing.

Records on individual ewes, cows, or sows work like a yardstick to measure their ability to produce. Records identify good livestock families; they emphasize the effects of good management, and feed. The committee is in support of accurate and complete records of livestock production performance.

Buyers of breeding stock are already interested in family history and as time goes on and purebred breeders as well as commercial folks keep records, the volume of both males and females from these top families will demand premium prices.

Twinning of ewes, early market weights on lambs, the rate of gain on calves, and 35 and 56 day weights of pigs are some of the measures of production levels now.

FORAGE

Irrigating good, improved pasture mixtures with an adequate fertilizer program on additional Marion County land will likely play an important part in any expanded beef cattle feeding program.

If a surplus of feed grains continues to be available, feed-lot-type plants are expected to develop. Concrete or other hard surface plus adequate shelter will need to accompany any such program.

The committee expects to see processing plants develop their waste products into a more refined product for livestock feeds. Cull beans, carrots, beets, and even pea and sweet corn waste could be processed to the advantage of both the processor and feeder. Expansion in the processing field should provide feeds either dried or ensiled for more livestock production.

Farmers with suitable land can harvest large volumes of top quality silage from alfalfa. Second and third cutting could be used for hay or silage. New and improved varieties are available.

The Experiment Stations and interested individuals are encouraged to continue their search for varieties and strains of grasses and legumes that will yield well and long and make quality feed.

Intergrazing or follow-up grazing using sheep and cattle to follow one another needs study and investigation to determine how it fits Marion County conditions.

SHORT COURSE

Breeders are interested in learning more about the practical and workable experiences of others, including Experiment Stations and individual stockmen.

To accomplish this, we recommend the development of a livestock short course either on a local county basis or at Oregon State College. A carefully planned course of two or three half-day classes or five or six evening classes built around the interest of

producers would be enthusiastically received. The course plan should include the subject matter to be studied, references of books or magazine articles, and panel participation by producers.

In line with this same plan we invite progress reports on all research work as it develops rather than one final report.

JUNIOR STOCKMEN

Every encouragement should be given boys and girls in 4-H Clubs or F.F.A. work to learn about livestock production. A love for animals and some livestock sense to recognize their needs and wants often can be developed in these young people.

Competition among these young people encourages learning and develops a drive to do a better job.

Committee Members

Adam Hersch, Chairman, Salem; Ben Newell, Secretary, Salem; Edgar Nafzinger, Salem; Jack Hooper, Woodburn; Elmer Jeskey, Aurora; Henry Davenport, Silverton; Ben Eckley, Silverton; Don Cannon, Salem; Eddie Ahrens, Turner; E. B. Henningson, Jefferson; Robert Riches, Silverton; Dr. E. J. Hinckle, Silverton; Kehne Waln, Salem; Claude Steusloff, Salem.

T. R. Hobart, Salem; Louis Berning, Mt. Angel; Bob Fitzmaurice, Salem; Lloyd Sletto, Lyons; Herb Kelso, Woodburn; Elton Watts, Silverton; Joe Wilhelm, Salem; Paul Jacquet, Silverton; Doug Chambers, Salem; Henry Ahrens, Turner; Willard Benson, Silverton; Walter Smith, Aurora.

DAIRY COMMITTEE

The dairy industry in Marion County has held an important place in agriculture for many years. Changes are rapidly making the dairy business more specialized than ever. Herds are getting larger and the small operator finds it difficult to justify the buildings and equipment needed to meet basic standards.

It has become increasingly difficult for young farmers to finance a dairy farm. Young men are encouraged to take advantage of every opportunity to learn dairying. Working on a dairy farm, studying production and manufacturing in college, and renting a dairy farm were suggested as good ways to get a start. Older dairy farmers were encouraged to give special consideration to satisfactory arrangements with younger farmers.

The 1955 gross income for dairymen was about three million dollars. This income was from about 15,000 dairy cows in production. Another 5,000 or 6,000 heifers and calves were on farms.

The goal of each farm family is to have high yields and good markets which would result in a high net income. This group of dairymen is optimistic about the future of dairying. Marion County's population is growing rapidly along with that of the entire west coast and more dairy products will be needed.

PRODUCTION

Milking parlors that handle the cows rapidly also take away much of the individual attention that used to be given each cow. Average production per cow has dropped for the past three years in DHIA. The drop may be tied to this move toward larg-

er herds with less time for individual care and it also may be related to feed of low quality in 1954-55.

Lowered production is also the result of expanding herds through the purchase of cows not on test. These cows have no records in most cases and have had to prove themselves after purchase.

An annual herd production record analysis would help dairymen learn whether feed, breeding trouble, time of peak production, or other factors may be affecting their returns. The Extension Service has analysis charts available and will assist in individual analysis work.

Volume of milk is continually gaining in the marketing of dairy products, and breeders, regardless of their breed, should pay close attention to selecting sires and cow families that have good test, and in addition, give large volumes of milk.

Rodent control in pastures and irrigated areas needs further study. Either controls or repellents may be developed that would cut down the damage to permanent sods as we now experience it.

MARKETING

Marketing more milk through large producer pools would tend to bring about a condition where cost of production plus a reasonable wage for labor would make the price of milk. The committee encourages milk producers to study the marketing problems and cooperate with individuals and organizations to bring about orderly sale of milk with the dairyman getting his fair share of the consumer dollar.

School lunch programs that include milk for every student should be promoted by the dairy farmer. We believe farm organizations and dairymen themselves could work with restaurant and waitress groups to encourage a glass of milk with each meal as an option on the menu.

FEED AND MANAGEMENT

Silage is our cheapest source of feed and can be the best. Crops put in the silo must be of good quality if we expect to take out high protein, nutritious silage.

All silage, in contrast to irrigated pastures or green chop, has possibilities. Alfalfa, corn, pasture clippings and clover, oats and vetch and other crops may be available for storage with less capital investment and labor than irrigation will require.

In most seasons the first cutting of clover and alfalfa can be bought standing cheaper than a dairyman can produce it. Sudan grass, sweet corn stalks, cannery waste and field corn could be used for refilling in late summer and fall. In considering an all silage program, plus only minor amounts of dry hay, a dairy will need from 10 to 15 tons per cow.

Silos

Upright silos are excellent for silage storing. It is easy to store without spoilage but labor or expensive equipment is needed to remove silage for feeding.

Bunker-type silos on top of the ground are very workable. Close attention to packing is important. A seal or cover to prevent excessive spoilage is also important.

Trench silos are also effective if ground levels are convenient. Much can be said for these structures where filling can be done by dumping over the side. Wheel tractors excel for

packing silage, however a crawler and blade are excellent for spreading.

Cover of sawdust, paper and soil, or plastic, as well as a roof are recommended. Both trench and bunker silos are adapted to mechanical handling of large volumes. Temporary snow fence type silos may fill a real need by supplementing permanent structures.

Green chop or feeding of chopped pasture in the dry lot has not been tried extensively. Equipment requirements and labor needs are high in this kind of an operation.

It may be necessary to change from the use of planer shavings to straw for loafing areas. Mid-winter shortages of shavings present serious problems. A stock piling program in the summer may be of some help. Straw from grass seed fields can often be obtained for the bailing and may serve the purpose.

Shavings are ideal because they decompose slowly. This slow breakdown loosens soils better and they also hold cattle better in the sheds.

Soil tests on pastures and crop land that will assist in intelligent use of manures and fertilizers is advised.

Irrigated pastures, well managed, are one of our best sources of feed. The latest adapted varieties, proper planting times and methods and rotation grazing are recommended.

BUILDINGS

One of the most expensive jobs on dairy farms lately has been remodeling to expand herds to meet the needs of an economic unit. One of the greatest aids to new dairymen or others thinking of expansion would be a long-time building plan that would allow for adding to the set-up in units. Such an expandable building plan would be a real financial saving.

EFFICIENCY

To dairy successfully a man and wife and family with a love for cattle are most likely to stay with the industry. Dairying is a lifetime project, for selecting, testing and developing a herd with economical high production is a real accomplishment.

Efficient buildings well arranged with bulk and mechanical handling of feeds and supplies are important. Home mixing of feed, buying raw grain supplies at harvest time, and bulk handling of milk and feed all cut labor needs.

In considering feeds the committee recommends enactment of a law that would require feeds to be labeled with the percent of total digestible nutrients as well as the protein percent.

The size of herd has increased about 10 cows during the past 10 years from 26 to 37 in 1955 in DHIA herds. This size change has not meant increased efficiency in each case. The committee believes that a family with limited land that will provide silage and pasture can operate economically with 25 to 30 good cows. Fifty to 60 head are needed to justify two men in the dairy.

Testing cattle to determine individual production and using those records to guide culling and feeding is necessary for successful dairying. DHIA, HIR, or official testing or any system of regular records is helpful.

DAIRY HEALTH

Mastitis, likely, leads the field of dairy health problems. Less individual attention to udders in the milking parlor may have some effect on mastitis incidence. Udder type, cow families that seem to have trouble, and close attention to early indication of infection are important factors to watch.

Difficult breeding is experienced occasionally and has a serious effect on a herd's ability to maintain its quota.

T. B. and Bangs programs should be maintained or even accelerated. Dairymen suggest a close watch on the biennial test for T. B. now in effect to be sure that complete coverage is made every other year.

