

Containing Reports of Committees
Submitted and Adopted February 5, 1946

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FOREWORD

The Jackson County Agricultural Program Conference of 1946 was a continuation of the planned agricultural development that has characterized the farming activities for many years. Earlier planning conferences have contributed to this development and were started in 1924 with others being held in 1936, 1938, and 1941. The end of the war brought forth the need for post-war planning and the reports of the 1946 conference are the result of the study of eight committees appointed to survey the needs and aims of their particular line of agriculture.

These reports are expected to serve as a guide, representing the best judgment of active farmers and farm women, in the future development of the farming industry of the county.

Henry Conger, General Chairman
R. G. Fewler, County Agent and General Sec.

REPORT OF LAND USE COMMITTEE

Jackson County has a total land area of 1,788,160 acres. Of this amount 412,126 acres are in farms. This is an increase of 109,000 acres over the census of 1940. There are now 2991 farms in the county as compared with 2702 farms in 1940. The average size farm is 104 acres.

Without any question some of these new farms are submarginal and new owners will be forced to move off when reconversion to normal is finally reached. During the years 1930 to 1941, land in cultivation in the county stood at around 95,000 acres and under present conditions that is about the limit of good agricultural land. Many of these new farmers have consulted no one and many of them have never farmed before, so consequently a large turn over can be expected in a few years. Land values have increased 50 to 60 percent which is too high for normal production.

Small Farms

There has been a pronounced increase in suburban farms of two to five acres. We now have approximately 1000 of these small places in the county. Most of the owners have an off farm job and these small places afford home facilities as well as a substantial part of the family living. A report will be made by a committee on small farms.

We recommend that more assistance to these small farms be given by the Extension Service if personnel is available.

Water Resources

Unless new sources of irrigation water are made available there can be little or no economic expansion in agriculture in Jackson County. Twenty-eight thousand additional acres can be made productive if water for irrigation is provided. The present irrigation districts need additional water. Subdivisions and increases in small farms aggravate this problem as more water is required for the smaller farms. Complete agricultural development of the county is directly dependent on additional water supplies at not too high a cost. With a high livestock population and the supply of feed just about running even with it, little or no expansion in dairying or livestock production can be made. Dairy cows now number 16,000 head and other livestock for meat around 24,000. Orchardists also need more irrigation water.

It is recommended that all agencies concerned with the welfare of the county, actively support all plans now being made for additional irrigation water supplies provided the cost is not prohibitive.

Size of Farm Units

There is a wide difference of opinion as to what constitutes a family size farm. It is recommended that an economic farm unit should consist of the following:

1. Provide for a balanced labor program which will permit full time employment in productive farm work.

2. Provide sufficient income for a good standard of living and pay off indebtedness.

3. Provide sufficient crops to permit economic use of machinery.

We recommend that before purchasing a farm that the purchaser consult the County Agent and leading farmers before closing the deal. The present trend in farm prices may cause some farmers to expand their present operations. If this will provide a more economical unit, it will increase farm efficiency and would be justified, provided the farmer is not too much in debt at the time. Returning veterans without farm experience who seek to engage in farming should be advised to become either a farm employee or rent a farm before purchasing.

Tax Lands

At the present time there is no tax delinquent agricultural land in the county. This is a fine thing and we hope this situation will continue a long time.

Range Lands

The committee recommends that as fast as suitable grasses can be determined, that the lower hills should be seeded to eliminate the foxtail now growing on them. Alta fescue and subclover may be the plants to do this. The committee feels that the growing of small seeds is a profitable industry for the county but with the shortage of irrigation water it will be necessary to try dryland crops for seed production if the industry is to be expanded.

Respectfully submitted,

H. E. Conger, Chairman
A. E. Brockway
Charles Elmore
Ben Day
John Niedermeyer
Claude Hoover

REPORT OF THE FARM HOME & RURAL LIFE COMMITTEE

After surveying state and county statistics on farm living conditions, the Farm Home and Rural Life Committee offers the following recommendations in the hope that action will be taken to make for more comfortable and adequate farm living conditions in Jackson County Homes.

