POLK COUNTY LOOKS AHEAD

1957
FARM AND HOME PLANNING CONFERENCE
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FOREWORD

This booklet deals with the future of Polk County. It presents the judgment of a large number of local citizens concerning problems, opportunities and recommendations.

The reports contained in this book were developed by 11 committees made up of 180 men and women.

The conference organized and conducted by the county planning council, in cooperation with the Oregon State College Extension Service. Similar conferences were held in the county in 1924, 1936, and 1946.

It is the hope of your planning council and the various committees that the information contained in these reports will be of help to individuals, groups, and organizations looking to the future of the agriculture and home living of the county.

JOS. H. HARLAND,
Chairman.

Acknowledgement

The publication of this report was made possible by
The County Court of Polk County.

COPIES AVAILABLE FROM
Polk County Extension Service
Box 348
Dallas, Oregon
Polk County Facts

Polk County, located in the center of the Willamette Valley, with the Willamette River as the eastern boundary and the summit of the Coast Range the western boundary.

Principal cities include Dallas, county seat, population 5,339; Independence, population 2,000; Monmouth, population 1,570. Also, the western portion of Salem, our state capitol city, is located in the county.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total County population</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total land area</td>
<td>472,960 acres</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land in farms</td>
<td>237,321 acres</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total farms</td>
<td>1,605</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acre size farm</td>
<td>147.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field crops</td>
<td>80,000 acres</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tree fruits and nuts</td>
<td>10,500 acres</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small fruits and vegetables</td>
<td>5,000 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeded pasture</td>
<td>15,000 acres</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous crops</td>
<td>5,000 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodlands and rough pasture</td>
<td>121,821 acres</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheep (ewes)</td>
<td>22,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef animals</td>
<td>7,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dairy cows</td>
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Annual And Monthly Rainfall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Rainfall (inches)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>7.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>7.03</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>5.28</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>2.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>2.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>1.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>1.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>3.62</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>.715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>.818</td>
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Average for year—46.90

Soils varying from sandy loam on the river bottom to thin soils on some of the hills are located on 16 different major soil types.

AGRICULTURAL INCOME

Gross agricultural income from primary sale of farm products annually average $11,600,000.

1956 Cash Marketings Were:

- Animal Products: $3,000,000
- Field Crops: 3,700,000
- Horticultural Crops: 4,170,000
- Farm Forestry: 600,000
- Miscellaneous: 130,000
Polk County is served by highways U. S. 99W, running north and south, State Highway 22 in an east, west direction, as well as 800 miles of county roads.

Eight high schools in or near the county, plus 29 grade schools serve the education needs.

Oregon College of Education is located at Monmouth.

Approximately 50 churches, representing many denominations, are in the county.

Livestock Committee Report

Although Polk County has a greatly diversified agriculture, livestock is an important segment of the agricultural enterprise.

Gross income from meat animals and wool estimated for 1956 is $850,000. The past 15-year trend in livestock enterprises in the county shows an increase from 20,000 to 27,000 breeding ewes; 300 to 1,500 beef cows; and a decrease in swine production from 550 to 300 brood sows.

The county is divided into valley floor land and hill regions with ample opportunity for various types of livestock enterprise suited to utilization of forage produced primarily on hill lands, and with a concentrated type production of forage and feed crops on the valley floor.

Recommendations and suggestions contained in this committee report are the considered opinions of the committee after assembling information from farmers, members of the committee, research people from Oregon State College, and other sources.

SHEEP

Sheep is the most important livestock enterprise in the county. Three hundred and fifty farms had approximately 27,000 head of sheep on January 1, 1957.

The sheep enterprise fits into the crop production program as most farms have some pasture land acreage available, and also waste feed materials that farm flocks of sheep can utilize.

The committee recommends that there is space for more farm flocks of sheep in the county, and that many farms could increase the number of sheep in their farm flocks.

It is suggested that use of a ewe flock that is generally high in wool production with mutton-breed rams for the production of fat lambs is the most desirable combination for the average commercial flock.

One of the problems in increasing sheep flocks is the investment in fencing, which has been eliminated from many farms. The committee suggests the use of temporary fencing that can be moved from field to field.

The committee suggests that the Oregon State College Agricultural Engineering Department develop a piece of equipment that could roll out or rewind 50 to 75 rods of woven wire fencing. This might work from the power take-off on a tractor or some other suitable power equipment. This equipment could cut materially the cost of labor in using temporary fencing.
The committee recommends assistance to promotional programs that will encourage the greater use of lamb. Lamb promotional programs have stimulated the purchasing of lamb in many sections of the country.

The committee feels there is an opportunity for some sheepmen in the county to produce replacement ewes, rather than emphasizing the production of fat lambs. This may be a possibility on hill farms that have difficulty in producing an early market lamb, but do have sufficient feed to grow out a good sized ewe. In this situation, the wethers would probably be marketed as feeder lambs.

The committee recommends that more sheep producers participate in the Oregon Purebred Sheep Producers contest, as the records that are kept on these flocks will be of value to the participant.

The committee further suggests that all sheepmen keep more complete records on their sheep flocks, as this information is of assistance in culling flocks and saving replacements.

The committee commends the Polk County Fat Lamb Show committee and encourages the continuation of the show and the marketing of fat lambs.

The committee recognizes a problem in marketing wool in that cash buyers have been paying near to or above the price for wool paid by wool pools and cooperatives who are selling on a graded basis. There appears to be a discrimination on the wool market against valley wool.

The committee, therefore, recommends that a study be made of present wool marketing to determine if selling wool on a graded basis will increase the average price paid to producers.

**BEEF CATTLE**

Beef cattle numbers increased in the county right after World War II during an increased price situation. The past two years have seen a definite reduction in the number of beef cattle in the county due to the low returns particularly on cow-calf setups.

The outlook for beef cattle prices during the next few years will be about what it was in 1956 with possibly some slight decrease on a national basis.

The committee suggests that, for the most part, a cow-calf setup in this county is not profitable. The committee feels that on a few farms where a fairly large amount of pasture land is available, this type of program may still give a small return on the investment. The committee, therefore, recommends that anyone interested in a beef cow and calf setup investigate the possibilities thoroughly before making any investment in this type of program.

The committee suggests that a few livestockmen might consider a fall calving program, carrying the calves through the winter with the cows that are on good silage and other forage feeds, and then putting the calves on full feed in the spring, and marketing as small beef.

The committee suggests there is opportunity for some additional feeding of cattle in the county; however, many factors enter this situation, such as availability of existing investment in buildings and/or equipment that might be suitably used for this enterprise. Also, reasonably priced feed must be available to compete with large feed lot operations throughout the western states.

The committee emphasizes that persons going into the business of feeding cattle need to learn the technique of buying cattle, and also should become well acquainted with marketing, so that, whenever possible, cattle can be marketed at the most opportune time.

Two general types of feed lot opera-
tions are suggested and include:

(1.) Buying feeder calves or yearlings and feeding them through on a feed lot basis; and (2.) buying thin cows in winter months, putting them into a feed lot, and raising them a grade or so, then turning them to market.

Purebred beef enterprise is a very specialized marketing business and anyone interested should secure adequate information before investing in purebred beef cattle.

The committee points out that 40 per cent of the beef sold through retail channels in Oregon is dairy type beef. The group suggests that dairymen should recognize this situation, and try to do a better marketing job of dairy type animals that are going to the slaughter market.

SWINE

Since the Pacific coast states have 10 per cent of the population and only produce 1 per cent of the pork, it is recognized that there is an opportunity for increased swine production in this county. The use of good pastures and fairly cheap feed grains provides an opportunity for profitable swine production.

The committee suggests that hogging off corn is an economical way of producing pork, and will produce greater net returns per acre on corn production, due to the decreased cost of harvesting.

MARKETING

Marketing of livestock is a constant problem to producers. The committee suggests that producers avail themselves of the best market information and market outlook situation in an attempt to market the various types of livestock to the best advantage.

The committee found that in some sections of the country there is a move under way to eliminate consignment sales of finished livestock on the farm. The committee suggests that a study be made of the effect of consignment sales on market price to determine whether this is a problem in this area, and whether it would be more desirable to encourage marketing of all livestock at central market points.

The committee recommends continued emphasis on consumer education, and also suggests that producers need to pay close attention to consumer preferences in meats, and should attempt to produce a type of quality to suit the housewife.

POLK COUNTY LIVESTOCK ASSN.

The general lack of interest in the county-wide livestock association the past few years caused the committee to give considerable time to analyzing this problem and determining a program of value to producers in the county.

The committee recommends that the Polk County Livestock Association organize a year-around program that will include management and production problems, market information, consumer education type meetings, tours to farms to observe livestock management methods, etc.

The group further suggests that Polk County livestockmen participate actively in the Western Oregon Livestock Association, encourage a much larger attendance at Western Oregon association meetings, and participate in committee work and other activities of this area organization.

The committee further encourages every livestock producer to become actively interested and participate in the county livestock association.

FORAGE AND FEED PRODUCTION

The committee recognizes that increasing of livestock enterprises in the county hinges on the availability of low-cost forage and relatively low-
cost feed grains.