FIELD DAYS AND TOURS

Dairymen can learn many things by observing the work of others in the same business. We recommend that more field days, demonstrations and tours be held on an annual basis to show variety of workable dairy practices.

Dairy Committee Members

Frank Gratsinger, Chairman, Gervais; Ben Newell, Secretary, Salem; Richard Barnes, Silverton; James Phillips, Silverton; I. O. Williamson, Aurora; Keith Phillips, Lyons; John Robins, Aurora; Robert Terhune, Jefferson; T. R. Hobart, Salem; Leslie Brown, Silverton; James Jergensen, Jefferson; Clause Schenk, Salem; Albert Overlund, Mt. Angel.

POULTRY COMMITTEE

The central factor underlying continuation in an expansion of egg or fryer production in Marion County is this: as of this year, Oregon produces fewer eggs and fryers than are consumed. In other words, we are an importing area of these products.

In egg production, the bulk of the feed used is feed that is in surplus in this area, hence feed is as cheap or cheaper here than it is to the grower in the areas which send their eggs to us. Hence, egg production enjoys the protection of the freight charges on eggs sent in. The egg producers here are able to add the amount of freight charges to the eggs they sell.

In fryer production the bulk of the feed used must be imported from other areas and the feed cost in Oregon is about $\frac{3}{8}$ cent per pound higher than the same feed in Texas and competing areas. However, it costs about $2\frac{3}{8}$ cents a pound on a live weight basis to ship in an eviscerated fryer from those areas. So the fryer grower enjoys a freight rate protection in this area in the amount of 1 cent a pound live weight because of the freight rates on the eviscerated fryer.

In the light of these basic facts it is possible, desirable and potentially profitable to expand both egg and fryer production in Marion County. There is economic opportunities in this industry.

This opportunity is available to those who have or can get capital, knowledge and experience, and can operate efficiently.

CAPITAL

Capital to buy or build a plant of sufficient size, equipped with efficient labor saving mechanical devices, to

require full time labor on the part of the operator, is necessary to complete over the next ten years in either the egg or fryer business. It is estimated by growers of this county that the optimum size of an egg production plant as of now is 5,000 layer capacity unit with collective facilities of brooder and range to allow for 100% replacement of the layers in each year. Fryer growers estimate that, as of now, a plant of 20,000 fryers four times a year is an economic unit. Each of these units may require part-time help but not to a very large degree.

Because of the apparent relationship of size and economic operations it is believed that these units, 5,000 layer and 20,000 fryers, must be expanded during the next ten years and any person entering into this business must accept the possibility of having to place back some or much of his earnings into expansion of the plant in order to maintain a plant of optimum size.

KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE, AND OPERATING EFFICIENCY

Knowledge of a business arises from experience in that business and must be bought and paid for by the individual. There is no easy way. But the operator must have or get knowledge, and experience in the following headings if he is to operate efficiently:

1. Selection of efficient chicks.
2. Selection and use of efficient feed.
3. Selection of a good market.
4. Good financial sense.
5. Keen buyers and markets.
6. Blending the above factors on a day-to-day operation so as to make a profit on both his capital and labor, after allowing for financing or interest charges.

GETTING STARTED

Start small but start with the most modern plant and best techniques available. Capital requirements are high but it is better to start "first class" with a smaller plant than to go "second class" and start with a larger plant. Having gained the basic knowledge and experience, your ability to get or save capital for expansion will determine the progress you will make.

In general, bank financing of poultry projects at lowest interest rates is available to only the best and most experienced operators. In the fryer business, feed companies will partially finance potentially efficient operators who can build and equip their own building and related facilities.

HATCHING EGG FLOCKS

Hatcheries will assist in financing hatching egg flocks and will contract to buy, at a premium, fertile eggs to be used in this production of chicks for commercial egg flocks and fryer chickens. Hatching egg flocks are usually small, 500 to 1000, and present an opportunity for the beginner to learn the business.

SUMMARY

The egg and fryer production business is a good and profitable business over any five year period. There are no opportunities for the "in and outers". Price fluctuations are sharp and even to the experienced poultryman, largely unpredictable. The intelligent operators who grow and sell wisely the year around, and year-in-and-year-out can look forward to a good profit on his investment — a profit that will be comparable to other agricultural enterprises.

Committee Members

William Manning, Chairman, Woodburn; Ben Newell, Secretary, Salem; Ernest Andres, Woodburn; Cornelius Bateson, Salem; William Chase, Aurora; Hubert Esser, Silverton; Vincent Jorgenson, Silverton; John Kraus, Jr., Aurora; John Kraus, Sr., Aurora; Harvey Mikkelsen, Silverton; August Moorman, Salem; Don Schmidt, Salem; Arnold Selnes, Aumsville; D. L. St. John, Gervais; Fred Zielinski, Salem.

MINK BREEDERS COMMITTEE

Mink production in Marion County has developed rapidly during the past ten years. In 1946, there were about 2,100 females on ranches while in 1955 there were over 8,000 females, and 1,500 males. In 1946, 99% were dark mink, and today 95% or more are mutations.

Oregon's average ranch runs 220 females. National average pelt prices in 1954 were \$22.00 with an estimated average cost of production of \$19.00.

Economic Unit

Growers in this area believe that 200 females with at least 40 males will approximate a full-time one man operation. With good feed, management, and knowledge of the business an average of 3½ kits on this type of setup would be considered necessary. For a 200 female unit, it will cost nearly \$150 per female to set up an operation from the bare land.

Some believe a two family unit is more practical to consider. This would mean at least 400 females. Cost per female might be cut to around \$100 on this size of unit.

Limitations

One of the limiting factors to expanding mink production in this area is a ready supply of feed the year around. Without a definite source of supply, a grower would risk health, quality, and survival. The demand for fish types that are usable for mink feed is creating a high price. This year adverse weather has prevented normal catches.

In addition to this, the Fish Commission is considering limiting the take of the most desirable species.

One of the important costs of production is the transportation and cold storage of fish. Some supplies have come from as far as Seattle and the Great Lakes this year.

Foreign imports of furs have an important bearing on domestic markets. In 1954 and 1955, Canada, Scandinavia, and Japan were the most important competitors.

Research

More detailed research by the Oregon State College Experiment Station in line with the program being set up by the statewide Breeders Association is needed. The field of nutrition and health seems most important now.

Management

The production of mink is one of the most exacting animal enterprises.

1. **Financing** is likely the first and most important job to accomplish on a sound basis.
2. **Genetics** — A practical and workable knowledge of the theories of genetics go together to produce quality furs that fit the changing market demands. Over twelve varieties, each with many variations are grown on local ranches.
3. **Nutrition** — A sound background of feeds and feeding work with an eye for results in the herd as well as individuals is necessary.
4. **Sanitation and disease control** as well as an eye for symptoms and abnormal behavior, and a knowledge of the best known treatments protect the grower's interest. Specialized veterinarian assistance is extremely valuable in diagnosing new troubles. Dis-

temper and botulism are the most prevalent health problems.

Conclusion

The Willamette Valley is a superior area for mink production because of its relatively mild climate with few real extremes. Our proximity to ocean ports that usually supply fish in quantity is desirable.

The industry has many limitations which may become more acute. We produce a luxury item, imports are affecting local supply and demand, possible limitation on fish catches by fishery authorities, and adequate financing all play an important part in the mink growers future.

Nationally, however, the Western Oregon grower, with his ability to grow quality pelts and the other advantages he has, will survive economical setbacks as well or better than most any other producing area.

Mink Breeders Committee

Archie Gardner, Chairman, Salem; Victor Gibson, Salem; Harvey Ronne, Salem; Max Van Buskirk, Mt. Angel; A. J. Apperson, Salem; Lawrence Croxton, Salem; Andy Landforce, Corvallis.

HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE

The Horticulture Committee discussed the situation and outlook for tree fruits, nuts, and small fruits during seven meetings from November, 1955 through February, 1956. Subcommittees from the Horticulture and Vegetable Committees prepared a separate farm labor report.

Reports of the Horticulture Committee are summarized by six subcommittee reports as follows:

1. Apples and pears.
2. Cherries, prunes, and peaches.
3. Walnuts and filberts.
4. Strawberries.
5. Blackberries and trailing berries.
6. Other small fruits: Grapes, raspberries, gooseberries, and blueberries.

APPLES AND PEARS

Some increase in Bartlett pear acreage can be made in this area. Our climate and soil conditions will produce a fruit comparing favorably with that grown in other sections of the state.

Good yields can be obtained without irrigation on most well-drained soils in this area. However, Bartlett pears respond to irrigation by increased tonnage and quality, especially in dry seasons.

Good orchard practices such as cultivation, cover crops, pruning, and disease and insect control are most important. A suggested spacing is 25 by 25 feet, with a liberal sprinkling of Fall Butter or Winter Nelis for pollinizers.

The grower must accept the fact that good yields are not received until the trees are 10 to 12 years old. Inter-crops such as strawberries, gooseberries, vegetables, and possibly caneberries will assist in keeping expenses down and make some profit until the trees are more mature.

Adequate packing facilities for Bartlett pears are available in this area and some of the nations best known brands are packed here. Some very effective national advertising has been carried on for a number of years and will continue to be, as it has shown very good results.