HOUSING

Building and Remodeling

According to the 1940 census there were 2712 farms in Jackson County. The latest farm census shows an increase in numbers to 2991. There is an acute housing shortage through the county, particularly in Medford and vicinity. There has been a 16½ percent increase in the rural population during the last 10 years.

In a spot survey of 130 farms homes, 27.7 percent need new dwellings in the near future. In view of the above figures the committee makes the following recommendations:

1. That emphasis be placed on improving housing and living conditions in rural areas.

2. That every assistance be given those who are remodeling or building in the way of house plans, remodeling, etc.

a. That house plans be developed that will allow for an expanded building program for the farm home so that additions may be made as conditions demand.

b. That help be offered in evaluating different building materials and equipment for cost, quality, use, etc.

3. That a survey be made to determine the situation regarding farm housing to compare with figures made in 1934.

4. That tenant homes on local farms be improved to provide adequate, comfortable living quarters for farm workers, thus encouraging better quality farm help.

Water Systems and Irrigation

The 1940 census indicates that 63 percent of the farm homes have running water in the home unit. This is an increase of 9 percent over 1934 statistics. On the spot survey, 25 percent indicated they had installed running water since 1940. This figure is probably larger than would be true generally since 25 of the women reporting were in an area where electricity had been installed recently.

Electricity

Sixty-eight percent of the rural homes are electrified. Since there is a direct relation between electricity and adequate sanitary facilities, we recommend that every effort be made to extend electric service to all parts of the county. We also recommend that homes not having water systems and sanitary facilities make this their first major improvement.

HOME MANAGEMENT AND HOUSE FURNISHINGS

Land prices are up about 60 percent in Jackson County and living costs are in proportion. With the high cost of living it is necessary that good home management practices be followed. Therefore, we recommend:

1. That emphasis be placed on financial planning for the farm and home with special care taken in financing the building of new enterprises.

2. That projects in consumer buying be introduced to study the new equipment available and to help homemakers in making wise choices.

3. That consumer groups encourage and demand properly labeled products and that small farm and non-farm families be encouraged to participate in the agricultural and home economics program offered through the Extension Service.

IMPROVING HOME GROUNDS

1. We recommend that special help be available in farm and home landscape problems.

2. We recommend that training programs on building and remodeling should include help in the placement of farm buildings and plantings in relation to the farm home and other factors such as weather condition, etc. that must be considered.

FOODS AND NUTRITION

From surveys made in five rural counties of Oregon, half of the school children lack the minimum requirements of vitamin C. A definite lack of variety in vegetable consumption was noted as well as a low intake of milk among children in all counties.

In Jackson County there are lunch programs in all but one school. However, three of these programs definitely need improvement. In view of this situation the committee recommends:

1. That surveys in soil analysis and the effect of soils on vitamin and mineral content of foods be made.
2. That emphasis be placed on the school lunch program with classes during the summer for those in charge of such programs and that the school lunch program be considered an integral part of the school curriculum.
3. Encourage a greater variety in foods served on farms to improve the diet and increase appreciation of new foods and improve food habits.
4. That more extensive education of all parents and children as to the protective foods and their place in the diet should be included in the present educational programs.
5. That the garden and food preservation program be encouraged to provide adequate food for good family nutrition.

CLOTHING

In view of the increased cost of materials and the new materials coming on the market, the committee makes the following recommendations:

1. That information be made available regarding new materials, finishes and the use of same and their care.
2. That the present program on clothing construction as offered by the Extension Service be continued so as to assist homemakers in making less expensive clothing for their families.