With the present high surplus of feed grains, it appears that for the next few years marketing of grains through livestock will be profitable.

Increasing rates of forage production by fertilization of irrigated and non-irrigated pastures, and utilizing surplus production in the spring in the form of silage and hay, as well as pasture, will provide a second source of low-cost feed.

The experiment station and others are encouraged to continue search for varieties and strains of grasses and legumes that will produce high yields and high quality feed.

**JUNIOR STOCKMEN**

Every encouragement should be given to boys and girls in 4-H clubs and Future Farmers of America work to carry livestock projects and to participate in livestockmen activities in the county.

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**Poultry Committee Report**

In analyzing the present and future opportunities in the poultry industry of Polk County, the committee utilized the advice of a number of experts as well as the experience of the various members.

The committee has presented only general recommendations, as information on specific details of facilities, management, etc., can best be obtained through farm magazines, the extension service, and from contacts with those already engaged in the industry in this area.

There are four main phases of the industry: Fryers, turkeys, hatching egg production and commercial egg production, and we will consider them in that order.

**Fryers**

Anyone contemplating entering fryer production should keep in mind that an economical unit should have capacity for a minimum of 7,500 birds. The competition is very keen, and the producer should have a contract for their sale before starting the chicks, as a drop of a few cents a pound can be disastrous.

Good sanitary practices and use of a high quality feed are essential.

Complete financing presents a dangerous trend, as it encourages unlimited expansion usually followed by price declines disastrous to the individual and to the industry.

**Turkeys**

The production of turkeys is a highly competitive business and no one should attempt to enter it without adequate financing and equipment.

The economical unit for one man should be a flock of about 5,000 in order to provide an adequate return.

At present the large turkeys bring a fair price, but small breeds are not very profitable. There may be a possibility of developing a larger market for home consumption, as the present production goes mostly into the restaurant trade.

Turkey breeding flocks may present an opportunity, especially for the larger producers. To be successful, they must be a highly advertised strain, and are usually handled in flocks of about 10,000.

However, there is some opportunity for smaller flocks of 600 hens and up if of a well-known strain with the eggs usually being handled through a larger franchised producer.
HATCHING EGG PRODUCTION

Opportunities for breeder flocks are very changeable. There is virtually none in the light breeds, as production of chicks for commercial laying flocks has become a very specialized process. Among the heavies, there is the possibility of a profitable enterprise if a good strain with high egg production is used.

Production of hatching eggs may present an opportunity for a beginner to learn the business, as breeding flocks are normally smaller than commercial egg flocks. However, no one should attempt to enter the hatching egg field without first obtaining a contract with a hatchery.

COMMERCIAL EGG PRODUCTION

Production of commercial eggs is becoming continually more specialized with the size of the economical flock unit increasing. At present, a full-time enterprise should consist of a minimum of 3,000 birds; there is a limited opportunity for part-time flocks of 1,000 up. If present trends continue, the size of these units will probably have to be increased in the next ten years in order to provide an adequate return.

Capital to provide a plant of sufficient size with labor saving devices and separate brooding facilities of sufficient size for at least 75 per cent flock replacement each year is prerequisite. Initial investment will usually be from $2 to $4 or more per bird for the plant and facilities, depending on the type of construction and the amount of work done by the individual.

Chicks of the best possible breeding should be used. These are available within the state; thus, one can avoid long distance shipments. Strict sanitation with a minimum of contact with older birds is essential. The use of multiple hatches to level yearly production and egg size is desirable, especially with reference to a late summer hatch.

Sanitary practices should continue with the laying flock, especially in reference to contact with other flocks or with any person, vehicles, etc., which may have had contacts with other flocks. This prevents spread of disease and is one of the most important factors in continued success. In case disease is suspected, the Poultry Disease Laboratory of Oregon State College, Corvallis, is available for diagnosis. A vaccination program for all diseases prevalent in the area is desirable.

High egg production is essential and a yearly average of 60 per cent or better must be achieved to insure success. Facilities for proper egg storage and care must also be provided, and failure to do so will cause egg deterioration and result in substantial price reduction, especially in warm weather. Superior egg quality is very important, as it is about the only practical defense against importation of eggs from other areas where production costs are lower.

It is the opinion of the committee that a flock for family use should be limited to a dozen or so, as more than that merely creates the problem of disposing of surplus eggs. A laying strain of heavy birds is usually best for this purpose.

4-H

A small flock of 25 or 50 pullets presents possibilities as a 4-H project. It requires a minimum of capital to start and provides a readily saleable product. Most of the equipment can be improvised or built, and little, if any, of the operation is beyond the abilities of even young members. The returns compare favorably with other livestock projects.
CONCLUSION

It is the thought of the committee that these recommendations, particularly with reference to opportunities in and returns from the various phases of the poultry industry, should be used only in a general way and in conjunction with current market situations.

While the committee feels that the conclusions are fairly accurate under present conditions, the short-term nature of the industry makes it very responsive to price changes or even changes in the general agricultural economy. This makes accurate predictions difficult, if not impossible.

Dairy Committee

The suggestions and recommendations developed in this report are based on existing situations and available outlook information to the Dairy Committee.

Size of Herds and Number of Cows:

1. The committee recognizes the trend for increasing the number of dairy cows per herd for more efficient production and lowering of unit production costs will continue.

2. The committee suggests that farm operators going into the dairy business aim at a dairy herd of 40 or more cows as an economical unit.

3. The committee suggests that those herds on factory milk production need to analyze their costs and production per cow, and recommend that good management methods be followed with these herds if they are to be put on a profitable basis.

Raising of Replacements:

1. The committee suggests that there may be an opportunity for a few farm operators to go into the business of raising high quality dairy heifers for sale at freshening time to commercial dairymen.

It is suggested that dairymen might consider agreements with such farm operators for raising good dairy heifers that they would like to have raised for replacements in their herd.

Operators who consider this type of calf raising enterprise should give careful attention to good feeding pro-
grams in calf and heifer raising.

2. The committee recommends that due to the lack of available information that Oregon State college experiment station make the necessary cost studies of raising heifers so that farm operators considering the type of enterprise mentioned above may have basic cost information to guide them.

Feeding:

1. The committee recommends that maximum use be made of feeds grown on the farm on which the dairy enterprise is located. This to include both forage and grains, where feasible.
   a. It is recommended that operators use proper fertilizer and management methods to get maximum production of forage and grains produced on their farms.
   b. Harvest roughage crops for silage or for hay at the time of highest quality.
   c. The committee recommends that a variety of forage crops be made available, whether it be for pasture, green chop, silage or a combination of these methods.
   d. It is suggested that many dairymen should consider a silage program for good forage utilization.

2. The committee suggests that feeds that are purchased that are of high quality are generally most economical.

3. The committee recommends that dairymen feed cows grain according to production to get the largest return per feed dollar cost.

4. A grading program is suggested on forages, so that purchasers could determine the protein content and total digestible nutrients available.

Breeding and Production Testing:

1. The committee recommends that dairymen pay close attention to selection of herd sires, as well as females in the herd. The committee further suggests that artificial breeding groups can supply good breeding for all herds.

2. The committee recommends that all dairymen follow some type of production testing which is important to culling cows and selecting replacements. The following plans are available in Polk county:
   1. Official testing.
   2. The standard DHIA program.
   3. The owner-sampler program under the DHIA.
   4. The Oregon weigh-a-day program, which is particularly recommended for small herds.

3. The committee recommends that all heifers to be raised for replacement be tattooed or otherwise identified.

4. There is opportunity for additional purebred breeders to produce foundation stock in the county.

Marketing and Public Relations:

1. The committee recommends that dairy programs presented by the dairy industry to Chambers of Commerce, service clubs and other groups is an important function in public relations.

2. The committee recommends that in advertising dairy products, this advertising continue to be tied to other food products on an industry-wide basis, as well as direct dairy product advertising.

The group considered various marketing problems or marketing situations, and have the following recommendations:

a. It is recommended that chocolate milk be added to the school milk program, as it was felt this would get a greater usage of milk.

b. It is recommended vending machines to dispense milk be used in schools, public buildings and other locations in order to stimulate the use of milk.
c. The committee recommends that the state of Oregon make the maximum use of dairy products in state-operated institutions.

d. The committee anticipates that any increased milk production in the county will primarily be in Grade A production for a fluid milk trade.

**Disease and Inspection:**

1. The committee recognizes that good sanitary conditions on dairy farms is still important to control of diseases.

2. The committee recommends that Oregon State college experiment station emphasize research work on the control of mastitis which is one of the most difficult problems in dairy production today.

3. The committee recommends that the testing of all cattle for brucellosis be carried on under the State Department of Agriculture as recommended in the bill to be presented to the legislature in early 1957.

4. In reference to inspections, the committee makes the following recommendations:

   a. It is recommended that state inspection cover all dairy herds in the state, rather than a divided inspection as exists now between city and state in some localities.

   b. It is recommended that pasteurized count on bacteria be used instead of the raw milk count.

   c. It is recommended that dairymen work toward one grade for all milk sold in the state for human consumption and that each producer share alike on the market.