Although processing facilities are adequate for Bartlett pears produced in Marion County and vicinity, no such facilities exist for local apples. Local processors have preferred to let processors in other districts handle canned applesauce, primarily because of lower costs.

There is room for expanding local apple acreage for fresh market use. However, the grower must raise quality fruit and be willing to develop his own fresh market outlets. These include prepackaging on the farm for delivery to stores within driving distance, selling boxed apples to chain stores, and peddling boxed and packaged apples to nonproducing areas, such as the coastal towns.

Red skinned varieties are preferred for local use although yellow skinned varieties, particularly Golden Delicious, are receiving more consumer acceptance. Local apple growers should not plan to compete in the Eastern markets with growers from Yakima, Wenatchee, Hood River, and other intensive apple producing districts in the Pacific Northwest. Although Willamette Valley growers can raise good quality apples, our climate prevents local apples from getting the uniform red color obtained from the same varieties grown in the more arid, irrigated districts.

Other suggestions are as follows:
(1) Dwarf or semi-dwarf trees should be included in new plantings;
(2) growers must prune their trees to get better light penetration, thus improving color; and (3) since cold stor-

age facilities are practically nonexistent on Willamette Valley farms, growers might consider pooling resources for central cold storage facilities for apples from several farms in the area.

CHERRIES, PRUNES, AND PEACHES

In the following report, only cherries, prunes, and peaches will be discussed, the latter only briefly. Due to unfavorable cold weather during the past five spring seasons, production has been small and less profitable, inducing many canners to get their supplies from other sections. A sizeable peach acreage has been removed. Sales are mainly to individuals for home use. Expanding local peach acreage does not look advisable at present.

Quite the opposite is the case with cherries. The Royal Anne, the most important sweet cherry variety in the Willamette Valley, has found excellent acceptance and a wide field in the brining as well as canning industries. As brined and glaze cherries, Royal Annes compete successfully with foreign importations due to better quality, flavor, and appearance. All black cherries — Bings, Hoskins, and Lamberts — are preferred by canneries and are well suited for fresh market shipments to markets in Oregon, California, and the East. Since many of the older cherry orchards are being taken out, there is a very good future for new plantings of virus-free cherries of all types. Regarding sour cherries, Oregon's production is more limited to the Pacific coast markets, since the main producing areas are located in the Middle West and East. Frequent overproduction in those sections often results in the dumping of sour cherries at low prices on the West Coast.

Quite a revival has taken place in the Oregon prune industry. Whereas in former years the bulk of the Italian prunes went to dryers, a high percent-

age now is being sought by canneries, and the new product is being sold widely under the name "Purple Plums". During past years of less profitable prune prices, many orchards were neglected. Some orchards are being removed, thus giving orchardists a sound inducement for replanting, especially in the new virus-free varieties of the well-known Italian prune.

WALNUTS AND FILBERTS

The tree nut trend in the Willamette Valley is unsatisfactory. We should be increasing our nut plantings instead of pulling out orchards. Filbert production, which started in the late 1920's, expanded rapidly through the 1940's but has leveled off in the 1950's. Since 1949, removals of filbert trees have considerably exceeded plantings. A survey made in 1955 indicated that Oregon had about 19,300 acres of filberts at that time, compared to 26,100 in 1949. Oregon produces about 90% of the nation's filberts, but that amount is small compared to the amount produced in the Mediterranean area.

Walnut production in this nation is confined to the Pacific states, mostly California and Oregon; Oregon produces about 10% of the nation's total. After expanding most of the time for 30 years, production leveled off during the last 6-year period, but acreage has shown very little increase since the late 1930's. Some acreage has been removed in recent years. In addition, loss of walnut trees from black-line disease has become a serious problem in Oregon. Most plantings are near or past peak bearing, so crops above the 1949 peak do not seem likely without new plantings.

Average production of walnuts in Oregon amounts to about one-half ton per acre, and of filberts, about three-fourths ton per acre. With prices to producers from processors averaging about the same per pound (based

on orchard-run dry weight) it is not possible to gross more than \$150 to \$250 per acre on tree-nut plantings unless these plantings are made on deep and well drained soil. If this is done, it is possible to more than double average yields. Of late years, the harvesting of tree-nuts by mechanical devices has advanced to the stage where the labor problem has been greatly simplified and the cost of harvesting has been reduced.

STRAWBERRIES

There are many problems facing the strawberry industry today. Competition from other producing areas is on the increase. The price of strawberries has, in the past few years, caused many growers over the United States to return to the business. Growers of other fruits and manufacturers of other dessert foods have been active in promotion campaigns to capture more of the consumers dollars.

We, in Marion County, have been faced with production difficulties. There has been an increase in our problems caused by disease. Our expanded acreage has multiplied the scarcity of pickers in harvest season. We, like other groups, must face the challenge of rising costs and lowering prices.

If we are to become effective in supplying a remedy for the situation, we must begin now by better organizing our industry. If we are to continue to hold our rightful place in the foods picture, we must accelerate our efforts in studying better production and marketing techniques. We should be able to help solve our own problems and we could if we had a group who could speak and act for the industry as a whole.

We need to put forth a greater effort in organized research on ways and means of lowering our unit costs. We need new and better varieties, ones which better meet the desires of

the processors for quality and the demands of the growers for high yields. We should have more knowledge about the correct ways of using irrigation to increase yields. More studies on weed control using new chemical and mechanical methods would be influential in lowering costs. The critical farm labor situation could no doubt be improved by a better study of it.

If these measures are correctly carried out, undoubtedly we will attain our goal of lowered unit costs and of even higher quality in the finished product. When we are certain of holding and expanding our markets then we can go on to our ultimate goal of increasing our acreage.

BLACKBERRIES, TRAILING BERRIES

The long range look at the caneberry industry in Marion County seems to present a favorable picture at this time. The trailing caneberreries, with the exception of the Evergreen blackberry, are harvested during the summer at a time when other major crops do not interfere. A considerable increase in acreage could be developed without causing a labor problem in fields or packing plants. There seems to be a fairly good market for them but there is need for a promotional campaign to expand on a national basis. Frozen pies, syrup and juices could use large quantities of these berries. Fresh market shipping is a good possibility, also.

Low yields, along with an occasional complete failure due to winter injury, have been an objection to these crops. Other factors contributing to high unit costs have been lack of good chemical and mechanical cultural practices. Progress is being made there now and should result in lowered production costs. Prices for these berries have averaged none too high in the past considering the low yields and high costs.

New varieties now being developed by Oregon State College should put us in a better position profit-wise by enabling us to obtain higher yields. Studies now being made should point up the possibilities of making more profit by better use of irrigation and by more scientific use of fertilizers. Weed control with sprays should save money and modern mechanical methods should prove time saving in the handling of cultivation, cane removal and trellis building practices. By using good methods. Marion County growers should be able to compete favorably with other sections and enlarge their acreages in the foreseeable future. The production and harvesting of only the best quality fruit possible will enable us to expand our position in the market place.

OTHER SMALL FRUITS

Other small fruits of some importance are raspberries, gooseberries, blueberries, and grapes.

Raspberries require a deep well-drained soil, which must be free from verticillium wilt, a disease which has damaged patches in this area. An adequate source of pickers must be assured when contemplating a planting. Before planting, be sure to consult your processor for advice about varieties. At the present time, the most popular and promising varieties of red raspberries are the Willamette, Washington, Canby, and Puyallup. The black raspberries require similar culture. Black varieties used here are the Munger, Winfield, and Cumberland.

Processors should be contacted before planting gooseberries. They have been overplanted too many times in the past. Successful growing of gooseberries requires good fertile soil in an area that has excellent air drainage. Mildew and the yellow currant fly are the main obstacles in the growing of this berry. Mildew is

less of a problem on hill plantings. Thorough spray or dust programs must be followed.

Blueberries present interesting possibilities on irrigated land. The soil must be at least slightly acid, well drained, of open structure, either loam or peat. With loam, a sawdust mulch is usually required. It is rather expensive to bring plants to the profitable bearing stage. Four years after planting, one should have the first profitable yield, or at least break even. Plants reach maturity at 7 to 10 years and yields then of 4 to 6 tons or more per acre look possible. Some original plantings are 50 years old, still vigorous and yielding heavily. The local fresh market has absorbed practically all of the blueberries produced in Oregon. It should be possible to extend that market to California and as far east as Denver. Very limited quantities have been processed in Oregon. However, growers will have to use this outlet in the future for further expansion.

Of very little economic importance to Marion County is the grape. The cool climate and limited outlets keep the acreage to a minimum. Local outlets are the fresh market and local wineries.

Horticulture Committee Members

Marvin Van Cleave, Chairman, Salem; D. L. Rasmussen, Secretary, Salem; Ed Boies, Brooks; Frank Burke, Gervais; Don Davidson, St. Paul; Bert Eshelman, Salem; Jess Fikan, Woodburn; Frank Gurgurich, Silverton; Charles Henry, Salem; J. E. Johnson, Salem; Leonard Larson, Woodburn; Wilford Nelson, Hubbard; E. R. Nelte, Salem; A. E. Oldenburg, Salem; Keith Olson, Woodburn; Fred Sahli, Aumsville; Bill Shinn, Salem; Stanley Sneed, Brooks; Paul Townsend, Gervais; Alan Wiesner, Silverton; Walter Wood, Salem; Phil Zastoupil, Woodburn; Ed Zielinski, Salem.