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY LIFE

Health

Reports from the county health office indicate that children are now getting better medical and dental care because of the present high income level. The report shows that there are more deaths in the county of an accidental nature than from natural causes, and that more cases of venereal disease have been treated for the last six months than for the entire three year period prior to this time. Therefore, we recommend:

1. That various public agencies coordinate on work in health and nutrition as well as other phases of this work.
2. That an educational program be launched to inform the public on the care and prevention of contagious disease and accidents with special emphasis on prevention of the accidents in the home and on the farm.

Youth Activities

The schools throughout the county are all filled beyond capacity and operating under acute overcrowded conditions. Much of this is due to the scarcity of teachers. There are 7081 school children between the ages of nine and 18 years according to the 1944 school census.

There are six one-room schools in Jackson County as compared with 20 a few years ago, all of these one-room schools are substandard.

The committee recommends:

1. Communities and parents support the school program to provide better facilities, curriculum and teachers so that rural communities will have adequate schools.
2. That more vocational training such as agriculture, home economics and shop should be included in the schools.

3. That parents and communities support the 4H club program more actively through acting as leaders and encouraging the youngsters to work.

4H Club work in Jackson County is most important to supplement the school program for training rural young people and keeping them interested in farming as a vocation.

4. That an attempt be made to broaden the 4H program to include more work in farm crops and a complete home economics program.

5. That rural organizations encourage 4H programs and provide leadership rather than placing so much emphasis on prizes.

6. That leader training meetings be offered by the home demonstration agent for 4H home economics leaders in subject matter.

7. That the program of organizations be adjusted to meet the needs of older youth and young married groups to encourage their participation in community affairs.

Recreation

There are many recreational facilities available for young people, including 4H, Boy and Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls and many of the lodges and granges have youth groups in connection with their programs. The YMCA has been organized but is not too well established at the present time.

The main problem in recreation in this county is that of extending the already existing organizations and strengthening the work that they do. Therefore, we recommend:

1. That rural communities be encouraged to build community centers that are adequate and will meet many different needs of youth and adult groups. This might take the form of a living war memorial.

2. That the monthly recreation training meetings be resumed as soon as a recreation specialist can be provided.

Family Life

The divorce rate in Jackson County has steadily increased in the last 10 years with 390 divorces granted in 1945 as compared with 156 in 1936. There has been a large increase in marriages during the last few years with the peak of 963 in 1943. There were 494 marriages in Jackson County during 1945.

There has been a definite demand for help in organization of parent study groups during the last year, therefore, we recommend:

1. That a specialist in family relationships be added to the state Extension Service staff.

2. The organization of clubs for mothers with programs to meet their specific problems in child care and parent education.

3. That we encourage participation in a family life educational program to promote good home and family relationships.

Respectfully submitted:

Mrs. Arnold Bohnert, Chairman
Mrs. Andrew Stevens
Mrs. Walter Hash
Mrs. Lee Port
Mrs. Jason Ottinger
Miss Claire Hanley

Mrs. Cleo Gilchrist
Mrs. Leland Charley
Mrs. B. A. Clark
Mrs. Richard Tubman
Mrs. David Blair
Mrs. J. R. McCracken

REPORT OF THE HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE

Fruit growing is a long term proposition and must be viewed from that angle. The outlook at present is for a continuing increase in production of all fruits except apples. The main reason there has not been more expansion has been the shortage of trees. If the present planting trends continue, greatly increased production will follow in a few years.

Peaches in particular have been widely planted in almost every section of the country. The reduction in apple tonnage has been more than made up by increased supplies of citrus and bananas.

The following recommendations have been made after giving due consideration to future production and possibilities of changes in markets and marketing methods:

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FRUIT GROWERS

Pears

Missing trees in present orchards should be replaced with trees of the present varieties. Planting of new blocks of pears is not recommended except where the planting is needed to complete an economic unit or where the owner feels sure that no other crop is as well adapted to his particular soil and conditions.

Apples

There may be an opportunity for a very limited increase in apple production for local markets. Red apples or an early apple like Gravenstein appears to offer the most promise.