**4-H and F.F.A.:**

During 1956, there were 55 4-H members enrolled in dairying in the county. The committee recognizes the importance of 4-H and FFA work in the dairy project and suggests that it be stressed in the county wherever possible. The committee further recommends that dairymen take more interest in assisting leaders of general 4-H livestock clubs and also FFA instructors, particularly with members who are carrying the dairy project.

**Labor:**

1. The committee recognizes that trained dairy help is generally unavailable. The committee suggests that dairymen check on references presented by the applicant in order to select a high quality dairy worker.

2. When a number of dairymen find a need for additional experienced dairy help, it is suggested that they group together and advertise as a group in other parts of the nation where there might be a source of experienced dairy labor.

3. The committee recognizes that some dairymen have found an incentive type payment to be helpful in retaining experienced dairy help.

4. The committee recommends that dairymen investigate labor-saving equipment and make the increased investment where found feasible.
Field Crops Committee Report

The field crops committee discussed the situation in Polk County as it pertains to the various field crops such as cereals, forage crops, seed crops, etc., and made recommendations for the future.

Approximately 100,000 acres are devoted to field crops, and an estimate of the 1956 cash marketings directly from field crops was $3,700,000.

CEREALS

Barley

Barley constitutes the major cereal crop in Polk County with approximately 25,000 acres in annual production.

1. The committee recommends that Hannchen barley continue to be produced in the county, as malting barley. The committee discourages any other varieties of barley being brought into the county, due to the possibility of mixture of varieties, which throw all of the barley into feed grade.

2. The possibility of organizing a barley pool for selling of malting barley was suggested to the committee. The committee agreed to secure information from Klamath Falls and other areas in the state and out of the state that may have attempted a pooling of their crops, in order to get some basic information to present to the barley growers of the county at a later time.

CORN

Corn is being raised by a few growers. Grower experience shows mid-April planting is desirable, but requires additional nitrogen application.

The committee suggests that corn is a desirable crop for silage and also for hogging off with a swine enterprise.

SEED CROPS

Seed crops acreage has been gradually reduced in the county due primarily to lowered prices.

1. The committee recommends increased production of seed crops in Polk County whenever market conditions and price outlook appear to warrant increased acreages.

2. Hairy vetch is recognized as a good seed crop on hill lands in the county. Growers are cautioned, however, to investigate demand and possible prices before increasing acreage.

3. The committee recommends that Highland bent acreage not be increased due to the fact that it is a difficult plant to eliminate when switching to other crops; also, in general, the few plantings in the county have been unable to get yields satisfactory enough to compete with other Highland bent producing areas.

4. The committee suggests that orchard grass might be considered for planting for seed production. Although this is a lower-yielding grass than alta fescue, there is generally a larger demand for this type of grass.

5. It was suggested that Merion bluegrass may be planted on a very limited basis, but growers should recognize that it is a plant difficult to eradicate from the land and, as production increases, there will definitely be a decrease in price.

6. The committee feels that crimson clover should be increased in acreage in the county particularly on well-drained soils, and should be used in a cropping rotation.

7. Although the alta fescue outlook seems to be slightly improved, it is
suggested that there be no increase in plantings in the immediate future; but the committee does suggest that those who have good fields of alta fescue continue them in production.

FORAGE PRODUCTION

The committee recognizes that the greatest opportunity for improvement in forage production is the better selection of forage crops and more timely harvesting of forage crops for higher quality.

1. The committee recommends that farmers consider increasing acreage of alfalfa as rapidly as possible for forage production and for the additional value of soil-building purposes.

2. The committee recommends increased acreage of clover for forage and seed production, with clover to be used in a reasonably short-term rotation.

3. The committee suggests that forage for hay and silage be harvested earlier than is the normal practice in the county in order to secure a higher quality of feed.

4. The committee recommends increased planting of lotus, particularly on poorly drained soils. It was pointed out that grower experience has shown that lotus must be planted alone, as a good stand cannot be established with a high amount of competition.

5. It was suggested that farm operators make more use of silage for livestock feed, as this is a good method of preserving a high-quality forage at a time when most of the food value is available from the plants.

6. The committee suggests that pastures be used on a rotation basis on most farms. Using pastures on a short rotation basis will build soil fertility and return more to the producer.

7. The committee suggests that many farmers consider the use of more short-term pastures, such as sudan grass, annual ryegrass, etc.

CLEAN SEED PROGRAM

The committee places considerable emphasis on improving cultural methods and using well-cleaned and true varieties of seed in production of field crops.

Mixtures of weed seeds, other varieties, and other types of seeds increase cleaning costs and make the warehouseman's job of providing clean seed more difficult.

1. Farmers should secure the highest quality seed available for all crops.

2. The committee suggests that including spring grains and hay crops in rotation will tend to cut down weed infestation.

3. The committee suggests use of fall farming practices that would tend to eliminate as many weeds as possible, such as disking early after harvest, and then leaving the seeds to germinate before final working for planting of fall crop; this would be of material assistance in improving the weed situation.

4. The committee recommends that farmers and warehousemen do everything possible to produce a high-quality clean seed; that care be taken in cleaning and processing; and further that clean high-quality seeds be distributed for seed purposes in the county, rather than shipped out in normal trade.

WEED CONTROL

Weed control ties in very closely with a clean seed program.

1. Major attention should be given on the part of farm operators to controlling wild garlic, onion, quackgrass, wild oat, Canada thistle, morning glory, wild pea, and other weeds.

2. The committee recommends that selective and non-selective chemical weed control be utilized to the highest possible degree in order to improve control of weeds. The committee further recommends the use of row crops
wherever profitable; this also constitutes an opportunity to practice weed control.

DISEASES AND INSECT PESTS

1. The committee recommends that more research be carried out on practical control of various diseases that affect annual legumes such as sclerotinia, black stem, foot rot, etc.
2. Seedling blight in Hannchen barley has affected production in some sections of the county; therefore, it is recommended that research be carried on to find fungicides more effective for seed treatment.
3. The committee recommends that every farmer who produces hairy vetch and Austrian peas carry on a control program for the pea and vetch weevil.
4. The committee recommends that Oregon State College Experiment Station do everything possible to develop or point out an economical and efficient control of nitidulid beetle in red clover.

SOIL FERTILITY

The committee notes a great increase in the use of commercial fertilizers during the past few years, and predicts that the trend will continue.
1. The committee recommends that every farmer avail himself of the opportunity to secure soil tests to be used as a guide for fertilizer programs.
2. The committee further recommends that Oregon State College Soils Department do everything possible to continue research on various fertilizers and minor elements.
3. The committee recommends that all organic matter in the form of straw residue, green manure crop, and other materials be utilized in a well-rounded soil fertility program.

FARM STORAGE

The committee urges all farmers with a considerable acreage of grain and seed crops to investigate the feasibility of farm storage for their particular farm.

MARKETING

1. The committee recommends that advertising and promotion of grain and seed crops be carried on through the various commissions, seed trade, and all other means with the aim of increasing sales of Oregon-grown seeds.
2. The committee recommends that dealers, brokers, and others in the export trade give close attention to selling good merchantable commodities into foreign markets in order that foreign markets may be maintained.

EXPERIMENTAL WORK

1. The committee recommends that Oregon State College do research work and studies to determine the comparison of net income from grain crops with forage crops raised for sale and/or forage crops utilized through livestock.
2. With the possibility of increased irrigation through the possible development of the Monmouth-Dallas project, it is recommended to the Oregon State College Experiment Station that attention be given to new crops that can be brought into the area, particularly those that can be utilized on irrigated land.
3. The committee further recommends that emphasis be placed on research work to develop grasses and legumes particularly suited to irrigated conditions.

MANAGEMENT

1. Due to the present conditions of increasing taxes, cost of farm implements and supplies and lower prices, the committee suggests that each farm operator give careful attention to selection of crops and over-all manage-
ment.

2. As possibilities vary on different farms, an analysis of crop possibilities subject to varying conditions of each farm should be made by each farm operator.

Horticulture—Tree Fruits Committee Report

SWEET CHERRIES

Dead Bud Disease

A superior quality of cherries is grown in the Willamette Valley, and several million dollars worth are sold throughout the United States each year. This industry in Polk County and the Willamette Valley is threatened by a disease known as “dead bud,” for which there is no known cure.

The disease has spread to almost all orchards in the Willamette Valley. Many growers fear that, if the disease is not controlled in a short time, the cherry industry of the Willamette Valley will be lost. Oregon State College has one man devoting his entire time to finding a control, and in the judgment of this committee, he is doing an excellent job. However, due to the fact that the disease is rapidly threatening the cherry industry of the Willamette Valley, the committee recommends that adequate help be furnished this man, so that the disease may be controlled at the earliest possible time.

The committee recommends that growers continue experiments with sprays and fertilizers to try to control the disease. It may be a grower who will find a cure, and certainly it is his problem.

The committee also recommends that progress and results of the study of dead bud be disseminated to the growers as soon as possible.

New Plantings

The committee has found that the freeze of 1955 killed many cherry trees in eastern Oregon and eastern Washington. Many orchards are old and must be removed in a few years. Dead bud is taking its toll. The Royal Ann variety of cherries grown in the Willamette Valley is of superior quality for manufacturing maraschino and glace cherries. Taking these factors into consideration, the committee recommends continued planting of virus-free Royal Ann cherries on suitable soil.