FARM LABOR SUBCOMMITTEE

(Prepared by Horticulture and Vegetable Committees)

While no attempt has been made to accumulate detailed figures on every phase of horticultural crop labor requirements, the committee felt that a more detailed report on the types and sources of labor available and the future development of this labor market would be of greater value and interest to those hearing or reading this report.

At present there are three sources of labor in the Marion County district:

1. **Adult itinerate** labor originating mainly from surrounding states — California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Nevada, Colorado and Washington, and also parts of Oregon. Up to recently there has been a fair amount of Mexican National labor employed mainly in hops and beans. However, this help was missing during the last season and its availability depends upon further arrangements between the United States and Mexico. For additional information regarding Mexican National labor, interested persons can write to the California Strawberry Advisory Board, P. O. Box 57, Santa Clara, California, for copies of Strawberry News Bulletins 1-4 published during January, 1956. In general, requirements for obtaining Mexican Nationals are more complicated than for our migratory labor. The majority of the itinerant labor, which often consists of families, appears to be working mainly in tree fruits, making a regular circuit which takes many of them into the fruit picking seasons in northern California, northern Oregon, southern Washington and the Willamette Valley, and later on into the pear harvest
2. **Adult local** labor, consisting mainly of women, is often augmented by unemployed men (unemployment due to temporary slack in other industries) and in general is a very satisfactory source. Their help is usually available for the hoeing and clean-up work during the spring in orchards and berry fields and mainly for the harvest of gooseberries, strawberries, all cane berries, cherries, beans, nuts, peaches, prunes, and many vegetables and specialty crops.
3. **Local youth** is a plentiful source of help. They are usually quite useful especially when under the management of platoon leaders or other efficient adults. Their main activity seems to center around strawberries, certain caneberries and beans, being less suited for tree fruits and due to their school activities, available only during the summer vacations.

It appears that due to the general prosperity, the full employment in industry and the changed attitude of the younger help toward their jobs, a decided change is taking place in available labor. Normally about 80,000 "wetbacks" entered California, enabling an equal number of California itinerant laborers to seek work in adjoining states. In 1955 the number of "wetbacks" was practically nil, due to stricter border regulations and inspections in the United States. Unless different arrangements between the two countries can be made, it is likely to remain negligible. Due to this development a smaller number of the

California help (our main source of itinerant labor) felt inclined to make the long trip north, finding satisfactory employment in California and adjoining states in the south, and perhaps even more steady employment under more favorable living conditions.

Better employment in Oregon industries (especially lumbering), other industries in the Portland area, and the rapid commercial growth of Salem have diminished a local source for harvest labor. From Chamber of Commerce reports we see that recent additions to Salem's commerce alone have provided over 1,000 additional permanent jobs, reducing farm help available by several thousands.

The general prosperity seems to have affected the youth of school age during their vacation to an equal extent. There is quite a demand for higher wages and shorter hours. A feeling for responsibility and ambition are lacking in many workers, unless they are properly guided by platoon leaders and growers and held to their jobs by incentive payments—payable only at the end of the harvest. A highly competitive market, especially for youth of 16 and over, is found in our local canneries, which are in need of additional help during their comparatively short canning season.

CONCLUSION

Since in general, except for the hop harvest, the demand for farm labor is unchanged or in some lines even increasing, a serious shortage of help could develop, especially if harvests are affected by unfavorable weather and short crop seasons. Hopes for a partial replacement of human labor by machines are not too bright and seem to be working out only in prunes, nuts and some vegetable crops. In practically all other

crops we still have to depend on hand labor and with this fact in mind the committee has the following suggestions to offer:

Improvement in the state labor situation should generate from three sources: (1) exchange of interstate information; (2) improvement in the local labor market; and (3) improvements by the individual grower.

EXCHANGE OF INTERSTATE INFORMATION

At the present time the different employment agencies in Oregon exchange information regarding help available and help required and this exchange service is extended to offices in California. Distribution of information appears to be adequate. However, before disposing of help, every state will take care of its own requirements first even if at the cost of some help and the benefit to the neighboring state. The main problem is in the proper routing of out-of-state labor for continuous work. Labor, traveling well over 1,000 miles in vain, will not feel too kindly toward certain sections not able to provide the usual opportunities. A lack of this proper routing is not an inducement to their returning regularly. Local employment offices and especially growers should do their utmost to direct help to channels close by, thus helping labor and their fellow farmers.

It appears advisable to have the Oregon State Employment Service keep in touch with states aside from the aforementioned for recruitment of additional help in years of need. Proper housing facilities at or near the place of work are doubtless a great inducement for migrant labor. Where housing is available at the present time, maintenance is the only problem. Whether new construction by individual operators is advisable or

possible was a matter of lengthy discussion at the many meetings held. Due to the high cost of building, short time of use per season, rapid deterioration and cost of maintenance, few members were in favor of permanent construction. However, the idea of supplying tent bottoms for migrants' tents or complete tents by farmers found favor, due to the lesser investment in tents and permanent substructure.

This committee also discussed the possibilities of approaching county, state, and city organizations, Chambers of Commerce, etc., for construction of inexpensive labor settlements with the advantage of direct income to these organizations in addition to helping producers and providing income to the community.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE LOCAL LABOR MARKET

Local adult help and local youth are the two most essential sources of labor available. They are acquainted with the times of the different harvests, their requirements, and in most cases with many individual growers. Usually they provide their own transportation, do not require housing facilities or tents, and if necessary can be conveniently picked up at pre-arranged points by station wagon or bus. They also read and answer advertisements in local papers and will go wherever the need for help arises. This help, if earnings and working conditions are attractive, can be induced to talk to friends, relatives, and neighbors to bring additional help to the fields. It might be advisable to reward "leaders" of this type by small bonuses or free gas if they bring help in their cars or similar inducements. A further incentive for growers who diversify their crops would be an opportunity for continuous employment during the season, weeding and harvesting of straw-

berries and caneberries, and then later beans, prunes or peaches, and finally nuts.

To facilitate the finding of the many strawberry, berry and bean patches and to organize the employment of the jobseeking pickers the following recommendations are suggested:

1. Signs, giving names and location of the plot, approximate distance and turns—posted on sideroads. Where several plots are on the same road "group signs" are advisable.

2. When a grower is not picking one day he should make an effort to place his pickers with someone needing help. The grower should contact the labor office or his fieldman, telling them he has pickers available for that day.

3. When a grower has transportation he should be encouraged to have a regular route to pick up pickers, thus getting a number of pickers that probably would not report to the labor office.

4. In advertising in local papers for help, a grower, who has transportation and will announce his route, should ask in the ad that people on his route contact him for time and location of stops.

5. Growers should inform their help as much as possible regarding the amount and length of work, especially of temporary slacks, to permit pickers to find some other temporary work. Continuous daily income is essential to any picker due to the comparatively short earning season.

This report would not be complete without touching on the matter of wages. Since practically all fruits are subject to annual or seasonal price changes, wages should be in proportion to the grower's earnings.

The labor situation being at present highly competitive, it appears that with additional industrial development of the Valley the situation will intensify. In order to have the necessary help available when needed, remuneration should be adequate to compete with other jobs. This is not always easy since some produce sales are close to cost, especially in years of heavy production.

IMPROVEMENTS BY THE INDIVIDUAL GROWER

Efforts should be made on the part of the producers—aside from mechanical improvements—to reduce the cost of the harvest by economies in the field. Under this caption we would suggest working for greater production per acre, thus decreasing the line of fixed, inevitable expenses, also economies in handling fruit in the field by proper distribution of boxes and crates close to pickers. Filled boxes or crates put on pallets could be hauled by wagons or hysters and put by lift trucks onto trucks waiting for direct transportation to the canners. Any number of other improvements permitting pickers to stay with their picking work and saving time and labor in the field could be worked out by the experienced grower.

Last but not least, a more personal interest in the picking crew, a friendly

word now and then, plenty of cool drinking water, shady spots for their lunches, proper sanitary facilities, and spots for small children to play, will all go to make the work more pleasant, increase individual production, and induce return the following season.

With the growth of the population of Oregon to about 1% of the national population a proportional growth has taken place in industry. Though at the present time this growth has been depending more on local produce — lumber, farming, smaller industries — there are many indications that in the foreseeable future, eastern and central western industries will move west in greater numbers, attracted by local markets, favorable climate and availability of labor. This development is likely to curtail the market of farm help further. Efforts should be maintained to retain itinerant labor not looking for factory work and local women and young people for help in season.

Farm Labor Subcommittee Members

Floyd Bates, Chairman, Salem;
D. L. Rasmussen, Secretary, Salem;
Ted Girod, Salem; E. D. Glidewell,
Aumsville; Don Kuenzi, Salem; E. R.
Nelte, Salem; Bob Ohling, Salem;
Irvin Parberry, Stayton; Stanley Sneed,
Brooks.

VEGETABLE COMMITTEE

Three meetings were held from November through January. Meetings were well attended and good geographic representation was attained. An attempt was made to look five or ten years into the future but, of necessity, a good many of the subjects considered were of immediate concern to vegetable growers. In this summary many discussion details are omitted for the sake of brevity.