Peaches

The acreage of peaches has increased rapidly in recent years, not only in Medford but all over the United States. The effects of this increased acreage has not been felt as yet in the markets. As the Jackson County peach acreage has doubled in the past 10 years further expansion should be approached carefully.

There may be some demand for freestone peaches for canning and freezing. This market outlet does not return as much as the fresh market but unless the grower is prepared to use that outlet, he should not plant.

Plums

There is no market for local consumption so before planting, a market outlet should be assured.

Cherries

Due to the presence of a very destructive virus disease, albino cherry, cherry planting is discouraged until a control is found or a resistant variety developed.

Walnuts

Due to increasing production, walnut planting is not recommended except in very favorable locations.

Filberts

As the filbert is not a heavy producing tree south of Roseburg, plantings in this area are discouraged. The plantings in the more favorably located areas have increased so rapidly that marketing may soon become a problem.

Small Fruits

Sufficient cane berries are now produced for local consumption. There is some demand for berries for canning and freezing and this outlet will probably increase. Further expansion should be made after investigating such an outlet.

The strawberry acreage can be expanded when a disease resistant variety suitable for this area is developed.

Truck Crops

A small increase in vegetable acreage would be justified to supply the local markets. The cannery may also be an outlet for certain vegetables, such as tomatoes, carrots, beets, corn. A labor supply should be assured before planting any considerable acreage.

Grafting

Grafting of one variety to another should be done only after a lot of serious consideration. With changing market conditions, what appears as an undesirable variety now may be topping the market in a few years. While prices are high and the orchard is bringing a profit is a very poor time to top work any variety.

Housing

Every grower should provide proper housing facilities for all permanent workers and some seasonal workers. In addition the district should be provided with a centrally located transient camp.

Respectfully submitted,

C. C. Clemens, Chairman
A. S. V. Carpenter
Ward Spatz
Dr. George B. Dean

Chester Fitch
Ralph Cook
Homer Moore
Otto Bohnert

REPORT OF DAIRY COMMITTEE

The production of milk in the United States is at an all time high. Jackson County also has more dairy cows than ever before. The average size of local herds is becoming larger. The demand for milk is greater than when Camp White was in full operation. Markets are only fair on butterfat in milk, but not good on butterfat for churning. Local markets are taking all the milk and cream they can get, but still people are begging for butter. The advent of the dairy co-op has provided a force that will be felt in the dairy industry for years to come.

Expansion of the dairy industry in Jackson County has not been rapid, but there has been a slow, substantial gain year by year and it is believed that an efficient job has been done in the dairy business. There has been a marked interest in improvement in breeding, management and feeding. Continued growth can take place if irrigation can be expanded.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DAIRY OPERATORS

Size of Herds

Dairying is not a side line business. The average size of herd has increased but this should not be taken as a criterion for economical production. With good management a small herd can produce as much as some herds with twice as many cows. The committee feels that a dairy herd should consist of at least 10 high producing cows with the necessary pasture and hay land to support it. Any number less than that often means neglect of good practices and does not warrant the ownership of a good bull.

Feed Supply

The livestock numbers now in the county are in balance with the feed supply and irrigated pastures. Acreage can limit the size of the herd. Experiments have shown that irrigated pasture is worth \$95.00 per acre per year. There should be enough of this type of pasture so that the herd should control it at the peak of growth. More attention should be given to putting up hay of a high quality to get maximum nutritive value. Dry land farms where alfalfa can be grown, should feed alfalfa hay during the summer months, using the fields for pasture in the fall. Grain can be purchased as the committee does not feel that it is profitable to raise grain on irrigated land.

Dairy Improvement

Good breeding and good management will do more to improve quality of dairy herds than anything else. Feeding well will increase production of any herd--grade or purebred. The present dairy improvement association can take on more members and the owner sampler plan now in operation will take care of smaller herds at less cost. This is a cooperative organization and the more cows there are in it the better it is. Know what your individual cows are doing!