Stock

The committee recommends that careful attention be given to planting stock and that only virus-free rootstock grafted with virus-free scionwood should be planted.

Grafting and Budding

The committee recommends that a school on grafting and budding be held in Polk County.

Tariff

The committee recommends no reduction in tariff on cherries, and requests that all cherry growers be alert to any proposed decrease in tariff on cherries, and be prepared to protest to our congressmen and senators about any attempted reduction.

Because of cheap labor in foreign nations, they can manufacture maraschino and glace cherries cheaper than we can. They can also ship by boat to New York cheaper than we from the west coast can ship by rail to New York. If there was no tariff on cherries, foreign nations would sell them in America much cheaper than we
could produce them. This would destroy the cherry industry in our country.

**Soil Improvement**

The committee recommends that growers improve the soils in the orchards by the use of lime, phosphate, nitrogen, manure, and cover crops. They also recommend that growers experiment by growing a sod crop of sub clover or any clover on part of their orchard on a trial basis in order to learn more about permanent cover crops.

**Marketing of Cherries**

Marketing of cherries for Polk County growers is declared satisfactory.

**Deer**

The committee recommends that a plan to eradicate deer which are devastating orchards be devised and presented to the State Legislature immediately.

**Test for Worms**

The committee recommends that a strict examination for worms in cherries shipped into this country from foreign nations be maintained.

**Labor Camps**

The committee recommends that growers improve their labor camps so that government intervention will not be necessary.

**Effects of Sprays**

The committee recommends that a study be made by entomologists and soil scientists of the effects of sprays on the ground, especially arsenate of lead, and that they report to growers the results of the study.

**Pruning and Training**

The following general rules have proven desirable and profitable:

1. Select planting stock with good size and as young as the industry will offer.

2. Start immediately to train young trees to grow the shape that is desired. This ofentimes means summer pruning, as well as winter pruning.

3. The trees need to be and can be formed in the period prior to the first fruit. All heavy cutting needs to be done during this time.

4. Only corrective pruning should be done after the trees come into bearing.

**SOUR CHERRIES**

This tree fruit has many problems common to sweet cherry production, such as insect and disease control. They are often found growing in the same orchard. New plantings often use this crop as filler or semi-permanent plants in longer-lived orchards of other tree fruits and nuts.

Virus diseases are extremely important to sour cherry orchardists. All new plantings should be made using only virus-free planting stock. Growers should request this stock and expect to receive the same from nursery sources.

Sour cherry orchards need to have special attention in removing diseased trees, and a carefully planned spray program to prevent disease spread by insects.

The committee feels that new plantings should be made only when packers indicate a need for additional acreages. Some interest is being expressed this year; however, growers should not interpret any one year's request as a long-range trend.

**PRUNES**

The spring of 1955 marked the turning point in the prune production pic-
ture. Prior to this period, the goal of many orchardists and general farmers was to remove prune orchards rather than to increase plantings of the same fruit. In 1955, new plantings greatly exceeded acres of old orchards removed.

In new plantings somewhat closer attention has been given to locating young orchards on the correct soil types with due consideration to both water and air drainage. Orchardists feel that all tree fruits must be well-planned orchards on the correct planting sites in order to be successful ventures. The failure to do this planning in many cases is considered one of the contributing factors to the low dollar return to many orchards over the past 30 to 35 years.

Prune producers and people handling this crop continue to express an interest in additional new plantings. New plantings, it is felt, are necessary to replace the old orchards which are now going out of economic production.

Producers and packers are well aware that the contributing economic factors of success in prunes will be size and quality. Fruit sizes will have to be controlled, and markets developed for respective sizes. Most growers, as well as dryers, processors, and distributors, realize the importance of producing a high quality fruit and one which offers uniformity.

Both dryermen and processors are indicating an interest in wanting to recognize fruit quality and size as fruit is delivered to the plants. Growers are also of the opinion that, if processors and handlers of the prune crop can cooperate with the growers in receiving the fruit on a quality basis and adjusting price accordingly, both the producer and the ultimate consumer, as well as those who process the product, will benefit.

There are those in this industry who believe that grades should be established, and that standardization should be adhered to by all processors and dryermen receiving the prune crop. If such a program can be established, producers are of the opinion that use of the judgment of a disinterested third person would be the best way to achieve grade standardization method of marketing the crop.

All major dryermen in the county feel that moisture determination equipment needs to be present in all plants. This will enable the dryermen to standardize the moisture content of the dried fruit as it leaves the drying tunnels. This will take the guesswork out of percentage of moisture when offered for sale.

It is recommended that the Oregon State College Horticultural Department or Food Technology Department be encouraged to initiate a program in the county in cooperation with growers and dryermen to determine the sugar content of fruit at time of harvest. Growers and dryermen alike feel that harvest dates may possibly be established on a sugar content basis of the fruit. The wide range in sugar content and degree of ripeness of fruit for the past several years has caused trouble to the dryermen, and eventually the producer is affected.

A hormone study program was started in the county in 1955 with no particular results. In 1956, growers started using large amounts of growth regulating materials on the prune crop and did secure noticeable fruit size increases and effect on color and sugar content. It would seem that additional work should be done on this crop to study more carefully the effect of growth regulating materials. It is recommended by the committee that Oregon State College research department in horticulture establish long-range and complete hormone application studies on this tree fruit at the earliest possible date. Size of fruit is very important to the industry and has been the thing which has caused reduced prices during the past few years. Indications are that hormones may help
this situation.

Growers in the county, as well as neighboring growers around the area, are indicating a definite interest in knowing more about growers’ organizations. It seems advisable from the growers’ standpoint to have a well organized prune growers’ group in the county; or, if possible, to include other counties around to make it as large a group as possible which would represent the prune industry of the Willamette Valley.

Labor needs, in harvesting the prune crop, have been increasingly difficult to meet. In 1956, federal labor law enforcement programs concerning the use of school youngsters led to some definite problems. Labor committees in the prune growers’ association have worked closely with local school administrators who have cooperated to the utmost in providing school students for prune harvest. It would seem advisable that this particular crop enterprise should cooperate with other crop enterprises in the county, and should investigate the possibility of setting up a labor council to work with local, state and federal agencies to provide a labor flow to harvest these crops.

Very little work has been done in the county to study various types of rootstocks and varieties. The committee would recommend that such a program be initiated at the earliest possible date. Because of a common wet foot condition in many orchards, it is recommended by the committee that particular emphasis be placed on selecting or securing rootstock materials which are somewhat more tolerant to higher moisture conditions than our present peach rootstocks and other varieties of rootstocks used on the Italian and other prunes. Disease resistance should also be included in the rootstock study program.

**PEACHES**

Peaches have been arriving in the Willamette Valley sales area from other areas in the state and from out-of-state in used or old orchard boxes, without any particular attention being paid to quality of fruit. The committee would recommend that state inspection is needed for fruits and nursery stocks coming into the area in order to protect growers and markets against poor quality fruit which results in reduced prices. It would cut to a minimum the possibility of insect and disease problems which might become a menace to the industry.

Oriental fruit moth was reported in the area in 1956. The extent of infestation should be thoroughly determined, and an area control program should be arranged at the earliest date to protect the industry from this insect.

Local production does not meet the needs of the local demand for peaches in the Willamette Valley. Peach production has been short because climatic conditions have made this crop a hazardous enterprise.

The importation of low-quality fruit from peach-producing areas in the northwest has created a local market problem that has discouraged additional acres of peaches in the area. Consumer education in buying roadside peaches is badly needed.

Under present marketing methods, there are many variations in the way the commodity is prepared for sale. Local growers have paid little attention to sizes of containers; size of fruit being offered has a wide range; and no standard of quality is being used by growers as a whole in presenting this commodity to the consumer.

There is a continuing need for variety study and demonstration plantings in the county. Growers express an interest both in very early varieties and in varieties of the peach which would fall between Hale Haven
and Elberta. Growers are of the opinion that the largest volume of peaches to be sold locally will still be of the canning varieties.

Peach leaf curl continues to be the most difficult disease problem. Growers suggest that this program might be of considerably more aid if each were informed more specifically about the time to apply control measures. It is felt that more information is needed on the part of the growers in order to understand the importance of timing, and also the use of fungicidal material in the control of peach leaf curl.

APPLES

At present, local production of apples falls far short of the consumption in the county. If additional acreage of this fruit is to be planted in the county, new growers will have to pay particular attention to the most desirable varieties to be grown, and, at all times, a quality-type fruit must be kept in mind. Special markets will have to be developed, and present sales would indicate that an early apple or a late general-purpose apple may offer the best return for new plantings.

It would seem advisable that growers interested in developing new apple orchards might want to consider using dwarf fruit stocks. Through the use of dwarf fruit stock, earlier bearing trees may be had, and growers now using it indicate that the cost of thinning, insect and disease control, and harvesting is greatly reduced with this type of orchard. The committee recommends that any backyard plantings or small family orchard plantings of apples or pears should be made with dwarf stocks.