NEW VARIETIES AND NEW CROPS

Little doubt was expressed that the future would see many new strains and even new types of vegetables being grown in this county and throughout Oregon in general. The only yardstick of the future is the measure of developments and activity of the recent past. Applying this measure and giving weight to the added interest in hybridizing and plant breeding brought about by both public and institutional sponsorship, it seems safe to say that some of our old favorites will not be recognized five or ten years hence. Specifically, quality, appearance, processing requirements, climatic adaptability, disease resistance or tolerance, yield abilities, and other factors will force changes in what will be grown, eaten, and sold. In connection with varieties, whether old or new, the committee made several recommendations.

1. More emphasis should be placed on quality than on quantity. It is foolish to grow what is hard to sell or cannot be sold and if sold, leaves a bad name or possibly a bad taste in its ultimate market.
2. There should be constant vigilance for new crops economically adaptable to this area and for which a market exists or can be created.

The one new crop specifically mentioned as meeting both these tests was asparagus.

3. The group generally agreed that development of new crops or expansion of old ones would be proportional to prices received. Vegetables lend themselves to quick adjustments in acreage. This is one of the factors making an extended prediction difficult.

MARKETS

One of the phases of the vegetable industry which received attention was extension of markets. It was felt that the fresh vegetable market of the Northwest area had been neglected by Marion County growers. The group discussions brought several reasons for this. All were sound but did not remove the challenge that in the future, means and methods might well be developed to overcome some of the obstacles to greater participation in the fresh market. The points of the discussion were:

1. The limited production of fresh market vegetables in the past has been influenced by general grower dislike for this type of work and its attendant rough and tumble competition in the disposal of the product.
2. The highly perishable nature of most vegetables results in clogged markets and low seasonal prices. The climate of the area is a limiting factor in the production of vegetables which cannot be successfully stored.
3. It was felt that there was room for expansion of this type of production if for no other reason than the increased population in this state.

GROWER GROUPS AND COMMODITY PROMOTION

It was indicated many times in the committee's discussion that a trend toward farmer or commodity organization would further develop in the future. A legal basis for such action was created by the last Legislature when it passed the Commodity Commission Act. There are some such commissions already organized. It was considered likely that other groups, including vegetable growers, would organize in the future for market development, market promotion, and other group activities. Committee discussion developed the following points and conclusions:

1. In the past the vegetable processing industry has usually taken the lead in commodity promotion. To a great extent they have also carried the burden. Some of these promotions have been notably successful and beneficial to all concerned.
2. The self service nature of nearly all retail food stores makes it evident that advertising and promotion will have to be broadened. It must be of a type to reach the housewife and acquaint her with the value and the quality of the product offered. The promotion must not overlook a means of determining consumer preferences. All this takes us back to the emphasis on quality referred to in earlier comments, but the consumer must still be told about it.
3. Parallel types of promotion from other producing areas are already being used and will no doubt continue in the future. If left unchallenged, a reduction or loss of markets will work to the disadvantage of growers and handlers of vegetables in this area.

FUTURE TECHNOLOGY AND PRACTICE

The committee recognized the many changes made during recent years and agreed that many more changes will be made in the future. Members also concluded that many good sources of information covering recent experimental, production, and processing data were woefully neglected by too many growers. This was considered important enough that a sub-committee was appointed to compile a list of such publications and releases. The list will be made available to anyone interested through the County Agent and the various processing companies of the county. The Vegetable Committee believes competition will become so intense in the next decade that the well informed and efficient operators will fare much better than growers lacking up-to-date information. The committee recommended that growers be especially alert to possible improvements and developments in the following categories:

1. Soil management and fertility maintenance.
2. Soil moisture, its measurement by instruments, and evaluation of such measurements with respect to plant growth requirements.
3. Farm management, including financing and adaption of cost accounting principles to farm operators.
4. Mechanical applications to all phases of farm operations with the obvious purpose of reduction of costs, not only for personal profit but to compete in wider distribution of the farm product.
5. Improved insect and disease controls. The recent Miller Bill regulating residues of various insecti-

cides on food crops received considerable attention. Conclusions were that its ultimate effect would be beneficial.

6. Better use of fertilizers of all types. Considerable fertilizer research is currently in progress over the entire nation in the field of effect of plant growth as traced by radioactive material. It is likely that some new concepts of fertilizer requirements will develop.
7. Plant breeding improvements. Radioactive material is also being employed in this field of research and is hastening the production of mutations. A lot more will be heard of this activity in the future.
8. New processing methods, packaging and preserving techniques. This is of more or less indirect concern to the individual grower but will affect him in important ways.

MECHANIZATION

Considerable time was devoted to this subject, the interest in it being directly related to current price trends and a labor problem. It was concluded that the trend toward more complete mechanization of farms would continue. The imminent development of the mechanical picker for pole type green beans was of special interest but it is not likely that mechanization will stop with that. Members of the committee made plans for a Vegetable Equipment and Methods Field Day to be held in Salem in mid-March. If this field day is successful, similar events will be planned later.

LAND USE

It is difficult to predict what will happen in this field. Continuation of westward migration and increase in population will have its effect on many acres now devoted to commer-

cial farming. Pressure from urban and industrial developments, military installations, and extension or relocation of rights-of-way will tend to constrict the area and change the value of important farm land. These effects are not likely to change until population reaches a static level. It seems reasonably safe to conclude that the pattern of development in Marion county will closely parallel that of other areas of the nation which have experienced reductions in farm acreage and expansions in industrial and other non-farm uses of agricultural land.

It is problematical how much land use will change within the next ten years. However, pressures against farm land in areas comparable to the Willamette Valley have caused relocation of agricultural industries. Meanwhile, pressures on the land for non-farm use and higher income crops will make sound rotations and soil building and water conserving programs even more important on the land remaining for farming.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Until recent years, water was not considered to be a limiting factor in agricultural pursuits in this area. Expansion of demands for water in the last two decades has changed this concept. Vegetable growers in particular and farmers in general will be well advised to maintain vigilance to the end that their fair share of this vital resource is not usurped. Legislation exists under which irrigation and drainage districts may be formed to implement water control and its distribution. It was considered likely that such districts will be utilized more in the future than has been the case in the past.

1. A word of caution is injected in this connection. Control districts become taxing bodies in a manner

similar to school districts and as such should be so organized as to benefit the entire area of the district. The last information available to members of the committee indicated that in the procedure set up by law governing such an Irrigation and Drainage District, provisions for geographic representation on the district board of control was not specifically provided for. Such an omission could result in the benefits of the district being funneled in the direction of its most populous area.

Vegetable Committee Members

Leon Boyer, Chairman, Salem; D. L. Rasmussen, Secretary, Salem; Floyd Bates, Salem; Bert Coleman, Woodburn; Ted Girod, Salem; E. D. Glidewell, Aumsville; Bob Ohling, Salem; Dorsey Gray, Aumsville; Charles Johnston, Woodburn; Les Klampe, Salem; Don Kuenzi, Salem; George Landrith, Salem; Clyde McKillop, Woodburn; Clifford Orey, Salem; Irvin Parberry, Stayton; J. A. Rickard, Brooks; Lynn Simon, Woodburn; James Whelan, Salem; Paul Willard, Salem.

TAXATION

The group discussion of this topic approached the problem from various viewpoints. A feeling existed that the burden of taxes currently carried by property influenced to some extent the trend toward larger farm units. The need exists for a tax base spreading the burden of taxation fairly to all segments of the population. The point was also made that if taxes were expressed as percentages, the average person would better understand the relative burden assessed against him. Very few people translate the term 85 or 100 mills into $8\frac{1}{2}$ or 10%.

DISTRIBUTION OF THIS REPORT

It was recommended that a copy of the complete report be provided each member of the State Legislature and Congress who are representing Marion county.

ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE

The growing of ornamental nursery stock is an increasing industry in the Willamette Valley and particularly Marion County. There has been a steady increase in the number of nurseries, although most of them are small. Many varieties and species of plants are grown, some for retail trade and many for wholesale and export business.

The mid-November, 1955, freeze came at a time when many plants were not dormant, and damage to some plants was severe. This was not a true indication of hardiness. Some plants, which were tender to frost, were either protected or dormant enough to come through, while other hardy plants, not dormant, were frozen. This setback is temporary and will be quickly overcome. English holly, which has been increasing for the past 15 years, came through in good shape except for a marked loss of berries. Markets for holly are increasing. The demand is potentially great if the quality and quantity are available. The acreage in Oregon has increased from 900 acres in 1940 to 1,250 acres in 1955.

Roses, particularly climbers, were severely damaged by the November freeze. Although some plants were killed outright, most plants can be brought back by careful pruning back to live buds. Most camellia varieties lost their blossom buds but the rest of the plants survived the freeze. Evergreen azaleas were the hardest hit of commercial nursery crops produced in Marion county. Damage to rhododendrons was spotty, depending on type and variety.

Plants that had been root pruned were most resistant to freezing. It was suggested that balling and burlapping ornamentals in November might be a

solution to the freeze damage problem. However, most nurserymen in the committee said they would rather risk the damage from an occasional late fall freeze than change their cultural methods.

Hobby nursery producers are increasing in Marion county. While their volume is small, they depress the market by cutting prices. A low overhead enables them to undersell legitimate nurserymen. If cost accounting were used by these hobbyists, many would find they are selling too cheaply.