Dairy Prices

There is a marked discrepancy between the prices paid for whole milk and prices for churning cream. This may be the reason why butter is so scarce. Even with present subsidies the differential is too great. Grade A producers with an 85 cent base price are not getting enough considering high costs of feed and labor and an effort should be made to have an O.P.A. hearing and have this price increased. Churning cream producers are at a great disadvantage and relief should be sought on this price also. As this is under price control, the committee is at a loss as to how this can be done.

Disease Control

The control of disease such as tuberculosis, bangs and mastitis present a problem. T.B. in the county in dairy herds is rare, but abortion is not yet under control and present measures are not as satisfactory as they might be. After testing continuously for 15 years the percentage of Bangs reactors does not seem to be lowered to any extent. The percentage is still running around 2.5 percent and while around 12,000 head are tested each year, the committee feels this is not satisfactory. The attitude of cow owners could be improved as many would not test at all if it were not compulsory. Auctions appear to be a source of infection and the committee believes there could be more rigid enforcement of the laws by the State Department of Agriculture.

The County Court has cut indemnities to a bare minimum as the recent law passed by the last legislature placed the burden of cash on the counties.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Freeman, Chairman
C. A. Smith
Victor Birdseye
Albert Straus
Jewell Lowe
C. C. Leaf
Hjalmer Westerburg
J. W. Bigham

REPORT OF THE LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE

This report considers animals for meat only, as the dairy industry is being covered by another committee.

The beef industry has grown during the last decade until 38 percent of the animal industries of the county are now beef cattle. There has also been a large increase in dairy cattle, while hogs and sheep have decreased.

The committee feels there has been a slight decrease in beef cattl numbers during the past two years and this is probably as it should be, as operators have felt that there should be a leveling off to prepare for a poorer market after the war. Summer range also is deteriorating.

The swine population has decreased at least 60 percent since 1943 when there were a great number of hogs that could not be marketed at a reasonable profit. Sheep have been decreasing in numbers from year to year largely on account of lack of summer range.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE

The number of beef cattle can be reduced in order to create a better balance with the winter feed and grazing situation. In all likelihood this will be done under the present fairly favorable price situation and it is advised by the committee.

Raising beef cattle is a business in itself and is not a sideline. The present system of keeping cattle at home during the winter and on public lands in the summer is ideal as long as the range holds out. Some success can be had by using irrigated pasture but this system is more expensive. It can be worked successfully if good management practices are used. If water were available much more land could be used for this purpose when seeded to forage crops and by taking off a crop of hay and using it the balance of the season as pasture.

The feeding of beef cattle in the winter can be extended at a profit.

Hogs

Grading and high feed prices are keeping the swine population down. Until a better profit can be seen in hogs the numbers will stay down. Hogs have always been a source of income to local farmers and many more could be raised if conditions warranted the increase. Hogs 160 pounds to 190 pounds could still be profitable, as they can be raised cheaply to that weight.

Breeding

There are many good bulls in the county but there is still plenty of room for improvement. A good bull can make a profit of \$30.00 per calf over a poor one, and while the effect of such organizations as the CalOregon Hereford Breeders is seen, more educational work should be done on better sires. This recommendation applies to hogs also.

Pastures

Experience has shown that fertilization of pastures, especially with super-phosphate has a very beneficial effect on livestock, not only in better pastures but in supplying needed nutrients and minerals for the plants. These minerals are soon depleted in the soil if not replaced.

Range Management

More fences are needed around ranges and cattle guards should be installed around the Camp White area now being used by two livestock associations. Cattle on the desert area in summer spoils the range for all year and should be prohibited. A few small breeders should not be allowed to hurt the range for the whole group.

Disease and Parasites

With information and materials now available the treatment of livestock for warbles and lice should be common practice. Orchard sprayers are available for this work and control is recommended. Lice if abundant increases feeding costs and warbles decrease the value of hides as well as being a deterrent to the health of the animal.