Careful consideration of the fertilizer program is important. Boron deficiency is beginning to show in apples. Many growers in the county are not familiar with the newer varieties introduced during the past few years. The committee suggests that demonstration plantings be made in the county in order to observe the characteristics of these new varieties under our conditions, and to familiarize both the commercial and the home grower.

PEARS

Because of present processing facilities and the apparent shortage of this tree fruit in the county the past five years, it would seem advisable that growers might do well to investigate an increased planting of pears. Growers now producing high quality Bartlett pears for processing have found it to be a good crop for them.

Pears are a tree fruit that has responded very favorably to irrigation, giving the best economic return under this management. It would seem advisable for those interested in establishing pear plantings that irrigation be considered one of the desirable practices in this program. Careful consideration to fertilizer programs is important. Boron deficiency is a problem with pears.

NUTS

A steady decline in the total tree numbers in the county has resulted during the past 10 years. No new plantings have been made to offset the definite downward trend in trees during this period.

The committee feels there is a definite place for more nuts in the overall tree fruit production picture of the county, and would recommend that planting of new nut crops would be most timely.

Careful consideration should be paid to the location of either new filbert or walnut orchards. The valley soils are better suited for nut production, and new orchards would be best located in this area on the deeper and better-drained soils. This will be very important in making the nut crop a
more economic enterprise.

Well managed and properly fertilized cover crops in orchards are necessary for sound soil building for the best economic yield returns. Adequate research has been done in the area to make sound recommendations as to the fertilizer program needed in nut culture.

The committee feels that mechanical harvesting, wherever possible, is needed not only to facilitate speedier harvest of the crop, but to lower production costs and make the nut crop a more profitable one.

The committee recommends to each potential new grower that he pay particular attention to concentrated plantings or planting systems to increase the total number of trees per acre in the early developing stage of the orchard. The walnut orchardists in the area feel strongly (and have some economic figures to back up their thinking) that inter-planting is quite practical.

The committee recommends that new planters of walnuts pay particular attention to the black line disease. Regular common black walnut or California black walnut rootstocks should not be used as understock material. Prior to selecting understock material, every effort should be made to find the latest research information regarding the control of this disease.

Walnut blight continues to be the major source of trouble as far as disease is concerned. The committee recommends that more attention can be paid to this disease by growers.

The committee recommends that more importance be placed on the control of the filbert worm and leaf roller at educational programs in the county, and that growers should be urged to make more complete control of these pests. Both these insect pests are becoming a larger threat to the economics of this crop.

Small Fruit And Vegetable Committee Report

Research is the key to continuation of successful fruit and vegetable production in Polk County and the state. These are highly competitive and fast moving crops. If research and the prompt application of its results is not expanded, other areas will continue to be or become dominant in these crops.

Of foremost importance is the development and testing of new varieties which are disease-free and resistant, high-yielding for low unit cost, and have the premium quality which will demand the retail price differential that is necessary to much of our markets under the present freight rate structure.

The intensive investigation of cultural practices on existing important commercial varieties that will increase yield, lower cost, and improve quality is imperative for the same reasons. Disease and insect control must be improved and herbicides made more selective. The prompt evaluation of the rapidly expanding list of new chemicals on these crops must be carried out. More complete and exact fertilizer requirements, particularly of small fruits, must be obtained. The increased use of research personnel supervised farm test plots might speed these programs and their application and reduce their cost.

The present methods of financing research are not adequate to meet the urgent needs of these industries. The farmers and processors are not re-investing in research an amount proportionate to the value of these crops. It is the feeling of this group that the farmers should organize on a commodity basis for the specific purpose of financing increased research on
particular commodities.

The investigation of the possibilities of the growth of crops not now produced commercially in this area, and preliminary cultural and cost data should not be neglected.

The committee recommends assessment of growers for supplemental research for strawberries.

The committee recommends that all small fruit and vegetable crops will be most successful economically over the long run if they continue to operate under non-supported non-subsidized free competitive market.

The committee feels farmers should steer clear of one-crop agriculture and of the other extreme, over-diversification.

In the course of the committee study, it became apparent that the county census acreage figures on many crops are often in error from 100% to 200%. Since these figures are extremely important through their influence on prices, efforts must be made to improve them.

The committee feels that Oregon State College should make a definite effort to furnish cost of production figures for small fruits and vegetable crops. These figures should be compiled from the main production areas of the various crops throughout the United States.

Any information available as to the reason for lower cost in a certain area is to be included in the above report.

The committee realizes that this type of information is difficult to obtain, and probably impossible to get on all crops at this time. However, we feel that this information would be of very great practical value in planning our planting program, especially in semi-permanent crops such as berries, or where there is a heavy capital outlay to get into production, such as beans.

Anyone considering planting small fruits or vegetable crops should obtain all the information possible as to cost of production. Also capital outlay for irrigation and specialized equipment necessary to run a large enough operation for an economical unit should be available.

The growth of cane berry production in the past 10 years has not been as great as was anticipated in our last report. Larger yields in different types of soils are increasing tonnages per acre. Several new varieties have recently been introduced which have given a helping hand to the yields of the county.

The committee favors expansion of these cane, trailing, and similar small fruits in this county where markets permit.

Plant diseases have been held to a minimum, but much research is needed along this line.

Probably the greatest need in this type of fruit is the opening of new markets and more exports so that we will have an outlet for our fruit. These fruits are felt to be a good stable fruit crop for Polk County whenever soil conditions are proper.

Since the local processors are now operating at capacity, and there still remains several thousand acres of land suitable for small fruit and vegetable production, a fresh market outlet for these products would be very desirable. However, the committee feels that a large market in this direction is not very probable, due to the lateness of our season and due to distance from large population centers. Nevertheless, the committee feels that research on this branch of marketing would be a wise investment.

The committee also feels that for farmers with the right location and enough time and know-how to properly merchandise a quality product, opportunity exists in the local market.

The committee suggests expansion and development of federal and state grading of small fruits and vegetables for processing under the existing available services.
The committee suggests that research must find new varieties and new record yields in both variety and through better cultural practices if local strawberry productions is to continue as an economic crop.

The committee recommends the continuation of research breeding of bean varieties, keeping growers informed of the progress of this work. This crop should be ready to move immediately in the direction necessary to meet national production and quality.

Bean growers are very much interested in research work, using hormone or growth-regulating materials in effecting blossom set.

Land And Water Resources Committee Report

The land and water resources committee dealt primarily with the water problems and needed land use adjustments in Polk County in their investigational work and recommendation making.

WATER DEVELOPMENT

Irrigation

Nine thousand acres of land are now irrigated in the county. This is approaching the maximum acreage due to lack of underground water; also most streams in the county now have more permits issued for irrigation than there is water available.

The only area in the county that has satisfactory irrigation wells is that land adjacent to and in the Willamette River flood plain.

1. The committee recognizes the importance of the Monmouth-Dallas reclamation irrigation project study and urges the Bureau of Reclamation to complete the feasibility survey as rapidly as possible. The committee further suggests that all persons in the area affected become familiar with the studies being made at present, so that when the feasibility survey is completed, each person will be adequately informed to assist in making decisions as to whether or not this organization should be completed in developing this irrigation project.

2. The committee endorses the request made to the Corps of Army Engineers to make a complete survey of the water storage possibilities on Rickreall Creek and Luckiamute River, with the possibility of supplying more adequate water for irrigation purposes.

3. The committee encourages the investigation of possible water storage sites on all farms, and further suggests that water storage facilities be constructed as rapidly as possible wherever found to be feasible.

4. It is suggested that the Bureau of Reclamation and/or the Corps of Army Engineers make a re-survey of the Yamhill River Basin, and also possible surveys on Salt Creek and Mill Creek, to determine feasibility of storage of water for irrigation.

Flood Control

Annual floods continue to cause considerable damage to agricultural land and other land and facilities on the Rickreall Creek, Luckiamute River and the Willamette River flood plain.

Peak floods during the winter of 1955-56 caused approximately $500,000 damage in the county.

1. The committee urges the further investigation of possible storage of water for flood control purposes of the Luckiamute River and Rickreall Creek on the part of the Corps of Army Engineers.

It is recommended that the survey also include channel clearance and
alignment on these two streams as possible flood control measures.

2. It is suggested that Oregon State College prepare a bulletin or leaflet on methods of controlling stream bank erosion, which would be of help to landowners, particularly on smaller streams and other streams where the project of bank maintenance is small enough to be undertaken by individual land owners.

3. It is the opinion of this committee that maintenance and bank erosion work, particularly on Luckiamute River, Rickreall Creek, and Willamette River, is of a size that cannot be handled by individuals. It is recommended that persons in the areas approach the problems on a community or area-wide basis.

4. It is recommended that the Corps of Army Engineers make complete studies of the damage to agricultural land due to the release of water from flood control dams on the Willamette River system. The opinion of some land owners on the Willamette River flood plain is that the holding of the level of the Willamette River at a higher level through the release of stored water, has caused considerable damage to agricultural land during the past few years.

Domestic Water

The lack of adequate domestic water has become a problem, not only to towns but to rural areas of the county, as the use of water increases in the home and on the farm.

Polk County appears to be very short in underground water for domestic use and other uses. Quite often when wells are drilled, salt water is encountered.