Members of the committee know that businesses sometimes grow out of hobbies. Furthermore, nurserymen do not have an exclusive right to propagating and selling plants. The selling of service and quality should be stressed to combat price cutting by garden hobbyists and other growers or dealers of nursery stock and other plant materials.

There is always room for new and improved methods of merchandising in the nursery business. Committee members discussed the possibility of an association formed for educational and promotional purposes. Group advertising could be one benefit. An association could promote service and quality provided by its members. Although prices would not be set by an organization, such an organization might work out methods to raise prices for certain nursery lines which, in the opinion of some committee members, are still being sold at "depression" prices. Improving goodwill could be another benefit of an organization. Nurserymen on the committee agreed that goodwill of the consumer is necessary even to the extent of replacement of stock that has died after purchase and planting by the customer.

Container grown stock has been started in Marion County. By this method the selling season is extended from 4 up to 10 months. The ease of sale, planting in spare time, less weeding, and the satisfaction of the consumer in buying the plant while in bloom all point toward a greater increase in container sales. Self service nursery yards will reduce the sales cost considerably. These nurseries should also stock supplies, fertilizers, etc., as well as their nursery stock.

Nurserymen of Marion county should consider new lines of plant material. New varieties of lilies and clematis were among those suggested. These new materials should be displayed and educational programs should be conducted to introduce new materials and overcome the reluctance to change by consumers. Although not new, native materials might be considered, both by nurseries and consumers. Many native plants are rated highly for ornamental use but are seldom seen in the nursery. Members of the committee also pointed out that they will propagate plants, new or old, if they can sell them at a profit.

The use of ground covers is recommended by the committee. Such plants as English ivy, St. Johnswort and Kinnikinnick grow very well and are easily propagated.

Propagation methods change and nurserymen should investigate the new interrupted mist method for propagating their "hard to root" plants. Considerable time can be saved by this method as well as increasing the percent of rooting.

The change in architecture and smaller residential lots in recent years has increased the demand for dwarf trees and shrubs. The trend is away from tall, coniferous trees to the small low growing broadleaved evergreens. There is increased use of plant mater-

ials inside as well as outside the house.

An educational program should be conducted to help the public learn the types of plant material available and adaptable to this area. This could include the correct labeling of plants in the nursery, naming of plants in the public parks, participating in garden club shows, and holding other exhibits. The public must be shown before they will buy.

Loss of trees near public buildings and private businesses is deplored by the committee. Paving areas around trees reduce the oxygen supply and root zone, thus weakening and sometimes killing them. The City of Salem is to be commended for promoting maintenance of trees in parking areas in residential districts. The proposed street tree ordinance was supported by the committee. Members pointed out the work done in Victoria, B.C., and Riverside, California, as excellent examples of planning and planting street trees. Although favorable comment on Salem's trees is heard from tourists, there is still room for improvement. Trees suggested for parking strips include sweet gum, pin oak, scarlet oak, red oak, ginkgo, and linden.

Many additional phases of the ornamental horticulture industry could be discussed and analyzed. The committee hopes the foregoing report of some of the phases will offer some stimuli for future action.

Ornamental Horticulture Committee Members

G. W. Wharton, Chairman, Salem; D. L. Rasmussen, Secretary, Salem; Walter Barkus, Salem; Fred Bock, Salem; P. H. Brydon, Salem; Bill Egan, Brooks; Ed Ferrill, Salem; Henry Hartwig, Salem; Millard Henny, Brooks; H. L. Pearcy, Salem; Bernard Schreiner, Salem.

FARM CROPS COMMITTEE

Field crop income has risen the last ten years to the point where field crops now produce ten and one-quarter million dollars, about 34 percent of the total agricultural income. While seed crops and mint production have increased tremendously during the last decade, hops have dropped from a six million dollar industry to one and one-third million dollars.

CEREALS AND HAY CROPS

With government support prices on wheat, most county farmers have planted their full acreage allotment of wheat. Barley income per acre continues to be higher than grains other than wheat, and where soil type permits, barley has been planted. The combined acreage total of wheat and barley has raised 25 percent in the last ten years.

Since small grains are in surplus, it is recommended that farmers reduce acreages where possible.

Bulk harvest of grains, a development in grain farming the last few years, has resulted in serious grain mixture problems. The committee recommends that:

1. A differential price be established for both the producer and the warehouse selling high quality cereals used in planting.
2. More emphasis should be placed upon the grain certification program with a continual source of improved varieties coming from the agricultural experiment stations.

Specific suggestions relative to the individual cereals follow:

Barley:

1. Feed barley varieties should not be planted in fields where malting barley is likely to be grown.
2. Malting barley should not be threshed too closely. If beards are knocked off too far back on the kernel, germination is reduced and malting quality lowered.
3. A malting barley with stiffer straw is needed.

Oats

1. Varietal work is needed to develop an oat variety for use as a companion crop with peas or vetch.

Corn:

Corn is important as a cereal crop, a silage crop, and is excellent in a crop rotation program. The Willamette, Amity, and river bottom soils are all producing excellent corn yields. Caution should be used in planting corn on bottom ground subject to overflow.

The several commercial cereal dehydrators in the county offer the possibility of drying and marketing corn in the fall months.

Hay:

Hay crops are also important in the rotation program. Good soil types, high yields and favorable markets all favor a small increase in hay production. Oats and vetch hay, red clover, and alfalfa are finding ready markets from the livestock producers. Soil tests are important in determining the quantity of lime and phosphorus needed for maximum production of these legumes. A complete fertilizer pro-

gram for alfalfa will include lime, sulphur, boron, phosphorus, the initial year, and possibly potassium. Adverse weather conditions often present a problem of harvesting May and June cuttings of both red clover and alfalfa hay but this problem can be overcome if either of these crops can be used as silage.

SEED CROPS

Red Clover:

Kenland red clover has produced some excellent seed yields the last few years. There is room for a limited acreage expansion. Best results are obtained if a complete lime and fertilizer program is followed, as well as insect control, and possibly defoliation.

Crimson Clover:

Some acreage increase was experienced this last year. Maintain it. Price fluctuations require that growers follow supply and demand closely. Watch for slug damage first two months after planting. Defoliation has been used successfully by a few growers the last two years.

Subterranean Clover:

There is a limited demand for sub clover seed. The Nangeela variety should be planted if seed is to be harvested. Problems of a subterranean clover seed grower include: smooth seedbed preparation, grass infestation in field, and special attention to the harvest program.

Common Ryegrass:

Large production and an increased carry-over has resulted in troubles for the ryegrass grower. An over-all acreage cut is desirable. Since the common ryegrass price cycle fluctuates from year to year, as do the other

annual seed crops, growers are encouraged to observe production and demand figures closely.

Follow the best fertilizer, weed control, and harvest programs known.

Perennial Ryegrass:

This crop is in surplus at the present time also. Growers should follow the best possible cultural practices.

Merion Bluegrass:

Merion bluegrass is a relatively new grass seed crop. The market has held up well and there is apparent room for a limited expansion. It is suggested, however, that the expansion be part of a grass seed program including other grasses. Nitrogen is especially important for seed yields.

Since Merion has a larger germination requirement than other grass seeds, it is necessary to prepare a better seedbed, and plant shallower. Merion bluegrass has creeping underground stems that may be difficult to eliminate.

Field Peas:

Field peas offer a substitute for cereal crops. It compares favorably in returns per acre, is a good feed, and an excellent soil builder.

Willamette Vetch:

This crop is also better than cereals most years. The committee suggests that a close watch be maintained for slugs.

Hairy Vetch:

Hairy vetch will grow better on hill soils than common vetch. The committee suggests that if Willamette vetch will grow, do not plant hairy vetch. They should not be mixed.

Hungarian Vetch:

There is a small demand for Hungarian vetch this year. The demand is limited, however, and growers should not plant large acreages.

Bentgrass:

Highland bentgrass has been a good crop in Marion County for the last decade. Growers have developed a fine production program of annual grass control, broadleaf weed control, fertilizer applications, and harvesting methods. New growers are encouraged to follow these good cultural practices. The committee discourages planting other varieties of bentgrass, including Astoria, in the highland bent producing area.

New growers, or farmers planning to put out bentgrass fields should be aware of the problem of bentgrass elimination. Marion County farmers worked for years trying to kill out bentgrass infestations before a market was developed.

The committee suggests:

1. That the certification standards be changed so that compulsory field inspections will be eliminated.
2. That the bentgrass growers should think of a commodity organization; either an association of growers, or a bentgrass commission.

CHEWING AND CREEPING RED FESCUE GROWERS

Chewing and creeping red fescue are both in a similar condition relative to grower prices. Prices have fallen from 55-60 cents in 1951, to 40-47 cents in 1952, 35-40 cents in 1953, 20-25 cents in 1954, and 16-22 cents per pound in 1955. This is the result, largely, of imported creeping red fescue. Two organizations, the Northwest Chewings and Creeping Red

Fescue Growers Association and the Fine Fescue Commission, are both working upon this import problem.

The committee points out that now is the time for chewings and creeping red fescue growers to:

1. Use in crop rotation program with other crops.
2. Refrain from planting large acreages.
3. Follow best management practices such as weedy grass and annual weed control, fertilizing, harvesting programs, such as defoliation.
4. Watch production, carry-over imports and price cycles.