Liver Fluke

Some sections of the county are badly infected with liver fluke. A great deal of work has been done on this but it must be done consistently year after year. Flukey livers cost the livestock producer at least \$5.00 per head, both in loss of livers upon slaughter and by affecting the health of the animal. Red water is also related to fluke. Public sentiment and cooperation on the part of livestock operators must be engaged to successfully carry on the control of this pest.

Marketing

The recently organized livestock marketing association is endorsed. This association has been formed on strictly business lines and while the local markets are now absorbing livestock at good prices, this organization is ready to start shipping any time that it will be advantageous to market cattle away from home.

The present packing house strike has affected livestock producers. We feel that if the wage increases are granted without an increase in price ceilings, the livestock producer will have to pay for the increased wage. We condemn this sort of an arrangement.

Brand Inspection

The present system of brand inspection is not adequate. Stolen stock could go through the auction yards without detection. All cattle should have a certificate, either on the highway or at the auction yards. Steps should be taken at once to remedy this situation. Laws are adequate but enforcement is negligible.

Transportation

County roads in many cases are too narrow, especially on curves, for proper transportation with long trucks. This should be taken up with the County Court and action taken to remedy this situation.

Government Price Control

The committee is in favor of price control with the subsidies taken off and the price increased to compensate. Livestock prices should also be protected from going too low as well.

Respectfully submitted,

C. C. Hoover, Chairman
Claus Charley
Vern Brophy
J. W. Bigham
Herb Carlton
Glenn Smith

REPORT OF SMALL FARMS COMMITTEE

The number of small farms of one to five acres has increased rapidly in Jackson County until now it is estimated that there are approximately 1000 of these places, mostly adjacent to the towns. The Medford Irrigation District has 445 such places of two acres or less under the ditch. The owners of these suburban places in the most part are dependent on outside work for the main source of their livelihood.

SMALL FARM OWNERS IMPORTANT FACTOR

The owners of these small farms and their families make up an important segment of the rural population of Jackson County and as such are entitled to a part in the discussions of the planning group.

The committee on small farms presents the following recommendations for consideration at the Planning Conference:

1. The acreage needed depends on size of family to supply the necessary help to meet the aims of the owner. If only a subsistence farm is desired, room for a cow including pasture, small chicken house, a pig pen and a large garden is all that is needed. One to two acres will provide the subsistence for a family of five. If more than this acreage is desired, the owner with a full time job would either have to hire help or extend himself by giving all of his leisure time to the project. This is not recommended.

2. If crops are grown for sale, consideration must be given to markets. We recommend that no crops be planted without assurance that they can be sold. Berries and other small fruits, as well as vegetables fit in very well with this type of farming, but any surplus over and above family needs will have to be marketed in some form or go to waste.

3. There are many problems confronting operators of small farms. Among these are getting fruit trees sprayed or pruned, breeding service for a cow or sow and preparing land for crops.

4. The committee recognizes the need for educational assistant to these part time farmers. However, under existing conditions it is impossible for the Extension Service to adequately render this service without additional personnel.

In view of this fact the committee recommends that these farmers organize themselves into neighborhood groups for the purpose of solving their problems and that additional help be provided the local county agents' office that these and other farm groups may have adequate educational assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

W. N. Troxell, Chairman
J. A. Mathews
W. F. Romine
Theo. Troutman

REPORT OF POULTRY COMMITTEE

CHICKENS

It can be said there are now approximately 100,000 laying hens in Jackson County. With a branch of the Pacific Poultry Producers well established here, marketing problems in eggs are to a large extent solved, as eggs can be shipped out when there is an over supply locally. This places local poultrymen on an equal footing with egg producers in other areas. This county can stand an increase in commercial flocks, as local consumption is taking all eggs produced throughout the larger part of the year. Although a 25 to 30 percent reduction is recommended for the U.S. the coast is now taking all home produced eggs.

The committee recommends that at least 2000 hens be kept in commercial flocks for economic reasons. A side line flock should be at least 500 layers and the average family flock not over 25 hens.