1. The committee requests that the U. S. Geological Survey group be requested to make a complete survey of Polk County to determine the underground water situation. This information would be valuable to new people coming into the county, as well as to people in the county who wish to try to secure additional underground water supply.

2. It is recommended that people take steps on a community basis to organize domestic water systems as rapidly as stored water or other water sources become available to the county. In the next few years, as population increases, the development of water storage facilities for domestic use as well as distribution facilities to rural areas will become increasingly important.

3. As a number of farms in the county have found that trench type wells have proved satisfactory for water for livestock and other uses on the farm, it is suggested by the committee that Oregon State College prepare a pamphlet of basic information on the construction and sanitation of a trench type well.

4. It is suggested that new families coming into the county make adequate determination of water supplies on places in which they may be interested because of the general lack of underground water.

Industrial Use of Water

Continued industrial expansion in Polk County is hampered by the lack of water. It is recognized that water development programs to provide more water for irrigation, domestic use, and other uses would also materially assist in providing opportunity for increased industrial development in the county, and particularly agricultural processing industries which are heavy users of water.

Drainage

Drainage has long been recognized as Polk County's No. 1 problem. Farmers generally recognize the value of good drainage and therefore are installing tile and open ditch drainage
as rapidly as economically feasible.

During the past 10 years, approximately 1,300 miles of tile drainage systems have been placed on Polk County farms.

A number of medium-size drainageways have been improved through Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committee pooling agreements. However, there are still a number of drainageways or portions of drainageways in the county that need to be further opened up through community effort, before complete drainage systems can be installed in those areas.

1. The committee recommends that people take steps on a community basis to complete drainage projects already started on such streams as Salt Creek, Ash Creek, Baskett Slough, and Ash Swale.

2. The committee recommends that people take steps on a community basis through pooling agreements or other means to provide major drainageways for adequate drainage outlet for all farms in the county.

3. It is recommended that community groups on major drainageways now developed and those to be developed in the future, work together in some type of organization, such as the water control district or other legal entity, in order to provide an orderly maintenance of improved drainage facilities.

4. The committee recommends that all farm owners and operators continue emphasis on improving drainage facilities, either in open ditch or tile lines or combination of both, as rapidly as possible.

5. The committee recommends that the county ASC committee place emphasis on open ditch drainage on the main stems of the various streams in order to provide better outlets for tile systems. The committee further suggests that the county ASC committee develop the program of increasing assistance on open ditches as stated above and possibly decrease assistance on tile or other practices.

6. The committee recognizes the need for development of drainage on Soap Creek and Berry Creek in the south portion of the county. The committee recommends that residents in this area investigate various methods and assistance programs available on a community basis, such as ASC pooling agreements, in order to correct this drainage problem.

The population increase in the county is increasing problems of sewage disposal. The committee recommends that various communities should make investigations to determine the future sewage disposal developments necessary to take care of existing and future problems.

**Watersheds**

It is recognized that the restoration of watersheds is improving with reforestation and improved selective logging methods. Continued development of watersheds is important to the area in providing additional sources of stored water.

The committee, therefore, recommends that, in view of the anticipated increased population in this area, a program of acquisition of watershed and recreational areas by communities in the county and state would benefit the area in years to come.

**LAND USE ADJUSTMENT**

The committee recognizes the need for continued analyses by farm operators of their own farming operations, and to plan the best use and selection of enterprises suitable to the size farm and type of tillable land available.

It is expected that economic conditions will continue the consolidation of farms, and the operation of more acres by individual operators for economical family-size farm units.

If the development of an irrigation project, such as the Monmouth-Dallas
project, should come about, it is expected that, in that particular area, there would be a gradual reduction in the size of farm units as the amount of irrigated acres increases.

1. The committee recommends that farm operators follow proven conservation methods that are designed to conserve and build the fertility of the soil.

2. It is suggested that farm operators investigate the possibility of planting trees on steep and less-productive land that might be suitable for Christmas trees or long-range timber production.

3. The committee suggests that persons interested in farm forestry and other reforestation practices become acquainted with and utilize the reforestation act in tree farm development.

4. It is recommended that farm operators utilize perennial grasses and legumes for a forage production program rotating this forage production around the farm over a period of years. Farmers are encouraged to utilize live-stock enterprises on their farms to the best advantage.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

The committee called attention to the cost-sharing available under regular ASC practices such as drainage, liming, seeding of perennial grasses and legumes, etc.

1. The committee recommends that farmers avail themselves of the opportunity for federal assistance on approved practices.

2. The committee recommends that all farmers became acquainted with the conservation reserve and acreage reserve features of the Soil Bank, and utilize these programs where they will fit into the farm operator's program.

3. It is recommended that groups of farmers on some of the smaller streams in the county investigate the small watershed act and secure all facts, so that they can be well-informed, and then determine whether or not this program might be of help in the over-all water problems of their area.
Farm Forestry Committee Report

Farmers in Polk County are showing an increasing interest in growing forest trees both for timber and Christmas trees. An increase in the wholesale price of timber in recent years, estimated at 272 per cent increase since 1940, and increased markets for cultured Christmas trees have made timber growing a profitable enterprise on many farms in the county.

Data on forest land in the county is shown in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forest Data For Polk County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total land area of the county*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total land area in farms*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodland in farms* **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of farms in woodland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total area in commercial forest***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ownership of commercial forest land***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privately owned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureau of Land Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other public****</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1954.
**Includes 62,455 acres of commercial forest land and 11,558 acres of non-commercial forest.
****Includes State, County, Municipal and Indian ownership.

Of the privately owned commercial forest land, approximately 20,000 acres is owned by 1,297 owners who have holdings of no more than 99 acres each. Approximately 30,000 acres are owned by 244 owners with holdings of from 100 to 499 acres each. Twenty-seven thousand acres of commercial forest land is owned by 43 different owners with holdings of from 500 to 1,999 acres. The remainder of the commercial forest area, approximately 107,000 acres, is in the hands of about 10 different individuals or corporations.

The farm woodland area of the county classified as commercial forest consists primarily of second growth fir, cut-over land covered with scattered conifers and brush, and mixed stands of hardwoods. The non-commercial forest land included in farm woodlands is covered primarily with scrub oak and other brush and is located in the non-forested area of the county.

The farm forestry committee concerns itself primarily with the smaller tracts of commercial forest land and the non-commercial forest land located on farms. The development of forestry on these lands, some of which now is unproductive, will bring in greater income to the owners and will benefit the general economy of the county.

Forest Management

Intensified management is recommended for farm woodlands in Polk County. It is recognized that economic conditions force some timber owners to clear cut immature stands. When this is practiced, the re-planting of forest trees on adapted land is recommended.

The thinning and pruning of forest trees on farm woodlands is recom-
mended to increase growth and quality. The committee recommends the practice of thinning lightly and frequently, in order to prevent throwing away the thinnings that are not marketable in one year, but which may be sold in later years. A buffer strip should be left around the edges of all thinned forest areas, in order to prevent windthrow. Another forestry practice advocated in thinning is the cutting of stumps close to the ground.

Continued educational activities to promote the proper management of farm woodlands is advocated. The Oregon State College Extension Service in cooperation with the State Board of Forestry and other agencies, should hold tours, conduct meetings, issue bulletins, and publish articles encouraging recommended forest management practices. The increased returns that can be received from properly managed forest tracts should be emphasized.

The committee feels that there should be a wider knowledge among farm woodland owners of the services available from the farm forester of the State Board of Forestry and private forest consultants, to advise on forest management problems.

The committee recommends the establishment of a timber harvest tract in Polk County when a suitable location can be found. This tract should be used to demonstrate thinning and pruning of forest trees, planting of forest trees, and trees for Christmas tree harvest.

Utilization of Forest Waste Products

Large amounts of forest products from farm woodlands are now completely utilized. Such products are defective timber, small materials such as tree tops, and low-quality hardwoods. There are also residual materials from the mills, such as slabs, sawdust, and edgings which are not now fully utilized.

The committee recognizes the need for greater utilization of these forest products in order to provide greater returns from farm woodlands. Utilization is developing, but is not now adequate.

The forest products laboratory at Oregon State College, the United States Forest Products Laboratory, and private concerns doing research programs on forest products are commended for their present research program on greater utilization. This type of research should be further encouraged.

The committee particularly wishes to emphasize the need for development of portable de-barking machinery and chippers that can be moved to farm woodlands to utilize defective timber and small materials. At the present time, the high cost of handling such material prohibits its sale.

Forest Marketing Problems

The committee is concerned, at present, primarily with marketing problems of Oregon hardwoods and forest waste materials.

It is felt that Oregon hardwoods do not now have an adequate market outlet. There is a need to develop improved practices to cheapen costs, as both logging and milling costs of hardwoods are high.

There also is a need for wider use of uniform hardwood grades. The committee favors the use of the national hardwood grade scale.

It is felt that there is a need for wider dispersal of knowledge to loggers and mill operators on methods of sawing, curing, and handling of hardwoods. The production of hardwoods differs greatly from the production of second-growth Douglas fir. Discouraging losses may be incurred by one who does not first familiarize himself with proper production methods. Comprehensive information is available concerning our Northwest hardwoods, with suggestions about...
logging, sawing, seasoning, and marketing, and comments on present market situations. This information is available from the County Extension office and from the Farm Forester of the State Board of Forestry.