ALTA FESCUE

This seed crop is also in an unhealthy position. Prices have varied this last year from 8-11 cents and not up to 20 cents per pound for several years. The immediate future of alta may be affected by the proposed soil bank program. Alta is an excellent soil builder and fields planted to alta have produced excellent follow-up crops.

The committee suggests that only the better yielding fields be retained and that expansion be held down.

PEPPERMINT

Marion County peppermint growers have been producing about 5,000 acres of mint for the last six years. The 1946 conference report shows an acreage of 2500 acres in 1945. The present acreage of 5,100 acres is 30% of the total acreage produced in Oregon and 11% of the national production. County growers produce 46% of the peppermint oil from Oregon and 17% of the national peppermint oil supply.

The committee wishes to emphasize several points for farmers thinking of planting peppermint as a new crop:

1. Peppermint requires a fine sandy or sandy loam soil type.
2. The initial investment for mint growers is high and growers should be planting mint for at least a three-year crop, and preferably four years.
3. Prices offered for mint oil vary considerably from year to year.
4. Disease and insect problems faced by mint growers include verticillium wilt, mint rust, mint flea beetles, strawberry root weevil, and symphylids.

Verticillium Wilt:

This disease, although found in Willamette Valley fields in 1951, did not reach serious proportions until 1955. It was found in several county fields this last year. Wilt is undoubtedly the most serious problem confronting the county mint grower today.

Long time rotations will assist in controlling wilt, but the duration of the rotation or crops that can be used in the rotations are not known. The committee suggests that:

1. Laboratory wilt work be continued at Oregon State College.
2. Laboratory work be followed by field trials to determine both the period of time fields should be taken from mint and crops used in the time of mint vacancy.

Other work to be instigated or continued by Oregon State College includes: (1) Fertility trials. (2) Weed control trials. (3) Varietal trials for resistance to prevalent diseases.

HOPS

The Oregon hop picture presents a relatively sad situation. While prices have fallen from 60 cents per pound in 1950 to less than 40 cents in 1955, the state acreage has dropped from nearly 15,000 to less than 4,000 acres, during the same period of time. Marion County's acreage has fallen from nearly 8,000 acres in 1950 to 2500 acres this last year. During this same period of time the variety has changed from essentially all clusters to fuggles. Many of the lower producing yards have been taken out, and the best yards are in production at present.

The committee suggests that:

1. The present acreage be maintained to assure growers that buyers will remain active in this area and also to maintain the local variety in brewer's blends.
2. Oregon State College continue with present field fertility and variety tests.

Committee Members

Robert Miller, Chairman, Woodburn; Hollis Ottoway, Secretary, Salem; Robert Clark, Brooks; Robert Darrah, Silverton; Andrew DeConinck, Woodburn; J. J. Doefler, Silverton; George Doran, Salem; John Frank, Sublimity; Herman Goshie, Silverton; Henry Hanson, Sublimity; Rollin Heater, Sublimity; Fred Hottinger, Sublimity; Lorin Hoven, Jefferson; Don Jaquet, Silverton; Alfred Jensen, Silverton; LeLand Kocher, Hubbard; John Nibler, Woodburn; Henry Peters, Sublimity; Francis Ryan, Aurora; Wayne Savage, Silverton; Fred Schmidt Silverton; Joe Serres, Woodburn; Harold Super, Jefferson; Henry Tate, Sublimity; W. M. Tate, Sublimity; Dale Turnidge, Jefferson; Raymond Werner, Silverton.

FARM FORESTRY COMMITTEE

Over fifty percent of the 757,000 acres in Marion County is available for timber crops. In fact, it is estimated that there are 390,000 acres which are best adopted for timber production.

The ownership of the timber acreage is broken down as follows: Federally owned or managed, 211,975 acres; state or county owned, 14,575 acres; and privately owned, 163,725 acres.

It was estimated in 1945 that the volume of Marion County's saw timber consisted of 8,933,000,000 board feet. Loggers harvested 109,000,000 board feet in 1954.

The U. S. Forest Service, the State Forestry Department, Oregon State College, various forest associations, and individual foresters, and economists inform us that the United States is going to need more wood than it is growing now. Total net growth for the Douglas fir region of Western Oregon and Western Washington in 1952, was 5.15 billion board feet, and the total cut was reportedly 12.2 billion board feet.

With this background of the county's forestry picture, the Marion County Farm Forestry Committee has several suggestions relative to forestry practices and enterprises.

CHRISTMAS TREE PRODUCTION

An increase in Christmas tree production is justified at the present time. This is particularly true of the true firs, such as grand fir, white fir, and noble fir. It is possible to interplant Douglas fir plantings to be harvested eventually for timber with the true firs planted for Christmas tree production.

Although state forest nursery supplies were exhausted this year, the nursery facilities will be increased and little trouble in obtaining stock is anticipated in future years.

CLEAR CUTTING FARM FORESTS

Clear cutting is sometimes justified, particularly so if the lands are to be put into cultivation. Often, however, woodlots are harvested at a time when they could be making maximum growth. The committee suggests that prior to cutting a stand of timber the owner should review the advantages of selective thinning.

SELECTIVE THINNING

Selective thinning is the practice of removing crowded trees, deformed, broken, and damaged trees, "wolf" trees, and hardwoods. Many cases can be enumerated relative to the advantages of woodlot management. A managed stand will reportedly yield the same timber in 5 years that it takes a native stand to produce in 60 years. A 10-acre stand of 59-year old Douglas fir at St. Helens has been cut six times on a selective basis, the value of timber products sold at over \$500 per acre. A high quality stand of timber remains. A first inventory in 1949 showed a growth of 1000 board feet per acre per year on 244 trees. This same growth was secured only four years later on 122 trees per acre.

MARKETING TIMBER PRODUCTS

Marion County forestry owners are generally close to a satisfactory market. Local markets are, however, lacking for pulp, alder, and maple.

Alder is gradually increasing in market acceptance and owners may improve both the quality and quantity of alder by thinning and pruning.

Trees are a crop and should be regarded as such. When selling timber products, know how much you have, and know how much it is worth. Other farm products are sold on the basis of true value. Forestry products should be handled in the same way. If in doubt, consult with foresters who know.

Timber sale contracts are available. They refer to duration of logging, price received, right-of-way, fences, quantity to be sold, size of timber to be harvested, and so on. The committee urges those owners selling timber to use them.

FORESTRY DEMONSTRATION TRACT

The Marion County Farm Forestry Committee is in the process of negotiating a forestry demonstration tract. When completed, it will include a Christmas tree planting, selective logging, pruning, fire control, and space thinning. The tract will be available to school youngsters and adults, city folks, and rural people. The committee invites you to see this plot about three or four years from now.

Farm Forestry Committee

W. E. (Jeff) Richardson, Chairman, Scotis Mills; Hollis Ottoway, Secretary; Dr. G. C. Bellinger, Salem; Vic Hadley, Silverton; Don Peters, Sublimity; Floyd Fox, Jr., Silverton; Harry Voltz, Sublimity; Herbert Coleman, Woodburn; Ralph Yeater, Salem; Gary Sandner, Corvallis; Manton Carl, Hubbard; Walter Hafner, Sublimity.

SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

This committee has reviewed essentially two phases of soil and water utilization — irrigation and drainage.

IRRIGATION

Whereas the underground water supply is not inexhaustible, and whereas the many streams and rivers of Marion County do not carry an adequate supply of water needed for irrigation purposes, and whereas the water impounded in reservoirs of the Willamette Basin Project will not supply the eventual demand of irrigation needs in the valley, and whereas the more intensified farms of Marion County will be requiring more irrigation water, and whereas the increasingly higher taxes require greater farm intensification, the soil and water resources committee suggests that farmers of Marion County give proper consideration relative to additional irrigation water.

Several possibilities have been considered by the Bureau of Reclamation, but none have been developed. Before this is possible, the demand must come from landowners themselves. One feasible plan is to bring Detroit reservoir water into the north end of Marion County by canal through the Turner - Pen Annex area. Another is to allow the reservoir waters to flow down the North Santiam River into the Willamette and remove the needed water by pumping stations.

Various project contracts were discussed. A 9-E contract is one where farmers may sign up originally for a minimum and then pay for desired water annually; similar to an electrical account.

In addition to the larger irrigation project possibilities landowners should review the small watershed sites in their own communities.

DRAINAGE

The outstanding recent example of drainage damage is that of lower Lake Labish. Water delayed spring planting and also resulted in flooding the onion fields at time of harvest.

Landowners are in the process of forming a drainage district to work with the Soil Conservation Service engineers in constructing flood gates, a suitable dike, and a pumping unit to prevent damage in future years.

Community drainage problems exist in the Turner Area, the Brooks-Gervais-St. Louis area, and the Talbot-Ankeny vicinity. It is possible to secure financial assistance for these community programs through the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee.

Soil and Water Resources Committee

Jim Jackson, Chairman, Brooks; Hollis Ottoway, Secretary, Salem; Wilbur Aman; Herb Barnes, Silverton; Cornelius Bateson, Salem; R. M. Boies, Salem; William Fobert, Hubbard; K. D. Coomler, Brooks; Ray Glatt, Woodburn; Eugene Hamrick, Salem; Gus Harris, Brooks; Ted Hobart, Salem; Chester Loe, Salem; Kenneth Miller, Salem; Joe Obersinner, Woodburn; H. H. Ralphs, Stayton; Ernest Roth, Salem; Pete Sproed, Salem; Vern Thompson, Jefferson; Karl Wipper, Turner; Joe Zorn, Aurora.