White Leghorns Recommended Layers

In the past few years there has been a large shift from White Leghorns to the heavy breeds, especially New Hampshires. In 1943, 46 percent of all poultry raised in Oregon was white leghorns, 34 percent New Hampshires, 7 percent Rhode Island Reds and 2 percent Barred Rocks, and the rest was various mixed breeds. The committee recommends that laying flocks on a commercial basis be confined to White Leghorns for economical production.

The demand for hatching eggs is the reason for the switch to heavy breeds. There is a definite place for each breed and the committee recommends that investigation of marketing outlets be made before going into the production of meat birds, as the margin of profit is narrow, and large scale production of fryers is necessary for profitable operation.

Poultry Requirements Listed

It requires an investment of about \$5.00 per bird to build and equip a brooder house and laying house under present conditions. About four acres of range land should be provided for each 500 pullets to be raised. It is recommended that no beginner start in the poultry business without finances. Confinement of growing pullets is approved when floor space of at least four square feet per bird is provided in conjunction with a sunporch.

Chicks should be purchased from pullorum tested flocks with particular attention being paid to breeding. All cockeralls used for breeding purposes should be from purebred flocks.

The production of hatching eggs can become an important item in poultry income and it is recommended that this business be enlarged, placing emphasis on high quality. Producers contemplating entering the hatchery egg business should first contact hatcheries or egg brokers to select the type and breed of chicken which will show the most profit.

TURKEYS

Turkey production in Jackson County has been generally stabilized at 50,000 to 60,000 birds until 1945 when approximately 85,000 turkeys were produced. The increase was largely due to OPA ceilings being more favorable in 1944, causing many new producers to start in the turkey industry. A production of 43 percent over the average of the last five years and an increase of turkey population in Oregon of 65 percent caused a break in prices which resulted in very small profit to producers.

The Rogue River valley is in a favorable situation for the production of turkeys, but the committee wishes to make the following recommendations:

1. A decrease of at least 20 percent in turkey production for 1946 in order to stabilize the market next fall and to insure marketing at a profit.

2. There is a good market for hatching eggs and this industry can be enlarged in future years especially for out-of-state shipment.

3. Attention must be given to market demand for smaller birds. More profit can be made on larger birds but the market is more limited. More attention should be given to breeding, especially with regard to type.

4. Commercial beginners should be able to finance a flock up to eight weeks of age. From that age to maturity, four main sources of credit are available to the turkey grower: The Production Credit Association, local banks, feed companies and processors.

5. No beginner in the turkey business should attempt to start without at least \$2.50 per bird capital to build brooder houses, feeding, and range equipment and land enough to provide one acre for each 100 turkeys up to five months of age.

6. In buying poults more attention should be given to the source and purchases should be made from disease-free breeding stocks.

7. Attention must be given to good management practices, rotation of pasture, clean water, good drainage and close starvation.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Luy, Chairman
Clarence Davies
Bill Penninger

Lee Wilson
Roy Sarver
Mrs. B. A. Clark

REPORT OF CROPS COMMITTEE

The total crop acreage of Jackson County has fluctuated very little in the past 25 years. Approximately 90,000 acres have been in crops annually, but there has been a change in the use to which this land has been put. At one time there were 25,000 acres of wheat grown in the county. This has now been reduced to between 5,000 and 6,000 acres annually. The greatest change that has taken place has been in the use of irrigated pasture. Twenty years ago there were not over 50 acres to this type of pasture in the county. Now this figure stands at around 16,000 acres and the gain has been made at the expense of grain crops and some alfalfa acreage. The ratio of soil depleting crop to soil conserving crop now stands at 40-60 which is a good proportion for the conservation of soil.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that subterranean clover, alta fescue or vetch mixtures for hay be used on low production lands with other dry land grasses added when adaptability is established. Tualatin oat grass may be a good grass to use also. This is a non-shattering variety of tall meadow oat grass. Land that will not produce at least 25 bushels to the acre is not profitable for grain production. The committee feels that grass seed production has a future on the poorer dry lands, paying special attention to adaptable varieties and a good seed bed.