Past research has shown that the quality of local hardwoods is comparable to that of eastern hardwood, but there is generally a discrimination against local hardwoods on the market. Because of this situation, it is felt that there is a need to promote Oregon hardwoods as a quality product.

The woodland owner should know the value of his timber and should be informed on marketing methods, including the use of sales contracts. Although the number of timber owners who are victimized by unscrupulous timber buyers is getting smaller, there should be a wider knowledge of the services available from the State Forester's office and private forest consultants.

A factor hindering the marketing of pulpwood is the inability of the processors to utilize bark, thus making the cost of handling pulpwood higher. The committee feels there is continued need for research on this problem.

Forest Land Taxation

The committee feels that farm woodlands should pay their fair share of taxes compared with other classes of land. Forest land taxes should not discourage good forest management practices, such as thinning. Present tax policies under the ad valorem tax have tended to encourage clear cutting on some immature forest stands. Tree farmers should have available to them a forest land tax program that will encourage farm forestry.

Christmas Tree Production and Research

There has been an increase in the production of cultured Christmas trees in Polk County during the past several years. The possibilities are good to further increase the acreage of cultured trees in the county.

The committee feels that there is a need for much more research to be done on Christmas tree production. At the present time, some research on fertilizing of Christmas trees has been done, and genetic research to develop adapted Christmas tree strains is under way at the Oregon State College Experiment Station. No research information is available on cultural practices regarding Christmas tree production. The committee wishes to encourage further research on Christmas trees and recommends that research on Christmas tree cultural practices be started in either the U. S. Forest Service research branch or by the State Board of Forestry.

Seed orchards suitable for Christmas tree stock should be developed in each major Christmas tree area.

The theft of Christmas trees continues to be a problem, both from Christmas tree plantations and from reforested areas. The committee feels that the present law is not being enforced by the state police or by the State Board of Forestry. It is felt that the law should require that a bill of sale or a Christmas tree cutting permit be carried at all times by those harvesting Christmas trees. It has been suggested that the tagging of Christmas trees with a metal tag as they are sold could be made a requirement of all Christmas tree sellers by the State Forester. The cost of the tags would be borne by the tree grower. Such a plan, it was felt, would facilitate the checking of Christmas trees by the state police or other law enforcement officers.

The committee recommends that the Bureau of Land Management stop issuing non-commercial permits for the cutting of Christmas trees on their
land. Forest land boundaries are not clearly marked. Trees are often cut on private land on Bureau permits.

The committee feels that education is necessary to acquaint the public with Christmas tree production so that theft of trees would be discouraged.

**Tree Planting Under The Soil Bank**

The committee feels that there is some crop land in Polk County suitable for tree planting under the Soil Bank program. Owners of marginal-sized farms in the forested area of the county could well consider placing their poorer crop land in the conservation reserve and planting it to forest trees. Crop land with shallow soils, land subject to erosion, and land inconvenient to farm would bring in greater returns if planted to forest trees.

The committee encourages the use of forest conservation practices under the ASC program. A considerable acreage of woodland in the county is covered with worthless brush. Development of timber crops on this land is feasible. The use of ASC practices for thinning, pruning, and planting of forest trees will assist forest owners in their management program.

**Farm Labor Committee Report**

Because farm labor is becoming increasingly important to Polk County, the Polk County Agricultural Planning Council, at its first meeting, decided that a farm labor committee should be organized. Many of the labor problems discussed by the committee probably will be with us always. Rather than being the cause of doing nothing, this fact should inspire us to do everything possible on a continuing basis to achieve even a partial solution. With this in mind, the labor committee has studied the following problems and advanced the following recommendations.

**Management and Supervision**

It is important to treat farming as a business first and a way of life second. The type and personality of supervisors handling labor in the fields is perhaps one of the most important factors in the labor setup. We recommend adult education classes for field supervisors and platoon leaders to be run with supervision from Oregon State College and the State Farm Labor office. We urge growers to attend these classes. We definitely recommend a permanent farm labor board for Polk County made up of all types of growers and labor representatives which would meet with the State Labor Board to explain their needs and suggest ways of meeting their needs cooperatively.

**Sanitation and Health**

The committee urges every grower to strive to meet the state sanitary and drinking water codes, and to add whatever facilities he feels feasible for the comfort of his workers. Having the well tested before workers are in should be an excellent safeguard for the health of the workers. One particularly good method suggested for field water use was the use of fountains put on a 45° angle from a large tank with a hood or other type protector. Better health of the workers means better health of the community.

We feel it would add greatly to the safeguarding of the health of Polk County residents if the County Health Department could be enlisted to aid
in checking migrant workers who seemed to be in need of medical attention. Any shots felt necessary to protect them and ourselves and any treatment deemed necessary could be given at a nominal fee. Perhaps a prepaid health insurance plan for all workers could be used to meet this cost, but we feel health education may be even more important.

**Soliciting Cooperation on the Opening and Closing Dates of Schools**

In the past, we have often faced serious contention in Polk County because of the inability to have children out of schools at a critical harvest time in certain areas. It is suggested by this committee that the Polk County Labor Board appoint a committee of growers of the early and late crops which might be affected, to meet with the school boards to try to set up a retractable schedule which would meet harvest emergencies as well as is possible.

**Housing**

Housing is a situation which may become very critical to Polk County growers in the next few years as local help becomes exhausted, due to the increased acreage of small fruits and vegetables in the county. The very high cost of housing makes it too expensive for the small grower who may find himself needing itinerant labor to harvest his crops. The committee feels that cooperative housing might be a suitable solution.

**Esprit de Corps**

We feel much should be done to instill pride in the worker in the job he is doing. A good method would be to solicit the aid of the schools in teaching the youngsters the importance of agriculture to the community, and how they can earn a substantial amount by aiding in the harvesting of these crops.

Growers should attempt to encourage the merchants and businessmen to think of agriculture as Polk County's most important industry and vital to the economy of the county, thereby enlisting their aid in speaking to others of agriculture in a more favorable light. The method suggested would be to arrange to have speakers appear before groups. Radio and TV education would be useful where possible and applicable.

**Wages**

It is recommended that all growers in the area cooperate to pay a uniform wage for their type of work. We feel that equal pay should be received for equal work, regardless of age or sex.

**Small Children Sent to Work Alone**

Because of the intense problem to the grower and supervisor, of small children being sent to work alone, we feel it is important for the Labor Office or grower representatives to talk to the children in the schools in the spring explaining the age limits for workers—a good age limit is felt to be 12 years or children finishing the sixth grade and above. The children should be asked to register at school, and later letters should be sent to the homes of the registered children, explaining again the age limits, picking rules, means of transportation, and telling each child where he may work.

Use of radio, where applicable, could be made to explain to parents which fields are working on certain days and the location of pick-up stations for children. Platoon leaders for the younger of these children would be an aid to the growers and supervisor.
Alcohol

It would be to every growers' advantage to make his feelings in regard to alcohol clearly known to each worker upon registration, both orally and by issuance perhaps of a card containing rules regarding the use of alcohol, thereby putting all responsibility on the worker. It would then be necessary to enforce these rules rigidly.

Foreign Labor (Foreign Countries)

While foreign labor has not become a problem in Polk county so far, it could be one before too long, as our migrant workers from the south are now receiving better pay at home and fewer are coming north. We feel that foreign labor would be bad because of the great amount of money leaving the country. At present, this type of labor is far too expensive to be feasible for Polk County; however, we recommend that growers keep posted on the availability and costs should this type of labor ever become necessary.

New Grower

We recommend that the new grower register with his local state labor office and extension department well before his picking date and explain to them his needs. He might call on his neighbors and ask their aid. Perhaps he could arrange to use the crew of one of his neighbors with a crop earlier or later than his. Radio and newspaper advertising is recommended well before picking starts. In some cases, this service may be available through the State Labor Board or other farm labor group. He should be careful not to paint too rosy a prospect of his crops, as this tends to discourage pickers if they start on a bad day.

Labor Switching

It is recommended that growers set a definite pay date, perhaps once a week, and that growers stick to a price set by all of the growers. Some growers have found the use of a sliding pay scale as a pay method satisfactory. Two or more small growers may wish to cooperate by selecting picking dates to make use of one crew to harvest their crops, thereby giving steadier employment. Bonuses are felt to be useful only if used by all of the growers in the area.

Summary

The committee would like to give a summary of what we have striven to accomplish: Better cooperation and management; better health and sanitation; a good housing situation; definite price in agricultural work; more satisfactory wages; a happy answer to the frustrating problem of small children working alone; keeping alcohol from influencing our young people; attempting to evaluate the foreign labor problem; aiding the new grower; attempting to solve the indiscriminate switching of labor from one place to another. We feel that most important of all is a recommendation for a permanent Polk County farm labor committee.

Agricultural labor historically has received less renumeration for work of equal effort and responsibility than have workers in other fields. Some factors tend to compensate for his decreased remuneration, but it must be kept in mind that "The laborer is worthy of his hire," and, as the production of our farm workers increases, we should stand ready to increase their income proportionately.