FACTS ABOUT MARION COUNTY

CLIMATE

Marion County is in the Willamette Valley in Western Oregon. Salem, the county seat and also the State Capitol, is located along the Willamette River which is the major stream in the valley.

The climate is mild. Rainfall averages from 38-40 inches per year. The rainy season from November through March averages 4-6 inches precipitation per month. Seasonal snowfall seldom exceeds 4-6 inches. During the summer season, May through August, rainfall averages only 4.24 inches. Irrigation is necessary on crops with high water requirements.

Other records of the U. S. Department of Commerce Weather Bureau show these normal temperatures: Spring, 51.8; summer, 65.8; fall 54.1; winter, 40.7; and annual, 53.1. Although humidities average about 75% for the year, humidities during the summer months are quite low.

The growing season is nearly seven months. Elevation at Salem is about 200 feet. Rolling hills in the vicinity of Salem rise from 600 to 800 feet above sea level. Further east in the county, the elevation of farm land is several hundred feet higher. Unusual weather disturbances such as high winds, tornadoes, earthquakes, and severe electrical storms are rare in Marion County and the Willamette Valley.

POPULATION

The population in Marion County is over 105,000 with the population in Salem being around 45,000. There are about 250,000 people within a 30 mile radius of Salem.

The 1954 U. S. Census of Agriculture showed 4,543 farms in Marion County averaging 80.9 acres per farm for a total of 367,754 acres of land in farms. About 40,000 acres is irrigated, according to estimates prepared by Marion County Extension Agents. Most of the acreage is sprinkler irrigated from wells, streams, or farm ponds.

In 1954, Marion County's 4,543 farms reported 3,349 telephones; 4,436 farms with electricity; 4,311 farms with running water; 1,934 television sets, and 1,783 home freezers. On 2,586 farms, the operators reported 3,428 motor trucks. A total of 6,024 tractors were reported on 3,621 farms. For automobiles, 3,935 farms reported having 5,148 automobiles.

SCHOOLS

Marion County has 51 rural grade schools, one Junior High and 11 Senior High schools located outside the Salem School District which has an additional 25 grade, 4 (2 under construction at present) Junior Highs and 2 Senior High Schools with an additional 3 denominational High Schools serving the area.

Three Colleges — Willamette University (Methodist), Mt. Angel Women's College and Mt. Angel Seminary (both Catholic) — are located in the county. Within a 90 mile radius of Salem are four state schools operating under the Oregon State System of Higher Education. These are the University of Oregon, at Eugene; Oregon State College, at Corvallis; Oregon College of Education, at Monmouth; and Portland State College in Portland. The Medical and Dental Schools located in Portland are branches of the University of Oregon. In addition there are 10 other independent col-

leges and universities in this area of the state, as well as some special trade and vocational schools, operating on a private basis.

The State Schools for the Blind and Deaf are both located in Salem and offer tuition free training for handicapped children.

CHURCHES

Marion County has many churches with most denominations being represented and more new mission churches being established as the population increases. A family will have little difficulty in finding a church of their choice in or near any community in the county.

MEDICAL SERVICES

There are 5 hospitals in the county with about 380 bed capacity. A recent check showed 146 practicing physicians in the county and 74 dentists. In addition the County Health Office operates a staff of 12 Public Health nurses, 4 sanitarians, 1 Psychiatric-Social worker and 1 County Health Doctor serving as Administrator in a program that includes service to families through "Well Child Clinics" held in various parts of the county.

RECREATIONAL SERVICES

Marion County, in the heart of the Willamette Valley, offers many recreational opportunities and is adjacent to many others. Being 60 miles from the Pacific Ocean and it's many scenic and recreational beauties together with deep sea, tidewater and fresh water fishing. Coastal and mountain lakes to the west and east provide fishing and water sport facilities. The Willamette and Santiam Rivers are increasing in popularity as summer fishing and boating areas. Detroit Reservoir is increasing in popularity among boaters and fishermen.

Parks and recreation areas provide an abundance of picnic and camping facilities with State and National Forest areas giving one plenty of room for the "wide open spaces."

Wildlife offers the hunter a paradise, deer being the most popular for the area with pheasant and quail quite plentiful. Elk and antelope in adjoining areas attract many hunters.

Three golf courses serve the area as does one indoor and two outdoor swimming pools. For the skiing enthusiast two improved areas offer excellent opportunities during the winter months. Salem is the home of the baseball "Salem Senators" playing a summer schedule in the Northwest League. Several American Legion Posts sponsor Junior Legion Baseball in a very active talent development program.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

The general road situation for Marion County is good. One main state highway goes straight through the county north and south with a 4-lane freeway going from Salem direct to the Portland Westside. Another state highway serves the central and eastern portion of the county and on into Central Oregon. The eastern half of this road has recently been improved and surveys are complete and work ready to start on the relocation and improvement of the western half. Contracts have been let and widening underway on the north-south highway from Salem to Albany which will be a 4-lane highway when completed. At present the State Highway Department maintains 222 miles of paved road in the county. The County Court records show the county maintaining 2,715 miles of hard surfaced highway, 1,916 miles of gravel road with 171 miles of dirt and unimproved county roads.

The county has good transportation facilities. The mainline of South-

ern Pacific Railway — Portland to San Francisco — goes through the county with two feeder lines serving the eastern and Santiam areas. Oregon Electric Railway maintains a line through the area, North-South, serving only with freight service. Three bus lines operate full schedules through the county. Pacific Greyhound and Continental Pacific Trailways provide hourly schedules north and south with Hamman Stages providing service east through the county to Central Oregon.

United Air Lines operates regular passenger and freight services from McNary Field at Salem.

CROPS AND INCOME

Agriculture is a 29 to 30 million dollar annual business in Marion County. Gross agricultural income is divided among field crops, horticultural crops, and livestock and poultry. Estimates for 1955 are summarized below:

Estimated Gross

Agricultural Income - Marion County 1955

Field Crops

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Wheat, oats, barley, rye, corn | \$3,605,000 |
| Alfalfa, clover, grain, grass, hay | 615,000 |
| Clover seeds | 335,000 |
| Grass seeds — Bent, Alta, Chewings, Ryegrass, Sudan | 2,150,000 |
| Vetch seed | 270,000 |
| Peppermint | 1,785,000 |
| Flax fiber | 45,000 |
| Hops | 1,375,000 |
| Sugar beet seed | 84,000 |
| | <u>\$10,264,000</u> |

Horticultural Crops

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Tree fruits and Nuts | \$1,690,000 |
| Small fruits, strawberries, caneberries, etc. | 3,560,000 |
| Truck crops and potatoes, beans, sweet corn | 4,490,000 |
| Misc. — Nursery flowers, holly, shrubs, etc. | 510,000 |
| | <u>\$10,250,000</u> |

Livestock and Poultry

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Dairy — milk, butterfat and retail | \$2,875,000 |
| Sheep — lambs, wool | 475,000 |
| Beef cattle, veal | 635,000 |
| Hogs | 750,000 |
| Poultry | 2,840,000 |
| Turkeys — eggs, poults | 1,750,000 |
| Mink | 650,000 |
| | <u>\$9,975,000</u> |

1955 Total — \$30,489,000

MARKETING FACILITIES

Diversified agriculture in Marion County is accompanied by diversified market outlets. In addition, processing in local plants adds to the value of the agricultural commodity before it is placed on the grocers shelves or shipped away for further handling.

Salem is second only to San Jose, California in the volume of processed fruits and vegetables. There are a dozen fruit and vegetable processing companies in Salem alone. Additional processing facilities in Stayton, Silverton, and Woodburn give growers ready market outlets only a few miles from their farms. Commercial cold storage facilities and warehouse space are available for holding processed foods until they are sold.

Livestock can be marketed through buyers in Salem, Portland, and other cities in the Pacific Northwest. Three major milk manufacturing companies

handle most of the milk produced on Marion County farms, although some milk is sold to manufacturers in Portland. Local poultry processing companies provide markets for some of the poultry products produced on Marion County farms.

Seed cleaning plants are located on many farms. In addition, there are 17 commercial seed cleaning warehouses scattered throughout Marion County. These businesses sell poultry and livestock feed together with other farm supplies.

FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES

Facilities and services are available from 3 Soil Conservation Districts. The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation office, Farmers Home Administration, Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Land Management are other Federal Agencies having offices and offering service in Marion County.

Salem is the central location of nearly all the State Offices.

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics

The office of the Agricultural, Home Economics and 4-H Agents are located in Room 75, Courthouse, Salem, with a staff of nine agents serving Marion County and the City of Salem. Four men agents are working with all phases of agriculture in the diversified program of the county. Two agents in Home Economics are currently working with 40 organized Extension Units as well as offering personal service to individuals or groups. Two 4-H agents are working full time with the 4-H program throughout the County, with a third 4-H agent assigned to the City of Salem.

This staff offers the services and information from Oregon State College to the residents of the County.

For further information contact:

**Marion County Extension Office
Room 75, Courthouse
Salem, Oregon**

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WILLAMETTE PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSN.

P. O. Box 522

Salem, Oregon

Photographs through courtesy of Mrs. Wanda M. Gifford, Salem, Oregon.