It is recommended that the Experiment Station with the cooperation of the Extension Service and individual farmers, use larger areas in experimental work with five to 10 acre tracts for trying out grasses thought to be adaptable to this area.

Irrigated Small Seed Crops

The committee feels that there is ample room for small seed production especially when grown as a combination of hay pasture and seed. Ladino clover and lotus are the main crops at present and while the price of ladino seed may be decreased substantially it will still be a paying crop. Attention must be paid to renovating ladino fields for seed production as it deteriorates in three to five years.

Lotus seed is finding an increasingly good market and has great value as a pasture and hay crop as well. It is best adapted to the wetter and irrigated lands.

Subterranean Clover

This clover has already shown its merits in this county especially on the poorer types of soils. It has a good future both as a pasture and seed crop. It should be sown in the early fall. Common methods will not suffice in harvesting the seed and some ingenuity must be used to get the seed. It is not adapted to soils that get very wet during the winter.

Sugar Beet Seed

This crop has produced the highest yields in this county of any place where grown. It is recommended that a limited acreage be planted on good clean land that is easily irrigated, by operators that have time to give the proper care at the right time. It is a high income crop and is especially adapted to the smaller type farms. It is further recommended that it be purchased on a sliding scale based on percent of germination.

Vegetable Seeds

Some vegetable seeds have been grown locally, especially onions, carrots and cabbage. While yields have been good it is recommended that no vegetable seeds or sugar beet seed be grown without a definite contract with a reliable seed company.

Alfalfa Seed

Yields of alfalfa seed have been very poor over a period of years. It is recommended that investigations be made by the Experiment Station or any other agency to discover the cause and remedy the difficulty. If the trouble is caused by insects, DDT used as a dust may be the solution.

Sudan Grass

It is recommended that production Sudan grass seed be confined to an acreage that would ordinarily be idle.

Grains

It is recommended that no attempt be made to raise more grain than will meet the local demand. At times grain is imported from California and Klamath County for less than our farmers can raise it.

The average production of small grains per acre is being raised by the introduction of better varieties by the crops section of the Southern Oregon Experiment Station. White Federation Wheat, Rex Wheat, Velvon Barley and Trebi barley are good examples of this. Full advantage of the trials on that station should be used to advantage. New varieties of oats should be carefully watched.

Corn

Since corn is a cultivated crop and there is a definite need for the grain for turkey and chicken feed, especially, the acreage should be maintained at around 4,000 acres of recommended Hybrid varieties.

Corn is well adapted to the small acreages where the operator does his own work.

Hay Crops

It is the opinion of the committee that with our present population of livestock there is not sufficient hay for a severe winter even with an enlarged production of vetch and oats for hay. Alfalfa yields are decreasing on account of its short life.

It is recommended that the French alfalfa at the Southern Oregon Experiment Station be utilized to correct this difficulty, that the seed available this year be handled in such a manner that more seed will be available for 1947. That is is a definite strain and should be certified so that it can become a future source of marketable seed from this county.

Vetch and Oats

Continuation of the growing of vetch and oats as a rotation crop is recommended as a soil builder as well as a hay crop.

Noxious Weeds

Noxious weeds and more especially star thistle are becoming an increasingly difficult problem. An attempt has been made for several years to have star thistle placed on the list for payments for control, with the State AAA committed. This has not yet been accomplished. The committee recommends that this body go on record as asking for this again.

Many chemicals are now available for weed control, many of them not too well tried out. It is recommended that county authorities try to keep up with developments along this line and use them.

It is further recommended that the County Court continue its appropriations for control of weeds on right-of-ways. Also that the Irrigation Districts do more work along ditch banks being especially careful about cutting ripe weeds and letting them float down the ditches.

It is further recommended that all farmers pay special attention to the weeds on their own farms and make some attempt to control them.

Respectfully submitted,

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