As the most important single industry in this great nation, we should be entitled to bid on an equal basis with
other industries for competent labor. We believe it to be in the best interests of the nation and the workers themselves if this takes place in a slow and orderly manner, thus avoiding the tragedies inherent in a violent upheaval of established order and tradition. But let us not forget that this is the goal toward which we should strive.

Home and Community Living Committee Report

Civilian Defense

Polk County should have real concern about civilian defense during peace time. More effort should be made to stimulate people to think about an emergency situation. The committee recommends that:

1. There should be a continued effort to keep the public informed and aware of all the possibilities for an emergency program.

2. The immunization program should be continued for polio and typhoid shots. Local citizens should be encouraged to participate in the First Aid and Home Nursing courses when offered in their local communities.

3. Every family should be urged to maintain a week's supply of food for an emergency.

4. In case of emergency, every effort should be used to keep families together.

Television and the Family

Children are in the audience for every television program regardless of the time it is offered. Suitable programs, as well as suitable advertising, becomes a real problem. Parental interest and demand could change the television picture to more suitable family programs. The committee recommends that:

1. Commercial television should be censored in advertisements of liquor and tobacco.

2. Poor programing for juvenile audiences should be included in this censorship.

Educational Television

There are four basic purposes for educational television:

2. Self realization.
3. Human relations.
4. Civic responsibilities.
5. Economic efficiency.

Many of the commercial television stations are doing experimental educational programs. Some in-school teaching is being accomplished over television.

In the future, there will be an increasing amount of program material that will serve the educational needs of the classroom teacher, as well as suitable programs for the family. The committee recommends that:

1. There should be strong support of educational television for the State of Oregon.

2. PTA's or community groups should place 21-inch or 24-inch television sets in all schools.

Railroads in Polk County

Numerous accidents occur throughout Polk County at railroad crossings. Poor marking and inadequate lighting have resulted in deaths and injuries. The individual also has the responsibility of becoming a better and more alert driver in helping to cut down the number of accidental deaths at crossings. The committee recommends that:

1. Reflector tapes should be used on the sides of all railroad cars so that
the whole train would be visible to the

driver.

2. Railroad crossings should have
some type of marking on the road in
order to increase visibility in fog. Sug-
gestions include glass beads, as used
in some areas, for marking.

3. Every county crossing should
have signals and better lighting.

4. Stop signs should be used at all
railroad crossings in the county, as
well as the state.

Mailboxes for Rural Routes

Well-marked mailboxes would be of
great aid in finding people who live on
rural routes. The committee recom-
manded that rural residents should
place their name, route, and box num-er on the mailbox.

Spraying of Family Orchards

Many families have no means of get-
ing a few fruit trees sprayed at a
moderate cost. The committee rec-
nommends that there is a real need for
an individual or concern to spray fam-
ily orchards at a nominal charge per
tree.

School Activities and Transportation

The problem of transportation for
rural young people of high school age
is of growing concern to families living
long distances from schools.

The article, “Bus Kids Aren’t Left
Out,” by Wyatt Blassingame, from the
FARM JOURNAL, is being sent to all
PTA and community groups of Polk
County.

The committee recommended that
more high school activities should be
confined to the school day, so that rur-
al young people are able to join in
full participation.

Rural Churches

The rural churches are gradually
disappearing from the small communi-
ties. Many people are driving into
the city for their church attendance,
and no longer are using the church
facility in their local community. The
committee recommended that:

1. Whenever possible, the rural
church should be kept open. This
could be achieved with the aid of the
American Sunday School Association,
by planning Sunday School sessions
for the community.

2. The church building in a small
community should be used for other
community purposes.

3. Rural laymen should be urged to
take advantage of the Oregon Town
and Country Church Conference by ac-
tive participation.

Installment Buying

Particularly in young families, there
is no knowledge of credit and money
management. There are so many
ways to approach buying and use cred-
it that families do not always select
the best situation available.

The committee recommended that
individual and special interest groups
should be given knowledge and un-
derstanding of credit and money man-
agement to assist better family living.

Mental Health

Many people lack hobbies and in-
terests and become restless and irri-
table when they have little to do. This
happens in cases of retirement or dis-
ability. The need for hobbies and
special interests is necessary for diver-
sion activity and good mental health.

The committee recommended that
young people should be urged to think
ahead toward their older years and re-
tirement, and should be encouraged to
develop hobbies and interests that will
not only serve in later years, but be
useful as diversion activities.
Youth Committee Report

Available Recreation Areas

It was considered a good idea to publish a list of all the recreation areas available in Polk County in the Farm and Home Outlook Conference publication. The committee felt that it would be helpful to people moving into Polk County to know what is available for youth and family activities. The list includes the following places: (1) Dallas city park; (2) Skateland at West Salem; (3) swimming pool at Monmouth; (4) swimming pool at Independence; (5) state parks—Holman and Helmick; (6) Buell park; (7) Independence city park; (8) skating rink for schools at Henry Hill school, Independence; (9) tennis courts; (10) golf course; and (11) city park, West Salem.

Utilization of Available Resources

Youth and community recreation needs can be met by space now available for the most part. This would call for the cooperation of school, chamber of commerce, and local citizens.

The committee recommended that all building facilities now available be utilized for youth and community needs.

It was also recommended that cities might consider having a “floating” recreation supervisor working between the city and the school system for the development of a recreation program, jointly supervised and financed, using schools and other public facilities. No fee should be charged any local group.

Neighborhood Recreation Areas

As communities grow, youngsters could find present facilities unusable from the standpoint of distance and location. Neighborhood recreation areas should be planned so that a number of blocks could be serviced by that facility.

It is recommended that, as cities grow, recreation areas should be considered in zoning, and park boards should plan ahead for potential neighborhood recreation areas.

Development of Commercial Recreation

It is impossible for a community to provide all of the desired recreational facilities necessary for their area without the aid of commercial enterprises. Bowling alleys, skating rinks, pool and billiards, etc., all could be put in by commercial interests.

The committee recommended that, whenever feasible, our communities should encourage the development of local commercial recreation enterprises.

Story Hours in Local Libraries

The committee felt that the local library story hours should be encouraged and promoted.

County-wide Civic Center

An area or place is needed where 600 to 800 people can be seated in a large meeting. The possibilities for large groups to meet in Polk County are very limited.

The committee recommended that the Polk County fairgrounds facilities at Rickreall be developed to serve large crowds and all areas of the county. The location is excellent for county-centered activities.

There is a need for county-wide cooperation by the organizations of boys with cars who are interested in drag races, mechanics, etc. The Jaycees and police have been sponsoring these organizations for boys.

It is recommended that the Polk County fairgrounds be considered as a suitable location for drag races.
Additional Juvenile Counselor

Young boys and teen-age girls need a woman counselor. The follow-up of individual juvenile cases is essential to good rehabilitation.

The committee recommended that, in the immediate future, Polk County should have a female counselor to work with teen-age girls and young boys.

Teen-age Employment

Summer work opportunities in Polk County are adequate for young people. During the school year more coordination of student hours and work opportunities is necessary.

It was recommended that the student government of each school should list the names of young people available for work such as babysitting, mowing lawns, car washing, and other odd jobs. There should be cooperation with newspapers and radio to discover the jobs that are available.

Check of Organized Activities

Every family in the community feels a strong time demand from organizational activities on individual family members. These activities are responsible for the family having less time together. Young people should learn to utilize time and activities. They should be taught to discriminate in their choices in order to help them make better choices later in life.

It was recommended that each organization should check its demands on individuals, as useless activities consume time that should be spent with the family.

Adult Program in Family Relations

People need to know more about family relations. They need training and to know where to turn for necessary help when family problems occur. More education for all family members is necessary.

The committee recommended that an adult program of education in family relations through radio programs, television, and local community meetings such as PTA, extension, women’s clubs and fraternal organizations be established.

Church Activities in Regard to Family Relations

More encouragement should be given to churches and other organizations toward family-centered activities such as hobby nights, and there should be more family emphasis in worship and recreation.
### List Of Committees

#### LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Members</th>
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#### POULTRY COMMITTEE

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wendell DeHaven</td>
<td>Kenneth Jennings, Alfred Schroeder, Bill Domes</td>
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#### DAIRY COMMITTEE

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<td>H. D. Bradrick</td>
<td>Bill Reimer, Mark O’Dell, George Knaupp Jr., L. H. McKeel, Jacob Bakker</td>
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#### FIELD CROPS COMMITTEE

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#### HORTICULTURE—TREE FRUITS COMMITTEE

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### List Of Committees (Continued)

#### SMALL FRUIT AND VEGETABLE COMMITTEE

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Willard Bacheller
Val Mueller
Glen Southwick
Gordon Walker
H. W. Ashford
Ron Lowen

Gerald Morlan
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D. D. Giesbrecht
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Dean Allen
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Ike Reimer
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Mrs. Raymond Yung
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Mr. and Mrs. Soren. G. Staael
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Mrs. Max Fairchild
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Polk County Agricultural Planning Council

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N. John Hansen, County Extension Agent—Secretary
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Wm. C. Frazer, Independence
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Curtis Lamb, Dallas
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John Grimes, County Extension Agent
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Robert Sterling, County Extension Agent